

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MARLENE HITT—28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Marlene Hitt of Sunland, California.

A lifelong Sunland resident and consummate volunteer, Marlene has been active in many organizations in the Sunland-Tujunga community. She has been a member of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council for many years, serving in various leadership roles and on many committees.

Marlene has been a dedicated and devoted member of the Little Landers Historical Society (LLHS), a non-profit organization founded in 1959 to preserve Bolton Hall, a 1913 historic stone building in Tujunga that was the Tujunga City Hall and the hub for many community activities up until the late 1950's when it was saved from destruction. The LLHS subsequently collects, preserves and displays records, artifacts and landmarks of the history of the Sunland-Tujunga area and people active in that history in the Bolton Hall Museum. For nearly three decades, Ms. Hitt has capably and enthusiastically served the LLHS and Bolton Hall Museum as Museum Director, Docent Director, Boardmember, Archivist and Docent. In addition, Marlene and her husband Lloyd, were very involved in the successful effort to obtain historic designation for a portion of the Verdugo Hills Golf Course, where a World War II detention center for Japanese-Americans was located.

A well-regarded writer, Ms. Hitt is a longtime member of the Chupa Rosa Writers of Sunland-Tujunga and the Foothills, and has authored anthologies, readings, poetry chapbooks, a non-fiction book: "Sunland-Tujunga, from Village to City," and has written articles for many newspapers. Along with other community members, Marlene co-founded the Sunland-Tujunga Poet Laureate program, where she was honored to serve as its first Poet Laureate.

Married for sixty-one years, Marlene and Lloyd have two children, two grandchildren and one great grandchild.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring an exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Marlene Hitt.

RECOGNIZING MARY AND HANS POSTMA FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARTS IN GREATER PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Mary and Hans Postma, the Seventh Annual Hylton Performing Arts Center Awards Gala honorees, for their endless contributions to expanding the reach of the arts in the Greater Prince William County area.

In recognition of the arts being the heart of a civilized society, net proceeds from the annual gala benefit the Hylton Center's many artistic performances, arts education programs, veterans art and outreach initiatives, and the Hylton Center's endowment. These programs help to ensure the continuation of artistic excellence in performances as well as the accessibility by area residents to quality artistic programs.

Mary and Hans Postma have provided instrumental support to the Hylton Center even prior to its full conceptualization. As avid art enthusiasts, Mr. and Mrs. Postma have worked to ensure accessibility to art and artistic programs for all. In the fall of 2013, Mary Postma founded Performing Arts for Kids (PAK) to support and foster the arts among children of all socioeconomic backgrounds in Greater Prince William County by actively pursuing opportunities at the Hylton Performing Arts Center. Through their established community relationships, Mr. and Mrs. Postma have expanded the PAK membership total to 30 and have raised more than \$20,000 to encourage the pursuit of advanced art education. During the 2013–2014 school year, PAK exposed more than 2,000 schoolchildren to live dance highlights from *The Nutcracker* and *Sleeping Beauty*. In March of 2016, PAK sponsored A Place to Be's Same Sky Project, "Where Music Meets Therapy." During the performance, children and young adults provided personal testimonies of their experiences dealing with bullying and low self-esteem in light of their diagnosis with autism, Asperger's, down syndrome, cerebral palsy, brain damage, and other ailments for an audience of 800 middle-school students and adults from Didlake, an AbilityOne Program.

Over the short, storied history of the Hylton Performing Arts Center, a series of milestones have been reached but nothing has come to fruition without the dedication and support of Mary and Hans Postma. In the fall of 2016, Mr. and Mrs. Postma presented the Hylton Center with a "legacy gift" to name a rehearsal hall in the Education and Rehearsal Wing currently under construction. As Leonardo da Vinci once said, "Art is never finished, only abandoned." We can take great comfort in knowing that with the support of Hans and Mary Postma as well as other great

benefactors of the Hylton Performing Arts Center, art will never be abandoned.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the Seventh Annual Hylton Performing Arts Awards Gala honorees, Mr. and Mrs. Postma, for their tireless stewardship of the arts in Greater Prince William County.

RECOGNIZING JEFF COOK OF EAGLE ALLOY, MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN AND PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN FOUNDRY SOCIETY

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jeff Cook, Vice President of Eagle Alloy Inc. in Muskegon, Michigan, for his long-term contributions to Eagle Alloy and the U.S. metalcasting industry. Eagle Alloy is an innovative steel foundry providing vital castings for key sectors including agriculture, construction, mining, defense and railroads. Metal castings are integral to virtually all U.S. manufacturing activities. Jeff joined Eagle Alloy in 1986 after graduating high school. His first position on the shop floor was as a grinder, machining castings on the third shift. He has worked his way up over the past thirty years to become Vice President of Sales and Marketing.

Jeff is passionate about attracting the next generation to the metalcasting industry and has dedicated significant amount of time reaching out to local schools and businesses about careers in the metal casting industry. In addition, he has been actively involved in the leadership of the local American Foundry Society (AFS) West Michigan Chapter for many years. He joined the AFS National Board of Directors in 2011, where he spent the past year as its President traveling across the country, meeting with thousands of metalcasters and suppliers underscoring the importance of taking time to "Attract. Educate. Support" the next generation of metalcasters. AFS is the major trade and technical association for the North American metalcasting industry. The association has more than 8,000 members representing over 2,000 metalcasting firms, their suppliers and customers.

In Muskegon, Jeff has reached out to educational institutions, including local high schools and Muskegon Community College, to better communicate the skills needed and the certifications that are in demand in the industry. Through the AFS chapter, Jeff has worked with local schools to host student night, where they showcase the traveling casting kit, known as Foundry in a Box. It shows students how to form patterns, melt them, the cleanup process behind it, and gives an overview of how castings are made.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Jeff Cook, as he completes his

• 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.

successful term as AFS President, for his strong commitment and dedication to Eagle Alloy and to the growth and prospering of the metalcasting industry.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND CAREER OF SECRETARY WILLIAM T. COLEMAN, JR.

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished life and career of William T. Coleman, Jr., a fellow Pennsylvanian, who passed away on March 31, 2017 at the age of 96.

Coleman served our Nation as the fourth Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation, from March 7, 1975 to January 20, 1977. He was nominated by and served under President Gerald R. Ford.

Ironically, just one day after the passing of Secretary Coleman, the Department he once led marked its 50th anniversary of operation.

President Ford nominated Coleman, a fellow Republican, to serve as Secretary based in part on his expertise in transportation law. During his tenure at the Department, he worked to strengthen the long-term viability of the U.S. rail industry, oversaw the opening of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's automobile test facility at East Liberty, Ohio, established the Materials Transportation Bureau to address pipeline and hazardous materials transportation safety, and opened the United States to flights of the Concorde aircraft.

As Transportation Secretary, William Coleman was beloved by Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle. My father served on the Public Works and Transportation Committee during Secretary Coleman's tenure. The two were good friends, even though they didn't agree on every issue. On one occasion, the previous Congressman Shuster gave the Secretary a particularly difficult time during a committee hearing. Afterwards, my father received a bottle of wine from the Secretary and a note that said, "I hope we're still friends." Although it never crossed my father's mind that they wouldn't be, Secretary Coleman's gesture is one small example of why he was so well respected.

By the time William Coleman was sworn in as the Secretary of Transportation, he had already made his important and indelible mark on U.S. history.

Coleman was the second African American to serve in a cabinet-level post, following Robert Weaver, who served as housing secretary under President Johnson. Appropriately enough, his oath of office was administered by Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, with whom Coleman had previously worked alongside to help end discrimination and secure greater equality for all Americans.

For example, they worked together—Coleman writing legal briefs for Marshall—on *Brown v. Board of Education*, the case which ultimately ended the doctrine of "separate but equal" and segregation in our public school system. This alone would have been an exceptional achievement for an African American from the Germantown area of Philadelphia,

Pennsylvania, who attended a segregated elementary school.

However, Coleman also later argued against a law that prohibited interracial couples from living together, and soon after, the Supreme Court ended all prohibitions against interracial marriage in the United States.

Coleman was the first African American to serve as law clerk to a Supreme Court Justice, worked to defend civil rights activists, and served as president of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. He also served as a lawyer on the Warren Commission, charged with investigating President Kennedy's assassination. During his career, Coleman served in the military, argued 19 cases before the Supreme Court, co-chaired the White House Conference on Civil Rights, and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1995.

Able serving as the U.S. Secretary of Transportation would have been a notable enough accomplishment, but William T. Coleman, Jr. achieved much more than that. He will be remembered as a thoughtful, dedicated, and just man who helped spearhead the fight for equal rights for all Americans.

HONORING SUSAN K. WRIGHT
AFTER 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO
WRIGHT CITY HIGH SCHOOL

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine, Mrs. Susan K. Wright, who will be retiring on May 17, 2017 after 40 years teaching biology and coaching track and field at Wright City High School.

Mrs. Wright was influenced by several teachers throughout her childhood that positively affected her decision to dedicate her life to educating America's youth. For example, her 1st grade teacher taught her the importance of caring, her high school biology teacher introduced her to an interest in the sciences, and a college professor showed her that everyone can become great even without being the best. The enthusiasm Mrs. Wright has shown over the past four decades has been appreciated by her colleagues and students. She has truly made the classroom and track field a fun learning environment.

While growing up in St. Louis County, Mrs. Wright attended Webster Groves High School. After spending her youth in such a big district, she was instilled with the desire to spend her teaching years in a smaller school. After receiving her bachelor's degree in education from Missouri State University, she began her teaching career at Wright City High School. Mrs. Wright started the track and field program at Wright City High School and the track now bears her name. Throughout the years, she has been a motivational mentor to numerous students and has always been willing to give a few extra moments to those who might need a listening ear.

Mrs. Wright is involved with the National Science Teachers Association and is active in her local community. She is passionate about volunteering and teaching her students to have that same giving spirit. Mrs. Wright has contributed many hours to the Blue and Gold

Scholarship Dinner, the Christmas celebration Strassenbash, and the local Easter egg hunt.

The love Mrs. Wright has for teaching and coaching has never waned over the years. As Mrs. Wright puts it, "to be a great teacher is to know your subject matter and be willing to grow as education grows, to care about those that you work with and especially the students you teach, to set your goals high and work diligently to reach each goal." Her understanding, passion and mentality are something that all teachers should strive to attain.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Mrs. Susan Wright on her retirement after 40 years of improving the lives of all who walk the halls at Wright City High School.

TRIBUTE TO CAMILLE
LOMBARDO—28TH CONGRES-
SIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF
THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Camille Lombardo of Pasadena, California.

Camille has a Bachelor of Arts in Theology degree from Pitzer College and a Master of Business Administration from Pepperdine University.

For twenty-five years, Camille has admirably served as Executive Director of the Friends of the Observatory (FOTO), the non-profit organization that supports the world-renowned Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles. During this time, Ms. Lombardo has not only raised tens of millions of dollars for the Observatory, but has also been a leader in assisting with the development, planning and execution of key Observatory initiatives. During her tenure, she spearheaded the funding effort of the public-private partnership with the City of Los Angeles for the observatory's ninety-three million dollar expansion and renovation project, raising over twenty-five million dollars of that in private funding and working with local, state and federal agencies to secure public funding.

Ms. Lombardo has continued to raise millions of dollars for upgrades in the ten years to the observatory. These include the planetarium show production capability, theater projection and sound systems, and the ability to record and broadcast live astronomical observations and special events, thus greatly expanding its audience both world-wide and at the observatory itself. In addition, Camille raises funds for the observatory's school program for fifth-graders which serves 25,000 mostly public school students annually, and Bus Scholarship program for disadvantaged schools, resulting in free school programs.

A consummate professional, Ms. Lombardo capably guides FOTO with its thousands of members and many activities, and works effortlessly with the City of Los Angeles and the observatory staff on policy issues, building improvements, and major events organization and implementation.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Camille Lombardo.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF DR. WATTS

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. W. David Watts on his distinguished tenure at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin.

For the past fifteen years, Dr. Watts has served as the President of UTPB. Under his leadership, UTPB has seen an unprecedented growth and the university's reputation has grown exponentially. Since 2001, the university enrollment increased from 2,200 to 6,315 students and the availability of student housing has increased from just six buildings with 96 beds to 37 buildings with 1,197. These additions have significantly impacted the local economy and transformed UTPB to an established university community.

Early into his presidency, Dr. Watts made a commitment to expand educational opportunities by investing in online programs to allow students to earn a degree from a distance and allow for the development of career opportunities throughout the region. These efforts have led UTPB to be recognized by numerous outlets, such as BestColleges.com and U.S. News and World Report, as one of the most affordable online programs in the nation. In addition, Dr. Watts' vision of expanding access to quality education has also led to the creation of Texas' first entirely virtual Early College High School network. This network allows universities and colleges to partner with local school districts to offer at risk high school students to earn a high school diploma and up to sixty college credits at no cost. These accelerated courses reduce the barriers to college access and increased college readiness with these students. This program has allowed thousands of students to set out on their path to achieve their professional goals.

Dr. Watts' commitment to quality education has allowed UTPB to be the first school in Texas to offer a \$10,000 bachelor's degree in select majors and is recognized as the least expensive Texas public, four-year institution. Under his leadership, UTPB has received national accreditation in Art, Business, Education, Mechanical Engineering and Petroleum Engineering, Social Work, Music, Nursing, and Athletic Training Education. These initiatives have allowed UTPB to leave its imprint on the workforce, and it could not have been accomplished without Dr. Watt's leadership.

Over the last few years, Dr. Watts spearheaded efforts to write a new chapter in UTPB's history by bringing college football to the university. Prior to this, UTPB was the only public university west of I-35 that did not participate in football. Now UTPB is in a more competitive position to attract new students to the Permian Basin. Last year, the Falcons kicked off the inaugural season and set the foundation for the program. The team looks to build off of that progress as they begin to prepare for next season.

Dr. Watts' contributions to UTPB will always be remembered and his impact will surely be

felt by generations to come. As he and his wife Denise embark on a new chapter in their life, I wish them all my best.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to have my votes recorded on the House Floor on Monday, April 3, 2017. Weather across the Midwest delayed my flight to Washington, D.C. until after votes had been called. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H. Res. 92 and H.R. 479.

INTRODUCTION OF BIPARTISAN RESOLUTION EXPRESSING STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE AND THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of a bipartisan resolution I introduced earlier today with my colleague JOHN SHIMKUS expressing strong support for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). This resolution reaffirms the importance of harmony and stability rather than war and conflict and acknowledges the NATO's pivotal role in achieving such goals.

NATO remains the most important and critical security link between the United States and Europe.

The incorporation of Eastern European countries into NATO has contributed towards a vision of a stable and united Europe. NATO allies and partners in both Central and Eastern Europe have stood alongside the United States in joint peace operations in the Western Balkans, Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere.

Our resolution emphasizes the United States' strong commitment to the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and democratic development of the countries that have emerged from the former Soviet Union, including Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, Georgia, Ukraine, and Moldova. During the past three decades, many of these countries have undertaken considerable political and economic reforms necessary to achieve aspirations for European integration and Euro-Atlantic cooperation.

I want to thank Congressman SHIMKUS for his partnership on this resolution and urge my colleagues to pass it swiftly to reaffirm the United States' commitment to our NATO allies.

TRIBUTE TO NOEMI TORRES—28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year,

we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my congressional district. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Noemi Torres of West Hollywood, California.

Noemi Torres immigrated to the United States from Guadalajara, Mexico at the age of 13. After some time in Seattle, Washington, she came to Los Angeles and now calls West Hollywood home. Ms. Torres came to California, as many do, to pursue her dreams. While she has a passion for photography and acting, she found herself working with a successful startup telecommunications company, and it was while at that company, that she was exposed to the real estate industry. Now Noemi is on the Modern Living LA team of the John Aaroe Group Sunset, where she uses her considerable talents to help her clients with their real estate needs.

Along with her incredible professional accomplishments, Ms. Torres has also shown herself to be an astoundingly capable community leader. She volunteers for Project Angel Food, AIDS Walk Los Angeles, the Revlon Run/Walk, Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Heal the Bay, and the Downtown Women's Center. Noemi especially shines in her advocacy in her two terms on the City of West Hollywood Women's Advisory Board, which she currently chairs.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Noemi Torres.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF GUS MACHADO

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Gus Machado and celebrate his career.

Gus moved to the United States from Cuba with his family in 1949, and has become a symbol of the American dream for many. Through hard work and determination, Gus has built several successful car dealerships. He has managed to stay in business through a recession that had a significant impact on car sales, and worked diligently to avoid downsizing his workforce and keep others employed. Throughout his career in car sales, Gus has acted as an honorable man with the best interests of the community at heart.

For the past seven years, Gus Machado's businesses have received the Blue Oval Certification status from Ford Motor Company. Additionally, in 2013, one dealership received Ford Motor Company's highest honor, the President's Award.

Gus has proved himself to be dedicated to improving his community. In 2008, he founded the Gus Machado Family Foundation, which provides children with backpacks full of school supplies. The Foundation also works to keep children healthy by providing them with immunizations.

Gus is deeply involved with the U.S.-Cuba Democracy PAC, an organization dedicated to promoting freedom and democratic ideals in the communist country of Cuba. Although he

has lived in Florida for most of his life, Gus remembers his native Cuba and has not lost sight of the importance of allowing the Cuban people the same basic rights and freedoms we take for granted in the United States that are stifled under the Castro regime.

For his successful businesses, involvement in the community, and unfailingly optimistic outlook, Gus Machado is an excellent inspiration for Miami and Florida. It has been a privilege to know him and his family, including the love of his life Lilliam, who has become a dear friend of mine. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on his work to date and wishing him continued success.

HONORING LINDA MCGURK'S MANY
YEARS OF SERVICE TO EDU-
CATION

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Linda McGurk for her 25 years of service as principal of Ben Milam Elementary School in McAllen, Texas.

Linda McGurk received her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from The University of Texas Pan-American in 1964. That same year, she began teaching first grade. In 1968, while raising a family with her husband James McGurk, Linda McGurk served on the St. Joseph's School Board and volunteered with the Edinburg Parks and Recreation Department, the Edinburg Junior Service League. Linda McGurk became principal of St. Joseph Catholic School in 1984. Two years later, she earned her Master's in Educational Administration from The University of Texas Pan-American. In 1992, Linda McGurk was named principal of Ben Milam Elementary School, a position she still holds today. Over the course of her tenure at Ben Milam, she has helped thousands of children embark on an educational journey.

In 2006, the University of Texas Pan-American recognized Linda McGurk for her leadership and countless contributions to elementary education in South Texas. And in 2012, the Texas Classroom Teachers Association named her Administrator of the Year. Most recently, the McAllen Education Foundation honored Linda McGurk for her commitment to student success, naming her an "Outstanding Educator" this past year.

For more than 50 years, Linda McGurk has dedicated her life to expanding educational opportunities for all. She has been a champion of student success and her commitment to parents, teachers, and staff at Ben Milam Elementary School is admirable.

As we recognize Linda McGurk's service to the McAllen Independent School District, we also celebrate Ben Milam Elementary School's 50th Anniversary.

If walls could talk, the walls of Ben Milam Elementary School would tell an inspirational story spanning half a century. Milam Elementary School has molded numerous generations of McAllen's young minds and given them the tools they need to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, this week South Texas honors a great educator. It is my privilege to recognize Mrs. Linda McGurk in the U.S. House of Representatives today.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 38TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RE-
LATIONS ACT

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 38th Anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), which has played an essential role in advancing the shared interests and values of the United States and Taiwan. Taiwan has become the United States' 10th largest trading partner and is a beacon of democracy in East Asia.

Along with the TRA, the "Six Assurances" have also guided our relationship with Taiwan. Three years after the TRA was enacted, President Reagan issued the "Six Assurances," reaffirming our nation's support for Taiwan. There is one area that, because of China's intransigence, needs further consideration. China has blocked Taiwan's entrance into international organizations where Taiwan could play a meaningful role.

In addition to security, the United States and Taiwan have a close economic partnership. In 2016, bilateral trade was slightly over \$65 billion. Taiwan and New Jersey also have very close trade ties. In 2015, Taiwan was New Jersey's 6th largest export market in Asia, with New Jersey's exports to Taiwan reaching \$491 million.

This week, Chinese President Xi visited the United States and met with President Trump. While this meeting presented a constructive opportunity, the interests must in no way be marginalized. The commitments made in the Taiwan Relations Act and the "Six Assurances" must never be compromised.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to be a friend of Taiwan and her people, and to recognize the anniversary of the TRA.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTINE RODRI-
GUEZ—28TH CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Christine Rodriguez, of Elysian Valley, a unique neighborhood in Los Angeles, California.

Christine has spent many years of her life serving her community through her work as a librarian and through volunteering. She was the Children's Librarian at the East Los Angeles County Library, and then became a volunteer at that library, leading the Summer Reading Program. Since 1994, Ms. Rodriguez has worked for the City of Burbank's libraries, and is currently Supervising Librarian at the Buena Vista Branch Library.

A consummate volunteer, Christine has been active at Dorris Place Elementary

School, running school book fairs, fundraising and participating in the parent support organization. She is a graduate of the Leadership Burbank program, where she assisted with fundraising for Monterey High School in Burbank, and was active in the John Burroughs High School Boosters, where she raised money for the water polo team.

Ms. Rodriguez served as Secretary and Treasurer of the Elysian Valley Neighborhood Council, chairing the Neighborhood Purposes Grants Committee, utilizing her longtime city employment knowledge. Her current volunteer organizations include serving as a member of the Elysian Valley Fruit Share, where excess fruit from neighborhood gardens is given to residents without gardens, attending a variety of neighborhood community meetings, and as a member of the Elysian Valley Art Collective where she raised funds for two of the annual Frogtown Artwalks. In addition, Christine is an art quilter whose artwork has been displayed at the Cactus Gallery in Elysian Valley.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Christine Rodriguez.

RECOGNIZING ARTHUR A.
ANSELENE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Arthur A. "Art" Anselene on the occasion of his retirement as Town Manager of the Town of Herndon. For 41 years, Art has dedicated his life to the service of his community and the residents of Herndon. In 1976, he assumed the position of Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation for the Town of Herndon, a position in which he would serve for 31 years, and in 2007 he was appointed Town Manager.

His tenure as Director of Parks and Recreation was marked by the creation of many new events in the Town. These included, among others, the inaugural Herndon Festival, the Labor Day Festival, the July 4th celebration, the Turkey Trot, Holiday Arts and Craft Show, and the always popular summer concert series. In addition, Art worked with the Mayor and the Town Council on a number of public works projects including the Herndon Community Center, Chestnut Grove Cemetery, the Downtown Master Plan, and the Herndon Metrorail Station Area Plan.

Under his leadership, the Parks and Recreation Department became one of only 66 elite parks agencies in the country and the fourth in Virginia to receive national agency accreditation. He oversaw the development of a comprehensive parks and recreation system for the town which included a dozen parks, the Herndon Centennial Golf Course, an indoor tennis center, and the flagship Herndon Community Center. As Town Manager for Herndon, Art has had oversight responsibility for all town operations including Community Development, Finance, Human Resources, Parks and Recreation, Police, Public Works, Golf, Cemetery, Communications and Economic Development, IT, and the Town Clerk.

His efforts have resulted in the Town of Herndon receiving numerous local, state and

national awards and recognitions including a fourth Gold Medal Award for Excellence from the National Recreation and Park Association, the Virginia Municipal League's Achievement Award, and two Green Government Certifications to both the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Town of Herndon Police Department. In addition, the Town received the Government Finance Officers Association of both the United States and Canada's Award for Excellence in recognition of his commitment to fiscal responsibility and his work in maintaining the Town's AAA bond rating.

While one might think that this level of dedication and commitment would be enough for one individual, Art's involvement in his community also extends to his activities outside of his profession. He is a member of the Herndon Rotary and Lions Clubs, the National Recreation and Parks Association Commission on Accreditation, and the Virginia Local Government Management Association, to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, I have often said that public service is among the most noble of callings. The tireless dedication of individuals like Art are selfless acts that are truly worthy of our highest praise. I commend him for his service to our community and ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him great success in all his future endeavors.

HONORING NAIMAH BILAL

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, this past February we celebrated Black History Month, during which time we recognize the important contributions made by African-Americans to this great nation. Nowhere is that heritage more visible than in New York City. That is why, at my office's annual Black History Month Celebration, I was honored to recognize Ms. Naimah Bilal, who has been a lifelong, tireless community advocate.

Born and raised in Harlem, NY, she started her community involvement at an early age. She and other community members marched for an overpass to be built for the newly constructed FDR Drive, where many accidents occurred as people tried to cross over to the park where the basketball and handball courts were located. Her efforts were successful, the overpass was built and accidents decreased.

Later, Naimah and her family moved to Lenox Avenue in Harlem and she continued to be active on several committees at Masjid Malcolm Shabazz.

Naimah worked for the NYS Division of Housing & Community Renewal (DHCR) representing the Clerical Staff of this Agency and Delegate of DC 37 until retiring after 22 years in October 2007.

Upon moving to the Bronx, she got involved with several community based organizations including the 44th Precinct Community Council and CASA (Community Action for Safe Apartments). She is the President of Council Member Vanessa Gibson's Tenants Block and Neighborhood Council and President of her Tenants Association. She is an active member of DC37 Retirees.

Ms. Bilal prides herself on being a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and a com-

munity organizer. She encourages all to get involved, especially the Youth, so they have a full understanding of what is going on in their communities and to be aware of what their rights and responsibilities are so that they are empowered and civically engaged. Ms. Bilal serves as a wonderful example of those important values. She has made great contributions to the Bronx and my congressional district, and I am truly thankful to count her as a constituent.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Ms. Naimah Bilal for her continued commitment to service.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY SPECIALIST (SPC) WILLIAM ANTHONY BLOUNT

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army Specialist (SPC) William Anthony Blount who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation on April 7, 2010, in Mosul, Iraq when his vehicle was attacked with an improvised explosive device. He was 21 years old and was serving with the 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division of Fort Stewart, GA. His commanding officer, 1LT Robert Wilson Collins was also killed in the attack.

SPC Blount joined the military in 2009 after graduating from Petal High School in Petal, Mississippi. Following his death, the SPC William Anthony Blount Memorial Scholarship was established at Petal High School.

Nate McRae, SPC Blount's brother-in-law said his brother was extremely honorable. All of his commanding officers said he was an amazing soldier and that his loss was keenly felt.

The procession of SPC Blount's body from the Pine Belt Regional Airport to Moore Funeral Home, led by Mississippi Highway Patrol officers and Petal officials, travelled from Interstate 59 to Evelyn Gandy Parkway to Petal High School along Mississippi Highway 42. With flags and posters in hand, residents lined the streets, and students were released from school to view the procession.

SPC Blount is survived by his wife Amanda and his daughter Avery Elizabeth Blount. He is also survived by parents, Billy and Kay Blount, and his siblings, Laken Blount and Lori McRae.

RECOGNITION OF THE WEST GADSDEN BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. AL LAWSON, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. LAWSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the West Gadsden Boys Basketball Team on their 2017 FHSAA State Championship win over Wildwood. This is the first time in 46 years that the mighty bulldog's

basketball team has accomplished this great milestone. They have proven that dedication, hard work and unwavering passion will carry you a long way.

This win was a special moment for West Gadsden Bulldogs as it honored one of their very own. On June 17, coaching legend William Moody, who helped the Bulldogs win 75 games in a row and Class C state titles from 1969–71, passed away.

The Bulldogs has made not only me and Coach Moody proud, but the entire Fifth Congressional District proud as well.

I look forward to watching their future success in both their academic and athletic pursuits and wish them all the very best.

IN RECOGNITION OF KEITH MOSS, MAYOR OF DURYEA

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Keith Moss, Mayor of Duryea Borough. On April 18, 2017, Mayor Moss will receive the 2017 Joseph Saporito, Sr. Lifetime of Service Award for his dedication to the people of Duryea.

Keith first began serving his community in his youth as a Boy Scout. At the age of 20, Keith joined the Germania Hose Company as a volunteer firefighter. Throughout his membership with the hose company, Keith served as president, vice-president, and trustee. Keith began his political career in 1992, when he was elected to Duryea Borough Council. In 2001, Keith successfully ran for Mayor of Duryea and has since served the borough as its chief administrator. In addition to presiding over the borough's affairs, Mayor Moss has officiated weddings over the years.

In September 2011, Mayor Moss' leadership was put to the test when rain from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee flooded areas of Duryea. After being alerted by Luzerne County Emergency Management of possible flooding, Mayor Moss issued a declaration that gave him temporary operational control of Duryea. For 72 hours, he worked non-stop with other government officials to prepare residents for evacuation. After the storm hit, 139 homes in the borough were destroyed. Tasked with clean up from the storm, Mayor Moss was promised federal aid from former Vice President Joe Biden, who personally surveyed flooded sections of Duryea.

Today, Mayor Moss continues to serve the Duryea Borough and is focusing on fostering closer relationships in the community. He helped arrange Duryea's involvement in National Night Out, an event that promotes community-police camaraderie, as well as the borough's Halloween party.

It is an honor to recognize Mayor Moss as he accepts the 2017 Joseph Saporito, Sr. Lifetime of Service Award. His long history of service to Duryea is significant contribution to the fabric of America. May he continue to fulfill his mayoral duties with honor.

RECOGNIZING THE 2017 FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

This is the 39th Annual Valor Awards sponsored by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce. This event honors the remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety officers. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. This year's ceremony will present 125 awards to recognize extraordinary actions above and beyond the call of duty in a variety of categories including the Lifesaving Certificate, the Certificate of Valor, and the Bronze and Silver Medals of Valor.

Twenty-three awards will be bestowed upon first responders who serve with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department in recognition of their exceptional service. It is with great pride that I include in the RECORD the names of the following Valor Award Recipients.

BRONZE MEDAL OF VALOR

Captain I Bruce A. Neuhaus
Lieutenant Ji Y. Lee
Lieutenant Sean E. Ferguson
Lieutenant Diron D. Powell
Master Technician Marc G. Campet
Master Technician Daryl T. Casey
Master Technician Herbert M. Knerr
Master Technician Michael C. Lewis
Master Technician Peter G. Zagorites
Technician Sean P. Allen
Firefighter Fidel A. Blanco

LIFESAVING AWARD

Deputy Chief Andrew L. Duke
Captain II Mark E. Kordalski
Captain Walter Johnson
Lieutenant Scott F. Primrose
Technician James L. Campbell
Technician Travis L. Franks
Technician Michael A. Garcia
Technician James E. Pfister
Technician Adam J. Silvers
Firefighter Medic Vicki L. Swain
Firefighter Sidney B. Boyd
Firefighter Robert L. Knupp

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2017 Valor Award Recipients, and thank each of the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of our community, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

HONORING SHIRLEY POWELL FOR HER LEGACY AND COURAGEOUS SERVICE

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an outstanding member of my district Chief Master Sergeant (CMSgt) Shirley Powell of Cathedral City, California. She passed away in March 2017. Her dedication and service to our nation are an inspiration. CMSgt Powell was a member of my congressional office's Veterans' Advisory Board and Military Academy Nominations Selection Committee. She was a remarkable leader, and I am honored to have called her my constituent and my friend. Today, I want to recognize her life achievements.

CMSgt Powell worked for 45 years in the field of Aerospace. In 1962, she joined the U.S. Air Force (USAF), where she served for 38 years. She was a founding member of the 68th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron (AES) in the Military Airlift Command KC-97 Globemaster Program, where she served multiple tours in support of Vietnam and other international and domestic efforts. In 1981, she transferred to the California Air National Guard TAC C-130 Program.

She was honored with numerous, well-deserved distinctions. In the Air National Guard 146th Wing, Shirley was the first female to achieve the rank of Senior Master Sergeant and the first female to be selected for the special duty of First Sergeant. Among her numerous awards are the Meritorious Service Medal, the Presidential Unit Citation, the Combat Readiness Medal, the Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal, the National Defense Service Ribbon, the Vietnam Service Medal, and the Southwest Asia Service Medal.

After her retirement in 2000, she was highly active in various associations in the community. She became an active member of the Palm Springs Air Force Association, the Air Force Sergeants Association, the Noncommissioned Officer Association, and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard, where she held numerous Board positions. She was selected to serve on the Riverside County Veterans Advisory Committee, and she maintained her status as Chief Exam Proctor for the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Society for Quality.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize and honor Shirley Powell. I am proud of the opportunity to have worked together with her to improve the lives of veterans in our community. Her distinguished career and her years of committed service to the community are an example of excellence, dedication, and service to our Nation that all should seek to emulate.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, April 5, 2017, I missed the following vote:

1. Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of

H.R. 1219. Had I been present, I would have voted "NO" on this motion.

HONORING BRONX COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY DARCEL CLARK

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, we recently celebrated Black History Month this past February. During my office's annual Black History Month Celebration, I was honored to reflect on the tremendous contributions African-Americans have made within my district in Bronx County, and to recognize several outstanding individuals contributing to their community. Let me mention one of those people today—Bronx County District Attorney Darcel Clark. She is the first woman in this position, the first female African-American District Attorney in the state of New York, and has been a trailblazer for criminal justice throughout her professional career.

District Attorney Clark became the District Attorney for our county on January 1, 2016. Prior to her election, District Attorney Clark served as an Associate Justice for the New York State Supreme Court Appellate Division, First Department; a New York State Supreme Court Justice in Bronx County; and a Criminal Court Judge in Bronx and New York Counties. She spent more than 16 years on the bench.

District Attorney Clark is also a lifelong Bronxite, raised in NYCHA's Soundview Houses. She attended public schools in New York City, graduating from Harry S Truman High School. She attended Boston College and received her Bachelor's Degree in Political Science where she was the first recipient of the University's Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Scholarship. She then went on to earn her law degree at the Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C.

District Attorney Clark returned home in 1986 to begin her legal career at the Bronx District Attorney's Office. She prosecuted many cases, including drug felonies, violent crimes, and homicides. District Attorney Clark served as a Supervising ADA in the Narcotics Bureau and the Deputy Chief of the Criminal Court Bureau. In 1999, she left the Office for her first judicial post.

District Attorney Clark also serves on the Boston College Board of Trustees and has served in leadership positions in the National Association of Women Judges and the Black Bar Association of Bronx County.

Throughout her career in public service, District Attorney Clark has worked to ensure fairness, accountability, and justice for Bronxites. In her new role as Bronx County District Attorney, she has already made the office more responsive, and worked to reduce case delays that have diminished trust in our system of justice. She is an important role model to all in our community, and I look forward to working with her in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Ms. Darcel Clark for her tireless work to ensure justice and commitment to the people of the Bronx.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALL-
EN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY
SPECIALIST (SPC) LARRY
KENYATTA BROWN

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army Specialist (SPC) Larry Kenyatta Brown who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation April 6, 2006, during Operation Iraqi Freedom III. SPC Brown was mortally wounded during a combat mission to liberate the Iraqi city of Karbala. SPC Brown was assigned to C Company, 1st Battalion, 414 Infantry Regiment, Fort Riley, Kansas.

SPC Brown, a Jackson native, attended Bailey Magnet High School where he was a track and basketball athlete. His high school principal, Dorothy Terry, said SPC Brown was a serious young man who was kind. Terry said SPC Brown also had a great sense of humor.

During the funeral held at Blacks Chapel Baptist Church, Brigadier General Frank Helmick described SPC Brown's devotion to our nation.

"Larry Brown displayed the intensive fortitude to fight and complete the mission even though it meant giving his life for our country."

Hundreds of people came to the funeral including twenty-nine soldiers from Fort Riley. Ten soldiers from Fort Polk, Louisiana carried Brown's coffin.

SPC Brown's bravery and courage in service to our nation will always be remembered.

MEDICARE DEMONSTRATION OF
COVERAGE FOR LOW VISION DE-
VICES ACT OF 2017

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 80 million Americans are at risk of serious vision loss—a number expected to increase as the baby boomer generation ages. Along with my colleague Rep. GUS BILIRAKIS, I am proud to reintroduce legislation to support Americans with limited or impaired vision.

For some, reading a book or crossing the street is difficult even with glasses or contact lenses due to blurriness or distortion. Doctors can prescribe magnifiers and other special devices, but their current exclusion from Medicare coverage greatly restricts access to these devices. While there are a wide variety of options to help people with low vision, currently, there is an exclusion from Medicare coverage for devices that include a lens to aid vision or provide magnification of images for impaired vision. Coverage of these devices will greatly enhance the ability of older Americans to age independently and enjoy everyday activities.

To understand the impact of covering these devices for America's seniors, we are reintroducing the Medicare Demonstration of Coverage for Low Vision Devices Act of 2017. This legislation would create a five-year na-

tional demonstration project administered by the Department of Health and Human Services to evaluate the economic impact of allowing reimbursement for certain low vision devices under the Social Security Act. Coverage of such devices could help Medicare beneficiaries with low vision lead healthy, safe, and independent lives.

I urge my colleagues to join us by supporting this legislation that will make a significant change to improve the quality of life for the visually impaired.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE I.C.
NORCOM BOYS' BASKETBALL
TEAM

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great pride to call attention to a group of young students who have distinguished themselves, their school, their community, and the city of Portsmouth, Virginia. The I.C. Norcom Greyhounds boys' basketball team had a remarkable season and I believe the Greyhounds deserve formal recognition for their accomplishments.

On March 10, 2017, the I.C. Norcom Greyhounds beat the Northside Vikings of Roanoke, Virginia, to win the Group 3A boys' state basketball championship, becoming the first basketball team, boys or girls, to win four consecutive state championships. The Greyhounds completed their 2017 season with an impressive 22–8 record.

I.C. Norcom won the championship in dramatic fashion, with a steal in the last six seconds of the game leading to a two point victory of 67 to Northside's 65. I.C. Norcom's boys' basketball team has had a consistent run of excellence in recent years, and has become a dominant force in Virginia high school sports.

I.C. Norcom was founded in 1913 as the High Street School, the first public high school for black students in Portsmouth. It was later renamed in honor of its first supervising principal, Israel Charles Norcom, a businessman, fraternalist, and leader in the Portsmouth community. Now, more than 100 years after its founding and three locations later, I.C. Norcom High School is still striving to ensure academic excellence for its students.

In addition to excelling on the basketball court, the Greyhounds are also doing great things in the classroom. I.C. Norcom has been nominated for Steve Harvey's Neighborhood Award and has partnered with community businesses to help tutor students.

I.C. Norcom students have been participating in the First College program—attending Tidewater Community College this semester and taking up to 14 college credits before they graduate. I.C. Norcom is doing a great job cultivating excellence both on and off the athletic field.

I would like to extend my enthusiastic congratulations to the I.C. Norcom players, their families, Principal Dr. Laguna Foster, Coach Leon Goolsby and the rest of his coaching staff on this most recent State Championship and on the team's continued excellence. On behalf of the citizens of the Third Congress-

sional District of Virginia, I commend the team for this historic win, this historic run of championships, and wish the program years of continued success.

CELEBRATING THE 275TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF MORAVIAN COL-
LEGE

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Moravian College on the occasion of its 275th Anniversary.

Located in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, Moravian's roots go all the way back to May 1742, when it began as a girls' school founded by Countess Benigna von Zinzendorf, who was only 16 years-old at the time. Motivated by her religious roots in the Moravian denomination, Countess Benigna accompanied her father, Count Nicholas von Zinzendorf, on a visit to the Moravian settlements in the New World. The intent was to use education as an instrument of salvation for the surrounding community of Bethlehem, which was established one year prior.

Zinzendorf's school became the first girls' boarding school in America. Eventually, it would come to be known as the Bethlehem Female Seminary, and in 1913, it became the Moravian Seminary and College for Women. The school developed such a distinguished reputation that in its early years, George Washington personally petitioned the headmaster for the admission of two of his great-nieces while he served his second term as President.

In 1954, the women's institution joined with the men's institution, Moravian College and Theological Seminary, which was comprised of boys' schools from Bethlehem and Nazareth, to form the singular Moravian College. Moravian Theological Seminary maintained a close, but distinct identity as a graduate school of theology. The merger made Moravian College the first coeducational institution of higher learning in the Lehigh Valley region of Pennsylvania.

Today, Moravian College remains committed to its mission of preparing individuals for a "reflective life, fulfilling careers, and transforming leadership in a world of change." The school offers more than 50 programs of study, and over 2,000 students make up its undergraduate and graduate student population.

It is my pleasure to congratulate the students, alumni, faculty, and staff of Moravian College as they celebrate this very special 275th Anniversary. May they enjoy continued success in edifying and serving the Lehigh Valley and all those who look to carry on its proud tradition.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL BEER
DAY

HON. DAVE BRAT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. BRAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to National Beer Day. On April 7, 1933,

the Cullen-Harrison Act, named after the legislation's sponsors, went into effect and for the first time since 1920 the purchase, sale, and consumption of beer and wine with an alcohol content of 3.2 percent, was legal.

Fast forward 76 years to 2009 when one of my constituents, Justin Smith, sparked the idea of celebrating National Beer Day on April 7th. In March of this year, Justin's efforts eventually lead to our Governor Terry McAuliffe recognizing National Beer Day in Virginia. National Beer Day has grown to such prominence that it was recently featured as a clue on Jeopardy.

The impact that craft brewers have on the Virginia economy is substantial. According to the Virginia Craft Brewers Guild, the Commonwealth of Virginia had 142 breweries and nearly \$1 billion in economic impact in 2016. The craft brewing industry is growing rapidly in Virginia and given current trends, will continue to do so. In 2016, Virginia craft brewers took home 13 medals from the Great American Beer Festival proving that Virginia's craft brewers are plenty in number, but also in quality.

Craft breweries such as 1781 Brewing Co., Battlefield Brewing Co., Beer Hound Brewery, Extra Billy's Smokehouse and Brewery, Far Gohn Brewing Co., Final Gravity Brewing Co., Kindred Spirit Brewing, Lickinghole Creek Craft Brewery, Midnight Brewery LLC, Rock Bottom Restaurant & Brewery, Steam Bell Beer Works, Strangeways Brewing, The Answer Brewpub Co., and Willow Spring Brewery are located in my district.

I'm delighted to have so many craft brewers supporting the local economy, providing jobs, and promoting the safe consumption of beer in my district.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN SOLDIER ARMY CORPORAL (CPL) TYLER JOE DICKENS

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of fallen soldier Army Corporal (CPL) Tyler Joe Dickens who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation on April 12, 2005, during Operation Iraqi Freedom III. CPL Dickens died from injuries he sustained when a rocket-propelled grenade struck his guard tower in Al Mahmudiyah, Iraq. CPL Dickens was assigned to the 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Irwin, California.

CPL Dickens entered active service in June 2002. He followed in the footsteps of his father, Joseph Dickens, who also served in the Army. CPL Dickens served as a sniper team leader at the time of his death.

During CPL Dickens's memorial service, a letter from a superior, Captain Gary Mills, was read aloud. Mills described how proud Dickens was of his family and that he enjoyed sharing stories with his unit and pictures of his wife, Elisha, and newborn son, Austin.

"The platoon was proud when [his] son was born," Mills wrote. "We would like to thank his entire family. None of us will ever forget Tyler J. Dickens."

CPL Dickens was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, National

Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Expert Infantryman Badge, and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

CPL Dickens's sacrifice for the freedoms we all enjoy will not be forgotten.

INTRODUCTION OF A PRIVATE BILL FOR THE RELIEF OF DANIELA VARGAS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing a bill to provide relief to Ms. Daniela Vargas, a young woman from my Congressional district in Mississippi.

Ms. Vargas was brought to the United States by her parents as a seven-year-old child from Argentina in 2001. Like the estimated 750,000 other young people in the same situation, she became a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipient and has a pending DACA renewal application. By all accounts, Ms. Vargas is a hard worker who, up until March, was living the American Dream. Having graduated from high school with honors in 2013, Ms. Vargas was pursuing her college degree in hopes of becoming a math teacher. On March 1, 2017, this valuable member of our community who respects our laws, pays her taxes, and has no criminal record found herself the innocent victim of the cruelties of our current immigration system.

On that day, Ms. Vargas participated in a press event at City Hall in Jackson, Mississippi organized by local church leaders and immigration advocates to raise awareness about the negative impacts that politically-motivated immigration enforcement actions directed by the Trump Administration are having on communities across the country and those young people with DACA status who have come to be known as "Dreamers". Exercising her First Amendment Rights, Ms. Vargas shared her family's story and courageously spoke out on behalf of those who, like her, live with the fear that on any given day they will be deported in furtherance of the President's misguided and cruel immigration agenda. When Ms. Vargas and a friend left the DACA event at City Hall, they were trailed by ICE Agents. After pulling the car over on the side of the road, the ICE Agents, who should have been aware that Ms. Vargas had a pending DACA renewal application, took her into custody and transferred her to a detention facility in Jena, Louisiana—160 miles from her home. When Ms. Vargas' case was brought to my attention, I, along with a diverse network of civil and immigration rights groups, mobilized on her behalf. Thankfully, on March 10th, a U.S. District Court granted the petition submitted on her behalf and she was released from detention, but an order for her removal remains active.

Enforcement of our country's immigration laws must hold steadfast to our cherished American values. Our nation needs law-abiding DACA recipients, like Ms. Vargas, to be free from the threat of deportation so that they can contribute to our communities. These Dreamers took a leap of faith during the Obama Administration and came out of the

shadows in the hopes that our immigration laws would be reformed to give them the security they need to build a better future for themselves and their families. Members of the Jackson community support Ms. Vargas wholeheartedly, and I am proud to offer my support as well. While this may be a private bill for one individual, I strongly believe we must do better by the thousands of other young people like Ms. Vargas who now live in fear of being uprooted from the communities that they call home. We urgently need to offer them a secure path forward, not one that pushes them back into the shadows or threatens to send them away from the country that is their home.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize today to recognize National Volunteer Week, which will take place the week of April 23–29, 2017. During National Volunteer Week, organizations across the country celebrate the efforts of volunteers who share their time and talents with those in need—the homeless, the hungry, the elderly, the at-risk youth, and other marginalized populations.

National Volunteer Week was established in 1974 by President Richard Nixon. Every U.S. president since then has issued a proclamation during National Volunteer Week, encouraging Americans to volunteer in their communities. This week serves to remind us all that we are a nation of people that thrives on serving others. The volunteering of time and resources has been an instrumental part of the essence and tradition of our country and remains essential to its spirit and vitality.

I especially would like to recognize the great work of the Tri-Community Directors of Volunteer Services (Tri-DVS), which has been providing support to professionals working in the volunteer services field in Columbus and Fort Benning, Georgia and Phenix City, Alabama since 1985. In addition to promoting volunteerism, Tri-DVS provides support, training, networking opportunities, and professional skills accreditation to its members.

Each year, Tri-DVS holds a luncheon during National Volunteer Week to recognize and thank the volunteers in the tri-city area. In September, the group sponsors a seminar, Investing in Volunteerism, to help organizations integrate volunteer services into their operations.

Tri-DVS is a leader in the movement to improve communities through volunteerism and I applaud their resounding efforts to encourage and expand volunteer services for individuals and organizations throughout the tri-city area.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing National Volunteer Week by acknowledging the positive impact volunteerism has on communities throughout the country. In addition, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the Tri-Community Directors of Volunteer Services for their efforts to provide support for the volunteers who tirelessly share their time and talents with those in need.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, on April 5, 2017, I was unavoidably absent due to a family medical emergency and missed roll call votes 217–220. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll call vote 217: On ordering the previous question: NAY

Roll call vote 218: On agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 242: NAY

Roll call vote 219: On Motion to Table the Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair: NAY

Roll call vote 220: On final passage of H.R. 1304—Self-Insurance Protection Act: YEA

38TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT (TRA)**HON. STEVE KING**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a very important day in U.S.-Taiwan relations. April 10th marks the 38th Anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA). This important statute has been critical in defining the diplomatic, economic, and strategic relationship we have enjoyed with Taiwan over the last four decades. In 2017, Taiwan is the United States' tenth largest trading partner. The TRA has strengthened our relationship and helped encourage a particularly strong economic partnership.

The growth of Taiwan is a living breathing example that trade benefits humanity, and not just economically. Particularly in light of the scheduled meeting between President Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping, it is important for our nation to remember and commemorate the special relationship between the United States and Taiwan, a thriving and innovative economy that most countries envy. In this new and exciting era for our two nations, one that promises to emphasize bilateral trade agreements, I impress on the administration that a strong relationship between the U.S. and Taiwan is key to sustaining peace, stability and liberty in the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to a continuing successful cooperation between the United States and Taiwan. I am also confident that if we continue to enhance our economic relationship, this dynamic partnership that we've built together will continue to thrive in the future.

HONORING MR. BERVIN HARRIS

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, this past February, I was honored to recognize outstanding members of the Bronx community during my office's annual Black History Month Celebration. During that time, we gave pause to com-

memorate the innumerable contributions that African Americans have made—and continue to make—to our Nation. Today, it gives me great pleasure to rise in honor of one of those exceptional individuals, a trailblazer in youth civic engagement through the power of music. It is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you to honor Mr. Bervin Harris.

Mr. Harris is the Co-Founder and CEO of Renaissance Youth Center in my district. He has over 30 years of social development experience in the areas of youth services and community development, and cofounded the Youth Center in 2001. As CEO, he has created and managed several successful programs throughout the Bronx community. Renaissance Youth Center serves close to 4,000 youth a week at multiple sites, providing children in the Bronx with educational programming, tutoring, and musical lessons. Mr. Harris also manages, writes and directs for the center's Music With A Message (MWAM) Band, performing with them in close to 100 shows a year. Mr. Harris is also the director of the center's citywide youth council, Youth In Power, with more than one thousand teens participating.

Under the direction of Mr. Harris, the youth council participates in precinct, community board, and mayoral meetings by partnering with community organizations and advocating for their peers and neighborhoods. Recently, the council led the charge to hold a local slaughterhouse owner accountable for properly disposing of their trash and keeping the surrounding area clean. Their efforts brought this quality of life issue to the attention of the health department and local elected officials which in turn forced the business owner to address the community's concerns. Mr. Harris has built many partnerships for Renaissance including with the New York Police Department, Carnegie Hall, NYC Parks Department, Berklee College of Music, and many more.

Prior to Renaissance, Mr. Harris was the program director at a Beacon program where he more than tripled the annual budget and was recognized as one of the 4 "Model Beacons" by the Department of Youth and Community Development.

Mr. Harris is also an artist on Capitol Records where as an accomplished musician, singer, song writer he has produced and written songs for a wide variety of musicians, ranging from Hip Hop artists like KRS-1 to R&B artists like Mary J. Blige to Jazz artists like Herbie Hancock. Mr. Harris has also written the music score for the stage play I Sing 4 Luv and recently co-wrote and directed the stage play Bronx Side Story. Mr. Harris received his undergraduate degree from Old Westbury College and management certificate from Fordham University.

Mr. Harris is an incredible advocate for the youth of our community, and he has made our borough a much better place because of his efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Bervin Harris for his passion for uplifting the youth in our community.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF FAMU
WOMEN'S SOFTBALL HEAD
COACH, VERONICA WIGGINS**HON. AL LAWSON, JR.**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. LAWSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of FAMU Women's Softball Head Coach, Veronica Wiggins. Coach Wiggins and her team celebrated her 700th career victory earlier this month in the Puerto Rico Collegiate Softball Classic.

Coach Wiggins reached this impressive milestone in her 26th season at Florida A&M University. With this win, Coach Wiggins is now the longest serving head coach in the school's 100-plus year of athletic history and ranked 44th on the NCAA's Career Coaching wins list for active coaches. Known as an intense competitor, master psychologist and mother hen, Coach Wiggins is a true leader in the Rattler Community.

Since the beginning of her career at FAMU in 1990, Coach Wiggins has been the architect of one of the more respected mid major Women's Softball programs in NCAA Division One. She has led FAMU Softball to a 226–76 record all-time in Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference play, while guiding her charges into postseason play eight times. Coach Wiggins was inducted into the FAMU Sports Hall of Fame, won the MEAC Outstanding Tournament Coach Award eight times and is a four-time MEAC Coach of the Year. She has served with a spirit of love and patience that has carried her into victory.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire FAMU Rattler community, I am proud to honor Coach Wiggins. She is an inspiration to many across northern Florida both on and off the softball field. Her enthusiasm and passion for her team have not gone unnoticed.

I look forward to watching FAMU Women's Softball Team future success and I wish Coach Wiggins well as she continues to lead the mighty rattlers to victory.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALL-
EN MISSISSIPPI NAVY SEAMAN
(SN) KATRINA RENEE GRADY**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of fallen Mississippi Navy Seaman (SN) Katrina Renee Grady who died of an intracerebral hemorrhage on April 18, 2002, during Operation Enduring Freedom. She had been onboard the USS *Port Royal* when she became ill. She passed away at Bethesda Naval Medical Center, MD.

SN Grady was the youngest of six children raised by her mother, Mary Grady, in Greenville, Mississippi. She graduated from T.L. West High School in 1992. Following graduation from Mississippi Valley State University in 1998, SN Grady enlisted in the U.S. Navy. It was her desire to follow in the footsteps of her grandfather who served in the military and her brother, Charles Grady, who joined the Mississippi National Guard.

SN Grady's mother says Katrina was a smart girl who wanted more out of life and military service was the way to accomplish that goal.

"She wanted to serve her country most of all," Mary said. "She loved her work aboard ship. She was excellent."

Hundreds of people came to the funeral which was held at the St. Mathews Methodist Church in Greenville, including her fellow service members, school teachers, and classmates.

SN Grady's dedication to military service and to the protection of our nation will always be remembered.

VICE PRESIDENT JOSEPH BIDEN
ADDRESS AT THE PUBLIC MEMORIAL FOR JOHN GLENN

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the remarks of Vice President Joe Biden at a remembrance ceremony held in Columbus, Ohio on December 17, 2016 at the Mershon Auditorium (The Ohio State University):

When John Glenn was 10 years old, his father, his hero, a veteran of World War I, taught him how to play "Taps" on the bugle. They'd play together on Memorial Day in New Concord [Ohio], small flags and flowers next to gravesites—gravestones of the fallen. And John would recall that time and feeling when he said, where "Love of country was a given. Defense of its ideals was an obligation." And, "The opportunity to join in its [quests] and explorations was a challenge not only to fulfill a sacred duty but to join a joyous adventure.

With John, all the years I knew him and worked with him was always a joyous adventure.

Annie, what a joyous adventure you and John had together, on display for your children and the whole world to see.

You all know it. You can tell when a couple really, genuinely loves and enjoys one another.

It was infectious.

On behalf of President Obama and the First Lady, on behalf of the American people, Jill and I are here because we love you Annie, and we loved John. And together you taught us all how to love.

That's not something you usually talk about when you talk about heroes, especially heroes like John Glenn, who lived a life that was rigorous but tinged with just a little bit of magic.

Just a little bit of magic.

We talk about daring spirit, poise under pressure, mental and physical toughness, but for all his heroism that history will remember in war, in space, in public life, you felt something deeper with John.

Annie, on the way to get to Air Force 2, I got a call from John Kerry, who's somewhere over the Atlantic on the way to another mission in the Middle East to try to deal with Yemen. And he told me about his time he got to spend with you a couple days ago, and the family. He pointed out, he said, "Joe, you know John's only the ninth person in history

in the state of Ohio to ever lie in state. "Governor, I didn't know that."

Only the ninth in history.

And he talked about how much it meant to him to be with you. And he gave, spontaneously, what I think is maybe the best description of John Glenn I've ever heard—and I new John for 40 years. He said, "John came out of the heart of the country"—like you kids do—"and he stole America's heart." "Came out of the heart of the country and he stole America's heart."

And he did: He stole America's heart.

I remember as a kid, freshman in college, John's historic flight.

And Annie, you and John and Jill and I have been friends for 40 years. I know others have longer relationships but what a wonderful 40 years it has been.

We served in the Senate together side-by-side for 25 years, and we traveled around the world together. John was one of the happiest people I ever knew. Think about it—one of the happiest people I ever knew. He had that infectious smile. Even when things looked like everything was crashing down, John would walk into my office or walk into a caucus with that big smile on his face and I wondered, "Where in the hell has he been?" "Did he not just hear what I just heard?" (You think I'm kidding. I'm not kidding.)

But the world knew, [revered], and respected John, from Columbus to Cambodia, from Washington to Beijing. He loved being a senator. He loved his constituents and his colleagues. He loved his staff, many of whom are here today. And, boy, did they love him back.

And you could feel his love for his country and for his state and for the Marine Corps. He was kind of partial to NASA.

But most especially you felt his love for you, Annie, and for Dave and Lyn, and his grandchildren. All you had to do, as I said, was see John and Annie just walk together, just the way they looked at each other, and you knew that's what it's supposed to be like.

I said that to Annie today before we came in and she said, "Well, that's like you and Jill." I said, "No it's different. Everybody knows I love Jill more than she loves me. I think you, [Annie], loved him just as much.

The last time we were together, when Jill and I had Annie and John over to the Vice President's residence—I was looking at the picture this morning, Annie, of you guys walking down the steps, walking out to the gate, and Jill and I behind you. And the words of the poet Christopher Marlowe literally came to mind, and I had to rewrite this on the way to the plane. Christopher Marlowe said: "Come with me and be my love and all the pleasures we shall prove."

Well, together, Annie, you and John proved all the pleasures. You not only had a magical love affair—the other thing about you, you were partners. You were [unclear] partners. Together, you bore the way to fame and responsibility and with enormous humility, and a sense of duty that defined you as the greatest of America's greatest generation.

I think John defined what it meant to be America, what it meant to be an American, what we were about—just by how he acted. Always about promise. We were a country of possibilities, opportunity. Always a belief in tomorrow.

Tomorrow.

When John was at the house a couple years ago it's all he kept talking about: "What are you going to do now, Joe?" "What are we going to do tomorrow?" "We have all these opportunities."

Together, you and John taught us that a good life is built not on a single historic act—or multiple acts—of heroism, but a thousand little things; the thousand little things that build character, treating everyone with dignity and respect

John was one of the few of my colleagues who would be going to the restroom where there was a shoeshine guy. John would always pat him on the shoulder and give him a hug, understanding that despite fame and position everybody was John's equal.

Everybody was John's equal—in his mind.

And it all comes down to being personal. The President always kids me, Annie, because I'm getting older, now. I could even try to improve on Tip O'Neill's admonition about "all politics is local." I don't think John agreed with that either. I think, and I think he thought, all politics is personal. It's all personal.

It all comes down to being personal—to being there for family, and being there for friends, in good times and in bad times; like you and John were there for me and Jill when I was in the hospital. You were there for us when our son, Beau, was deployed and you were there when we buried him.

It's all about being personal.

Annie, you and John, as was mentioned earlier by the first speaker, were with Ethel [Kennedy]. I happened to be with Ethel Kennedy at an awards ceremony in New York, the little ripple of hope ceremony. And, ironically, a fellow who runs my office, who's a Ohio guy, said John "wasn't doing well." "You ought to call John." And I had a brief discussion with Ethel as I sat with her. And the story is well known about him talking to the kids, being sent back to Hickory Hill. But what struck me was I was told that when you and John got to Hickory Hill, John walked into Senator [Robert] Kennedy's private study and saw that Robert Kennedy, who was the only political [uncertain] I ever had in my life, had out a book of Ralph Waldo Emerson's poetry. And it was opened up, and in a leaf of the book, there in the margins, were comments made by Robert Kennedy. And the passage that John, I'm told, remembered was where Emerson said, "This time, like all times, is a very good one, if we but know what to do with it."

The thing that I liked most about John was he knew from his upbringing that ordinary Americans can do extraordinary things.

Ordinary Americans could do extraordinary things.

And he believed, I believe, he was confident that every successive generation would know what to do with it. And that's the charge I think John left us, Annie: to join our nation's conquests and our nation's explorations as a challenge, not only to fulfill a sacred duty, but to join in this joyous adventure.

So when the Marine plays "Taps" on the bugle at Arlington for our friend, we can look deep into the heavens and know with certitude that John believed—and was right—that future generations of Americans will also look deep within the heavens and understand how to explore, how to serve, how to love; and will come to understand that if we're looking for a message to send about our time here on earth, for what it means to be an American: It's the life of John Glenn. And that is not hyperbole.

So, God bless you, John.

God bless you, Annie.

And may God protect our troops.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAMDYN LEWIS, AVA DECKER, AND MOLLY DOUGHERTY FOR WINNING FIRST PLACE IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION FOR THE 2017 NATIONAL C-SPAN STUDENTCAM VIDEO CONTEST

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Camdyn Lewis, Ava Decker, and Molly Dougherty of West Scranton Intermediate School. These three 8th grade students, with the help of their social studies teacher Erin Mangan, came in first place in the middle school division of the 2017 National C-SPAN StudentCam Video Contest.

The students' prize-winning entry is entitled "US Gun Violence—A Complicated Puzzle." The seven minute piece covers the victims, legislation, law enforcement, mental health, and socioeconomic aspects of gun violence and included interviews with leaders who work in areas related to firearm policy. Those featured in the film were Nicole Hockley, whose son Dylan Hockey was a victim of the Sandy Hook shooting; U.S. Senator BOB CASEY; Philadelphia Police Commissioner Richard Ross, Jr.; NRA Spokesperson Catherine Mortensen; and Jeffery W. Swanson, Ph.D., Professor in Psychiatry and Behavioral Services at Duke University. The video urges Congress and the president to take action to reduce the number of gun-related casualties in the country, but also calls viewers of the piece to action to prevent incidents of gun violence in their communities.

It is an honor to recognize these three young women for covering such an important issue with sensitivity and tact. I congratulate them on winning the 2017 National C-SPAN StudentCam Video Contest. I applaud the faculty and staff at West Scranton Intermediate School for helping these students make a successful video project. Camdyn, Ava, and Molly should be proud of the exceptional piece of journalism they produced.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER SERGEANT (SGT) HENRY LEVON BROWN

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army Sergeant (SGT) Henry Levon Brown who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation on April 8, 2003, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SGT Brown was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 64th Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Stewart, Georgia. He was serving as a Colonel's driver at the time of his death. He was mortally wounded in an enemy rocket attack in Baghdad.

SGT Brown was born September 30, 1980, in Natchez, Mississippi. He joined the military

after graduating from Natchez High School in 1999. SGT Brown held the rank of Corporal with the Army's HHC 2nd Brigade Command Group when he lost his life.

"He was very proud of what he did," said Staff Sergeant James Dayton, who was Brown's Army supervisor for a year and a half and escorted his body to Mississippi. "He was very sharp. He always stayed ahead of me."

"There wasn't anything he wouldn't do for me, and I know there wasn't anything he wouldn't have done for everyone in this room," said his wife, Army Specialist JoDona Brown.

SGT Brown was honored by Natchez Mayor F.L. Hank Smith, members of his high school class, and Adams County supervisors. More than 1,500 people attended the spirited celebration of the soldier's life. Those at the funeral remembered Brown as a quiet, religious young man. Before joining the service, SGT Brown was a Sunday School teacher, secretary, and junior choir member at Greater New Bethel Baptist Church.

SGT Brown is survived by his wife, SPC JoDona Brown, and his mother, Rhonda James-Brown and father, Elm Carter Brown.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTION BANKRUPTCY ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bipartisan measure, H.R. 1667, the Financial Institution Bankruptcy Act of 2017, which was reported favorably out of the Judiciary committee to the House floor, on March 29, 2017, on a voice vote.

As leaders of the Judiciary Committee with oversight of our nation's bankruptcy laws, I am glad to see that my colleagues and I were able to work across the aisle to answer the question of how to improve the existing bankruptcy process for the resolution of failing financial institutions.

Removing potential obstacles to an efficient bankruptcy of a financial institution, this legislation enhances the Bankruptcy Code and its ability to resolve financial firms for the benefit of stability in the U.S. and global economies and does so with minimal financial burdens or cost.

Specifically, H.R. 1667 will allow the expeditious resolution of large, complex financial institutions on the verge of insolvency to be better facilitated under the Bankruptcy Code by minimizing the disruptive impact of the company's collapse on the financial marketplace.

First, this legislation addresses a real need, which is recognized by the regulatory agencies, bankruptcy experts, and the private sector, that the bankruptcy law must be amended, so that it can expeditiously restore trust in the financial marketplace after the collapse of a major financial institution.

Such was the case with the failure of Lehman Brothers in 2008, for example, which caused a worldwide freeze on the availability of credit, wreaking havoc on Wall Street, as well as, on Main Street.

The near collapse of our nation's economy that resulted from Lehman's failure revealed

that current bankruptcy law is, unfortunately, ill-equipped to deal with complex financial institutions that are in economic distress.

This legislation, accordingly, creates a court-supervised, orderly liquidation mechanism that will be guided by the regulators.

In sum, this process will allow a failing financial institution to transfer its assets to a newly-formed bridge company over a single weekend, which will promote confidence in the financial marketplace.

The institution's equity and debt will remain in the bankruptcy case to be administered by a trustee under court supervision.

As a result, valued assets will be maximized for the benefit of creditors, and the marketplace will stabilize.

Additionally, I support the legislation because it appropriately recognizes the important role that the Dodd-Frank Act has in the regulation of large financial institutions.

Without a doubt, the Great Recession resulted following the regulatory equivalent of the Wild West.

The Dodd-Frank Act goes a long way toward reinvigorating a regulatory system making the financial marketplace more accountable and hopefully more resilient.

The act also institutes long-needed consumer protections that have, up until now, not been available.

For example, Title II of the Dodd-Frank Act establishes a mandatory administratively-driven resolution process to wind down large financial institutions.

Title II is a critical enforcement tool for bank regulators to facilitate compliance with the act's heightened regulatory requirements for large companies.

Nevertheless, the Dodd-Frank Act clearly recognizes that bankruptcy should be a first resort and that the orderly liquidation process should be a last resort.

In fact, Title I of the act explicitly requires these companies to write so-called "living wills" explaining how they will resolve their financial difficulties hypothetically, in the event of a bankruptcy scenario.

This is because bankruptcy law has, for more than 100 years, enabled some of the nation's largest companies to regain their financial footing.

H.R. 1667 will ensure that bankruptcy is a truly viable alternative to the Dodd-Frank Act's resolution process.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to note that this legislation is the product of a very collaborative, bipartisan, and deliberate process, which should be the norm, not the exception, when it comes to drafting legislation.

For example, this bill, unlike similar legislation that has come through the Senate, does not include any controversial provisions aimed at undoing the important protections of the Dodd-Frank Act.

I should also note, however, that H.R. 1667 does not include any provision allowing companies to have access to lenders of last resort.

Nearly every expert recognizes that such access, even if it is by the federal government, is a necessary element to ensure financial stability.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

NATIONAL LAWN CARE MONTH

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize April as National Lawn Care Month. The landscape industry employs nearly 1 million workers and contributes annual revenue of \$78 billion to our nation's economy. From the National Mall to an opening day outfield and even in our own front and back yards, images of beautiful lawns are often iconic depictions of American culture and the American dream.

As we recognize these images, we must also recognize the work that goes into the upkeep of such lawns. Landscape and lawn care professionals play a vital role in ensuring that lawns are not only maintained but also healthy as healthy grass and turf deliver essential benefits to families, communities, and the environment.

Healthy lawns offer protection against disease carrying insects. They provide oxygen, protect our waterways, and clean the air. They are the backdrop for important life memories such as first steps, athletic accomplishments, and gatherings for friends and families. Healthy lawns are important parts of our communities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen delays on April 5, 2017, I was not present on the House Floor for the first vote of the day. Had I been present, I would have voted nay on Roll Call No. 217, the Motion on ordering the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1219.

RECOGNITION OF RIBAUT HIGH SCHOOL GIRL'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. AL LAWSON, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. LAWSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Ribault High School Girls' Basketball Team. The Lady Trojans won their 11th state championship title with a 60-37 win over Orlando Bishop Moore in the Class 5A championship game. Under the leadership and guidance of Head Coach Shelia Seymore-Pennick, the Lady Trojans are truly a force to be reckoned with.

The Lady Trojans Basketball team is no stranger to winning. With a nearly perfect record for the season, with only a three-point loss, they make residents of Florida's Fifth Congressional District proud.

As a former basketball player, I am excited to witness the success of such hardworking and dedicated young women. They are the

true definition of a team and show these qualities both on and off the basketball court.

I look forward to watching their future success in both their academic and athletic pursuits and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Lady Trojans Girls' Basketball Team and Coach Shelia Seymore-Pennick on a job well done.

HAPPY 100TH ANNIVERSARY SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. WILL HURD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. HURD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Anniversary of Sul Ross State University, a premiere public institution dedicated to higher education—nestled in the foothills of West Texas.

On April 4, 1917, Governor James E. Ferguson signed a bill, passed by the 35th Texas Legislature, establishing Sul Ross Normal College. Over the past century, Sul Ross has developed into the cultural and educational epicenter for Alpine and the surrounding areas, offering 25 undergraduate and 22 graduate degree programs administered by a tremendous faculty. Situated in a unique geographic location, Sul Ross offers unparalleled learning experiences in some of Texas' most scenic regions, including Big Bend National Park, Fort Davis State Park, the Rio Grande, and the Guadalupe Mountains.

Today I applaud the 29,000 graduates and countless faculty and staff members who have helped shape Sul Ross State University into the institution it is today. The positive impact of this university resonates across Texas' 23rd Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN ARMY SPECIALIST (SPC) CASEY MICHAEL LAWARE

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of fallen Army Specialist (SPC) Casey Michael LaWare who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation on April 9, 2005, during Operation Iraqi Freedom III. SPC LaWare was severely burned in a guard tower fire in Al Mahmudiyah, Iraq and passed away at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany.

SPC LaWare was assigned to the 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Irwin, California. LaWare enlisted in the Army prior to graduating from Enterprise High School in 2004. He was trained as a sharpshooter and deployed to the Mosul region in northern Iraq as part of the buildup of U.S. forces for the Iraqi election.

SPC LaWare's mother, Kathy Grace, said her son was proud to serve America and the Army is what he really wanted to do with his life. In a Los Angeles Times news article, family members said SPC LaWare wanted to serve our nation.

"He wanted to be in the Army. He wanted to serve his country," said cousin, Kendall Grace, of Redding, California.

"The hands-on activities from the Army appealed to him," his uncle, Dick Grace, said. "He was challenging himself."

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger issued a statement when he heard about SPC LaWare's death.

"Serving in the armed forces is a noble calling with grave risks. SPC LaWare bravely assumed those risks and we honor his courage and commitment to our country."

SPC LaWare honored his family in great service to our nation. His sacrifice will not be forgotten.

NATIONAL RETIREMENT PLANNING WEEK

HON. DON BACON

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the more than 48 million Americans who have currently reached retirement age. Shockingly, a significant number of Americans have saved nothing for their retirement. While retirement is often viewed as an issue for older Americans, today's economic realities mean that saving for retirement needs to start earlier than ever before. With rising healthcare costs, longer life spans, a burdensome tax code, and a reduction of pension offerings, more Americans than ever before are shouldering the burden of financing retirement entirely by themselves.

The first week of April has annually been proclaimed as National Retirement Planning Week. Under the leadership of the National Retirement Planning Coalition, we are all being urged to rethink what we believe we know about retirement planning. Despite developing trends, the National Retirement Planning Coalition hopes to help guide all Americans towards securing a dignified retirement through holistic planning.

Mr. Speaker, there are steps we all can take to achieve financial independence in our retirement years. We now have the opportunity to renew the national conversation on the importance of preparing and protecting retirement. I encourage my colleagues to support legislation which will help their constituents prepare for a dignified retirement.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID POMERANTZ

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to David Pomerantz, the retiring Democratic Staff Director of the House Appropriations Committee, who reflects the best of public service and the institution of Congress.

The Appropriations Committee has historically been a body more interested in substance and policy than politics. Democrats and Republicans fight strongly for what we believe in, and at the end of the day, we try to work together to produce good legislation that funds

important services and investments, helps Members of Congress address local challenges, and provides sound guidance to federal agencies as they administer federal law.

But Members of the Appropriations Committee could not accomplish any of these goals if not for the hard work and support of dedicated staff, like David.

His retirement is bittersweet. Since 2011, David has led our House Democratic staff and supported the Members of our Committee with wisdom, calm, and occasionally boisterous laughter. David and I have had more emergency meetings, late night conference calls, and strategy sessions than either of us care to remember. His steady hand has been an asset during some of the most contentious funding debates with which the federal government has ever had to grapple.

While we already miss his depth of knowledge, expertise, and good humor, we are delighted for him to begin this new chapter in his life.

Having grown up on the West Coast, the son of a successful professional in the entertainment industry, David's return to his family's roots on the East Coast and his pursuit of a long career in federal service may have seemed counterintuitive. Prior to his distinguished career on Capitol Hill, Dr. Pomerantz was an Assistant Professor of Political Philosophy at SUNY Stony Brook. He began his service to the U.S. House of Representatives with the Democratic staff of the Rules Committee in 1983. He joined the Appropriations Committee in 2001, where he served as Professional Staff, Clerk of the Commerce, Justice, State Subcommittee, and Director of the nonpartisan Surveys & Investigations staff under Chairman and Ranking Member David Obey and finally as Democratic Staff Director for Ranking Member Norm Dicks and myself.

David reflects the best of this institution. He served the Appropriations Committee, the Rules Committee, and the U.S. Congress with integrity and skill. His time and talents were essential in solving some of the greatest challenges before the Congress, particularly in recent years when we faced government shut-downs and gridlock over appropriations and budget matters. In addition to his expertise of agency and program budgets, his knowledge of parliamentary process is unparalleled. His vast institutional knowledge of the House is second to none, and he will be sorely missed. Members of the Committee, staff, and the full Democratic caucus are deeply indebted for his tireless service and dedication.

It is a testament to David's leadership that our Committee remains so well prepared to address the great challenges we face, and his lasting imprint will be an unyielding commitment to fighting for Democratic ideals and an excellent staff who will carry forward his legacy.

I wish David the best as he begins this new and exciting chapter in his life.

GOLD STAR FAMILIES

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank College of the Ozarks in

Branson, Missouri, for their dedication to honoring Gold Star Families in Missouri by building Missouri's first memorial dedicated to those individual families.

A Gold Star family is one that has lost a loved one in military service.

The Gold Star memorial on College of the Ozarks campus will honor Gold Star Families of Missouri. This memorial preserves the memory of the fallen and stands as a stark reminder that freedom is not free. College of the Ozarks feels that it is their duty to honor all who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. Building this memorial is the college's way of honoring those families that sacrificed everything in the name of freedom.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing College of the Ozarks on their outstanding dedication to this country by honoring Missouri's Gold Star Families.

DEATH OF SECRETARY WILLIAM T. COLEMAN

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of a civil rights champion: Secretary William T. Coleman.

I had the privilege to know while working as a congressional staffer for another civil rights hero, Congressman Ron Dellums.

Secretary Coleman served this country with character and conviction.

He served in World War II and graduated first in his 1946 Harvard Law School Class.

He also broke through racial barriers to become the first African American Supreme Court Clerk and the second African-American in U.S. history to lead a Cabinet-level department.

Secretary Coleman believed deeply in the Constitution and fought to defend civil rights at all costs.

It was his commitment to that belief that led Thurgood Marshall to recruit Secretary Coleman to coauthor the legal brief in *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954.

I was honored to work in a bipartisan fashion alongside Secretary Coleman's Special Assistant, Elaine Jones during his tenure as Secretary of Transportation in the Ford Administration.

Together we were able to include language on affirmative action in the Airport and Airway Development Act.

Secretary Coleman's determination in the face of discrimination has served as an inspiration for me throughout my career.

My thoughts and prayers are with Bill's wife and family during this trying time.

I am confident that his legacy will live on through the lives of those he touched.

May his soul rest in peace.

IN HONOR OF ALENE OWENS

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, after four decades of service on the Downhome

Gospel radio show on KMYL and two decades as the show's primary host, Alene Owens signed off Madisonville's airwaves on Sunday, April 2, 2017.

Although she was born 84 years ago in Nacogdoches, Texas, Miss Alene and her family settled in Madisonville in 1976 where she began working as an assistant radio co-host. Never did she think she would host the Sunday morning gospel hour, but that is just what happened. After the host moved away, KMYL owner Leon Hunt asked Miss Alene to take over.

Miss Alene says she didn't know much about the radio business or hosting a radio show back then, but she dove right in and started sharing her love of the Lord to all who tuned in. She cherishes the listeners and supporters of her show and considers herself blessed to share God's glory over the radio.

As a busy member of Lakeview Missionary Baptist Church, Miss Alene has more praise for the Lord than ever. She is Superintendent of her Sunday School Class and a member of a prayer band that meets four times a week—all while striving to get even more involved in her Women's Bible Class.

As if her calling wasn't enough, Miss Alene is excited about having more time to enjoy her nine great-grandchildren. While she feels the Lord moving her in a new direction, she remains thankful for her faithful listeners, station owner Leon Hunt, the KMYL family, and especially her Heavenly Father for "the strength to continue on this long."

She is confident that the next Downhome Gospel host will take the program she has loved for four decades to "another level in the name of Jesus." As she embarks on her next adventure, it is my honor to recognize Miss Alene and thank her for her many years of faithful service.

HONORING GIVE EVERY CHILD A CHANCE CEO CAROL DAVIS

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to honor Carol Davis for her long commitment to the future of our youth and her belief in the power of education to improve our communities. Over the last 17 years, Carol Davis' leadership has been instrumental to the academic success of thousands of struggling students in my district.

Ms. Davis turned her lifelong passion for helping children into reality when she became the CEO of Give Every Child A Chance 17 years ago. At that time Give Every Child A Chance (GECAC) was tutoring 125 students within the Manteca Unified School District and had 50 volunteer tutors. In her first year as CEO, Ms. Davis expanded Give Every Child A Chance to provide tutoring assistance to 325 students in need. 17 years later, Give Every Child A Chance reaches more than 4,500 students in 49 schools with more than 400 mentors and tutors. Carol Davis' outstanding leadership and vision has helped make Give Every Child A Chance the San Joaquin region's leading non-profit afterschool program and has greatly improved the lives of thousands of children.

Carol Davis recently retired as CEO of GECAC. She is a highly respected and inspiring public servant of San Joaquin County. I wish Ms. Davis and her family well and thank her for her years of dedicated service to the students and families associated with Give Every Child a Chance.

**HONORING THE GAY AND LESBIAN
ACTIVIST ALLIANCE OF WASH-
INGTON, D.C.**

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 46th anniversary of the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, D.C. (GLAA), a revered organization that has long been a leader in the struggle for equal rights for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) community.

Since its founding in April 1971, GLAA has been a respected and tireless advocate not only for LGBTQ rights, but also for full and equal rights for the District of Columbia, and has been at the forefront of efforts to strengthen enforcement of the landmark D.C. Human Rights Act of 1977. One of GLAA's most significant achievements, on which it worked with coalition partners, D.C. elected officials, and District residents, was the enactment of the D.C. Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Equality Amendment Act, which allowed same-sex couples to marry in the District.

GLAA also has been an outspoken advocate for LGBTQ youth and seniors; has stood up for the rights of LGBTQ consumers; has upheld the rights of transgender people, including equal treatment by police and access to culturally competent healthcare; has educated and rated local candidates on LGBTQ issues; and has built and nurtured coalitions with other constituencies to advance these causes and defend the District's autonomy.

At GLAA's 46th anniversary reception on April 20, 2017, the following recipients of its 2017 Distinguished Service Awards will be recognized:

José Gutierrez is an activist, historian, poet and leather enthusiast who resides in Washington D.C. and is originally from Reynosa, Mexico. His family immigrated to Atlanta, GA in the mid-1980s, where he launched his advocacy career working for AID Atlanta and co-founding Latinos en Acción, a Latino LGBTQ organization. José is recognized for his work on human rights and AIDS advocacy both locally and nationally. In 2000, he founded the Latino GLBT History Project, the oldest D.C. Latino LGBTQ organization and most recently co-founded the Rainbow History Project, DiCción Queer and the Latino Leather. In 2007, José organized the first D.C. Latino Pride. Currently, José is pursuing his B.S. in psychology at the University Ana G. Mendez, and works at the Department of Homeland Security in the District. José is an active member of the D.C. Latino Caucus, LULAC LAMBDA, the OutWrite and the Latinx LGBTQ D.C. Center.

Reverend Cedric A. Harmon is a native Midwesterner with Southern and New England in-

fluences—a surprise last child to older parents who shared with him the gift of experience and wisdom. He has a B.S. in media management from Emerson College, and has completed extensive graduate work at Wesley Seminary. Cedric's deep faith calls him to do the work of justice and equality and to equip others to do the same. He is also known for his writing and television appearances—again on human rights and social justice—and serves on several boards having to do with sexuality and religion. He served as pastor of a “radically inclusive” congregation in the District, and is currently Executive Director of Many Voices—a new nonprofit creating a Black Church movement for gay and transgender justice.

Mara Keisling is the Executive Director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, the nation's leading social justice advocacy organization winning life-saving change for transgender people. Since founding NCTE in 2003, Mara has led organizational and coalition efforts that have won significant advances in transgender equality, including the inclusion of gender identity in the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, the first-ever congressional hearing on transgender issues, and countless federal administrative and state-level wins. As one of the nation's leading voices for transgender equality, Mara is regularly quoted in national and local print media and has appeared on major television networks. She was part of the first all-transgender television interview on Melissa Harris-Perry's show in 2012. Mara holds a B.A. from Pennsylvania State University, and did her graduate work in American Government at Harvard University.

Reverend Barry W. Lynn is the retiring Executive Director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State (AU) after serving in that capacity for the last 25 years. GLAA has worked very productively with Rev. Lynn and his highly capable and efficient staff at AU in resisting the federally imposed school voucher program in D.C. These private schools are not accountable to D.C.'s elected officials and their students, staffs, and teachers may lack the protections of the D.C. Human Rights Act. We are also honoring Rev. Lynn for aggressively defending the civil rights of the LGBTQ community on a host of national issues. He has long championed marriage equality, fought against “bathroom bills” that demonize transgender men and women and legislative attempts to gut local and national civil rights protections in the guise of “religious freedom.” The AU has, with Rev. Lynn's direction, filed numerous amicus briefs in cases directly affecting the LGBTQ community. Few if any other activists have been more outspoken than Rev. Lynn in integrating the interests of the LGBTQ community with the whole range of church-state separation issues.

I ask the House to join me in honoring the recipients of GLAA's 2017 Distinguished Service Award and in celebrating GLAA's 46 years of contributions to the LGBTQ community in the District of Columbia.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALL-
EN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER MA-
RINE STAFF SERGEANT (SSG)
JASON AARON ROGERS

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Marine Staff Sergeant (SSG) Jason Aaron Rogers who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our great nation on April 7, 2011. SSG Rogers was killed in Northern Helmand Province, Afghanistan when an improvised explosive device detonated while he was clearing a path for wounded marines in a live mine field during combat operations. He was assigned to the 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force out of Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

SSG Rogers was born on April 9, 1982, in Jackson, MS. He graduated from Brandon High School in 2000. Shortly after September 11, 2001, SSG Rogers joined the Marine Corps, where he served eight years. He was deployed on six overseas assignments, five of which were combat deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan. He was 28 years old at the time of his death.

SSG Rogers' mother, Jenny Smith, recently said, “I'm extremely proud. He was proud to serve our country. He had a calling to offer his life for friends and family. He loved America. Every year, we hold the Annual Running for Jason 5K Run/Walk in Brandon to honor his service.”

Mayor Tim Coulter of Brandon, Mississippi said, “We are saddened by the death of one of our hometown heroes, Jason Rogers, a brave man of character. He will be missed by our city and our hearts and prayers are with his family at this time.”

Brandon Winfield, a childhood friend of SSG Rogers said, “The loss of Jason Rogers is going to make this world an emptier and lonelier and colder place. I could write a War and Peace sized story of the kind of person he was. Some people have it; the room just seemed to be dizzier and brighter with him in it.”

SSG Rogers is survived by wife Angela Rita Marie Rogers. He is also survived by his parents, Jennifer and William Smith, and Liz and Tracy Aaron Rogers.

**HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
CHRISTOPHER L'HEUREUX**

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Lieutenant Colonel Christopher L'Heureux of the United States Army for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to our Nation. Colonel L'Heureux will soon transition from his current assignment as an Army Congressional Liaison in the House of Representatives to serve as the Commander of 2d Squadron, 2d Cavalry Regiment. The unit is currently leading a multinational battle group in Poland deterring adversaries and reassuring allies of

America's continued commitment to the region.

A native of Woonsocket, Rhode Island, Colonel L'Heureux began his military career as an enlisted infantryman in the Rhode Island Army National Guard. He was commissioned in 1999 through the Providence College Army ROTC Program and subsequently assigned to a tank battalion in Germany. While in Germany, he deployed twice to Kosovo and again to Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Since then, Colonel L'Heureux has served in multiple leadership and staff positions in combat units, including two additional deployments to Iraq and one to Afghanistan.

In 2015, Colonel L'Heureux was selected to serve as a Congressional Liaison in the United States Army House Liaison Division. As the primary liaison between Members of the House of Representatives and the Army, Colonel L'Heureux has provided insight and a deep understanding of Army policies, actions, operations, and requirements. His first-hand knowledge of the military, its culture, and traditions has been of tremendous benefit to Congressional offices. Chris was especially effective in his service to Members and staff as he escorted them on fact-finding and oversight delegations within the United States and to multiple countries in South America, Europe, and the Middle East. I have had the privilege to travel with Colonel L'Heureux on several occasions, including to Israel and to various military exercises in the United States, and I found him to be a thoughtful, intelligent, and dedicated Soldier in the best traditions of America's Armed Forces and the men and women called to serve from the great state of Rhode Island.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a pleasure to work with Colonel L'Heureux during his time as an Army Congressional Liaison Officer in the House of Representatives. On behalf of a grateful Nation, it is my honor to recognize the selfless service and sacrifice of Lieutenant Colonel Christopher L'Heureux, his wife, Danielle, and their children, Ella and Jonathan. I wish them the very best as they continue their journey in the United States Army and thank them for dedicating their lives to the service of our Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE N. MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on April 4, 2017, I was unavoidably absent from the House chamber due to a family medical emergency. Due to these unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to vote on six legislative measures on the floor.

Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows:

1) Nay on Roll Call No. 211: H. Res. 241, On Order the Previous Question, Providing for consideration of H.R. 1304, the Self-Insurance Protection Act

2) Nay on Roll Call No. 212, H. Res. 241, On Agreeing to the Resolution, Providing for consideration of H.R. 1304, the Self-Insurance Protection Act

3) Nay on Roll Call No. 213, H. Res. 240, On Ordering the Previous Question, Providing

for consideration of H.R. 1343, the Encouraging Employee Ownership Act of 2017

4) Nay on Roll Call No. 214, H. Res. 240, On Agreeing to the Resolution, Providing for consideration of H.R. 1343, the Encouraging Employee Ownership Act of 2017

5) Aye on Roll Call No. 215, H.R. 1343, On Motion to Recommit with Instructions, the Encouraging Employee Ownership Act of 2017

6) Aye on Roll Call No. 216, H.R. 1343, On Passage, the Encouraging Employee Ownership Act of 2017

IN RECOGNITION OF ALLISON LOUISE ROSA

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Ms. Allison Louise Rosa for her service to my office and the people of California's 21st Congressional District.

Ms. Rosa was born May 14, 1994 in Hanford, California where she grew up on her family's dairy farm with her parents, Roland and Karen, her sister Emily, and her brother Jack. Growing up, Allison was very active in the dairy community; she was even crowned the First Alternate Dairy Princess for Kings County, California in 2012.

After graduating from Mt. Whitney High School in Visalia, California, Ms. Rosa went on to attend College of the Sequoias and Holy Names University. She graduated in 2016 from Fresno Pacific University with a degree in Communications. While in college, Allison was an avid tennis player and an NCAA division II athlete.

Allison joined my team as Scheduler in my Washington, D.C. office in May 2016. As Scheduler, she was instrumental to my team through managing my daily schedule and helping her coworkers with daily tasks to make the office run more smoothly. While on my team, Allison was greatly respected by her peers for her professionalism, dedication to her work, and sense of humor.

Outside of work, Allison enjoys spending time with her friends and talking to her family back in California. She is currently looking forward to moving back home to California to be closer to her family and the coast.

Ms. Rosa's time with my office will come to a close April 7, 2017 when she leaves to begin a new career at Epoch Estate Wines in Tempton, California. Knowing Ms. Rosa, her character, and her work ethic, I have no doubt that she will achieve many great things in her future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Ms. Allison Louise Rosa for her public service to the people of the Central Valley and wishing her well as she embarks on the next chapter of her life.

JEANNETTE RANKIN AND 100 YEARS OF WOMEN IN CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor former Congresswoman Jeannette Rankin, who deserves a special place in American History.

When I first came to the House of Representatives, I was one of just 24 women serving in Congress. Although a small cohort, this was made possible by Ms. Rankin, who was the first woman elected to Congress, 100 years ago.

Congresswoman Rankin was a part of the suffragist movement, even opening congressional debate on a Constitutional amendment to grant universal suffrage. She brought this same passion to her work in social welfare, advocating on behalf of women and children.

Today we have seen our ranks swell to 104 members of Congress. Research has shown that when women participate in government, it is more collaborative and more functional.

Congresswoman Jeannette Rankin was a trailblazer who shattered glass ceilings and proved to the American people that women's contributions are valuable and they are deserving of positions of power. For her tireless efforts, I worked to have a portrait commissioned in 2010, to fortify our institution's rich art history, paving a new way of democracy.

I know she would be proud to see the progress we have made, and prouder still of the indomitable spirit of American women, who continue to make their voices heard.

RECOGNIZING APRIL 3-7, 2017 AS NATIONAL RETIREMENT PLAN- NING WEEK

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April 3-7 as National Retirement Planning Week.

Saving for retirement is one of the most important steps that Americans can take to build a better future for themselves and their families. Unfortunately, all too often, saving for retirement remains a distant goal that is put off in exchange for more immediate needs. The Government Accountability Office reports that 29 percent of Americans aged 55 and older have no retirement savings, and no traditional pension. With this in mind, it must be a national priority for us to communicate the importance of retirement planning. By encouraging more Americans to adequately prepare for their retirement years, we can significantly enhance retirement security in the United States.

Recognizing this week as National Retirement Planning Week is an important step to help raise awareness of this need, and I commend the members of the National Retirement Planning Coalition for their efforts to educate Americans about the importance of retirement planning. I wish them all the best as they continue this valued campaign.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF RICH RIMKUNAS

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish Rich Rimkunas congratulations for his many long years of service to Congress. Rich Rimkunas has had a career filled with outstanding achievement at the Congressional Research Service. After nearly 37 years of service, Rich will be retiring from CRS on Friday, April 28th.

When Rich joined CRS in 1980, he was an analyst working on a broad array of social policy issues. Initially, he worked on such issues as child nutrition, poverty, social security, social services for the aged, and unemployment insurance. Rich co-created and co-authored a widely circulated CRS report on federal social welfare spending. He was also a co-author and contributor to several chapters in the House Ways and Means Committee print *Children in Poverty*, which provided a detailed look at the incidence and characteristics of child poverty in the United States.

Rich ultimately became heavily involved in providing research and analytical support to the Congress on many health policy issues, including analyses of aggregate national health expenditures, the Medicare hospital prospective payment system, the Medicare Advantage program, and Medicare catastrophic drug costs. Additionally, he has worked on numerous issues related to Medicaid. He both directed a team of CRS analysts as well as contributed his own analysis to the Medicaid "Yellow Book," a 1988 House Ways and Means Committee print that provided a comprehensive analysis of the Medicaid program as it existed at the time. Rich also managed the 1993 update of the "Yellow Book."

Rich's analyses have typically involved quantitative research methodologies, modeling techniques, and the use of complex databases. Rich has excelled at developing approaches for simulating the effects of potential changes to federal benefits and grant allocation formulas.

In addition to the direct impact his research and analytical work has had on federal policies, Rich has made equally important contributions within CRS in managerial roles. During his tenure at CRS, he has served as Section Research Manager (SRM) of the Methodology Section, the Research Development Section, the Research Development and Income Support Section, and the Health Insurance and Financing Section. During his tenure as an SRM, Rich helped manage CRS work on the 1996 welfare reform law and the 2003 overhaul of Medicare in the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act. Rich helped manage an inter-disciplinary team numbering about 3 dozen CRS analysts that provided legislative support during the passage of the Affordable Care Act.

Throughout his career, Rich has served as a role model for the highest level of CRS service to Congress, upholding the Service's standards of authoritativeness, objectivity and confidentiality. He is known within CRS for his attention to detail, methodological strength, and creative approaches toward conducting

analyses. His input is sought on a great many research efforts spanning virtually all of the major domestic social policy issue areas that Congress deals with.

Rich is renowned for his tremendous work ethic and energizing presence. Those who have worked closely with him appreciate his ability to keep his sense of humor even during the most stressful times.

In recent years, Rich has served as the Deputy Assistant Director of CRS's Domestic Social Policy Division. In that role he has mentored and helped develop many of the division's managers, analysts and research assistants. He has also played a central role in reviewing written work produced by the division, helping to ensure its accuracy, completeness and quality. Moreover, in his work as a division manager, Rich has served on numerous advisory panels that have recommended organizational practices and policies for CRS, many of which have been adopted.

Rich's policy expertise has been broadly recognized. He is regularly sought for his expertise at professional meetings and conferences. He was nominated to the National Academy of Social Insurance in 2002 and has served on the steering committee of the National Health Forum. He has also been recognized with numerous Library of Congress Special Achievement Awards.

Rich has devoted nearly his entire distinguished professional career to supporting the work of the Congress and to helping build and strengthen CRS and forward its mission. Congratulations to him, and I wish him many long and happy years in retirement.

COMMEMORATING THE WORLD WAR I CENTENNIAL

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember twelve brave soldiers from Crockett and Port Costa, California who paid the ultimate price to defend our nation. This week marks the 100th Anniversary of the United States Entry into World War I.

The Crockett Memorial in my district reads: "In loving memory of the men of this community who gave their lives in the great war. D. Crowley, G.M. Lee, W.E. Dunn, O.A. Sweet, M.H. Sievers, F. Remaini, B.L. Catelini, C.W. Ross, J.R. Carroll, R.L. Dingman, V.L. Dunn, B.A. Secor." These soldiers, their families, and our community sacrificed to serve our nation. We are forever in their debt.

I would like to honor and thank the members of the Crockett Memorial Hall Restoration Committee, including Harvey Duran, Kent Peterson, Mike Kirker, Ron Wilson, Bud Burlison, Scott Lawton and Charles Dell, as well as the members of the Crockett Historical Society, including Mary Wais, Kathy Cargo and Erin Mullen-Brosnan for organizing a commemoration for this anniversary and for supporting numerous events for veterans in our community.

These individuals and their organizations bring our community together and encourage us to remember the sacrifices of those who came before us, as well as the heroes who

still live among us. They are passionate advocates for our veterans and our history, and they are responsible for organizing the Phillips 66 Annual Crockett Walk of Honor for Veterans, fundraising events for the restoration of the WWI Memorial Hall, the Memorial Day Concert and the Veterans' Day Parade.

Mr. Speaker, we are forever grateful and humbled by the lives that were given for us all those years ago. We owe tremendous gratitude to the Crockett Memorial Hall Restoration Committee and the Crockett Historical Society for their service. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor them here today.

HONORING PFC ROBERT LIEBRICH

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is my solemn privilege to recognize the late World War II veteran Private First Class (PFC) Robert Liebrich of Rhode Island. Tomorrow, it will be my honor to present Carol Liebrich, his widow, a Purple Heart with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster for PFC Liebrich's meritorious service with the Army after being shot in the arm during an engagement with opposing forces. This is the second Purple Heart for PFC Liebrich, who was first injured after being shot in the abdomen in events leading up to the Battle of the Bulge, which began in December 1944. He was only 18 years old when he sustained both injuries.

We owe our Soldiers who fought in World War II an enormous debt of gratitude, and PFC Liebrich is no exception. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank PFC Liebrich and his widow, Carol, for dedicating their lives to the service of our Nation and for defending humanity and human dignity during one of our world's most pressing crises. It will be a great and humbling honor to present this award to Mrs. Liebrich for her husband's heroism.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. LOLIS EDWARD ELIE

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Lolis Edward Elie, a prominent New Orleans, Louisiana civil rights lawyer, who passed away on April 4, 2017 at the age of 89.

Mr. Elie was born on February 9, 1928 in New Orleans, Louisiana. He attended Gilbert Academy, a Methodist high school. After high school he did a six-month stint as a merchant seaman and wound up in New York City, where he was impressed by the music clubs and the Apollo Theater. To support himself, Mr. Elie did menial work such as shining shoes and delivering stationery.

When the Korean conflict broke out, Mr. Elie was drafted into the Army and sent to California, where he was trained as a clerk. Afterward, he attended Howard University, and then transferred home to Dillard University, where he helped to organize a sizable student

chapter of the NAACP. It was suspended in 1956 after the Legislature required civil rights groups to publicly reveal their membership lists, putting members at risk.

In 1959, Mr. Elie received his law degree from Loyola University Law School, got an office on Dryades Street and opened what became the legendary firm of Collins, Douglas & Elie with Loyola Nils Douglas and Robert Collin.

In 1960, Mr. Elie and his colleagues represented the New Orleans chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) following a sit-in campaign. The case, centered on CORE chapter President Mr. Rudy Lombard and three others who were arrested for staging a sit-in protest, paved the way for a watershed decision that redefined racial justice in America. They appealed the case all the way to the United States Supreme Court which, in its decision, declared the city's ban on sit-ins unconstitutional.

Later in his career, Mr. Elie was one of seven supporters of the Freedom Riders who met with Attorney General Robert Kennedy, when Kennedy encouraged them to register black Southerners to vote to increase their political power. He also represented the 'Deacons for Defense and Justice' in their negotiations with the Governor's office and Bogalusa City Council defending their right to self-defense.

Mr. Elie remained active in New Orleans and continued to mentor the next generation of leaders through his training program for new black lawyers. Though he is no longer with us, his influence and example will live on through the many young black men and women who continue to be inspired by his legacy, myself included.

Mr. Elie's survivors include his son Mr. Lolis Eric Elie, his daughter D. Migel Elizabeth Elie; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Mr. Lolis Edward Elie, a beloved husband, father, and grandfather.

HONORING BISHOP JIMMY W.
GLENN, SR.

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bishop Jimmy W. Glenn, Sr. who was recently elevated to Auxiliary Bishop of Texas Northeast Forth Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the Church of God in Christ.

Bishop Glenn was born in 1954 to Superintendent Emuel Robert Glenn Sr. and Mrs. Dixie Jewel Glenn. Bishop Glenn was raised in the Lake Como community of Fort Worth, where he proudly graduated from Trimble Technical High School in 1973. His legacy of ministry started at the early age of 8 when he began singing in a number of church programs at Wayside Church of God in Christ. He embraced his call to service at a very young age and sang at revival services around Texas with Bishop R.E. Ranger and his father.

By the time Bishop Glenn turned 21 in 1979, he was licensed to preach. The Church of God in Christ ordained Bishop Glenn as an Elder in 1981, and he served for two years

under his father at the St. Paul Church of God in Christ. In 1983, he was named pastor of Gospel Lighthouse Church of God in Christ in Cleburne, Texas. Bishop Glenn served in that parish for 10 years before spending time at several churches in Fort Worth, including Gethsemane Church of God in Christ, the St. Mary Church of God in Christ, and Greater Love Chapel Church of God in Christ.

Bishop Glenn has served in a number of leadership positions at the state and national level within the Church of God in Christ. He served as Chief Adjutant to the late presiding prelate of Texas Northeast First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the Church of God in Christ, Bishop James Neaul Haynes. Bishop Glenn served as a National Adjutant to Bishop Haynes as well during Haynes' tenure as one of the 12 General Board members of the Church of God in Christ. Bishop Glenn served loyally in this capacity with Bishop Haynes for over 30 years until Haynes' death in March of 2015. Currently, he holds the title of Vice President of the National Evangelist Department at the national level.

The Church of God in Christ will honor Bishop Glenn's lifetime of service and his appointment to the post of Auxiliary Bishop of Texas Northeast Fourth Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction at an inaugural banquet and celebration in Fort Worth, Texas on May 5, 2017.

I honor Bishop Jimmy W. Glenn, Sr.'s decades of service to the Church of God in Christ.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALL-
EN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY
STAFF SERGEANT (SSG) JERRY
CLARK BURGE, JUNIOR

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army Staff Sergeant (SSG) Jerry Clark "Chip" Burge, Junior who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation on April 4, 2007, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SSG Burge was mortally wounded when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle. SSG Burge and Corporal Joseph H. Cantrell IV, of Ashland, Kentucky, were both killed by the blast.

Prior to his death, SSG Burge received a Purple Heart for being wounded during a previous deployment in Kosovo. It was during that tour that SSG Burge, a demolitions expert and engineer, was investigating a bomb in a house when it exploded. He suffered damage to his eyesight and hearing. He also received a concussion. At the time of his death, SSG Burge was serving his second tour of duty.

SSG Burge, a Picayune native, was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, Fort Hood, Texas. SSG Burge's aunt, Bobbi Kenney, told a local newspaper that her nephew was a soldier who knew the risks associated with his job, but was willing to take the risks in order to serve his country.

Picayune American history teacher Allison Wheat remembers the day of SSG Burge's funeral procession. The whole student body of Picayune High School and members of the community attended in order to pay their respects. In memory of SSG Burge, Wheat's

students began hosting a luncheon on Veterans Day to honor veterans and their families. SSG Burge's family attends the luncheon every year. What began with ten veterans has grown to more than 100 in attendance.

SSG Burge will always be remembered as a tough soldier and leader, and at the same time, a great father of three. His devotion to protecting our freedoms will not be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALL-
EN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER MA-
RINE PFC CHRISTOPHER DALE
MABRY

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of fallen Mississippi soldier Marine Private First Class (PFC) Christopher Dale Mabry who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation on April 7, 2004, during Operation Iraqi Freedom III. PFC Mabry was killed by hostile fire battling Sunni insurgents while conducting combat operations west of Baghdad in Al Anbar Province, Iraq.

PFC Mabry, a Chunky native, was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, California. PFC Mabry enlisted in the Marines the last year of high school at Clarkdale Attendance Center. While in high school, PFC Mabry excelled in track and once placed second in the 400-meter sprint at a track meet in Carthage in 2002. PFC Mabry, a high school senior defensive back, led the football team to a district championship and to the state playoffs. Football team member, Spencer Robinson, remembers Mabry's dedication.

"He was the leader of the team," Robinson said. "Everyone followed him. He was the hardest worker in the weight room and the most energetic athlete."

On the day of his funeral, 300 people attended the funeral at the First Baptist Church. Cars lined the streets leading to the church. An American flag was raised on the ladder of a fire truck. Clarkdale Attendance Center students were excused from class to pay their respects. PFC Mabry's grandmother, Frances Mabry, will never forget the response from the community.

"I'm not surprised at the turnout," Mabry said. "I know he's proud of all the people being here. I know Chris is happy about that."

PFC Mabry proudly served our nation. His devotion to protecting the freedoms we all enjoy will not be forgotten.

PROTECTING THE NATIONAL EN-
DOWMENTS FOR THE ARTS AND
HUMANITIES

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the National Endowments of the Arts and the Humanities. The Trump Administration has proposed completely defunding these two essential organizations.

President Trump's budget would eliminate the NEA's \$148 million budget, the NEH's \$148 million budget—accounting for less than .03 percent of total discretionary spending. Yet the impact they make on our communities is enormous. While all fifty states would be negatively impacted by these cuts, rural communities would be hit the hardest. According to the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, approximately 25 percent of NEA block-grant funds go to rural communities and 54 percent to low-income areas.

A nation without arts is one without an identity. In the words of one of my heroes, the late Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, "The arts are not a frill. The arts are a response to our individuality and our nature, and help to shape our identity. Art has the potential to unify. It can speak in many languages without a translator. The arts do not discriminate. The arts can lift us up." And they do.

Artists have used their mediums to process their experiences—and to share their perspectives with all of us. There is no more valuable gift. We must defend this funding.

HONORING JONATHAN SHUFFIELD

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an individual who has served the people of Arkansas' Fourth Congressional District with dedication during the last two and a half years. My legislative director, Jonathan Shuffield, has led my legislative team since I took office in January 2015, bringing with him an extensive knowledge of federal lands, forestry, and how to navigate the legislative process in the House.

Prior to serving the people of Arkansas, Jonathan worked as a legislative assistant for Congressman STEVE PEARCE of New Mexico beginning in January 2011 and the Congressional Western Caucus, where he served as executive director until December 2014.

While I am disappointed to lose a valuable member of my office's senior leadership, I know Jonathan will continue to make an impact on the important issues in the years ahead. I thank him for his work on behalf of the people of Arkansas and wish him well as he moves forward in his career.

COMMEMORATING 38TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 38th Anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), the pillar upon which our robust friendship with Taiwan stands.

The United States and Taiwan share the common interests and values of freedom, democracy, rule of laws, human rights and free market. Our security commitment has helped Taiwan become one of the most free and prosperous societies in the world. The United

States enjoys cooperation with Taiwan on a broad range of concerns, including security, economic cooperation and development, global engagement, humanitarian relief, counterterrorism, people-to-people exchanges—and the list goes on. It is my firm belief that a strong and prosperous Taiwan will guarantee peace and prosperity in the region.

As we commemorate the 38th Anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, it is in the national interest of the United States to take decisive action to strengthen U.S.–Taiwan relations.

I also noticed that the President of the Peoples Republic of China, Xi Jinping is visiting the United States to visit with our President. It is my hope that the upcoming meeting is positive and constructive. U.S. engagement with the PRC is important to the peace and stability of the region. We should always hope and insist that the U.S.–Taiwan relations, and Taiwan's security and interests, are not in any way compromised.

Taiwan is a great friend of the United States. Taiwan is and will continue to be a friend of the United States.

HONORING WILLIAM T. COLEMAN

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of a civil rights champion: Secretary William T. Coleman, who I had the privilege to know while working as a congressional staffer for another civil rights hero, Congressman Ron Dellums. Secretary Coleman served this country with character and conviction.

He served in World War II and graduated first in his 1946 Harvard Law School Class. He also broke through racial barriers to become the first African American Supreme Court Clerk and the second African-American in U.S. History to lead a Cabinet-level department.

Secretary Coleman believed deeply in the Constitution and fought to defend civil rights at all costs. It was his commitment to that belief that led Thurgood Marshall to recruit Secretary Coleman to coauthor the legal brief in *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954. I was honored to work in a bipartisan fashion alongside Secretary Coleman's Special Assistant, Elaine Jones during his tenure as Secretary of Transportation in the Ford Administration.

Together we were able to include language on affirmative action in the Airport and Airway Development Act. Secretary Coleman's determination in the face of discrimination has served as an inspiration for me throughout my career.

My thoughts and prayers are with Bill's wife and family during this trying time. I am confident that his legacy will live on through the lives of those he touched.

May his soul rest in peace.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SUPERVISOR JOHN J. BENOIT AND HIS POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS OF RESIDENTS OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Riverside County Supervisor John Benoit who passed away on December 26, 2016 after a life of public service to the people of California and the residents of Riverside County. Throughout his career, Mr. Benoit served with duty, honor, and integrity and was an example to many across the region.

Mr. Benoit began his life in public service with the Corona Police Department and then with the California Highway Patrol. Over the next 30 years, Supervisor Benoit rose through the ranks to become commander of the Indio CHP Station. Because of his dedication and tireless efforts, California's highways and communities are safer. Supervisor Benoit retired from his distinguished career in law enforcement in 2001 to pursue elected office.

Supervisor Benoit served as a board member for the Desert Sands Unified School District in 1999. He also served as a State Senator and while serving as a California Assemblyman, Mr. Benoit drew from his dedication to bettering the lives of children as well as his respect for law and order to write, introduce, and advance Aryanna's Law, Assembly Bill 617, which instituted tougher daycare safety measures. As a resident of California and a father of twin girls, I personally thank him for his work in protecting our children.

I am honored to have had the opportunity to work with him while he was a Riverside County Supervisor. His dedication, respect, and love for his constituents is as an example for all who want to serve their community. I give my deepest sympathies to his wife, Sheryl, and to their two children, Ben and Sarah.

HONORING THE 2017 FAIRFAX COUNTY STUDENT PEACE AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the 2017 Fairfax County Student Peace Awards.

The program was founded in 2006 to encourage high-school-aged students to think about peace as both a means and an end, and to recognize young people who work as peacemakers. The program began with one high school and expanded gradually from there. By 2013, the program was offered in every public high school in Fairfax County, as well as in three private schools.

Participating high schools choose one junior or senior or one student group active in promoting peace and/or removing the causes of conflict. Examples of outreach include: committing to peace by engaging in activities that strive to end conflict, either locally or globally, seeking to discuss or otherwise resolve potentially controversial issues within the school or

community, promoting the understanding of divisive issues and situations to bridge language, ethnic, racial, religious, gender, sexual orientation, or class differences, and working to resolve conflicts among students or members of the community who feel isolated or alienated.

I am pleased to include in the RECORD the names of this year's Student Peace Award winners.

Ethan Mirani, Cedar Lane Anti-Bullying Committee

Jasmine Howard, Centreville H.S.

Shaan Chudasama, Chantilly H.S.

Vanessa Mae Avendano, Falls Church H.S.

Sabah Munshi, Hayfield S.S.

Surabhi Khanal, Herndon H.S.

Naba Khan, King Abdullah Academy

Shafia Talat, King Abdullah Academy

Jamie Hunstad, Lake Braddock S.S.

Donya Momenian, Langley H.S.

Chrissie Ivanova, Langley H.S.

Naomi Soquar, Robert E. Lee H.S.

Sean Doyle, James Madison H.S.

Aidan Kemp, George C. Marshall H.S.

Josh Leong, McLean H.S.

Sam Gollob, McLean H.S.

Roza Al Barznji, Mountain View H.S.

Yosaph Boku, Mount Vernon H.S.

"Blossoming Beauties", Quander Road School

Narjes Bencheikh, South County H.S.

Emily Lockwood, South Lakes H.S.

Maiss Mohamed, JEB Stuart H.S.

Deema Alharthi, JEB Stuart H.S.

"TJ Minds Matter", Thomas Jefferson H.S.

"Combating Intolerance", West Potomac H.S.

Rodney Wrice, West Springfield H.S.

Audrey Weyer, West Springfield H.S.

Mr. Speaker, the efforts of these young people to build a more peaceful world in their own communities are the building blocks of a more peaceful and tolerant world. I commend them on their efforts and dedication, and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating each recipient on receiving this award.

IN RECOGNITION OF RON FARADAY,
2017 SUNDAY DISPATCH
PERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ron Faraday, who will be honored April 18 as the Greater Pittston Person of the Year. Ron is the president of the Greater Pittston Historical Society. Ron's work with the Greater Pittston Historical Society has helped revitalize the organization's involvement in the community.

The Greater Pittston Historical Society was founded in 2000 as a repository organization so that members of the community could gather, donate, and preserve items of local history. Ron joined the organization in 2012. After an increase of membership and reorganization in 2013, Ron was elected president of the Society. It is headquartered at the Pittston Memorial Library and has 85 active members. The members diligently work to collect memorabilia and digitize newspapers, photographs, and other historical records. Under Ron's leader-

ship, the Greater Pittston Historical Society has partnered with Misericordia University to provide internships to students. The students have helped with the Society's website design, research, and archiving materials. Ron was also instrumental in pushing for the documentary film "Our Town: Pittston" which was released on February 23, 2017 by WVIA-TV.

It is an honor to recognize Ron for all the great work he has done with the Greater Pittston Historical Society. I congratulate him being named the Sunday Dispatch Person of the Year.

HONORING NEW YORK CITY PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA (TISH) JAMES

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, this past February, we all celebrated Black History Month. As part of that celebration, I was honored to hold my annual Black History Month event, and to take time to recognize and pay tribute to outstanding members of the New York City community. I was proud to pay tribute to my friend, New York City Public Advocate Letitia "Tish" James. She has been a public servant for many years, and worked tirelessly to improve the lives of all New Yorkers.

Ms. James is the first African-American Woman to serve as the New York City Public Advocate and the first woman of color to hold city wide office. This position is vital to New Yorkers, as she acts to ensure that New York City's government is responsive, efficient, and promoting policies that help all New Yorkers. Her office investigates problems at city agencies and pushes solutions both through our court system and through the New York City Council.

Since her election in 2013, Public Advocate James has worked on numerous issues important to Bronxites, including criminal justice reform, paid family leave, and protecting tenants and affordable housing. She has helped lead the push for police accountability, including the use of body-worn cameras by the New York Police Department. She has also worked to ensure that special prosecutors are used in all cases of police misconduct.

She has also worked to hold landlords accountable to ensure that New Yorkers have safe and affordable housing. Through the development of the 'Worst Landlords' list and her active legal strategy to ensure that landlords are held to account for unsafe living conditions, she has made a difference in the lives of many Bronxites and New Yorkers.

Prior to being elected Public Advocate, Letitia James represented Brooklyn as a Member of the New York City Council from 2004 to 2013. As a City Council Member, she fought for Paid Sick Leave, and passed the Safe Housing Act, which ensured that thousands of families in rental buildings receive prompt and full repairs to their apartments. She was also an early critic on the Council of the Office of Payroll Administration's CityTime contract, a payroll system later found to be overly costly and difficult to manage. As a result, she worked to pass legislation addressing oversight of high-cost service contracts with the

City of New York. While Chair to the Council's Sanitation Committee, she pushed-through a revolutionary recycling package that included expanding plastic recycling, a new clothing and textile recycling program, and improved public space recycling.

Public Advocate James is a graduate of CUNY's Lehman College and Howard University Law School. She previously served as an Assistant Attorney General, and a public defender. She currently resides in Brooklyn.

Tish James has helped many of my constituents, and many residents of New York City. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Public Advocate Letitia James for her perseverance and dedication to fighting for all New Yorkers.

RECOGNITION OF FAMU DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH SCHOOL BABY RATTLERS GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. AL LAWSON, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. LAWSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a school in my District who was recently crowned as state champions for the third time in three years. The FAMU Development Research School Baby Rattlers Girls' Basketball Team, led by Head Coach Erika Cromartie, made history with a 46-37 win over Tampa Carrollwood in the FHSAA Class 3A state championship game. As a fellow rattler, I am extremely proud of their hard work and dedication in achieving this goal.

The baby Rattlers has had an amazing season and has made Florida's fifth Congressional District proud. They have represented us well. Winning a state championship is a testament to their impressive athletic ability, unselfish mentality, and determination to succeed.

It takes a dedicated combination of skills and many hours of practice to win a state title. They have surely earned this honor. I look forward to watching their future success in both their academic and athletic pursuits and wish them all the best in these future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Baby Rattlers Girls' Basketball Team on a job well done.

ENCOURAGING EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, today we consider another bill requested by large corporations. But, I have to wonder, of all the things the American public want, why is a revision to the Securities and Exchange Commission rules—Section 701 to be precise—the priority for this week?

We've been here for three months now. House Republicans set the agenda. They lead this governing body. Why do they keep bringing us bills that are the priorities of corporate

America? In the past few months, Congressional Republicans, who decide which bills get considered have brought forward a hodgepodge of corporate requests.

Here are some of the bills that are now law:

1) Republicans passed—and the President signed—a law to protect corporate firms from having to disclose labor violations—like wage theft—before winning government contracts (H.J. Res. 37).

2) Republicans made it easier to drug test people receiving unemployment compensation (H.J. Res. 42).

3) House and Senate Republicans—and the President signed—H.J. Res. 86 which allow Internet Services Providers to sell your browser history.

4) Republicans enacted a new law making it easier to dump coal debris near rivers and streams (H.J. Res. 38).

5) Republicans stopped efforts to help governments around the world avoid corruption. H.J. Res. 41 removed the requirement that corporations disclose resource payments to foreign governments. This is a crushing blow to democracy activists working in fragile nations.

6) And, a law preventing state governments from setting up retirement plans for residents who do not have a work-based plan (H.J. Res. 66).

So, in the three months we've been back, these laws, removing competition, disclosure, and consumer privacy, are the priorities of Republicans who set the agenda. These are all asks of corporate America—

1) don't punish us for polluting streams,

2) let us sell your internet browser history,

3) let us make money drug testing laid off workers receiving unemployment due them and do not make us disclose our payments to foreign governments when we drill for oil or minerals.

When I talk to my constituents, they don't ask for any of these. They say, "Where's the jobs bill?" My constituents say, can't we raise the minimum wage from \$7.25 an hour? They say, our roads and bridges need work. Let's raise the gas tax a bit and invest in infrastructure. They say, we want to increase our skills; let's invest in pre-school, Pell grants and community colleges.

Let's put people, not corporate wish lists—first.

But, nope, today we are asked to vote on a bill that makes it easier for private companies to provide options—like stocks—rather than compensation to their employees.

This bill makes it easier for firms to offload some of their options to their employees without disclosing financial information to them. While I'm glad to see companies reward employees with stock and other compensation in addition to salaries, workers should be told the value of the compensation they receive. Not some IOU that they cannot cash in any time soon.

With this bill, H.R. 1343, it is possible that employees would be promised stock options which could be worth less than promised, or even, completely worthless. So, employees could decide to forego a salary increase—or accept lower pay—in order to receive more stock options, yet, those stock options could be worth way less than expected. And the market to sell them could be non-existent.

Why should employees receive less information than that of any other minority share-

holder? Employees should be able to receive information on the financial position of the company so they can make an educated decision about whether to invest in securities.

If an employee is trusted enough to run the day-to-day aspects of the business, they should be trusted enough to receive full disclosure about the company's financials. It's not difficult to allow participating employees to sign non-disclosure agreements. It can't be because these disclosures are an additional burden on the firm. These companies prepared these types of disclosures to receive the Rule 701 Exemption from the SEC in the first place.

I'm also concerned about the mismatch in power between the corporations and their employees. I am very concerned that employees can be more susceptible to pressure to take options instead of salary increases. For example, we could ask George Maddox. George was one of the 21,000 people who worked at ENRON. After working at ENRON for 30 years, he had 14,000 shares of company stock. It was valued at \$1.3 million. Then ENRON collapsed, and he had literally nothing. All his retirement was in ENRON stocks.

If you haven't watched the movies ENRON: The Smartest Guys in the Room recently, I'd urge you watch it again. You could also read Bethany McLean's book by the same name. One image has consistently stuck with me. A staff rally where leadership extolled the virtues of the firm. Leaders whipped employees into a frenzy to buy ENRON stock even as the leaders knew it was worthless. In fact, corporate leaders had already their stock. Yet, they were urging employees to buy!

ENRON had a strategy of buying companies and then pressuring the new employees to buy ENRON stock to keep the stock price inflated. And since ENRON usually fired 10 percent of workers every year, workers felt pressured to buy stock to show a commitment to the firm.

I don't think the supporters of this bill are doing this for nefarious reasons. I'm sure they find my reference to ENRON hyperbolic. They might also say that it's irrelevant since ENRON was a public company and we are talking about private companies.

So, let's talk about Palantir Technologies. This \$20 billion company convinced top-tier engineers to accept below-market salaries by promising them generous stock options. But some employees who accepted this bargain, hoping to make money on selling their shares, cannot sell them. The only buyer of their stocks is Palantir Technologies themselves—or a buyer approved by Palantir Technologies.

Palantir is not a small firm. Palantir is the third biggest American tech startup, behind only Uber and Airbnb. It was also founded in 2004, which makes Palantir as old as Facebook. Which is a long time to wait to cash in your options.

Pushing employees to own more of employer's stock exposes workers, like George Maddox, to put all their retirement eggs in one basket—what we call "concentration risk."

I just can't support a bill that gives employees fewer protections than investors. I can't support a bill that encourages employees to possibly forego cash in their paychecks in exchange for some unverified investment option. We should not make it easier for employers to pressure workers to choose options over salary without adequate disclosures.

I ask this Congress to stop doing the bidding of corporate America until we address the priorities of American families and workers. We should increase wages and access to affordable housing, provide clean air and clean water, and protect our privacy

Vote no on H.R. 1343.

I would like to include in the RECORD an article from BuzzFeed News regarding ex-Palantir employees struggling to sell their shares:

[From BuzzFeed News, Oct. 28, 2016]

EX-PALANTIR EMPLOYEES ARE STRUGGLING TO SELL THEIR SHARES

"Demand has evaporated" for the shares that make up the bulk of Palantir's pay packages, and the company's CEO seems aware of financial angst among his staff.

Former employees of one of Silicon Valley's most valuable startups are struggling to cash out of the stock options that formed a major part of their pay packages.

As it grew into a \$20 billion company, Palantir Technologies convinced top-tier engineers to accept salaries considered meager by Silicon Valley standards, pairing the relatively low wages with generous stock option grants. But some former employees who accepted this bargain, banking on a future windfall, are now complaining that the market for their stock has gone "completely dead."

The complaints add to pressure on Palantir CEO Alex Karp, who has long contended that the company would avoid the public markets. This week, Karp acknowledged publicly that he was "positioning" Palantir for an initial public offering, as part of efforts to reward cash-starved employees.

This reversal didn't come out of the blue. A chorus of complaints has arisen in a private Facebook group for Palantir alumni, with many former employees expressing concern and regret over their inability to sell their shares. In September and October, two former employees promoted possible opportunities to join together to sell a block of shares, including an unsuccessful attempt to organize a sale in China.

Numerous other former employees shared personal stories: Some said they needed the cash to buy a house or pay down debt, while another said they took out a loan to fund the process of turning the options into shares. One said it was "infuriating" trying to sell their shares in a "crap" market.

Compared with last year, when the stock was highly sought after, demand among big investors for Palantir shares has recently gone cold, two brokers who specialize in startup shares told BuzzFeed News.

This chill reveals more about the fickle and sometimes inscrutable nature of markets for startup stock than it does about the business health of Palantir," which makes money by analyzing data for government and corporate clients. But it has stirred frustration among current and former employees.

A complaint about Palantir's below-market compensation was the most upvoted question in an internal question-and-answer session in the first part of this year, with 259 votes from employees, an internal document reviewed by BuzzFeed News shows. "Our cash compensation + bonuses are below the market for tech and our equity growth has slowed significantly," the question, posed anonymously by an employee, said. "The total comp is not competitive; even more so due to the illiquidity." The questioner continued, "Are we planning to change our compensation model?"

Palantir did move to address such concerns in April, announcing it would raise salaries for many employees by 20% and offer to buy back a portion of employee shares.

But on Wednesday, Oct. 26, in another move that seemed aimed at placating employees and investors, Karp gave the strongest indication yet that an IPO could be on the horizon—though it is hardly a certainty. “We’re now positioning the company so we could go public,” he said from the stage of a tech conference hosted by the Wall Street Journal in Laguna Beach, California. “I’m not saying we will go public, but it’s a possibility.”

An IPO would provide a payday to major investors, including Palantir co-founder and chairman Peter Thiel. “Of course I want my investors to be happy,” Karp said, “but the primary people I care about are the wide-eyed people at Palantir who are working day and night.”

A Palantir spokesperson declined to comment.

With a \$20 billion valuation, Palantir is the third biggest American tech startup, behind only Uber and Airbnb. It is also by far the oldest of that elite group, meaning its workers have waited a long time for their stock-option payday. Founded in 2004, Palantir is as old as Facebook—which went public in 2012. In tech years, it is a generation older than Airbnb, founded in 2008, and Uber, which was founded in 2009. The much younger Snapchat, which was founded in 2011, is reportedly laying plans for an IPO early next year that could cause its valuation to leapfrog Palantir’s.

Stock options have long been central to compensation at Palantir. A 2015 template for a Palantir offer letter gave new hires the ability to choose among three different pay packages, with lower cash salaries corresponding to higher amounts of stock options. “It is our hope and belief that these options will ultimately constitute the bulk of your overall compensation,” says this internal Palantir document, which was reviewed by BuzzFeed News.

To illustrate the potential value of the options, the offer letter template invites new hires to imagine a scenario in which Palantir’s valuation were to grow to \$50 billion, or \$100 billion—or even \$200 billion. “Although the values in the table below are hypothetical and inherently uncertain, we want to emphasize our belief in Palantir’s potential to become a \$100 billion company,” the letter says.

While it waits for this dream to materialize, the company has sought to ease financial angst among its employees. It held a “liquidity event” this year that gave current and former employees an opportunity to sell a fraction of their shares. But Palantir also indicated it wanted to curb share sales done outside of its official channels, warning that selling to outsiders could make staff ineligible for future liquidity events.

That outside market hasn’t exactly been humming with deal activity anyway. Trading in private company shares is opaque and fragmented, and data is hard to come by. But the two brokers who spoke with BuzzFeed News said Palantir’s prolific fundraising—the company has raised more than \$2.5 bil-

lion in capital, according to data provider PitchBook—may have dampened investor appetite. A number of big investors who would want a piece of Palantir already have one, they said.

In May, BuzzFeed News revealed some of the setbacks Palantir has experienced as it seeks to expand beyond its roots as a government contractor and woo major corporations. The article, based on internal documents and insider interviews, reported that Palantir had lost some blue-chip corporate clients, was struggling to stem staff departures, and had recorded revenue that was a fraction of its customer bookings.

At the conference Wednesday, Karp was asked about those customer losses, which included Coca-Cola, American Express, and Nasdaq. “We date heavily before we marry,” he answered.

Even before the article was published, members of the private Facebook group for Palantir alumni voiced concern about selling their shares in the so-called secondary market. BuzzFeed News is withholding the names of former employees to protect their privacy.

“Any 2nd market shares going on right now? My broker disappeared,” one former employee posted in April.

“There are still periodic deals happening,” another replied. “One that I know of right now, but it’s full already.”

“Yeah, the demand has evaporated,” another said.

More recently, however, some of the posts took on an urgent tone, as sales appeared to grow scarcer. Options are contracts to buy shares at a certain price; to use them, the owner must pay this price in addition to applicable taxes—which can amount to a large bill. What’s more, options expire at a certain point if they’re not used, adding time pressure to the equation.

In the public market, owners of options can easily sell a portion of their holdings to cover the tax bill and the exercise price. But this strategy is much trickier in the private market, and there was some debate in the Facebook group over whether Polar would even allow it.

In September, one former employee asked the group whether anyone was “coming up on their 3-year expiration,” soliciting advice on “approaches people are taking given the less-than-stellar private market.”

Among the replies, one former employee reported taking out “a personal loan to meet my exercise deadline.”

Another wrote: “I’m in the same boat: 3 years coming up in April, market is crap, and I probably don’t have the resources available for a loan. The fact that it’s so difficult to sell is infuriating and I’m wishing that I’d taken the ‘high’ salary option (which TBH wasn’t that high to begin with).”

“On the same boat,” wrote another. “Hoping to buy a house next year and really couldn’t wrap my head around throwing so much money in addition to the stress and work needed to process.”

The former employee who started that thread apparently didn’t receive much sol-

ace. In response to a later post, which asked whether there were “any secondary market sales brewing,” this former employee wrote, “Sorry to be the bearer of bad news, but the market is completely dead at the moment.”

This person then quoted an unidentified broker as saying, “There is absolutely nothing moving in Palantir. People who have bought through us are trying to sell now. I don’t see it changing without the company changing their tone on an IPO.”

Others in the thread shared snippets of information they said they had heard from brokers. According to one, a broker “told me that there are a few ‘price insensitive’ sellers satisfying what little demand exists.”

Another former employee wrote: “I’m interested in joining any sales going down too, I’ve got a year to pay off a hefty debt with the proceeds.” The person added a neutral face emoji.

With buyers scarce, one former employee tried looking across the Pacific.

“I spoke to someone that brokers sales in China, they said they might be willing to get something together if there’s enough of us,” they wrote above a link to a Google Doc that asked others to report information about their holdings.

One of the repliers questioned whether this process would actually turn into a sale—potential investors might just be “fishing for information on prices”—and another cautioned the original poster against “acting as an agent for a group of sellers.” (The poster said the query was “just intended as an interest check.”)

In the end, none of that mattered. “Not likely to go anywhere in the next couple of months,” the former employee who posted the opportunity wrote later. “Sorry if I got anyone’s hopes up.”

Early this month, another member of the group posted about an opportunity to sell options through EquityZen, a startup that arranges small transactions of private company shares. This former employee advised others to contact the EquityZen CEO, providing the CEO’s email address. But less than 12 hours later, another former employee replied to say that the deal “has been already submitted,” meaning the opportunity had passed.

“Dang,” another member wrote.

Discussions in the group about news related to Palantir often come back to a familiar theme. In September, for example, the Department of Labor accused Palantir of discriminating against Asian job applicants, a claim Palantir later rejected as “flawed and illogical.” In a thread discussing the allegations, one former employee found a financial angle.

“I sure hope this isn’t an expensive lawsuit for them to defend,” this person wrote. “I don’t claim to understand how the legal system works in cases like this, but geeeee this doesn’t bode well for any of us looking for liquidity at a fair price over anytime soon.”