

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MOUNT VERNON OPTIC HERALD

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2014

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Mount Vernon Optic Herald, a valuable resource to the constituents of the 4th District of Texas that was recently and fittingly named a "Texas Treasure Business" by the Texas Historical Commission.

The Mount Vernon Optic Herald, which celebrates its 140th year in 2014, is the oldest continuously operating business in Mount Vernon. Not only does the Herald hold a distinguished history within the community, but it is a family business. Members of the Bass family have owned the newspaper for more than 60 years, when Jim and Tish Bass purchased the newspaper in 1952. Their daughter and son-in-law, Pat and Bob Wright, ran the business from 1980 until 2005 when Susan Reeves, granddaughter to the Basses, and her husband John took up the mantle.

The Mount Vernon Optic Herald is the best representation of freedom of speech in service to its local citizens. But more than that, it is also a testament to family values and hard work that define the American dream.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate the Mount Vernon Optic Herald on 140 years of achievement that have culminated in attaining the "Texas Treasure Business Award." I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the Herald, the readers in the Mount Vernon community, and the Bass family many more years of continued success.

IN HONOR OF PROFESSOR ANDREW WOLDAR AND THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2014

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate math professor Dr. Andrew Woldar and Villanova University for winning a research grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Professor Woldar's project on algebraic graph theory was recognized by the NSF for its important contribution to the mathematical sciences. This grant will support a conference at Villanova University in June 2014, which will bring together experts, researchers and students to discuss recent advancements in mathematics. Professor Woldar and Villanova University's dedication to the field and leadership in teaching continue to prepare students with the technical background they will need for successful careers.

The NSF is a leading, independent national academy promoting the progress of science

through research programs and education projects. NSF grants help recognize individuals for their contributions to the mathematics and science communities. I commend the NSF for its continued support of innovative research.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Professor Woldar for his hard work and wish him the best of luck with the conference.

THE ARIZONA NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2014

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Arizona Trail Association and honor its celebration of the Arizona National Scenic Trail's 20th Anniversary.

In a short time, the Arizona National Scenic Trail has become one of the premier long distance trails in the country. The people that have worked to make this happen over the last 20 years are as diverse as the trail itself. The Arizona Trail demonstrates what trail users and land managers can accomplish when they share a common vision.

School teacher Dale Shewalter developed the concept of a cross-state trail in the 1970s and began traveling around Arizona giving presentations on his vision of a trail connecting communities, mountains, canyons, deserts, forests, public lands, historic sites, various trail systems, wilderness areas and other points of interest. The idea was embraced by all types of trail users throughout Arizona, Arizona State Parks, National Forests, the Bureau of Land Management and National Parks Service.

In 1994, the Arizona Trail Association incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and became an organized voice for the trail, bringing together passionate hikers, backpackers, equestrians, mountain bicyclists, runners, trail builders, nature enthusiasts, cross-country skiers and others from throughout the state. These committed individuals provided the necessary route identification, volunteers for building and maintaining the trail, logistical support, fundraising and awareness for the trail and ensured that it received National Scenic Trail status.

I am proud to have segments of the Arizona National Scenic Trail in my district, and congratulate the diverse supporters who made it a reality, including Matt Nelson, Arizona Trail Association's Executive Director, and Gary Hohner, the Association's Board President. And special thanks to all those in Southern Arizona who enjoy the trail now and work to preserve it for future generations.

HONORING JACKSONVILLE JOINT RESERVE INTELLIGENCE CENTER

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2014

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the fine men and women serving our nation at the Jacksonville Joint Reserve Intelligence Center (JRIC), located at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida.

The Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) has selected the JRIC as the "small" JRIC of the Year. JRICs are designed to recognize the joint nature of the Defense Intelligence and at the same time to improve the Military Services' ability to meet emerging unit and tactical level intelligence requirements. This reachback capability has the added benefit of reducing travel and per diem costs associated with traditional annual training and minimizing forward deployed forces' footprint and sustainment; permitting the reservists to perform their mission at home station.

Lieutenant General Michael Flynn, USA, lauds the Jacksonville JRIC when he wrote, "the award is based on the following criteria: the ability to optimize JRIC management through effective space and systems utilization, while providing maximum flexible access based on mission requirements; the ability to facilitate joint access, joint training, innovation, and a collaborative work effort; and the ability to maximize reserve utilization in support of Defense Intelligence by fostering the integration of multiple intelligence disciplines."

It is a pleasure and honor to represent the great men and women who serve at the Jacksonville JRIC and to see them recognized for their selfless service and dedication. The hard work of the men and women who serve in and around Jacksonville illustrate the importance of the First Coast to national defense, and reiterate that our community's efforts to be an anchor of national security.

IN HONOR OF MASTER SERGEANT GEORGE A. BANNAR, JR.

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2014

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I was honored to attend the grand opening and dedication ceremony of the Military Free Fall School's new Master Sergeant George A. Bannar Jr. Vertical Wind Tunnel at Yuma Proving Ground. The new wind tunnel will be used in the Special Forces Qualification Course to teach proper free fall techniques.

Master Sergeant Bannar, the new wind tunnel's namesake, was a member of the Army's Special Forces and was stationed at Yuma Proving Ground as a Military Free Fall Instructor. He enlisted in the Army in October 1996

• 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.

and graduated from the Special Forces Qualification Course in July 2003. On his fifth deployment to Afghanistan, Master Sergeant Bannar was killed in action by enemy forces in Wardak Province on August 20, 2013. His awards include the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star.

Master Sergeant Bannar is survived by his wife Michelle, his mother Sheila Long, and his father George Bannar, Sr. As a husband and a father of three, I cannot imagine the pain of losing a spouse or a child. I extend my deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Master Sergeant Bannar.

I know that this new facility and the men and women who train there will stand as a testament to Master Sergeant Bannar and all of our fallen heroes. They fought to protect us and our freedoms. May we never forget their sacrifice.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE CHATHAM TRAIN STATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2014

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Chatham Train Station, located in the Borough of Chatham, Morris County, New Jersey, as it celebrates its Centennial Anniversary.

Chatham first became a stop on the Morris & Essex lines in 1838. In 1914, the current station building was built. The building was designed in-house under the supervision of Frank J. Nies, the architect for the Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western Railroads (DL&W).

The station complex consists of a station building for the inbound traffic, and a shelter house for the outbound traffic. They are connected by a concrete pedestrian tunnel.

The Chatham Station was designed in the Renaissance Revival style, adapted to the functions of an early twentieth century combination station. The exposed beams and oversized brackets seem to relate to the Stick style, and may have been deliberate gestures to the suburban architectural tradition. The Chatham complex was built in conjunctions with a track elevation project with the roadbed, Fairmount Avenue, built up to its present level after the station and shelter was completed.

In 1929, the Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western Railroads, the owners of the railway at that time, spent \$100 million to electrify 173 miles of track over 78 miles of road on the Morris & Essex lines. This meant that Chatham station would be served by electric trains, some of the first in the country.

After World War II, the presence of the Chatham Station would prove to be key in the population increases in neighboring Chatham Township. During this time, rural lands in the township started to be developed for residential use, due to the easy commute to Manhattan.

Today, the Chatham Station is a commuter rail station and a branch of the Morris & Essex Lines. The station serves trains on the New Jersey Transit's Morristown line. These trains travel from Hackettstown to New York's Pennsylvania Station. In 2012, over 80 thousand people used the station.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating both the Chatham

Station, and Friends of Chatham Station as it celebrates its Centennial Anniversary.

IN HONORING THE LIFE OF CALDWELL "HANK" HAYNES

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2014

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Caldwell "Hank" Haynes.

Born in Jacksonville, Florida in 1941, Hank was a friend to all he knew. A sports enthusiast, he was the manager of the football team at my own alma-mater, Lee High School, in Jacksonville. Hank attended college at the University of the South in Seawee, Tennessee, where he was inducted into the Athletic Hall of fame after garnering 10 varsity letters, four in wrestling, two in baseball, and four as the manager of the football team.

Following graduation, Hank served as an officer in the Navy for four years. He was on a destroyer stationed in San Diego when by chance he met his wife, Billie Haynes, also a Jacksonville native and Lee High School graduate. They were married for forty-six years where they resided in Jacksonville.

Upon leaving the Navy, Hank went to work for his family's insurance firm, Peter and Bond Insurance, the oldest insurance firm in Florida. He became president of the company in 1981 when his father retired. In 2007 Hank merged the company with GHG Insurance and formed what is now known as Haynes, Peters and Bond Co. Dedicated to his work, Hank continued to work at the firm up until two weeks before his death.

A role model to many, Hank was a well respected leader of our community in Jacksonville. His generosity of spirit and winning personality will make him long remembered. I send his family my heartfelt condolences and I know that Jacksonville will mourn his loss greatly.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and Members of the House to join me in this solemn goodbye to Hank Haynes.

IN RECOGNITION OF ESTIVEN RODRIGUEZ, WHO EMBODIES WHAT AMERICA REPRESENTS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2014

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Estiven Rodriguez, a high school student from my congressional district, to the nation's Capitol as he was one of the additional guests who was seated in the box with the First Lady, Dr. Jill Biden and Valerie Jarrett, Senior Advisor to the President, at the State of the Union Address on Tuesday, January 28, 2013.

It made me extremely proud to welcome Estiven who has been invited by the White House to represent the best and the brightest students in my congressional district. Students like Estiven inspire us all with hope and optimism for a better America, where everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed.

Estiven Rodriguez is the son of a Dominican immigrant, he arrived in the United States

when he was nine years old and didn't speak any English. When he entered Washington Heights Expeditionary Learning School (WHEELS) in the sixth grade, he still spoke and understood very limited English. Now a high school senior, Estiven is one of the top students in his class and will attend Dickinson College in the fall on a Posse Foundation Scholarship, making him a first-generation college student. "At only 16, 17 years old, he, in many ways, embodies the spirit of a life-long learner. He is a model student," said Erick Espin, Estiven's 11th grade United States history teacher. Outside of his academic studies, Estiven is also a member of the school's math club, and soccer and track teams. Earlier this month, Estiven attended an event at the White House on expanding college opportunity. His story underscores the importance of the President's goal to give all kids a chance to get ahead, regardless of the circumstances of their birth.

Estiven has been chosen as one of the guests who have been invited to sit with the First Lady to represent the stories of millions of Americans across the country, who are working hard to better their communities, improve their own economic outcomes and help restore opportunity for all."

HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY MR. JAKE ALARID

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2014

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Mr. Jake Ignacio Alarid on his 80th birthday, which will be on February 1, 2014. Mr. Alarid has a lifetime of achievements in service to his country and his community, and I am proud to work with him on issues facing veterans in Los Angeles.

Born in 1936, Jake is the oldest of thirteen children. Jake displayed spirit and independence at a young age, taking jobs on cattle drives and working the family farm to help support his siblings. In 1953, Jake was drafted to serve in the Korean War. He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and was deployed to Okinawa and Iwo Jima, Japan, to support the Prisoner Exchange in Inchon, Korea. Three years later, Jake received an Honorable Discharge as a Sergeant and proud Hispanic veteran.

After relocating to Los Angeles, California, Jake completed his Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Engineering at Northrup Aeronautical Institute. In 1964, he went on to work as a reliability test engineer on the Apollo program, which included the Apollo 11 Moon landing mission and Apollo 13. Jake later worked on the Space Shuttle program as a Manager in Space Shuttle Test Operations. After 34 years of service, Jake retired from Rockwell International.

In addition to his strong work ethic, Jake has also demonstrated leadership in the G.I. Forum, a veterans' and civil rights organization, and the largest Federally Chartered Hispanic Veterans organization in the U.S. He was elected as the National Commander for the American G.I. Forum from 1983–1984, and again from 1994–1998.

As Commander, Jake met with Presidents Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton to discuss issues facing Hispanic veterans. He was selected by the Department of Defense and State to participate in fact-finding missions to Bosnia, Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, and Iraq. He has encouraged young students to continue their education and pursue careers that would further their goals, including careers in the military, just as the Marines helped launch his own career.

Following his years as National Commander, Jake continued to remain an active advocate, serve as a voice for veterans, and recognize the contributions made by the Hispanic community. Jake has been an advocate of education as a way for people, especially Hispanics, to excel and be successful in life. Jake remains an active member of my own Veteran's Committee, carrying on as a voice for our new generation of veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, Jake Ignacio Alarid is a man who has selflessly given his time and efforts to the Los Angeles community and to Hispanic veterans across the country. He has become an icon in our community and has impacted the lives of countless men, women, and children during his lifetime. Jake exemplifies the true meaning of service to one's country and service to others, and for that his community is grateful. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in wishing Jake a very happy 80th birthday.

HONORING THE MINNESOTA ORCHESTRA

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2014

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Minnesota Orchestra and Osmo Vänskä to congratulate them on their Grammy award in the category of Best Orchestral Performance for their recording of Sibelius' first and fourth symphonies. The Minnesota Orchestra is a source of great pride for Minnesotans and is one of the institutions that makes our state's artistic culture so rich.

The Minnesota Orchestra began in 1903, the eighth major symphony orchestra to be established in the United States. Since then, it has represented Minnesota across the globe, performing in over 661 cities worldwide. Renowned composers Aaron Copeland and Igor Stravinsky have both guest-conducted the Orchestra.

Since its early years, the Minnesota Orchestra has been a great asset to our state, producing landmark recordings and touring ambitiously to critical acclaim and full houses. Under the leadership of former musical director Osmo Vänskä, the Orchestra has grown to elite, world-class status. In 2010, The New Yorker wrote of their March 1 performance at Carnegie Hall, "the Minnesota Orchestra sounded, to my ears, like the greatest orchestra in the world."

I felt great sadness, then, when the Orchestra suspended its season two years ago. From October 1, 2012 to January 14, 2014, the Minnesota Orchestra musicians suffered the longest lockout of any American orchestra in history, leading to the resignation of esteemed

conductor Vänskä and significant hardship for the musicians who went without a secure salary or benefits. This was a painful period for Minnesota arts. That's why I was thrilled when both sides were able to reach a contractual agreement earlier this month, and I look forward to seeing the Orchestra return to the stage in February.

The Orchestra has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to artistic excellence and integrity, and this Grammy is well-deserved. I appreciate all that the Orchestra and Osmo Vänskä have done and continue to do for Minnesota, and thank them for their exemplary achievement and service.

OPPOSING THE FARM BILL

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2014

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in reluctant opposition to the Farm Bill. While there is much to commend in this compromise, I cannot in good conscience vote for a bill that cuts \$8.6 billion from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

I applaud all my colleagues on the Agriculture Committee for their hard work and long hours spent putting this agreement together. Today's bill makes a number of much-needed changes to our nation's agricultural policy. It finally ends the practice of direct payments to farmers in favor of real crop insurance, a laudable achievement that the Agriculture Committee has been working towards for over a decade. The bill expands support for organic foods, local farm-to-table programs, and farmers' market nutrition, all of which I have strongly supported and will continue to champion.

This agreement also maintains important animal welfare provisions. In particular, I am thankful for Congressman SCHRADER's leadership in working to strip the King Amendment, which would have invalidated hundreds of state animal welfare laws, from the conference report. I am also pleased that the committee chose to include animal fighting restrictions that will help to forever end this abhorrent practice by making it a federal crime to attend an animal fighting event.

Unfortunately, beyond these important reforms, a full third of the savings in this bill comes from cuts to SNAP, formerly known as food stamps. SNAP helps millions of Americans living in poverty put food on the table, including nearly 200,000 in Rhode Island. Eighty percent of the households receiving SNAP earn below the federal poverty level, making it a vital form of assistance for countless working families. Today's bill will have a disproportionate effect on low-income seniors, working poor families with children, and individuals with disabilities. And for those who are currently struggling to find work, many of whom have just seen their emergency unemployment benefits expire due to the inaction of this Congress, the loss of SNAP assistance could be a crippling blow. Rhode Island has the highest unemployment rate in the nation; I will not vote to make life more difficult for thousands of our families.

Last year, I joined several of my colleagues in taking the SNAP Challenge, a commitment

to living on no more than \$4.50 per day in food costs. Every member of Congress should experience what it's like to subsist on this pittance amount to better understand the impacts of the decisions we make on the lives of our constituents. Sadly, as we observe the 50th Anniversary of the War on Poverty, the SNAP cuts in today's bill seem to be part of a war on the poor. This is only one element of a worrying trend from the House majority that would lead us toward a world where the rich take care of themselves and the poor fight for the scraps. I hope that my colleagues step back from this misguided policy before it is too late.

Although I am unable to vote for these cuts to food assistance, I will continue to work with my colleagues to promote sensible agricultural policies that promote healthy eating, sustainable farming practices, and ample food for every American.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2642, FEDERAL AGRICULTURE REFORM AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today, the House will consider the Agriculture Act of 2014. While I appreciate the work that has gone into the crafting of this legislation, and the delicate compromise that this bill represents, I will not support the bill before us today because I refuse to support a bill that will increase hunger in America.

Throughout this process I have stood fast with many of my Democratic colleagues in strong opposition to attempts by the House majority to bleed as much money as possible from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The first draft of the House farm bill, which failed, would have cut \$20 billion from SNAP. In the next iteration of the legislation, the Republican response was to simply remove SNAP from the House bill and pass it without a single Democratic vote. When a Republican stand-alone nutrition bill finally came up it was no surprise that the bill proposed a cut of \$40 billion to SNAP.

The bill before us today would cut \$8.6 billion from SNAP. Significantly less than the House Republican proposal, but still more than twice what was proposed in the Senate farm bill initially. Rather than working with Democrats to craft a real strategy to address hunger in America, my Republican colleagues are insistent on stripping funds from this country's most comprehensive and successful anti-hunger program.

According to the most recent USDA data, about 47 million people benefit from SNAP nationally. Last year, on average, 876,266 people in New Jersey participated monthly in SNAP. In New Jersey's 12th Congressional District more than 40 percent of households receiving SNAP have children under 18 and more than 40 percent have at least one person over 60.

Since November 1, 2013, these families have been dealing with cuts to SNAP benefits because of an expiring provision of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that had

provided for a benefit increase. The SNAP cuts we are debating today come from ending a policy called "Heat and Eat." New Jersey is one of 17 states that choose to participate in "heat and eat" which can help states improve access to SNAP while reducing administrative burdens by allowing states to link a beneficiary's receipt of low-income heating assistance to their SNAP benefit. What this means is that New Jersey's SNAP beneficiaries will be among those principally affected by the changes to SNAP that are proposed in this farm bill.

As a country we must end our obsession with debt and deficits, especially when these reductions are coming at the expense of the less fortunate and the hungry. This legislation continues to favor the largest farmers and agri-business over family farms. The bill achieves significant savings by ending direct commodity payments, but then redirects these savings to fund new subsidized programs to pay the same farmers when crop prices or revenues fall below certain levels—continuing wasteful programs that benefit the largest farms and agri-businesses. We should be doing more to find greater savings by strengthening caps on commodity support programs and federal crop insurance subsidies that, under this bill, continue to enable some of the largest farms and agri-businesses to receive millions of taxpayer dollars year after year. While the bill moves us towards an agricultural safety net based primarily on crop insurance, we fail to make any real reforms to the crop insurance system. Agri-business is still heavily subsidized while the federal government guarantees very favorable profit margins for insurance companies while continuing to pick up the tab for all administrative and operating costs.

While some policy improvements are made for conservation, funding for these programs is still cut by about \$6 billion dollars as acreage in the Conservation Reserve Program is reduced steadily over the next 5 years. Additionally, the lack of reform to the U.S. sugar program threatens manufacturing jobs in New Jersey and around the U.S. This program cost taxpayers almost \$300 million last year alone, and will continue to create artificially high prices for consumers on the foods we enjoy every day. New Jersey farmers deserve a better farm bill. If we made real reforms to crop insurance and commodity support programs we could invest further in conservation, specialty crops, organic agriculture, small and beginning farmers, and of course, nutrition.

Following passage of the House farm bill I urged my colleagues in Leadership and in the Agriculture Committee to work towards a compromise that would eliminate the SNAP cuts and allow for the passage of a farm bill that supports agriculture without hurting hungry families. The Agriculture Act of 2014 is a success in many ways. The bill ends direct commodity payments to farmers, includes conservation compliance for crop insurance, and invests in specialty crops, organic foods, and sustainable agriculture. Unfortunately, the bill fails to complement these policies with a similar investment in the people who could use it most, the children, seniors and veterans who rely on SNAP for one of the most basic of needs—something to eat.

IN HONORING THE LIFE OF REAR ADMIRAL JOSEPH COLEMAN, USN (RET.)

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2014

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and life of Rear Admiral Joseph Coleman, USN (Ret.), who was a voice of vision and action in our Jacksonville community for decades. Joe spent 32 years that spanned two wars defending our country as a member of the United States Navy. But, Joe's commitment to his country did not end with retirement. Joe reassigned his leadership skills to make the City of Jacksonville a better place to live not only for retired and active duty military but for all its citizens.

Joe was a proud member of the Greatest Generation and always claimed the title of the "Navy's best fighter pilot." That may be debated among fighter pilots, but his contribution to the Navy was considerable and his dedication to his country steadfast. He flew Hellcats against the Japanese in World War II, served aboard the USS *Midway*, had thousands of flight hours in various aircraft, made 550 carrier ship landings, and commanded the aircraft carrier USS *Ranger* during the Vietnam War.

Joe's list of volunteer activities was both long and varied. Joe Coleman came to our town in the military, returned as a veteran, and became a great civic leader. Along the way Joe made a significant difference in many lives. His guiding hand led to a wonderful retirement community in Atlantic Beach called Fleet Landing. Today, hundreds of people live in this community near the sea. He was a leader in a plethora of military activities like the USO and the Navy League, but Joe also served on the board of Florida State Community College, the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce and numerous other organizations. There are those who join boards and there are those who work and make a difference; Joe is in the latter category.

Perhaps it was his fighter pilot quick thinking or his finely attuned peripheral eyesight honed from hours of flying, but Joe Coleman is a man of vision who encouraged others to take courageous steps and to make difficult decisions. He is one of the leaders who changed Jacksonville from a sleepy Southern town into the robust metropolis it is today. We are considered the most military friendly town in America. Joe Coleman played a major role in making us that.

Joe recently passed away at the age of 91. He embodied our World War II heroes as a member of the Greatest Generation. Joe Coleman was Admiral Joe to his grandchildren, a patriotic civilian leader in our community, and a gentle naval hero to our veterans. I was proud to call him friend.

HONORING MATT LITTLE

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2014

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Matt Little who passed away on Sunday at the age of 92. Mr. Little was an extraordinary man of leadership, integrity, and determination. His achievements in the civil rights movement will have a lasting impact on the citizens of Minnesota and the United States.

Mr. Little was born in August 1921 in North Carolina to a factory worker and homemaker. Graduating from North Carolina A&T University in 1948, he served 3½ years in the military during the Second World War in an all-black infantry regiment.

Upon his arrival to the Twin Cities, Mr. Little quickly realized that racism was a prevalent barrier to everything from job opportunities to housing. African-Americans could not stay at major hotels, and could only buy houses in certain neighborhoods.

Mr. Little found work in the post office, and started a landscaping business. After being denied a firefighter position due to race, he was part of a federal lawsuit to integrate the Minneapolis Fire Department. Mr. Little joined the NAACP in 1954 where he ultimately became president of his chapter and president of the Minnesota NAACP.

His civil rights accomplishments are plentiful. Mr. Little was prominent in supporting the integration of Minnesota public schools. He led the Minnesota delegation to participate in the March on Washington. He fought hard for fair housing laws in the state legislature. He helped create the Minneapolis Civil Rights Commission. He was a leading influence in the hiring of former Minnesota Vikings Head Coach Dennis Green, one of the pioneering African-American head coaches in franchise history.

Mr. Little also believed strongly in civic participation. He was elected four times as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention, five times to Minnesota's State Executive Committee, and four times as an elector to cast one of the state's 10 electoral votes for U.S. President. In 2008, when he watched President Obama being sworn in, he said, "There are no words to describe this feeling. I waited all of my life, and now I've seen it happen in my lifetime."

Even in his later years, Mr. Little continued to be involved in the community. He maintained his column "Little by Little" featured in the Minnesota-Spokesman-Recorder, and was a fan of seniors tennis.

A man of grace and respect, Mr. Little held a pragmatic perspective in tackling racial inequality believing it was an issue that simply needed solving. Matt Little was a political inspiration for many, and I am proud to have known him in my lifetime. He will always be remembered as a relentless civil rights champion, a fervent public speaker, and a Minnesota icon. A truly exceptional leader, I believe if we live by Matt Little's actions, our country will be better for it for generations to come.