

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

OAKHURST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, Oakhurst Presbyterian Church has been and continues to be a beacon of light to our county for the past ninety years; and

Whereas, Pastors Gibson "Nibs" Stroupe and Pastor Caroline Leach and the members of the and Oakhurst Presbyterian Church family today continues to uplift and inspire those in our county;

Whereas, the Oakhurst Presbyterian Church family has been and continues to be a place where citizens are touched spiritually, mentally and physically through outreach ministries and community partnership to aid in building up our District; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious Church of God has given hope to the hopeless, fed the needy and empowered our community for the ninety (90) years by preaching the gospel and living the gospel; and

Whereas, Oakhurst has produced many spiritual warriors, people of compassion, people of great courage, fearless leaders and servants to all, but most of all visionaries who have shared not only with their Church, but with DeKalb County and the world their passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the Oakhurst Presbyterian Church family on their 90th Anniversary and for their leadership and service to our District;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim September 25, 2011 as Oakhurst Presbyterian Church Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 25th day of September, 2011.

WORKFORCE DEMOCRACY AND FAIRNESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3094) to amend the National Labor Relations Act with respect to representation hearings and the timing of elections of labor organizations under that Act.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to the Election Prevention Act, H.R. 3094. As a member of the House Committee on Education and Workforce, I voted against this

fundamentally flawed bill when we considered it and I will oppose it again today.

The majority deceptively named this bill the Workplace Democracy and Fairness Act, which should tell us all that this bill has nothing to do with workplace democracy or fairness. If they wanted to deal with those issues they would bring to the floor the Employee Free Choice Act, which I have long been a co-sponsor of.

Today again the Majority is showing the American public that the Majority don't think we have a jobs crisis in America, and that getting Americans back to work is not their top priority.

Getting the American economy back on track and helping to create jobs is my first, second and third priority. Unlike the Majority, I remain committed to creating jobs immediately and expanding educational opportunity for all Americans. Unfortunately, my amendment to help keep almost 400,000 teachers in the classroom was rejected on procedural grounds.

Rather than bringing to the floor legislation to help create jobs, we are wasting the time of this House attempting to undermine workers rights.

The Election Prevention Act continues an assault on the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) and the work it does to uphold the rights of workers across our county. This bill will NOT help create a single job. Rather, the bill would allow employers to delay union organizing elections in the hopes of discouraging workers from organizing, encourage frivolous litigation and manipulate the procedures of union elections.

The NLRB has proposed real changes to restore fairness to the union election process and reduce unnecessary delays. For example the proposed rules would allow the electronic filing of petitions, ensure that all parties receive timely information about pending matters, and allow for the consolidation of all appeals into a single post-election appeals process. These are sensible changes. Yet, the Election Prevention Act would override these proposed rules, and make arbitrary delays commonplace.

This bill is one more solution in search of a problem. The problem is jobs; the solution is Congress taking bold steps to get Americans back to work. At a town hall I recently held, no one asked me about the NLRB, they asked me about jobs and economic growth.

We should be mindful of why Congress approved the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) and established the NLRB in 1935. Senator Robert Wagner who wrote the NLRA reminded his colleagues that in 1935 "in the highest income bracket, one-tenth of 1 percent of the families in the United States were earning as much as the 42 percent at the bottom." Today's economic conditions are remarkably similar.

Yet, instead of helping workers organize and bargain collectively to help raise wages, improve workplace safety and ensure a comfortable retirement, the Election Prevention Act

ignores the economic crisis facing American workers and makes the American Dream even harder to achieve.

A TRIBUTE TO CRAIG SAMUEL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Craig Samuel for his culinary expertise that has infused Brooklyn with tastes from all over the world while celebrating the roots of New York culture.

Born and raised in Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, Mr. Samuel developed a strong talent in visual art, and ultimately attended New York City's Art and Design High School. While in high school, his artist's eye was evidenced at home, as he created culinary dishes that were not only delicious, but also beautiful to look at. Mr. Samuel developed a love for the art of cooking at a very early age.

After High School, Mr. Samuel attended Temple University, where he followed his father's wishes and majored in business and economics. Early in his college career, Mr. Samuel's father passed away. After that life-altering event, he soon found himself at the Philadelphia Restaurant School. Never lacking in courage, Mr. Samuel decided that he would approach the chef/owner of the most revered restaurant in Philadelphia, which was also one of the most important restaurants in the world of haute cuisine, Le Bec Fin.

His time spent at Le Bec Fin reinforced that Craig had the talent, stamina, and discipline to compete in the culinary world. After graduating at the top of his class in culinary school and completing his internship, he headed back to New York and ultimately became the executive chef at both The Cub Room and City Hall Restaurants. During this time Mr. Samuel left the U.S. to cook in Spain and in France and do a food tour of Italy. After coming back to the U.S. he decided it was time to open up a venture of his own.

In 2005, while still executive chef at City Hall Restaurant, Mr. Samuel and his good friend and sous chef, Ben Grossman teamed up to go into the barbecue business in Brooklyn. They opened The Smoke Joint in Fort Greene in 2006. Since that time, Mr. Samuel has opened Peaches Restaurant and Peaches HotHouse and has had numerous favorable reviews in Time Out, The New York Times, New York Magazine, New York Press, the Village Voice and many others. The Smoke Joint has the unmatched honor of being the only Brooklyn based barbecue restaurant featured in the world renowned Michelin Guide.

Mr. Samuel is happily married to Laura. They have two children, Tiara, who is currently a junior attending The Fashion Institute of Technology, and Alana who is in her sophomore year at The Saint Paul's School in Concord, NH.

• 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.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Craig Samuel for his exceptional foresight in the culinary business that has provided Brooklyn with tastes from around the country.

SOUTHEASTERN FEDERAL
REGIONAL DIRECTORS

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, the Southeastern Region of the United States has many citizens that work to make our Region a worthy instrument for good; and

Whereas, President Barack Obama appointed five outstanding individuals to serve as directors of the Southeastern agencies, Cassius Butts, Small Business Administration, Gwendolyn Keyes-Fleming, Environmental Protection Agency, Edward Jennings, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Paulette Norvel Lewis, U.S. Department of Labor and Carlis V. Williams, Department of Health and Human Services, each individual being charged to bring community service, honor and excellence in government; and

Whereas, the Southeastern Regional Directors are promoting and providing the concept of One Community-One Goal by working with and for individuals in all walks of life to make our Region a place where the needs of the people are met; and

Whereas, these directors give of themselves tirelessly and unconditionally to serve our community and our nation by providing leadership and service; and

Whereas, the lives of many in our district are touched by the leadership and service given by these directors; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Cassius Butts, Gwendolyn Keyes-Fleming, Edward Jennings, Paulette Norvel Lewis and Carlis V. Williams for their outstanding service to America;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim October 27, 2011 as Southeastern Federal Regional Directors Day In the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 27th day of October, 2011.

HONORING RICHARD "RICK"
ROBINSON

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Richard (Rick) Robinson, Stanislaus County Chief Executive Officer, and to thank him for his leadership and dedication to the citizens of Stanislaus County.

Richard (Rick) Robinson was appointed Stanislaus County Chief Executive Officer in September, 2004. Prior to his appointment in Stanislaus County, he had, since 1991, held the position of Chief Administrator with Tehama County. Rick started his local govern-

ment career in 1981 in the Tehama County Auditor-Controller's Office as an Accountant. In 1986, he was elected Auditor-Controller and ran unopposed for a second four-year term in 1990.

Mr. Robinson currently serves on several local Committees, including the Community Hospice Board of Directors, the Governing Board of Doctors Medical Center, Stanislaus Workforce Alliance Board of Directors, and the Valley First Credit Union Supervisory Committee.

Rick was recently honored by the Stanislaus County Equal Rights Commission as a recipient of the 2011 Annual Dale Butler Equal Rights Award for exemplary service in equal employment opportunity matters and leadership in promoting equal rights.

Faced with severe financial challenges during the current economic crisis, Mr. Robinson led an effort to develop a multi-year framework around which the County Budget functions—a strategy which enables the County to address both current and future year budget shortfalls in a systematic and proactive manner.

During his career with Stanislaus County, Rick led many efforts aimed at strengthening the County Health Care safety net, including successful initiatives to attain the Federally Qualified Health Care Facility Designation in the County's Health Clinic system, a multi-year effort to retain the County Residency Program, and the sale and transition of the Stanislaus Behavioral Health Center to private ownership.

Mr. Robinson has also led efforts to create an Animal Services Joint Powers Agency, construct a state-of-the-art Animal Shelter, create the new Modesto Regional Fire Authority, securitize future tobacco settlement revenues in excess of \$40 million and establish, with board approval, a capital facilities revolving loan fund to assist in financing future County construction projects, and coordinate the County's 2011 redistricting efforts.

Rick was an honors graduate of California State University, Chico, earning his degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting. He is a lifetime selection to Beta Gamma Sigma, a national scholastic honor society for business graduates.

As Chief Executive Officer with Stanislaus County, under the direction of the Board of Supervisors, Mr. Robinson oversees all aspects of Stanislaus County government, which includes 26 County departments, a \$900 million operating budget and over 3600 employees.

Rick has been married to his wife Kathy for thirty-seven years. They have four children and eight grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending Richard (Rick) Robinson, Stanislaus County Chief Executive Officer, for his numerous years of selfless service to the betterment of our community.

A TRIBUTE TO KESHA TOWNSEL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kesha Townsel for her devotion to the public education and youth in Brooklyn.

Ms. Townsel is the Assistant Principal of Public School 5. She has served in various

positions since joining the staff of Public School 5 in September, 2000. Ms. Townsel was a third grade teacher for 5 years, Business Manager for 5 years, and is presently an assistant Principal. Ms. Townsel began her teaching career with a Bachelors of Science Degree in Speech Pathology and Audiology from Brooklyn College. She then served in residence as a Speech Therapist in an Early Intervention Center at Downstate Hospital.

Ms. Townsel was a member of the first cohort of the New York City Teaching Fellows. Through that program she earned her Master Degree in Elementary Education. Although being a classroom teacher, Ms. Townsel continued to provide speech and language therapy services to children in NYC's Early Intervention Program. Ms. Townsel has served as Business Manager and Staff Developer since September 2005. During that time Ms. Townsel earned her advanced Masters Degree in School District Leadership through a compact with the UFT and Stony Brook University.

In her management role, Ms. Townsel has provided various services to the children of Public School 5. Ms. Townsel collaborated in providing programs such as; New York Cares, Scholastic Book Fairs, Learning Gardens, Club Getaway, Poly-tech University & New York University. Ms. Townsel's collaboration with Poly-Tech University and NYU has increased the experiences in the Math, Science, Engineering and Technology areas for students at Public School 5. This collaboration helped to form Public School 5's first LEGO Robotics Team. Ms. Townsel, in collaboration with the Poly-Tech fellow during the 2010–2011 school year; assisted the team in winning a First Place trophy for "Team Work" and helped them qualify for the NYC competition at the Jacobs Javitz Center.

Ms. Townsel continues to strive for excellence for the students of Public School 5. She provides speech therapy, volunteers on her housing development board, and sings with a local community choir, as well as assists with various educationally founded organizations such as the Caring Educators and the Adelaide Sanford Institute. She has also taught NYC-DOE Budgeting as a guest speaker for the past two semesters at Long Island University.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Ms. Townsel for her unwavering support to education and youth in Brooklyn.

UNJUST IMPRISONMENT OF ALAN
GROSS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sincere concern over the unjust imprisonment of Alan Gross by the Cuban government. A true humanitarian, Mr. Gross was sentenced in March to 15 years in prison for "acts to undermine the integrity and independence" of Cuba.

Before the sentencing earlier this year, Mr. Gross had already been imprisoned for two years without charge. He was in Cuba as part of a USAID contract to provide support to members of the Cuban Jewish community

when he was arrested. He was helping to improve their access to the internet and to build an intranet. Never did any of his actions pose a threat or danger to the Cuban government. Because of his unethical imprisonment, Mr. Gross, who is 62 years old, is declining in health and spirit and quick action must be taken.

Mr. Gross is an international development specialist and social worker. He has positively impacted the lives of people in over 50 countries, including the West Bank, Gaza, Iraq, Afghanistan, Africa, and Haiti. His work has always focused on helping people.

I join my constituents of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, Mr. Gross' wife Judy, their two daughters, and my Colleagues Senator BEN CARDIN and Congressman CHRIS VAN HOLLEN in calling for the speedy and unconditional release of Allan Gross.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. ROSS of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, November 30, 2011, I was not present for rollcall vote 869 on passage of H.R. 3094, the Workforce Democracy and Fairness Act.

Had I been present for rollcall 869, I would have voted "no."

A TRIBUTE TO THEOPHINE ABAKPORO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Theophine Abakporo for his dynamic approach to healthcare in my district of Brooklyn, New York.

Dr. Abakporo, M.D. is the Medical Director/Chairman, Emergency Services of Wyckoff Heights Medical Center and an Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine in Clinical Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College/New York Presbyterian Hospital. Dr. Abakporo has worked with Wyckoff for the last fourteen years, and has been instrumental in forging a relationship between the community and the hospital. He is also an Attending Physician in Emergency Medicine at Brookdale University Hospital & Medical Center. Dr. Abakporo is Board Certified in Internal Medicine, Emergency Medicine, and Disaster Medicine.

While pursuing his medical career Dr. Abakporo became deeply involved in the health care needs of inner-city communities in the United States. Dr. Abakporo worked hard and committed himself to participating in health outreach and other programs related to the well being of the Brooklyn communities such as Ocean Hill, Brownsville, East New York, BedStuy, Bushwick and Ridgewood communities. This strong willingness to help and care for people, contributed to his interest and focus in the field of Emergency Medicine and Pre-Hospital Care.

Dr. Abakporo is the recipient of a Congressional Award of the U.S. House of Representatives, and an award in Health Care Excellence in Community Service. He is a Healthcare Advisor to Congressman EDOLPHUS TOWNS, 10th Congressional District, New York. He was also appointed Chairman of the Health Advisory Council of the 10th Congressional District of New Jersey by Congressman DONALD PAYNE.

In response to the increasing need for disaster awareness and management, Dr. Abakporo has taken further training and certification. He is certified by the United States Department of Homeland Security in Healthcare Leadership and Administrative decision making in responses to weapons of mass destruction (WMD). He is certified by the United States Army in Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive incidents (CBRNE). In addition, he is certified by the Fire Department of New York (FDNY) in Online—Medical Control.

Dr. Abakporo is an accomplished, young and dynamic physician, with a distinguished track record of working successfully with healthcare professionals, government leaders and community groups to address health care issues. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Dr. Theophine Abakporo for providing an intuitive approach to healthcare in his community and to our country.

RECOGNIZING LORETTA KING

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Loretta King, a champion for civil rights, a loving wife and mother, and a dedicated public servant.

Today, Loretta is celebrating her retirement most recently as the career Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. In total, Loretta has dedicated more than 32 years of her life in defense of our Nation and the public at large.

Loretta's career is one self-sacrifice and commitment to protecting the rights of all Americans, without regard to race, gender, or political affiliation.

As a career-track civil servant, Loretta epitomizes a Justice Department lawyer; Loretta did so without seeking the limelight, year after year, day in and day out, for all her career. Starting as a law clerk while completing her studies, Loretta literally rose up the ranks at the Justice Department to become the Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, the government's chief civil rights advocate.

After graduating in 1990 from American University, Washington College of Law, Loretta was chosen by the Justice Department's Legal Honors Program. From 1980 to 1990, Loretta served as a line attorney in the Civil Rights Division's Employment Litigation Section, tasked with enforcing Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. In this post, Loretta led and settled the Justice Department's first sexual harassment case as well as its first paternity leave case. Over the next 20 years, Loretta worked in both the Justice Department's Civil and Civil Rights

Divisions. In 1992, Loretta was tapped to serve as the Deputy Chief of the Civil Rights Division's Voting Section. In 1994, Loretta was elevated to her current role as the Civil Rights Division's Deputy Assistant Attorney General, where she has served continuously for 17 years, except during temporary assignments to other senior roles in the Division. Specifically, in 2009, Loretta served as her Division's Acting Assistant Attorney General, pending confirmation to that post of Thomas Perez. From August 2010 through June 2011, Loretta led the Civil Rights Division's Employment Litigation Section as its Acting Chief.

A civil rights legal pioneer, Loretta became one of the highest ranking women and persons of color to serve in the Justice Department, and the first African-American woman to hold the positions in the Civil Rights Division of Acting Assistant Attorney General and Deputy Assistant Attorney General.

As a Member of Congress representing Americans who know all too well the sting of injustice, I am here to salute Loretta's tireless work and long service upholding the civil and constitutional rights of all Americans. As Robert F. Kennedy once said, "few will have the greatness to bend history itself; but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total; of all those acts will be written the history of this generation." Loretta has done just that.

Again, I ask the House to celebrate Loretta as a servant to her family and country as well as defender of the civil rights of all people, including the residents of the Nation's capital.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I regret missing a floor vote on Wednesday, November 30, 2011. Had I registered my vote, I would have voted: "No" on rollcall No. 869, On Final Passage of H.R. 3094—the Workforce Democracy and Fairness Act.

HONORING CHICK-FIL-A

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, we need businesses to set up shop in our community to provide the goods and services that are needed in order for our citizens to survive and thrive on a day-to-day basis; and

Whereas, in 2001, Mr. Tony Royal opened the 1,000th Chick-fil-A restaurant at Turner Hill Road here in Lithonia, Georgia to service the citizens of DeKalb County, Georgia and nearby communities; and

Whereas, Mr. Royal is the owner and operator of the restaurant, he credits all of the success to his team: the sales, the community outreach, the community partnership, and the promotion of scholarships; and

Whereas, Mr. Royal and the Chick-fil-A team at Turner Hill continues to be a resource

for citizens in DeKalb County and beyond with excellent service, providing employment opportunities and providing a product that “keeps America moving”—contributing to the local and national economy; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia is officially honoring, recognizing and congratulating Mr. Tony Royal and Chick-fil-A at Turner Hill on their tenth (10th) anniversary as a business anchor in our District;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim November 1st, 2011 as Chick-fil-A Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 1st day of November, 2011.

HONORING ZELLA GHARAT

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Zella Gharat, who after 33 years as a member of the Stanislaus County Board of Education, has announced her plans to retire effective December 13, 2011.

A retired legal assistant, Gharat was first appointed to the County Board of Education on June 6, 1978. Throughout the years, she has worked with four county superintendents, including Neal Wade, John Allard, Martin Petersen and the current superintendent, Tom Changnon. She’s seen many changes in education since 1978. “Special education programs were fairly new when I started, and I’ve watched the Head Start program grow over the years,” said Gharat. “I was on the Board when we purchased our current Outdoor Education site and was there for our first county Academic Decathlon and our first Youth Entertainment Stage Company performance. I also remember the important vote to purchase SCOE’s administration building at 1100 H Street,” she said.

Stanislaus County Superintendent of Schools Tom Changnon praised Gharat for her invaluable contributions to the Board. “Zella always has the best interest of students in mind,” said Changnon. “She is an advocate for children and a valuable member of the Board. We will miss her.”

“I’ve seen a lot of changes over the past 33 years, and I’ve also seen opportunities for students expand,” said Gharat. “From charter schools to specialized academies, there are a multitude of programs in place to ensure that every student can succeed,” she said. “I’m proud of all that we’ve accomplished over the years.”

Through its role of long-range policy development and other critical functions, the County Board works with the Stanislaus County Superintendent of Schools and staff to offer the most effective education programs and district support services. The County Board of Education has responsibility for approving the annual county office budget, adopting policies governing the operation of the Board, acting as the appeals board for student expulsions, acting as the appeals board for inter-district transfers, acting as the appeals board for Charter School petitions, establishing the County Superintendent’s salary, and may serve as the landlord and owner of property.

The Board also encourages the involvement of families and communities and is a vehicle for citizen access to communication about SCOE’s programs and services. Regular meetings of the Stanislaus County Board of Education are open to the public and are held on the second Tuesday of each month beginning at 8:30 a.m. Meetings are generally held at the Stanislaus County Office of Education, unless otherwise announced.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Zella Gharat for her 33 years of dedicated service as a member of the Stanislaus County Board of Education.

A TRIBUTE TO LCG COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the LCG Community Services, Inc. for its mission to provide client-centered services to low-income individuals with one or more special needs to constituents in my district of Brooklyn, New York.

LCG Community Services, Inc. (LCG) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit community based organization that began operations in 2006. LCG offers their services to individuals that have special needs, such as homelessness, mental illness, and developmental disabilities, the elderly, chronic illness, HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, and victims of domestic violence. LCG serves over 5,000 consumers per year from many different nationalities and ethnicities.

LCG recognizes that a home is the foundation necessary to begin addressing other critical individual needs. As such, LCG takes particular pride in their housing programs. LCG provides transitional and permanent housing in congregate and scatter-site settings. LCG, through its HAC division, also operates a group home for orphaned children in Haiti. The group home established in December 2010 is a place for adolescent orphan boys to grow up in a safe, supportive environment after the earthquake.

LCG believes that educating consumers is the most effective method of advocacy. Through health fairs, dinners, and various other programs, LCG provides workshops, seminars, and educational materials to the community at-large.

LCG has found that integrating celebrity entertainment with education can be a very powerful tool in reaching out to children and young adults. LCG organizes an annual, summer, Children’s Health Awareness Day, with famous entertainers that are attended by over 2,500 families. Every Thanksgiving, LCG Community Services hosts over 500 seniors for Thanksgiving dinner at Boy’s and Girl’s High School, in Brooklyn. These are individuals who have found themselves alone during the Thanksgiving holiday. They also provide mental health professionals, and staff from medical clinics that speak to the seniors and who are available to answer questions.

LCG also has a comprehensive guardianship and court evaluation program, United Guardianship Services of New York (UGSNY). UGSNY was formed to assist the elderly, many of whom are no longer capable of mak-

ing their own health and financial decisions. UGSNY’s goal is to provide the highest level of care, through the use of dedicated legal, financial and social service personnel. UGSNY works closely with the New York State Court system, Adult Protective Services and other city and state agencies to provide comprehensive assistance with the respect and dignity that our elderly deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize LCG Community Services, Inc. for their continued involvement with the less fortunate.

IN COMMEMORATION OF TED TRAMBLEY’S CYCLING CAREER ON HIS 60TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize a dedicated and gifted athlete on his 60th birthday, Ted Trambley.

In commemoration of his birthday, I want to honor him and his achievements as an exceptional cyclist, culminating this year with a truly inspired race to the top of Mount Haleakala in Hawaii this summer in record time.

Born in 1951, Ted Trambley grew up in Pleasant Hill, California and graduated College Park High School in 1969 and California State University, Hayward in 1975 where he was a gymnast and avid cyclist. It was in college that cycling became one of his true passions in life and he began a career in racing that has spanned over four decades.

Ted has belonged to several racing clubs over the years, including the Diablo Wheelman, Strada Sempre Duro, and his current club, Taleo.

Of the many races he has finished over his career, one of his most memorable was the Davis Double Century, a 200 mile race in a single day. In 1974, early in his career and at the height of his competitive peak, he was barely edged out of the lead and finished second. He continued this race annually for four years.

He also participated in the Death Ride through the Sierra Nevada Mountains in California, racing 129 miles and climbing over 15,000 feet of elevation. A race not for the faint of heart.

Since 1986, Ted has been competing in the annual Mt. Diablo Mountain Challenge, a 10.8 mile race climbing 3,249 feet, where he regularly finishes among the fastest and at the very top of his age group. Drawing between 800 and 1,100 riders each year, this is one of the premier races in the San Francisco Bay Area.

These races are just a sample of his long and storied career, but it was this year, in 2011, at the Cycle to the Sun in Hawaii, on the island of Maui, that Ted Trambley truly demonstrated the strength and endurance that has defined his character for so many years.

This race is one of the most difficult bike races in the world, climbing over 10,000 feet of elevation and travelling over 36 miles while its gradient sometimes reaches 18%. As a comparison, the famed Mont Ventou in the

Tour de France is only a 5,336 foot climb over 13.6 miles.

Ted Trambley won his age group with a time of 3 hours, 43 minutes, and 39 seconds and finished 35th overall. A tremendous achievement, he should be proud knowing he has conquered the sun.

He has mentioned retirement from the racing circuit, but I truly doubt that he will hang up his cleats. It is near impossible to give up a lifelong passion.

Although he has accomplished these amazing feats of athletic endurance over four decades of training and dedication, he could not have done so without the tireless support of his wife, Mary Ann, and his two sons, Sean and Kyle.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring a truly remarkable athlete, husband, and father, Ted Trambley.

RECOGNIZING GEORGIA OLIVE FARMS

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Georgia Olive Farms for successfully harvesting the first olive crop in the eastern United States in nearly 125 years.

An Italian vacation inspired Jason Shaw to envision olives being grown in, of all places in the world, South Georgia. To make his vision a reality, he partnered with his brother Sam Shaw and cousin Kevin Shaw and the trio planted their first olive orchard near Lakeland, Georgia in 2008. They later established a cooperative association with George Hughes and Berrien Sutton of Homerville, Georgia to create Georgia Olive Farms.

Georgia Olive Farms was organized in 2009 near Lakeland, Georgia to establish and develop the innovative agricultural venture of mechanical olive harvesting. In September, they successfully harvested approximately three tons of arbequina olives to be processed into high quality extra virgin olive oil. This harvest marks a milestone in southern agriculture, as this was the first harvest of olives in not just the south, but in the entire eastern United States since the late 1800s. In addition to harvesting, they are a distributor of olive trees and offer grower contracts for others who may wish to expand this historical venture in order to introduce olives as a new viable cash crop for southern farmers.

Georgia Olive Farms' innovative techniques and information sharing have potential implications for some of our country's great problems. Georgia Olive Farms has developed a new market which will create a new revenue source for farmers, create new employment opportunities, and expand agricultural innovations and inspirations. Moreover, the new market for olives will increase the production of olive oil made here in America. As such, American-made olive oil can finally be a significant and healthy alternative to the standard cooking oils that are correlated with the high rates of obesity and health concerns plaguing this country. Georgia Olive Farms now exists as a reminder that the innovations and visions of small businesses do in fact provide the answers to many of our country's great ques-

tions and that we must obligate ourselves to supporting them.

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR REACHING THE NCAA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT'S SWEET SIXTEEN

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of Richmond men's basketball team for a remarkable 2010–2011 season, which culminated in an Atlantic 10 Conference Championship as well as a berth to the Sweet Sixteen of the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament.

The University of Richmond, which is located in the heart of Virginia's Seventh Congressional District, boasts a long tradition of excellence on the basketball court. Since 1984, the Richmond Spiders have earned an impressive 9 bids to compete in the NCAA Tournament and have reached the Sweet Sixteen on two of those trips.

This past March, along with cross-town rival, Virginia Commonwealth University, the Spiders captivated the entire City of Richmond as one of two teams advancing to the Sweet Sixteen—a feat matched by only two other cities since 1980.

The 2010–2011 season was one full of accomplishments for the Spiders—setting a school record for number of wins, 29, and points scored, 2,577. On several occasions, the Spiders defied the odds to beat top-tier programs. In November, the Spiders pulled off the upset by shocking the then-8th ranked Purdue Boilermakers by a score of 65-54. After gaining a berth to the NCAA Tournament, the Spiders carried their seven game win streak into a game against the fifth seed, Vanderbilt, and proceeded to knock off the favorite in the opening round of the tournament.

Several Richmond players took home individual honors this past season as well. Senior guard Kevin Anderson—the 2010 Atlantic 10 Player of the Year—continued to pile up individual accolades, garnering both First-Team All-Conference honors as well as being named the 2011 A-10 Tournament MVP. Senior forward Justin Harper also earned First-Team All-Conference honors and subsequently was drafted 32nd overall in this past June's NBA Draft. Kevin Smith, a senior forward, also was named to the A-10 All-Defensive team.

The Spider's success on the basketball court should come as no surprise. Led by head coach Chris Mooney, the University of Richmond has established itself as not only a leader in the A-10 but also one of the nation's elite. Mooney's Spiders have reached the NCAA Tournament in back-to-back years, and have also finished inside the Top 25 of the ESPN/USA Today Coaches poll the past two years. The Spiders have shown that they do not shy away from competition—having won seven of their last ten games against ranked opponents.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending the Richmond Spiders men's basketball team, Coach Mooney, President Ed Ayers, and the entire community at the University of Rich-

mond for a spectacular season and I wish them well this season.

IN MEMORY OF PASTOR CHARLES HENRY WILLIAMS

HON. E. SCOTT RIGELL

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter a statement into the record on behalf of my constituent, Reverend Aaron Wheeler:

"Pastor Charles Henry Williams has been a pillar of strength and love to his flock at the Morning Star Baptist Church and to the good people of the 2nd Congressional District of Virginia for more than 40 years. He has labored in the vineyard as a pastor and leader to all who knew and loved him, and his accomplishments are truly remarkable.

From the moment Dr. Williams was called to the ministry in 1967, he embraced feeding the poor and seeking the lost for the Lord.

Pastor Williams served on too numerous boards and committees to mention. Some of the organizations he served in as a faithful member and in leadership positions were the Virginia Beach Minister's Conference, Sharon Missionary Association of Suffolk and the Tidewater Metro Minister's Conference. And on a lighter note, Pastor Williams was honored by the Virginia Beach Afro-American Cultural Council as an "Honorary Cowboy" in 1999.

This man of God was bestowed with an Honorary Doctorate Degree from Norfolk Seminary in 1997. The former Mayor of Virginia Beach acknowledged that December 4, 1994 was officially, "Pastor Charles Henry Williams Day" in the city of Virginia Beach.

It is evident to all those who interacted with Pastor Williams just how much this humble man truly loved his family.

The people of the 2nd Congressional District of the State of Virginia give honor to Pastor Charles Henry Williams, as his untimely leaving is our loss but heaven's gain.

The Bible rang true for his service to this world in the scripture of 2 Timothy 4:7–8: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge will give to me on that Day."

SENIOR VETERANS HOUSING ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2011

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, we must ensure that the men and women who bravely served our country have access to affordable housing. My bill, the Senior Veterans Housing Assistance Act, seeks to make sure that government regulations do not pose an impediment to achieving this important goal.

This issue came to light because of conflicting rules and regulations between the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Veterans Affairs. In Dayton, Ohio, the St. Mary's Neighborhood

Development Corporation has been attempting for several years to construct senior housing on the campus of the Dayton VA Medical Center. St. Mary's was able to obtain an enhanced-use lease from the VA to construct the housing and also obtained HUD Section 202 funding to allow for the financing of the construction for low-income senior housing. So we had VA providing the land and HUD providing funding, and both VA and HUD agreeing that this would be an excellent project to help homeless veterans, provide low-income housing for veterans, and respond to the needs of seniors in the community.

However, HUD asserted that St. Mary's was unable to use these critical dollars if the VA lease required a specific preference for veterans to occupy the proposed facility on the VA grounds. The VA rules and regulations require that the VA assert and request a preference for veterans for housing to be built on its campus.

In the 111th Congress, this body unanimously approved and the President enacted into law a provision I authored to solve this issue. Specifically, the Fiscal Year 2010 appropriations measure included a prohibition on enforcement of HUD's restriction against a veterans preference. However, this solution was only temporary.

To ensure that these conflicting regulations do not present further, long-term obstacles for our veterans and seniors, I have introduced the Senior Veterans Housing Assistance Act. My bill will permanently ensure that organizations that seek to provide our senior veterans with affordable housing with HUD funds on VA property are able to overcome the HUD and VA conflicting rules and regulations. Specifically, the bill will allow HUD funds to be used for supportive housing for the elderly that provide preference to veterans if the property is or would be located on VA land, or is subject to an enhanced-use lease with the VA.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this important measure.

WORLD AIDS DAY

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of World AIDS Day, December 1, 2011, and in support of the more than 33 million people worldwide living with AIDS, including over one million Americans.

World AIDS Day began in 1988 to raise public awareness for one of the most deadly pandemics in history. Since 1981, over 25 million people have died from HIV or AIDS related illnesses, and in 2008 alone more than 2.7 million people were newly infected. In the United States, more than one million people are living with HIV, with one in five of those cases currently unaware of their condition. HIV disproportionately affects people of color, men who have sex with men, and those without access to affordable birth control.

2011 marks 30 years since the discovery of the first AIDS cases in the United States. To date, the work we've done here in the United States and abroad has been effective as HIV infections worldwide are at their lowest levels since 1997. There is much more to be done,

but I'm proud of the commitment we've made—research at the National Institutes of Health, prevention and education programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Ryan White CARE Act, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria—and it is my hope that we will continue that great work.

Mr. Speaker, World AIDS Day provides us with an occasion to raise awareness about HIV prevention measures. With continued commitment to public health programs, research, early testing and screening, and age appropriate sexual education programs, we can work together to protect ourselves from HIV, and eradicate this disease for good.

I urge my colleagues to stand with me in supporting the Americans and people across the globe infected with HIV, and to support the efforts that will bring an eventual end to this deadly disease.

TRIBUTE TO BILL HOYT

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and share with you and my colleagues the story of Mr. Bill Hoyt and his lifelong efforts to support agriculture and ranching, which are so important to jobs and the economy in rural Oregon. Over the past two years, Bill has done a tremendous job serving as the president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association. Later this week, Bill's term as president will come to an end. Before he hands over the reins I would like to pay tribute to his steadfast leadership.

Prior to serving as president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, Bill served as president of the Douglas County Livestock Association and as president of the Oregon Polled Hereford Association. On top of his duties with the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, he serves on the board of the Oregon Forage and Grassland Council and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. In 2009, the Oregon Agribusiness Council recognized Bill's service to Oregon's agricultural and ranching community by presenting him with the 2009 Voice of the Industry award.

During his tenure as president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, Bill has worked to promote and protect the interests of ranchers throughout Oregon. Bill has made a concerted effort to engage the general public about issues facing ranchers. He has spent many hours and miles traveling to meetings with rotary clubs, chambers of commerce and the environmental community, telling the story of Oregon's cattle ranchers, whose \$700 million industry provides jobs throughout rural Oregon. His efforts to educate the public and build relationships with other interested groups culminated in the passage of the Livestock Compensation and Wolf Co-Existence Act during Oregon's 2011 legislative session. This precedent-setting legislation goes beyond what other states have done to compensate producers for livestock loss by allowing local county-level authorities to address compensation for and deterrence of livestock losses.

Bill was raised on a beef ranch in Montana. After high school, he earned degrees in both

political science and education. Bill served his country in the U.S. Air Force for four years before moving on to teach high school history. In 1977, Bill began working as the operations manager for his family ranch in Montana. In 1979, Bill expanded the operation to include the ranch from his mother's family in Oregon. Bill and his wife Sharon now own and operate the Hawley Land and Cattle Company in Oregon with Bill's father and younger brother.

The ranch that Bill operates has been in the family for 159 years and Bill makes an effort to implement cutting edge stewardship practices for forage and livestock production. Bill and Sharon have diversified their operation over the years and now raise sheep, goats and beef cattle and sell grass-fed lamb and beef direct to markets and top-rated restaurants in Oregon and Washington. Through changing techniques, diversification and advocacy on behalf of the industry he loves, Bill hopes that agriculture and the livestock industries will continue to flourish in Oregon 150 years from now.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Bill Hoyt, who has served so ably as president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 16TH ANNIVERSARY OF WE CAN

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 10th anniversary of WE CAN, Women's empowerment through Cape Area Networking in Harwich Port, Massachusetts.

Recognizing that every community member's well-being contributes to that of the whole community, WE CAN's mission has been to empower Cape Cod women of all ages undergoing challenging life transitions. It includes services that bring increased opportunity, self-sufficiency, stability, and lasting positive change for themselves, their families and, ultimately, the entire community. After ten years, WE CAN remains committed to that mission.

WE CAN had its beginnings at Cape Cod Community College in a program called Women in Transition, WIT, which was designed to help women of all ages and demographics improve their lives through education. A year later, WIT became WE CAN. In its first year, they helped 15 women. Early services included emergency financial aid; programs that provided guidance on reenrolling in school and mentorship; help filling out forms for emergency fuel assistance, financial aid for education, job applications; and information and referrals to other organizations on the Cape. Now, ten years later, at the half mark of this year, WE CAN, had already handled more than 2100 contacts and served close to 1000 women.

WE CAN has a true tradition of excellence thanks to its outstanding leadership, superior volunteers, board, staff, generous community partners and motivated program participants. Based on evolving needs of the Cape population, they continued to grow in terms of the number of women and their families served;

the development of their programs and services; and in terms of their ability to attract volunteers, secure grants and donations from area businesses and individuals.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating WE CAN, its staff, board, volunteers, community partners, and program participants on the celebration of 10 years of service to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HONORING GABRIEL ZIMMERMAN

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Gabriel Zimmerman, who tragically lost his life in the senseless shooting on January 8, 2011, that took 5 other lives and resulted in the serious wounding of our wonderful and resilient colleague, Representative GABBY GIFFORDS.

Gabe dedicated his life to helping others. On that day, he had organized a Congress on Your Corner event so that constituents could bring their problems to Representative GIFFORDS and her staff to get them solved. We have learned a lot about Gabe's commitment to service—his practice of going the extra mile to help improve the lives of so many.

In January 2007, Gabe began serving as Constituent Services Supervisor for newly-elected Congresswoman GIFFORDS. In that role, he oversaw an extensive constituent advocacy program, working directly with the people of Arizona's Eighth Congressional District every day. He then served as Congresswoman GIFFORDS' Director of Community Outreach, where he organized hundreds of events to allow constituents all over southern Arizona to meet with Congresswoman GIFFORDS. I know how much my colleague, Congresswoman GIFFORDS, relied on Gabriel and how much she valued their work together.

Margaret Bowe, a close college friend of Gabe, described him as "a warm, funny, energetic, smart, interesting person who was passionate about life." She went on to explain "Gabe's purpose, his motivation, his passion, was to help people, he believed in the ideals of our political system."

I remember that day well—my thoughts and concerns went out to those involved in that horrific event but also to my own staff, who work extremely hard, putting in long hours to serve the constituents of the 9th District of Illinois. Every one of them is committed to helping people and they are regularly in the same role that Gabriel was on that January morning. They do not get the recognition that they deserve, often enough.

Our staffs are out there in our communities every day, embodying the same values Gabe worked so hard for. In remembering Gabe, we also must salute the thousands of staffers across the country, who keep his memory alive by proudly serving their communities and country.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Gabe's family and friends, among them my colleague GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, who so deeply mourn his tragic death.

HONORING EMMA H. NEWSOME

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, Thirty-five years ago a virtuous woman of God accepted her calling to serve in the Atlanta Field Office of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); and Whereas, Mrs. Emma H. Newsome began her career working in various positions, she rose to the rank of Regional Director's Liaison and has served the citizens well and our community has been blessed through her service; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents as a Coordinator, Deputy Director, Liaison and Motivator, giving the citizens of Georgia a person of great worth, a fearless leader and a servant to all who wants to advance the lives of the citizens in our region; and

Whereas, Mrs. Newsome is formally retiring from her governmental career today, she will continue to promote civic duty because she is a cornerstone in our community that has enhanced the lives of thousands for the betterment of our District and Nation; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Emma H. Newsome on her retirement from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and to wish her well in her new endeavors;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim November 4, 2011 as Mrs. Emma H. Newsome Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 4th day of November, 2011.

HONORING MICHAEL D. "MIKE" WALDEN

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Veterans of Foreign Wars Chowchilla Post 9896 Life Member Michael D. "Mike" Walden who served his country honorably from a very young age.

Mike was born in Los Angeles in 1946; he attended local area schools before enlisting in the United States Army in June of 1963, at the age of seventeen. He completed his basic training at Fort Ord, California, and later completed specialized training in armor warfare in Fort Knox, Kentucky. Mike was next sent to Korea for twelve months for duty with the 2nd Battalion of the 10th Cavalry, 7th Division at Camp Hansen located in the demilitarized zone. The unit provided security and conducted patrols while observing North Korean communist forces across the DMZ. Soon after, Mike returned to the States for duty with the 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry, and 5th Division. After extensive training, the division was transitioned into duty with the First Infantry Division, known as the "Big Red One". The "Big

Red One" remains one of the most storied divisions of the U.S. Army, having led the way for American troops in WWI, and during WWII, was the first Army Division to fight the Germans on North Africa, Sicily, the beaches of Normandy, and the Battle of the Bulge. During the summer of 1965, his division was the first Army division called to fight in Vietnam. Throughout 1965, his unit was involved in significant and major combat engagements.

Mike completed a twelve month tour in Vietnam; he returned to the United States in 1966 and was discharged five days after his twentieth birthday. After serving three years and two tours in Korea and Vietnam, he was still not old enough to legally purchase a beer. For his service, he was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Korea Defense Medal, among others.

After his retirement from the U.S. Army, Mike graduated from West Valley College and St. Mary's College and worked as a project support engineer. He and his wife, Gayla Darlene, make their home in Chowchilla with their two children. Mike is a Life Member of the Chowchilla VFW Post 9896 and an active member of his church.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Mr. Michael D. Walden for his honorable service to our great country, and wishing him the best of luck and health in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF ROSA PARKS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroic spirit of one of the most remarkable women in our nation's history by celebrating National Transit Tribute to Rosa Parks Day. Commonly known as "the first lady of civil rights" and "the mother of the freedom movement," Rosa Parks is a heroine who will be forever remembered for her courage to stand up for what she believed.

On that fateful December 1st evening in 1955, Rosa Parks had the strength to refuse to sit in the back of the bus, where blacks at the time were segregated from white riders in the front. By this simple yet heroic protest she inspired blacks across America to fight for their rights. I am honored to have been part of the Civil Rights Movement she helped fuel. Because of her vision for equality, America has made great strides toward a more perfect union.

It was a great privilege to attend the ceremony on October 28, 2005, when our nation bestowed Rosa Parks the highest honor by allowing her body to lie in honor in the Capitol of the United States Congress. She was the first American who had not been a government official to be paid this tribute. She was also the first woman and the second black person to lie in honor.

The story of Rosa Parks is proof that everyone in our great democracy, in this case a 42-year-old black woman from Montgomery, Alabama, can change the course of our country and help pave a better tomorrow for future generations. I hope we can be inspired by Rosa Parks to continue our fight for equality and justice for all Americans.

DETENTION OF ALAN P. GROSS

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call for the immediate release of Alan P. Gross on humanitarian grounds. Mr. Gross, a 62-year-old international development specialist, has been held in a Cuban detention facility for the last two years. Mr. Gross has worked in community and international development for over 25 years and his work has positively impacted the lives of people in over 50 countries, including the West Bank, Gaza, Iraq, Afghanistan, Haiti, Gambia, Kenya, South Africa, and Ghana.

At the time of his arrest, Mr. Gross was working on behalf of the US Agency for International Development with the peaceful, non-dissident Jewish community to help them establish an Intranet and improve access to the Internet. Logically, Mr. Gross brought basic technological equipment with him to assist in achieving that goal. Although he followed all appropriate procedures and declared the equipment in customs, Cuban authorities would use unsupported claims of illegality of this equipment as grounds for his imprisonment.

Shortly after his arrest on December 3, 2009, Cuban military officials placed Mr. Gross in a maximum-security military hospital, and held him for 14 months without charge. In February of this year, he was finally charged with "acts to undermine the integrity and independence" of Cuba. After a mere two day trial, he was convicted, and sentenced to 15 years in prison. His appeal to the Cuban Supreme Court was denied on August 5.

Mr. Speaker, Alan Gross is an elderly development worker, not a spy. He doesn't speak Spanish, making him an unlikely subject in the subversion of the Cuban government. It is insulting to suggest that Mr. Gross deserves a 15 year sentence for possessing "illegal" equipment that Cuban authorities could have seized upon his entrance into the country. But these elements of this gross miscarriage of justice pale in comparison to the humanitarian affront of keeping him in Cuban custody.

Mr. Gross' health has deteriorated tremendously during his incarceration. He has lost approximately 100 pounds and suffers from a number of serious health issues, some of which may become permanent. In addition, his family's health and financial problems have placed him under extreme mental strain.

In August of 2010, Mr. Gross' 26-year-old daughter was diagnosed with breast cancer. She underwent, and is currently recovering from a double mastectomy. His wife, Judy, recently underwent surgery as well, missing a long period of work due to her illness. His 89-year-old mother was diagnosed with inoperable cancer in February of this year. This, combined with Mr. Gross' continued incarceration, has resulted in tremendous financial hardship for his entire family, and his inability to support them has greatly pained Mr. Gross.

In light of these events and his unjust sentence, I call on the Cuban Government to immediately release Mr. Gross so he may receive medical treatment and help his family through this tumultuous time.

CONGRATULATING THE JOHN GLENN HIGH SCHOOL SPELL BOWL TEAM

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the John Glenn High School Spell Bowl team of Walkerton, Indiana for winning the Class II Indiana Academic Spell Bowl held on November 12, 2011 at Purdue University. Their score of 84 out of a possible 90 far surpassed runner up Plymouth High Schools' score of 75.

The spellers practiced three times a week in preparation for their fifth consecutive state championship. The team consisted of Ely Alexander, Ariel Clark, Jake Coday, Ann Heckman-Davis, Cole Jacobson, Miranda Kafantaris, Kim Lord, Chris Mahank, Gabby Marek, Erin Patterson, Maddy Piedra, Paige Reed, Holly Rowe, Rebecca Shoue, J.J. Silvey, Justina Weiss, and Karena Weiss.

The team is coached by Paul Hernandez who has led the school to 16 state titles in 25 years. This outstanding achievement was recognized by the Indiana Association of School Principals who named Mr. Hernandez the 2011 Academic Coach of the Year. The only coach to win state Spell Bowl Championships in two different divisions, he is the English Department Chairman, tutors the Academic Decathlon Team and supervises the nationally recognized high school literary magazine, "Aerial."

Again, I rise to offer my congratulations to the members of the John Glenn High School Spell Bowl team and their dedicated coach for their extraordinary accomplishments throughout the competition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, on November 4th, 2011, I missed a series of votes to attend the Change of Command ceremony at Fort Drum, New York. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

On Rollcall 829, Ordering the Previous Question providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2838) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2012 through 2015, and for other purposes, I would have voted Nay.

On Rollcall 830, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2838) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2012 through 2015, and for other purposes, I would have voted Nay.

On Rollcall 831, To facilitate the hosting in the United States of the 34th Americas Cup by authorizing certain eligible vessels to participate in activities related to the competition, and for other purposes, I would have voted Yea.

On Rollcall 832, Cummings of Maryland Amendment No. 3, I would have voted Yea.

On Rollcall 833, Thompson of Mississippi Amendment No. 4, I would have voted Nay.

On Rollcall 834, Napolitano of California Amendment No. 6, I would have voted Yea.

On Rollcall 835, Bishop of New York Amendment No. 7, I would have voted Yea.

On Rollcall 836, Slaughter of New York Amendment No. 8, I would have voted Yea.

IN RECOGNITION OF TIME WARNER CABLE

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Time Warner Cable for its investment in local television news coverage, specifically for opening a Washington, D.C., news bureau that will cover stories and events here in Washington that are important to the communities its 14 local news channels serve throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker, TWC is dedicating significant resources to high quality local news channels that provide critical local news, weather, traffic and sports coverage in the communities that they serve. We live in an age when local television news is disappearing and hometown newspapers are fast becoming a thing of the past. However, in the Charlotte area stations remain committed to reporting in-depth local stories. It is important to make note of the rare times when we see investment in local news coverage. I applaud Time Warner Cable for recognizing the importance of local news, for investing in it and creating jobs while providing this critical service to their customers and my constituents. Certainly it is with more local news coverage that we will have a better informed citizenry, which can only advance our great country.

HONORING THE UNIFICATION OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMUNICATIONS UNION AND THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS AND AEROSPACE WORKERS

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the January 1, 2012 unification of the Transportation Communications Union (TCU) and the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW).

These two distinguished unions, with railroad roots, are on course to become one strong voice for hundreds of thousands of middle-class working men and women across America.

In 1888, 19 machinists meeting in a locomotive pit in Atlanta, Georgia formed what is now IAMAW, commonly known as the "Fighting Machinists." Throughout their 123 year history, the Fighting Machinists have grown to represent workers in several industries, including: aerospace, transportation, government, automotive, defense, and woodworking.

Today's TCU is also one union made of many. At its core is the union founded in 1899, which became the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks. In 1919, the union became the

Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employees. To further reflect the diversity of the union's membership, the delegates to the 1987 Convention voted to become TCU.

By joining the ranks of the Machinists, TCU will help strengthen the organization's membership and the overall labor movement. For more than a century, both TCU and IAMAW have stood for the welfare and prosperity of their members. Today, these unions continue to fight on behalf of their members who exemplify the values of hard work, faith, family, and community.

This unification not only brings together two unions, but also two dedicated presidents—Tom Buffenbarger and Bob Scardelletti. Tom Buffenbarger began his career as a journeyman tool and die maker at General Electric's jet engine plant in Evendale, Ohio. In 1997, he became the youngest IAMAW President in its history. Bob Scardelletti, a life-long railroader, started out as a yard clerk in Cleveland with the New York Central Railroad in 1967. In 1971, he took on his first union position and by 1991 was elected TCU president and has been re-elected four times.

TCU and IAMAW were fundamental in building the American middle-class, and have a vital role today in preserving the American dream for working families. Their combined strength will provide continued leadership throughout the labor movement, particularly in the transportation industry. It is my pleasure to honor this historic event and congratulate their members as they join forces under the new TCU/IAMAW.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 860, 861, and 862. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all three.

HONORING LIZ COVENTRY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, today I extend my deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathies to the family of Liz Coventry. Liz passed away on October 26, 2011, after waging a valiant battle against cancer. Throughout many years of my public service—from my Congressional campaign days to my early days as a U.S. Congressman, Liz was an unwaveringly loyal and exceptionally focused member of my team. Whether working on casework for constituents, tirelessly advocating on behalf of veterans, spearheading the annual Congressional Art Competition for my office, or organizing various special projects, Liz took on every endeavor with passion. I cannot imagine the early days of my office without her.

Yet far beyond being an employee, Liz was also a friend. And as anyone who knew Liz would undoubtedly agree, to be able to call

her "friend" is truly an honor. While Liz's daily presence will be acutely missed by those who knew and loved her, the memory of her friendship and her legacy will remain.

I deeply appreciate Liz for her friendship and support, and I honor her for her service to our state and our nation.

A TRIBUTE TO RAY A. HARRIS, RAMIE L. HARRIS, AND SHEY M. HARRIS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the lives of Ray A. Harris, Ramie L. Harris and Shey M. Harris, of Marion, Indiana who perished in a tragic plane crash on November 26, 2011. Ray was 46, Ramie was 21, and Shey was 20. I join the Marion community in expressing my deepest condolences to Ray's wife, Sherry, and his son, Blake, who are left to carry on in this world without them. In one tragic day, Sherry lost her husband and two daughters. Likewise, Blake lost his father and two sisters. Other survivors include Ray's parents and in-laws and numerous aunts and cousins. Chris Backus, a student at Indiana Wesleyan University also died in the crash.

As a businessman Ray was a pioneer of sorts in Marion. He moved his car dealership known as Ray Harris Chrysler Jeep from its established location to a new location at Ind. 18 and 1-69. He knew the risks associated with the move but he held a deep desire to make Marion a better place and because Ray was a visionary he knew the new location would grow into something good and benefit the community around it. Ray was a true community leader. He was a supporter of the Marion Giants; served 8 years as the President of the Marion Board of Works; was a member of the Meshingomesia Country Club, the Aero Club, Marion Pilots Club, and the Elks. Ray was a skilled hunter and fisherman. One of his favorite events was the annual Community School for the Arts, CSA, Go-Kart race.

As busy as Ray was in business and in the community, his family always came first. Ray was an attentive father and husband, rarely missing one of his children's events. Ramie was a 2009 graduate of Marion High School where she played soccer, basketball, and tennis. Ramie's soccer jersey number will be retired in her honor. Ramie also played in various PAL club sports and was the recipient of numerous scholarships. As a student at Marion High School, Ramie was active in Youth for Christ. She was also active in God's House Ministries' Children's Ministry Department. Ramie was a junior at Wheaton College, majoring in pre-med.

Shey was a graduate of Eastbrook High School after having attended Marion High School until her junior year. Shey loved to dance and was majoring in dance with a minor in business at Anderson University at the time of her death. Shey attended and later taught at the Community School of the Arts and taught gymnastics at Mid America. Like her father and sister, Shey's love for the Lord guided her in her daily life. She was involved in the liturgical dance program at her church and

the children's ministry department at College Wesleyan Church.

Ray, Ramie, and Shey will be forever remembered by all who knew them as a loving family who devoted their lives and talents to community and God. In their death their memory will live on through the CSA Ray Harris Family Memorial Endowment Fund that was established at the Community Foundation of Grant County as a way for the community to honor the family. The money from the endowment will go to the organization for the Shey Harris Dance Scholarship, which will be awarded to a student from CSA. The Harris family were key supporters of the organization. Shey distinguished herself as a dancer and choreographer by the choreographing the first commercial CSA did for the Gorman Center for Orthodontics and being the youngest person to teach at the organization at the age of 14. Ramie danced at the school and danced in the first show that CSA ever did. Shey's and Ramie's surviving brother Blake was the CSA's "Go Arts! Go Karts!" 2010 champion when he raced for his father's business. Ray's wife, Sherry, is also active in CSA events and is a former board member.

The Harris family attended God's House Ministries and by all accounts, their lives were guided by their love for the Lord. At times of deep sorrow and grief, I am comforted by Psalm 23.

PSALM 23—A PSALM OF DAVID

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Today, I pray for all of God's love and healing to be bestowed upon the Harris family.

HONORING BALD ROCK BAPTIST CHURCH

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, Bald Rock Baptist Church has been and continues to be a beacon of light to our county for the past one hundred fifty years; and

Whereas, Pastor Christopher Shipp and the members of the Bald Rock Baptist Church family today continues to uplift and inspire those in our county; and

Whereas, the Bald Rock Baptist Church family has been and continues to be a place where citizens are touched spiritually, mentally and physically through outreach ministries and community partnership to aid in building up our District; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious Church of God has given hope to the hopeless, fed the needy and empowered our community for the past one hundred fifty (150)

years, being Rockdale County's first African American Congregation; and

Whereas, Bald Rock has produced many spiritual warriors, people of compassion, people of great courage, fearless leaders and servants to all, but most of all visionaries who have shared not only with their Church, but with Rockdale County their passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the Bald Rock Baptist Church family for their leadership and service to our District on this the 150th Anniversary of their founding;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim November 13, 2011 as Bald Rock Baptist Church Day In the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 13th day of November, 2011.

HONORING JOHN WILKINSON

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Veterans of Foreign Wars Chowchilla Post 9896 Life Member John Wilkinson, who retired from the United States Marine Corps as a Master Sergeant in 1974.

John A. Wilkinson was born in Taft, California in November 1935. During his high school years, John worked during the summer months and after school in the oil fields handling drill toll stabilizers and as a truck driver. In 1953, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. During his service in the U.S. Marine Corps, he served on seven aircraft carriers, twelve different shore installations, and duty with all branches of service, as well as Civil Service Personnel. He traveled to twenty foreign countries and saw duty with seven military forces. Throughout his duration of service, John succeeded in many roles. In 1957, he was selected for aviation schooling and completed Aircraft Fundamentals and Jet Engine Mechanics courses and was station at Los Alamitos Naval Air Station where he served as a crew chief performing scheduled and non-scheduled maintenance on all aircraft systems. In 1965, John assumed a two year post as a Drill Instructor at Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego. He was deployed with his unit to Vietnam in 1970 where he served with H&MS-11, which supported Marine aircraft missions fighting the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces. Master Sergeant Wilkinson received numerous decorations and awards for his service, including the National Defense Medal, seven awards of the Good Conduct Medal, Vietnamese Service Medal with star, and the Meritorious Unit Commendation.

Upon his retirement from the military, John earned an Associate of Arts Degree from West Hills College and a Bachelor of Art Degree in Social Science and a teaching credential from California State University, Fresno. For thirteen years, John continued his legacy of public service as a civics, economics, and history teacher at Chowchilla Union High School. John and his late wife, Veronica, raised three children. He is now a grandfather

of nine and a great-grandfather of ten. He makes his home in Los Lunas, New Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Mr. John A. Wilkinson for his honorable service to our great country, and wishing him the best of luck and health in his future endeavors.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTES FREEDOM SISTER'S TRAVELING EXHIBITION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, ahead of tomorrow's announcement, today I rise to recognize the empowering Freedom Sister's Exhibition being showcased in The Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center in my Congressional District. The Exhibition will be officially on display starting February 4 thru April 22, 2012.

Often when the civil rights movement is discussed, male figureheads whose visibility in boycotts, legal proceedings, and mass demonstrations dominated media coverage in the 1950's and '60s are the first memories we recollect. Sometimes missing and often forgotten from these memoirs are a group of extraordinary women who, while less prominent in the media, shaped much of the core and spirit of civil rights movement.

The Freedom Sister's Exhibition shines a light on the many women that at times history seems to overlook. As the Member of Congress whose district encompasses the historical community of Harlem and in response to an overwhelming sentiment from both my local Education and Arts & Culture constituencies, it was enormously important to me that the Smithsonian bring the traveling exhibition to my beloved community. Nine out of the twenty women being paid tribute to, have walked the streets of the great village of Harlem. Constance Baker Motley, Harriet Tubman, Ella Baker, Charlayne Hunter-Gault, Dr. Betty Shabazz, Sonia Sanchez, Mary McLeod Bethune, Shirley Chisholm, and Ida B. Wells all dared to dream the impossible: equality for all.

The exhibition also pays tribute to the success of such notable women as Coretta Scott King, Rosa Parks, Barbara Johnson, Fannie Lou Hamer, Myrlie Evers-Williams, Kathleen Cleaver, Mary Church Terrell, Septima Poinsette Clark, Dorothy Height, and C. Delores Tucker. I cannot stress the importance of such a marvelous showcase of these important women. The Civil rights movement was spearheaded by many exceptional men such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, but these women among many others also fought for equality with a commitment to strengthen our Nation and making a difference for all Americans.

Let me thank Jacob Morris, Executive Director of the Harlem Historical Society for bringing this great exhibition to my attention through my District Representative, Socrates Solano. According to the information imparted to my office by the Harlem Historical Society, it was my understanding that New York was not initially considered as a venue for this wonderful traveling exhibit's National tour. Let me also thank Zead Ramadan, Chair of the

Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center for agreeing to host this truly historic exhibition.

Mr. Speaker, like Harlem, there are those in our country that ardently desire that its sons and daughters as well as our teachers and educators are given the opportunity to appreciate and learn more about these great women of courage who have had such profound historical significance. I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues, with the gratitude of our fellow citizens, join me in commending the Smithsonian Institute for paying tribute to our beloved Freedom Sisters through their traveling exhibition.

TRIBUTE TO JANE AND WILLIAM MCQUAIN AND THE WORK OF THE DWELLING PLACE

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember two of my constituents whose lives were recently tragically cut short. Ms. Jane McQuain, 51, and her son William, 11, were found murdered on October 18, 2011, triggering shock and pain throughout my congressional district.

Since 2006, Ms. McQuain and William had been receiving assistance from an outstanding organization, The Dwelling Place, whose mission is to provide housing opportunities and support services for homeless families in Montgomery County. The McQuains were one of many families helped by this program.

Ms. McQuain was an extraordinary example of the success that can be achieved through hard work and dedication. In 2006, she came to The Dwelling Place as a homeless single mother, seeking a better life for herself and her son. Two years later, she graduated from the program with permanent housing and a steady job. Ms. McQuain immediately sought to give back to the community and devoted her time to helping families in crisis who were facing similar situations. She often returned to The Dwelling Place to share her experiences and to advise families on how to succeed during and after the program. Her son, William, had a bright future. His friends and family describe him as a vibrant and imaginative boy who loved sports, animals, and video games. Both Ms. McQuain and William were extraordinary individuals, who had successfully overcome great adversity.

The Dwelling Place has been helping the homeless since 1988, when a group of activists, appalled at the rising levels of homelessness in Montgomery County, Maryland, came together to find a solution to this growing problem. The organization incorporates various aspects of affordability, length of stay, and life skills, striving to help homeless families achieve self-sufficiency. Families are assisted to develop the necessary skills they need for a brighter and more prosperous future. The Dwelling Place is not merely a place for families to live; it is a place for families to thrive. It provides families with critical training in parenting, communication literacy, and networking techniques. It also counsels individual families to work towards a strong, united, and independent family unit.

Thanks to The Dwelling Place, Ms. McQuain was able to provide her son with a happy and stable life. Although their lives were brutally cut short, their resilience and ability to overcome hardship will never be forgotten, and they will continue to inspire the many families that face similar challenges.

My congressional district is fortunate to have The Dwelling Place providing support to our community, so that families in crisis can establish new lives without fear and with the potential and support for a bright future.

I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Jane and William McQuain and in saluting the mission of The Dwelling Place and its dedication to assisting the homeless.

RECOGNITION OF THE COMMUNITY
ADOLESCENT AND EDUCATION
CENTER OF HOLYOKE, MASSA-
CHUSETTS

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the invaluable contributions that the Community Adolescent and Education, Care, Center, Inc. of Holyoke, Massachusetts makes to the community by improving the lives of teen mothers and their children.

Among the Care Center's core beliefs is that people living in poverty should be exposed to the same intellectual stimulus as those who are financially well off and that they will thrive if they receive it. The Center, therefore, works extremely hard to provide young mothers with high level programming in education, the arts and humanities, and athletics. These programs have been incredibly effective with up to 85 percent of graduates going on to college and many launching careers in social services, government and medicine.

On November 2, 2011, First Lady Michelle Obama presented the Care Center with the prestigious National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award for its innovative humanities courses. I have been a proud supporter of the Center and its vital work, and I cannot think of a more deserving institution in my district.

Over 500 organizations from across the country were nominated for the award which, administered by the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, is considered to be the highest honor for such programs in the nation. The Care Center is one of 12 after-school and out-of-school programs to receive the award and it was, in particular, recognized for its exceptional humanities programming. This included the Clemente Course in the Humanities, a free college course focusing on moral philosophy, art history, literature, writing, and American history; Introduction to Humanities, a college course offered in partnership with Greenfield Community College; and Nautilus II, an annual anthology of poetry and art by Center teen mothers.

The Care Center is dedicated to helping young parents with low incomes obtain access to an excellent education. Center Executive Director Anne Teschner and her dedicated staff, through their revolutionary programming, have opened doors leading to successful futures for hundreds of teens and their children.

I commend the Care Center on these efforts and am confident that this national recognition can be a catalyst that allows it to help hundreds more in years to come.

ALAN GROSS

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, for the last two years, Alan Gross, a 62-year old international development specialist and social worker, has been incarcerated in a Cuban prison. Today marks the two-year anniversary of his imprisonment. Alan traveled to Cuba on behalf of USAID to help the country's Jewish community expand its access to the Internet and establish an Intranet. This was a humanitarian mission, a mission to help a small and peaceful community improve its access to and use of the Internet. Alan's presence and actions posed no threat to the Cuban government.

And yet, Alan has been held in a maximum-security military hospital facility in Cuba since December 2009. He has been sentenced to 15 years in prison, charged with "acts to undermine the integrity and independence" of Cuba. Alan's appeal to the Cuban Supreme Court was denied on August 5, 2011, formally ending his legal options for release.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise and join my colleagues in calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Alan Gross. Alan Gross is not a criminal, he is a humanitarian aid worker. Alan Gross is a man whose life work has positively impacted people across the world, including in the West Bank, Gaza, Iraq, Afghanistan, Africa and Haiti. Alan Gross is a husband, a father and a son who should be released and reunited with his family immediately.

HONORING TONY ROYAL

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, reaching the age of 50 years is a remarkable milestone; and

Whereas, Mr. Tony Royal was born in Savannah, Georgia on November 20, 1961 and is celebrating that milestone today; and

Whereas, Mr. Royal has accomplished much in his years, but the two things he is most proud of is being the husband of Leslie and father of Antasha and Anthony; and

Whereas, he is a stellar businessman, a model citizen and a community partner who not only talks the talk, but walks the walk; and

Whereas, Mr. Royal has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God, family and community; and

Whereas, Mr. Royal is celebrating his 50th birthday with his family and friends, his good will has touched the lives of persons everywhere across the nation in particularly the Fourth District of Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this

day to honor and recognize Mr. Royal for an exemplary life which is an inspiration to all,

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim November 20, 2011 as Mr. Tony Royal Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 20th day of November, 2011.

HONORING JOHNNY CHANDLER

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Veterans of Foreign Wars Chowchilla Post 9896 Life Member Johnny Chandler who served his country honorably in the United States Air Force.

After graduating from Chowchilla High School in 1998, Johnny Chandler enlisted in the United States Air Force. He completed his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, and later completed Enlisted Aircrew Training at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas. After completing technical surveillance specialty training in Mississippi, Washington, and Oklahoma, he was assigned to the Airborne Air Control Squadron, one of the three operational E-3 Sentry (AWACS) squadrons in the continental United States. The primary mission of the 965th was Operation Southern Watch in the skies over Southern Iraq. The mission's objectives were to search for, track, and report enemy aircraft contacts to ground and airborne assets and intercept them if they ventured into the No-Fly Zone. While with the 965th, he participated in numerous Red Flag training missions, which are the Air Force's equivalent of the Navy's Top Gun School.

Johnny returned to the United States about a year later and was subsequently selected to be one of the first Airborne Surveillance Technicians to participate in the resurrection of the old 960th World War II bomber squad. While at the Base Exchange in Incirlik Air Force Base in Turkey, Johnny watched the television monitors as the first airliner impacted the World Trade Center on September 11, 2011. While with the 960th, he completed two tours with the Operation Northern Watch in the Northern part of Iraq, guiding American and allied aircraft to targets and monitoring enemy air defenses and missile sites. He had over 1,000 flight hours on the E-3 Sentry including 300 combat hours. In 2003, he was promoted to Staff Sergeant and was selected for cross-training in the Air Force Combat Control.

Johnny retired from the U.S. Air Force in 2005 and enrolled in Oklahoma State University's engineering program. He graduated in May 2010 with a Bachelors of Science in Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering. During his academic career, Johnny used his engineering expertise to design a multitude of robotic unmanned aerial and ground systems. He recently accepted a position as an Aerospace Engineer at the Naval Surface War Center where he will be working with high-powered lasers, rail guns, conventional weapons, and unmanned aircraft

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Mr. Johnny Chandler for his honorable service to our great country, and wishing him the best of luck and health in his future endeavors.

COMMENDING REP. GONZALEZ'S
CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Congressman CHARLES GONZALEZ. I am sad that after seven great terms in the House, Congressman CHARLES GONZALEZ will not be seeking reelection. Picking right up from where his father left off, CHARLES has been a tremendous leader for the people of the Texas 20th Congressional District and the United States.

CHARLES and I share the honor of representing large Hispanic communities. As the Chairman of the Hispanic Caucus and his tenure in Congress, he has fought fiercely to better the lives of all Hispanics in America. We both proudly co-sponsored the DREAM Act. We both share the belief that everyone in America deserves the equal opportunity to pursue the American Dream.

CHARLES and his compassion will be greatly missed. I wish him and his family all the best and more.

REGARDING THE IMPRISONMENT
OF ALAN GROSS

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with deep concern over the plight of an American citizen overseas. Today marks two years that Alan Gross, a 62-year old international development specialist who has worked for over two decades helping people in troubled areas across the globe, has been held in a Cuban prison.

For the first fourteen months of his captivity, Mr. Gross was held without charge. In February of this year, he was charged with "acts to undermine the integrity and independence" of the State, then given a two-day trial and sentenced to 15 years in prison, his appeal denied.

Mr. Gross was in Cuba on behalf of USAID. He was there to help the country's small Jewish community establish an intranet and improve its access to the internet. His presence and actions were not meant to pose a threat or danger to the Cuban government. Since being incarcerated, he has lost approximately 100 pounds, his health is deteriorating, and two immediate family members, his mother and daughter, have been diagnosed with cancer.

His 15-year sentence is absurd, and his continuing incarceration is inhumane. I urge my colleagues to join me in requesting that the Cuban government release Mr. Gross on humanitarian grounds as quickly as is possible.

67TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
BATTLE OF COLMAR POCKET

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the upcoming 67th anniversary of the Battle of Colmar Pocket.

The Battle of the Colmar Pocket was fought between January 22 and February 9, 1945, to liberate the last major French city occupied by the German Army. The ferocious preliminary fighting which formed the Colmar Pocket began after the arrival of U.S. 7th Army and 1st French Army forces at Strasbourg, north of Colmar, on November 23rd and Mulhouse, south of Colmar on November 25th, 1944. These Armies, under command of the 6th Army Group under Lieutenant General Jacob L. Devers, had fought their way through the Vosges Mountains to reach these cities beginning in mid-September, and were the first military force in history to successfully do so.

The 1st French Army, commanded by General Jean de Lattre de Tassigny, had the mission to clear the Pocket and liberate Colmar, destroying the German forces in the Pocket or driving their remainder across the Rhine. Initially, the 36th Infantry Division, under Major General John Dahlquist, arrived at Selestat on December 4, 1944, fixing the northern shoulder of the Pocket. Under French command, the 36th Infantry Division fought its way south to the vicinity of Kaisersberg, Osthelm, Mittelwihr, and Bennwihr, in frigid winter weather, where the division fought off fanatical German counterattacks launched in support of the German Ardennes Offensive, the Battle of the Bulge. In mid-December this stalwart division was withdrawn from the Colmar sector to rest and refurbish after its long, debilitating campaign through the Vosges. For the fighting to collapse the Pocket, two 36th Infantry Division soldiers received the Medal of Honor, Sergeant Ellis R. Weicht and T/SGT Bernard P. Bell.

Major General Iron Mike O'Daniel's 3rd Infantry Division then under acting Division Commander Brigadier General Robert N. Young, which had also fought its way as part of 7th Army through the Vosges Mountains to Strasbourg, was attached to II Corps of the 1st French Army under Major General Aime de Goisard de Monsabert, and in mid-December continued the fight to collapse the northern section of the Pocket, seizing Kaisersberg, Sigolsheim, Mittelwihr, and Bennwihr and the dominating high ground of Hill 355 above Sigolsheim and Hill 216 outside Bennwihr in the final two weeks of December 1944. For their intrepid and gallant actions in the fighting between December 15 and January 21, 1945, the following 3rd Infantry Division soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor: 1LT Charles P. Murray, Jr.; 1LT Eli Whitely; LTC Keith L. Ware; T/SGT Gus Kefurt; and T/SGT Russell Dunham.

As this difficult fighting was taking place, other 1st French Army units were pressing remaining German units in the Vosges Mountains at the westernmost extent of the Pocket, as well as in the south near Mulhouse. The tough fighting and harsh winter weather had greatly worn down the French, and it was determined further U.S. reinforcement was need-

ed to enable our valiant allies to finally collapse the Pocket. The first to arrive were the soldiers of Major General Norman D. Cota's 28th Infantry Division, which had fought hard in the Bulge. They arrived on January 19th, taking over the 3rd Infantry Division's sector in the Kaisersberg valley.

On January 22nd, the 3rd Infantry Division, now under MG O'Daniel, with attached 254th Infantry Regiment of the 63rd Infantry Division and reinforced by a combat command of the 5th French Armored Division, launched the II Corps main effort to breach enemy defenses protecting the Colmar Canal and to isolate Colmar from the Rhine River by seizing the bridge at Neuf-Brisach. January 22nd found then Lieutenant Colonel Lloyd B. Ramsey from Somerset, Kentucky, in command of the 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry. He had commanded the battalion since taking command in the Anzio beach head in February 1944, and had commanded it for Operation Dragoon, the invasion of Southern France, the Southern France campaign, and through the Vosges. Leading his battalion across the Ill River, through minefields against dug-in enemy machine gun positions south of the village of Guemar in a night attack, Ramsey showed outstanding leadership and gallantry which led to the award of the Silver Star. Despite being wounded by enemy shell fragments, he ensured his battalion continued advancing in the face of stubborn resistance, breaking through the enemy positions and enabling the rest of the division to drive south.

Ramsey would continue his sterling combat service and go on to achieve the rank of Major General, and commanded the AMERICAL Division in Vietnam from 1969 until 1970. He was severely injured in a helicopter crash in Vietnam and eventually was forced to retire for medical reasons in 1974. MG Ramsey is a proud son of Kentucky, and a member of the University of Kentucky Hall of Fame.

The 3rd Infantry Division's dogged attack and imaginative scheme of maneuver enabled it to reach and cross the Colmar Canal the night of January 29-30 after a week of very heavy fighting. This combat included a serious incident at the bridge across 111 at the Maison Rouge where the failure of the bridge resulted in isolated battalions of the 30th and 15th Infantry Regiments defending unsupported against severe enemy armored counterattacks. For actions during January 22nd through the 26th, two Medals of Honor would be awarded to 3rd Infantry Division soldiers, PFC Jose F. Valdez and 2LT Audie L. Murphy.

The XXI Corps, commanded by Major General Frank W. Milburn, took command of the 3rd Infantry Division, the 28th Infantry Division, the 75th Infantry Division commanded by Major General Roy E. Porter, the 5th French Armored Division, and the 12th Armored Division commanded by Major General Roderick C. Allen at the end of January and continued the attack which succeeded in the 3rd Infantry Division's seizure of NeufBrisach. The 75th Infantry Division attacked and protected the 3rd Infantry Division's west flank. The 28th Infantry Division launched its attack from the Kaisersberg valley and cleared the suburbs of Colmar, enabling units of the French 5th Armored Division to enter the city on February 2nd. Immediately thereafter, the 12th Armored Division was committed for a drive south and

on February 5th, met French elements advancing north at Rouffach. French forces completed the cleansing of the Pocket and destruction of the enemy's final bridge across the Rhine at Chalampe on 9 February 9th, 1945. For this final phase of the fight, one more Medal of Honor was awarded to the 3rd Infantry Division's T/5 Forrest E. Peden.

The Battle of the Colmar Pocket, overshadowed by the Battle of the Bulge to the north, saw some of the bitterest fighting of the war and resulted in the award of the Presidential Unit Citation to the entire 3rd Infantry Division with its attachments, as well as the award of the fourragère of the Croix de Guerre embroidered Colmar. The 109th Infantry Regiment of the 28th Infantry Division was also awarded the fourragère.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in congratulating and thanking the surviving veterans of the Battle of the Colmar Pocket on the upcoming 67th anniversary of this battle which liberated Colmar and cleared the Germans from southern Alsace. I especially would like to express my thanks and admiration to Major General Ramsey for his outstanding combat leadership at Colmar and throughout his illustrious military career.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300–132, the national debt was \$4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is \$15,110,498,560,876.77. We've added \$10,309,093,385,852.49 to our debt in 16 years. This is \$10 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

U.S. CITIZEN OF DISTINCTION COR-
PORAL/DETECTIVE ROBERT
"SHANE" WILSON

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I declare Robert "Shane" Wilson U.S. Citizen of Distinction.

Whereas, our lives have been touched by the life of this one man . . . who has given of himself in order for others to stand; and

Whereas, Corporal/Detective Robert "Shane" Wilson served eight (8) years in the City of Doraville Police Department and gave his life answering a call to duty; and

Whereas, Corporal/Detective Wilson never asked for fame or fortune, nor found a job too small or too big; but gave of himself, his time, his talent and his life to uplift those in need by demonstrating unwavering commitment to protecting and serving the citizens of Doraville and DeKalb County; and

Whereas, he was a husband, a father, a son, a brother and a friend; he was also our

warrior, a man of great integrity who remained true to the uplifting and service to our community; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia recognizes Corporal/Detective Robert "Shane" Wilson as a citizen of great worth and so noted distinction;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby attest to the 112th Congress that Corporal/Detective Robert "Shane" Wilson is deemed worthy and deserving of this "Congressional Honor" by declaring Corporal/Detective Robert "Shane" Wilson U.S. Citizen of Distinction in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 17th day of November, 2011.

WORKFORCE DEMOCRACY AND
FAIRNESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3094) to amend the National Labor Relations Act with respect to representation hearings and the timing of elections of labor organizations under that Act.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 3094, the so-called Workforce Democracy and Fairness Act of 2011.

Since coming to Congress, I have been a strong advocate for the right of every employee to form a union and collectively bargain for their rights. This bill represents the most recent attempt to put the interests of businesses over the rights of workers, another in a long line of Republican attempts to strip these fundamental rights from working Americans.

H.R. 3094 is designed to derail fair, legal union elections by mandating delays and encouraging frivolous, distracting lawsuits. At a time when we should be pursuing policies that will strengthen our workforce and support the middle class, this bill will only make it harder for working families to maintain their pay checks, secure health insurance, plan for retirement, and achieve the American Dream.

As our economy continues to recover, it is my hope that Congress can come together to pass legislation that puts Americans back to work and maintains the strongest and most competitive workforce in the world. H.R. 3094 will not achieve either of these goals, and I urge my colleagues to oppose it.

HONORING SGT. ARNOLD TRUITT
DIXON

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sgt. Arnold Truitt Dixon, a veteran of World War II, who is celebrating his 90th birthday on January 1, 2012.

Sgt. Arnold Dixon, as he was known in the military, was known to those at home simply

as Truitt. Truitt is the eldest son of Mattie and Henry Dixon, born on January 1, 1922, in Ada, Oklahoma. He migrated to California in 1940, and married Lena Owens on November 11, 1941. Their only daughter Janice was born on October 13, 1942. Unfortunately, Lena passed away in January 1985, after a long illness. Soon thereafter, Jacquie entered his life and they were married on March 9, 1985.

Truitt and Lena were happily married with a two-year old daughter, when the call came from the United States Army to report for active duty. On September 16, 1944, Truitt reported to duty at Fort Ord, California. Basic training was very tough. He was being trained as a Combat Infantryman and took his training very seriously, which would pay off in the later years of his army career.

With basic training and schooling completed, Truitt was aboard a troop ship with thousands of other soldiers travelling to parts unknown. After days of sailing, it was finally announced their destination was the Philippine Islands. After landing in the Philippines patrols were formed to find the remaining Japanese soldiers. His leadership earned him promotions quickly, from private, to private first class and to corporal in a very short time. His ability to lead and the fact that he was an expert marksman earned him the "Combat Infantryman's Badge" in late 1944, just after landing in the Philippines.

In late 1944, General Douglas MacArthur, as promised, returned to the Philippines. Orders went out to all Combat Divisions in the Pacific command to select ten of their best soldiers for assignment to General Headquarters in Manila. The selection criteria for those men were exceptionally high. They must have a score of 110 or better on the Army General Classification Test, must have an excellent service record as a combat soldier, be of good physique and over five feet ten inches tall, and finally, they must have a soldierly appearance. PFC. Arnold Truitt Dixon was selected as one of the 10 soldiers from the 105th Infantry Regiment, 40th Division.

All the chosen men reported to Manila to form Honor Guard Company "E." To quote their commanding officer, "These 200 soldiers chosen for Honor Guard had fought the Japanese on the beaches, in the jungles, and in the mountains. They represented all the fighting men of the Southwest Pacific Area. This unit was probably the sharpest most elite unit formed during World War II."

The Japanese surrender brought numerous Japanese officers from Tokyo to Manila to formalize the papers that needed to be signed for the official surrender. Truitt was on duty as those officials arrived and remembers the American officer in charge ordering the Japanese to remove their ceremonial swords before entering the building. As he stood by as part of the Honor Guard on duty that night, one of the officers was quoted as saying, "This is the first time that many members of Company 'E' had ever looked upon a Japanese, except over gun sights and, though many a trigger finger itched, the conference was carried out in perfect order."

It was not long after the surrender was formalized that Company "E" was alerted for transfer to Tokyo, Japan and was among the first United States soldiers to arrive in Japan. After staying two days in a silk factory, Company "E" moved on to Tokyo, where they were billeted in the Finance Building. Guarding

the Supreme Commanders offices, the United Nations headquarters and General MacArthur were their primary assignments.

A few weeks after arrival in Tokyo, Corporal Dixon was promoted to Sergeant and assigned as leader of a guard patrol. Truitt's discharge from the Army makes this statement, "Served in the Asiatic Pacific Theater for 15 months. Served in the Honor Guard Company, General Headquarters Tokyo, Japan. Assisted in the guarding and patrolling of General MacArthur's headquarters. Supervised 15 men of a patrol section. Kept section records and made recommendations to his commanding officer."

On August 15, 1945, the United States received Japan's notification of surrender. On September 2, 1945, General MacArthur signed the official documents ending World War II with Japan. With the war over, Truitt returned to the United States and reunited with his wife and young daughter. He received his Honorable Discharge on May 5, 1994.

During his military career, he received the following decorations and citations: Combat Infantryman Badge, The Good Conduct Medal, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, Philippine Liberation Ribbon (with one Bronze Star), Army Occupation Medal, and World War II Victory Medal.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Sgt. Arnold Truitt Dixon for his honorable service to our great country and honoring him as he celebrates his 90th birthday.

ERADICATING HIV/AIDS IN OUR COMMUNITIES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today we unite in solidarity to eradicate HIV/AIDS in our communities across the world. We stand together to raise awareness about the epidemic so we can prevent further spread of the deadly virus and give hope to the 33.3 million people worldwide who are suffering from this terrible illness.

In the United States alone, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that over one million people are HIV positive. What is even more tragic is that one in five people infected are unaware of it. HIV/AIDS is one of the leading causes of death for both the African American and Hispanic communities and presents a great hazard to our society.

I believe Congress has a moral obligation to continue funding to eliminate HIV/AIDS despite our budgetary challenges. Earlier this year I introduced the National Black Clergy for the Elimination of HIV/AIDS Act which would authorize several federal health agencies such as the National Institute of Health, Office of Minority Health of the Department of Health and Human Services, and the CDC to intensify awareness prevention, community outreach, testing, behavioral research, and increase grants to faith-based organizations in the African American community.

This year's theme for World AIDS Day is 'Getting to zero'. That means zero new infections, zero discrimination, and zero AIDS-related deaths. These are common goals shared globally regardless of race, religion or political

ideologies. Yet we can only accomplish these goals in America if we work together, Democrats and Republicans, in supporting bold initiatives and legislation to combat HIV/AIDS in our communities.

WORLD AIDS DAY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the fight to arrest HIV/AIDS must continue.

Today is December 1, World Aids Day and in Chicago at the Ruth Rothstein Core Center at 2020 West Harrison St., Chicago, Governor Pat Quinn, and a group of AIDS professionals activists organized by Benny Montgomery, a retired member of my Congressional staff are holding a press conference as we do every year to kick off a day of awareness raising and action to help in the fight against HIV and AIDS. I am generally able to be with this group. However, my duties as a Member of Congress have kept me here in Washington, DC. Nevertheless, I am pleased to be represented by my assistant Ms. Cherita Logan, our Deputy District Director, who is a long time AIDS activist and education program director herself.

We recognize that although some programs has been made, as a matter of fact much progress has been made, but we still have much further to go; therefore I urge each one of us to do as much individually and collectively as we can to fight this dreadful disease.

HONORING HARRIS MEMORIAL CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, on December 4, 2011 Harris Memorial Church of God in Christ will celebrate its 65th year of devotion to the Lord. Founded in January of 1946 by the late Superintendent Theodore R. Harris the church started out as Elm Park Church of God in Christ in a partially finished structure. With the help of his bride Missionary Erna I. Harris they set out to create a place where souls could be saved and the community could be served. During the church's infancy Brother Willie Parker was called to join the congregation as an evangelist. Elder Parker was instrumental in hosting a revival that led to many saved souls and a steady increase in the membership.

As the congregation grew, Pastor Harris sought Gods vision and decided to build a sanctuary. In 1959, with great celebration and thanks to the Lord, the sanctuary was built. The congregation was empowered by the success the Lord had bestowed upon the young church and the congregation paid off the sanctuary in 1965. On Friday, July 25, 1980 Pastor Harris departed life to join the Lord. He was succeeded by his grandson Pastor Walter E. Bogan.

Having a close relationship with his grandfather, Pastor Bogan knew that his grand-

father's vision for the church included expanding its ministries. He wanted to fulfill that vision and began to look for locations that had the space for the expanded ministries. In 1983, 30 acres of land was purchased to build a house for the Lord and His ministries. On November 22, 1992 the church's construction was completed on Lippincott Ave. They reside at this location today and the expanded ministries strengthen souls every week. Walter Bogan's son is now the presiding Pastor at Harris Memorial and works to continue and expand the success of their many ministries.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Harris Memorial Church of God in Christ on their success and dedication to the Flint Community. I pray that the ministers, staff, and congregation of Harris Memorial will continue their work and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ for many, many years to come.

REGARDING ALAN P. GROSS

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mark the second year anniversary of the unjust and inhumane incarceration in a Cuban prison of my constituent Allan P. Gross.

A 62-year-old international development specialist and social worker with 25 years of experience helping people in the West Bank, Gaza, Iraq, Afghanistan, Haiti and throughout Africa, Alan Gross has devoted his career to helping others with a single goal in mind: to improve the quality of life of the disadvantaged.

And, it is as a result of these humanitarian efforts that he has spent the last 2 years locked up in a Cuban prison.

Alan was arrested in Cuba while working on behalf of USAID to help the country's Jewish community establish an Intranet and improve its access to the Internet. The Jewish community in Cuba is small and dispersed, making it difficult to communicate amongst themselves and with the wider Jewish community around the world. Neither his presence nor his actions in Cuba were meant to pose a threat or danger to the Cuban government.

For the first 14 months of his captivity, Alan was held without charge. Then, in February 2011, he was charged with "acts to undermine the integrity and independence" of the State. After a two day trial, he was convicted and sentenced to 15 years in prison. His appeal on humanitarian grounds to the Cuban Supreme Court was denied on August 5, 2011.

Alan's health has deteriorated tremendously during his incarceration. He has lost approximately 100 pounds and he is suffering from a number of serious health issues, some of which his family fears may become permanent. Additionally, in August 2010, his 26-year-old daughter was diagnosed with breast cancer and, this year, his 89-year-old mother was also diagnosed with cancer.

Given the humanitarian nature of his activities in Cuba, and given his health and the health of his family, sentencing Alan Gross to 15 years in prison was inhumane.

If the Cuban government is serious about improving relations with the United States, it must recognize the harm its continued incarceration of Alan Gross is doing to that relationship.

The Cuban government must act now and release Alan Gross immediately and unconditionally—for the sake of the relationship between the United States and Cuban people and for the sake of the health of Alan Gross and his family.

HONORING SUPERIOR CHEVROLET

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, we need businesses to set up shop in our community to provide the goods and services that are needed in order for our citizens to survive and thrive on a day to day basis; and

Whereas, in 1969, Mr. Lamar Ferrell started Lamar Ferrell Chevrolet here in Decatur, Georgia to service the citizens of DeKalb County, Georgia and nearby communities; and

Whereas, when Mr. Ferrell passed away, the new owner Mr. Buddy Hyatt purchased the business and it has been family owned ever since under the name of Superior Chevrolet; and

Whereas, Superior Chevrolet continues to be a resource for citizens in DeKalb County and beyond with excellent service, providing employment opportunities and providing a product that "keeps America moving" contributing to the local and national economy; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia is officially honoring, recognizing and congratulating Superior Chevrolet on their forty-second (42) anniversary as a business anchor in our District;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim October 21, 2011 as Superior Chevrolet Day In the 4th Congressional District of Georgia

Proclaimed, this 21st day of October, 2011.

THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF
IMPRISONMENT OF ALAN GROSS

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday marks the third anniversary since American U.S. AID worker Alan Gross was arrested and unjustly imprisoned in Cuba. It is the third year in a row that the Gross family will prepare to spend another holiday season without their beloved husband, father, and son.

Alan Gross, a resident of Maryland and a long time international development worker, traveled to Cuba in 2009 to help the island's small Jewish community establish better internet access. Upon his arrival, Mr. Gross declared all of his electronic items with Cuban customs officials. Yet on December 3, 2009, he was arrested and subsequently detained for 14 months without any charges filed against him. Earlier this year, he was charged with "acts to undermine the integrity and independence" of Cuba. Mr. Gross, a non-Spanish speaking man in his 60's who has worked on development projects in over 50 countries,

certainly was not trained or equipped to engage in subterfuge.

Alan Gross has been sentenced to 15 years in jail. This preposterous sentence has caused tremendous emotional pain and financial hardship for his family, and devastated the Jewish community. Alan's daughter is currently undergoing treatment for cancer, and his 89 year old mother is in poor health and fears she will never see her son again. Alan's wife, Judy, has been caring for her ill daughter and mother-in-law while working full time to support her family. Alan himself is suffering from severe health problems due to a lack of medical treatment during his incarceration.

In October, Governor Bill Richardson traveled to Cuba with the intent to discuss Alan Gross' release. During this visit, which had been approved by the Cuban Government, Governor Bill Richardson was denied even a single meeting with Alan to assess his health. Subsequently, the Cuban government refused to discuss Alan's case with Governor Richardson.

The Castro regime has chosen to align itself with the most repressive and violent regimes in the world, counting among its friends the Venezuelan and Iranian regimes. These regimes have disregarded judicial processes in order to unjustly hold American citizens to use as leverage. We will not sit idly by and allow an American citizen to suffer at the hands of these tyrants. The Castro regime must immediately allow Alan to receive proper medical treatment and take the necessary steps to bring him home to his family as soon as possible.

My colleagues and I will continue to speak out on behalf of Alan, his family, and the Jewish community, and continue to use every tool at our disposal to secure Alan's immediate release.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND
IDEALS OF WORLD AIDS DAY

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the goals and ideals of World AIDS Day. A day dedicated to bringing awareness to those who have died from the disease and the strides that have been made in the fight against it.

This year marks 30 years after the first discovery of AIDS cases in the United States. The Center of Disease Control (CDC) estimates that 33.3 million people have HIV worldwide, with 1.2 million persons who are living with HIV in the United States. Every 9½ minutes, someone in the U.S. is infected with HIV. One in five living with HIV is unaware of their infection. By race, African Americans face the most severe HIV burden. The impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic spans the nation with HIV diagnoses having been reported in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. dependencies, possessions, and associated nations.

The theme for World AIDS Day 2011 is "Getting to Zero." After 30 years of the global fight against HIV/AIDS, this year the focus is on achieving 3 targets: Zero new HIV infections. Zero discrimination. Zero AIDS-related deaths.

The goal of "Zero AIDS Related Deaths" signifies an increased access to available treatments for all those infected. Currently, only one third of the 15 million people living with HIV worldwide who are in need of lifelong treatment are receiving it. Universal access to antiretroviral treatments for those living with HIV will not only decrease the number of AIDS related deaths, but will increase the quality of life among those infected and decrease transmission.

World AIDS Day is an opportunity for all of us to learn the facts about HIV. By increasing the understanding of how HIV is transmitted, how it can be prevented, and the reality of living with HIV today—we can use this knowledge to take care of our own health and the health of others.

Since its discovery, countless researchers, healthcare providers, politicians, and educators have contributed to the global initiative to contain and eventually eliminate the presence of AIDS in all corners of the world. Recent scientific advancements have resulted in revolutionary breakthroughs with the potential to reverse the epidemic in coming years. I ask my colleagues to join me in this goal, to remember those who have died of the disease and to celebrate accomplishments achieved, specifically the increased access to treatment and prevention services.

It is imperative that we continue our efforts and work together to increase funding for HIV prevention and education, so that our children will be equipped with sufficient and appropriate knowledge of this growing threat within our communities until HIV/AIDS becomes a memory.

RECOGNIZING DR. ROGER GORDON
SMITH'S CAREER SERVICE TO
OUR NATION'S VETERANS

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor an unsung hero of the Veterans Administration, Dr. Roger Gordon Smith, M.D. Dr. Smith was born on April 6, 1951, and just recently concluded his long career serving our nation's veterans on August 26th of this year.

Dr. Smith attended Battle Creek Central High School in Michigan, where he graduated in 1969. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry with top honors from Howard University in 1973. He also earned his doctoral degree in medicine with scholastic honors from Howard University in 1977. Following that, he interned at Howard University Hospital until 1978, whereupon he obtained his license to practice medicine in the District of Columbia the following year.

With such an auspicious beginning to his career in medicine, one might have expected Dr. Smith to pursue a lucrative private practice. Instead, once he had paid off his medical school debts, Dr. Smith chose to apply his considerable talents toward a long career with the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Memphis, Tennessee. There, he attended to the often difficult and complex needs of disabled and retired veterans, most of whom were just returning from Vietnam.

Upon beginning work with the VA, Dr. Smith quickly faced skepticism and bigotry from

some of his patients because of his race. Rather than letting this become a source of discouragement, Dr. Smith instead quietly and calmly carried out his vital work each day with warmth and good humor. He was known to have convinced more than a few patients to let go of their racial animus because of his professional demeanor and attentiveness to his patients' needs and concerns. Dr. Smith believes that it is a great privilege to be entrusted with the well being of our nation's veterans, and that commitment to service is reflected in the way he cared for our nation's wounded.

Among his colleagues, Dr. Smith's bedside manner was considered "a thing of beauty." He was always open, accessible, and never made anyone feel like they were imposing a burden on his time. His calm manner under stress exerted a calming influence on those around him. As a resident teacher, Dr. Smith was sought-after by physicians-in-training for his professional enthusiasm and expertise. His patients regarded him as their primary care physician of choice, and considered his office in the VA "the gold standard" in healthcare. He took even the most mundane talks seriously whenever it concerned a veteran's well-being, listening carefully to every patient's story, dutifully tracking each patient's clinical needs, no matter how small.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Dr. Roger Gordon Smith for his dedication to his country, his service to our nation's wounded and the inspiration he has provided to his students and his colleagues. Dr. Smith's great achievement is three decades of daily service to our veterans, acting as the open hand of a grateful nation to our nation's wounded warriors. Dr. Smith is what every physician should strive to be.

HONORING BISHOP QUINCY
LAVELLE CARSWELL

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, Bishop Quincy Lavelle Carswell, is celebrating fifty (50) years in preaching the gospel this year and has provided stellar leadership to his church on an international level; and

Whereas, Bishop Quincy Lavelle Carswell, under the guidance and calling of God began preaching the word of God as a child and has transformed over the years as pastor of the historic Tabernacle Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia from 1975–1992, founding Covenant Ministries of Metropolitan Atlanta in 1993; and

Whereas, from Miami, Florida to Atlanta, Georgia, he has transformed, trail blazed and taught the gospel on a national and international level wherein the lives of many have been touched; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man of God has been and continues to be a blessing to us as a spiritual leader, an educator and a community leader who not only talks the talk, but walks the walk; and

Whereas, Bishop Carswell is a spiritual warrior, a man of compassion, a fearless leader and a servant to all, but most of all a visionary

who has shared not only with his Church, but with our District and the world his passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Bishop Quincy Lavelle Carswell, as he celebrates his 50th Pastoral Anniversary;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim October 23, 2011 as Bishop Quincy Lavelle Carswell Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 23rd day of October, 2011.

COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES
WOMEN'S SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the Colorado School of Mines Women's Softball Team, who last spring won a berth at the NCAA Women's Softball Tournament for the second time in school history. The Orediggers finished the year with a conference record of 28–11, and an overall record of 36–24, sharing the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Championship with Metropolitan State College of Denver. The School of Mines also hosted the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference softball championship last spring. The three day event was a success for the School of Mines and all the schools that participated. Two of the School of Mines players were named to the All Tournament Team, Kelly Unkrich, and Macy Jones.

The women of the Orediggers softball team should be extremely proud of their 2011 season, and their efforts on the diamond and in the classroom. These women exemplify the idea of the collegiate student-athlete. The Colorado School of Mines specializes in hard sciences, and I commend these young women in their dedication to fields that have traditionally been male dominated. They are an inspiration to girls everywhere who want to study science and engineering.

I also want to congratulate pitcher Kelly Unkrich who was named the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Women's Athlete of the Month for April 2011.

I extend my deepest congratulations to the women of the Colorado School of Mines Women's Softball Team. The lessons they are learning as student-athletes will make these women the science and technology leaders of tomorrow. I am proud to have this world class school in my district. I wish the team best of luck in the 2012 season. I hope it is even more successful than 2011, again congratulations, and Go Orediggers!

TRIBUTE TO MR. TOM HOSEA,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HICA

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have known Mr. Tom Hosea since the late 1960s and early 1970s. When I first met Tom, he

was an executive with the American Hospital Association; many of us who met and ran together at that time were health activists. I say ran together because we attended so many meetings until it seemed as a natural thing to do. Although there were many emerging groups, Tom was actively involved with the Chicago chapter of the National Association of Health Services Executives. As a matter of fact, Tom was the highest ranking African-American, or Black person, that we knew who worked for the American Hospital Association at that time.

Tom got the community action bug and the next thing I knew he was working with Dr. Levy, a Black Hebrew Israelite down East of Ashland on Roosevelt Road in an area called the Valley where the Westside organization operated with Chester Robinson, Thursty Darden, Rev. Archie Hargraves, Rev. John Crawford, and others in its leadership. Later on, Tom got involved in the Austin community and worked with Mary Volpe as Assistant Director of the Northeast Austin Community Organization and after Sam Flowers died, Tom became the Executive Director of HICA which he has struggled to keep alive.

When I first knew Tom his name was Hozier; he also got involved with the entertainment business spinning records and putting on events; next thing I knew, I along with everyone else that I knew was calling him Hosea. Tom has passed away, but he led a very active life and had a very meaningful and colorful career.

To his wife and family, we express our condolences and know that the value of his work will go on and on.

WORLD AIDS DAY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, as we pause to reflect on World AIDS Day, I want to thank the many activists and advocates who work tirelessly—every day—to focus increased attention on HIV/AIDS education, treatment and prevention. I want to recognize the great work of David Munar and the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, and Mark Ishaug and AIDS United, who—along with countless organizations across the country and world—are working to end HIV/AIDS and to ensure that people with HIV/AIDS live longer and better lives.

HIV/AIDS is one of the world's most pressing global health challenges. It is a danger to global security and to the future of people around the world. Nearly 35 million people are living with HIV/AIDS around the world, including over one million Americans. Our community, our nation and the entire world are threatened by this terrible pandemic.

As the HIV virus has spread, the face of its victims has changed. Women now account for 52 percent of the adults living with HIV/AIDS around the world. In regions like sub-Saharan Africa, gender inequalities have left women particularly vulnerable to infection. The battle to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS among women will ultimately hinge on our ability to empower them with the information and the tools needed to protect themselves, their families and their communities. That is one of the reasons

that I have been such a strong supporter of microbicides research.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic has not spared the world's children. Last year there were 3.4 million children across the globe living with HIV, and the disease has left more than 16.6 million AIDS orphans, most of whom live in sub-Saharan Africa, in its wake.

Despite the many advances of the last thirty years, as the pandemic has grown, so have the challenges. Despite the significant expansion of treatment programs, only 47% of the 14.2 million people who were eligible for treatment were receiving it by the end of last year. Despite the 21% drop in deaths from AIDS since 2005, last year 1.8 million people died of AIDS. HIV remains a leading cause of death worldwide and the number one cause of death in Africa.

The United States has a responsibility to lead the fight against HIV/AIDS by containing the spread of the virus, helping to provide treatment, and investing in a cure. It is critical that we continue to meet this responsibility, especially after last week's announcement by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria that they cannot fund any new grants for at least two years because of the global financial crisis.

To ensure that the millions of people battling HIV/AIDS do not become collateral damage of the economic downturn, and to uphold our responsibility as a global leader in the fight against HIV/AIDS, I will do whatever I can to

ensure that we maintain commitment to domestic and global AIDS programs. That includes funding for PEPFAR and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria, as well as vital funding for domestic programs like the Ryan White CARE Act, and the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS Program, and especially, the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, given that some states are changing the income eligibility criteria for that program, while others are seeing waiting lists.

While we have come far in the fight, we so have a long way to go, and we cannot afford to become complacent.

HONORING LIZZIE ALEXANDER

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, reaching the age of 75 years is a remarkable milestone; and

Whereas, Ms. Lizzie Alexander was born on October 25, 1936 and is celebrating that milestone; and

Whereas, Ms. Alexander has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God and credits it all to the Will of God; and

Whereas, Ms. Alexander is celebrating her 75th Birthday with her family members, church

members and friends here in DeKalb County, Georgia on October 22, 2011; and

Whereas, the Lord has been her Shepherd throughout her life and she prays daily and is leading by example a blessed life; and

Whereas, we are honored that she is celebrating the milestone of her 75th birthday in the 4th District of Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Ms. Lizzie Alexander for an exemplary life which is an inspiration to all,

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim October 22nd & October 25th, 2011 as Ms. Lizzie Alexander Days in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 22nd day of October, 2011.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 860, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."