

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT  
TSAI ING-WEN OF TAIWAN

**HON. JOE BARTON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, May 20th, is the first anniversary of President Tsai Ing-wen's inauguration. Having met President Tsai twice during her first year in office, I would like to congratulate her and the people of Taiwan on this occasion.

Taiwan has become a vibrant democracy, where power at the presidential level has been peacefully transferred from one political party to another three times—most recently in last year's election. Taiwan's democracy is a shining example for both the Asia-Pacific region, and for the world. At the same time, Taiwan has endeavored to be a good global citizen.

Mr. Speaker, I treasure the U.S.-Taiwan relationship, which is one between like-minded friends who share the same values. I admire the distance the people of Taiwan have come in the face of many challenges. As a friend to Taiwan, I commend its people and President Tsai on this anniversary.

RAPID DNA ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 16, 2017*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 510, the Rapid DNA Act of 2017.

The Rapid DNA Act, or H.R. 510, will aid law enforcement in its effort to solve cases and bring justice to the victims of crimes. In particular, victims of rape and sexual assault will be able to regain peace of mind because this legislation increases the likelihood that these perpetrators will be captured. The language of the Rapid DNA Act gives law enforcement investigators the ability to facilitate the quick testing of DNA tests, such as rape kits. DNA material is sensitive and has only a limited time before it is rendered useless. This act addresses the issue by removing some of the preexisting regulations and red tape that have hindered this process in the past.

It is a disservice to the American people to deny them the results from a Rape Kit. They deserve the truth. The Constitution of the United States ensures that every citizen of the United States of America has the right to privacy, as stated in the Fourth Amendment to the Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution. The Rapid DNA Act of 2017 will increase the chance that those who committed such wrongs and those who have inhumanely violated the basic rights and dignity of another

person are brought to justice by streamlining the process and by reducing regulations around the testing of these kits.

H.R. 510 would provide amendments to the DNA Identification Act of 1994 and the DNA Backlog Analysis Backlog Act of 2000 that require more external regulation for all Rapid DNA tests. Organizations performing such tests would still be audited by the Federal government to ensure the quality of test. It will also be accredited by credible, nonprofit institutions that will lend the imprimatur of reliability.

I fully support this measure and I am firmly committed to bringing justice to offenders of these crimes. This bill will provide relief to the countless victims of sexual assault. Rape kits often go untested because of existing regulations that make it more difficult to test such time sensitive data. I support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO MAXINE MARTENS

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ms. Maxine Martens on the occasion of her 100th birthday. Maxine, along with her family and friends, celebrated on April 24th.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Maxine's life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Maxine has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-four Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Maxine Martens in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 100th birthday. I invite my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Maxine on reaching this incredible milestone, and in wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

HONORING SPIRIT XPLOSION

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable professional minority business Spirit Xplosion Home of CE All Stars of Cleveland, Mississippi.

Mrs. Kimetria Parks, owner/coach is a native of Holly Springs, Mississippi. She moved

to Cleveland, Mississippi in 1999 while attending Delta State University. She's married to Mr. Christopher Parks, Co-Owner/Coach and they have two beautiful daughters named Paris Kaitlyn Parks and Layken Parks. Mrs. Parks earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in 2003 and a Masters of Business Administration in 2013 from Delta State University. She is the Finance Officer of Mississippi United to End Homelessness and owner/coach of Spirit Xplosion Home of CE All Stars. She fellowships with St. Peter MB Church in Sunflower, Mississippi. Mr. Parks graduated from Delta State University in 2005 with a Bachelor of Science in General Studies and Minor in Family Consumer Science and Criminal Justice, and in 2012 with a Masters in Physical Education with an Emphasis on Human Performance.

She has a great love and compassion for young people. Her ministry is to inspire young people to excel in all things with God's leading and to encourage women. Everything she does is done with the spirit of excellence. Her motto is: "If I can help somebody then her living is not in vain." She loves God wholeheartedly and thrives to live according to his will and his way; not just on Sunday, but every day. She's a genuine giver and does it cheerfully. Everything she has God gave it to her, everything she owns God has blessed her with it, and she has faith the size of a mustard seed and know that it's not over until God says it's over.

Spirit Xplosion Home of CE All Stars was established in 2011 and kicked off their first season in February, 2012. Their competitive teams have won several UCA, Athletic Championship, Jam Fest, Deep South, WSA, and local competitions. They strongly believe that their success originates from the dedication and commitment of the athletes and parents. Furthermore, they realize the importance of hard work, discipline, a family atmosphere, and perhaps most importantly—fun. Each child is an individual and is treated as such to instill confidence and a sense of personal accomplishment. Their main focus is to prepare children for the challenges that lie ahead of them. Their ability to work as a team, striving toward a common goal, will prove to be a lifelong skill. The encouragement to reach that goal is CE All-Stars passion.

Spirit Xplosion Home of CE All Stars competitive teams are not recreational. They train to compete at a high level of intensity. Two of their main goals are to create award winning routines, and to be an active group in the community. This type of goal requires commitment to attendance and structured workouts. Spirit Xplosion Home of CE All-Stars athletes commit twelve months to the program. CE All-Stars is a family and love building new relationships with everyone that walks through their doors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an outstanding minority business in the Mississippi Delta.

• 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.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALL-  
EN SOLDIER AIR FORCE STAFF  
SERGEANT (SSGT) JOHN THOMAS  
SELF

### HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of fallen soldier Air Force Staff Sergeant (SSGT) John Thomas Self who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation on May 14, 2007, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SSGT Self was killed by an improvised explosive device in an attack that wounded three other airmen near Baghdad, Iraq, during his fourth tour of duty.

SSGT Self was assigned to the 314th Security Forces Squadron, Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas. A fire team leader with Detachment 3,732 Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, SSGT Self was on his 79th combat patrol when he was killed. His detachment was tasked with training Iraqi police. Self's mother, Jill Self, told the Associated Press that he volunteered for his fourth tour of duty because he wanted to serve his country. He was only home from his third tour of duty for a few weeks before he volunteered for his fourth tour.

SSGT Self was born on November 2, 1977 in Tupelo, MS. He graduated from South Pontotoc High School, where he was a trumpet player in the marching band. He joined the Air Force in 1999 after attending Itawamba Community College. SSGT Self's mother, Jill Self, told the Associated Press, "He loved to deer hunt and fish and play computer games. He was a loving child. He was there for his family and friends. I loved him very much and he's going to be missed."

SSGT Self is survived by his mother and step father, Jill Long Self and Terry L. Self; his sisters, Misty D. Gann and Sandy Pennington, and his brothers, Ronnie Self and Sam Self. He is preceded in death by his father Robert A. Self.

The sacrifice of this brave soldier will always be remembered.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARINA  
WHITMAN FOR HER ACCOM-  
PLISHED CAREER AS AN ECONO-  
MIST

### HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Marina Whitman on the date of her retirement from the University of Michigan for her distinguished career over half a century as a world-renowned economist and extraordinary woman. Dr. Whitman helped forge a path for generations of women as she rose to the top of government, business and academia throughout her career and broke down barriers for all of us.

Many do not know that Dr. Whitman is the daughter of renowned mathematician John von Neumann, one of the foremost mathematicians and scholars of the 20th century. He is recognized as inventing game theory, pio-

neering developments in computer science and contributing to the Manhattan Project, among other achievements. Marina charted her own course and outgrew her father's shadow early in her career, leaving a mark wherever she went.

After receiving her doctorate in Columbia University, Dr. Whitman began her career in academia with the University of Pittsburgh in 1962, eventually being named a Distinguished Public Service Professor with the university. She then took a leave of absence to serve with the federal government, first as an economist with the President's Council of Economic Advisors, then on President Nixon's National Price Commission. As the first woman to be named to the President's Council of Economic Advisors, Dr. Whitman wrote about how the media focused not on her intellectual achievements, but instead "talk[ed] about what I looked like and that my eye shadow matched my dress. Some woman from the Pittsburgh Press wanted to know how my daughter's gerbil survived the trip to Washington."

After serving in government, Dr. Whitman worked as a Vice President and Chief Economist for General Motors from 1979 to 1985, and Vice President and Group Executive for Public Affairs until 1992. During this time, she oversaw GM's economics policies, as well as its environmental and industry-government relations activities. At the time, she was the highest ranking woman in the United States automotive industry.

Since 1994, Dr. Whitman has been a Professor of Business Administration and Public Policy at the University of Michigan. Her work has focused on international trade and labor markets, and she is well-known internationally for her expertise on corporate governance and social responsibility.

As one of the nation's foremost economists, Dr. Whitman has conducted pioneering research which helped to reshape international monetary and financial systems. She contributed to the success of one of America's largest corporations and worked to educate the auto industry about the changing dynamics of globalization and its impact on the industry. Her work and research has transformed our understanding of economics. She has been widely recognized for her outstanding work, having served on the boards of the National Bureau of Economic Research and the Institute for Advanced Study. Additionally, Dr. Whitman has received numerous awards throughout her career and holds honorary degrees from over twenty colleges and universities.

Even more significant than the mark she has left on many institutions is the mentoring of women she has done for a lifetime. I am lucky to have benefitted from that personally and do not believe I would stand here today without the benefit of her wisdom. Dr. Whitman sees her role as having been front and center in a transitional generation. She coaxed social change from inside the places where policy decisions are made or demanded it from outside—a generation that demarcated before this and after this. She observed, "I literally transitioned from the world in which women were secretaries and were not allowed to matriculate at the Harvard Business School to a world in which we have women who are CEOs of corporations . . . and I'm the in-between." Her patience, wisdom and pragmatism guided generations of women in both the

workplace and the realism of how to do it all including being a parent, a spouse and a child of the sandwich generation.

She leaves behind a peerless record of success, and I wish her well as she moves on from her position at the University of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Marina Whitman for her outstanding career as an economist. Her extraordinary work has impacted countless lives.

### TRIBUTE TO MARCY WORDEN

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Marcy Worden of Council Bluffs, Iowa, who recently retired after 25 years of dedicated service to Council Bluffs as the City Clerk.

Marcy's career with the City of Council Bluffs started in April 1991. She joined the Parks and Recreation and Public Property Department as a clerk-typist, and in 1995 she transferred to the City Clerk's office. In 2002, the City Council appointed her the deputy City Clerk and promoted her to the City Clerk in 2009. Marcy said she estimates that she has attended 191 city council meetings during her tenure, and that her retirement is "bittersweet." She remarked, "There are lots of people I'll miss in City Hall." Council Bluffs Mayor Matt Walsh said, "She's done a great job and will be missed."

Mr. Speaker, Marcy has made a difference by helping and serving others and it is with great honor that I recognize her today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in honoring her accomplishments and in wishing her nothing but the best in her retirement.

### HONORING MALDONADO FAMILY VINEYARDS

### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jose Guadalupe and Hugo Maldonado, co-founders of Maldonado Family Vineyards. Their hard work and dedication to the art of viticulture is evident in their carefully crafted single-vineyard wines.

Guadalupe, or 'Lupe' as he is warmly referred to, immigrated to the United States in 1962 from the small farming community of Atacheo de Regalado in Michoacán, Mexico, where he managed his family's goat herd in the mountains. In 1971, while working for Sterling Vineyards, Lupe was asked to aid in the development of a winery for vintner Peter Newton, where he served as vineyard manager for over thirty years. Inspired by his father's work in the field, Hugo pursued a formal education in enology and viticulture at the University of California Davis. Hugo succeeded his father in his role as vineyard manager in 1999.

In 2007 Lupe and Hugo broke ground on a small hillside just outside of Calistoga and

began to form the family's own wine caves and winemaking facility to establish Maldonado Family Vineyards. In their 13 years, the facility has grown from 250 cases to more than 10,000 cases of wine. Together Hugo and Lupe shaped Maldonado Family Vineyards to reflect their family history. On their label the words 'Farm Worker' can be found to note the family's decades of caring for and tending to vines.

Hugo traveled to Washington, D.C. this week as part of a group of Mexican-American vintners to support the mission of the Smithsonian Institution. They shared their amazing stories of immigration, sacrifice and determination and helped the attendees understand the vital contributions Mexican Americans make to our economy and community.

Mr. Speaker, Lupe and Hugo Maldonado have cultivated a winery which not only reflects their family history and Mexican American heritage, but honors the skilled laborer. I am proud to have such dedicated business owners living and working in our community. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor them here today.

#### HONORING MARY HARRISON LEE

##### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mrs. Mary Harrison Lee who was born on July 22, 1939 in Manila, Philippines to Ida Lloren. She was adopted at an early age by Reverend and Mrs. Ernest Harrison. Her adopted father was a chaplain in the army giving her the opportunity to live in many places, such as Captieux, France, Erlangen, Germany, Fort Riley, Kansas, and San Antonio, Texas.

Mary graduated from Rochefort American High School in France. Upon returning to the United States, she visited Tougaloo College and immediately fell in love with its quaintness, intimacy, the hanging moss from the oak trees, and the family atmosphere. She was convinced that this was where she wanted to spend her next four years and enrolled in the upcoming semester.

She became a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. on December 13, 1959. She felt the plight of the Civil Rights movement and volunteered to become a Freedom Rider. Mary helped lead a "sit-in" at the Trailways Bus Station in Downtown Jackson. She was arrested and jailed during this protest. She did not waiver from the overall mission to gain equality for African Americans. As a result, on June 23, 1961, Freedom Riders from Tougaloo College set a precedent and became the first residents of Mississippi to lead in the movement.

While at Tougaloo College, Mary met and fell in love with Gene Lee. They were married in 1963. She and Gene were natural educators. Mary dedicated her working career educating youth. She began as a teacher in Picayune, Mississippi; later moving to Kansas City, Missouri. In 1973, she relocated with her family to Germany and taught within the Department of Defense American School system.

In 1981, Mary and her family returned to the United States and settled in Jackson, Mis-

issippi, where she retired in 2001 as Principal from Boyd Elementary School. Mary and Gene were blessed with three beautiful children: Geno (Angie), Daryl (Cassie), and Angel (Chris), and eight grandchildren: Jessica, Tori, Gabby, Nick, Bella, Alexa, McKenzie, and Malita.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Mary Harrison Lee for her dedication to serving.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I mistakenly voted no when I meant to vote yes on roll call vote no. 266.

#### HONORING BURAK M. GUVENSOYLAR

##### HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very special member of my staff, Burak Guvensoylar, who lost his courageous battle with cancer this past weekend.

Burak was a valued member of the Judiciary Committee team and worked on a variety of issues, including digital privacy and intellectual property. His vast knowledge and grasp of the issues impacting the technology community was a tremendous asset to the Committee. Most recently, Burak's work included the development of the Committee's Innovation and Competitiveness Agenda, and his steadfast work and tenacious attitude were not only essential to making this initiative a success, but were also a testament to his character. In fact, while he was undergoing intensive cancer treatments, he was actively working and sending follow up emails from his hospital bed. And just days before Burak passed away he met with FCC Commissioner Ajit Pai to discuss a number of Judiciary Committee priorities. For Burak, nothing could prevent him from an opportunity to discuss and advance the policies he was so passionate about.

Burak was a true technology policy enthusiast. Prior to joining the staff of the Judiciary Committee, Burak served as a Legislative Advisor for Congressman Randy Forbes. While working for Congressman Forbes, Burak handled the diverse range of issues that fall under the jurisdiction of the Judiciary Committee but it was always evident that technology policy was his first love. He co-founded the Congressional Tech Staff Association and served as an Executive Officer responsible for the professional development program. Prior to his career on Capitol Hill, Burak worked at TechAmerica and CompTIA focusing on international trade policy.

Burak has many friends here in the halls of Congress, on both sides of the aisle. I know all of you will join me in extending our deepest sympathies to his mother Filiz Guvensoylar, his sister Aylin Forbes, his girlfriend Ashley

Newsome, and all of his loved ones. Burak will be deeply missed.

#### TRIBUTE TO KEITH KINYON

##### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Keith Kinyon for his many years of service to the American Legion and to his country. Keith was recently honored for being a 70-year member with the American Legion.

The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. The organization is committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in communities, advocating patriotism and honor and continued devotion to their fellow service members and veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Keith for his service to our country's veterans and his dedication to his community. It is an honor to represent him in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in commending Keith for his outstanding service and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

#### CELEBRATING THE 2017 CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION

##### HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, once again, I come to the floor to recognize the great success of strong local schools working with dedicated parents and teachers. I rise today to congratulate and honor a number of outstanding high school artists from the 11th Congressional District of New Jersey. Each of these talented young men and women participated in the 2017 Congressional Arts Competition, "An Artistic Discovery." Their works of art are exceptional.

Fifty-five participated. That is a wonderful response, and I would very much like to build on that participation for future competitions.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the winners of our art competition. First place was awarded to Barbara Benda from Nutley High School for her digital tablet painting entitled, "Don't Look." Second place was awarded to Emma Jang from West Morris Mendham High School for her acrylic entitled, "Wide Awake." Third place was awarded to Emily Wang from Wayne Valley High School for her pen and ink entitled, "Black Rain."

Honorable Mentions were awarded to: Michelle Tolochko from Boonton High School for her acrylic entitled, "Self Portrait." Ashley O'Brien from Montville Township High School for her watercolor entitled, "Aphrodite," Jaclyn Larsen from Hanover Park High School for her digital photo entitled, "Messi," and Christopher Cortez from the Passaic County Technical Institute for his acrylic entitled, "Shades of Beauty."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize each artist for their participation by indicating their

high school, their name and the title of their contest entries for the official RECORD.

BOONTON HIGH SCHOOL

Kristen Dalrymple, "Ghost of you"  
Amanda Roberts, "Bitter Cold"  
Michelle Tolochko, "Self Portrait"  
Giancarlo Venturini, "My Friend Liz"

DELBARTON SCHOOL

Tim Adami, "Victory"  
Sean Taylor, "The Alpine Adventurer"

EASTERN CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

Steve Blanco, "Epitaph"  
Juliana Struyk, "Perception Of Fruit"

HANOVER PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Valentina Mattfeld, "Dallas"  
Megan Canzonieri, "Ophelia"  
Jaclyn Larsen, "Messi"  
Sarah Court, "Dash"

LIVINGSTON HIGH SCHOOL

Rachel Kogut, "Imagination"

MEWE ART

Julia Hou, "Fire and Water"

MONTVILLE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

Madeleine Morris, "Wildflowers"  
Ashley O'Brien, "Aphrodite"  
Darrel Tsinadze, "Red Pearls"  
Alexander Tullo, "Samantha's Columns"

MORRISTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

Deanna C. Swanson, "Vanitas"

MORRIS KNOLLS HIGH SCHOOL

Alyssa DeFilippis, "Melodic Vibes"  
Megan Ramos, "Angel"  
Divya Patel, "Lola"  
Claire Weber, "Livid"

MORRIS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Tina Yi, "Sadness"  
Yang Jason Yang, "Geometrics"

MORRIS COUNTY SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY

Caroline Yorke, "Crime Scene"  
Brenna Corsi, "Grow"  
Alexa Metro, "True Colors"

MOUNTAIN LAKES HIGH SCHOOL

Joy Xie, "We Grew Up Here"

NUTLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Barbara Benda, "Don't Look"  
Raven Cardone-Imor, "Tragic"  
Devin Lemongello, "Self Portrait"  
Joanne Salise, "Green Abstract"

PARSIPPANY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Nohemy Zabala, "The Beautiful District of Columbia"  
Daniel Jordan McMillen, "The Other Side"  
Camille Dieppa, "The Lincoln Memorial"

PARSIPPANY HILLS HIGH SCHOOL

Rachel Jacovsky, "American Pride"

PASSAIC COUNTY TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

Christopher Cortez, "Shades of Beauty"  
Jamie Loverdi, "Retro Dine & Drive"

PASSAIC VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Maya Adham, "Game-Boy"  
Danielle Burden, "OZ"  
Erika Duarte, "Red in Snow"  
Angelika Dulak, "Róze"

PEQUANNOCK TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

Julia Blahut, "Carbon Footprints"  
Thomas Carruthers, "Quiet Summer"

WAYNE VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Madeline Corb, "Focus"  
Brooke Demore, "Look"  
Liz Rozenblat, "Great dangers await"  
Emily Wang, "Black Rain"

WEST MORRIS MENDHAM HIGH SCHOOL

Matthew Fabrizio, "Jack in a Hat"  
Emma Jang, "I Donut Understand Puns"  
Maximilian Scheidl, "Life Goes On"  
Kayla O'Neill, "Where I'm Supposed to Be"

WHIPPANY PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Eric Kahn, "Waves of Rock"

Alex Maietta, "What Once Was"

Each year the winner of the competition has their artwork displayed with other winners from across the country in a special corridor here at the U.S. Capitol. Thousands of our fellow Americans walk through the exhibition and are reminded of the vast talents of our young men and women. Indeed, all of these young artists are winners, and we should be proud of their achievements so early in life.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating these talented young people from New Jersey's 11th Congressional District.

IN HONOR OF LT. GEN. THOMAS H. TACKABERRY

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2017

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Lieutenant General Thomas H. Tackaberry, who passed away on Monday, April 3, 2017 at the age of 93. A Commander of the 18th Airborne Corps, 82nd Airborne Division, and Fort Bragg, as well as a veteran of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, Lt. Gen. Tackaberry is a true American hero and our thoughts and prayers go out to his friends and family as they mourn the loss of this great man.

Thomas Tackaberry was a high school star in the classroom and on the track field, and when his country needed him the most, he stood ready to answer the call to serve our great nation. Lt. Gen. Tackaberry enlisted in the Army Reserve during World War II at the age of 19. After being commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, he served in Germany from 1945 to 1948. Lt. Gen. Tackaberry went on to fight in Korea and Vietnam, becoming highly decorated as the recipient of three Distinguished Service Crosses, five Silver Stars, a Distinguished Flying Cross, and a Soldier's Medal.

Described as a "grunt's angel," Lt. Gen. Tackaberry was devoted to his men, not only ensuring they were always supplied for the fight but physically prepared as well. Leading from the front, Lt. Gen. Tackaberry set a high bar for fitness with his men and led them on long training runs. He even remained dedicated to fitness well into his later life, completing 10 push-ups, despite being 93 years old and confined to a wheel chair, after being challenged by a family member. After 38 years in the military, Lt. Gen. Tackaberry retired to civilian life, managing a local real estate business and counseling the military of the Republic of China for BDC Corp.

Despite all of his accomplishments, Lt. Gen. Tackaberry never boasted of his military decorations or accomplished private sector career, instead focusing his energy on his family. He raised his twin sons to be accomplished military leaders in their own right and currently has several grandchildren serving in the U.S. military as well. This country cannot repay the debt we owe to Lt. Gen. Tackaberry; he was truly one of a kind and a model American. While we may have lost this great man, his legacy lives on forever.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in commemorating the life of Lieutenant General

Thomas H. Tackaberry for his service to God and country.

SUPPORT FOR TAIWAN PARTICIPATION IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2017

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, the independent nation of Taiwan is a highly-advanced industrialized democracy which contributes greatly to the world economy, particularly in the area of high tech, and is a long-time stalwart ally of the United States. We congratulate President Tsai Ing-wen on her one year anniversary as President of Taiwan.

The economic and military ties between our two nations have been built steadily over the past several decades, and I believe that it is important that the U.S. remains committed to this important bilateral relationship.

While our two countries have much to celebrate on this occasion, at the same time, some of the old diplomatic and political challenges are resurfacing which threaten Taiwan's participation as a constructive member of the global community. Recently, the World Health Organization (WHO), an arm of the United Nations, declined to invite Taiwan to participate in its annual World Health Assembly despite Taiwan's participation and contributions during the previous 8 years running.

Mr. Speaker, this deliberate snub was politically motivated, and violated the WHO's Constitution by excluding the people of Taiwan for no legitimate reason. The 23 million citizens of Taiwan should not be denied access to this and future annual meetings, especially if the stated goal of the World Health Organization is to provide a better healthier future to all peoples of the world.

I believe that the United States has an obligation to step forward and express strong disapproval of this WHO action.

To ensure that there is no gap in the disease prevention network and that, together, all might work for the advancement of human health worldwide, it is imperative that the United States Congress and the Administration rise in full support for Taiwan in this matter. The WHO Secretariat should be admonished regarding its moral and legal obligation to uphold its charter of independence and impartiality. The WHO and its leadership should not be at the service of any member state in particular. I ask my colleagues to join me in voicing our support for Taiwan's full and meaningful participation in the WHO, as well as other international organizations now and in the future.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLOTTE AND BOB BANCROFT

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Charlotte and Bob Bancroft of Atlantic, Iowa, on the very

special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on February 4, 2017.

Charlotte and Bob's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them nothing but the best.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN SOLDIER ARMY SERGEANT (SGT) JASON WALTER VAUGHN

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of fallen soldier Army Sergeant (SGT) Jason Walter Vaughn who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation on May 10, 2007, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SGT Vaughn died of wounds from an improvised explosive device that detonated near his vehicle in Baqubah, Iraq, during his second tour of duty.

SGT Vaughn was assigned to the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, Washington. He joined the Army in 2002, serving in Iraq from November 2003 to November 2004, and then returning in July 2006. He received his initial training at Fort Benning, Georgia. SGT Vaughn held the rank of Specialist at the time of his death and was posthumously promoted to Sergeant. During his military service, SGT Vaughn received the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal and the Global War on Terror Service Medal. He was also awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

SGT Vaughn was born in Memphis, TN, moving a few times before his family settled in Iuka, MS. He graduated from Tishomingo County High School in Iuka, MS in 1996. He later attended Northeast Mississippi Community College and Mississippi State University.

According to his mother, RaNae Vaughn, "Jason was a kindhearted, selfless person. He was a beautiful person inside and out. His memory inspires us to be better, do better and dream big." His father, Walter Vaughn, told the Associated Press, "The world lost a leader. My son was a born leader."

SGT Vaughn's survivors include his wife, Contessa Williams Vaughn; stepdaughter, Ashley Martin; father and stepmother, Walter and Pat Vaughn; mother, RaNae Smith Vaughn, as well as a brother, sister, and two step-sisters.

In 2011, H.R. 2213, introduced by Representative Alan Nunnelee, designated the Iuka, MS Post Office as the "Sergeant Jason W. Vaughn Post Office." As of July 1, 2017, the portion of Mississippi Highway 25 within

the city limits of Iuka, MS will be known as the "SGT Jason Vaughn Memorial Highway."

The sacrifice of this brave soldier will always be remembered.

AMERICAN LAW ENFORCEMENT  
HEROES ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 16, 2017*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1428, the American Law Enforcement Heroes Act of 2017. This bill will positively affect the way we fight crime in our nation.

The American Law Enforcement Heroes Act of 2017 provides for the prioritization of the hiring of veterans to police forces across the nation and will allow public funds granted by the Community Oriented Policing Services program to be allocated towards the hiring and training of veterans entering local police forces.

Our veterans are some of the bravest and most honorable men and women in this nation. They have voluntarily risen to the occasion to protect our nation from foreign threats. These men and women have served in far flung, dangerous places around the globe, from Iraq and Afghanistan to Vietnam to Lebanon. They have risked their lives to fulfill the goal of President Woodrow Wilson: to "make the world safe for democracy." These veterans helped bring freedom and security to oppressed peoples, while protecting and serving all Americans, to protect our unique and comfortable existence.

Our veterans are currently plagued with issues such as mental health issues often stemming from combat experience, drug abuse, unemployment, and homelessness. Veterans are currently more likely to become homeless after serving, more likely to be unemployed, and more likely to fall under the oppression of hard drugs. By implementing the American Law Enforcement Heroes Act of 2017, we, as a Congress, will be continuing our commitment to our veterans by helping to provide them with jobs. These jobs will provide a stable income and resources for our veterans to access, in case of debilitating mental health issues such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Our veterans will be able to continue serving the American people with the particular training and expertise provided by the greatest military in the world. They have had access to education and are highly skilled at a plethora of jobs that municipal police departments can utilize to their advantage. By hiring these men and women, police forces around the nation can make the nation a safer, more secure place.

I give my full support to the American Law Enforcement Heroes Act of 2017. This bill not only provides employment for our veterans, who have provided so much for our nation, but also makes our cities safer places to live.

TRIBUTE TO DUKE PRESIDENT  
RICHARD BRODHEAD

**HON. DAVID E. PRICE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the career of Duke University President Richard Brodhead, who is stepping down after 13 years of service.

Dick Brodhead succeeded Nan Keohane in 2004 as the 9th president of Duke University, attracted by what another president, former Governor Terry Sanford, defined as the university's "outrageous ambition." President Brodhead has led the university on a new trajectory of growth and international renown. In one of his first major actions as president, he led an effort to greatly expand the endowment for financial aid, which has allowed academically talented students to pursue a Duke degree regardless of their financial circumstances. President Brodhead's time at Duke has been transformative, from the renewal of campus gems such as Duke Chapel, Baldwin Auditorium, West Union, and athletic facilities to the construction of a series of stunning new research facilities.

Dick Brodhead also embraced and amplified one of Duke's enduring themes: knowledge in the service of society. He launched DukeEngage, a civic engagement program that provides undergraduates the opportunity to apply their knowledge to challenges in communities in the U.S. and around the globe. Under his leadership, Duke established the Duke Global Health Institute, which translates research to address health inequities around the world.

Further expanding Duke's global reach were the creation of Duke Kunshan University in China and the construction of the Duke-NUS Medical School in Singapore. Closer to home, he enriched Duke's relationship with the City of Durham by investing in K-12 education, community health clinics, and neighborhood revitalization and helping spark the renaissance of downtown Durham.

President Brodhead had the opportunity to help Duke celebrate ten NCAA national championships won by men's basketball and lacrosse and women's golf and tennis teams, while a host of Duke student-athletes were victorious as individual national champions and Olympic medalists. At the same time, Duke ensured that athletics upheld the academic mission of the university.

An expert in 19th-century American literature, President Brodhead came to Duke after a distinguished teaching and administrative career at Yale University. He has authored or edited more than a dozen books on America's great writers, including analysis of the works of Hawthorne, Faulkner, and Welty.

President Brodhead has also assumed a national leadership role in higher education. Elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2004, he was named the Co-Chair of the Academy's Commission on the Humanities and Social Sciences, created at the request of a bipartisan group of House and Senate members, including myself, to bolster teaching and research in the humanities and social sciences. The Commission's 2013 report, *The Heart of the Matter: The Humanities and Social Sciences for a Vibrant, Competitive, and Secure Nation*, stands out for the

persuasiveness of its argument and its practical import. Dick Brodhead was a hands-on co-chairman and has played an active role in the report's dissemination.

Cindy Brodhead has been of indispensable support to Dick throughout his tenure. Cindy has a background in corporate and regulatory law and has made significant contributions to the arts and humanities across our state. She has served on the boards of the Carolina Ballet and Preservation North Carolina and has rendered outstanding service as chair of the North Carolina Humanities Council.

My wife Lisa joins me in thanking Dick and Cindy Brodhead for their friendship and for all they have given to Duke, Durham, and North Carolina. We are fortunate indeed that they have devoted their great energy and talent to our community, and we wish them well as they open the next chapter in their lives.

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IN MEMORY OF FURMAN  
RAYMOND YOUNGNER

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on February 16, 2017, South Carolina lost a dedicated public servant with the death of Furman Youngner. As the Mayor of Irmo for 16 years, he was a crucial part of the modernization and transformation of the town from a sleepy village to one of America's fastest growing communities. He was also a committed Christian, dedicated family man, and U.S. Army veteran. He will be greatly missed.

The following thoughtful obituary was published in The State on February 18, 2017:

Furman Raymond Youngner passed peacefully into eternal life Thursday, February 16, 2017. Born November 14, 1923, in Irmo, SC, he was the son of the late Raymond Samuel Youngner and Gertrude Petty Youngner of Irmo. He was predeceased by his wife of 62 years, Louise O'Sheal Youngner.

A lifelong resident of Irmo, Mr. Youngner was educated in the Irmo schools and graduated from Irmo High in 1941. After graduation, he began working in the Accounting Department with the Columbia, Newberry, and Laurens (CN&L) Railroad and continued in this position until he was drafted into the U.S. Army at the age of 19. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II, from April 15, 1943 until he was honorably discharged December 14, 1945.

His years of service for his country began with basic training at Fort Jackson. He was sent to Washington, D.C. for a short while and in September 1943 he was sent to Camp Patrick Henry (Newport News, VA) where he boarded a Liberty ship. He traveled across the ocean for 17 days to begin his service in the European theatre of operations. He first landed in Casablanca and then traveled via train, in boxcars, across North Africa. He was sent to Italy to serve in the Allied Control Commission (Military Government for the Italy 2675th Regiment) under the command of General Mark Clark. Mr. Youngner was based in a number of Italian cities, but he was assigned to Rome for the majority of his time and while there, he attended classes at the University of Rome. He often recalled that while in Rome, he learned the good news of the wars end and that he would soon return home.

Following the end of World War II, he returned to Irmo, attended the University of

South Carolina, and continued his work in accounting for the CN&L Railroad (now, part of CSX Railroad). His job position was Assistant Secretary/Treasurer and he was responsible for the financial and managerial junctions in the Columbia office of the CN&L. He was employed by the CN&L Railroad for 42 years and retired in March 1983.

As a member of America's Greatest Generation, Mr. Youngner's experiences in World War II gave him many insights which he related to and envisioned for his hometown of Irmo. He acknowledged the positive aspects of the many places to which he had been assigned or visited and sought to incorporate those features that would promote civics, leadership, and progress in the community. In 1951, Furman Youngner was elected to the Irmo Town Council and he remained on the Council until 1961 when he was elected Mayor of Irmo. He served as Irmo's mayor for 16 years (1961-1977) and during his administration many changes and improvements occurred in the community. The Irmo area became well-known as an ideal place for families to live. Mr. Youngner cooperated with industry and real estate developers, envisioning a bright and productive future for Irmo.

Mr. Youngner was a lifelong member of the Irmo Pentecostal Holiness Church (now known as Irmo Family Worship Center). He accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior at age 9 and his faith and trust in God never wavered. He served multiple positions in the church including secretary-treasurer and Sunday School superintendent.

Furman Youngner will be forever remembered in the hearts of his friends and family. He leaves to cherish his memory, his five children and spouses: Miriam Y. and Donald E. Lovett, Caroline Y. and Frederick E. Sojourner, Ann Y. and Robert Gunning IV, Paul F. and Angela M. Youngner, Lucy Y. and Dr. R. Paul Austin. His ten beloved grandchildren are Furman D. Lovett (Emily), Maria L. Cole (Ryan), Caroline Ingram, Robert Gunning V. (Hannah), Laura Gunning Morgan (Tommy), Andrew Gunning, Anna Youngner, Robert Paul Austin III, Lewis Austin, Smith Austin. His four great-grandchildren are Charles Cole, Lily Cole, Molley Gunning, Sophie Gunning. His dearly loved sisters are Orine Youngner, Mildred Youngner, Blanche Youngner (deceased), Betty Youngner, and Vernelle Y. Jones (Rev. Sanford Jones).

The family appreciates the expressions of kindness bestowed upon Mr. Youngner throughout his life. He took pride in wearing his cap with the emblem, World War II Veteran, and individuals frequently greeted him with appreciation for his service to our country. He maintained and treasured his friendships with former coworkers, community members, church family, and his many devoted friends.

Visitation will be from 4 until 6:00 PM, Saturday, February 18, 2017, at Dunbar Funeral Home, Dutch Fork Chapel, Irmo. The funeral will be at 3:00 PM, Sunday, February 19, 2017 at Irmo Family Worship Center at 10501 Broad River Rd, Irmo, SC 29063 with burial immediately following in the church cemetery.

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TRIBUTE TO THE ALTOONA LIONS  
CLUB

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Altoona Lions Club as

they celebrate their 70th anniversary. The club was chartered on April 24th, 1947.

Some of the current members were children when their parents became charter members of the club, and for them, Lions has been a way of life. They remember when the sheriff, who was a member, would go out and "arrest" members who were not at a meeting, or an undertaker who would use his hearse to pick up absent members and make them ride in the back. While these jokes are now a thing of the past, what hasn't changed is the club's focus to help serve and better their community. The Altoona chapter makes it a priority to ensure there are plenty of opportunities for members to volunteer their time and skills.

For the past 53 years, the club has run a spin art booth at the Iowa State Fair, and their website features a lengthy page listing all of the services and activities they are involved with, including food banks, eye care, scouting, veterans memorials, local law enforcement and local parks. It is surely hard to determine just how many people have benefited from the big hearts of Lions Club members over the past 70 years, but Altoona is undoubtedly a better place because of it.

Mr. Speaker, the volunteer spirit is alive and well in groups like the Altoona Lions Club, and I am honored to represent their members in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating the Altoona Lions Club on 70 great years, and in wishing them continued growth and success in the years to come.

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HONORING MR. RABBI LEE T.  
BYCEL

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rabbi Lee T. Bycel upon his retirement after serving Congregation Beth Shalom (CBS) and the Napa community since 2012. In addition to being a well-liked and respected spiritual leader, Rabbi Bycel served as an Adjunct Professor of Jewish Studies and Social Justice at the University of San Francisco.

Rabbi Bycel graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with a BA in Philosophy, received his rabbinic ordination from the Hebrew Union College, and earned a doctorate from the Claremont School of Theology. Growing up in Southeast Los Angeles County, he learned the importance of diversity and inclusiveness. He was raised in a mostly Latino neighborhood, in one of just two Jewish families in the community. Rabbi Bycel has said, "I respect and care about all human beings on this earth," and has demonstrated this through his countless humanitarian efforts.

A leader in educational, cultural, and social justice, he has made several humanitarian trips to East Africa, including Darfur, Chad, South Sudan, Kenya, Haiti, Ethiopia, and Rwanda. In Rwanda, he visited refugee and internally displaced person camps, helped address poverty and disease, and spoke out against genocide. Rabbi Bycel is one of the coalition founders and 2017 Co-Chair of MLK Monday: A Day of Action and Compassion,

which is a community of over 80 nonprofit organizations, faith groups, government officials, and agencies, local businesses, and local service organizations who join together each year to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In 2014, Rabbi Bycel was appointed by President Obama to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Council. He has been recognized for his work with the Humanitarian Award of the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ).

Rabbi Bycel is also an educational leader, sharing with the Congregation Beth Shalom his fifteen years of experience as the Dean of the Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles. There he also served as the Senior Academic and Administrative Officer of the campus and director of the rabbinic school. He served as Assistant Professor of Leadership and Applied Theology and the Smither Visiting Professor of World Religions at the Claremont School of Theology.

Mr. Speaker, Rabbi Bycel is a humanist anchored in Jewish values. He is an exceptional community leader, humanitarian, and husband in our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today and extend our best wishes for an enjoyable retirement.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes Wednesday, May 17, 2017. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "Nay" on roll call votes 259, 260, 261, and "Yea" on roll call vote 262.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF PEGGY DIETRICK

### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Mrs. Peggy Dietrick, a beloved artist and entrepreneur from Laredo, Texas.

Mrs. Dietrick was born on July 24th, 1924, to parents Adolph and Flavia (Branch) Dietrick in Salem, Illinois. Over the course of her career, she traveled throughout the world to perform. Her career led her to Las Vegas, where she performed for several years before ultimately moving to Texas. After moving to Laredo in 1965, Dietrick established the Laredo Beauty College, which is still in operation today.

An actress, musician and singer, Dietrick was unquestionably an instrumental force in the local theater community. She was involved in productions with the Laredo Little Theater, where she starred in many plays, performed with the Laredo Philharmonic Orchestra and was a patron of the Laredo Theater Guild International. Her dedication to the arts serves as a model that all should strive to emulate.

Serving others was at the heart of all that Dietrick did throughout her life. Her commitment to improving the lives of others, such as through helping people to find employment opportunities after graduating from the beauty college, exemplifies her passion for serving others. In addition, her commitment to the arts highlights her firm belief in the value of education for the public. Without a doubt, her life clearly demonstrates what it means to be a charitable and caring person.

Peggy is survived by her husband, John of St. Louis, Missouri; nephew, Michael Rhoads of San Antonio, Texas; niece, Deborah Dietrick; great-nephews, Christopher Holm (Ashley), Andrew Holm (Anne), Scott Holm (Susan) and Chad Rhoads; as well as many great-great nieces, nephews, other family members and countless friends. Both her family and the community as a whole will remember Peggy for her unforgettable charm, utter kindness and commitment to service.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the life of Mrs. Peggy Dietrick.

#### HONORING CHARLES SELMON

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a public servant, Charles Selmon. Mr. Selmon has shown what can be done through tenacity, dedication and a desire to serve Warren County.

Mr. Selmon earned a Bachelor of Science in Social Work and a Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology from Mississippi College. He studied Economic Development at the University of Southern Mississippi. He furthered his studies in the Post Master's Degree program at Jackson State University. Mr. Selmon has received National Security Training from the U.S. Army War College located in Carlisle, PA.

Mr. Selmon has served as a Psychology Instructor at both Alcorn State University and Hinds Community College. Mr. Selmon was elected to the Warren County Board of Supervisors position in 1996. He was elected to a fifth term with the Warren County Board of Supervisors. While serving on the Board of Supervisors Mr. Selmon has served as President and Vice-President. He has also served as President of the Mississippi Association of Supervisors (MAS) and as President of the Mississippi Association of Supervisors Minority Caucus. Mr. Selmon was chosen to represent the State of Mississippi with the National Association of Counties regarding Human Services.

Mr. Selmon is a member of the Warren County Economic Development Committee, Back-To-School Committee (School Day Supplies), Warren County Community Development Committee (Senior Citizens Dinner), and serves on the Workforce Investment Board. He is the President of the Boys and Girls Club of Vicksburg which he established.

Mr. Selmon was appointed Superintendent of Sunday School and selected to the Deacon Board of Travelers Rest Baptist Church.

Mr. Selmon received the President Award for Distinguished Leadership in Government.

Mr. Selmon is the father of twin daughters, Alyshia and Tericka Selmon. He is married to Fredia Selmon.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Supervisor Charles Selmon for his services to Warren County.

#### TRIBUTE TO EVELYN AND TED PIKE

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Evelyn and Ted Pike of Des Moines, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on May 3rd, 2017.

Evelyn and Ted's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 65th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 65th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them nothing but continued happiness.

#### INTRODUCTION OF STOP DECEPTIVE ADVERTISING FOR WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE SERVICES

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to reintroduce the Stop Deceptive Advertising for Women's Healthcare Services Act to make sure that women receive honest information about family planning services.

Expecting mothers should never be misled about critical health information and services. Yet that is exactly what is happening today all across the country. Commonly called crisis pregnancy centers (CPCs), these centers often have an anti-choice agenda and deliberately misinform or mislead pregnant women seeking information about family planning services, including abortion. CPC's masquerade as sources of unbiased pregnancy counseling or even abortion providers, yet they often have no medical professionals on staff. CPC's use deceptive propaganda to dissuade women from considering comprehensive birth control options or legal abortion. These fake reproductive health clinics entice women with unintended pregnancies through their doors under the pretense of providing the full range of reproductive options and services. Instead, they pedal scientifically unfounded information claiming that abortion leads to adverse health outcomes or can affect chances of pregnancy in the future. CPCs should be held accountable if they deliberately mislead women who are seeking legitimate medical assistance and advice.



The Stop Deceptive Advertising for Women's Healthcare Services Act directs the Federal Trade Commission to promulgate rules under the Federal Trade Commission Act, declaring it an unfair or deceptive act for an entity, such as a crisis pregnancy center, to advertise as a provider of abortion services if the entity does not provide abortion services.

I thank my friend Rep. SUZANNE BONAMICI for leading this critical effort with me. During National Women's Health Week, I hope you will join us in cosponsoring this legislation that demands that crisis pregnancy centers, some of which receive federal funds, are prohibited from making false advertising claims that intimidate and harm women who are looking for help and honest medical advice.

IN RECOGNITION OF THERESE  
LEDoux

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Therese Ledoux on the occasion of her 100th birthday this month.

Born on May 5, 1917 to George Ethier and Albina Chevalier, Mrs. Ledoux attended boarding school in Canada before leaving to work for her father's insurance business in Woonsocket, Rhode Island. Starting in 1958 she became the Town of Acushnet's first kindergarten teacher at the St. Francis Xavier Elementary School—where she remained for more than 30 years as a beloved kindergarten teacher. To this day, Mrs. Ledoux continues to volunteer each week at the school, where she is considered a local celebrity and is held in the highest esteem by staff, students, and the Acushnet community alike.

Active both in mind and soul, Mrs. Ledoux's hobbies include doing puzzles and knitting. Her knitting projects include blankets for newly baptized children at the St. Francis Xavier Church in Acushnet. Additionally, she has made it a tradition to bake meat pies for New Year's Day—a practice she has passed onto to her daughters and grandchildren.

Over the more than seventy years she has lived in Acushnet, Mrs. Ledoux has been honored for her outstanding services by being awarded the Marian Medal by the Fall River Diocese and being named the Acushnet Woman of the Year by the Standard Times newspaper.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Therese Ledoux on this joyous occasion. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing her many more years of health and happiness surrounded by her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great grandchildren.

DISAPPEARED, JAILED, AND TORTURED IN CHINA: WIVES PETITION FOR THEIR HUSBANDS' FREEDOM

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, lawyer Xie Yang was tortured for the better

part of two years because he dared to represent China's poor and persecuted. The account of his detention is both harrowing and horrible.

Xie Yang was sleep deprived and kept in isolation. Squads of police punched and kicked him for hours at a time. He was forced to sit still for hours on a precarious stack of plastic chairs; his feet dangling painfully off the ground. Police made threats to his wife and children and said they would turn him into an "invalid" unless he confessed to political crimes.

Xie Yang and his fellow human rights lawyers wanted the best for China, but they got the very worst.

Since July 2015, almost 250 lawyers and legal assistants were detained sending a chilling message to those fighting for legal reforms and human rights.

At yesterday's hearing in the human rights subcommittee that I chair, we came together to shine a light on the brutal, illegal, and dehumanizing use of torture and forced disappearance of human rights lawyers and rights advocates in China.

We shine a light on dictatorships because nothing good happens in the dark. And, as we learned yesterday, there are some very dark places in China.

Chinese officials repeatedly tell me I should focus more on the positive aspects of China and not dwell so much on the negative.

That is a difficult task when you read Xie Yang's story, read Gao Zhisheng's account of his torture, or read the accounts of Yu Jie or Golog Jigme or Yin Liping.

It is a difficult task when you look at Li Chunfu and his brother Li Heping.

These are some of China's best and bravest—now with broken bodies, shattered minds and faces that have aged 20 years after two years of solitary confinement and torture.

It is shocking, offensive, immoral, and inhumane. It is also completely possible that Chinese officials believe the international community will not hold them accountable.

While President Xi Jinping is feted at Davos and lauded in foreign capitals for his public commitment to openness, his government is torturing and abusing those seeking rights guaranteed by China's own Constitution and its international obligations.

One Oxford university scholar has said that Xi has built the "perfect dictatorship"—an increasingly repressive garrison state that avoids any international censure.

Through the UN and the sanctions available in the Global Magnitsky Act, we should be seeking to hold accountable any Chinese officials complicit in torture and illegal detentions.

Xie Yang identified at least 10 police officers who tortured him. We are in the process of gathering names and identifying information. I will then send those names to President Trump, Secretary of State Tillerson, UN Ambassador Nikki Haley, and the Chairs and ranking members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

We will seek UN investigations into the torture of China's human rights lawyers and human rights defenders because their treatment in detention violates China's obligations as signatory of the UN Torture Convention.

We will also seek investigations under the Global Magnitsky Act. I introduced the House version of that bill, which was signed into law last year.

That law says explicitly that any foreign government officials who engages in or is complicit in torture can be sanctioned—by denying entry visas into the United State or by imposing financial sanctions.

Those who tortured Xie Yang and Li Heping should never benefit from access to the United States or our financial system.

We will hear testimony yesterday from the wives of detained human rights lawyers. We also heard from Ms. Li Ching-Yu, the wife of detained Taiwanese democracy advocate Lee Ming-che.

After entering mainland China in March of this year for a personal trip, Mr. Lee went missing for 10 days before Chinese officials confirmed that he was being held on so-called "national security" grounds.

Many fear Mr. Lee is being detained under a harsh new Chinese law to monitor and control foreignfunded NGOs, enforced earlier this year as part of a crackdown on civil society. His detention fits the trend of the Chinese government targeting activists, dissidents, or even scholars based abroad.

The Taiwan government is working behind the scenes to resolve Lee Ming-che's case, though I am sure such efforts are hindered by Taiwan's lack of international clout and its complicated diplomatic ties with Beijing.

As I have said before, Taiwan is an important democratic ally and a beacon of peace and democracy in Asia. The U.S. should remain committed to the Taiwan Relations Act and the "Six Assurances" as cornerstones of U.S.-Taiwan relations.

Political issues between China and Taiwan should be resolved through appropriate mechanisms between the two sides. The Chinese government decision to detain Lee Ming-che signaled Chinese officials' willingness to break its international human rights obligations for political gains, needlessly straining cross-strait relations.

We welcomed Ms. Li Ching-Yu's testimony yesterday in order to increase the level of international interest and attention to her husband's case.

The Chinese government is facing a new and unexpected phenomenon—effective advocacy campaigns waged by the wives of tortured and detained rights advocates. I truly admire the brave women who are challenging the Chinese government to live up to its highest ideals. They are an inspiration.

Through the testimony provided during yesterday's hearing, we considered the almost two year effort by President Xi Jinping's government to eviscerate China's network of human rights lawyers and consider how the continued detention of Lee Ming-che has negatively impacted cross-strait relations between Beijing and Taipei.

HONORING ASHLEY WILSON

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable young lady, Ms. Ashley Wilson of Crystal Springs, Mississippi. Ashley is a proud native of Crystal Springs, MS. She is a recent graduate of Jackson State University, where she obtained



a Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Administration.

Ashley is a Senior Intern who serves as the Financial/Events Planning Specialist at One Voice. She has been with the organization since 2011 and is set to serve as the Chair for the organization's 10th Year Anniversary Celebration.

Making a difference in her home town, Ashley has served as an advocate for her community, where she has served as an Advisory Member to the Crystal Springs Mayoral Council and a member of the Citizens Making a Difference (CMADCS), an organization that acts as a voice for the people's concerns for the city of Crystal Springs.

Furthermore, Ashley has also served on many other committees across the state, such as the 50th Anniversary Commemoration Committee, Mississippi Meeting of the Minds Planning Committee and many other various committees where she has played a vital role in being a voice for change not only in her community, but across the state of Mississippi.

Ashley is currently an active member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). As a healthcare advocate for the Mississippi State Conference NAACP, she has worked with several healthcare related projects. The projects that have touched her heart the most include the NAACP's Childhood Obesity Project and the national GET HYPE Initiative, which focuses on healthy eating for today's youth.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Ashley Wilson for her dedication to serving throughout her community and throughout organizations around Mississippi.

#### TRIBUTE TO MILDRED HARMON

#### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mildred Harmon of Windsor Heights, Iowa, on the special occasion of celebrating her 105th birthday on May 4th, 2017.

It was 1912 when Mildred entered this world on a farm near St. Charles, Iowa. It was a world much different than ours today. In an October 2013 interview with Iowa Living Magazine, Mildred recounted how she started school at the age of four at a country school, walking 1.25 miles round trip each day. That gave her more than enough exercise for her lifetime, she said. She graduated from high school, and then beauty school and became a hairstylist. She married Paris Harmon on December 20, 1936, starting a family that would go on to include three daughters, 10 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. Mildred's husband passed away in 2006, however she continues to be that strong and loving influence that her family relies on. Iowa Living Magazine discovered that her key to a long and happy life was humor, which she said was "the only way to get through life."

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent Mildred in the United States Congress and I'm proud to recognize her today on this momentous occasion. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join

me in congratulating her and in wishing her nothing but continued happiness.

#### STRENGTHENING STATE AND LOCAL CYBER CRIME FIGHTING ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 16, 2017*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1616, or the Strengthening State and Local Cyber Crime Fighting Act of 2017. This piece of legislation will help our local and state agencies protect against the rising threat of cybercrime.

The Strengthening State and Local Cyber Crime Fighting Act of 2017 will provide more protection for our citizens by sharing the expertise and knowledge of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) with local and state agencies so that they have the ability to stop these threats at a local level. Law enforcement officials in states, tribes, and territories will be provided with additional training to identify potential issues.

Cybercrime is a growing threat to American security. Hackers have become notorious lately, stealing a plethora of information including credit cards numbers, security codes, bank numbers, and other personal information that can compromise the security of an individual. Further protections and training in cyber security also protect local municipalities and state government intranets and cyber services which are also at risk of compromise.

In DHS, there is an organization known as the National Computer Forensics Institute that is under the oversight of the United States Secret Service. The Institute oversees the fight against cyber threats on a national level. Under H.R. 1616, the members of the Institute will be able to provide high quality training to lower echelon departments at state and local levels, to assist them in the battle against cybercrime. On top of the training, the Institute will provide new, advanced technology to these agencies to even further their ability to combat cybercrime.

As technology has progressed, hackers have found new ways to dishonestly make a living. We are at the precipice of a new age of technological advances that come with more sinister implications. With new technology, new threats have materialized that can have major impacts on all of our lives. Hackers can steal personal files, ruin our reputations, and destroy our financial stability. They can slow or destabilize our local governments, making our lives harder.

This bill helps to put the United States at an advantage against hackers. We will now be able to more effectively combat these criminals.

HONORING METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 52ND ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 52nd Anniversary of Metropolitan Baptist Church located in my Congressional district in the City of Rocky Mount, North Carolina. This Church has been a beacon of light in the community for more than half a century and has positively impacted generations of families in eastern North Carolina.

Metropolitan Baptist Church was founded on May 4, 1965, by a group of devout Christians eager to proclaim the goodness of the Lord. The Church's first worship service was held just five days later on May 9, 1965 in the auditorium of the Lincoln School. Reverend Benjamin Daniels, a Shaw University ministerial student, was the first to preach at Metropolitan. Despite these humble beginnings, the congregation remained faithful and steadfast and would go on to grow by leaps and bounds.

On July 23, 1967, Metropolitan Baptist Church held a groundbreaking ceremony to commemorate construction of a sanctuary at 1213 Leggett Road, where it still stands today. Reverend John W. Fleming presided over the first worship service in the new edifice on July 14, 1968.

Under the leadership of Reverend Dr. J. E. Arnette, Metropolitan Baptist Church continued to grow both physically and spiritually. Dr. Arnette oversaw the establishment of Boy and Girl Scout Troops, a Young Adult Sunday School Class, and provided food for needy families. These good deeds led to Metropolitan Baptist Church to be ranked 12th out of more than 1,700 Baptist Churches in North Carolina by the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Reverend Raymond L. Privott succeeded Dr. Arnette and continued the tradition of providing outreach services that enhanced the growth and development of children. This included providing tutoring in community schools and providing preliminary SAT studies that greatly benefited young people in the Rocky Mount area.

Reverend Norman T. Davis served as interim pastor for two and a half years and continued Metropolitan Baptist Church's commitment to both God and the community. He was followed by Pastor Richard Allen Gerald, who has served as Senior Pastor of Metropolitan since 2004 and has been the spiritual leader to many families and individuals. His strong faith in God and preparedness for the ministry, has earned him a stellar reputation among Christian believers throughout our great state.

Mr. Speaker, by the grace of God, Metropolitan Baptist Church has been blessed for 52 long years as it has witnessed for Christ each and every day. The Church's faithfulness and scripture-based ministry will ensure that Metropolitan continues to thrive for years to come.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the people of the First

Congressional District of North Carolina, I extend to the Pastor and Members of Metropolitan Baptist Church my best wishes on this auspicious occasion.

CONGRATULATING JOHN T. LEWIS  
ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor John T. Lewis, the Director of Logistics and Support for the Chief Administrative Officer of the U.S. House of Representatives, on his upcoming retirement on June 2, 2017.

Beginning on June 1, 1978, John spent his entire thirty-nine year career with the U.S. House of Representatives and for over twenty years worked as an upholsterer. Starting as a laborer in the Clerk's office, John moved up the ranks to become a master upholsterer. One of his major accomplishments was learning how to upholster the special type of Turkish chairs used by Members of Congress. Many of these historic chairs remain in use by Members to this day.

John was then asked to take on a managerial role, serving as the Supervisor of Workflow Management, which involved developing purchasing spreadsheets and building asset tracking systems. However, after a couple of years in that position, John returned to the trade he loved in serving as the manager of the Textiles Department. In that role, John supervised the day-to-day operations of several shops, including upholstery, cabinet, finishing, drapery, and carpets.

Throughout his career, John oversaw several important projects including the redressing of the Lincoln catafalque, the replacement of the House Floor carpet, the re-upholstery of every seat on the House Floor and in the Gallery, the complete refinishing of the House Floor dais, the construction of the lecterns and stenographers' desk, and the total refurbishment of the Speaker's chair. John led or assisted in twenty Congressional transitions and ten Presidential inaugurations. Among his most significant contributions was nurturing the furnishings team and coaching its members to be some of the most talented craftsmen on Capitol Hill.

In his retirement, I hope John will enjoy time spent with his wife of thirty-seven years, Lisa, and his two daughters, Joanna Emily Caputi and Lauren Elisabeth Lewis, his parents, Bill and Anne Lewis, and other members of his extended family. On behalf of the entire House, I extend my congratulations and thanks to John T. Lewis for his many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to this institution. I wish him many wonderful years ahead.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVID  
DiCHIERA FOR HIS LIFETIME OF  
ADVOCACY AND WORK WITH THE  
ARTS

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David DiChiera for his outstanding legacy. As founder and artistic director of the Michigan Opera Theatre, Mr. DiChiera has built a culture of artistic excellence in Michigan.

After earning a doctorate in musicology from UCLA, Mr. DiChiera joined the faculty of Oakland University in Michigan in 1962, where he was eventually elected chairman of the school's Department of Music. During his time, he also oversaw the Detroit Grand Opera Association's education initiative known as the Overture to Opera. Under the leadership of Mr. DiChiera, Overture to Opera began performing full-length productions in 1970 and was officially reestablished as the Michigan Opera Theatre in 1971. The Michigan Opera Theatre has grown to become an internationally recognized institution that has brought world-class performances to Michigan while inspiring a new generation of artists and musicians. Mr. DiChiera had the vision to push for the restoration of the Detroit Opera House in 1996, and this effort played a critical role in revitalizing downtown Detroit. The Theatre has hosted renowned musicians like Luciano Pavarotti, as well as performances by the American Ballet Theater and other notable groups.

Mr. DiChiera's lifetime of artistic advocacy and passion for theatre has been critical to the growth and development of the arts in southeast Michigan. His love of the arts has taught and inspired generations to appreciate the importance of the arts to a community. He also galvanized so many to experience the opera and engage with the arts for their entire lives. Throughout his career, Mr. DiChiera has received numerous accolades for his work, including the National Endowment for the Arts' Opera Honors award, as well as recognition by the governments of France and Italy. In addition to this outstanding record of achievement, Mr. DiChiera is well known in the Detroit community for his kindness and generosity. He has been a true champion for Michigan, and his energy and dedication to our state and the arts will be missed as he retires from his current position with the Michigan Opera Theatre.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring David DiChiera for his lifetime of work with the arts. Mr. DiChiera's work with the Michigan Opera Theatre has inspired generations of performers and helped the city understand the importance of arts in the community.

HONORING GUSTAVO BRAMBILA

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gustavo Brambila, who

owns and operates Gustavo Wine. Passion, skill, and dedication to his craft led Gustavo to the successes he sees today.

Born in Jalisco, Mexico, Gustavo immigrated to the United States with his mother and brothers to join his father in Oakville, California in 1957. The family moved to Rutherford, California in 1960, where Gustavo's father José worked in winery maintenance. Surrounded by the culture and devotion of famous winemakers from an early age, Gustavo grew up with a keen interest in winemaking. He attended the University of Oregon on a baseball scholarship, but his heart remained in wine country. He transferred to the University of California Davis, where he was one of the first Latinos to obtain a degree in Fermentation Sciences.

In 1976, Gustavo joined Mike Grgich and Jim Barrett at Chateau Montelena to begin his career. Soon after, he joined Grgich Hills Cellar, where, in his first harvest, he produced the winning Chardonnay in the Great Chardonnay Showdown of 1980. Gustavo continued with Grgich Hills Cellar for 23 years, honing his craft and working to define wine excellence.

Gustavo started his own wine enterprise, Gustavo Wines in 1996. Today he makes Napa Valley wines inspired by old-world winemaking techniques, with a dedication to small vineyards and quality fruit. He believes each wine should take you back "to a memory of each vintage".

Gustavo traveled to Washington, D.C. this week as part of a group of Mexican-American vintners to support the mission of the Smithsonian Institution. They shared their amazing stories of immigration, sacrifice and determination and helped the attendees understand the vital contributions Mexican Americans make to our economy and community.

Mr. Speaker, Gustavo Brambila has built a successful business and is producing extraordinary wines. I am proud to have such a dedicated business owner living and working in our community. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT PAUL  
VANCE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS  
RETIREMENT

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with respect and admiration that I rise today to join all of those gathered in extending my sincere thanks and appreciation to Lieutenant Paul Vance as he celebrates his retirement after forty-three years of dedicated service to the Connecticut State Police force. His retirement marks the end of a distinguished career in law enforcement and the Connecticut State Police will simply not be the same without him.

Lieutenant Vance entered the Connecticut State Police Training Academy as a member of the 85th Training Troop in July of 1974. Following his graduation later that year, he embarked on a career that earned him a respected reputation amongst colleagues and civilians alike. Serving in a variety of posts, including Troop L in Litchfield and as a Resident State Trooper in Prospect, Lieutenant Vance rose through the ranks and is perhaps best

known for his leadership as a member of the Connecticut State Police force's Public Information Office.

In a position he held for nearly one third of his career, Lieutenant Vance became, for many in Connecticut, the public face of our State Police. As a Public Information Officer, it was he who so often brought a sense of calm and order to very difficult circumstances. That composure was put to the ultimate test as he guided a grieving state and stunned nation through the aftermath of tragedy at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in December of 2012.

I hold a deep respect for the men and women who dedicate their professional careers to law enforcement—facing situations and circumstances that few of us can even imagine. Lieutenant Vance is a reflection of the very best of our law enforcement community. Over the course of his career, his commitment and leadership has made all the difference and we owe him a debt of gratitude that can never fully be paid. Lieutenant—though it does not seem enough, thank you for all of your good work on our behalf. You leave a legacy of service that will most certainly serve as an inspiration to others for years to come.

Lieutenant Paul Vance has led a remarkable career, leaving an indelible mark on the Connecticut State Police force as well as the State of Connecticut. Today, it is my great privilege to stand and join his wife, Meg, their three children and six grandchildren, as well as family, friends, and colleagues in wishing him the very best for many more years of health and happiness in this next chapter of his life.

#### RECOGNIZING E COMPANY, 141ST INFANTRY REGIMENT

#### HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to recognize E Company, 141st Infantry Regiment, which served with valor and distinction during World War II.

In 1940, E Company, along with the entire 141st Infantry Regiment was federalized and assigned to the 36th Infantry Division. E Company was distinct in its heritage and was composed almost entirely of Mexican-American soldiers. A vast majority of E Company's soldiers hailed from El Paso.

The 141st Infantry Regiment shipped off to North Africa in April 1943. The regiment was one of the units in the amphibious invasion of Italy at Salerno, and they suffered heavy casualties. As the 141st fought its way through Italy, the regiment, as well as E Company, fought with distinction. The 141st reinforced units at Anzio, helped tip the scales to rout the Germans, and entered Rome in June 1944. This culminated 137 days of combat during which the 141st Infantry Regiment suffered over 3,000 casualties. The Germans called the 141st "wild men from Texas, skilled in fieldcraft and fighting."

The regiment then participated in a third amphibious landing, its second combat assault against a fortified beachhead, and entered Southern France. The 141st continued to fight through Central Europe. E Company partici-

pated with the regiment in all its major campaigns and battles. The unit deactivated in December 1945 after the war. The regiment had suffered 1,126 killed, more than 5,000 wounded, and over 500 missing in action. Its soldiers were awarded an astonishing three Medals of Honor, 31 Distinguished Service Crosses, 492 Silver Stars, and 1,685 Bronze Stars.

The valor and bravery of the soldiers of E Company, 141st Infantry Regiment must not be forgotten. As America prepares to reflect on the sacrifices made by our service members this Memorial Day, I ask that we take a moment to remember the soldiers of E Company. They represented the best of El Paso, Texas, and the nation as our brave service members valiantly fought the forces of tyranny. I am honored to represent the men and women of El Paso who carry on the legacy of E Company as they continue to stand against injustice and pursue the American dream.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARTHA AND JACK BLACKFORD

#### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Martha and Jack Blackford of Des Moines, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on April 16th, 2017.

Martha and Jack's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them nothing but the best in the years to come.

#### SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTY JEFFERY DEAN ASSISTS ROBBERY VICTIM

#### HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding public service of San Bernardino County Sheriff's Deputy Jeffery Dean, who is assigned to the department's Victorville City Station. For the past three years, Deputy Dean has served as a patrol deputy, traffic division deputy, and is also a certified Major Accident Investigation Team (MAIT) deputy.

On May 14, 2017, Deputy Dean was on patrol in Victorville, California when he made contact with a young man from the State of Washington who was working in the area as a magazine salesman. Deputy Dean noticed injuries to the man's face and was told that they were the result of a robbery in which the victim's wallet and cell phone were stolen.

Realizing the man's dire situation, Deputy Dean took it upon himself to pay for the man to stay in a hotel room, and he purchased a bus ticket so the victim could return to his family in Washington.

Every day, men and women in the law enforcement profession work tirelessly to make a difference in our communities. However, often times, their work goes unnoticed in the media and press. I would like to take a moment to highlight the great work of Deputy Dean and the entire San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department for their commitment to public service.

#### HONORING CONSTANCE BLAND

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Constance Bland, who is an Educator, a Leader and Public Servant.

Constance G. Bland, Ph.D. was appointed Vice President of Academic Affairs (VPAA) at Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) in the spring of 2014. As VPAA, she is responsible for leadership, educational policy, academic programs, budgeting and resource allocation; supervision of staff development programs, federal grant program administration; monitoring of personnel actions and transactions, and participation in academic personnel policy development and negotiation. She is also responsible for relationships with the wider educational and occupational community, particularly the public schools, as well as additional responsibilities as assigned by the President.

Before becoming VPAA, Dr. Bland was Professor and Chair of the Department of Mathematics, Computer and Information Sciences. She developed computer science educational curriculum related to database management systems, software engineering and introduction to computer science. In an effort to impact retention of computer science majors, she was involved in a project to determine the impact of introducing the concepts of object oriented programming for first year computer science students using a visual animation tool known as Alice.

Dr. Bland also acquired significant external funding for the department from sources including the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Eisenhower (state of Mississippi), SUN Microsystems and mini-grants from Jackson State University. Her last external funds secured for the department included an S-STEM scholarship grant and an HBCU-UP implementation grant. A major focus of the scholarship grants secured by Dr. Bland involved initiatives to increase the number of computer science and mathematics majors at MVSU. Funds secured were used to institute tutorial services, provide student development activities and support debt reduction through scholarships to decrease external employment of students seeking degrees. The goal of the latest HBCU-UP grant is to encourage STEM graduates to pursue graduate education.

Dr. Bland has devoted 23 years of service to MVSU, and has demonstrated her passion

and commitment to the University, faculty, staff and students. Her involvement has been extensive, yet she finds time and energy to serve, work and lead, shouldering countless burdens with good humor and grace. She is a tower of strength and a strong force for progressive efficient public service. She always shows patience and tolerance, qualities of an experienced and committed leader. Dr. Bland is a visionary leader who inspires staff, students and the community. She is responsible for developing MVSU's first Women in Science and Technology Conference (WIST) designed to encourage young girls in grades 7th through 12th to consider majoring in STEM disciplines. The conference will celebrate its 20th anniversary in Spring 2016 and can boast of numerous female students who have gone on to become practicing women in science and technology.

Dr. Bland holds an Associate's degree in Mathematics from Coahoma Junior College, a Bachelor of Arts in mathematics, Bachelor of Science in computer science, Master of Science degree in computer science and a Doctoral degree in computer engineering from the University of Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Constance Bland, an Educator, a leader and Public Servant for her dedication to serving others and giving back to the African American community.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF  
THE WASHINGTON SPY TRAIL ON  
LONG ISLAND AND THE SERVICE  
OF THE CULPER SPY RING IN  
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

**HON. LEE M. ZELDIN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today alongside my colleague Mr. SUOZZI to recognize the dedication of Route 25A on Long Island's North Shore as the Washington Spy Trail and to pay special tribute to the brave men and women of the Culper Spy Ring, considered the first organized espionage ring in the United States. We thank these dedicated patriots for their loyalty and bravery. During the American Revolution, Long Island's North Country Road (now State Route 25A) was the road traveled by George Washington in 1790 to thank patriots for helping him win the American Revolution. It is also the road that Culper Spy Austin Roe traveled to cross enemy lines to pick up and deliver secret messages to other brave men and women serving in the Continental Army's military intelligence and espionage units in New York City. Today, a special dedication ceremony will take place at the Brewster House (built in 1665) in Setauket, NY, where three historical markers will be unveiled across this route to commemorate the unsung sacrifice of the Culper Spy Ring and the critical role they played in our nation's struggle for independence.

The Culper Ring, also known as the Setauket Spy Ring, was a group of operatives whose purpose was to make General George Washington aware of the movements of the British in New York City and on Long Island. The Long Island Culper Spy Ring was a band of dedicated and brave patriots who served

valiantly at a time when getting caught as a spy could mean certain death by hanging or rotting to death on a British prison ship. The Culper Spy Ring's strategic location on Long Island's North Shore, situated between patriot New England and British occupied New York City, had a tremendous impact on the outcome of the war. The ring was of great military importance and contributed to many of the decisive victories of the Continental Army, including those at Trenton, Saratoga, and Yorktown. The critical intelligence gathered by the Culper Spies also uncovered the betrayal of Benedict Arnold and his treasonous plan to surrender West Point to the British. The brave work of the Culper Spies was also critical in thwarting a planned British assault on newly arrived French allied forces that landed at Rhode Island in 1780 to help turn the tide of the war.

Mr. Speaker, many of these brave men and women, through the nature of their clandestine service to the American Revolution, never had their names recorded in history. For the names that we do know, I ask my colleagues to honor their bravery and service, and I include their names in the RECORD.

Benjamin Tallmadge: (Code Name: John Bolton.) He reported directly to General George Washington, and was his director of military intelligence. He created the patriot spy ring operating out of New York City and headed the Culper Ring out of the village of Setauket on Long Island.

Robert Townsend: The Chief informant of the Culper Spy Ring and Benjamin Tallmadge's right hand man. He posed as a Tory merchant and befriended many British soldiers in New York City to gather intelligence. Because of his society connections, he was widely known in British circles. He was a resident of Oyster Bay, NY.

Austin Roe: He served as the messenger for Robert Townsend. He owned a store and tavern in Setauket and rode fifty-five miles back and forth to New York City several times per week through British held areas to deliver and pick up coded messages written in invisible ink.

Abraham Woodhull: (Code Name: Samuel Culper Sr.) He was an intricate part of the circuitous way the ring shared critical intelligence. Woodhull's farm in Setauket was his base of operation and it was there that he allowed Austin Roe to pasture his cows so they had a place to hide messages in a secret box.

Caleb Brewster: As a member of the ring, he was the intermediary between Abraham Woodhull's farm in Setauket and Major Tallmadge's headquarters in Connecticut. Brewster was a seafarer from Setauket and used his whaleboats to cross the Long Island Sound to Connecticut. He was also responsible for capturing many British supply ships that were carrying messages.

Anna Smith Strong: Setauket native Anna Smith Strong's assignment in the Culper Ring was to signal Brewster's arrival to Abraham Woodhull. She did this by hanging laundry on her clothesline in pre-arranged configurations, a system that fooled everyone by the wisdom of its simplicity. If she hung up a black petticoat, it meant that Brewster was in town to share critical intelligence.

These brave patriots will be recognized today, May 18, 2017, at the dedication of the Washington Spy Trail. Mr. Speaker, we should be extremely grateful as both a people and a nation to each and everyone of these individ-

uals. To honor their memory, we must continue to uphold the values of the American Revolution that these brave men and women were willing to give up their lives and freedom for: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

INFRASTRUCTURE WEEK

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in celebration of National Infrastructure Week.

Here in Washington, meetings have brought together planners and civil engineers, builders and innovators, labor unions and developers—all dedicated to modernizing our American infrastructure. And it does need modernizing.

In my home state of Rhode Island, for example, one in four bridges is deficient, the worst rate in the country. They are battered by storms and suffering from aging concrete and steel. Families and businesses alike suffer from this infrastructure debt.

That's why this week I introduced the "SAFE Bridges Act," which will provide a renewed focus on the safety of bridges across the country. It will create a discrete new way to prioritize those bridges most in need.

Mr. Speaker, it is "Time to Build." We need to invest in bread-and-butter projects, highways and transit that Americans depend on every day.

IN HONOR OF REDWOOD CITY'S  
SESQUICENTENNIAL

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 150th birthday of one of the most beautiful and vibrant cities in my Congressional District: Redwood City.

Long before Redwood City was incorporated, the area was inhabited by the Ohlone who lived by hunting, fishing and gathering. The Ohlone had a rich culture and thrived on both sides of the mountain range that divides San Mateo County. Their villages dotted the countryside and the residents traded regularly with nearby tribes.

Spanish and Mexican explorers and settlers came later, and with them came rapid and substantial change. After the Mexican-American War, Spanish and Mexican land grants were challenged. Such was the case for Dona Arguello, who hired Simon Mezes to defend her land title. His payment was the land that now includes most of downtown Redwood City. Rather than fighting the squatters, he laid out the town and sold lots to them, naming his town Mezesville.

Access to San Francisco Bay made Redwood City an ideal location for a port. The port and the railway revolutionized shipping and travel in the 1800s. Industries continued to develop from oyster farming and canning to cement and salt production, to nurseries and small manufacturing plants.

Redwood City was incorporated in 1867 with the purpose of raising funds to pave

downtown streets. The city has always been home to a diverse population. Joining the large Latino population, German immigrants started breweries and a tannery, the Chinese helped build the railroads and were engaged in shrimp fishing, and the Japanese brought the floral industry. In 1926, the Chamber of Commerce proclaimed Redwood City the "Chrysanthemum Capital of the World." The floral industry thrived until one of the darkest chapters of U.S. history, the internment of Japanese Americans during WWII.

Redwood City experienced several population and housing booms. The 1906 San Francisco earthquake displaced thousands who built new neighborhoods on the Peninsula. By 1920, many Redwood City residents were commuting to jobs outside the city. In the 1930s the population doubled. By 1937, a municipal marina and an international port with a widened channel were ready to ship cargo.

The largest population increase took place after World War II when Redwood City grew from 12,400 in 1940 to 46,300 in 1960. Today, there are 82,000 residents.

No one can mention Redwood City without celebrating its schools and the families that thrive through the district's services. Two great public high schools and multiple public elementary and middle schools, as well as several charter schools, offer the American dream of a quality, free public education to all. The city also incorporates several quality private schools.

Redwood City has amazing parks and is dotted with redwood trees. Beautiful hillsides in a nearby county park are covered with a plethora of wildflowers and are home to majestic mountain lions. The city itself is home to the San Mateo County History Museum. The city is also the county seat of San Mateo where I started my political career and have watched history unfold. Courthouse Square anchors a revitalized city core that includes a wonderful theater, restaurants and bakeries.

Redwood City is family-focused and young, with nearly 25 percent of its residents being under age 18. It offers cultural and recreational events in Courthouse Square throughout the year, aided in part by the city's wonderful weather. In fact, the beautiful weather is famously memorialized by the city's motto "Climate Best by Government Test." There are celebrations of multiple national backgrounds, religions and cultures that are welcomed by city residents. Foreign-born residents are 32 percent of all residents. The people of Redwood City are proud that their city is a miniature United Nations, speaking to America through dozens of languages heard daily on its streets.

In the heart of Silicon Valley, the city is home to such global brands as Oracle, Box.com and Google. One of today's newer and smaller companies creates 3D printers that will save our armed forces tens of millions of dollars and strengthen our national defense, while another small company seeks to end the dangers of hospital infection and opioid addiction by transforming the delivery of pain medications.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the members of the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the sesquicentennial of Redwood City, a community that serves as a model for vibrancy and friendliness. It's a place where innovation soars because the celebration of the American spirit is ever-present. It is the real

frontier of America because tomorrow is emerging through the celebration of our shared past, present and future.

## HONORING HOMETOWN HEROES ACT

SPEECH OF

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 16, 2017*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1892, The Honoring Hometown Heroes Act. This bill will be crucial in giving the courageous first responders the recognition they deserve.

The Honoring Hometown Heroes Act, or H.R. 1892, will help give honor to those who have passed away while serving their communities. First responders are some of the most important people in the country. They put out the fires that threaten our homes. They keep our streets safe to live on. They bring people who are suffering from a medical issue to the hospital to provide them with the care that they need. They investigate the crimes that have been committed and bring the perpetrators to justice. These brave men and women are often volunteers, who merely want to help their communities.

These jobs are often dangerous. They involve fires, carbon monoxide, violence, and other hostile acts. Unfortunately, due to the dangerous nature of this work, not all of these men and women survive. They are killed serving their communities, making them better places to live. These men and women have given the ultimate sacrifice to their towns and cities. They deserve as much honor and respect that can be bestowed upon them and their families.

I have the utmost respect and admiration for these men and women and believe that this bill gives proper public respect to fallen first responders. Governors will now be able to declare the flag to be lowered to half-mast. This gives governors the ability to immediately honor the fallen first responders. These men and women deserve as much.

I believe that Congressman LARSON's bill is a necessity for the United States. It is regrettable that such legislation has not been passed before this time. I put my full support behind this effort to honor those who have fallen in the service of others. This bill is an example of true patriotism that all members of this chamber, Republicans, Democrats, and Independents, can get behind for the benefit of the fallen first responders, their families, and the American people. I therefore urge passage of H.R. 1892.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for roll call votes 263, 264, 265, and 266 on Thursday, May 18, 2017. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have

voted "Nay" on roll call votes 263, 264, and 265; I would have voted "Yea" on roll call vote 266.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN SOLDIER MARINE CORPORAL (CPL) WILLIAM JUSTIN LEE COOPER

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of fallen soldier Marine Corporal William Justin Lee Cooper who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation on May 19, 2008, during Operation Enduring Freedom. Cpl Cooper was killed in combat near Garmsir, Afghanistan.

Cpl Cooper was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. According to 40 Days of Honor, Cpl Cooper's skill as a marksman earned him a position on a sniper team. It was in fulfillment of his duties as a sniper that he was killed. During his military service, Cpl Cooper was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Iraq Campaign Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal and two Sea Service Deployment Ribbons.

After graduating from Europa High School in 2004, Cpl Cooper briefly attended Holmes Community College. It was Christmas Eve of 2004 when Cpl Cooper told his father he was joining the Marine Corps. His father told the Associated Press, "I remember telling him that he needed to have a lot of thought before doing this. He felt his country needed him at the time more than he needed school." He also said of his son, "He had more friends than anyone I know. He was daddy's hero; now he's everyone's hero."

Cpl Cooper's friend, Heather Burchfield, told the Associated Press, "Coop was that fun-loving, crazy guy everyone liked. He's the one you always wanted on your side because he is always going to take up for you. Even in high school, he had a soldier's heart. He was a very loyal friend."

Cpl Cooper is survived by his parents, Alan Cooper and Debra Cooper.

The sacrifice of this brave soldier will always be remembered.

IN CELEBRATION OF 100 YEARS OF CHEERWINE

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor North Carolina's favorite soft drink, Cheerwine, which is celebrating their 100th anniversary on May 20, 2017.

Handcrafted in Salisbury, North Carolina, Cheerwine was created by L.D. Peeler, who sought to create a soft drink of his own during sugar rationing amid World War I. L.D. Peeler purchased cherry flavoring from a traveling

salesman and experimented with the flavor until he created the one-of-a-kind soft drink. The end result is the delicious soft drink we know as Cheerwine.

Over the years, Cheerwine's unique flavor has stood the test of time—through the Great Depression, two World Wars and many other trials in our nation's history—Cheerwine has remained an independent family owned and operated business in North Carolina. Cheerwine was presented the "Pillar of the Community" award at the Family Business Awards for their excellence, innovation, ethics, philanthropy and contribution to the region and Cheerwine continues to invest in those communities that fostered its growth today. Presidents Dwight Eisenhower, George H.W. Bush, and Barack Obama all enjoyed Cheerwine during their trips to North Carolina and there is no doubt in my mind many more presidents will too.

L.D. Peeler and Cheerwine are deserving of their success and I wish them continued success as they continue to be a great source of pride for Rowan County and all of North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today to congratulate Cheerwine on a century of success and to recognize the tremendous contributions they've made to the State of North Carolina.

HONORING VERKILYA ELESZIA  
HOGAN

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable person, an unsung hero, Ms. Verkilya Eleshia Hogan.

Ms. Verkilya Eleshia Hogan was born on July 25, 1999 to her proud parents Vernon and Sheronda Jackson. She is an intelligent, obedient, and outgoing young lady. She is also very passionate and dedicated to every task that she takes on.

Ms. Hogan very actively participates in many organizations and programs. She has been a cheerleader since the fifth-grade and currently serves as Captain of the Holmes County Central High Varsity Cheer-Squad. She has remarkable leadership skills and continues to be a positive influence to those around her.

At an early age Ms. Hogan proudly experienced an amazing miracle of God which encouraged her to serve Him more daily. On May 18, 2016, she was involved in a detrimental UTV accident. A portion of her left forearm had to be amputated on May 24, 2016. As a teenager, this was disheartening because she didn't know how her future would be with her condition, but she knew God had already worked things out in her favor. She never lost faith through her circumstances, because she appreciated the simple fact that she could see and breathe each day. The Bible says, "From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another" John 1:16. This scripture, she believes, gives her good reason to give all glory and praises to God.

She will finish her senior year in high school with honors and attend the University of Southern Mississippi, majoring in Kinesiology and pursuing a career as a Physical Therapist. She is determined to go above and beyond to reach her goals and continue to walk in a positive direction.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Verkilya Eleshia Hogan, an

unsung hero, for her dedication to the community.

TRIBUTE TO JAY HOWE

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jay Howe for his many years of service to the American Legion and to his country. Jay was recently honored for being a 50-year member with the American Legion.

The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. The organization is committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in communities, advocating patriotism and honor and continued devotion to their fellow service members and veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Jay for his service to our country's veterans and his dedication to his community. It is an honor to represent him in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in commending Jay for his service and in wishing him nothing but continued success.