

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MS. HATTIE LUCINDA BENNETT FOR HER SERVICES IN THE MISSISSIPPI HEALTH CARE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable woman, Ms. Hattie Lucinda Bennett. Ms. Bennett was born on January 2, 1916 in Spartanburg, South Carolina to John and Hattie Abner. Ms. Bennett began her early years of school in the Spartanburg community until she and her family relocated to West Palm Beach, Florida. It is in the West Palm Beach community at the early age of 10 that she discovered the severity of economic depression and hardship affecting her community. After visiting a hospital in West Palm Beach, Ms. Bennett realized she would leave her mark on society by becoming a nurse.

Ms. Bennett graduated from West Palm Beach Industrial High School in 1935 as Valedictorian of her class. A short time after that, she began selling insurance policies at a private company to help raise money for college tuition. This job, along with the help of her family and her community, afforded Ms. Bennett the opportunity to successfully attend and complete nursing school as one of 16 blacks. Her achievements did not end there. Ms. Hattie Bennett, after completing nursing school, immediately passed the Georgia and Mississippi Registry Exam, which allowed her to begin a career in nursing.

Ms. Bennett's academic achievements and nursing credentials attracted the attention of Dr. Carl Day of the Yazoo Clinic and Hospital of Yazoo City, Mississippi. In February of 1941, Dr. Carl offered Ms. Bennett the head nursing position at the Yazoo Clinic and Hospital. After generously accepting, Ms. Bennett managed to meticulously raise the standards and performance expectations of the staff by implementing professional training and seminars. She sought to institute professional development activities by the staff to grow and enhance the facility.

Ms. Bennett served admirably as head nurse for the Yazoo Clinic and Hospital of Yazoo City for 29 years before subsequently serving for 2 years at the African American Sons and Daughter Hospital, 14 years at the Heritage Manor Nursing Home, and 32 years at the Mid-Delta Home Health Service.

In 2002, Ms. Bennett retired and was honored for her exemplary lifelong dedication to the nursing profession. Ms. Bennett continues her commitment to nursing as she motivates and encourages youth to pursue a career in the health profession. In 2002, she was honored with the Community Service Award presented by the St. Peters Missionary Baptist Church.

Ms Bennett is also a faithful member of the Bethel A.M.E. Church of Yazoo, Mississippi

where she serves as steward, trustee and chairperson of the Surplus Fund.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring a legendary servant of Yazoo City, Mississippi, community, Ms. Hattie Lucinda Bennett.

IN CELEBRATION OF TWENTY YEARS OF U.S.-UZBEKISTAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of 20 years of U.S.-Uzbekistan diplomatic relations.

When the United States of America established diplomatic relations with Uzbekistan on February 19, 1992, we were dealing with a newly reborn country that had just gained back its independence from the Soviet Union. Although Uzbekistan has a history that is thousands of years old, it faced many difficulties during the first years of its independence.

Today, Uzbekistan has managed to make significant progress in every field including politics, economics, and international relations. Working to build a foundation based on established legislative, executive, and judicial branches of power, Uzbekistan is transitioning to democracy and, in so doing, is raising its unique historical heritage and national identity.

I am extremely pleased by the high level of cooperation between Uzbekistan and the U.S. in the areas of regional security, the fight against transnational threats, and the deepening of political and economic consultations. U.S. companies are also expanding their presence in Uzbekistan, including General Motors.

The U.S. is particularly appreciative of Uzbekistan's assistance in our efforts in Afghanistan. Uzbekistan is also building railroads and bridges and providing low price electricity and other bilateral assistance to Afghanistan, which is also critical to U.S. interests.

So, once more, I congratulate the government and people of Uzbekistan for all they are doing to support the U.S., and I applaud President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for strengthening U.S.-Uzbekistan relations.

HONORING IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH ON RECEIVING AN OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Immaculate Concep-

tion Catholic Church on receiving an official Texas Historical Marker. The current Pastor is Rev. Kevin A. Collins and the church is composed of people from all walks of life. I am proud to honor Immaculate Conception, located in Magnolia Park, for receiving this marker.

On Monday, February 20, 2012, the Texas Historical Commission will dedicate the historical marker with the following text:

In October 1911, the oblates of Mary Immaculate established their Roman Catholic society's first parish in Harris County and named it Immaculate Conception. The site was chosen on Harrisburg Boulevard in the incorporated community of Magnolia Park, which was annexed by the City of Houston in 1926. For the parish's first anniversary on October 6, 1912, a three building campus comprising a wood-frame church, rectory, and school and boarding house was dedicated. The school and boarding house were administered by the Sisters of Divine Providence. A consolidated school and auditorium brick building dedicated in September 1936 replaced these facilities, with the school auditorium serving as the church. The 1912 church building was relocated two miles away and converted into a brick building to serve another parish, Queen of Peace, which was originally a mission church of Immaculate Conception. In March 1957, a neo-Romanesque style church was dedicated to complement the style of the 1936 school and auditorium. The boarding house ceased operating and in 1969 the school closed permanently.

Adhering to their motto as oblates of Mary Immaculate, the priests of Immaculate Conception ministered to the needy and conducted extensive missionary work in southeast and central Texas. For decades, the priests were assigned the ministry for the state penitentiary system in Huntsville. Immaculate Conception was the mother church of the first predominantly Hispanic Catholic Church in Houston, named Our Lady of Guadalupe. At least nine parishes in Harris and surrounding counties can trace their histories to the missionary efforts of Immaculate Conception. Entering its second century of existence, Immaculate Conception continues to be an influential institution in the Magnolia Park community and beyond.

And so it is with great pleasure that I recognize and congratulate Immaculate Conception Catholic Church on receiving an official Texas Historical Marker.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HENRY "HANK" PIOROWSKI

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Henry "Hank" Piorowski, a loving husband, proud father, and a distinguished veteran who earned national recognition for his instrumental role in helping to create "Drug Court."

In 1994, under the leadership of the Chief Judge of Buffalo City Court, the Honorable

• 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.

Thomas Amodeo, and Justice Robert T. Russell, Hank led the study to determine how the traditional criminal justice system could be improved and to develop a centralized tracking system to ensure judges received timely updates.

With no additional funds, this court analyst became the newly designated Project Director with Buffalo's City Court innovative C.O.U.R.T.S. (Court Outreach Unit: Referral and Treatment Services) that began to identify defendants' social problems and link them to needed services. Hank once described his role as "a treatment and communication broker for the court. We basically can meet any need of a person who comes through the doors."

And under his direction, needs were met, results measured, and responsibility and reform rewarded. The program linked individuals coming through the justice system with a full range of social services, including drug treatment, mental health treatment, medical care, anger management, family counseling, youth counseling, and domestic violence programming, vocational/educational services, and housing.

Within ten years, the C.O.U.R.T.S. program had made over 40,000 referrals. From 2000 to 2005, defendants completed over 75,500 hours of community service, including graffiti removal and demolition of crack houses. The value of labor contributed to the community during that time was estimated to be \$453,000.

Mental Health and Veterans Courts would follow this model which has since been successfully replicated across this country. His profound sense of professionalism, humanity, and collaboration was recognized by the New York State Bar Association Justice award in 2003.

Hank's ability to successfully integrate the value of community partnerships and the implementation of information technology within the criminal justice system led to national recognition as he became the first western New York resident to be inducted into the Stanley M. Goldstein Drug Court Hall of Fame.

Retired in 2010, Hank lost his battle with a long, debilitating illness on February 12. He is survived by his loving family which includes wife, Gloria, son, Henry, four sisters and two brothers and many nieces and nephews. His legacy of public service will now be carried on by his son who took the oath of office as the Council President in the City of Lackawanna on January 1, 2012.

Henry "Hank" Piorowski will be missed but he will be remembered by those whose lives were made better and whose families were reunited through his work and commitment to the soldier's creed to "leave no one behind."

REMEMBERING ALEXANDRIA
PARAMEDIC JOSHUA WEISSMAN

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I enter into the RECORD the passing of Paramedic Joshua Weissman. Paramedic Weissman was born in Ithaca, New York, lived in Bristow, Virginia with his wife Rebecca and worked for the City of Alexandria.

While responding to a car fire on I-395 last week, Paramedic Weissman had a tragic fall from the roadway, down an embankment, where he suffered a severe head injury.

City of Alexandria and Arlington County firefighters, paramedics, and police responded immediately, rushing to the scene. Despite their valiant efforts, and those by the medical team at the Washington Hospital Center, Paramedic Weissman's injuries proved fatal. It was a great loss for the Weissman family and the entire Alexandria community.

Mr. Weissman served as a paramedic for the City for nearly six years. In that time, he compiled a record of outstanding performance ratings as an enthusiastic, energetic and engaging instructor who took great pleasure providing innovation to the work of his department.

Joshua was very active in a variety of career-related organizations that interacted with the community and honed his abilities. He was a regular participant in, and member of, the EMS Training Committee, the EMS Quality Management Committee—where he was in charge of the Call of the Quarter Submissions—and the EMS 1/5/10/20 Committee. Josh was also instrumental in the establishment of the Field Training Program for EMS Interns, receiving the Alexandria Jaycees Award in 2011 for his contributions to that effort.

Josh's reputation as a top paramedic was well known. Numerous letters to his department commending his work from members of the Alexandria community are testament to that fact. In one instance, Josh responded to a home incident in which a grandmother, carrying her young grandson, tripped and fell. The boy's mother, upon arriving home after the incident, was concerned with the medical status of her son. Josh went out of his way to revisit the home to reassure the little boy's mother that he had been thoroughly checked out during the initial response, thus alleviating the mother's concerns and an unnecessary and likely expensive trip to the hospital. The mother was so impressed by Josh's concern that she wrote a letter to the Fire Chief expressing her appreciation. That's the way Josh lived day in, day out, going the extra mile to serve those in need.

Mr. Speaker, Joshua Weissman made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. His untimely death is a loss to the entire community. Not only was he an outstanding paramedic, Joshua was also a dedicated family member, coworker, and friend. Paramedic Weissman's service will not be forgotten. He has left us a legacy of honor, kindness, and bravery.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR.
MARTHA WILLIAMS DAVIS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Martha Williams Davis of Holmes County, Mississippi. Dr. Davis was the Founder and former President and Chief Executive Officer of the Dr. Arenia C. Mallory Community Health Center, Inc. from 1993 to 2007. In addition to her professional career, she devoted much of her life

to improving the lives of others and was a true friend to her community.

Dr. Davis' formal education included having received her Doctorate in Philosophy from Mississippi State University, a Master's of Science from Michigan State University, and a Bachelors of Science from Alcorn State University. In addition to having served as Chief Executive Officer, President and Founder of the Dr. Arenia C. Mallory Community Health Center, Inc., Dr. Davis worked as a consultant with various organizations and companies across the United States.

Dr. Davis was tremendously active in the community. She was associated with several local and national groups and committees. She served as a member on the National Association of Community Health Center Legislative and Health Policy Committee, the Association of Health Administrators, Diamond Life Member of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., Order of Eastern Star, Organized Youth Advisory Council, Student Advisory Council, Organized Delta Health Partners, President of Mississippi Primary Health Care Association, President of the Mississippi School Food Service Administration's Five State Nutrition Project, Trustee to Holmes Community College, and Organized Healthy Start within Mallory Community Health Center System. She was also a Worthy Matron of the Eastern Star Modern Free and Accepted Masons and held the position of Sunday School Superintendent at Saint Paul Church of God and Christ in Lexington, Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martha Williams Davis for her steadfast devotion in serving and giving back to her community.

RECOGNITION OF THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF CARONDELET

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the hard work of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

They recently celebrated their 175th anniversary of serving those in need.

Dedicated to a mission of unity and reconciliation, nonviolence and peacemaking, the Sisters have worked tirelessly to make the St. Louis community a better place.

Sisters of St. Joseph celebrate 175 years in the United States.

Having arrived from France in New Orleans in March 1836, the first six sisters traveled up the Mississippi River to reach St. Louis.

They spent some time learning English and then opened their first mission in Cahokia, Illinois, in April, 1836.

On September 12, 1836, they moved into a log cabin in Carondelet, a small village south of St. Louis.

Today, the Sisters continue their social justice work in the Carondelet neighborhood in South St. Louis City.

They serve in a variety of places and work in an array of areas, such as health care, child care, deaf education, youth ministry and adult education.

Our community, state, and country are beneficiaries of the mission and work of the

Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, and I am proud to honor them and their work today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, my scheduled flight into Washington was cancelled yesterday for mechanical reasons. As a result, I was absent from the House Floor during Tuesday's rollcall vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 49.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

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 \$15,359,384,163,919.51. We've added \$10,557,978,988,625.23 dollars 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.

HONORING THE FEDERAL RETIREMENT OF MR. JIM BERGD AHL

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents, Jim Bergdahl, on his retirement from the federal government after 52 years of service.

Jim Bergdahl was born and raised in Chicago, was educated at Northwestern, and served in the Air National Guard while attending college.

In 1959, during his senior year at Northwestern, Jim began his federal civil service career as an appraiser with the Army Corps of Engineers in Chicago. Six years later, he joined the General Services Administration in the San Francisco regional office as an appraiser in the Real Property Division.

Jim's work quickly caught the attention of his supervisors. He was soon nominated for and received a "Career Education Award", sponsored by the National Institute of Public Affairs and the Civil Service Commission. The prize for receiving this prestigious award was one year of free graduate study at the University of Virginia.

Following graduation, Jim relocated to the Office of Real Property in Washington, D.C. where he was in charge of reviewing the fast growing Federal property holdings, which had literally doubled between 1954 and 1969. The government was on pace to own the whole

country by the year 2000. Jim was asked to determine the cause of this tremendous expansion.

As he quickly discovered, while U.S. federal land holdings had doubled, the phenomenon was directly related to the increase in the number of States in the U.S. between 1954 and 1969. Jim determined that the newest state, Alaska, had the distinction of having more government-owned land within its borders than all of the other 49 States combined. Case closed.

In 1974, Jim transferred to the Federal Buildings Fund Management Division to help get the new division up and running. Here he again was tapped for a special project, working to develop critical information to persuade the Department of Defense to correct congressional testimony as to the total amount they were spending on rent. In short order, the record was corrected.

Following that daunting yet successful challenge, Jim returned to the Office of Real Property as Program Policy Advisor to the Assistant Commissioner in 1976. He played a major role in the establishment of the Federal Property Resources Service, where he became Director of Special Projects. One project involved the sale to the public of a large number of Carson City Silver Dollars minted in the 1800s that were found in a vault. The sale began just as the Hunt brothers were trying to corner the silver market and the price of silver skyrocketed. Suddenly, the coins were worth more for the silver they contained than their value to coin collectors. To avoid delaying or postponing sales of the coins, toll free phone lines were set up for buyers to obtain the price of the coins based on the price of silver each day. This fast action by Jim and his office was fortuitous. Shortly after the sales were completed, the Hunt brothers failed in their attempt to corner the market and silver prices collapsed.

The curtain rose on Jim's final act as a civil servant when the new Public Building Service was rolled out in 1995. Jim was part of the Courthouse Management Group, formed to provide oversight, program management and budgeting for the largest federal courthouse construction program in the nation's history. As a senior member of the Group, Jim provided extensive knowledge and expertise in many aspects of the federal courthouse program, working with Congress, the Office of Management and Budget, and the federal Judiciary, as well as regional GSA offices to see that the ambitious program succeeded. When he retired this year, he was the last charter member still remaining with the agency.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Bergdahl on his retirement from the federal service. During Jim's successful 52 year career, he was a model employee, consistently recognized by his peers and his congressional colleagues as providing the highest level of professionalism, superior subject knowledge, and willingness to take on and solve even the toughest problems. I wish him only the very best as he continues tackling new endeavors and conquering even greater challenges in the years ahead.

PASSING OF MRS. FRANCES BROCK STARMS FEBRUARY 9, 2012

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and work of Mrs. Frances Brock Starms, a compassionate leader, educator, writer and advocate for children who passed away on February 9, 2012, at the age of 97.

She was considered a treasure by our community and an active member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (Epsilon Kappa Omega Chapter), Links Inc. (Milwaukee Chapter), Town & Country Garden Club, Jack and Jill of America Inc., Delta Kappa Gamma Honor Society, Milwaukee Urban League, and a lifetime member of the N.A.A.C.P.

Frances Starms was born and raised in Montgomery, Alabama, and she graduated with honors from Spelman College. She continued her education at Atlanta University, receiving a Master of Arts Degree in Early Childhood Education.

Her postgraduate work included scholarly research at the University of Southern California and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. In 2004, she was recognized by UWM with an honorary doctorate in Public Service.

In 1948, Frances Starms moved to Wisconsin and continued her career as an educator with Milwaukee Public Schools, MPS. During her teaching career, she became the first African American to be appointed as director of the Head Start Program.

Mrs. Starms was one of few living Milwaukeeans after whom a Milwaukee Public School had been named; in fact, three schools now claim her as namesake: Starms Early Childhood Center, Starms Monumental Baptist Early Childhood Center, and Starms Discovery Learning Center.

Mrs. Starms was a prolific writer and received numerous awards and citations for her work. She was published in numerous local and national publications and was best known for her poems which focused on the richness and enduring strength of the African American Heritage. Her book entitled "Love is Best" expressed the beauty and texture of this heritage.

Her poetry was described as coming straight from the "heart" and reflected the elegance and authenticity of her own experience, reaching out to children and adults alike. For her commitment to our children and for her many efforts and gifts, Mrs. Starms was awarded with the 1979 Award for Meritorious Service from the UW-Milwaukee School of Education; 1983 Special Citation from Governor Tony Earl for her inclusion in the Smithsonian Institute/Wisconsin Humanities Committee exhibit "Black Women Achievement Against the Odds"; the 1984 Sarah Scott Administrative Leadership Award from the Metropolitan Milwaukee Alliance of Black School Educators for her leadership and commitment to improving educational opportunities for children; 1989 G.A.E.P. Award from Delta Sigma Gamma Society International Sigma State for the publication of her poetry; and was the recipient of St. Marks's Anvil Award for service to the church and the community. Mrs. Starms

was an active member of St. Mark A.M.E. Church in Milwaukee for more than 62 years.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Frances Brock Starms' passion for education, writing and her church have served the people of the Wisconsin Fourth Congressional District well, and we need only to look at the buildings that bear her name or read her poems to be reminded of her legacy. For these reasons I am honored to pay tribute to Mrs. Frances Brock Starms, who dedicated her life toward educating and improving the lives of children.

Today, I thank her and her family for their immeasurable contributions, mourn her loss and I salute her legacy.

RECOGNIZING MRS. JUDY EVANS
FOR HER SERVICE AND COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Judy Evans, a health care professional, from Crystal Springs, Mississippi. Mrs. Evans has served in the health care profession for more than 25 years in her hometown of Crystal Springs, Mississippi. She uses her current position as a deputy medical examiner investigator to support, encourage, and assist families in need.

Mrs. Evans is the youngest child of Benjamin and Betty Hicks. She is the wife of Arthur Evans Jr. and mother to their two children, Arthur Lee III and Jabreanne. Mrs. Evans has been recognized as First Lady of Crystal Springs for the past six years. She is an active member of New Zion United Methodist church where she serves as youth ministry co-chair and sings in the gospel choir. She is also a member of the Copenh County Animal Rescue League board.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in expressing my appreciation to Mrs. Judy Evans of Crystal Springs, Mississippi, for her commitment and servitude to the cause of health care.

HONORING HULET HORNBECK

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today with my colleagues Congressman PETE STARK, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY, and Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI to honor our friend, Hulet Hornbeck, who passed away on January 7, 2012. The State of California has lost a tireless leader whose many contributions to the East Bay Regional Park District will be remembered and revered by the residents of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties and by all who knew him.

Hulet relocated to California soon after the end of World War II and began his career at the East Bay Regional Park District. He enjoyed a distinguished career as Chief of Land Acquisition for the East Bay Regional Park

District from 1965 through 1985, serving with legendary leaders William Penn Mott and Richard Trudeau. Hulet is credited with overseeing the acquisition of 49,000 acres of parkland and expanding the District's land holdings from eight parks of 13,000 acres to 46 parks of 62,000 acres. His acquisitions elevated the East Bay Regional Park district to the largest regional urban park district in the nation, a unique distinction it still holds today.

A lifetime conservationist and outdoorsman, Hulet held many positions in local trail and conservation organizations and received countless honors and awards as a result of his work. He provided leadership and advice for organizations, including the California Conservation Council, the American Hiking Society, the National Trails Council, the Martinez Land Trust, the Trails and Greenways Foundation, American Trails, Heritage Trails Fund, Amigos de Anza, the California Recreational Trails Committee, the East Bay Area Trails Council, the American Trails Association, Solano County Farmlands and Open Space Foundation, and the San Francisco Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club.

In 2005, on Hornbeck's 88th birthday, the California Riding and Hiking Trail in the Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline Park was renamed the Hulet Hornbeck Trail, "in recognition of [his] tireless efforts in parkland development and management on behalf of the East Bay Regional Park District," according to the National Trails Training Partnership.

Hulet was one of the most creative land acquisition agents in the country; on behalf of the public he partnered with private companies, individuals, non-profits, and all levels of government. We owe him and the East Bay Regional Park District a great debt of gratitude for creating the largest urban regional park district in the nation.

Mr. Speaker, we invite our colleagues to join us in offering our condolences to Hulet's family and friends. Hulet will be sorely missed, but his contributions toward environmental conservation and dedication to public access to open spaces will be enjoyed for generations to come. His legacy lives on in the heart of every resident and visitor who seeks solace in the thousands of acres of wild greenbelts that grace the East Bay.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF SAMUEL
MARTIN, SR.

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to pay tribute to a great activist, pioneer, and role model, Samuel Martin, Sr. who passed away on February 3, 2012 at the age of 87.

Samuel was the 2nd of 20 children born in 1924 to Will and Mary Martin in Edwards, Mississippi. Enlisting in the Army in 1944, Samuel served his country honorably as a soldier. After serving his country, Samuel married Willie Mae Martin in 1946. During this time, Samuel worked for the Sante Fe Railroad in Needles, California where he first became involved in the NAACP and veteran's issues. Samuel moved his family to San Bernardino in 1954 due to a job opportunity at Norton Air Force Base.

Because of his childhood and upbringing in Mississippi, Samuel strongly believed that everyone should have an equal opportunity to succeed. In San Bernardino, Samuel continued his activism, fighting for integration in Veterans' Housing and integration in schools. His early retirement allowed him to continue his fight for equality in Southern California. In 1962, Samuel became the first African American to be elected to the Democratic Central Committee.

In 1965, Samuel Martin and Arthur Townsend founded the Precinct Reporter, a newspaper that still serves San Bernardino today. Later, in 1969, Samuel and his wife, Willie started the San Bernardino American News, which is now operated by his daughter, Mary Harris, and his son-in-law, Clifton Harris.

With his experience and expertise in the newspaper business, Samuel also worked with the Black Union at University of California, Riverside to establish the Black Voice News in 1972 and helped the Hispanic community start El Chicano newspaper.

Samuel was preceded by his beloved wife, Willie. Samuel is survived by his four children; Violet Jean Rose, Mary Florene Harris, Samuel, Jr., and Barry Lymond. He leaves with cherished memories a loving family of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. My thoughts and prayers, along with those of my wife, Barbara, and my children, Rialto City Councilman Joe Baca, Jr., Jeremy, Natalie, and Jennifer are with Samuel's family at this time. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to pay tribute to Samuel Martin, Sr.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ARCHIE
SAVAGE, JR.

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. Archie Savage, Jr. Sadly, Archie passed away last year at the West Haven Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Archie was born in Memphis in 1930 but called New Britain, Connecticut home since 1980. As a young man just out of high school, Archie served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict and afterwards continued to serve his country as a counterintelligence agent at the height of the Cold War. Archie found time during his 22 years of service to this country to acquire an education with a Bachelors Degree from the University of Denver in 1966 followed by a Masters in Education in 1971, and a Ph.D. from Denver University in 1976.

As a public servant Archie was truly exceptional. The first African-American operative in the Central Intelligence Agency, Archie's 22-year career with the Agency brought him across Europe and Asia. He served with distinction on the frontlines of the Cold War at a time of great peril to America and her allies. Archie was given the rank of Officier de la Legion d'Honneur, one of the highest civilian awards granted by the French Republic, for his role in foiling an attempt on the life of President de Gaulle of France in the 1960s.

After he retired from government service, Archie dedicated his life to improving his community in New Britain and across Connecticut.

He served as a faculty member at Central Connecticut State University and for the past 15 years was the Director of the Office of Affirmative Action at the UCONN Health Center. Over the course of his life he also served on the Board of Directors for a variety of organizations like United Way, the New Britain Public Library, Catholic Family Services, and the Boys and Girls Club; always seeking to give back to his adopted home in New Britain. A devout man, Archie was a long-time member and past Senior Warden of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in New Britain.

The creation of a more just and inclusive society was the issue that defined Archie's lifetime of community service more than any other. He served as President of the New Britain-Berlin Rotary Club, an organization dedicated to strengthening the community by bringing people together in service to the community. Archie also served as Chairman of the New Britain Commission on Human Rights and sat on the National Board of Directors of YMCA in the U.S.A. While there he took part in the Jerusalem International YMCA Task Force, a program that seeks to bring opposing communities together and build peace in the Holy Land. Only recently did Archie retire from his position on the New Britain YMCA Board of Trustees.

In reflection on the unfortunate loss of a decorated public servant, veteran, and advocate for the communities of New Britain and Connecticut, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring the life of Archie Savage, Jr. and the work he has done defending this country and working to bring together diverse communities across Connecticut and the world.

RECOGNIZING THE DR. ARMENIA
C. MALLORY COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Dr. Armenia C. Mallory Community Health Center, Inc. for their years of service to those in need of quality family health care. The Mallory Health Center provides families within the Mississippi communities of Lexington, Tchula, Durant, Vaiden, Canton and Greenwood quality and affordable health care.

The Mallory Health Center evolved from a community health survey conducted by the Rural Organizing and Cultural Center, Inc. in 1991. The survey documented the many health disparities and access barriers that hindered proper growth, development, and maintenance of a healthy citizen.

In April 1993 the Mallory Community Health Center was incorporated in Mississippi as a nonprofit corporation by a group of committed men and women concerned about improving health care services in their community. The Mallory Community Health Center's mission became to assure that all persons regardless of their ability to pay have access to quality, comprehensive, cost-effective primary health care services. Second to that mission was to empower their community to self-sufficiency while improving the health status of the community.

The Center was named in honor of Dr. Armenia C. Mallory for her untiring commitment to make a difference for all people. She devoted more than 50 years of her life to serving the Holmes County, Mississippi community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues join me in expressing my gratitude and appreciation to the Dr. Armenia C. Mallory Community Health Center.

HONORING VIETNAM VETERAN
PAUL GIBERT

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Corporal Paul Gibert for his valiant service as a Marine in the Vietnam War, upon his homecoming from a recent revisit to Vietnam. Mr. Gibert served his country loyally and with great devotion, putting his life at risk on numerous occasions to save wounded fellow Marines.

Corporal Gibert enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1966, at age 19. After completing basic training, escape and evasion courses, and advanced language Vietnamese courses, he was assigned as a recon scout with the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines. His storied unit was known as the "The Walking Dead" because of its record setting casualty rate.

As a recon scout fluent in Vietnamese, he was routinely assigned to go ahead of his unit and participate in extremely dangerous recon work in villages that had not yet been secured. It was not uncommon for him to be given inaccurate information from locals who were actually working for the North Vietnamese, making his job one of the most dangerous jobs in the Marine Corps.

In April 1967, during Operation Buffalo, the 9th Marines suffered a severe setback. Corporal Gibert was called up from a rear area to support a unit that had been so severely attacked they were actually piling the dead and wounded onto tanks to evacuate them. Virtually all of the Marines in the attacked unit were either killed or wounded. Reaching down to help a wounded Marine, Gibert was hit by shrapnel from an exploding artillery shell, piercing his shoulder. He was evacuated and recuperated for six weeks in an Air Force hospital in Cam Rahn Bay, after which he was sent back to his unit.

In September, only a few months later, he was back in the hospital for jungle rot in his leg, which had swollen up to the size of a barrel. With the exception of his recovery time in the hospital, virtually all of his time in Vietnam was spent near the Demilitarized Zone. Corporal Gibert was awarded the Purple Heart for his wounds, and his unit received two Presidential Unit Citations for exceptional valor.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in commending Corporal Paul Gibert for his bravery and commitment to his country. I sincerely thank him for his service, and wish him well as he returns from his recent trip back to Vietnam for what I know had to be a deeply emotional experience.

A TRIBUTE TO MISSOURI SUPREME COURT JUDGE GEORGE W. DRAPER, ACCLAIMED JURIST, PROSECUTOR, AND CIVIC LEADER

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American—a remarkable trial attorney, prosecutor, circuit and appellate judge, and most recently, the newest member of the Missouri Supreme Court, my dear friend and constituent, the Honorable Judge George W. Draper. Late last year, Missouri Governor Jay Nixon appointed Judge Draper to the Missouri Supreme Court after 17 years on the bench and 10 years in the St. Louis Circuit Attorney's office. He is only the second African American to serve on Missouri's high court. During his 27 years of public service, Judge Draper has demonstrated a dedication to justice and to serving the people of Missouri.

Those decades of experience and his legal acumen will serve him well on the Missouri Supreme Court. While serving on the Missouri Court of Appeals, Judge Draper heard a variety of civil and criminal appeals and authored several hundred opinions. He served as Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals from 2005 to 2006. Prior to his appointment to the appellate court, Judge Draper served first as an associate circuit judge from 1994 to 1998, and then as a circuit judge from 1998 to 2000 in St. Louis County. While serving as a prosecutor with the St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Office from 1984 to 1994, Judge Draper prosecuted numerous major felony cases and worked closely with law enforcement.

A graduate of Howard University School of Law, Judge Draper obtained his undergraduate degree from Morehouse College in Atlanta. Judge Draper has been active in several bar associations, including the Mound City Bar Association and the Missouri Bar Association, and has been supportive of the Missouri Asian Bar Association, as well as being an active member of Covenant Community Church.

Mr. Speaker, I have been blessed to know Judge George W. Draper and his wonderful family for more than three decades. His dedication to the law, to his State, and to the community that I represent is legendary. He is truly worthy of receiving this special congressional recognition.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF ELLEN STILLMAN

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mrs. Ellen Stillman, a resident of Hanson, Massachusetts, who celebrates her 100th birthday on February 20th.

Ellen was born in 1912, and began her first job at a Hanson cranberry cooperative, Cranberry Cannery, when she was 15 years old. She fell in love with the work and after graduating from the Chandler School for Women and Boston University with a degree in journalism and advertising, she convinced her father to cultivate a bog of their own. In 1937,

she borrowed \$15,000 and built a six-acre bog on the Stillman property in Hanson. Her bog paid for itself after only the second harvest.

Ellen continued to pursue her passion, and by the time she retired as vice president in charge of advertising at the Ocean Spray Cranberry Association in 1956, she had built a national reputation for the cranberry industry. Some of her more notable accomplishments include spearheading an advertising campaign to join cranberries and chicken, appearing on radio and TV and making a presentation of cranberries to President Eisenhower and Vice President Nixon at the White House. One year later, she was named the only female member of the 24-person Ocean Spray board of directors.

When not busy with her bogs, Ellen took time out for philanthropy, serving on the women's committee of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and donating generously to the Boston Symphony Orchestra. She also used her expertise to write a number of cookbooks.

More than 70 years later, Ellen's cranberry bogs continue to be an important part of the Hanson community and economy, and Ellen, herself, remains a pioneer in the industry. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Ellen Stillman on this joyful occasion and I hope my colleagues will join me in wishing her many more years of happiness and health.

THE MYTH OF CHINA AS A
HARMLESS TIGER

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit a piece authored by Chinese dissident Yu Jie which ran in yesterday's Washington Post. His words are deeply alarming about the extent of China's reach in the U.S. He rightly laments the lack of "visionary politicians, such as Ronald Reagan, to stand up to this threat." I couldn't agree more.

[From the Washington Post, Feb. 13, 2012]

THE MYTH OF CHINA AS A HARMLESS TIGER

(By Yu Jie)

Chinese dissident writers exiled to the West today get a very different response than Soviet writers received not so long ago.

In 1975, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger advised President Ford not to meet with writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn, warning in a memorandum that doing so would offend the Soviet Union. Now, similar views are held not only by pragmatic politicians but also by multinational corporations with large investments in China as well as universities and foundations with inextricable links to China.

The Chinese communist regime's penetration of the West far exceeds that of the former Soviet Union. In the Cold War era, the Soviet Union was blocked behind the Iron Curtain; there were few links between Soviet and Western economies. An average American family would not be using products "made in the USSR." Today, China is deeply embedded within the globalized system. An American recently wrote an interesting book detailing a year of her refusal to buy products that were "made in China" and the many difficulties she encountered as a result of this decision.

On the surface, the West has profited from its trade with China. Western consumers can

buy vast amounts of cheap Chinese products. However, fundamental values of the West are quietly being eroded: Who knows whether the American flag flying outside your home was manufactured by inmates in Chinese prisons or by child labor?

I arrived in the United States a month ago, thinking I had escaped the reach of Beijing, only to realize that the Chinese government's shadow continues to be omnipresent. Several U.S. universities that I have contacted dare not invite me for a lecture, as they cooperate with China on many projects. If you are a scholar of Chinese studies who has criticized the Communist Party, it would be impossible for you to be involved in research projects with the Chinese-funded Confucius Institute, and you may even be denied a Chinese visa. Conversely, if you praise the Communist Party, not only would you receive ample research funding but you might also be invited to visit China and even received by high-level officials. Western academic freedom has been distorted by invisible hands.

I believe that China is a far greater threat than the former Soviet Union ever was; unfortunately, the West lacks visionary politicians, such as Ronald Reagan, to stand up to this threat. President Obama might perceive the Chinese Communist Party as a tiger that does not bite and, hence, is looking forward to Vice President Xi Jinping's visit this week. Will Obama, a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, openly request that China release Liu Xiaobo, a Nobel Peace laureate imprisoned by the Communist Party? Why did Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton have the courage to meet with Burma's Aung San Suu Kyi but not to meet with Liu? Is it because Burma is weak, while China is strong?

The Chinese Communist Party remains a tiger that will bite. For working on human rights with Liu Xiaobo, after he was awarded the Nobel Prize, I was tortured by the country's secret police and nearly lost my life. Since then, dozens of lawyers and writers have been subjected to brutal torture; some contracted severe pneumonia after being held in front of fans blowing cold air and then being baked by an electric furnace. The secret police threatened me, saying that they had a list of 200 anticommunist party intellectuals whom they were ready to arrest and bury alive. Over the past year, the number of political prisoners in China has increased, and the jail sentences have become longer—yet Western voices of protest have become weaker.

Harsh internal repression and unrestrained external expansion are two sides of the same coin. The Chinese Communist Party recently vetoed the U.N. Security Council's resolution on Syria because killings not unlike those committed by Damascus continue in Tibet.

More than a century ago, Westerners described China as a "sleeping lion"; today, it is the West that has fallen asleep. As an independent writer and a Christian member of a "house church," I have the responsibility to tell the truth: The Chinese Communist Party is still a man-eating tiger.

RECOGNIZING MS. JUDITH
WINFORD FOR HER SERVICES IN
THE MISSISSIPPI HEALTH CARE
COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the prominent ca-

reer of Ms. Judith Winford, a notable Program Director of Delta State University's school-based Asthma Management Program. In this role, she is responsible for the oversight of asthma case management services in 14 Delta counties and 31 school districts across the Mississippi Delta. Ms. Winford is also an adjunct instructor in the RN program at Coahoma Community College.

She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from the University of Tennessee at Memphis and a Master's Degree in Nursing from Regis University in Denver, Colorado. She is currently enrolled in a Post-Master's Program at Delta State University.

During her extended career of over 15 years, Ms. Winford has served in the pediatric critical care unit at Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center in Memphis, Tennessee. She subsequently served as Nurse Epidemiologist with the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department, where she was responsible for surveillance and case investigations for Category 1 Notifiable Disease. Ms. Winford played a pivotal role in helping Memphis and Shelby County health care providers develop emergency response plans for anticipated community disasters.

Ms. Winford has years of clinical expertise in the area of health care risk management. She has served as the risk manager for Memphis Mental Health Institute and Director of Quality and Risk Management at Bolivar Medical Center. In these roles, she has coordinated the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations survey, functioned as a resource for legal counsel, established benchmarks for quality indicators, developed quality goals and objectives, and created innovative tools for medical record auditing.

Ms. Winford holds a national certification as a Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality. She is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, and the Mississippi Nursing Association. While at the Memphis Mental Health Institute, she received special recognition from the Department of Justice for the development of quality tools for patient compliance. Ms. Winford has presented extensively in Tennessee and Mississippi on a variety of health topics. Most recently, she was a guest speaker at the Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association, Mississippi School Nurse Association, Mississippi Association of Professionals in Health, and the Recreation and Dance Professional Association.

Ms. Winford is the proud mother of one son, who is a senior at the Mississippi School of Mathematics and Science in Columbus, Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Judith Winford for her many contributions to healthcare and service to her community.

RECALLING RAUF DENKTASH

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rauf Denktash: a statesman, lawyer, author, and the leader of the Turkish-Cypriots, who passed away on January 13, 2012 at the age of 88.

Rauf Denktash was born on January 27, 1924 at the village of Ktima, near Paphos, Cyprus, the son of a judge, he went on to study law at Lincoln's Inn in London. During the London Blitz of World War II, he served as an air-raid warden and helped to save Lincoln's Inn Hall from destruction. After the war, he practiced as a prosecuting barrister in Nicosia. By the time Denktash became Solicitor General in 1956, he was already a prominent leader within the Turkish-Cypriot community and served in numerous leadership capacities in the following decades on behalf of the Turkish-Cypriot community. In 1983, Denktash became the Turkish-Cypriot leader, a position he held until his retirement in 2005.

Spanning his entire political career, Denktash worked tirelessly in support of his Cypriot homeland. He defined his vision of Cyprus as "a place where my grandchildren can grow up free from fear." In addition to Denktash's extensive political career, he was also the author of over 40 books, and was an avid and renowned photographer. During the course of his life, his works were exhibited throughout the world.

I extend my condolences to the Denktash family and I join my Turkish-American friends and constituents in recognizing Rauf Denktash for all of his achievements throughout his lifetime. I know that those who knew and admired him will greatly miss him.

RECOGNIZING MERCY VILLAGE
APARTMENTS OF JOPLIN, MISSOURI

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mercy Village Apartments, of Joplin, Missouri, which is welcoming its residents home after being damaged in the devastating F-5 tornado of May 22, 2011.

For nearly 30 years, Mercy Housing has been committed to developing affordable, program-enriched housing for low-income families, seniors and people with special needs who lack the economic resources to access quality, safe housing opportunities. To date, Mercy Housing has participated in the development, preservation and financing of more than 40,000 affordable homes and an additional 7,309 homes are in the pre-development, construction or concept phase.

The day of the tornado, residents and staff worked together to get everyone to safety, even carrying wheelchairs down three flights of stairs. Thankfully, no one was hurt. One resident who was especially lucky to survive was 82-year-old Bonnie Betz. When Bonnie was awakened from her nap by the tornado sirens, she immediately started to move downstairs to shelter. The entire wall of the stairwell was torn away from the building by the tornado. She clung to the banister and was lifted off her feet, yet despite her arthritic hands, was able to literally hold on for her life. A structural engineer later said that without the good design and extra structural reinforcement Mercy Housing added when they built Mercy Village in 2005, the story might have a different ending.

I would therefore like to commend Mercy Housing for its hard work and dedication. Be-

cause of them, Joplin seniors can remain in the community they call home.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 103RD
BIRTHDAY OF MARGARET BONNER

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Margaret Bonner of Quincy, Massachusetts who celebrates her 103rd birthday on February 22nd.

Margaret was born on February 22, 1909 in Great Britain, where she spent her childhood. A concert pianist by training, she graduated from the London College of Music and shortly thereafter immigrated to the United States, arriving just before the crash of the stock market. Margaret first moved to Dorchester, Massachusetts before settling in Quincy in 1975. Always a creative person and an arts enthusiast, she worked as an illustrative artist on greeting cards during the Great Depression.

Throughout her life, Margaret has had a rich and remarkable career. At the end of World War I, she returned to Great Britain to volunteer with the Red Cross as a nurse's aide. Following that, she embarked on a long and accomplished career in the fashion and bridal industry, working as a buyer and manager for Worth of Boston on Boylston Street, among other high-end stores. In this position, Margaret traveled the world, purchasing couture clothes and meeting directly with famous designers from Versace to Halston. It was her love of fashion and the arts that kept her going over the years, and she did not retire until she was 86 years old.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Margaret Bonner on this joyous occasion. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing her many more years of health and happiness.

HONORING ALEXIS MONTGOMERY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Alexis Montgomery. Although young, Ms. Montgomery has shown what can be accomplished through hard work, diligence, and determination.

Alexis Montgomery, the daughter of Donald C. and Burnidene Montgomery was born July 4, 1982, in Monroe, North Carolina. After graduating from South Mecklenburg High School at the age of 17, she enlisted into the United States Navy, and was stationed in LaMaddalena, Italy. After a year, she was re-assigned to Mayport, Florida, for five years where she worked at the base clinic as a Medical Assistant and Lab Technician. She graduated from Sanford Brown Institute in 2003 where she received her certificate in Medical Assisting. After completing her enlistment with the Navy, she gained employment with Quest Diagnostic Laboratory and LabCorp in Jacksonville, Florida.

In 2007, she relocated to Greenville, Mississippi. In 2008, she gained employment at

the Greenville Family Clinic, where she currently works under Dr. Bill Maddox. Along with caring for her patients, she is also the loving mother of three children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Alexis Montgomery for her remarkable dedication and service to the community of Greenville, Mississippi.

HONORING U.S. NAVY VETERAN
AND PEARL HARBOR SURVIVOR
SYLVESTER PUCCIO

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Sylvester Puccio, a very special veteran and a survivor of Pearl Harbor. Mr. Puccio will soon be awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, at the direction of the Secretary of the Navy.

Mr. Puccio served aboard the *USS West Virginia* during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 as a Shipfitter Third Class. As the Japanese aerial attack engulfed the *West Virginia*, the call to General Quarters was sent, and Mr. Puccio went to his battle station at the same time multiple Japanese torpedoes struck the ship. Mr. Puccio and his fellow sailors, realizing that counter flooding was critical to prevent the *West Virginia* from rolling due to the torpedo damage, rushed to the locker containing the handles to operate the counter flood valves.

The locker was padlocked and the key was on another part of the ship. Mr. Puccio, acting quickly, took a large spool and repeatedly struck at the padlock until it broke free, enabling him and the other sailors to access the handles to begin counter flooding. At this time, the *West Virginia* had listed 28 degrees, and the quick actions of Mr. Puccio and other sailors prevented the ship from further listing and together, they righted her. In the coming days after the day "that would live in infamy," Mr. Puccio returned to the *West Virginia* on fire fighting and salvage detail. He was eventually assigned to the submarine section of Pearl Harbor and from there continued his Navy service in the Pacific Theatre during World War II.

Mr. Puccio returned to Rome, and dedicated his life to his family, his community, and his fellow veterans as an active member of the Central New York Pearl Harbor Survivors Association. Mr. Puccio never sought recognition for himself, only for his fellow veterans and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. I urge my colleagues to join me today in honoring Mr. Sylvester "Syl" Puccio, United States Navy, for his service and sacrifice during World War II on behalf of the United States of America.

IN RECOGNITION OF FIRST, FOR
INSPIRATION AND RECOGNITION
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an organization called FIRST.

FIRST is an acronym for the organization titled, "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology." FIRST has been working to help teams of students of all ages understand the importance of Math, Science, and Technology academic disciplines and how to best utilize them in real time problem solving.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending all students, mentors and teachers who participate in this program, especially FIRST Team 93 and all the other teams competing in the Wisconsin Regional in Milwaukee on March 22nd and 24th. I also rise to recognize those that will be at the World Championship in St. Louis, Missouri from April 26–28th. These participants can make a difference in our world and help change a culture.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you join me in congratulating all FIRST participants for their accomplishments and for the efforts put forth in the pursuit of their endeavors and achievements.

A SALUTE TO WOMEN

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give distinct recognition to the 9th Annual Salute to Women in Leadership Luncheon—an event paying tribute to women of diverse social strata committed to strengthening professional, social and family institutions through dedicated responsibilities.

The St. Louis Community Empowerment Foundation, Anheuser Busch and Worldwide Technologies will honor 14 distinguished women at the event, with the Lifetime Achievement Award bestowed upon Ms. Xernona Clayton, President and CEO of the Trumpet Awards Foundation and originator of "Moments in History," one-minute broadcasts on black Americans televised during Black History Month.

Xernona Clayton deserves a broadcast depicting her accomplishments as she actively participated in the Civil Rights Movement organizing events for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference under the direction of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. She was also the first African American female to host a prime time talk show broadcast on WAGA-TV in Atlanta, and is credited with influencing a former Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan to denounce the organization.

This year's celebrated women will also include Adrian Bracy, Kathleen Brady, Jacqueline Brock, Myrtle Dorsey, Shirley Drury, Frankie Eichenberger, Robbie Montgomery, Sandra Moore, Valerie Patton, Mary Attyberry Polk, Kacie Starr Triplett, Kimberly McKinney, and Cindy Erickson.

Mr. Speaker, the 9th Annual Salute to Women in Leadership Luncheon inspires advocacy for social justice through the works, accomplishments and deeds of the honored women. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing this event slated to be held this May in the beautiful City of St. Louis.

IN RECOGNITION OF JULIE
CARUSO

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Julie Caruso, who was honored as the 2011 Citizen of the Year by the Pembroke Express, in recognition of her tireless support of our troops serving overseas.

Julie started the Pembroke Military Support Group following the attacks of September 11th, and for the past ten years, she has been the moving force behind it. The group's goal is both simple and noble: support our service men and women and military families in tangible ways.

Meeting every month, a core group of approximately fifteen volunteers assemble care packages for more than 120 Pembroke residents—or those connected to Pembroke—who are currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Members of the Military Support Group also provide support to the service members' families living in Pembroke, Massachusetts. In 2009, the group received the Community Caring Award presented by the Norwell Visiting Nurse Association for outstanding service to the community.

Many people would have become fatigued or worn out after a couple years supporting a military community, but not Julie. Julie is that rare individual with the imagination to dream up this successful group, the dedication to get it off the ground and the perseverance to remain its backbone for over ten years. She not only organizes fundraising, but collects and packages the items and then works with multiple agencies to get the care packages to the troops overseas. Julie has said that she lives by the belief that her door is always open for family members of servicemen and service-women in need of a shoulder to lean on, and I doubt there is any resident in Pembroke, MA who would disagree with her.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Julie Caruso as she is honored for her generosity, drive and initiative. She is a model of leadership and selflessness for us all.

HONORING FILIPINO AND FILIPINO-AMERICAN WORLD WAR II
VETERANS

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to give recognition to the stalwart Filipino and Filipino-American veterans who fought alongside U.S. troops in the Battles of Bataan and Corregidor following the Japanese invasion of the Philippines in December 1941. By Executive Order, the Filipino soldiers' service entitled them to U.S. veterans' health benefits, pensions, and money for college. But when the war ended, the VA benefits promised to the Filipino soldiers were rescinded by Congress' passage of the Recession Act of 1946.

I also rise to honor those prisoners of war forced into the Bataan Death March, a harrowing episode of dreadful suffering and immense casualties. The heroic resistance of these fighters engaged the Japanese Imperial Army for four months, preventing Japanese occupation of Australia.

On February 4, 2011, at Dr. Jose Rizal Park in Seattle, Washington, I joined the Association of Bataan and Corregidor Survivors and their families and friends for the unveiling of two bronze memorial plaques honoring the Filipino and Filipino-American veterans. These permanent reminders of their extraordinary bravery and sacrifice will always speak of the strength of the Filipino and American spirit.

I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 210, the Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011. This measure deems certain service performed before July 1, 1946, in the organized military forces of the Philippines and the Philippine Scouts, active military service eligible for veterans' benefits from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

Filipino World War II veterans, who fought so courageously alongside U.S. troops during critical engagements of World War II, have waited far too long—almost 65 years—to receive what they were promised by our government. Most have now passed on.

Mr. Speaker, our debt to the surviving veterans and their families is long overdue. We must fulfill our obligation to them now.

IN CELEBRATION OF JIMMY AND
BILLIE METCALF'S 70TH WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Jimmy and Billie Metcalf on their 70th wedding anniversary.

Jimmy Metcalf joined the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1941 and married Billie Borchardt on February 14, 1942, just two months after the attack on Pearl Harbor. During World War II, Jimmy proudly served his country overseas, which kept him apart from his wife for over three years. Despite this separation, their love persevered.

As family and friends join Jimmy and Billie to celebrate this joyous occasion, it is important to reflect upon the significance of this outstanding milestone. Over the past seventy years, they have shared many joys and faced life's trials together. Through all of life's ups and downs, their love for each other and for their children has remained constant. This platinum anniversary is a testament of their commitment to each other and to the wedding vows they took seventy years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in congratulating Jimmy and Billie on seventy years of wedded bliss. May God bless them with many more years of happiness and health together!

IN HONOR OF DR. JEFF BRAFF

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize the life, career, and public service of Dr. Jeff Braff. Dr. Braff passed away on January 16th. He will be remembered for his optometric services to the city of Salinas, his contribution to political change in the Central Coast of California, and as my personal friend and doctor.

Jeff grew up working in his father's contact lens laboratory in Arcadia, California. He attended the University of California at Berkeley where he earned a degree in optometry in 1964. After graduating, he traveled to India where he helped set up the country's first contact lens fabricating laboratory.

After returning to the United States, Jeff was drafted in to the US Army and served as an optometrist at the Fort Ord military base. He completed his military service in 1972 and moved to Salinas where he practiced optometry for the next 37 years.

As the representative for the California Optometric Association and the Monterey Bay Optometric Association, Jeff played an invaluable role in local politics in the Central Coast of California. Jeff volunteered for many political campaigns, including for Leon Panetta's first election to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1976 and my own run in 1976 for the Monterey County Board of Supervisors. Jeff was also instrumental in drawing support for several political campaigns in Bainbridge Island, Washington.

His ability to draw support to local elections and political change earned him a following. "Jeff's Group" became an informal name given to those he could count on to show up and wave signs, hand out coffees, and recruit neighbors to support the many causes he was involved in.

In a document entitled "How I Want to be Remembered" Jeff wrote: "Between being born and dying, he didn't take some things seriously that should have been, took some things seriously that shouldn't have, was getting the hang of love, and anger, and play, and all that; he tinkered with life, and did OK."

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pain that I announce the passing of Jeff. I would like to personally acknowledge his service to the people of California. It was the relationships that he fostered at his practice that kept him invigorated and loving his work. I would like to express my deepest condolences to Sue, his loving wife of 36 years, his son, Zack and his brother, Brian.

RECOGNIZING MRS. KERRIN A. FLOWERS FOR HER SERVICE IN THE MISSISSIPPI HEALTH CARE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of Mrs. Kerrin A. Flowers, a prominent

Board-Certified Family Nurse Practitioner serving with the Tallahatchie County Correctional Facility and the Family Health Care Clinic in Grenada, MS.

Mrs. Flowers has been a certified RN for 15+ years and began her advanced practice nursing role in 2009. Throughout her career, she has assumed progressive roles of responsibility such as staff nurse, charge nurse, Nurse Manager, and Assistant Director of Nursing. Mrs. Flowers' hard work and dedication earned her the Employee of the Month Award for outstanding job performance.

Mrs. Flowers received an Associate's Degree in Nursing from Mississippi Delta Community College. She later earned a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from Delta State University, and a Master's Degree in Nursing from Mississippi University for Women. Mrs. Flowers is dedicated to the improvement of health care, which is evident in her continuing pursuit of advancement studies in dermatology and narcotic substance abuse. Mrs. Flowers has made many contributions to scholarly nurse research, which includes recent presentations in Treatment Therapy for Bronchiolitis and Treatment in Pediatric Patients Diagnosed with Bronchiolitis.

Service to the greater community is another attribute of Mrs. Flowers' career. This is reflected in her service as Chairperson for the Health and Wellness Community Program and her service with the Mississippi Nurses Association, the National Honor Society and Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. Her participation in a nationwide study earned Mrs. Flowers a Certificate from the National Council of State Board of Nursing.

Mrs. Flowers is married to Fredrick Flowers and is the mother of two sons, Darryl and Deracius Winfield. In her spare time, she enjoys movies and exercising.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues join me in recognizing Mrs. Kerrin A. Flowers for her commitment and service to the cause of health care.

STOP TRADING ON CONGRESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I am one of 285 proud cosponsors of H.R. 1148, the original House version of the STOCK Act, which was introduced by my colleague from Minnesota, Mr. WALZ. It is a simple, common-sense bill that would reaffirm the restriction on insider trading by Members of Congress and our staffs, as well as officials within the executive branch. I also heard from dozens of my constituents from across Central New Jersey who support this bill as a necessary first step to restoring the American public's trust in its legislature and in our democracy as a whole.

Unfortunately, despite the overwhelming bipartisan support for this legislation, the majority has brought before us today a watered-down version of the bill that received nearly unanimous support in the United States Senate. While the basic premise of the bill remains intact, I regret that important provisions

such as increased disclosure requirements for so-called "political intelligence consultants" are not included in the bill before us today.

Though unrelated to insider trading, I do support the provision in this measure to prohibit the payment of bonuses to executives at Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Like many Americans, I was alarmed to learn last year that ten Fannie and Freddie executives were set to receive more than \$12 million in bonuses. It is inconceivable that the leadership of these organizations, who profited at the expense of millions of middle class Americans who lost their homes, be further rewarded.

While I support this measure, I remain hopeful that the stronger provisions included in the original House version, as well as the version that passed the Senate last week, can be incorporated as this bill continues to move forward.

RECOGNIZING GARY SINDERBRAND FOR HIS SERVICE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE CROHN'S AND COLITIS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedicated service of Mr. Gary Sinderbrand as Chairman of the National Board of Trustees for the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America over the last three years.

Joining the National Board of the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America in 2003, Mr. Sinderbrand has passionately committed to meeting financial goals and a rigorous research agenda while accomplishing an extraordinary number of professional milestones and achievements.

Mr. Sinderbrand is a veteran of the New York investment banking community and currently serves as managing director with Wells Fargo in Manhattan, New York. He is also an active volunteer pilot for Angel Flight and Veteran's Airlift Command. As a parent of a child with Crohn's disease, Mr. Sinderbrand has shown great commitment and leadership to raising awareness of inflammatory bowel disease, a debilitating disease that currently does not have a cure to eliminate the suffering of over one million Americans.

Under Mr. Sinderbrand's leadership, the Foundation has been able to focus on new research initiatives including the Microbiome Initiative, Genetics Initiative and CCFA Partners, which has helped advance the science and bring us one step closer to cures for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. While we still do not have all the answers, there is hope. An increasing number of genes have been identified, eight in 2007 alone. In 2011, that number grew to more than 70 genes identified, and with new technological advances researchers are working furiously to find cures.

Together, we've made our mark on Capitol Hill with the newly formed Congressional Crohn's & Colitis Caucus promoting awareness and support for the cause. We've identified funding sources at the Department of Defense, National Institutes of Health and have

successfully restored funding at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the IBD Epidemiology Program. These are no small feats in such challenging times.

Mr. Sinderbrand has set the bar high, and I'm confident he has put the Foundation on the right path for continued success in the future. I am grateful for his commitment to the National Board of Trustees for the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America at a time when the field of inflammatory bowel disease research is achieving such great success.

HONORING MICHAEL GREENE

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Michael Greene's 21 years of service on Missouri's Eighth Congressional District Service Academy Review Board. Membership on this board is an important public service and one that I entrust only to those who have truly shown quality of character and judgment. An exceptional example is Michael Greene.

I want to thank Michael for his service to the Eighth Congressional District and to the five branches of military in our great nation. His leadership on the Service Academy Review Board has been influential in the lives of countless young men and women from southern Missouri who have worked hard to better themselves in the service of our country.

As an advocate for our nation's five service academies, I have relied on his sound judgment and good guidance. Michael has always taken seriously the important task of reviewing the applications of students who seek an appointment to the service academies, encouraging them in their decision-making process and furthering a long, proud tradition of military service. Because our congressional district is so well represented at the nation's service academies, we also have a reputation for producing motivated, honorable young people who are earnest in their desire to serve others, steadfast in their obligation to defend freedom, and pure in their patriotic love for America. Michael shares these virtues with the young Missourians he has helped to nominate and place in positions of leadership in all branches of the armed services.

From the bottom of my heart, I appreciate everything he has done for the Service Academy Review Board program to further its aims and to achieve its goals. I deeply appreciate his role in this important congressional responsibility. Like our Americans in uniform, Michael volunteered for this duty, and he has long served ably, honorably and well.

IN HONOR OF JEAN LEIDIG
DRAPER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, public service and philanthropy of Jean Leidig Draper, Carmel's "Grand Dame." Mrs. Draper passed away January

20th. She will be remembered for her generous support of local, civic, and cultural organizations on the Central Coast of California and for the many lives she touched through her community work in the city of Carmel.

After attending Dominican College in San Rafael and the California Institute of Arts in San Francisco, Jean married Raymond Draper. Together they had three children: Wendy, Michael and Susan.

Jean was widely known for her love of Carmel and the causes she supported. Included among the many recipients of Jean's generosity were the Carmel Library, the Community Hospital of Monterey Peninsula, the Forest Theatre Foundation, the Carmel Foundation, the Pacific Repertory Theater, the American Red Cross, Westland House, and the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

Jean served as the first elected Chaplain of the Stillwater Cove Yacht Club. She was a dedicated supporter of Chartwell School and a longtime parishoner of the Carmelite Monastery.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pain that I announce the passing of Jean. I would like to personally acknowledge her life and commitment to the city of Carmel. I would also like to extend my deepest condolences to her family, friends and all those who benefitted from her service, generosity, and kindness.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF
WHITNEY HOUSTON

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my deepest sympathy to the family, friends and fans of Ms. Whitney Elizabeth Houston whose sudden death on February 11, 2012 has left us all saddened. Her passing leaves a void in the lives of those of us who knew and loved her. It also marks the silencing of a voice that was one of the greatest in the history of the recording industry and one that will be missed throughout the world.

Ms. Houston, known lovingly to her legions of fans as Whitney and to her family and friends as "Nippy" was born and raised within the borders of the 10th Congressional District in the cities of Newark and East Orange. Whitney made her singing debut at the family's longtime church home, New Hope Baptist Church in Newark. The fact that Whitney would love to sing came as no surprise to anyone who knew her family's history. The Drinkard Sisters, on her mother side were legendary in the Greater Newark area and beyond. Her mother, Cissy Houston and cousin, Dionne Warwick are both well known talents. What we would discover over the course of Whitney's career would be her incredible international appeal driven by her angelic voice and God given talent. Not only was Whitney a gifted singer but she was an actress, a model, film producer, record producer and songwriter.

Whitney Houston was a Super Star and in 2009, the Guinness World Records cited her as the most awarded female act of all time. These awards include two Emmy Awards, six Grammy Awards, 30 Billboard Music Awards and 22 American Music Awards. She was a trend setter and influenced many of the artists

performing today. Her incomparable style will live on forever with every mention of incredible voices.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues here in the House of Representatives agree that our nation has lost one of its greatest talents in Whitney Houston. Fortunately for her family especially Bobbi Kristina, her legacy will live on. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

HONORING FIREFIGHTER JAMES
DYKSTRA

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in recognition of the long and distinguished service of Firefighter James Dykstra of the Streamwood Fire Department on the occasion of his retirement. He recently concluded his loyal service of over 30 years to the community.

Jim earned his Associate Degree in Applied Science from Thornton Community College in December of 1980. Firefighter Dykstra began his firefighter career in Streamwood in 1981 as a Paid-On-Call Firefighter. His training included becoming an EMP/Paramedic and Firefighter before being hired as a career firefighter.

With dedication and persistence, he worked alongside his colleagues at the Streamwood Fire Department to promote the safety and well-being of his community. As a testimony to his service and commitment to Streamwood, he earned several Illinois certifications, including Firefighter III, Fire Apparatus Engineer, HazMat First Responder Operations status, Fire Prevention Officer, Fire Investigator, Provisional Fire Office Instructor I, and Certified Officer I. Jim was a founding member of the Department's Fire Investigation Team. On February 28, 1999, he received the Disaster Service Medal for participating in a structure fire. His leadership has been demonstrated through an unwavering display of courage and achievement.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in celebrating this special occasion and wishing him all the best in his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF REX EUGENE
GEITNER

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Rex Eugene Geitner who has been selected as the 2011 Farmer of the Year by the San Mateo County Farm Bureau. Rex has cultivated land from the Midwest to California where he has grown some of the best wines in the world.

Rex was born on August 6, 1950, inavenport, Iowa, while his mother was visiting her sister. He then grew up in the family's hometown of Peoria and several other rural communities in Illinois. The family owned and operated a small farm near Elmwood which is where Rex developed his love for the land.

In 1966, the family moved to Orange, California, where Rex entered his junior year at Orange High School. He took classes in agriculture, became active in the Future Farmers of America, and raised steers until graduation.

In 1972, Rex moved to Napa where the region was just starting to transform itself into one of the most respected and famous wine areas. Rex began his career by cleaning hillside land that was then planted with Cabernet Sauvignon. Sterling Vineyards acquired the land and kept him as their vineyard manager. From those humble beginnings, Rex evolved to be one of Napa's most experienced and sought after viticulturalists and hillside developers. During his ascent, he worked for well-known vineyards such as Stag's Leap, Domaine Chandon, Spring Mountain Vineyards and many others. Rex also took several courses about viticulture and enology at UC Davis.

In the 1990s, Rex started a business that designed and developed environmentally responsible hillside vineyards. One of his clients, T.J. Rodgers, eventually hired him full-time. According to Dr. Rodgers, his company had to court Rex for five years until he decided that he "was ready to focus on making the world's best Pinot Noir."

Rex and his wife of 37 years, Amy, raised their children, Alison and Michael, in Napa. After living in the wine country for 27 years, Amy and Rex headed for the coast and now live in El Granada. However, Rex did not leave the wine business behind; he is now developing the winery and vineyards for Clos de la Tech. He also has served as the board president of the San Mateo County Farm Bureau since 2009.

Mr. Speaker, the San Mateo County Farm Bureau is right to honor Rex Geitner as Farmer of the Year. His lifelong dedication to environmentally responsible farming and viticulture have both benefitted and delighted Californians and wine connoisseurs all over the world.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF ROGER GEIGER TO HIS FELLOW
VETERANS

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Roger Geiger of Torrington, Connecticut. Mr. Geiger is a veteran and this year's recipient of the American Veterans Post 24 member of the year award.

After serving his nation in the armed services, Mr. Geiger continues to serve his community as a member of AMVETS Post 24. Mr. Geiger and his wife Diane founded and continue to run Post 24's Heroes on Wheels program. This program takes in donations of electric wheelchairs and scooters for the benefit of Connecticut veterans. Many of these wheelchairs and scooters are received out of working order and Mr. Geiger takes it upon himself to repair and refurbish this equipment that is essential to ensuring the mobility of many elderly or disabled veterans. Once the repairs are completed, Mr. Geiger and his fellow Post 24 members deliver the electric wheelchairs and scooters to veterans in need.

Mr. Geiger's tireless work has resulted in hundreds of veterans in Connecticut and neighboring states being provided with chairs that have returned to them their freedom of mobility. It is for this reason, in addition to his service as the chapter chaplain and his general dedication to the chapter, that Roger Geiger was awarded the Post 24 member of the year award in 2011.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we can all agree Roger Geiger deserves recognition for his outstanding service, both to his nation and to his fellow veterans. His efforts to provide his fellow veterans with the tools they need to maintain their mobility and independence are undoubtedly worthy of recognition. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Roger Geiger for his service to our community of veterans.

RECOGNIZING MS. EILEEN BREEN
FOR HER SERVICES IN THE MISSISSIPPI
HEALTH CARE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, with health care in our nation at the forefront of many discussions, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to honor a notable health care provider, Ms. Eileen Breen. I find it befitting to acknowledge those who help improve the quality of health care in our country.

Ms. Breen moved from New York City, New York in 1991 to serve medically underserved populations in the Mississippi Delta. Ms. Breen has serviced Tallahatchie County, Mississippi as a Nurse Practitioner for over eighteen years. She has worked in various clinics throughout the county, including those in Glendora and Tutwiler Mississippi, two of Mississippi's most underserved communities. Ms. Breen is well known in the community for treating patients regardless of their access to health care insurance. She has been instrumental in bringing to the forefront awareness of crippling health issues affecting Mississippi and is a pillar in her community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Eileen Breen for her commitment to improving health care throughout the Mississippi Delta.

HONORING LIEUTENANT GARY
BOBER

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in recognition of the long and distinguished service of Lieutenant Gary Bober of the Streamwood Fire Department on the occasion of his retirement. He recently concluded his loyal service of over 34 years to the community.

Lieutenant Bober began his firefighter career in West Dundee in 1976 as a Paid-On-Call Firefighter. In 1978, Lieutenant Bober was hired by the Streamwood Fire Department. His training included becoming an EMP/Paramedic

and Firefighter. On July 20, 1988, Gary was promoted to Lieutenant for the Streamwood Fire department.

Day in and day out, Lieutenant Bober worked with the men and women from the Streamwood Fire Department to protect the Village of Streamwood. As a reflection of his commitment, he earned several Illinois certifications, including Firefighter III, Fire Apparatus Engineer, HazMat Technician, Certified Instructor II, Hazmat Incident Command, and Certified Officer I. On February 28, 1999, he received the Disaster Service Medal for participating in 3 structural fires, and later that same year, he received the Meritorious Service Award for rescuing a victim from a residential structure fire. His leadership is reflected in his bravery and achievement.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in celebrating this special occasion and the long years of service and commitment that Lieutenant Bober has dedicated to the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on Tuesday, February 14, 2012, I missed one recorded vote on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 49.

A TRIBUTE TO NORM PARKER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the historic career of the Iowa Hawkeye nation's legendary Defensive Coordinator, Norm Parker.

Norm came to Iowa City in 1999 with a new coaching staff faced with the daunting task of reestablishing the Iowa Hawkeyes as a powerhouse football program on the national stage. Coach Parker played a pivotal role in accomplishing this task in short order by consistently coaching the Hawkeye defense into one of the nation's best. Norm built the Hawkeye defense into one of the most consistently dominant defensive units in all of college football both statistically and physically.

Over the last 13 years, Coach Parker has coached 34 players, prior to this year's upcoming draft, that have gone on to play at the sport's highest level in the National Football League. At the University of Iowa, Norm's rushing defense finished among the nation's top ten on five separate occasions, in addition to three top-ten scoring defenses in the last four years.

Any fan of college football knows that Coach Parker held a commitment to his program that is unlike any other, and in 2010, despite his battle with serious medical issues, coached the Hawkeyes to a fifth-ranked national defense, sixth-ranked rushing defense, and seventh-ranked scoring defense before finishing the season as the Insight Bowl

Champions. In 2011, Norm announced his retirement just weeks after being awarded the nation's Assistant Coach of the Year by the American Football Coaches Association.

Throughout his 48-year football career, Norm has held himself to the highest standards of professionalism and commitment. His success as a defensive coach is only matched by his impact as a positive role model for countless young lowans, on and off the field. Whether you are a fan of the Hawkeyes, the Cyclones, the Bulldogs or the Panthers, there is no denying the profound impact Coach Parker has had on college football and the state of Iowa in general.

Mr. Speaker, I believe Iowa sportscaster Jon Miller said it best when he proclaimed, "Simply put, Iowa football would not be Iowa football without Norm Parker. Iowa football will have a tough time remaining Iowa football without Norm Parker." The impact Coach Parker has had on Hawkeye football and the state of Iowa will be evident for decades. Even as a Cyclone, it is my distinct honor to represent all college football fans across Iowa, the nation, and in the United States Congress, in thanking Coach Norm Parker for his commitment and dedication to the sport of football, his students, and the people of Iowa and wishing Norm and his wife Linda a long, happy and healthy retirement with much less stressful Saturdays.

U.S. DOLLARS SHOULD CREATE
JOBS FOR U.S. WORKERS

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO
SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, we have to ensure that U.S. workers get jobs. So, today I am introducing legislation that requires that on federally funded construction projects in my district, the Northern Mariana Islands, at least 60 percent of the workforce has to be U.S. workers.

It is just common-sense: U.S. dollars should employ U.S. workers.

There is a threshold. This legislation only applies to projects that cost more than \$100,000. We do not want to enact a law that unnecessarily delays spending or over-regulates business.

But for larger projects funded with federal dollars—and in the Northern Marianas this means road construction, modernizing schools, putting in water lines—we need to make sure that the local, U.S. workers get most of the jobs. We need to make a stand for U.S. workers and for the families they support.

I know that our national economy is still pulling itself out of the worst recession since the 1930s. Although we have seen almost 4 million jobs created in the last two years, we still have unacceptably high levels of unemployment.

But, if you can imagine, in the Northern Marianas the situation is worse—and not improving. Even before the national recession began our economy was sinking. Our island gross domestic product has gone down every year since 2005—20 percent in 2009, the last year the Bureau of Economic Analysis has computed.

We do not have unemployment data for the Northern Marianas, but we do know that our population has shrunk from 69,000 in 2000 to 54,000 in 2010. People have left because jobs have disappeared. I can say from personal observation and from talking with my constituents that there are many people in the Northern Marianas who want work and cannot get a job.

I know, too, that many of the local, U.S. workers in the Marianas, who want to work are being passed over for the jobs that do exist.

We have something like 11,000 foreign workers today in the Northern Marianas. One has to ask: how can we have so many foreign workers, when there are U.S. workers unemployed, who want to work.

Something is not right.

The workers I talk to have skills. They have a good work ethic. They are employable. Yet they are being passed over.

We have to do more in this Congress for these U.S. workers. At the very least, we can say that when we appropriate federal dollars for construction projects in the Northern Marianas, those funds will put U.S. workers on the payroll.

We are not even asking that all the workers be U.S. workers, only that most are U.S. workers. We understand that there may be some specialty skills U.S. workers do not have. Maybe there will be numerical shortages that need to be filled.

But as long as we know that there are U.S. workers, who want jobs, who need to work, then let us make very sure that the federal dollars we provide to the Northern Mariana Islands put those U.S. workers to work.

HONORING ALVIN BENN, RECIPIENT OF THE ALABAMA PRESS ASSOCIATION LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of Alabama's best known and most respected journalists, Mr. Alvin Benn, who this week is being honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Alabama Press Association.

Perhaps there's a measure of irony in the fact that the man who has become synonymous with both covering and capturing Alabama history and culture, in a way that only a Southern native could, actually hails from the North. Al Benn was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch country on April 25, 1940.

After graduating from Manheim Township High School in 1958, he enlisted in the Marine Corps where he served his country for six years. He was stationed at Cherry Point, NC with the Second Marine Air Wing and at Okinawa, Japan, where he worked for the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service. After returning stateside, he completed military journalism school at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center and briefly attended East Carolina College while at Cherry Point.

His long journey chronicling the history of our region began as a newly minted cor-

respondent for United Press International covering the burgeoning Civil Rights movement. As he details in his 2006 book, "Reporter: Covering Civil Rights . . . and Wrongs in Dixie," Al Benn not only interviewed the major leaders of both sides of this historic struggle—including Dr. Martin Luther King and Governor George C. Wallace—but he used his fearless quest of news to take him to some of the most unsettling venues to get the unvarnished true story.

After two and a half years as UPI's Birmingham bureau chief, Al Benn took on the roles of writer, photographer, editor and publisher at newspapers in Alabama, including the Selma Times-Journal and the Montgomery Advertiser. He also crossed over the state line to work at the Natchez Democrat where he and his news staff were nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. Although he officially retired in 2003, Al Benn continues to write his widely read column, "Al Benn's Alabama", for the Montgomery Advertiser.

In commenting about his life's work, Al Benn once observed: "Journalistic integrity cannot be duplicated. That's all reporters really have. We never make much money. What we can leave behind is a good name in our chosen profession. I hope I've done just that. There are those who will disagree but I've tried to be as fair as I could be."

I have never known a more professional, articulate and even-handed reporter than Al Benn. On behalf of the people of Alabama, I offer my congratulations to Al, and I wish him and his wife, Sharon, and their family a future full of happiness.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Streamwood, Illinois, in my district.

St. John the Evangelist celebrated its first Mass with approximately 300 families in June of 1962. In September of 1962, the parish began constructing its first building which served as a church and school. Five years later, due to the rapid growth of the Catholic population of Streamwood, the Cardinal approved the parish's request for the construction of a permanent church building.

Over the last 50 years, St. John the Evangelist has continued to grow. Currently, there are more than 2,660 families registered in the parish. Reaching out to the youth in the community, St. John the Evangelist School has 228 students from kindergarten through the eighth grade, and plans to have 300 students by 2013. St. John the Evangelist also has 331 students enrolled in evening and weekend religious education programs.

Reaching out to the community, St. John the Evangelist's parish has participated in community activities and events that have helped make Streamwood a great place for families to live, play, learn and worship. Annually, St. John the Evangelist sponsors the Bingo table at the Streamwood Fest.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing this 50th Anniversary as we celebrate St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church's legacy of faith and service.

CONGRATULATING QUEEN P. (POLLY) NELSON FOR HER YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Queen P. (Polly) Nelson on her retirement from the Internal Revenue Service.

Polly started her career in the federal government working with the U.S. Army where she handled monthly payroll checks. At one point she was in charge of mailing 30 thousand monthly salary checks for soldiers throughout the U.S. and overseas. After the Army she worked for numerous federal agen-

cies including: Federal Highway Administration, Social Security Administration, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Federal Housing Administration where she briefly served in the Disaster Program.

Ms. Nelson eventually made her way to the Internal Revenue Service where she faithfully served for over 34 years. She currently works in the Small Business/Self Employed (SB/SE) division where they provide small business owners with top quality service by educating and informing them of their tax obligations, developing educational products and services, and helping them understand and comply with applicable tax laws. Polly currently serves in the SB/SE division as an Audit Aide and Group Clerk/Secretary for the Examination division. She is responsible for assisting auditors in performing their duties as well as time input, assigning work, reports, filing, and numerous other essential daily duties. Through her 34 plus years she earned 12 manager and performance awards, and one Sustained Superior Performance Award. She is a testament to the dedication and superb performance of our public servants in all federal agencies.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Queen P. (Polly) Nelson on her retirement beginning March 30, 2012. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated public servant in the Internal Revenue Service and I wish her well in her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast the recorded votes for rollcalls 34 and 35. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" for these measures.

H. Res. 537: On Agreeing to the Resolution, rollcall No. 34.

H.R. 1162: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, rollcall No. 35.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the *Extensions of Remarks* section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 16, 2012 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 22

2 p.m.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To receive a briefing on Moscow, focusing on Luke Harding's encounter with the KGB.

210, Cannon Building

FEBRUARY 28

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Transportation Command in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine strengthening conservation through the 2012 farm bill.

SH-216

Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2013 for the Department of the Interior.

SD-366

2 p.m.

Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine national security and foreign policy priorities in the fiscal year 2013 International Affairs Budget.

SH-216

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine clarifying the fate of missing persons in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) region, focusing on locating and identifying persons missing as a result of conflicts, trafficking in humans and human rights violations, as well as natural or manmade disasters.

Room to be announced

2:30 p.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings to examine a legislative presentation from the Disabled American Veterans (DAV).
345, Cannon Building

FEBRUARY 29

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2013 for Veterans' Programs.

SR-418

MARCH 1

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine U.S. European Command and U.S. Africa Command in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SH-216

MARCH 6

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SH-216

MARCH 7

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings to examine a legislative presentation from the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

SD-G50

MARCH 8

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the Department of the Army in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-106

2:15 p.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2013 for Native Programs.

SD-628

MARCH 13

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine U.S. Southern Command and U.S. Northern Command in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SD-G50

MARCH 14

Time to be announced

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine healthy food initiatives, local production, and nutrition.

Room to be announced

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine ending homelessness among veterans, focusing on Veterans' Affairs progress on its five year plan.

SR-418

2 p.m.

Armed Services

Personnel Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Active, Guard, Reserve, and civilian personnel programs in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-232A

MARCH 15

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the Department of the Navy in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SD-G50

2:15 p.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Indian water rights, focusing on promoting the negotiation and implementation of water settlements in Indian country.

SD-628

MARCH 20

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the Department of the Air Force in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SD-G50

MARCH 21

Time to be announced

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine risk management and commodities in the 2012 farm bill.

Room to be announced

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings to examine the legislative presentations of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), Non Commissioned Officers Association, American Ex-Prisoners of War, Vietnam Veterans of America, Wounded Warrior Project, National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, and The Retired Enlisted Association.

SD-G50

MARCH 22

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings to examine the legislative presentations of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Air Force Sergeants Association, Blinded Veterans Association, American Veterans (AMVETS), Gold Star Wives, Fleet Reserve Association, Military Officers Association of America, and the Jewish War Veterans.

345, Cannon Building

MARCH 28

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Margaret Bartley, of Maryland, and Coral Wong Pietsch, of Ha-

wai, both to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

SR-418

2 p.m.

Armed Services
Personnel Subcommittee

To resume hearings to examine the Active, Guard, Reserve, and civilian personnel programs in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-232A