

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING FT. BLISS GARRISON
COMMANDER COLONEL JOSEPH
SIMONELLI

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2012

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Joseph Simonelli for his outstanding service to the Army and the nation.

For the past two years, Colonel Simonelli has served as the garrison commander of Fort Bliss. A garrison commander is the Mayor of an Army installation with responsibility for everything from potholes to energy contracts. It is one of the most challenging positions in the Army, and only a few of the most outstanding officers are selected for this top command position.

Colonel Simonelli has lead Fort Bliss at a critical juncture in the post's and the Army's history. With wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, he provided critical support to soldiers training for combat, while taking care of family members. He ensured that the spouses, parents, and children of deploying troops, facing so much stress, felt the warm embrace of the Army family.

As Fort Bliss was deploying combat forces, the post was also continuing to adjust to the impact of the 2005 BRAC which relocated the 1st Armored Division to El Paso. Colonel Simonelli oversaw important projects including construction of the new Lifestyle Center which is now providing upgraded facilities to support military families and has become an important hub for the community. Colonel Simonelli worked to transform the Lifestyle Center into more than a just place to shop or dine; the Lifestyle Center has become the heart of Fort Bliss, open and welcoming to all. This new gathering place is a model, not just for the military, but for all communities.

Colonel Simonelli and his staff tackled this and other projects, including the designation of Fort Bliss as one of the two Net Zero installations, with incredible efficiency and dedication. Colonel Simonelli instilled in all an unwavering commitment to supporting soldiers and their families.

As Joe and Bettye Marie move on to the next chapter in their life in the Army, I rise to offer my thanks for all that they have done to make Fort Bliss a better place to work and live. Their hard work and dedication has touched so many lives, and we owe an immeasurable debt of gratitude for all that they have done for our soldiers, for our community, and for our nation.

TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF JAMES
ARNESS

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2012

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to recognize the life of Mr. James Arness, the legendary actor best known for his role as U.S. Marshal Matt Dillon in the television series, "Gunsmoke." Mr. Arness would have celebrated his 89th birthday tomorrow, on May 26, so it is fitting that we acknowledge his tremendous legacy this week.

Mr. Arness played one of the most iconic characters in the history of television. As a testament to its overwhelming popularity, "Gunsmoke," which was set in Dodge City, still stands out as one of the most popular weekly drama series, running a remarkable 20 years from 1955 through 1975.

Mr. Arness shaped a character that was as beloved as the man himself. His fans spanned the world and were as devoted as any fan base bar none. Clearly, Mr. Arness created a cowboy and lawman that resonated with viewers worldwide.

Before his rise to fame, Mr. Arness served in the U.S. Army during World War II, where he was severely wounded during Operation Shingle in Anzio, Italy. For his heroic actions, he was decorated with the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart.

Following his military service, Mr. Arness hitchhiked to Hollywood and began his acting career. In addition to his wonderful role as Marshal Matt Dillon, he had a lengthy and impressive list of acting achievements in both television and film and was nominated for three Emmy Awards.

For his unparalleled contributions, Mr. Arness was given a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. He was also inducted into the Western Performers Hall of Fame at the National Cowboy and Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City and the Santa Clarita Walk of Western Stars, and was named by People Magazine as one of the top ten television stars of all time. In addition, The State of Alabama House of Representatives passed a resolution in honor of Mr. Arness in 2011.

Mr. Arness was a devoted and loving family man. He left behind his wife, Janet, along with wonderful children and grandchildren. His legacy will forever live on through them.

It is my pleasure to recognize the iconic life of James Arness and ask my colleagues join me in expressing our debt of gratitude to him.

JACOB WILLIAM WARD

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2012

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob William Ward. Jacob is a

very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 412, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jacob has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jacob has earned distinction of becoming a Fire Builder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. He is a Brotherhood Member of the Order of the Arrow and has served his troop as Senior Patrol Leader, Junior Assistant Scout Master and Troop Guide. Jacob has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Jacob constructed, built and placed benches along the walking trails at Smithville Lake so that his community can enjoy Smithville Lake and the surrounding wildlife.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jacob William Ward for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF ARMY STAFF SERGEANT AN-
DREW TREVOR BRITTON-MIHALO

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness and deepest sympathy that I rise to pay tribute to a fallen American hero. Army Staff Sergeant Andrew Trevor Britton-Mihalo died on April 25, 2012, in Kandahar, Afghanistan, while training Afghan Special Operations Forces. SSG Britton-Mihalo, a Green Beret, was assigned to Company B, 2nd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group; and, prior to his deployment, he was stationed at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

SSG Britton-Mihalo first entered the Army in 2005 after graduating from Royal High School in Simi Valley, California. Just three years later, in 2008, his trademark drive, determination and toughness helped SSG Britton-Mihalo win the right to join the elite ranks of the U.S. Army Special Forces. This impressive accomplishment did not surprise anyone who knew him. Prior to joining the Army, SSG Britton-Mihalo had already distinguished himself as an Eagle Scout and as a champion high school wrestler who won the match that secured his school their first-ever state wrestling title. He was described by those who knew him as one who was always fighting for the underdog and was quick to protect those who could not protect themselves. It was only fitting that such a man would join the Special Forces whose motto, *De oppresso liber*, is translated, "to liberate the oppressed"; and, true to his character, that is exactly what SSG

● 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.

Britton-Mihalo was doing for the people of Afghanistan when he was killed just two months before his 26th birthday.

SSG Britton-Mihalo gave his life attempting to secure for the Afghan people the blessings of freedom. We will never forget his ultimate sacrifice toward that honorable end. To SSG Britton-Mihalo's loving wife Jesse, his family, and friends, my wife Vicki joins me in offering our most sincere condolences and prayers.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful United States Congress, I stand here today to honor SSG Andrew Trevor Britton-Mihalo and all of the heroes we have lost. May God continue to bless them and the United States Armed Forces.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
BRIAN M. MOORE

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2012

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer tribute to a truly superb civil servant, veteran, and engineer, Mr. Brian Moore, on the occasion of his retirement as Deputy District Engineer for the Los Angeles District of the United States Army Corps of Engineers. It has been such a pleasure to know and work with Mr. Moore as he has helped address critical water resources and infrastructure needs for this nation during his career. Overall, he has served his country as a young soldier and as a distinguished civilian senior leader for the Los Angeles District spanning a career of over 44 years.

Mr. Moore's technical expertise and superior leadership has been instrumental to the success of the Army Corps of Engineers' many complex projects and programs. As the Army Corps of Engineers transformed itself to a project management focused organization, he was called to lead the role as one of the first Deputy District Engineers for Project Management and is retiring as the longest serving Corps leader in that role. He has been instrumental in the success of the extremely capable Los Angeles District which has nearly 400 projects in navigation, flood control, environmental restoration, military construction, and environmental cleanup. He has led and mentored future engineering leaders supporting our country's critical infrastructure including young military officers who have been assigned to the Los Angeles District.

He has been equally adept at interacting with all levels of government partners, agencies, stakeholders, and public sponsors in meeting the nation's military construction and water resources needs. The organization and teams that he has led have been known for their intricate problem solving, common sense solutions, consideration of stakeholder needs, and teamwork. All in all, I know of no finer member of our esteemed United States Army Corps of Engineers and I wish him the best in the years ahead.

IN RECOGNITION OF GREGORY
CHRISTIANSEN

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2012

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gregory Christiansen in the event of his retirement after many years of dedicated service to music education and the community.

Gregory earned his Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education from the University of the Pacific in 1974, where he graduated Cum Laude. He went on to earn a Diploma from the Grove School of Music's Professional Instrumental Program in 1983. He finished his education by obtaining his Master of Music degree in Music Education from the University of Southern California in 1985. He graduated with distinction as a member of Pi Kappa Lambda, the honorary music fraternity.

Gregory has spent his career teaching music education to students ranging from elementary school through college. He taught a College Jazz Ensemble for 3 years. For 30 years he worked with both instrumental and choral groups at the high school level. There he also developed and organized an effective parent support group. He taught Middle School Instrumental Music for two years where he developed a jazz curriculum for the students. Finally, he taught Elementary Instrumental and General Music for four years, during which he developed a fourth grade exploratory instrumental music curriculum.

Gregory has dedicated many years to supporting not only his students but the community as a whole. He has provided musical performances for many community events, as well as for visiting dignitaries. Gregory also worked with many community members on producing a band review, which attracted groups from over 40 schools in the region. Through his leadership, both Merced High School and Golden Valley High School have performed in the Pasadena Rose Parade. Gregory organized a non-profit parent organization to help raise funds for music students.

Gregory is not only part of the local music scene but he is involved in many national music organizations. He has served on the board of both the International Association of Jazz Educators as well as the Northern California Band Association. He holds professional affiliations with the following organizations: Jazz Educators Network, California Teachers Association, California Music Educators Association and California Band Directors Association.

Throughout his involvement, he has been recognized for his work and dedication to his community and students. In both 1998 and 2005, he received the Northern California Band Director of the Year. He has also received Outstanding Band Director plaques at fifteen different band reviews. Merced County has recognized his work in music education by honoring him with the Teacher of the Year Award in 2008, Superintendent Recognition Award in 2009 and the Rotary Teacher of the Year Award in 2009.

Gregory was not only dedicated to his current students but the future of music education as well. He served as Master Teacher and mentor for many Student Teachers during his

career. He provided opportunities for graduated students to work with and teach present students. Gregory also provided clinics at conferences for new teachers dealing with selecting repertoire, instrumentation and marching band organization.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Gregory Christiansen for his dedication to music education and our community as a whole.

HONORING ALL-STATE CHOIR
MEMBER OF CARROLL SENIOR
HIGH SCHOOL

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize Paige Stinnett, of the Carroll Senior High School choir, for being selected for the Texas Music Educators Association's All-State Women's Choir.

Every year 60,000 high school musicians in Texas compete for the opportunity to be among the 1,500 chosen for various All-State ensembles. Choir singers first audition before judges in one of twenty-eight Regions, and the highest ranked musicians from each Region then participate in one of seven Area competitions. The best among the Area singers then go on to the annual clinic and convention hosted by the Texas Music Educators Association, TMEA. The clinical consists of three days of rehearsal with prestigious musical experts and culminates in a grand All-State performance.

Being selected for one of the three All-State choirs (Men's, Women's, or Mixed) is indeed a high honor for any high school choir member and is a testament to their hard work, talent, and dedication. That makes it all the more impressive that Paige Stinnett, who is a soprano, not only made it to the 2012 Women's Choir, but also achieved the same honor in 2011. Her success is truly remarkable. I would also like to recognize the valuable contributions made by Chris Hutchinson, the Carroll Senior High School choir director, whose commitment to his school's musical program has shown brilliantly through his students.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Paige Stinnett on being chosen for the TMEA All-State Women's Choir.

HONORING VINCE HARRIS

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. CARDOZA, and I rise today to acknowledge and honor Vince Harris, Executive Director of the Stanislaus Council of Governments, StanCOG, to thank him for his leadership and direction of transportation improvements in the Central Valley.

StanCOG is the Metropolitan Planning Organization, MPO, and the Regional Transportation Planning Agency, RTPA, for the

Stanislaus Region with responsibility for developing and delivering the Regional Transportation Plan, RTP. This plan includes a diverse mix of transit, non-motorized, highway and local street and road projects to be completed in Stanislaus County over the next 25 years. During Mr. Harris' tenure as Executive Director, he was responsible for all agency functions including regional transportation planning, program administration, financial management and budget control.

Mr. Harris holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering Technology from the University of Pittsburgh and a Master's in Public Administration from California State University in Hayward. His career spans 35 years, with transportation assignments in both the public and private sector in California, Texas, Utah, and Washington, DC.

Prior to joining StanCOG, Mr. Harris was the Deputy General Manager of San Francisco Municipal Railway's Construction Division. In this capacity, he headed a division of approximately 140 engineers, technicians, and administrative staff responsible for the delivery of the agency's \$2.67 billion Capital Improvement Program. The program included new Light Rail Transit extensions, facility upgrades, and enhancements.

He is also the former Executive Director of the Alameda County Transportation Authority. In this role, he managed the agency's \$1 billion Half-Cent Transportation Sales Tax Program. The program included a variety of projects which addressed mobility for seniors and disabled persons, major transit, bikeway and highway corridors, and improvements to local streets and roads.

During his time as Executive Director, Mr. Harris worked collaboratively with the Stanislaus region's nine cities and the county to support significant transportation improvements to the region. Under Harris' leadership, millions of transportation dollars financed projects such as the Whitmore Interchange Reconstruction Project, the State route 219 (Kiernan Avenue) Widening Project, and hundreds of locally developed and delivered transportation projects.

Mr. Harris' last day with StanCOG is May 31, 2012. He has accepted a new position as Director of Capital Programs and Construction for the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency.

Mr. Speaker, please join us in honoring and commending Vince Harris, Executive Director of the Stanislaus Council of Governments, StanCOG, for his numerous years of selfless service to the betterment of our community.

HONORING SERGEANT JOSEPH SHEPHERD

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2012

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sgt. Joseph Shepherd on his retirement from the Waterville Police Department.

Sgt. Shepherd is officially retiring from the Waterville Police Department after 31 years. Joe began his career in law enforcement at the age of 22, and he has been a model of integrity ever since. Throughout his career, he has never wavered from his dedication to the

community or his desire to help people. Waterville police Chief Joseph Massey has called Sgt. Shepherd a "problem solver" with a stellar reputation throughout the city. These values have made him one of Waterville's most effective and well-liked police officers.

With Sgt. Shepherd's departure, Waterville is losing a valued asset. Joe holds a bachelor's degree in administration of justice from the University of Maine at Augusta and a master of business administration from Thomas College. He has also left his mark on the department as a supervisor and training officer. As he embarks on this next exciting step in his life, Sgt. Shepherd leaves behind a community ever grateful for his years of dedicated service.

I am pleased to join the Waterville Police Department, and the people of Maine, in honoring Sgt. Shepherd on his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Sgt. Shepherd on achieving this milestone, and thanking him for all that he has done to keep Maine families safe.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, May 18, 2012, I was meeting with constituents of my district on the East Steps of the Capitol building and missed rollcall 293 on the Rahall Motion to Instruct Conferees. Had I been present, I would have voted "present" on H.R. 4348.

THE HELPING EXPEDITE AND ADVANCE RESPONSIBLE TRIBAL HOMEOWNERSHIP (HEARTH) ACT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2012

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 205, the HEARTH Act.

Under current law, many Native Americans living on tribal land have to fight government bureaucracy to buy a home. Just like other Americans pursuing the American dream of homeownership, they find a house, get a mortgage approved, and make an offer. It's at this point that the dream often turns into a nightmare for tribal members. Before they can close on a house, they have to get approval from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to lease the land—and this approval process can take as long as two years. During this extremely long wait, the mortgage approval usually expires and sellers can rarely wait this long. With such a daunting and long process, it's no wonder that tribal members give up and decide to move off the reservation and away from their families and communities, just to own a home.

The good news is that the bill before us today would allow tribal governments to lease the land directly, reducing the approval time and making this process much easier for Native Americans to buy homes on tribal land. The tribes would initially receive approval for

their own leasing regulations from the Secretary of Interior, and could then process lease applications internally, rather than having them all be processed by the BIA. This leasing structure would also encourage community and economic development on tribal lands, and spur renewable energy development in Indian Country. Tribal governments will be able to control their own land and direct the necessary resources to construct community centers and fill commercial spaces. This tribal control is critical, and I wholeheartedly support it and encourage my colleagues to join me in voting yes.

This bill is badly needed so that Native Americans do not have to endlessly wait to pursue the American dream. As a member of the Congressional Native American Caucus, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 205.

TRIBUTE TO THE "WELCOME HOME" VIETNAM VETERANS CELEBRATION

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2012

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the selfless service of the Memorial Services Detachment at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery who celebrated their 20th anniversary on December 17, 2011 of bringing honor and dignity to the burial services of our veterans.

The Memorial Services Detachment is an all volunteer group composed of retired and former military service members who have committed themselves to ensuring that all military veterans interred at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery receive proper burial honors. The Memorial Services Detachment provides a final gesture of honor to our nation's veterans at no expense to the veterans' families.

The group was founded on December 17, 1991 to address the budget cutbacks that occurred in the late 1980s that caused the Department of Defense to restrict full military burial honors to individuals dying while on active duty and those who were fully retired. Since its inception, the Memorial Services Detachment has ensured that all deceased veterans' families receive the solace and comfort that these burial honors provide.

The Memorial Services Detachment at Fort Sam Houston's continued service to our country has received national recognition from the Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania which bestowed the group with the George Washington Honor Medal for their adult community volunteer service. The Memorial Services Detachment was also honored as the United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County's Volunteer of the Year in the military-community category in 2009.

I would again ask you to join me in congratulating the Memorial Services Detachment at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery on their 20th anniversary of service to our nation's veterans.

HONORING THE CARROLL HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLAR FINALISTS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with exceptional pride that I recognize Brian Bourcy, Colin Kantor, Patrick Liu, Conner O. Mitchell, Lauren Rutherford, Christian Shannon and Hannah Walcek, each of whom is a National Merit Scholar Finalist from Carroll Senior High School.

Every year, approximately 1.5 million high school students take the Preliminary SAT, which doubles as the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. The test is a preview to the SAT and covers reading, writing, and math. Students who do exceptionally well become competitive in the National Merit Scholarship Program. To be a National Merit Scholar semifinalist is a well-recognized achievement that tends to open many doors in a student's academic life. To become a finalist requires another level of application and assessment, and only 15,000 students nationwide (1% of the total entrants) reach this prestigious level.

I am so pleased to convey that seven students from Carroll Senior High have earned their way to become National Merit Scholar Finalists. Their accomplishment is truly a rare one and is a testament to their brilliance and hard work.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Brian Bourcy, Colin Kantor, Patrick Liu, Conner O. Mitchell, Lauren Rutherford, Christian Shannon and Hannah Walcek on their becoming National Merit Scholar Finalists.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF
SANFORD WEBSTER

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2012

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary man, a revered Palo Alto, a loving husband, a devoted father, a proud soldier, an investor, risk taker, athlete, a lover of fun, a storyteller and generous philanthropist. Sanford (Sam) H. Webster embodies the best of what our community, the heart and home of Silicon Valley, is all about.

The life of Sam Webster is the saga of nearly a century of accomplishment. From West Point, to parenthood, to pistachios; from Wimbledon to World War II; from the Joint Chief's office to the golf course; from real estate investing, to tangerine growing, to basketball; to Miss Gamble's lovely benefactress and to countless recipients of his and Kim's extraordinary generosity. He has done it all with a smile, with a zest for life and a twinkle in his famous blue eyes. He is a grand gentleman and one I'm proud to honor today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging Sam Webster's extraordinary military service to our nation. He served our country with distinction in the Army for 22

years after completing his education at the United States Military Academy, retiring with the rank of Colonel.

I recently contacted the Secretary of the Army on his behalf, asking that he be awarded the Legion of Merit. He was honored with the Commendation Ribbon with Metal Pendant in 1958 because "he distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious service as Deputy Chief, Combat Surveillance Department, United States Army Electronic Proving Ground, Fort Huachuca, Arizona, during the period 18 June 1954, to 30 April 1957." His efforts resulted in an effective Battlefield Surveillance capability for the 1956 Field Army through the use of drones.

In light of the extensive and pervasive use of drones for surveillance since Colonel Webster's Army service, I respectfully requested Secretary McHugh's review of the record to determine whether Colonel Webster can now be awarded the Legion of Merit. Having worked to correct an armed forces medal injustice many times, I know that the process can be unreasonably long. By acknowledging in this body the importance of Colonel Webster's work, we acknowledge in a most public and permanent way that his contributions to our nation's expertise at reconnaissance have saved thousands of lives, added to our ability to root out those who would do us harm, and added to our military arsenal. His brilliant work must never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Colonel Sam Webster. While we cannot dispense medals, pin ribbons on lapels, nor convey military rank, we can recognize excellence, applaud honorable work, salute valor and stand in praise of a true American hero, Colonel Sam Webster. He has earned our respect and gratitude for all he has done to strengthen our country.

HONORING THE GOLDEN GATE
BRIDGE

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2012

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge, a modern architectural marvel and a landmark that defines California and the West Coast. Since its opening on May 27, 1937, the Golden Gate Bridge has stood as a symbol of human potential—a triumph of ingenuity, creativity, and progressive vision that complements the beauty of our natural surroundings and enriches life in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Since the Gold Rush first brought American settlers to the San Francisco Bay Area, residents have been interested in the idea of linking the Bay Area with a bridge spanning the Golden Gate. A single span would bring together the northern and southern halves of the greatest natural port on the West Coast, easing transportation and spurring economic growth across Northern California. For years, though, the task was considered too costly and too complicated to realize.

By the 1920s, engineers had become more confident that technological advances made a fixed link feasible, and San Francisco City Engineer Michael O'Shaughnessy launched an

effort to make the proposal a reality. In 1921, Joseph Strauss—later the Chief Engineer of the Golden Gate Bridge—submitted his first designs. After they were made public, communities on both sides of the Golden Gate began lining up behind the plan. Under the leadership of Santa Rosa businessman Frank Doyle, a public coalition formed in Sonoma County with representatives from across the North Coast, all pushing for the Strauss design. In 1923, the Golden Gate Bridge and Highway District Act, authored by Senator Frank Coombs of Napa, passed in the California Legislature. In 1924, Marin and San Francisco Counties submitted a joint application to the War Department for permission to build on the federally owned headlands at each end of the strait. Permission was granted by the end of that year.

In 1929, the Golden Gate Bridge and Highway District met for the first time, with members from San Francisco, Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Mendocino, and Del Norte Counties. Strauss was named Chief Engineer, and the Oakland-based architect Irving Morrow was appointed to consult on the final plans. Morrow would become famous for crafting a design in harmony with the rugged coast, balancing graceful Art Deco features with strong lighting and powerful lines. Morrow was also responsible for convincing authorities to accept the radical choice of painting the entire Bridge in the now-famous international orange.

While the Great Depression deepened, work forged ahead. In 1930, casting aside fears that infrastructure was an unwise long-term investment, District voters overwhelmingly approved a bond measure using their own homes, ranches, and vineyards as collateral. By 1934, the first tower—the Marin tower—was complete. By 1936, both towers and the cable spinning were complete, and over 1,000 workers were employed in the construction. In April 1937, ahead of schedule and under budget, the Bridge was ready for pedestrian and vehicle traffic. The first to cross on foot was a young runner from Tamalpais High School in Mill Valley. The first to cross by car was none other than Santa Rosa's Frank Doyle, the business leader widely credited with uniting Northern Coast residents behind the endeavor.

In the 75 years since its opening, the Golden Gate Bridge has borne witness to millions of lives, and to many changes in the Bay Area. The Bridge is a crucial route to work and school, a magnet for global tourism, and a center for recreation that links two jewels in the federal park system. It is a demonstration of American labor and engineering. It is a theater for advocacy and protest. For many soldiers sailing into the Second World War, it was their last memory of home. For new Americans emigrating from Asia and the Pacific, it is their first welcome to a new future. The Golden Gate Bridge is more than a modern wonder of architecture and engineering—it is at the heart of what it means to live in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge, and in thanking all those who have fought for, built, and stewarded the Bridge over the years. We also owe a special debt to the eleven workers who were killed and the many others who were injured in the course of the construction. The Bridge is a testament to their dedication and expertise,

and it is a proud monument to the greatness that we can accomplish when we harness our collective energy and resources to better our future.

HONORING LES AND CHERI CASEY

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Les and Cheri Casey, owners of Mid Valley Foods, Incorporated, for being selected as the 2012 Central California Small Business Person of the Year from the United States Small Business Administration's Fresno District Office.

Annually, SBA honors Central California entrepreneurs for their contributions to the economy. Small businesses have proven, year after year, to be the greatest sources of innovation, jobs and growth for California's economy.

The Small Business Person of the Year Award recognizes a business owner who exemplifies the entrepreneurial spirit and honors his or her individual contributions to the community. Mid Valley Foods was selected after a competition held among businesses located within the 15 Central California counties served by the Fresno SBA. The Alliance Small Business Development Center of Modesto nominated Mid Valley Foods for the award.

Mid Valley Foods (formerly E&E Meats) was started in 1979 by Earl Casey. The company wholesales various processed and packaged meat products to grocery stores, restaurants and delis. In 2000, Les and Cheri Casey purchased the business from Les's father. They incorporated, modernized, and began to expand sales and distribution at a Riverbank facility. By 2005, it became apparent to the Caseys that the business had grown to the limits of the old and antiquated facility.

The Caseys knew that not only would they need additional operational space in order for the company to be successful, but they would also need to develop new innovative techniques to improve their overall operational efficiency.

In 2010, with the assistance of an SBA 7a guaranteed loan and the City of Oakdale, the company was able to construct a 24,000 square foot building. The new building includes warehouse space, cold storage and offices. The new location for the wholesale foods distributor will allow for triple the distribution and has already grown to expand their company from 10 employees to a current work force of 27.

Today, Mid Valley Foods serves over 300 customers from multi-million dollar accounts to local small businesses; and with less than a year in their new facility, the Caseys have already discussed the growing need for an expansion of refrigeration and freezer storage space.

Small Business Person of the Year nominations are judged on seven basic criteria: staying power, growth in number of employees, increase in sales and/or unit volume, current and past financial reports, innovativeness of product or service, response to adversity and evidence of contributions to community-oriented projects.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Les and Cheri Casey, owners of Mid Valley Foods, Inc. for this prestigious recognition and in wishing them great success in their future endeavors.

HONORING DEPUTY CHIEF RON
NEWTON

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2012

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Deputy Chief Ron Newton for his 50 years of tremendous service to the people of Manchester, Maine.

Every day, the men and women of our community fire departments place themselves in harm's way to protect the lives and property of their neighbors. At the age of 17, Ron Newton made the decision to take his place in this proud tradition. After five decades of service, his dedication to the community and his desire to help people has never faltered.

Deputy Chief Newton has been a fixture at the Manchester Volunteer Fire Department for the majority of its existence. He has contributed countless hours responding to fire calls, engaging in fire trainings, and holding safety meetings. As a longstanding Deputy Chief, the department has looked to him time and again for his experience and leadership. There is no question that Ron is a pillar in the Manchester community and a role model for others to follow.

On June 14, 2012, the town of Manchester will honor Deputy Chief Newton during a town meeting for his years of service. I am pleased to lend my own congratulations and best wishes on this occasion.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in honoring Deputy Chief Newton on the amazing milestone.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANITA
HELLAM

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2012

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize Anita Hellam on her 10th anniversary with the Stanislaus County Habitat for Humanity and her dedication to the residents of Stanislaus County.

Ms. Hellam began her housing career as an advocate for safe and affordable housing for Latino field and cannery works in Stanislaus County. Due to her efforts, twenty-seven units of affordable housing were developed and she worked to develop the Workforce Development Program to transition low skilled workers into higher paying jobs in the construction trade. Ms. Hellam worked with ten public and private institutions/agencies to take the program from concept to a sustainable program which has become a part of Modesto Junior College's technical education program. Due to the work done by Ms. Hellam, hundreds of English language learners have been able to increase their skill sets, while finding higher paying jobs in a dynamic industry.

Ms. Hellum was a founding board member and organizer of the Stanislaus County Continuum of Care. She worked closely, as a volunteer grant writer, with the Housing Authority writing the application that wrapped around all of the individual submissions to HUD. Ms. Hellam worked on the original two HUD applications which resulted in nearly \$2 million to Stanislaus County for housing and services to hundreds of citizens at risk of homelessness.

Ms. Hellum served as a Program Manager with the Stanislaus County Affordable Housing agency providing transition housing for mentally ill individuals. In less than two years, she was able to secure approximately \$1.5 million to acquire and rehabilitate a fifty unit apartment complex and a twenty unit scattered site development, which is supported with services by Behavioral Health and Recovery Services. These units will remain affordable through 2040.

Before accepting the position with Habitat for Humanity, Ms. Hellum worked with Renewed Pathways which provides transitional housing to emancipated youth. She continues to volunteer with the organization and offers free grant writing and consulting services to ensure the continuation of the program for the youth in Stanislaus County.

Since taking on the role of Executive Director with Habitat for Humanity, Ms. Hellum has brought in almost \$15 million to create affordable homeownership opportunities for the poor and working class citizens of Stanislaus County. Specifically this created seventy zero interest new home loans and more than 50 new homes were built. Under her direction, the agency contracted with the local college on three separate occasions to revitalize some of the most economically distressed neighborhoods using funding from the HUD HSIAC program. Ms. Hellum worked closely with HUD to gain certification for Housing Counseling Services, becoming the first Habitat for Humanity in the seven Western states to gain this designation. They have assisted more than one thousand individuals with a range of pre and post purchase needs.

Under Ms. Hellum's leadership, the Stanislaus County Habitat for Humanity has inaugurated two retail stores called ReStore, which created approximately fifteen new jobs and provides accessibility to low priced merchandise to the community for home maintenance and repair. The program has given donors a green means of ridding themselves of unwanted or unneeded materials that would have otherwise ended up in the landfill. Ms. Hellum also created the Windows of Hope program, which is designed to help low-income homeowners through Stanislaus County replace broken and non-energy efficient windows with efficient windows. More than two thousand windows are distributed annually. Ms. Hellum has increased the agency's profile in the community and the sustainability by increasing the bottom line of the organization by approximately \$7 million despite the sharp increase in services to the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me, and the Stanislaus County Habitat for Humanity, in honoring a truly wonderful member of our community, Anita Hellum.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2012

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I recently voted “no” on House Resolution 568. I have made it clear that an Iran armed with nuclear weapons is unacceptable.

My legislation, H.R. 4173, presents a viable approach to achieving a nuclear-arms free Iran by pursuing a diplomatic resolution to the conflict. I am deeply concerned about Iran threatening its neighbors, Israel in particular. I have always strongly supported Israel's security and rights as a nation, and will continue to vote in favor of measures which will enhance the prospects for a peaceful Middle East. This resolution, however, does not advance that goal.

First, the focus on nuclear weapons “capability” suggests a lowered red-line threshold, which could make a U.S. strike much more likely. While this term has been used in varying contexts in recent years, it is a vague term that can potentially create openings for those seeking military conflict with Iran.

Further, Clause 2(A) would put Congress on record opposing any diplomatic agreement regarding Iran's nuclear program that allows Iran to enrich any uranium whatsoever, even for peaceful, civilian energy purposes subject to intense international monitoring and safeguards. This provision constitutes a poison pill that would pre-emptively kill any diplomatic solution to the crisis, because there is no feasible agreement that can be achieved with Iran in which it would give up its right under the Non-Proliferation Treaty to enrich uranium for civilian purposes.

Finally, Clause 6 would “reject any U.S. policy that would rely on efforts to contain a nuclear weapons capable Iran” and “oppose any policy that would rely on containment as an option in response to the Iranian nuclear threat.” This clause is unhelpful and unnecessary as no policymaker is suggesting a containment strategy.

As the sole Member of Congress to vote against the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force, I am wary of legislation that could put our men and women in uniform in harm's way due to a lack of deliberation before entering a war.

This legislation did not reduce the prospects for war with Iran, nor did it advance it's stated purpose of preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. The above mentioned clauses therefore ignore and undermine the prospects for a diplomatic solution. Because of these flawed provisions, I voted against H. Res. 568.