

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF AGUDAS ACHIM

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 125th Anniversary of Congregation Agudas Achim in Peoria, Illinois.

Agudas Achim was founded in 1886 by a group of 18 settlers in Peoria as the first Traditional Orthodox Jewish Congregation in that part of the country. In the following decades, Agudas Achim grew to be the largest Traditional Jewish Congregation in Illinois outside of Chicago.

Since its founding, Agudas Achim has had a physical presence in many parts of the City of Peoria, constantly expanding its facilities to meet the needs of its growing congregation. From the South Side to North Peoria, Agudas Achim has put down deep roots in the city.

Throughout its long history, Agudas Achim has weathered many challenges and changing times, but it continues in its mission to serve the Traditional Jewish community in Central Illinois through assembly, study, and prayer. I congratulate the leaders and members of the congregation on this significant anniversary.

CONGRATULATING THE MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' SOCCER TEAM

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the Marian High School girls' soccer team of Mishawaka, Indiana. The Knights competed in the Indiana High School Athletic Association state championship on October 29, 2011 at Kuntz Stadium in Indianapolis, with a tough 1 to 0 loss to first place Providence in a shootout following two overtime periods.

The Knights worked tirelessly this season, garnering an 18–3–1 record with half of their victories captured with more than five goals. Leading scorer, Junior Gabby Veldman, scored thirty-two goals during the season. A testament to the character of the Marian team, Senior Lauren Garatoni received the Mental Attitude Award from the Indiana High School Athletic Association.

The Marian team consisted of twenty-two young women, including: Liz Naquin, Brittany Payne, Denise (D.J.) Veldman, Gabby Lucchese, Lauren Wade, Tracy Scott, Shannon Hendricks, Madeline LaDue, Jen Smith, Josie Cressy, Gabby Veldman, Melissa Cunningham, Lauren Garatoni, Carson Ludwig, Claire Griffith, Maggie Wanecke, Maggie Hartnagel, Bridget Doyle, Cassie Sloma,

Emma Capannari, Makaela Douglas, and Devon Smith.

I also congratulate the dedicated coaching staff of Head Coach Djamel Charmat and Assistant Coaches Erin Shindledecker and Jim Douglas, who helped guide the Knights to the state championship game. The coaches developed a team with depth, talent, a strong defense, a high scoring offense, and most importantly, good sportsmanship.

I offer my congratulations to the members of the girls' soccer team of Marian High School, the coaching staff, the school administration and community for their accomplishments this season including their second place finish in the IHSAA 1–A State Soccer Tournament.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, on November 3, 2011, I was absent from the House and missed rollcall vote 825.

Had I been present for rollcall 825, on passage of H.R. 2930, a measure to amend the securities laws to provide for registration exemptions for certain crowdfunded securities, and for other purposes, I would have voted "no."

RECOGNIZING 185TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF SCHUYLKILL TOWNSHIP, CHESTER COUNTY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Schuylkill Township, Chester County on the occasion of the 185th anniversary of its founding.

The first settlers to move into Schuylkill Township were Dutch, Swedish, and Welsh; many of whom were Quakers. They arrived in 1713 with James Anderson being the first European settler with his family to arrive. He had immigrated from the Isle of Skye in Scotland in 1707. His home and farmstead, "Anderson Place," still stands. Son Patrick was the first child born in the township. He was to serve as a captain in the Revolutionary War and later was promoted to Major. The Anderson family is buried in Anderson Cemetery on Valley Park Road. The last Anderson to reside at the farmstead was in 1955. William Moore arrived and built Moore Hall, which is a National Register home, as well as the Bull Tavern visited by General Washington.

The Friends Quaker Meeting is historic and was active in the abolitionist movement with the Underground Railroad. Corner Stores at

the intersection of White Horse and Valley Forge Roads was the first and major commercial center in this area and continues today. Valley Forge Road was the major route between the western forges and the City of Philadelphia and continues as the Valley Forge Historic Corridor through Schuylkill Township.

Once a farm community, Schuylkill Township today seeks to preserve its agricultural landscape. The Open Space Commission is working to preserve open space with the Pickering Preserve and the purchase of Valley Park where meadow lands are being preserved. Preservation efforts are also underway for the Ticket Pavilion of the old Valley Park Trolley Park, which once operated to the delight of its residents.

Mr. Speaker, in light of the 185th anniversary of the founding of Schuylkill Township, I ask that my colleagues join me today in celebrating this momentous occasion and recognizing the Township's rich history and economic and social contributions to the quality of life enjoyed by its outstanding citizens and all of Chester County.

HONORING MR. PHILIP MELVIN UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight the career of Mr. Philip Melvin (Phil) for his thirty years of distinguished service to the United States House of Representatives. Phil has served this great institution as a valued employee of House Information Resources (HIR) in the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

Phil began his tenure with the House in 1981 as a Mainframe Computer Operator. Diligently rising through the ranks, Phil was eventually selected to be the Lead Computer Operator. His duties entailed bringing the House's systems online, recognizing and diagnosing hardware and software problems, maintaining quality control of printed output, and training new Operations Staff. Mainframe operations were the heart of the House's emerging Information Technology Infrastructure.

Phil's technical expertise and delivery of mainframe operational services led to his appointment as a Mainframe Systems Programmer, whereby he provided the system tools and computer resources required to host the House's mission critical internal applications on the mainframe.

In the early 90's, Phil was selected to support a Distributed Systems Support Project, which required him to support the multiple e-mail systems then in use by the House. Phil was responsible for managing the main system that allowed Members to send/receive mail from several different e-mail systems. In

• 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.

1995, he became part of the team that successfully merged all of the House's e-mail systems into one enterprise service. He then became the lead in implementing the Enterprise Fax system for the House which allowed Member offices to receive and send their faxes via e-mail. Phil has helped make the House e-mail and Enterprise Fax systems the reliable services the House relies on today. Continuing on the leading edge of technology, Phil's most recent duties were instrumental in the House's successful evolution to server virtualization.

Phil's knowledge, experience, dedication, mentoring and consistent outstanding performance in his daily tasks have set a fine example in providing superior customer service and earned him the respect and admiration of his co-workers.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Philip Melvin for his many years of dedication, outstanding contributions and service to the United States House of Representatives.

We wish him many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, November 3rd, I missed rollcall votes 821 and 822, for unavoidable reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote No. 821: "yea" (Ordering the previous question on H. Res. 453, the rule providing for consideration of both H.R. 2940—Access to Capital for Job Creators Act and H.R. 2930—Entrepreneur Access to Capital Act)

Rollcall vote No. 822: "yea" (Dicks Motion to instruct conferees)

RECOGNIZING MT. PLEASANT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to extend a heartfelt congratulations to the congregation, administration, and supporters of Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church of Leesburg, Georgia as this fine institution celebrates 150 years of providing spiritual guidance and dedicated community service to the residents of Lee County, Georgia and individuals throughout the Albany, Georgia metropolitan area. This tenured religious institution will commemorate its 150th anniversary on Sunday, November 6, 2011 at a service ceremony at 143 Mt. Pleasant Road in Leesburg.

This upcoming anniversary ceremony will enable church members, local dignitaries, community leaders and other individuals throughout Georgia to pay tribute to a house of worship that has positively influenced many lives and served as a sanctuary for those in need of spiritual counseling.

Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church traces its historical roots back to our nation's dark days of slavery. The Church was founded in 1861 by a band of baptized believers in Christ on property deeded to them by slave owners.

Some of the church's early pastors, including Reverend Dough Johnson, Ben London, Gain Byrd, Tom Johnson and Reverend Gene Murray, worked endlessly to establish Mt. Pleasant as a stable institution that tended to the spiritual needs of its congregation and provided assistance to other churches in need of resources. Early in its existence, Mt. Pleasant graciously allowed members of Old Piney Grove Church to share its facilities and bury their members in Mt. Pleasant's cemetery until construction of Old Piney Grove's building was completed.

Throughout the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, Mt. Pleasant's edifice has gone through numerous transformations and renovations. In 1890, the first frame building was constructed on the eastern edge of the church's current location on Mt. Pleasant Road in Leesburg, Georgia. This building was built on a wood frame with four windows on each side and two doors at the front.

In the late 1930s, under the leadership of Reverend Wallace Davis, Mt. Pleasant's church building was renovated. After the 1930s renovation, the church building also served as a school house.

During the 1960s and 1970s, Reverend P.S. Sparks oversaw the construction of a new church building that included pews and pulpit furniture. In the early 1980s, under the direction of Reverend W.D. Slaughter, a new dining hall was added to Mt. Pleasant's campus.

Over the years, Mt. Pleasant has remained a steadfast community leader and supporter of several humanitarian initiatives that have assisted those individuals most in need. Mt. Pleasant's Mission Outreach Ministry donates food and clothing to low-income communities throughout the Albany, Georgia metropolitan area. The church is also associated with charity efforts sponsored by the Christian outreach group, Samaritan's Purse.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church in Leesburg, Georgia for all the many things this institution has done and will continue to do to positively impact the lives of those in Southwest Georgia.

HONORING TEXANS FOR LIFE COALITION PRESIDENT KYLEEN WRIGHT

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to honor Texans for Life Coalition President Kyleen Wright for her decades of work to protect life. Kyleen has been a leader and a fixture in the Texas pro-life movement for years, and her dedication to the unborn was critical to the recent passage of the sonogram law in the Texas Legislature. This law expands informed consent to include a visual presentation via sonogram.

Since 1975, Kyleen has been a tireless pro-life advocate. Beginning in her freshman year

of high school, Kyleen has spent the last 36 years influencing and instituting policies conducive to strong families. Her work has culminated in significant policy changes in Texas, including the sonogram law and an abstinence education program in 1995. It is also thanks in part to Kyleen's work that the incidence of teen abortions has dropped by half since 1995.

The pro-life cause in Texas has many leaders, but few are as effective in the state capital as Kyleen. Whether it's working with the legislature or talking on the airwaves, Kyleen is leading Texas and America to a brighter and better future. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing Kyleen Wright for a career of hard work to protect the unborn and their families.

RECOGNIZING NORMAN VUTZ, SCHUYLKILL TOWNSHIP'S 2011 OUTSTANDING CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Norman Vutz on the occasion of being honored as Schuylkill Township's 2011 Outstanding Citizen of the Year.

A longtime Township resident, Norman moved to Schuylkill Township in 1978 and served 28 years as a member of its Board of Supervisors. One of Norman's greatest accomplishments was helping to facilitate the Township's transition from utilizing an independent contractor for roads to establishing its own Roads Department. With an excellent and dedicated Roadmaster, the Township is saving money, is better managed, and is providing more efficient service to its residents.

One of his favorite aspects of serving on the Board of Supervisors is working with the talented and dedicated Township staff and helping area citizens. These are the folks that have provided Norman such great satisfaction during his long years of public service.

Mr. Speaker, in light of his exemplary years of service to Schuylkill Township, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Norman Vutz on the occasion of his being honored as 2011 Outstanding Citizen of the Year.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STEM EDUCATION INNOVATION ACT

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to articulate a vision for American education and a platform for developing a strong competitive workforce. Today I am introducing the STEM Education Innovation Act, which does exactly this by raising the profile of state and federal science, technology, engineering, and mathematics initiatives.

By promoting and highlighting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education, we will enable America to regain its

competitive edge in the global economy. This is essential so that the youth of America can once again be competitive with their international peers and attain satisfying, well-paying jobs. It is essential so that American "Job Creators" will be able to find future employees with the right skill sets to meet their needs right here at home.

My legislation will establish an Office of STEM Education at the Department of Education, through which we will be making a national and international statement that the STEM fields are a national priority. This office can speak with articulation on why we must compete at the highest level on international benchmark tests such as the PISA, NAEP and TIMMS tests.

By providing federal support for State Consortia on STEM Education, my bill helps States exercise their power to create, maintain, and grow their STEM platform. The bill acknowledges existing public-private collaborations and will grow such efforts in the STEM community. These state consortia are already springing up at the grassroots level. Through a federal matching grant, we will be reaffirming our Nation's priorities while allowing States to dictate and control their educational agenda by identifying best practices and implementing state standards.

Finally, my legislation will boost American ingenuity and innovation by promoting the development of transformational technology for the classroom through the Education Innovation Project. Through a small federal dollar investment, small startup companies and the private market will deliver a huge return on educational technological innovation.

Mr. Speaker, it is the aspiration of ALL Americans—rich and poor, rural and urban, public school and private school, Republican and Democrat—to realize the American dream for their children. The STEM Education Innovation Act builds up the platform of local educational communities all throughout the United States to collaborate and consolidate a solid educational platform holding up the pillars of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). By supporting STEM efforts in American public schools, we are investing in the future of American youth. We are also investing in American ingenuity, innovation, and infrastructure: ensuring an educated population to carry us forward into the future.

**CELEBRATING THE DEDICATION
OF THE WEST HILLS COLLEGE
LEMOORE GOLDEN EAGLE
ARENA**

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize West Hills College Lemoore on the occasion of the Dedication Ceremony of the Golden Eagle Arena, its new, state-of-the-art facility which will provide a venue for the expanding educational and athletic programs. The new 52,000 square-foot arena will provide a home to the Golden Eagles basketball and volleyball teams, while also facilitating class space for enhanced physical education.

Golden Eagle Arena represents the third phase of growth for West Hills College

Lemoore. The college has grown substantially since opening its doors in 2002. With the construction of the new arena approved by the Lemoore City Council in 2006, tireless work has been put in to developing a center that can host a variety of athletic and academic events. The state-of-the-art lighting, sound and technological equipment found within this facility provide an ideal venue for a variety of performances. The versatile flooring ensures that the hardwood basketball court will remain in pristine condition and promote longevity for this grand investment. This 2,700 seat stadium will enrich student life and enhance the Golden Eagle spirit. Even though nascent, the Golden Eagle Arena has already been home to various high profile, national, public servant guest speakers.

West Hills College Lemoore has done nothing short of a job well done. After more than eighteen months of construction, the Golden Eagle Arena is complete. The perseverance of the Lemoore campus faculty, administration, students and community support has prevailed with this crown jewel in these tough economic times. In particular, I would like to commend the dedication of President Don Warkentin, Chancellor Frank Gornick, and the Board of Trustees: Mark McKean, Bill Henry, Nina Oxborrow, Steve Cantu, Edna Ivans, Jeff Levinson and Jack Minnite. Without the unwavering commitment of these individuals, projects and facilities like the Golden Eagle Arena would not be possible.

Mr. Speaker, I have been a proud supporter of the West Hills Community College District since my days in the California State Legislature. It is beautiful to see how this rural, community college meets its goal to serve its students with a diverse set of programs and curricula, while providing entertainment and enrichment venues such as the Golden Eagle Arena. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending West Hills College Lemoore and the community of Lemoore who have worked tirelessly to make the Golden Eagle Arena possible.

HONORING ALICE CARDONA

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an American trailblazer, a proud Puerto Rican and New Yorker whose advocacy for women's rights and minorities distinguished her as a true leader. Alice Cardona hailed from New York's Spanish Harlem or, El Barrio, where she was the first of nine children. From an early age, Alice began contributing to her community by volunteering with the Legion de Maria and providing psychological support to African American and Latino people in need. From this early experience, Alice had instilled in her a strong sense of the social, economic, and educational injustices facing people of color and the importance of remedying them.

Shortly thereafter, Alice worked for United Bronx Parents, where she helped foster parental involvement in the local school system. In 1964, she became involved in the first Head Start program in New York.

By the 1970s, she was working at ASPIRA and counseling young people. Alice's time

there inspired her to return to college and complete her degree, empowering her to further assist New York's minority communities. Upon graduation, she continued with ASPIRA and found more ways to become engaged in her community. She played a valuable role with the National Conference of Puerto Rican women and also co-founded HACER/Hispanic Women's Center, an important resource for assisting Latinas to achieve their educational goals.

As a member of Governor Mario Cuomo's Administration, Alice was the assistant director for the New York State Division for Women, where she further advocated for bilingual education and worked to combat HIV/AIDS, breast cancer, and domestic violence.

IN the 1990s, I had the pleasure of working side-by-side with Alice during my tenure as Director of the Department of Puerto Rican Community Affairs in the United States. Together, we led Atrevete, the most successful Hispanic voter drive in American history. I will always look back on her dedication, passion, and tireless work ethic as an inspiration.

Even in retirement, Alice dedicated herself to others by staying active with groups like the Puerto Rican Association for Community Affairs, the National Women's Political Caucus, and the National Association for Bilingual Education. Indeed, throughout her lifetime, she helped found more than 12 organizations dedicated to strengthening and empowering minority communities.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, Alice Cardona passed away. She is fondly remembered by many of us as a friend and role model. For all Latinas, her life is a source of pride and for New Yorkers, an inspiration to continue striving for greater social justice and opportunity in our City, state, and country. I ask that all my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Alice Cardona, an activist, passionate defender of women's rights, champion of bilingual education, and advocate for working people everywhere.

**THE VISA IMPROVEMENTS TO
STIMULATE INTERNATIONAL
TOURISM TO THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA (VISIT
USA) ACT**

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself and Congressman DAVID DREIER to discuss a bill that we introduced yesterday, the Visa Improvements to Stimulate International Tourism to the United States of America, VISIT USA, Act.

This is the companion bill to S. 1746, which was introduced on a bipartisan basis in the United States Senate by Senator SCHUMER of New York and Senator LEE of Utah.

The VISIT USA Act is a common-sense proposal that is about one thing—creating jobs and boosting our economy.

According to the U.S. International Trade Administration, the travel and tourism industry accounts for more than 25 percent of all U.S. services exports—our nation's largest service export, in fact. In 2010, international travel to the U.S. accounted for \$134 billion in receipts

for U.S. businesses and supported 7.4 million American jobs—including 152, 864 in my home state of Hawaii, and 873,000 in Congressman DREIER's home state of California.

This legislation will help to support and grow this important industry by making travel to the U.S. easier and more efficient for foreign travelers. Specifically, the bill contains several provisions aimed at increasing visitors from China, making visa processing more efficient, and giving the State Department necessary flexibility to manage the visa process more effectively.

It will also help to solidify and strengthen our relationship with one of our most important travel partners, Canada, and even includes provisions to help address the housing crisis.

China has the world's largest population—1.3 billion people—yet only 802,000 visitors travelled to the U.S. in 2010. These 802,000 visitors spent approximately \$5 billion in the U.S. during their stays, the seventh most spent in the U.S. by visitors from any country. Clearly, welcoming more visitors from China will benefit our economy and help to create jobs. In order to do this, the bill provides Chinese visitors that meet the appropriate security requirements with the ability to acquire five year, multiple-entry visitor visas.

The bill would also establish a pilot program that would allow the State Department to conduct visa interviews via videoconference. One of the key challenges for residents of these countries—like China, India, and Brazil—is the need to travel great distances to conduct in-person visa interviews. If successful, this pilot program will help to responsibly reduce wait times and effectively meet the demand for visas in countries with large rural populations.

The bill would also authorize the State Department to charge extra fees in order to expedite the processing of certain visas, and allow Customs and Border Protection to provide expedited visas for foreign dignitaries and other priority visitors. This can be especially important for international meetings, and events such as the Olympics. Finally, the VISIT Act will make changes to visa procedures for nation's that are working closely with the U.S. to combat terrorism.

The VISIT Act also allows the Administration to lower visa application fees during off-peak seasons to help incentivize applications when overall demand is low.

In addition to improving the visa processing system, and incentivizing travelers from untapped markets, the VISIT Act also includes provisions to encourage visitors from the U.S.'s top travel partner—Canada.

In 2010, the U.S. welcomed 20 million visitors from Canada. Those visitors spent over \$20 billion during their stays. The VISIT Act creates a "Canadian Retiree Visa" which allows Canadian citizens over 50 to apply for 240 day visas. These visas would need to be renewed every three years, and visa holders would have to meet all necessary security requirements, and be able to prove that they have accommodations for the duration of their stay.

Overall, the reforms included in this bill are a cost-effective, bipartisan approach to incentivizing job creation and supporting a critical U.S. industry. In fact, to date the Senate legislation has been endorsed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the U.S. Travel Association, the American Hotel & Lodging Association, and the U.S. Olympic Committee.

I'm confident that there will be many other groups—from across the political spectrum—that will support these much needed reforms that Chairman DREIER and I are introducing today.

I look forward to working with all of my colleagues to see this measure passed.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF JAMES M. REDMOND OF THE HOSPITAL AND HEALTHSYSTEM ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and members of the Pennsylvania delegation (Mr. BRADY, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. KELLY, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. MARINO, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. CRITZ, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. DENT, Mr. PITTS, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PLATTS), I would like the following statement submitted for the RECORD.

I rise today to recognize the many years of outstanding service by James M. Redmond of the Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Redmond has worked for The Hospital & Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania for 36 years, serving the last 20 years as the Senior Vice President for Legislative Services. During his tenure, he has used his extensive knowledge about, and expertise in, the state legislative process to achieve balance and compromise in resolving essential health care policy issues.

Mr. Redmond's successes as an advocate for hospitals and health systems have been attributable to his hard work, persistence, and steadfast commitment and adherence to integrity and ethics. He has been a key participant in numerous initiatives that strengthened Pennsylvania's hospitals and greatly improved patient care, including the development of Pennsylvania's trauma system.

Mr. Redmond began his career in health care administration at the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center of Pennsylvania State University. He is a graduate of the University of Connecticut, with a degree in pharmacy, and a graduate of the University of Florida with a Master of Business Administration. A Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, Mr. Redmond is also the author of numerous articles and reports on health care policy, and he has served on several state and national advisory groups.

During his distinguished 36 years with the Association, Mr. Redmond has repeatedly proven himself to be one of the Commonwealth's most respected advocates and health care leaders and we, as the Commonwealth's delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives, wish him health and happiness in his retirement.

HONORING MAYOR BENNY
MCGUIRE

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, great leaders govern with integrity, humility and with generosity to their community. In the Tennessee Eighth Congressional District, there is one leader whose efforts have been appreciated by his community and acknowledged by his peers. I rise today to congratulate the honorable Benny McGuire, as he begins his tenure of President over the Association of County Mayors of Tennessee.

A dedicated public servant, Mayor McGuire has not only contributed countless hours to Obion County, but he has set an example for other mayors to follow. Serving as the director of the Antioch Cemetery Association in Hornbeak, he also works as a chair of the Northwest Tennessee Development District and serves as a member on numerous local boards and committees. After only two terms as mayor of Obion County, he was selected by his peers to be named President of the Association of County Mayors of Tennessee, the statewide organization representing 95 county mayors and executives.

I value the great work and dedication that individuals like Mayor McGuire contribute to the West Tennessee area. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mayor Benny McGuire as he extends his dedication and devotion to the people of Obion County as well as all of Tennessee.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ELKS LODGE #1243, IN CARBONDALE, ILLINOIS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 100th anniversary of Elks Lodge #1243, in Carbondale, Illinois.

Carbondale Elks Lodge #1243 started with 81 charter members in 1911. The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks had begun just 43 years earlier in New York City. In these early years, those interested in starting a new lodge would petition an existing lodge for initiation. The list of names for the proposed Carbondale Lodge was sent to Murphysboro, Illinois Lodge #572 on May 10, 1911 and Carbondale Lodge #1243 was formed.

Through the years, Carbondale Elks Lodge #1243 has engaged in a number of programs to foster the Elks mission, "To promote and practice the four cardinal virtues of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its members; to quicken the spirit of American Patriotism and cultivate good fellowship." Some current activities include organizing fund-raisers to benefit disabled and visually impaired children and holding an annual charity golf tournament.

Carbondale Elks Lodge #1243 has been a shining example of a fraternal organization

that strives not only to support its members but to provide resources and volunteer activities to benefit their greater community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the officers and members of Carbondale, Illinois Elks Lodge #1243 on their 100th anniversary and to wish them all the best for many years to come.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF SPC
ADRIAN GARCIA

HON. FRANCISCO "QUICO" CANSECO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. CANSECO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Army SPC Adrian Garcia of El Paso, TX. SPC Garcia was only three weeks into his first deployment when he was attacked while on a routine patrol in Ramadi, Iraq in March 2007. SPC Garcia was manning the turret of an up-armored HUMMVEE when a Rocket Propelled Grenade attack shattered both of his legs. SPC Garcia's injuries were so severe that both of his legs required amputations above the knee, leaving him in a wheelchair.

On November 11, 2011, Homes for Our Troops will provide Army SPC Adrian Garcia with a brand new home at no cost. SPC Garcia's new home will be specially adapted to accommodate his needs, allowing him to be more productive and independent. The work of Homes for Our Troops and the community of El Paso, Texas, is a great example of the appreciation we should show our brave men and women who have served our nation in uniform.

I extend my personal thanks and sincere appreciation to SPC Garcia for his sacrifice made while protecting our freedom. We owe our veterans a huge amount of gratitude—particularly those who have been injured while serving their Nation. As President Calvin Coolidge said, "The nation which forgets its defenders will be itself forgotten."

RECOGNIZING THE COMMENDABLE
SUPPORT EFFORTS OF CLEAR
CHANNEL COMMUNICATIONS,
INC.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the commendable efforts of Clear Channel Communications Inc. in their support of diversity and small businesses within the radio broadcasting industry. For a long time, public broadcasting, especially in the area of radio, excluded or carried heavy restrictions on the voices coming from minorities and women of this country. These binding practices limited the freedom of expression for minorities and women in broadcasting and provided a frail platform upon which to deliver meaningful public affairs and news within these communities.

Radio broadcasting in past decades has experienced dramatic, positive change with the cultivation of environments which support mi-

norities and women's matriculation from their traditional auxiliary support positions, such as disk jockeys or custodial workers, into more influential roles such as managers, engineers, and program directors. The change also removed barriers which once denied favorable circumstances for members of these populations to gain ownership and syndication. This shift has allowed for a broad array of broadcast opportunities to include more autonomy in the presentation of public affairs discussions, music, and information which more specifically reflects the culture and interest of the minority and female listening audiences.

Technological advancements and a growing social affinity for more digital interface have placed pressure on the radio industry to maintain its standing among other broadcasting mediums. This strain, coupled with the nation's financial tensions, has made staying up to speed with the changing times all the more difficult. However, impressively, the radio world continues to provide phenomenal listening programs to the masses. This tenacity has been seen in no place greater than within the minority and women sectors.

Clear Channel recognizes the impact minority and women broadcasters have had on broadcasting and has taken a laudable position to make investments to ensure their productive futures. Their plan to divest 448 radio stations in 88 markets, which lead to the donation of six stations to the Minority Media and Telecommunications Council, MMTC, shows that Clear Channel has a keen awareness of the value diversity plays in broadcasting and shows that they have a sound understanding of the needs of small, local radio stations. Clear Channel's efforts to enhance the infrastructure for these individuals and business owners will aid in their abilities to boost their hiring capabilities, expand their listening audiences, increase advertisement revenues and support their communities by delivering excellent content.

Mississippi was one of the states privileged to be a part of this gesture of good faith with the acquisition of WHJA (AM) in Laurel, Mississippi. James Hardman, a minority broadcaster from Tulsa, Oklahoma, with decades of experience, plans to put WHJA back on the air under a local marketing agreement (LMA) with MMTC. Hardman intends to produce high quality and innovative programs focused on the African-American community while encompassing the cultural differences across the State of Mississippi. Economic and political empowerment in the African-American community has been difficult to achieve without access and control of the mass media resources that impact our communities. Clear Channel's dedication to assist with gains in this area creates opportunities for success for African-Americans in Mississippi.

Mister Speaker, I ask you and my fellow colleagues to join me in recognizing the meritorious efforts put forth by Clear Channel Inc. towards ensuring the viability of the minority and women communities within the radio broadcasting industry.

THE GREATEST GENERATION

HON. MICK MULVANEY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the men and women of the Greatest Generation, as well as to welcome those who will soon be making the trip from their homes in South Carolina to our Nation's Capital.

Seventy years ago, their lives were interrupted by providence. By their selfless action, these ordinary men and woman became extraordinary.

They defended their country and their families. They protected the innocent and freed the captive.

They served freely and without reservation, in what was to become the deadliest conflict in human history.

Too often, Americans are reminded that freedom comes with a heavy burden. Thankfully, their generation understood this, and met the challenge bravely.

That is why there are no words that can express our gratitude, no medals or monuments sufficient to symbolize just how much we owe to them.

But the world we live in today, the freedoms we enjoy, the blessings we count, are all because of them.

That is why we continue to honor them.

And to remember.

RECOGNIZING THE ALAMEDA
COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN
AND FAMILY SERVICE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Alameda County Social Services Agency, Department of Children and Family Services. Due to their exemplary work to open more good homes to foster children by actively recruiting and working with LGBT families, they have earned the All Children-All Families Seal of Recognition from the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, a leading organization in the advocacy of LGBT civil rights.

Alameda is only the second county in the nation to receive this recognition. By eliminating the barriers that LGBT couples and individuals face when they chose to adopt or foster, Alameda County has helped to fulfill their mission of ensuring that every foster child finds a loving family. One example of how important Alameda County's work has been in this area is Lara and Emkay Bosque. Lara and Emkay have adopted two young children. Thanks to their efforts, two beautiful children are growing up in a permanent and loving family, instead of the foster care system. We need more families like the Bosques and I will be displaying their family photo in my office during November, which is National Adoption Month.

At this time of celebration for Alameda County it is important to remember that they are a shining example of what counties and agencies across the nation can do to decrease the number of children in our foster

care system by finding them permanent, stable homes. Currently our foster care system serves over 400,000 children, with over 105,000 waiting to be adopted. LGBT families can play an important role in decreasing the number of children in care. Unfortunately, LGBT individuals and couples face discrimination in 31 states when they attempt to adopt or foster. Congress invests over \$7 billion in our child welfare system annually, yet we are allowing potential adoptive parents and foster families to be excluded to the detriment of children.

We should show our support of those children who are without families by passing HR 1681, the Every Child Deserves a Family Act. I introduced this bill to protect those families looking to foster or adopt children from discrimination on the basis of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status or on the basis of the sexual orientation or gender identity of the child involved.

It is the purpose of our foster care system to find children families who will love and cherish them. There should be no added burden for anyone based solely on their sexual orientation, marital status, or gender identity.

I would again like to acknowledge Alameda County for their commitment to children in search of families and to the families willing and able to adopt a child in need. I hope more counties will follow their inspiring lead.

RECOGNIZING WOODFILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Woodfill Elementary School, a 2011 National Blue Ribbon award winning educational institution in the Fourth Congressional District of Kentucky.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private institutions whose students achieve academic excellence or have made profound advancement in closing the gaps of achievement, especially among disadvantaged and minority students.

To be named a Blue Ribbon School is to join an elite group. Of over one hundred thirty thousand schools in the United States, just over 6,000 have received this honor since its creation by the Department of Labor in 1982.

Today, as we celebrate the accomplishment of this exceptional Kentucky institution, it is my hope that Woodfill Elementary School's leading example of hard work and growth encourage schools across the nation to strive for the same level of excellence.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending the students, teachers, and administration of Woodfill Elementary School for their devotion to the success of the youth of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the United States of America.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF CORPORAL JOSE "DANIEL" GASCA

HON. FRANCISCO "QUICO" CANSECO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. CANSECO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marine Corporal Jose "Daniel" Gasca of El Paso, TX. Corporal Gasca was driving an up-armored HUMVEE when it was hit by a control detonated IED in Fallujah, Iraq in September 2008. Corporal Gasca suffered spinal fractures, broken ribs, a ruptured spleen, and leg injuries so severe that both of his legs required amputation. Corporal Gasca, his wife, Angel, and their sons; 3 year old Mathew and newborn Eli, currently live in a non-handicapped home while Daniel continues his treatments and therapies at Walter Reed.

On November 10, 2011, Homes for Our Troops will provide Corporal Gasca with a brand new home at no cost. Corporal Gasca's new home will be specially adapted to accommodate his needs, allowing him to be more productive and independent. The work of Homes for Our Troops and the community of El Paso, Texas, is a great example of the appreciation we should show our brave men and women who have served our nation in uniform.

I extend my personal thanks and sincere appreciation to Corporal Gasca for his sacrifice made while protecting our freedom. We owe our veterans a huge amount of gratitude—particularly those who have been injured while serving their nation. As President Calvin Coolidge said, "The nation which forgets its defenders will be itself forgotten."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CENTENNIAL OF NAVAL AVIATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Centennial of Naval Aviation and its service to the United States of America.

Throughout the last century, the men and women of the United States Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard who have heeded freedom's call have become America's front line of defense. Generation after generation of children from the Emerald Coast have watched our country's finest aviators overhead and dreamt of following in their footsteps. I am proud to say that the First Congressional District of Florida holds a special place in its heart for the Blue Angels and all who fly in our nation's defense.

Naval Air Station Pensacola, NAS Pensacola, welcomed its first aviation unit on January 20, 1914, less than three years after the Navy purchased its first planes. On December 7, 1917, Pensacola was designated as the first permanent U.S. Naval Air Station. It was America's sole Naval Air Station until World War I. In the ensuing years, tens of thousands of America's finest Naval Aviators have trained

at NAS Pensacola, including Neil Armstrong and Ted Williams. Today, all U.S. Naval Aviators begin their training at the Cradle of Naval Aviation.

From the first Naval Aviator, Lieutenant Theodore Ellyson, to the current class of flight students at NAS Pensacola, thousands of Naval Aviators have protected America's interests around the world and in outer space. Just like their predecessors from previous generations, today's students at NAS Pensacola go through rigorous training to serve on shore and at sea, at home and abroad, to protect the United States and support freedom wherever and whenever they are called. From combat patrols over Iraq and Afghanistan to relief missions in Haiti and around the world, Naval Aviation is a touchstone of America's naval might.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to recognize Naval Aviation for its contributions during its first 100 years and to honor it as it takes flight in the next 100 years.

HONORING ROBERT ALAN DUGGAN

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the extraordinary life of Robert Alan Duggan, and to mourn him upon his passing at the age of 46.

Born in Livonia, Michigan on February 23, 1965 to Patrick and Joan Duggan, Bob was a classmate and fellow graduate of the class of 1983 from Detroit Catholic Central High School. He went on to attend the Adrian College, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Business/Broadcasting. While attending Adrian College he became a member of this nation's oldest and largest professional business fraternity, Alpha Kappa Psi. Bob joined the Screen Actors Guild in 1997.

A true son of Livonia, Bob Duggan was born at St. Mary's Hospital, and there the incredibly benevolent heart that led him to donate more than 120 pints of blood to the Red Cross in his lifetime stopped beating. Bob was a long time member of St. Aidan Catholic Church, where he had served as an altar boy and faithfully attended every Sunday. He was a realtor who loved the Detroit area, and an avid sports fan.

Regrettably, on November 3, 2011, Robert Duggan passed from this earthly world to his eternal reward. He is survived by his beloved parents, Patrick and Joan, and his brothers Michael, Daniel, James, and Timothy. Bob was a devoted uncle, and will long be remembered by 13 nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, Robert Duggan is remembered as a dedicated son, devoted brother, loving uncle, and a true friend. Bob was a man who deeply treasured his family, friends, community, and his country. Today, as we bid Robert Duggan farewell, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning his passing and in honoring his devotion to our country and community.

CONGRATULATING THE AIDS CENTER OF NEW YORK CITY FOR 20 EXCELLENT YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the AIDS Service Center of New York City, for their 20 excellent years of serving Manhattan by helping New Yorkers suffering from HIV/AIDS and providing them the support to rebuild their lives.

What started out as a small organization in 1990, the AIDS Service Center stands today as a pillar in my community's ongoing fight against the deadly disease that disproportionately affects African-Americans and Hispanics in the District. Through the leadership of Director Sharen Duke and the Center's dedicated Board and staff, the AIDS Service Center has provided services to over 1,800 people each year, and engages with 18,000 people through their peer education and community outreach initiatives.

The work done by the AIDS Service Center of New York City is so crucial and needed all throughout our nation. In New York alone, over 100,000 people live with HIV/AIDS, and thousands more are unaware that they are living with this terrible virus. I am forever grateful for the significant impact the Center is making in the lives of people in Manhattan.

I hope all my Colleagues in the House today will join my community and me in once again congratulating the AIDS Service Center of New York City for their 20 years of passionate service. We must continue to advocate and support for our fellow brothers and sisters living with HIV/AIDS until this epidemic no longer threatens the way of their lives.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL, THE AMERICAN MICROTURBINE MANUFACTURING AND CLEAN ENERGY DEPLOYMENT ACT OF 2011

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill, the American Microturbine Manufacturing and Clean Energy Deployment Act of 2011.

This bill builds on the great American tradition of innovation and manufacturing. It will help our country create new high-paying jobs, promote investment in the clean energy economy, and reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

The bill would accomplish these goals by establishing a 30 percent investment tax credit for microturbines, thereby granting parity with other renewable and fuel cell technologies. Microturbines, which have been supported by research and development funding from the Department of Energy, are small, ultra low emission gas turbines that produce usable efficient thermal energy and clean electrical power. While used most often in commercial buildings, microturbines have a wide range of applications, including renewable power, hybrid electric buses, trucks, and cars.

Over 90 percent of the world's microturbines are manufactured right here in the United States by American workers for American companies. And of the U.S. manufacturers, one is located in Southern California and employs a number of my constituents. Another manufacturing facility is located in New England. American microturbine companies enjoy a robust export market, which means customers across the globe are increasing energy efficiency and reducing pollution and their carbon footprint. But sadly, the domestic market is weak. Why? Because our incentive structure has failed to encourage the adoption of this readily available clean energy solution. This must change, and my bill will help increase deployment in our own country.

Where microturbines are deployed in the United States, there are numerous success stories. In the spirit of bi-partisanship, let me highlight one in my home state. The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, which many of us have visited, deploys sixteen 65-kilowatt microturbines that provide onsite electricity. In addition, the waste exhaust from the turbines heat the facility's water supply and is then run through an absorption chiller to provide air conditioning to the Air Force One Pavilion. This innovative approach not only enhanced the environment around the library by eliminating the need to construct additional power lines, but it also saves the facility over \$300,000 per year in utility bills.

We have the opportunity to help businesses and families across the nation save energy and preserve the environment. And, by enacting the American Microturbine Manufacturing and Clean Energy Deployment Act, we will create thousands of jobs. According to a recent survey of the microturbine industry, estimates are that the enactment of a 30 percent tax credit could immediately create over 2,000 new jobs. During the first year of the new tax credit, enough new microturbines could be deployed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 170,000 tons of CO₂. These numbers will only increase the years after the tax credit is enacted. While the potential of this energy technology is huge—eventually representing tens of thousands of jobs in the U.S. alone—deployment has been held back by the lack of incentive support.

Mr. Speaker, two of the most overarching public policy goals of the Congress and the country are to create jobs and promote energy efficiency and independence. I strongly believe that microturbine technology is a key component in our efforts to meet these challenges. This is an American-invented technology and an American-dominated industry. We should keep it that way. I urge our colleagues to join me in supporting this clean, innovative American industry.

IN HONOR OF VETERANS DAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor America's veterans, who have courageously served our nation. These brave men and women deserve a debt of gratitude for their commitment to protecting the liberties that are the foundation of our country.

As we recognize their selfless dedication and accomplishments, we must be reminded of the challenges many veterans face when returning home from tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. Unfortunately, upon returning to civilian life, many suffer from severe physical and mental wounds. In fact, 20 percent of all suicides in the United States are veterans. Furthermore, 25 percent of those who find themselves homeless are veterans and many of them are also unemployed. These figures are extremely alarming and quite frankly, unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, as we welcome home the thousands of American troops currently deployed overseas, we must ensure that they receive the benefits they rightly deserve. It is imperative that we provide the very best educational, medical, and employment benefits available to assist with their transition back home.

On this day, I encourage all Americans to honor our nation's veterans. My thoughts and prayers are with those brave men and women and their families. Let us remember those who have fought, those who have returned, and those who have not. We are forever indebted to their courage and dedication as well as their service to this great nation.

RECOGNIZING DR. JIMMY JONES UPON RECEIVING THE PHILIP O. LICHTBLAU, M.D. AWARD

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Jimmy Jones on receiving the Philip O. Lichtblau, M.D. Award. Dr. Jones has spent the last 45 years serving his patients, his community, and his country; and I am proud to recognize his lifetime of achievements.

After graduating from the University of Tennessee Medical School in 1956, Dr. Jones began his medical career with the U.S. Naval Hospital in Queens, New York. He continued his active duty service as a flight surgeon in the Navy through 1959. Dr. Jones remained in the Naval Reserve and retired in 1997 with the rank of Captain. After 1960, he worked in Boston, practicing general surgery, thoracic surgery, and ultimately pediatric surgery, which became his life's calling. In 1972, he moved to the Gulf Coast, serving as a pediatric surgeon at Sacred Heart Children's Hospital in Pensacola, Florida. For 35 years, he was the only pediatric surgeon in the Panhandle. Dr. Jones returned to active duty from 1990–1997 as a surgeon in both Pensacola and Okinawa, Japan. Following his naval retirement, he returned to Northwest Florida as Surgeon-in-chief of the Pensacola Nemours Children's Clinic. In 2005, Dr. Jones became the Assistant Medical Director at the clinic, where he remains today.

Beyond his extensive career accomplishments, Dr. Jones has given his life to serving the children of our community. He works extensively with the Sacred Heart Foundation, the Children's Miracle Network, and founded the local Caduceus Society to create a mechanism for physicians to contribute towards

medical education for non-physicians. Countless nurses, pharmacists, and physical therapists have benefited from the Society's support. Dr. Jones volunteers with the Fiesta of Five Flags, the Rotary Club, and the Whibbs Maritime Park Board of Trustees, advising the community on its signature downtown development project.

Dr. Jones' contributions to the pediatrics profession and his community service extend well outside official capacities. For many years, he made monthly trips from Pensacola to Panama City to see patients in the Children's Medical Services (CMS) clinic and in local pediatricians' offices, thereby saving families travel expenses. Today, despite his official retirement, Dr. Jones continues to serve as the Assistant Medical Director at Nemours, arriving daily to help the children of our community heal and live a better life. The Philip O. Lichtblau Award, given annually by The Florida Pediatric Society to a surgeon who has contributed significantly to the CMS program, is a testament to his life of service.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor Dr. Jimmy Jones on his success. My wife Vicki and I are proud to congratulate Dr. Jones, his wife Deana, and four children Susannah Frazier, Chuong Vu, Meredith Wolf, and Michael Jones on this truly special occasion.

IN RECOGNITION OF WORLD STROKE DAY

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of World Stroke Day, which was observed on October 29, 2011.

Stroke is a global health crisis that kills six million people annually. While some stroke survivors gain full functionality back, 30–50% of survivors require the support of a caregiver or have difficulties returning to work. While these numbers are startling, they do not adequately address the emotional toll which stroke survivors and their families must deal with, let alone the associated financial hardships which accompany a stroke.

While there are numerous risk factors that increase an individual's risk of stroke, it can affect anyone at any age so we all must be prepared. Use the "FAST" method to remember the warning signs:

F (FACE): Ask the person to smile. Does one side of the face droop?

A (ARMS): Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?

S (SPEECH): Ask the person to repeat a simple phrase. Is their speech slurred or strange?

T (TIME): If you observe any of these signs, call 9–1–1 immediately.

I am proud to pay tribute to the seven million stroke survivors, their families and caregivers and hope that the global community will take part in the effort to reduce the impact of stroke in the future.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE FERRILL DAVID McRAE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of an outstanding member of our community, former Mobile County Circuit Judge Ferrill David McRae, a longtime resident of Mobile, Alabama, who passed away October 20, 2011, at the age of 77.

Judge McRae was known for his fairness and steadfast dedication to the principles of justice for all. He sat on the bench during historic times and always dedicated himself to upholding the law.

Originally a native of Irvine, Kentucky, but reared in Mobile, Judge McRae graduated from Murphy High School in 1952. He later attended The University of Alabama, earning a B.S. in Accounting in 1959, and a Juris Doctorate from the University's law school in 1961. While at the University, Judge McRae earned part of his tuition money by tutoring football players during the tenure of legendary football coach Paul "Bear" Bryant.

For many, earning two college degrees would dominate their time. However, Judge McRae also found time during his scholarly pursuits to honorably serve his country. He was called to active duty in the United States Army from 1957–59 during which time he achieved the rank of sergeant. He continued to serve as a member of the reserves until 1962.

In 1961, with his studies and military service largely behind him, Judge McRae was admitted to practice law in the Trial and Appellate Courts of the state of Alabama, and was admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Alabama, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

After just four years of practicing law, Judge McRae had distinguished himself in the local bar such that he became a logical choice to be appointed to the Circuit Court bench by then-Governor George C. Wallace. Judge McRae served a total of five years as a Domestic Judge and seven terms as a Circuit Judge in the 13th Judicial Circuit. He returned to the classroom to teach Business Law at the University of South Alabama for many years. As an avid fan of his beloved Crimson Tide, Judge McRae was also a charter member of the Mobile Red Elephant Club.

Judge McRae's four decades on the bench not only advanced our system of justice, but also the quality of Alabama's court system. He will be sorely missed by all who served with him and by those who benefitted from his fairness on the bench.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask the House to join me in extending our deepest condolences to his wife, Brenda, as well as their surviving children, Corinne, Leslie, Ferrill Jr., Liz, Michelle, their grandchildren, their family and many friends. You are all in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

IN HONOR OF WARREN EJIMA,
TOM FUJIMOTO, ASA HANAMOTO,
MAS HASHIMOTO, HIROSHI ITO,
THOMAS SAKAMOTO, MARVIN
IRATSU, AND WILLIAM H. OMOTO

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Warren Ejima, Tom Fujimoto, Asa Hanamoto, Mas Hashimoto, Hiroshi Ito, Thomas Sakamoto, Marvin Iratsu, and William H. Omoto for their courageous service to our Nation during World War II as part of the Military Intelligence Service (MIS).

Established on November 1, 1941, MIS graduated 6,000 service members during World War II to provide critical Japanese language capabilities to the American military. These brave servicemen and women provided translation, interpretation and code breaking services in the essential Pacific Theater, which contributed significantly to our Nation's victory.

Primarily comprised of Nisei, second-generation Japanese-Americans who faced crushing prejudice and discrimination in the United States at the same time many of their family members were serving their country, this exceptional group has received honors and commendations of the highest level. In 2000, the Military Intelligence Service received the Presidential Unit Citation, the highest possible honor for a military unit, and in 2010 the 6,000 graduates of the MIS were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award given in this country. The Gold Medal ceremony conferring this honor was held this week in the U.S. Capitol and was attended by many of these courageous men. At the end of the war, General Charles Willoughby, Chief of Staff for Military Intelligence under General MacArthur, said that "The Nisei shortened the Pacific War by two years and saved possibly a million American lives and saved probably billions of dollars" during the conflict.

Initially run out of an airplane hangar on Crissy Field in San Francisco, the Military Intelligence Service was forced to relocate to Camp Savage in Minnesota in 1942 after President Roosevelt ordered the relocation of Japanese on the West Coast into internment camps. The language school continued to grow rapidly from its base at Camp Savage, and by 1944 had moved again, to Fort Snelling in St. Paul, to accommodate its increasing enrollment. After the war ended the MIS moved to the Presidio in Monterey, California, where it continued to provide essential language services to the Department of Defense.

By the 1970s the Military Intelligence Service's name had been changed to the Defense Language Institute, and all of the Department of Defense language programs were consolidated to the Monterey location. From there the program grew into the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, which celebrates its 70th anniversary on November 5, 2011 with a ball in Monterey.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be paying tribute to this outstanding group of Japanese Americans who selflessly served our Nation during World War II. I know I speak for the entire House of Representatives in honoring these heroes.

IN HONOR OF MR. THOMAS A.
WILSON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Thomas A. Wilson, a cartoon artist whose character, Ziggy, brought joy to people's lives every day.

Mr. Wilson was born on August 1, 1931, in Grant Town, West Virginia and raised in Uniontown, Pennsylvania. He served in the U.S. Army before graduating from the Art Institute of Pittsburgh in the mid 1950s. Mr. Wilson began a nearly forty-year career with Cleveland's American Greetings in 1955. He spent time writing romantic greeting cards and comedic greeting cards for the public. Throughout his stay with American Greetings he served in several different executive roles for the creative department.

In 1971, Mr. Wilson created the character Ziggy and launched a cartoon series featuring this average American character. Ziggy started off as part of a cartoon illustration collection that had no words. The Universal Press Syndicate worked with Mr. Wilson to put words into the animation and bring Ziggy to life. He worked with the Universal Press Syndicate until he formed Ziggy and Friends. In 1987, Mr. Wilson gave control of his comic strip, Ziggy and Friends, to his son and fellow cartoonist Tom M. Wilson. Ziggy cartoons continue to be published in more than 500 newspapers throughout the country and enjoyed by millions.

The Cleveland Museum of Art has honored Mr. Tom A. Wilson by exhibiting his artwork. Mr. Wilson has also had his artwork shown in the Society of Illustrations and the Butler Institute of Art.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the life and achievements of Mr. Tom Albert Wilson. I offer my condolences to his wife, Carol; son, Tom; two daughters, Ava and Julianne; and five grandchildren.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES FLEMING
DAVIDSON, JR.

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to James Fleming Davidson, Jr. who passed away peacefully on his 86th birthday. James was a pillar of the community in Riverside, California and he will be deeply missed.

Jim was born on October 26, 1925, the son of James F. Davidson, Sr. and Irene Reid. He attended Magnolia Elementary, Central Middle School, and Poly High School. At 17, he enlisted in the United States Navy and served on a destroyer escort during World War II.

After the war, Jim enrolled at the University of California at Berkeley where he received a Bachelor of Science degree and was a member of the Delta Upsilon Fraternity. Upon graduation he returned to his native Riverside and joined his father in the prominent local Civil Engineering firm of J.F. Davidson Associates.

The firm later grew to include five offices and three hundred employees. He also oversaw the expansion of Riverside Blueprint and founded R.B. Graphics and Prefect Impressions, as well as many other successful business ventures including J.F. Davidson Investments. He faithfully went to the office until weeks before his passing.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, James was a citrus grower, avid gardener and sports fan. Jim loved the ocean and spent many happy hours deep sea fishing. He demonstrated his leadership in the community and served as President of the Riverside Rotary Club, Riverside Chamber of Commerce, and the Riverside Community College Foundation. In addition, he was Chair of the Cancer Society Great American Smoke Out and numerous other boards and organizations.

James is survived by his wife of 22 years, Gerri Bredemann Davidson, and her sons; Michael and William Bredemann. Jim's children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren include; Charlotte Davidson (Tony Adler) of Los Angeles, her children; Caroline Dehe (Dr. Saahil Mahta) and Jim's first great-granddaughter; Uma Elvetia Mahta, of London, England, and James Dehe (Karen DeSouza) of Bombay, India; Ian James Davidson, Liam Davidson of Riverside; Hannah Davidson of Portland, Oregon, and Sarah Davidson-Amici (Robert Amici), Dario and Caterina Amici of Riverside; his first wife, Gretchen Holstein Davidson, his sister Eileen Shamel, and many nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents and his sister Charlotte Davidson Nickel.

On Saturday, November 5, 2011, a memorial service celebrating James' extraordinary life will be held at the first Congregational Church in Riverside. James will always be remembered for his incredible work ethic, generosity, and love of family. His dedication to his work, family and community are a testament to a life lived well and a legacy that will continue. I extend my condolences to James' family and friends; although James may be gone, the light and goodness he brought to the world remain and will never be forgotten.

HONORING GUY CROWDER

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Guy Crowder, who passed away on October 30, 2011 at the age of 72 surrounded by his mother, his wife and his son.

Guy Crowder was a giant in the Los Angeles community—a great photographer, businessman, and mentor to many aspiring black photographers whom he hired at his studio, "Guy's Photography."

Guy's work is not only cherished by a grateful Nation, but by my family in particular. In addition to his greater-known works, Guy captured moments of deep personal significance to me. I will forever treasure the photos of my father, L.A. County Supervisor Kenny Hahn. His photographs chronicled my father's career and I will forever be grateful his beautiful work. Even after his health began failing and he was confined to a wheelchair, he made it a point

to come pay his respects at my mother's funeral.

Born Aug. 9, 1939 in Beaumont, Texas, Guy R. Crowder moved with his parents—Guy Rufus Crowder and Ruby (Crowder) Jones—to Los Angeles in 1945. He attended Chorton-Pollard Elementary, Enterprise Junior High and Centennial High schools. He graduated from Harbor College and completed photography courses at Trade-Technical College.

Beginning in the 1960s, Guy was present to record the trials and triumphs of black Angelenos for close to five decades. Taking pictures for the Los Angeles Sentinel, the various Wave newspapers, and Johnson Publications' Jet and Ebony magazines, he was there to capture the glory days of Muhammad Ali and the 1965 riots in Watts. Despite being shunned by the mainstream periodicals of the time, he won virtually every award and honor available to a photojournalist. Guy Crowder's work will forever be part of the American memory.

I extend my deepest condolences to his loving 93-year-old mother; his wife, Patricia, to whom he was married for 51 years; a son, Reginald, and four grandchildren: Reanna, Renise, Ryan and Reggina.

VOTER SUPPRESSION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to share the following remarks for the Special Order organized by Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE on voter suppression on the night of Tuesday, November 1, 2011:

Let me thank Congresswoman FUDGE for her leadership in protecting our democracy and the bedrock of our country: the right to vote.

We are here tonight to sound the alarm because make no mistake about it: the fundamental right to vote, which is at the heart of our democracy, is under attack.

Republican legislators and governors are proposing partisan laws that require voters to show a government-approved photo ID before voting.

I came to this floor after the stolen Presidential election in Florida and Ohio to protest the results of those two elections that were filled with voter suppression.

It worked for the Republicans before, and so legislators in 42 states in our map of shame have doubled-down on these strategies to make it harder for certain communities to vote.

These proposals would disenfranchise 21 million Americans, over one-in-ten eligible voters in America, who do not have adequate identifications.

It is no coincidence that a disproportionate number of these affected voters come from communities of color, as well as the poor, the elderly, and students.

Fully one in four otherwise qualified African Americans would be unable to vote under these voter-ID laws.

In my home state of California, a Voter ID bill was introduced to suppress voter participation. It would cost \$26 just to get the required documents to qualify for a government issued ID.

This certainly looks like a poll tax to me, which those of us from the South know and remember is a way to prevent African Americans from voting.

These voter ID laws have a partisan agenda, seeking to disenfranchise and deny specific populations of voters before they have the opportunity to elect their representatives in government.

These partisan laws are shameful and a disgrace to our country.

If these Republican lawmakers were truly concerned with fighting voter fraud, they would take on actual, documented problems such as distributing fliers with false information meant to trick voters, improperly purging voters, or tampering with election equipment and forms.

Instead, they are pushing laws designed to change election outcomes by reducing voting, repressing turnout, and regressing us backwards in history.

We will continue to press the Justice Department for a vigilant and aggressive investigation to protect the civil rights and the voting rights of Americans.

We cannot and must not allow our democracy to be undermined.

We must unmask these shameful attempts to disenfranchise voters.

Let's stop these partisan efforts that strike at the core of our democracy.

Let's win this war against voters.

We are better than that!

I thank my colleagues for their calls to protect the right to vote for all citizens across this nation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE COLORADO TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Kristin Donley, an outstanding educator at Monarch High School. She has pioneered innovative learning for the past 10 years teaching physical science, chemistry and biology. Ms. Donley is an inspiration and an exemplary educator, and I am honored to commend her for being named the 2012 Colorado Teacher of the Year.

Her multifaceted approach to teaching goes beyond the textbooks and the standardized tests to instill curiosity and inspiration in her students; it provides the building blocks for a well-rounded understanding of the sciences. She has provided many opportunities for her students outside the classroom that truly prepare them with the skills and knowledge necessary to compete and succeed. Her partnership with the University of Colorado Boulder allowed her students to spend a week at the CU Mountain Research Station in Nederland, Colorado, where they had the opportunity to do hands-on learning of cutting-edge research that directly led to their own research and the chance to compete competitively in the regional science fair.

She has expanded the number of opportunities for her students to become passionate learners by establishing and coordinating a district science research seminar to have a peer science mentorship program for elementary and middle school students. She works

with her students to create interest in learning science and to provide them with the tools for success. Her faith in the public school system and her advocacy for innovative, cutting-edge learning is especially important now, at a time when improving our schools and expanding access to innovative science, technology, engineering and mathematics instruction is critical.

Ms. Donley was born in Boulder and received both her undergraduate and graduate degrees in molecular, cellular and developmental biology at the University of Colorado. She is truly a dedicated community member and educator, and I am honored to recognize her as the 2012 Colorado Teacher of the Year.

IN HONOR OF EL CENTRO DE SERVICIOS SOCIALES

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of El Centro de Servicios Sociales Para la Comunidad Hispana, a non-profit group that serves the Greater Cleveland community.

El Centro is a Hispanic-Latino non-profit advocacy organization whose mission is to enhance the socio-economic status of the greater Lorain County community by providing essential social, educational, cultural and community development services. Children in need are able to keep in contact with El Centro to individually seek solutions to their problems.

With the influx of Hispanic-Latino industrial workers to the Lorain County community during the 1970s, the need for social, cultural and educational needs increased. In 1974, El Centro de Servicios Sociales Para la Comunidad Hispana was formed in order to address these problems by helping monolingual Spanish speakers transition in an English speaking environment. El Centro also works to prevent, treat and rehabilitate community members with mental and physical health ailments. It also had a few clinics to specifically treat community members afflicted with high blood pressure and diabetes.

Although El Centro began as a non-profit that helped only Latino members of the community, recently it has expanded its services to support all members of the community. Recent economic hardships in the State of Ohio have increased the need for community services and El Centro has met that need by serving about 2,000 people.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring El Centro de Servicios Sociales Para la Comunidad Hispana.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF SGT. ARI CULLERS

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, service and sacrifice of Army Sgt. Ari Cullers who lost his life serving in Afghanistan. Sgt. Cullers died October 30, 2011,

in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, of injuries suffered when an insurgent rocket-propelled grenade exploded near him.

Sgt. Cullers was born in New London, CT and later moved with his family to Waterford, CT, where he attended school, graduating in 2001. Cullers was known throughout the community for his kindness and his ability to make people smile. As my friend, Principal Don Macrino of Waterford High School said, "He was a hard worker at school and he, I think, actually found himself when he got into the service. I think that was a place where he felt he could really make his mark."

He joined the Army in October 2004, served in Korea and Oklahoma, and arrived at Fort Drum in December 2008, according to the military. Cullers had previously served in Afghanistan from December 2008 to December 2009 and returned there with his unit in March 2011. Cullers, who deployed earlier this year, was a member of the 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, based out of Fort Drum, N.Y. Among his many awards and decorations are the Army Commendation Medal, four Army Achievement Medals, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, three Afghanistan Campaign Medals, the NATO Medal, the Combat Action Badge, and the Driver and Mechanic Badge.

Sadly, Cullers is the third graduate of Waterford High School who was killed in combat in the Middle East in recent years. His passing reminds all of us of the sacrifices that have been made, and continue to be made, by our military overseas—including Ari's brother, Jacob, who also served in Iraq. While our nation has lost another hero, Ari Cullers' family has lost a beloved son and brother. My thoughts and prayers, and those of my family and the entire eastern Connecticut region, are with them now as they mourn. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Ari's life and his service to our nation.

KATE PUZEY PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER PROTECTION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 1, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, on the evening of March 11, 2011, hundreds of people gathered on the West Lawn of the United States Capitol Building for a candlelight vigil honoring the memory of Peace Corps Volunteer Kate Puzey.

Two years earlier on that date, Kate was murdered while serving in Benin after she accused a local teacher of sexually abusing his students. Believing that Kate's experience could be used to prevent similar tragedies, her family and friends created "Kate's Voice Advocacy Group" and began a nationwide campaign to urge reforms.

Collaborating with First Response Action, a group representing Peace Corps Volunteers who were sexually or otherwise assaulted, "Kate's Voice" met with lawmakers and tirelessly advocated policies designed to support and protect all Peace Corps Volunteers, at home or in the field.

Tonight the House will consider S. 1280, the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act of 2011, which will enhance existing procedures for victims of physical and sexual assault in the Peace Corps and establish clear protocols for handling and reporting confidential information within the agency.

Specifically, this legislation requires the Peace Corps to provide enhanced sexual assault risk reduction and response training to all volunteers and integrate that knowledge with safety and security protocols at every Peace Corps post. Volunteers in training will receive an in-depth analysis of the particular risks they face in a given country and be provided with clear, written guidelines regarding whom to contact and what steps to take in the event of a sexual assault.

S. 1280 creates an anonymous hotline for reporting sexual assaults and sets up response teams that will be deployed the moment an incident is reported. A certified victim's advocate who answers to the Director of the Peace Corps will be required on staff to oversee the initiative and manage data collection for further studies analyzing safety and security trends.

Mr. Speaker, the Peace Corps has sent over 200,000 Americans to live and work in 139 developing countries since it was established by an executive order from President John F. Kennedy on March 1, 1961. Now in its 50th year, the agency continues to fill the gaps left behind by conflict, strife, and environmental degradation around the globe. For 2 years they develop partnerships, gain valuable knowledge, and help their communities meet local development goals. In the process, they build lifelong bonds and gain a greater understanding of America's place in the world.

The world in which Peace Corps Volunteers work is the real world, Mr. Speaker. It can be dangerous and uncertain. Therefore, issues of health and safety are of critical concern, especially during those first few months it takes a volunteer to adjust to the realities of his or her new life.

The provisions of this legislation were developed with extensive input from affected individuals and their families, victims' rights groups, Peace Corps senior staff, and the Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV) community. Kate's memory, embodied in her family, friends, and supporters, moved the process forward.

Peace Corps Director Aaron Williams testified on May 11, 2011 at a hearing before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and affirmed that he is committed to meeting the goals espoused by Kate's Voice and First Response Action.

"The Peace Corps has not always been sufficiently responsive or sensitive to victims of crime and their families," he admitted. He went on to offer a public apology and described how such attitudes are changing on his watch.

Indeed, much of the substance of S. 1280 is already being implemented within the agency. Director Williams created the Victim's Advocate position and signed a memorandum of understanding with the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN), the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization, to collaborate and share resources on sexual assault prevention and response.

Mr. Speaker, based on the Peace Corps receptivity to these reforms and the bipartisan

nature of this legislation, I am confident that S. 1280 is an enlightened response to the pressing concerns of Peace Corps Volunteers and their families.

As a committed friend of the Peace Corps and its mission, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and provide the resources necessary to implement it without threatening the operational capacity of the agency.

The remarkable collaboration that conceived the Kate Puzey Act was an unparalleled labor of love. It was an earnest push to strengthen the program and prepare it for the future. It was not meant to hurt or punish the agency.

One of the witnesses at the May 11th hearing put it bluntly: "I would be devastated if my testimony were used to stop Peace Corps funding, cut funding, or eliminate the Peace Corps."

I strongly encourage my colleagues to keep that thought in mind as we consider this bipartisan legislation, which is the legacy of many extraordinary Americans, some of whom never returned from their missions abroad.

To honor the memories of fallen Volunteers, respect the survivors who courageously shared their stories, and encourage the next generation which recognizes the power of service, I will vote for this legislation in its current form, and I urge my colleagues to do likewise.

WELCOMING AND HONORING THE VETERANS OF THE NOVEMBER 3, 2011 QUAD CITIES, IOWA HONOR FLIGHT

HON. DAVID LOESACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. LOESACK. Mr. Speaker, today I have the great honor of welcoming to our Nation's capital eighty-nine Iowa veterans of the Greatest Generation. Accompanied by seventy volunteer guardians, these veterans have travelled to Washington, DC to visit the monument that was built in their honor.

For many if not all of these veterans, today will be the first time they have seen the National World War II Memorial. I can think of no greater honor than to be there when they see their memorial for the first time and to personally thank Iowa's—and our Nation's—heroes.

I proudly have in my office a piece of marble from the quarry that supplied the marble which was used to build the World War II Memorial. That piece of marble, just like the memorial that it built, reminds me of the sacrifices of a generation that, when our country was threatened, rose to defend not just our Nation but the freedoms, democracy, and values that we hold so dear. They did so as one people and one country. Their sacrifices and determination in the face of great threats to our way of life are both humbling and inspiring.

The sheer magnitude of what they accomplished, not just in war but in the peace that followed has stood as an inspiration to every generation since. The Greatest Generation did not seek to be tested both abroad by a war that fundamentally challenged our way of life and at home by the Great Depression and the rebuilding of our economy that followed. But, when called upon to do so, they defended and then rebuilt our Nation. Their patriotism, serv-

ice, and great sacrifice not only defined their generation—they stand as a testament to the fortitude of our Nation.

I am tremendously proud to welcome the Quad Cities Honor Flight and Iowa's veterans of the Second World War to our Nation's capital today. On behalf of every Iowan I represent, I thank them for their service to our country.

RECOGNIZING WHIRLPOOL CORPORATION

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Whirlpool Corporation on the tremendous occasion of its 100th anniversary. Headquartered in Benton Harbor, Michigan, Whirlpool is the global leader in the home appliance industry: delivering products of unmatched quality to customers in virtually every corner of the world.

Since its founding in 1911, Whirlpool has continued to build upon its well-earned reputation as a socially and environmentally conscious company by improving the quality of life in countless communities, fostering strong private-public partnerships, and setting the industry standard for energy efficiency and conservation.

Much has changed for the company in the past 100 years, but through it all Whirlpool has remained true to its Midwest, hometown roots. Michigan has faced more than its fair share of challenges through the recent economic downturn, but companies like Whirlpool are helping lead the way for our State's recovery and to restore our Nation's economic competitiveness.

The company is currently undertaking the multimillion-dollar construction of a state-of-the-art headquarters office campus in Benton Harbor. Whirlpool has also played an integral role in the half-billion-dollar Harbor Shores development project, which is revitalizing the St. Joseph-Benton Harbor area.

Thank you to Whirlpool for a century of creating jobs and giving back—here's to the next 100 years.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CLEVELAND JUNIOR TAMBURITZANS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Cleveland Junior Tamburitians, a group which has been promoting Croatian arts and culture for more than fifty years.

Established in 1959, The Cleveland Junior Tamburitians are a parent sponsored non-profit group whose members range in age from 5 to 21 years old. The group performs songs and dances to traditional Croatian music in order to celebrate and honor their heritage. The group is currently comprised of more than 100 children who are under the direction of Katarina Lukacevic and Tom Salopek. The Tamburitians have held concerts in Canada, Croatia, and throughout the

United States. The group's purpose is to preserve and celebrate the culture of Croatia.

Cleveland's Croatian community is among the most robust in North America. Croatians have played a pivotal role in developing the businesses and industries which helped make Cleveland great. Their presence provided additional diversity to our growing city and members of the Croatian community have made valuable contributions to the area's athletics, arts, and music. In 1949, Cleveland was the first city to bring traditional Croatian song and dance together with the founding of the American-Croatian Singing Association.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of the Cleveland Junior Tamburitzaans, just one of the many bright spots of Cleveland's Croatian community.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,973,228,608,405.04.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$4,334,802,862,111.24 since then. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize October as the eighth annual National Cybersecurity Awareness Month. The National Cyber Security Alliance, the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center, the Department of Homeland Security, and other organizations developed the "STOP. THINK. CONNECT." national awareness campaign to educate our citizens and help them stay safer online. It is vital that the public is engaged and aware of how to properly utilize security software in order to protect their social security numbers, financial information, health information, and other personal data. We must all work together and take responsibility for securing our own networks and computers to ensure that government systems, personal data and even critical infrastructure remain safe from attack.

Recently, Deputy Secretary of Defense William Lynn noted to *Foreign Affairs* magazine that our Nation is shifting its priorities in cyberspace, recognizing that attacks online can be as threatening as bullets and bombs. Additionally, the importance of cyber to not just our national security, but also our economic competitiveness, cannot be overstated. The vulnerabilities our Nation faces in cyberspace come from potential attacks against critical infrastructure, as described by Lee Hamilton in

his post 9/11 report, as well as from damage to our military readiness, as Secretary of Defense Panetta testified earlier this year. But our vulnerabilities also include the intellectual property that is a critical driver of our economy.

Cyber threats to our intellectual property are growing more numerous, sophisticated, and successful. As noted by a recent report from the National Counter Intelligence Executive, vital intellectual property is targeted and stolen in cyberspace every day as these threats become more damaging and extensive. While the cost of a data breach can run well into the millions, even that loss is dwarfed by the long term damage to America's ability to remain the world leader in innovation, especially in our high tech and defense sectors.

All of this should tell us that the status quo is not good enough. We need to redouble our efforts and tap into our creative and innovative spirit to address not just the threats of today, but the challenges of tomorrow as well. This will require better education and action from both industry and government, as we come together to strengthen our public-private partnership. But if we fail to leverage our own abilities and work through these challenges, our personal privacy, national security and economic competitiveness will be irreparably harmed.

I applaud the Department of Homeland Security for sponsoring this month of outreach. As a Co-Founder and Co-Chairman of the House Cybersecurity Caucus, I will continue to fight to deliver the latest tools and training to support both our national security infrastructure and the personal data of all Americans.

VOTER SUPPRESSION IN AMERICA

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my fellow colleagues to urge this Congress to protect our access to the ballot, which has come under assault in several states across America.

The strongest sound that exists in a democratic society is the one voiced during our elections. However, I am troubled that over 5 million Americans are at risk of having their votes suppressed by laws that have turned back the clock on significant freedoms and accessibility achieved in many states before the 2010 elections.

Today, I stand in strong opposition to legislative tools that aim to repress the most important right to civic engagement and empowerment, the right to vote.

The impact of recent voter suppression laws is spiraling out of control, as evidenced by recent current events. For example, a 96-year-old Tennessee woman was denied a voter ID under Tennessee's new law because she was unable to locate her marriage certificate—even though she produced everything from a copy of her lease, voter registration card, birth certificate and a rent receipt. After voting for over 70 years in all but two elections, this was the first time her right to vote was suppressed.

Even our Nation's soldiers and war heroes have been disenfranchised by some of these new laws. Recently, an 86-year-old World War

II veteran had to pay for a voter photo ID, even though the state law required that the IDs be given free of charge. Another 91-year-old woman was reportedly unable to receive her ID because she was physically unable to stand in long and crowded lines at the DMV with her cane.

Students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison serve as a microcosm of college populations that now face extreme hurdles as their once-accepted student ID cards no longer qualify as acceptable forms of ID in several states. And news of a Florida teacher being unable to register several of her students—an act she customarily does every year as part of her educational curriculum on civic engagement highlights the civil penalties third party registrants face as they merely attempt to assist others become part of the political process.

This suppression is affecting all classes, races, and ages, and we owe it to the general public to join in their public outrage against these attacks, which threaten to move America backwards to a period in our history that was ugly, discriminatory and crippling.

At the core of all fundamental rights is the right to vote. As voting rights experts have noted, the recent stream of laws passed at the state level are a reversal of policies—both federal and state—that were intended to combat voter disenfranchisement and boost voter participation. That is why I sent a letter to the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee this week, asking that hearings be held to ensure that our federal laws in place to protect access to voting are being enforced.

Ensuring that every veteran, senior citizen, student—whether natural born or naturalized—has the right to vote should not be a partisan issue. It should be the very purpose of this Congress since it is a priority to our democracy. I urge every elected official who is a beneficiary of our electoral system, to support the protection of every American citizen's right to have access to voting.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,

Washington, DC, October 31, 2011.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SMITH: We write to request a hearing to address the wave of recent changes in state voting laws that make it more difficult for Americans to cast a ballot. A recent report released by the Brennan Center for Justice entitled "Voting Law Changes in 2012" has concluded that more than 5 million voters could be impacted by the recently enacted legislation. The provisions that present the most serious concerns include:

Provisions that limit voting by requiring the presentation of photo identification:

Laws that exclude the most common forms of identification (e.g., student IDs and Social Security cards), yet offer no alternate identification procedures for eligible voters.

Changes requiring proof of citizenship as a condition for voter registration:

Limitations or outright elimination of early voting opportunities.

Barriers to first time voters such as the elimination of same day registration and limitations on voter mobilization efforts.

These changes in state voting laws raise serious constitutional concerns under both the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment and the Fifteenth Amendment. For example, requiring citizens to expend significant funds to obtain a photo

ID to vote runs afoul of the prohibition on poll taxes set out by *Harper v. Virginia Board of Elections*. The Supreme Court in *Crawford v. Marion Co. Election Board* noted that elderly, persons born out of the state, persons with economic limitations, homeless people, and even people with religious objections to being photographed may be burdened by photo ID laws. We are also concerned that these prohibitions violate the spirit and the letter of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Help America Vote Act, and the National Voter Registration Act.

The Brennan Center Report found that these changes in state election regulations will have a particularly significant impact on minority voters. The report concluded that African American and Hispanic voters were more likely to take advantage of early voting opportunities and register to vote through the types of voter registration drives now curtailed or eliminated by the new laws.

Most critically, the Report noted that many of the new voter identification laws do not allow voters to present many forms of identification frequently used by minorities, the elderly, and the young. For example, the new Texas law allows for the use of a concealed carry gun permit to vote, but fails to recognize student IDs, Texas Veterans' Administration identification and even Congressional identification. Further, Texas citizens must also spend \$22 to obtain a birth certificate or up to \$145 to obtain a passport to present the documentation necessary to acquire a form of ID required to cast a ballot.

Numerous examples of the anti-democratic impact of these new laws have already come to our attention. A 96-year-old woman was denied a voter ID under Tennessee's new law even though she has voted in all but two elections over the last 70 years and produced a rent receipt, a copy of her lease, her voter registration card, and her birth certificate. Because her birth certificate had her maiden name, Dorothy Alexander, rather than her married name, officials demanded her marriage certificate which she did not have. Another 91-year-old woman in Tennessee was unable to receive her ID because she was physically unable to stand in the long and crowded lines at the DMV with her cane. Two days ago, we learned of an 80-year-old United States veteran and retired print shop worker who had to pay for a voter photo ID. A young voting age citizen seeking a free ID in Wisconsin was questioned by a Wisconsin DMV employee about how much money he had in his bank account and how much activity his bank account experienced. It has also been reported that in Wisconsin, the state's DMVs have been charging citizens improperly for an ID because employees were instructed not to clarify for citizens that the ID's were free.

Assertions that these broad restrictions are needed to counter pervasive voter fraud do not appear to be supported by the evidence. For example, studies have found that only 24 people were convicted of, or pled guilty to, illegal voting at the federal level between the two Presidential and Congressional elections leading up to the 2008 elections. Moreover, only 19 instances of ineligible voting were determined at the state level.

The right to vote is the foundation of all our other rights. In view of the gravity of this situation, we urge you to schedule hearings soon to address an issue so critical to our democracy. As voting rights experts have noted, the recent stream of laws passed at the state level are a reversal of policies—both federal and state—that were intended to combat voter disenfranchisement and boost voter participation. Ensuring the right

to vote should not be a partisan issue; rather it is the very linchpin of our democracy.

Sincerely,

JOHN CONYERS, Jr.,
Ranking Member,
Committee on the Judiciary.

JERROLD NADLER,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on the Constitution.

BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE, NEW YORK
UNIVERSITY SCHOOL LAW

OVERVIEW: VOTING LAW CHANGES IN 2012

A shift that could change the electoral landscape is underway—the tightening of restrictions on who can vote and how Americans can vote. Going into the 2012 elections, there will be millions of Americans who will find that since 2008, there are new barriers that could prevent them from voting.

SUMMARY

In the first three quarters of 2011, state governments across the country have suddenly enacted an array of new laws and policies making it harder to vote. Some states require voters to show government-issued photo identification, often of a type that as many as one in ten voters do not have. Other states have cut back on early voting, a hugely popular innovation used by millions of Americans. Two states reversed earlier reforms and once again disenfranchised millions who have past criminal convictions but who are now taxpaying members of the community. Still others made it much more difficult for citizens to register to vote, a prerequisite for voting.

These new restrictions fall most heavily on young, minority, and low-income voters, as well as on voters with disabilities. This wave of changes may sharply tilt the political terrain for the 2012 election. Already 19 new laws and two new executive actions are in place. At least 42 bills are still pending, and at least 68 more were introduced but failed. Already, it is clear that:

These new laws could make it significantly harder for more than five million eligible voters to cast ballots in 2012.

The states that have already cut back on voting rights will provide 171 electoral votes in 2012—63 percent of the 270 needed to win the presidency.

Of the 12 likely battleground states, as assessed by an August Los Angeles Times analysis of Gallup polling, five have already cut back on voting rights (and may pass additional restrictive legislation), and two more are currently considering new restrictions.

States have changed their laws so rapidly that no single analysis has assessed the overall impact. It is too early to exactly quantify how the changes will impact voter turnout, but we know they will be a hindrance to many voters at a time when the United States continues to turn out less than two thirds of its eligible citizens in presidential elections and less than half in midterm elections.

Read the full report, *Voting Law Changes in 2012*, by the Brennan Center's Wendy R. Weiser and Lawrence Norden.

MORE THAN 5 MILLION VOTERS IMPACTED?

We estimate more than 5 million voters could be affected by the new laws, based on six key numbers.

1. 3.2 million voters affected by new photo ID laws. New photo ID laws for voting will be in effect for the 2012 election in five states (Kansas, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Wisconsin), which have a combined citizen voting age population of just under 29 million. 3.2 million (11 percent) of those potential voters do not have state-issued photo ID. Rhode Island voters are excluded from this

count, because Rhode Island's new law's requirements are significantly less onerous than those in the other states.

2. 240,000 additional citizens and potential voters affected by new proof of citizenship laws. New proof of citizenship laws will be in effect in three states (Alabama, Kansas, Tennessee), two of which will also have new photo ID laws. Assuming conservatively that those without proof of citizenship overlap substantially with those without state-issued photo ID, we excluded those two states. The citizen voting age population in the remaining state (Alabama) is 3.43 million; 240,000 (7 percent) of those potential voters do not have documentary proof of citizenship.

3. 202,000 voters registered in 2008 through voter registration drives that have now been made extremely difficult or impossible under new laws. Two states (Florida and Texas) passed laws restricting voter registration drives, causing all or most of those drives to stop. In 2008, 2.13 million voters registered in Florida and, very conservatively, at least 8.24 percent or 176,000 of them did so through drives. At least 501,000 voters registered in Texas, and at least 5.13 percent or 26,000 of them did so via drives.

4. 60,000 voters registered in 2008 through Election Day voter registration where it has now been repealed. Maine abolished Election Day registration. In 2008, 60,000 Maine citizens registered and voted on Election Day.

5. One to two million voters who voted in 2008 on days eliminated under new laws rolling back early voting. The early voting period was cut by half or more in three states (Florida, Georgia and Ohio). In 2008, nearly 8 million Americans voted early in these states. An estimated 1 to 2 million voted on days eliminated by these new laws.

6. At least 100,000 disenfranchised citizens who might have regained voting rights by 2012. Two states (Florida and Iowa) made it substantially more difficult or impossible for people with past felony convictions to get their voting rights restored. Up to one million people in Florida could have benefited from the prior practice based on the rates of restoration in Florida under the prior policy, 100,000 citizens likely would have gotten their rights restored by 2012. Other voting restrictions passed this year that are not included in this estimate.

THE WAVE OF NEW LAWS

Photo ID laws. At least thirty-four states introduced legislation that would require voters to show photo identification in order to vote. Photo ID bills were signed into law in seven states: Alabama, Kansas, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin. By contrast, before the 2011 legislative session, only two states had ever imposed strict photo ID requirements. The number of states with laws requiring voters to show government-issued photo identification has quadrupled in 2011. To put this into context, 11 percent of American citizens do not possess a government-issued photo ID; that is over 21 million citizens.

Proof of citizenship laws. At least twelve states introduced legislation that would require proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate, to register or vote. Proof of citizenship laws passed in Alabama, Kansas, and Tennessee. Previously, only two states had passed proof of citizenship laws, and only one had put such a requirement in effect. The number of states with such a requirement has more than doubled.

Making voter registration harder. At least thirteen states introduced bills to end highly popular Election Day and same-day voter registration, limit voter registration mobilization efforts, and reduce other registration opportunities: Maine passed a law eliminating Election Day registration, and Ohio

ended its weeklong period of same-day voter registration. Florida, Illinois and Texas passed laws restricting voter registration drives, and Florida and Wisconsin passed laws making it more difficult for people who move to stay registered and vote.

Reducing early and absentee days. At least nine states introduced bills to reduce their early voting periods, and four tried to reduce absentee voting opportunities. Florida, Georgia, Ohio, Tennessee, and West Virginia succeeded in enacting bills reducing early voting.

Making it harder to restore voting rights. Two states—Florida and Iowa—reversed prior executive actions that made it easier for citizens with past felony convictions to restore their voting rights, affecting hundreds of thousands of voters. In effect, both states now permanently disenfranchise most citizens with past felony convictions.

IN HONOR OF MRS. GAI HOA RYAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mrs. Gia Hoa Ryan as she celebrates her 40th anniversary since coming to America from Vietnam in 1971.

Born in Vietnam, Mrs. Ryan worked as a secretary and interpreter for the United States during the Vietnam War. She immigrated to the United States in 1971. Since immigrating, Mrs. Ryan has been an active community leader in the Greater Cleveland area. She is a teacher and lecturer of Asian culture, food, and society. She has been active with the Lorain International Festival, and hosted the 1995 Festival which honored Vietnam and the Vietnamese people. Mrs. Ryan also served as the coordinator for the Asian Community Project at Bridgeway from 1997 to 2003. This Project provided mental health care to hundreds of Asian, Vietnamese, Laotian, and Cambodian families.

Mrs. Ryan has truly been a leader to Cleveland's Asian community. She started the Asian Women's Support Group in early 1980s. In 1993, she created the Friendship Foundation of American Vietnamese. The organization has provided humanitarian services to the people of Vietnam by furnishing scholarships, building houses and schools, providing medical services, educational materials, food and clothing, and raising funds for the poor. She has also founded the Asian Community Mental Health Services as part of the West Side Community Health Center to provide mental health services for Asian families, senior citizens, and young people. Furthermore, in 2005, Mrs. Ryan established the Sai Gon Plaza. The Plaza serves as a community center in Northern Ohio for Asians, immigrants and various community groups. Mrs. Ryan has sponsored forty members of her family who have come from Vietnam and helped them establish homes and businesses.

Mrs. Ryan has also served on many community boards including the Lorain County Community Alcoholism Board, various boards in the Detroit-Shoreway area, and the Mayor's Community Relations Board of the City of Cleveland. Most importantly she has raised her two children, Lynda Mia Ryan Shea and Thomas Joseph Ryan.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Mrs. Ryan as she celebrates her 40th anniversary since coming to America. Her advocacy work continues to improve countless lives both in Cleveland and Vietnam.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, November 3rd, I missed rollcall vote 823, for unavoidable reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote No. 823, "no" (Velázquez of New York Part A Amendment No. 4).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, on November 1, 2011, I was unavoidably absent for votes in the House chamber. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 816 and 817.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FERNDALE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Ferndale Area Chamber of Commerce in recognition of its 75th anniversary.

Beginning in 1934 as a small, localized Chamber, the Ferndale Area Chamber of Commerce has grown over the last 75 years to become one of the most innovative business organizations in Oakland County with nearly 300 members, ranging from sole proprietorships to the local offices of Fortune 500 companies.

Prior to the incorporation of the City of Ferndale, the first acknowledgement of a "Board of Commerce" was made in the minutes of a Village of Ferndale commission meeting in 1918. Comprised of local businessman, known as the Ferndale Boosters, the group worked to promote programs for the betterment of the business community.

On May 14, 1936 the "Ferndale Board of Commerce" was officially incorporated as a non-profit in the State of Michigan. The organization became the "Ferndale Chamber of Commerce" sometime between 1951 and 1965. In 2009, to reflect the growing geographic diversity of its membership, the Board of Directors of the Ferndale Chamber of Commerce voted to change the name to the "Ferndale Area Chamber of Commerce." This name change became official in 2010 and is more reflective of the Chamber's current membership, which includes 40 percent non-Ferndale businesses, a large number coming from sur-

rounding communities such as the Oak Park and Pleasant Ridge.

As the Chamber notes, many of its goals and ambitions following its creation in 1936 after the Great Depression have been revived as the State of Michigan recovers from its deep recession. As a testament to the Chamber's ability to evolve and strengthen with time, they have partnered with a number of neighboring Chambers to form collaborative relationships that capitalize on the strengths of each Chamber. Today, as in 1936, they are a strong advocate for the betterment of the businesses, communities and residents they serve.

The Chamber's mission over the last 75 years has been simple: to support the interests of businesses and the community through dynamic member-driven partnerships and activities.

I have witnessed firsthand the success the Chamber has with accomplishing this goal. From morning coffee hours and after hour events for member networking, to educational workshops and large, community-wide events such as the Hilton Fall Festival, the Chamber remains a vital part of the community it serves. As we have all worked together to move Oakland County forward, the Chamber has been on the forefront working with multiple partners across the community toward common goals, such as rapid transit along the Woodward Avenue corridor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Ferndale Area Chamber of Commerce in recognition of its 75th anniversary and wishing them many more years of effective service to the Oakland County business community.

IN HONOR OF MR. CHUCK COLLIER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and memory of radio D.J. Chuck Collier, a man who entertained Cleveland's country music fans with tunes and colored commentary for decades.

Mr. Collier was born on May 6, 1946 in Greenfield and raised in New Vienna, Ohio. He attended New Kenton High School, where he was his class president. During his time at the University of Cincinnati, he began his career in radio with a job at WSRW in Hillsboro, Ohio in 1963. His graduation brought new opportunities, and he began working at WMWN in Wilmington, WONE in Dayton, WSAI in Cincinnati and WCBS in New York. The dedication it took to handle all of these jobs led to Mr. Collier landing a career at WGAR. For forty years Mr. Collier was WGAR's premiere radio personality for country music, adult contemporary music and AM programming. While WGAR has changed its programming over the years, Chuck kept listeners tuning in throughout the changes.

In 2005, the Ohio Radio-TV Broadcasters inducted Mr. Collier into their Hall of Fame. His fame over the radio brought him the National Association of Broadcasters' Marconi Award as Large Market Radio Personality of the Year in 2007. In 2009, an especially rewarding year for Mr. Collier, he was inducted into the Country Music Radio Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues please join me in honoring the life and achievements of Mr. Chuck Collier. I offer my condolences to his wife, Joni; daughter, Melanie; son, Jason; and sister, Carolyn Taubenheim.

IN HONOR OF U.S. MARINE LANCE
CORPORAL JASON NICHOLAS
BARFIELD

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a fallen American hero. U.S. Marine Lance Corporal (LCpl.) Jason Nicholas Barfield was killed on October 24, 2011, while conducting combat operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Reports indicate that LCpl. Barfield died as the result of traumatic injuries received when his patrol was struck by an Improvised Explosive Device in Helmand province, Afghanistan. He was only 22 years old.

LCpl. Barfield, from Ashford, Alabama, was assigned to the 3d Combat Engineer Battalion, 3d Marine Division, Twenty Nine Palms, California. He is survived by his parents, Raymond and Kelli Barfield, and seven siblings.

LCpl. Barfield delivered the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation. Undoubtedly, his loss will be most felt by his loved ones and friends. Today, and each day following, my family and I extend our most heartfelt condolences to those close to him.

I recently had an opportunity to speak to LCpl. Barfield's father, Raymond. It was a moving conversation that I will forever remember. Mr. Barfield was gracious in spite of his grief, immensely proud despite his pain. During our conversation, I learned that, LCpl. Barfield recently proposed to his girlfriend, Joyanna Champlin. So, today, I stand here not only to pay tribute to Jason's sacrifice, but also to recognize the memorable people who held prominent positions in this patriot's life. The family and friends of our heroes are indeed heroes themselves.

We are blessed that our nation is protected—day after day, year after year—by courageous American service men and women. Those in uniform standing on the front lines risk everything in order to defend and serve. Their commitment to our country is demonstrated through their selfless sacrifices and unwavering courage. We owe them, and their families, our most eternal gratitude.

We will forever honor LCpl. Barfield for his selfless actions. His legacy will be memorialized in American history so every generation will know of his selfless acts.

America remains a free nation because of the men and women in our Armed Forces who serve and protect us each and every day—just as LCpl. Jason Nicholas Barfield so bravely did. Our thoughts and prayers will continue to go out to his parents and loved ones during this difficult time.

A TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL J. BURKE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Michael J. Burke, a former law enforcement officer, instructor and director of training in the State of Iowa, and express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to the great people of Iowa.

For the past 22 years, Mike has contributed his time to the safety of the citizens and first responders in the state of Iowa since beginning his career as a detective with the Webster County Sheriff's Department in Fort Dodge, Iowa. Mike's law enforcement career had many highlights, most notably being recognized for outstanding service and meritorious acts by the United States Attorney's Office for his efforts behind the investigation and prosecution of a methamphetamine trafficking organization.

Upon leaving law enforcement, Mike initiated and coordinated the criminal justice program at Iowa Central Community College. During his time with ICC, Mike grew the program to new levels by initiating "hands-on training" for future criminal justice professionals. As coordinator and instructor of the program, Mike was recognized on two separate occasions for being a "Master Presenter" by the National Institute for Staff & Organizational Development.

In 2003, I had the privilege of being involved in the creation of Homeland Security Training Center at Iowa Central Community College of which Mike was appointed Director. Until his retirement from the training center in August of 2011, over 35,000 responders in Iowa received critical homeland security training through this program including thousands of law enforcement officers training to keep Iowa's streets safer.

Mike has truly made a significant impact on the quality of life for citizens in the State of Iowa with the qualified training he ensured Iowa's responders would receive. His leadership and dedication will be missed, but the blueprint he leaves behind will be a model for the program's continued success far into the future.

I consider it an honor to represent Mike and all of ICC in the United States Congress. I wish Mike, his wife Cindy and their two children, Megan and Robby, the best of luck as they enter this new chapter of their lives together. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mike for his stellar career.

IN RECOGNITION OF ELAINE
SCHUSTER

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Elaine Schuster, as she is honored with the Believe in Girls Award from the Big Sister Association of Greater Boston on November 12, 2011.

Elaine was—and is—never afraid to speak her mind, and that trait has proven invaluable

to the various causes and constituencies for which she has fought. Through her important work with Big Sisters—one of the oldest and most established youth mentoring programs in the country—Elaine has advised, coached, and helped numerous girls and young women make healthy choices in their lives.

Elaine has been a role model to many, exhibiting these qualities on a daily basis through her good deeds, passion for helping others, and generous nature. Never one for holding back, she has dedicated herself to helping young girls, including her grandchildren, believe there is nothing they cannot do, become or achieve. To reflect on her work for our community is to reflect on a life of selflessness, devotion, drive and, above all, care for her fellow neighbor.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating Elaine Schuster as she is honored for her generosity, drive and initiative, and I urge others to learn from her leadership and guidance.

NATIONAL UNDERSERVED
VETERANS AWARENESS WEEK

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, in Congress we have an obligation to care for our veterans in return for their financial challenges face them long after their conclusion of active service and while we have service and dedication to our Nation. For many veterans lifelong physical, psychological and made important strides towards improving care for veterans, there is still much to do. The most recent study from the Department of Veterans Affairs estimated that in 2009, approximately 76,000 veterans were homeless on any one particular day and 136,000 veterans were homeless at some point during the year.

The stark reality is that veterans are more likely than their civilian counterparts to suffer from homelessness. In fact male veterans are 1.4 times as likely to be homeless than non-veterans and female veterans are two to four times as likely to be homeless. Col. Darryl C. Hunter, M.D., founder and director of the Sacramento Community Veterans Alliance has stated that "by conservative estimates, up to 30 percent of the homeless population is comprised of those who have worn the uniform of our Nation's military." In addition to homelessness, research has found that troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan are at an increased risk of developing mental health problems, with over 15 percent already diagnosed with depression, anxiety, or PTSD. Many of these veterans are not aware of the available Department of Veterans Affairs health programs and services that can be a critical component of reintegration into the community.

It is important that we work together to reduce the incidence of homelessness among veterans and repay, in what small measure we can, their service to this great country.

As part of this effort, I along with Representative DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California are proud to cosponsor the resolution supporting the designation of the week of November 6–12 as National Underserved Veterans Awareness Week. The week will have a particular

focus on disseminating information on health services available to veterans, as well as the various health benefits provided in private insurance plans.

A model of such outreach to veterans is operated by the Sacramento Community Veterans Alliance. Every year, the Alliance hosts an all-day health fair and free clinic to provide health screenings and eye exams to underserved and homeless veterans at no cost, as well as advising them on their service benefits and connecting them to resources on healthcare, mental health, and homelessness.

HAPPY 150TH BIRTHDAY TO WELD COUNTY, COLORADO

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to recognize the 150th birthday of Weld County, Colorado. Weld is the sunny, rolling home to 31 towns filled with Coloradans of all backgrounds and aspirations. In 1821, Major Stephen H. Long made an expedition to the area now known as Weld County and declared the land was not fit for human prosperity. Almost two centuries later it is without question that Major Long did not have the vision or the admiration for this great place as those of Weld County have today.

Located in the north central part of Colorado, Weld County provides an impressive supply of opportunity and industrial support being the State's leader in production of cattle, grain, and sugar beets and the second leader in production of oil and gas. It is ranked as the third leading agricultural area in the United States.

But it is not the natural resources or the environmental make up of Weld County that make it what it is today, on its 150th birthday. It is the people of this county that have taken it from a prairie region first settled by railroad workers, to a vibrant and growing home to thousands of Colorado families. Beyond its industrial value, one of the State's strongest public universities, the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, is located within Weld County and provides thousands of students the opportunity for higher education and a more fertile future every year.

I congratulate the people of Weld County on 150 years of progress and prosperity and eagerly anticipate what the future holds for this forward-looking Colorado County.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LLOYD DOGGETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote number 822 on H.R. 2112, I mistakenly recorded my vote as "no" when I should have voted "yes."

IN RECOGNITION OF BIG SISTER ASSOCIATION OF GREATER BOSTON

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Big Sister Association of Greater Boston on their 60th anniversary. Big Sister is the largest mentoring program in the region that specifically serves women and girls. Volunteers enthusiastically dedicate their time and service to the communities in the Greater Boston area. Their actions are deserving of this body's recognition.

The Big Sister Association was founded in 1951 by three Cambridge residents: The Reverend Harold Taylor, Assistant Rector at Christ Church in Cambridge; Edith Taylor, a Cambridge police officer; and Frances Marley, an administrative assistant and legal consultant for the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Believing that girls in their community could benefit from the guidance and support of an older female friend, they created a one-to-one mentoring program where girls, Little Sisters, were individually matched with caring and committed volunteers, Big Sisters.

They continue to welcome new women and girls to the Big Sister program. In their first year, they matched six girls—in 2009, Big Sister served more than 2,700 girls throughout 69 Massachusetts cities and towns. What keeps them growing is the steadfast belief that by focusing on the healthy development of girls, they are preparing the next generation of mothers, teachers, doctors and business leaders. By continuing to implement new mentoring programs this has led to the creation of a vibrant community where girls know that there is no limit to what they can achieve. Their humble actions and service to the community are commendable.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in leading this body in acknowledging the Big Sister Association of Greater Boston, as they celebrate their 60th anniversary. The Big Sister Association of Greater Boston community is tremendously valued in my district and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TUSKEGEE AIRMAN LT. COL. LUKE JOSEPH WEATHERS JR.

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Lt. Col. Luke Joseph Weathers Jr., a Tuskegee Airman in the 332nd Fighter Group. He was born to Luke Joseph Weathers, Sr. and Jessie Rita Hawkins on December 16, 1920 in Grenada, MS. In 1925, he and his mother moved to Memphis, Tennessee to reunite with his father who had moved to Memphis earlier with his brother, William "Bill" Weathers.

Luke Weathers was baptized at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Memphis and later attended St. Anthony Catholic School. Weathers transferred and completed his high school

education at Booker T. Washington where he excelled academically and athletically. Upon completion, he was accepted into Xavier University and studied from 1939–1942. He returned to Memphis in 1942 and read an article in a newspaper about an experimental training program for African-American pilots and aviation in Tuskegee, Alabama. After speaking to his parents about the program, Weathers met with Mayor E.H. Crump who made a call to President Roosevelt informing him that he would be sending Luke to the program. On July 27, 1942, Luke Weathers arrived in Tuscaloosa, Alabama and trained for nine months and one day. On April 29, 1943 he began his active duty as a Fighter Pilot Single Engine in the 302N Fighter Squadron flying P-51 bombers. The 302N Fighter Squadron was later merged into the 332nd Fighter Group, also known as the "Red Tails." Weathers named his plane the "Spirit of Beale Street."

Lt. Col. Weathers departed for Italy January 3, 1944 to begin his tour in WWII, traveling to North Africa, Italy, France, Europe, and Germany. For his courage and service, he earned an Air Medal with 7 clusters, a Distinguished Flying Cross medal and an American Theater Ribbon Victory Medal WWI. Weathers was credited with shooting down two German fighter aircrafts while on a mission to protect U.S. Army Air Corps bombers in Europe. During this tour, the Tuskegee Airmen never lost one of their bombers. Lt. Col. Weathers returned to Memphis on March 13, 1945 and became the first African-American to receive the key to the City of Memphis. He was also honored with a parade down Beale Street and the day was declared "Capitan Luke Weathers Day."

Luke Weathers met LaVerne Nalling while in Memphis. Together, they owned and operated several businesses including the Weathers Jeffery vocational school in Jackson, Tennessee where Weathers was a flight instructor. He was also the Director of Boone-Higgins Trade School for Negro Veterans in Jackson. They also operated a beauty shop, Laundromat/dry cleaners and a carpet cleaning service. In 1959, Weathers founded The National Defense Cadet Corps, NDCC, for the Memphis City School System at Manassas High school. This program created an opportunity for African American males who had a desire for military training but did not have access to a ROTC program. For a brief time afterwards, Weathers moved his family to Anchorage, Alaska where he had accepted a position with the Federal Aviation Administration, FAA. He moved his family back to Memphis and became the first African-American Air Traffic Controller in Memphis. During his tenure with the FAA, he accepted tours of duties in Atlanta, Georgia and Washington, DC.

In 1985, Lt. Col. Weathers retired from the FAA in Washington, DC and the Air Force Reserves. In his retirement he stayed active with Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. and continued to promote African Americans in the military including women. Lt. Col. Luke Joseph Weathers Jr. died on October 15, 2011 at 90 years of age. He is survived by his wife, Jacqueline Moore Weathers; two sons, Luke Joseph Weathers III and Andre M. Weathers; daughters Wanda Weathers Smith, Renee Weathers Powell, and Trina Weathers Boyce; and 12 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Mister Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Tuskegee Airman, Lt. Col. Luke Joseph Weathers, Jr. His was a life well-lived.