

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MARINE SERGEANT  
ADAM C. SCHOELLER

**HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 8, 2016*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I honor my constituent, Marine Sergeant Adam C. Schoeller of Boiling Springs, and to express my deepest condolences to his family and friends.

On January 14, 2016, Sgt. Schoeller and 11 of his fellow patriots went missing off of the coast of Oahu during a late night training session when the two CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters they were travelling in crashed. These honorable Marines tragically lost their lives while in the line of duty, and the American people are forever grateful for the service they provided to their country.

Sgt. Schoeller graduated from Boiling Springs High School in 2008 and enlisted to serve his country with the United States Marine Corps immediately afterward. Deployed during Operation Enduring Freedom, Sgt. Schoeller's leadership and bravery distinguish his outstanding service to our nation, as evidenced by the over 200 people who attended a vigil in his honor held at the Boiling Springs Clock tower and Veterans Memorial. Sgt. Schoeller received various honors such as the Air Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal—decorations which are indicative of his dedication to our country.

Sgt. Schoeller is survived by his wife, Samantha Wickel-Schoeller, whom he recently married on July 4, 2015. Samantha, his father Ralph, his mother Laurie, sister Shannon, and brother Collin were all able to travel to Hawaii through the Semper Fi Fund following this terrible tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the life and service of Sgt. Adam C. Schoeller, for his selfless heroism and dedication to his family, community, and country.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 8, 2016*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to state that I was unable to vote on Thursday, February 4, 2016 due to district events our office is hosting in Houston and Harris County, Texas.

If I had been able to vote, I would have voted as follows:

On the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 766, I would have voted "Yea."

On final passage of H.R. 766, the Financial Institution Customer Protection Act, I would have voted "No."

RECOGNIZING THE LUNAR NEW  
YEAR

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 8, 2016*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Lunar New Year and to applaud the significant contributions made by Chinese Americans to American life and culture.

Today, February 8, marks the first day of the "Year of the Monkey."

The Lunar New Year, or "Nian," is a tradition that has been celebrated for more than a thousand years by the Chinese and other persons of Asian ancestry.

The Lunar New Year is cause for celebration in communities all across our country but might I say that no city does it better than my home city of Houston, which will be hosting the Annual Lunar New Year Houston Celebration this coming weekend.

Celebrants will be treated to a variety of festivities, including parades, festivals, art exhibits, and musical performances.

Mr. Speaker, Americans of Asian Pacific ancestry have positively influenced our country through their strong commitment to family, faith, hard work, and service.

They have enhanced and shaped our national character with centuries-old traditions that reflect the multiethnic and multicultural customs of their communities.

Asian Americans have enriched our culture and economy and made significant contributions in every area of American life from the arts and humanities, to the natural and social sciences, to business and the economy, in government, sports, the military, and technology and innovation.

Notable Chinese Americans who have distinguished themselves in the field of the arts and humanities include the two-time Academy Award winning cinematographer, James Wong Howe; Ang Lee, the Academy Award winning director; Maya Lin, the architect who designed the iconic Vietnam Veterans Memorial; I. M. Pei, the famous architect and designer of the Louvre Pyramid; Amy Tan, the best-selling author of *The Joy Luck Club*; Yo-Yo Ma, the world-renowned cellist; and the legendary Bruce Lee, who revolutionized the martial arts film genre.

In the field of business, American life has been enriched by the contributions of Steve Chen, the co-founder of YouTube; Jen-Hsun Huang, the co-founder and CEO of NVIDIA, the computer graphics card company; Min H. Kao, co-founder of Garmin, the GPS software giant; William Wang, the founder and CEO of Vizio; and Jerry Yang, cofounder of Yahoo.

Mr. Speaker, Connie Chung made history as the first Chinese American woman to co-anchor a major network's national news broadcast, as did Norman Bay, the first Chinese American United States Attorney; and Thomas Tang, the first Chinese American federal judge.

Many contemporary Chinese Americans have risen to occupy some of the most important positions in the nation, including my colleagues, JUDY CHU and GRACE MENG, the first and second Chinese-American woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives; Dr. Steven Chum, Nobel laureate in Physics and United States Secretary of Energy from 2009–2013; Hiram L. Fong, the first U.S. Senator of Chinese ancestry; Ed Lee, the Mayor of San Francisco; and Gary Locke, former Secretary of Commerce, Ambassador to China, and only Chinese American ever to serve as a Governor.

Mr. Speaker, Kurt Lee was the first Asian American Marine Corps officer and he was followed by John Liu Fugh, the first Chinese American officer to be promoted to the rank of Major General in the United States Army and Coral Wong Pietsch, the first female Chinese American Army General; and it is a source of great pride that the Congressional Medal of Honor was awarded to Francis Wai, so far the only Chinese American to have been so honored.

In the fields of science, engineering, and medicine, Chinese Americans have made significant contributions that have fundamentally changed the way we live and work, including those of Min Chueh Chang, the co-inventor of the first birth control pill; Charles Kao, the 2009 Nobel laureate in Physics who pioneered the development and use of fiber optics in telecommunications; Yuan-Cheng Fung, the founder of modern biomechanics; and NASA astronauts Leroy Chiao and Edward Lu.

Mr. Speaker, according to most recent data reported by the Census Bureau, there are more than 423,609 businesses owned by Chinese Americans generating \$142.8 billion in economic output towards the U.S. economy, along with creating over 780,000 jobs.

As the Member of Congress from the 18th Congressional District of Texas, I am honored to represent a district rich in cultural and ethnic diversity and with a vibrant Chinese-American community.

Mr. Speaker, there are more than four million Chinese-Americans in the United States and Texas is home to more than 167,000 of them; of this latter number, approximately 25 percent, or 43,940, Chinese-Americans live in Harris County, making it the tenth largest community of persons of Chinese heritage in the nation.

Mr. Speaker, Chinese-Americans have made much progress in the United States since May 10, 1860, the date the first trans-continental railroad was completed.

That massive construction project transformed our country for the better and could not have been completed had it not been for the labor of Chinese immigrants.

Despite the enormous progress made challenges still remain for persons of Chinese ancestry, particularly the nation's antiquated immigration system which needs to be reformed to make it fairer and more humane.

Celebrating the Lunar New Year helps us to remember how much our country has benefited from the energy, creativity, and service of Chinese Americans.

● 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.

I encourage all Americans to take part in activities marking this important occasion.

**HONORING CARLETON ZEISZ UPON  
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT  
FROM PUBLIC SERVICE**

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 8, 2016*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Carleton Zeisz as he is honored by the City of Tonawanda Democratic Committee upon his retirement from public service. Carl's career spans an impressive twenty-four years of service.

Carl began his tenure with the City of Tonawanda as an Alderman in 1992 and 1993. He became the Common Council President in 1994, and held the post for twenty-two years, until 2015. In 2009, Carl earned the Outstanding Public Service Award from the Conservative Party.

Many major projects in the City of Tonawanda have benefited from Carl's efforts as he worked throughout the years together with the Mayor and Common Council. His efforts include the development of Gateway Park, the Niawanda Park Pavilion, the implementation of Central Dispatch, the development of Kibler High, closing the Tonawanda Landfill, the Niagara Street and Young Street development, and a multitude of other infrastructure projects. Carl's greatest asset was his ability to get many to work together for the good of Tonawanda.

In addition to his career in public service, Carl has worked in General Cinema theaters for twenty-four years at eight different locations, with twenty-one years in the position of General Manager. In 1989, he was recognized as General Manager of the Northeast for General Cinema. For the past eleven years, Carl has worked at Maple Ridge 8. In 2015, Carl was recognized as Runner-up General Manager of the year, chosen from managers out of 341 AMC Theatres.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Carl for his years of service to the City of Tonawanda and wishing him the best in his retirement from service.

**RECOGNIZING THE HOLY ROSARY  
PARISH OF HAZLETON, PA ON  
ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 8, 2016*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to draw attention to a great, iconic Catholic church located in my district, one that was vital in my upbringing as a young man. My own Holy Rosary Parish in Hazleton, Pennsylvania is celebrating its 100th anniversary, and it remains a historic landmark within my congressional district, providing generations of people with a place to come together and worship.

Like many Catholics in the Hazleton area, I have many fond memories of events centered

in and around Holy Rosary. My grandfather was one of the parish founders, and I, myself, took my First Holy Communion there and was confirmed in the church. I am a third-generation member of Holy Rosary, my children are fourth-generation, and my grandchildren are fifth-generation. My personal experiences mirror those of countless others from our area, as we share the overall culture the church provides for the citizens of Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District and beyond.

Founded in April of 1916 as a mission church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the church was originally established to serve the Italian immigrants of Hazleton's south side. Since then, the church has continually engaged with the community at large and is regarded as one of the most welcoming organizations in the region. To celebrate the church's 100th Anniversary, the congregation has embraced a theme of remembering the past, celebrating the present, and preserving the future.

Actively involved in the community, the Holy Rosary Parish of Hazleton hosts an annual Mass in honor of the Hazleton Fire Department, which includes a September 11th memorial service. The church property includes a 9-11 Memorial and actual steel from the World Trade Center in commemoration of the brave men and women who responded to that day's tragic events. The congregation also routinely engages with their homebound parishioners—whether it is a priest providing Holy Communion, or a youth group member bringing a poinsettia at Christmas time. With an eye to the future, the church is also implementing a collaborative outreach effort with the purpose of providing evening meals and nightly shelter to the community's homeless population during the winter months.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor the Holy Rosary Parish of Hazleton, Pennsylvania as it celebrates its 100th anniversary, and I commend its congregation, both past and present, for their tireless efforts to preserve its longstanding legacy.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. BILL HUIZENGA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 8, 2016*

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding missed votes on Thursday, February 4, 2016 due to an important family matter. Had I been present for roll call vote number 62, the Democrat Motion to Recommit H.R. 766, I would have voted "nay." Had I been present for roll call vote number 63, H.R. 766, the Financial Institution Customer Protection Act of 2015, I would have voted "yea."

**PATRICIA SPENCER**

**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 8, 2016*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and to honor the life of an

extraordinary leader and passionate advocate for freedom and justice, Ms. Patricia Spencer.

Growing up in Montgomery, Alabama in the 1930s, Patricia Spencer followed in her mother and grandmother's footsteps, becoming a member of the NAACP at the age of seven, a group of which she was still a member 72 years later. At the age of nineteen, while serving as secretary of the local NAACP branch, Ms. Spencer received the news that her mentor on the NAACP Youth Council, Rosa Parks, was arrested while riding the Montgomery bus. Ms. Spencer immediately started churning out fliers urging others to boycott the bus. During this time Ms. Spencer also babysat Yolanda King, the first eldest child of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Ms. Spencer attended Alabama State University and then moved to Orlando, FL to take a position as an operator with Southern Bell, the first African American to hold this position. From there she moved to Detroit and served 13 years on the local school board. In recognition of her service to the Detroit area, the Martin Luther King, Jr. High School Auditorium and the swimming facility at Charles Kettering High School bear her name. In the mid 1990s she moved to Tampa, FL. Once settled in she immediately started to volunteer with the Hillsborough NAACP branch, where she used her vast knowledge of the organization's rules to mentor members and secure funding for the branch. She served as Membership Chair and Area Director for the NAACP's state conference as well as Secretary of the Hillsborough County branch. She will forever be remembered for her constant efforts to boost NAACP membership.

As a notable NAACP'er, Ms. Spencer also co-chaired the Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technologic and Scientific Olympics. This program recruits high school students to compete in science and visual arts competitions. Though she gave countless hours to the organization as a volunteer, she still had time to serve others. She was affiliated with other local organizations as well. At WUSF Radio Reading Service, she was a reader for the visually impaired listeners tuned in to the station. She was a Board Member of Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI-USF), a non-degree-seeking program at the University of South Florida and she also served on the Board of the Early Learning Coalition. The American Red Cross was one of her favorite charities and she was the Vice President of Sisters Network, Inc., Tampa Chapter. She also was Chair of the Hillsborough County Public Schools—School Choice Committee.

In 2007, Governor Charlie Crist appointed her as a member of the Hillsborough County Civil Service Board.

Ms. Spencer will be forever remembered as a leader in the Tampa Bay community for her unequivocal support of justice and fairness. On December 14th, 2015, she passed away two days following her 79th birthday. Mr. Speaker, I join the Tampa Bay community in honoring Ms. Patricia Spencer for her lifelong commitment to service.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF  
SEN. HARRIET SPANEL

**HON. SUZAN K. DeIBENE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 8, 2016*

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Harriet Spanel, who recently passed away at the age of 77.

Harriet served in the Washington State Legislature for more than two decades, representing Northwest Washington with immense dedication and conviction.

Harriet had an intense passion for making her community a better place. She served on many local boards and committees, and took a hands on approach to what she saw as her civic responsibility.

So it was no surprise that when Harriet decided to run for office and was elected to the state House, and then the Senate, she jumped in head first without hesitation.

Throughout her political career, Harriet was a strong proponent for her constituents, sticking up for the local fishing economy and for the preservation of some of our state's most beautiful lands

She was a constant advocate for her community, always fighting for what she believed would make a positive difference, however large or small.

My heart goes out to all her family and friends. Harriet will be greatly missed by the countless lives she touched, but her presence through the work she accomplished will continue to resonate in Whatcom, San Juan and Skagit counties as well as throughout our state for years to come.

RECOGNIZING LEHIGH CARBON  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOR ITS  
50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 8, 2016*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to help commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Lehigh Carbon Community College. With humble roots in Schnecksville, Pennsylvania, the school was founded in 1966 and has expanded to include three modern satellite campuses serving more than 7,500 students in the Lehigh, Carbon, Schuylkill, and surrounding counties.

As a student-centered learning institution, Lehigh Carbon Community College exemplifies values that permeate all aspects of the higher education experience. Through practical access to real-world skills, classroom diversity that embodies the human experience, and quality teacher-student contact, Lehigh Carbon Community College offers students the tools they will need to meet the world's most daunting challenges.

In January 2005, Lehigh Carbon Community College received a 21st Century Learning Center Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the implementation of the Schools and Homes in Education (SHINE) after school program. This program was designed to address the before and after-school programs available to students in the commu-

nity. The first full year proved to be a success—86 percent of classroom teachers involved noted significant improvement in homework assignments, and kindergarten children improved an average of 32 percent in letter recognition, number recognition, and sound association.

In the spring of 2006, Lehigh Carbon Community College received notice that the program would receive additional funding for expansion into Mahanoy Area and Shenandoah Valley School Districts. This new program was to focus on kindergarten through 5th grade, and has continued to show the value that after-school programs provide when coupled with exceptional leadership and resources.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Lehigh Carbon Community College as it celebrates its 50th anniversary. On behalf of a grateful community, I wish to thank the college and its members for their tireless service to the community and unwavering commitment to accessible education.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF MRS. JULIA AARON HUMBLER

**HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 8, 2016*

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Julia Aaron Humbler, a New Orleans native and a lifelong civil rights activist. Mrs. Humbler passed away on January 26, 2016, at the age of 72.

In the 1960's, Mrs. Humbler was among a group of young activists from New Orleans that organized sit-ins, and challenged unjust laws on buses traveling across the Deep South. Mrs. Humbler and her companions were arrested more than 30 times for their civil rights work.

In 1961, Mrs. Humbler received national attention because of a photo of her and fellow activist David Dennis sitting on the front seat of a bus next to a soldier armed with a rifle and bayonet. Soldiers had been ordered to protect the Freedom Riders as they rode across the Deep South, determined to desegregate bus stations.

By the age of 18, Mrs. Humbler was already very active in the New Orleans chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and was selected to be on the first Freedom Ride bus.

Two New Orleanians, Mrs. Humbler and Jerome Smith, were selected for the first Freedom Ride bus, which ultimately was firebombed outside Anniston, Alabama. Fortunately, the two were not on that bus; they were in Orleans Parish Prison for picketing outside the segregated Woolworth stores on Canal Street.

Mrs. Humbler graduated from the Charity Hospital School of Surgical Technology in New Orleans and worked as a surgical technician for 30 years. In 1988, after the death of her husband, Joseph Lee Humbler Sr., she moved to Atlanta for a job at Northside Hospital.

Mrs. Humbler's legacy will forever be a part of the city and her dedication to justice embodies the spirit of New Orleans. Stories like hers will inspire generations of Americans to fight for their dreams. She will be sorely

missed by her family, her friends, and all those who are able to pursue their dreams because of her courage.

Mr. Speaker, as a beneficiary of Mrs. Humbler's courage, commitment and sacrifice, I celebrate her life and legacy, because she has made America a more perfect union. With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 8, 2016*

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed the following votes. Had I been present, I would have voted:

"Yea" on roll call number 46, regarding H.R. 2187—"Fair Investment Opportunities for Professional Experts."

"Yea" on roll call number 47 regarding H.R. 4168—"Small Business Capital Formation Enhancement Act."

"Yea" on roll call number 48, the previous question for H. Res. 594.

"Yea" on roll call number 49 regarding H. Res. 594—"Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3700) to provide housing opportunities in the United States through modernization of various housing programs, and for other purposes."

TRIBUTE TO RUTH BERMAN AND  
CONSTANCE KURTZ

**HON. PATRICK MURPHY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 8, 2016*

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I along with Representatives TED DEUTCH and LOIS FRANKEL rise to recognize Ruth Berman and Constance Kurtz on the occasion of receiving the SAGE Pioneer award this Saturday, February 6, 2016.

Ruth Berman and Constance Kurtz, affectionately known to all as Ruthie and Connie, are fierce, unyielding advocates and activists who have changed hearts and minds on LGBT rights, marriage equality, and women's rights. Since falling in love and coming out in the 1970s, Ruthie and Connie have risen to national prominence, successfully winning domestic partner benefits for City of New York employees in 1988. Additionally, through television appearances on The Phil Donohue Show, interviews with Geraldo Rivera and Bill Boggs, and their 2002 documentary "Connie and Ruthie: Every Room in the House," they have connected with individuals worldwide and shown the personal impact of changing social climates.

That commitment to the personal impact of love and acceptance continues through their work as certified counselors. In that capacity, they founded The Answer is Loving Counseling Center, where they have served for over twenty years. Additionally, they founded branches of Parents, Friends and Family of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) in Florida and New York. In 2000, they began serving as co-chairs of the New York State National Organization for Women (NOW) Lesbian Rights Task Force.

I was privileged to introduce a bill this session with my colleagues SUZANNE BONAMICI and TED DEUTCH to expand the Older Americans Act (OAA) to improve services available for older LGBT adults. This legislation recognizes LGBT seniors as a vulnerable population, which will open the door for improved health and longterm care services for elders in the LGBT community.

I, along with Representatives DEUTCH and FRANKEL, have known Ruthie and Connie for many years. They are my constituents and my inspiration for the bill. For decades, their advocacy and leadership in the LGBT community has not wavered as they have aged, but the services available to them and other aging LGBT adults are profoundly unequal to those of other American populations. Their living message inspired the Ruthie and Connie LGBT Elder Americans Act of 2015 (H.R. 3793).

For these reasons and more, it is with great pleasure that we join SAGE (Services & Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgender Elders) to recognize Ruthie and Connie for their lifetime of love and service.

LOUISIANA MUNICIPAL  
ASSOCIATION

**HON. GARRET GRAVES**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 8, 2016*

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Louisiana Municipal Association.

Since January 28, 1926, the LMA has represented over 305 villages, towns, cities, and parishes across the state of Louisiana.

The three-fold mission of the LMA has been one of education, advocacy and service and includes advocacy at the national level.

At the state level, they work to fight blight, promote the work of law enforcement and public safety efforts, and encourage economic growth.

The LMA exemplifies the cooperation necessary to move our state forward. I'd like to recognize the accomplishments of the LMA over the last 90 years and thank them for their ongoing efforts.

HONORING NEW ORLEANS' FIRST  
AFRICAN AMERICAN FIREFIGHTER

**HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 8, 2016*

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th year since the City of New Orleans hired its first African American Firefighter.

George Mondy was the first African American to join the paid department as a professional firefighter with the New Orleans Fire Department. Firefighter Mondy opened the doors to professional firefighting in February 1965. As he worked diligently to overcome racial barriers of the times, his persistence and perseverance paid off. Firefighter Mondy was promoted to Fire Apparatus Operator to drive

and operate the fire trucks. He retired in 1991, after 26 years with the department. Shortly after his retirement, Operator Mondy applied and was rehired as a fire supply technician. Firefighter Mondy was a trailblazer on whose shoulders many firefighters stand today. I believe it was his can do attitude and manifestation of competence that let the department know it was depriving itself and the City of New Orleans by not hiring African Americans. The late George Mondy's name has been written in the history of the New Orleans Fire Department. Today, I submit Firefighter Mondy's name to be written in the U.S. CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, as a beneficiary of the courage, commitment and sacrifice of Firefighter Mondy, I celebrate his life and legacy, because he helped make America a more perfect union. With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

REMEMBERING PHIL NEIGHBORS,  
COMMUNITY SERVANT

**HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday February 8, 2016*

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Phil Neighbors. Phil was a pillar in the San Angelo community, and I had the pleasure of working with him frequently over the last decade. Phil dedicated his life to three things: to God, his family, and his community.

He and his wife, Susan, had two children together, and four grandchildren. It wasn't uncommon for Phil to run straight to a city event from his grandsons' ball games—he seemed to make time for everyone while placing the truly important things in life first.

Phil was deeply ingrained in Angelo. A graduate of Angelo State University, he led the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce for the last 10 years. In this role, he strengthened the community and helped Angelo become a better place to live and raise a family. He dedicated his life to this calling, taking on many duties, none of which were too small or large, for the betterment of the community.

One example was the bridge he helped build between the Goodfellow Air Force Base and the Angelo community. He established a strong and lasting bond for the betterment of both. He embraced our service-members, and was always willing to support them and our military in any way that he could.

As a deacon in the Baptist church, Phil led the church's college program and many mission trips to Mexico. He was a selfless servant, a trait that extended beyond the city, state, and country's borders. Everyone felt and knew Phil's warmth and thoughtfulness of others. His guidance and quiet diligence was reassuring to those around him and helped shape a community that is exemplary in Texas and the nation. Phil had no small part in creating such a community.

We lost Phil far too soon, just days after his 64th birthday. His loss will be felt across the community and state, and his service will not be forgotten. Please join me in remembering and celebrating the extraordinary life of our friend Phil Neighbors.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING  
SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY OF  
TACOMA OF DR. DUNG XUAN  
NGUYEN

**HON. DEREK KILMER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 8, 2016*

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Dung Xuan Nguyen of Tacoma, WA. Dr. Nguyen has served his community with dedication and compassion through his medical practice and his outreach and support to local immigrant families.

Dr. Nguyen has practiced in the Lincoln District of Tacoma for forty years, offering medical service and strong advocacy for the uninsured and homeless in Tacoma's Vietnamese-American community.

Mr. Speaker, for the past seven years, Dr. Nguyen has served as the President of the Vietnamese-American Community of Tacoma-Pierce County, which provides information and advocacy to the Vietnamese-American community in the Tacoma region.

Dr. Nguyen's office is often a clearinghouse for ride-share services, community outreach and gatherings, and other essential services for new residents of the neighborhood.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Nguyen has even dedicated his time to help create public art to memorialize the fallen soldiers of the Vietnam War—both U.S. and South Vietnamese servicemen. He designed and donated a black monolith memorial to the Vietnamese Cultural Center in Seattle in 2012 with the inscription "The Nation Will Always Remember Those Who Sacrificed."

Dr. Nguyen has shown dedication to community and advocacy for those who need it. He has lived up to the values of our nation, welcoming immigrants to his community and honoring his adopted home through his work in the Tacoma community.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to express my gratitude for Dr. Dung Xuan Nguyen's inspirational medical care and volunteerism to the lives of Tacoma's citizens and their families today in the United States Congress.

HONORING THE REVEREND DR.  
NOAH SPENCER SMITH

**HON. KEITH ELLISON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 8, 2016*

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Reverend Dr. Noah Spencer Smith and to recognize his decades of service to the citizens of Minneapolis.

Born in Marion, Indiana in 1908, Reverend Dr. Smith's parents enriched his childhood through music, art, and a lasting devotion to the African Methodist Episcopal church. After graduating high school in 1927, Reverend Dr. Smith's love of music led him to drum in a jazz band, touring and composing songs for many years. He later took a job as a railroad dining car waiter to support his family.

Eventually settling in Minneapolis and joining St. Peter's AME Church, Reverend Dr. Smith was active in choir, Sunday school, and the Order of Service before answering his

deeper calling to enter the ministry. In 1960, Reverend Dr. Smith was ordained as an itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, receiving a pastorate at St. Mark's Church in Duluth, MN. He returned to Minneapolis in 1988 to serve the congregation of St. James' Church, the oldest black congregation in Minnesota, until reaching the mandatory retirement age of 90.

Reverend Dr. Smith was among the oldest graduates from three separate Minnesota colleges. He earned an Associate of Arts degree from Minneapolis Community College at age 74, a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies from Macalester College at age 78, and a Master of Divinity degree from United Theological Seminary at the age of 81. An exceptional student, Reverend Dr. Smith received the Sidney Barrow Award in Religion during his time at Macalester, and in 2013 was bestowed an honorary Doctorate of Ministry from United Theological Seminary at 105 years old.

Reverend Dr. Smith was widely admired and respected both in the Minneapolis community and in the African Methodist Episcopal Church worldwide. After his retirement from St. James' at 90, he tirelessly worked for 16 more years as a member of the Wayman Church ministerial staff where he continued to preach, helped found the Wayman Church Bible Institute, taught Bible studies, and mentored many members of the clergy. Reverend Dr. Smith's final ministerial act was September 6, 2015, giving a scripture lesson during service at Lily of The Valley Church in Apple Valley, Minnesota. Lily of the Valley African Methodist Episcopal Church is a church that he not only helped found, but was also the first AME church to open in Minnesota in nearly 80 years.

Reverend Dr. Noah Spencer Smith passed away on September 24, 2015 at the age of 107. At the time of his death, Reverend Dr. Smith was the oldest active minister in the United States. His memory stands as an example for all in Minneapolis never to cease your calling. Through a deep dedication to his faith, he fostered a community that will blossom for years to come.

2015 PERSON OF THE YEAR: LISA KRUSE

### HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 8, 2016*

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lisa Kruse of McGregor, Minnesota for being named 2015 Person of the Year by the Aitkin Age for her outstanding service to her community.

As Director of Community Education Lisa works tirelessly to promote wellness to all people in her community. She has brought activities to McGregor for all ages, from indoor recess equipment, to an ice rink at the High School, and to fitness classes for seniors.

The programs Lisa helps bring to her community go beyond physical health. Recently she attended training to educate others in her community on the impacts of Adverse Childhood Experiences. She obtained grants to make McGregor schools a Reading Corps site where additional reading help is available for struggling students to promote literacy to early

readers in kindergarten through third grade. Her assistance to McGregor's Early Childhood program helped it earn Parent Aware's highest rating of four stars.

In addition to all she does to promote education and wellness Lisa was instrumental in bringing the Governor's fishing opener to Aitkin County for the first time ever. After four years of hard work by Lisa the 2016 Governor's Fishing Opener will be held at Big Sandy Lake nearby her hometown. She is a great example of what it means to be an active citizen.

Once again I would like to thank Lisa Kruse for all she does for her hometown of McGregor, Minnesota.

DELANO STEWART

### HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 8, 2016*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an extraordinary leader and pillar of the Tampa Bay legal community, Mr. Delano Stewart.

Delano Stewart retired in July 2015 after an illustrious 50-year legal career in the state of Florida. A graduate of Hillsborough County public schools, Mr. Stewart went on to matriculate from Morehouse College and Howard University Law School. His memorable career began as the first African-American Assistant Public Defender in Hillsborough County's history. In 1970, he went on to open the first integrated law firm in the state of Florida. In addition to his legal work, Mr. Stewart was the first African-American elected to the Board of Directors of the Hillsborough County Bar Association, and the first African-American member of the Rough Riders civic club.

Mr. Stewart's memorable career was shaped by many stalwart figures in the civil rights movement. At the age of 12, inspired by a visit from Thurgood Marshall, who was in Tampa as an NAACP attorney assisting in the African-American teachers' campaign for equal pay, Mr. Stewart desired to become a lawyer. His passion for the civil rights movement was further stoked upon traveling to Washington, DC for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. Additionally, Mr. Stewart is proud to champion Garland Stewart, the first African-American administrator in Hillsborough County school district history who played a key role in integrating the district, as the greatest influence on his life.

Beyond his legal career, he founded The Delano S. Stewart Diversity Award which is given each year to an individual for lifetime achievements in improving the lives of African-Americans and promoting diversity in the legal profession.

During this new chapter of his life, Mr. Stewart plans on spending more time with his wife and their six children and eight grandchildren as well as working on his novel. In Delano Stewart's own words he is not retiring, rather he is finding new ways to help people with his specialized legal training. Mr. Speaker, I join the Tampa Bay community in honoring Mr. Delano Stewart for his lifelong commitment to fairness and justice for all.

NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK

### HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 8, 2016*

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week I introduced a resolution recognizing February 1–5th as National School Counseling Week. This resolution is an important one; school counselors are critical to the success of our students, particularly the ones who are at a high risk of dropping out.

We ask much of our counselors. The recommended counselor to student ratio is one to 250, while the national average is almost double that; one to 482. Each year, only 80% of students are graduating from high school. Schools desperately need more counselors who can put students on the path to success by ensuring they have the tools they need to graduate.

In the spirit of properly recognizing hard-working school counselors across the country, today I wish to honor the work of an incredible school counselor and administrator from Montebello Unified School District, Andy Costello. Recently retired, he spent much of his career working for Montebello Unified, and has become a pillar of our community.

Mr. Costello has a passion for supporting and uplifting students and their families. Always going above and beyond to make sure families received the best guidance and support possible. Now retired, Andy continues to be engaged with the community. Mr. Costello is involved in counseling associations, and the college access program, College Bound Today, at Montebello Unified.

It is important to recognize leaders like Mr. Costello. The true heroes of our community. The ones that help make our future brighter, by uplifting the next generation. He has had an immense impact on our community.

IN HONOR OF PAT HOSFORD'S 80TH BIRTHDAY

### HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 8, 2016*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, born into an American energy family, Patrick Eugene Hosford arrived on February 6, 1936 in Seminole, Oklahoma where his father was working for what was then known as Gulf Oil. Eugene and June Hosford's oldest son, like his father, would go on to graduate from the University of Oklahoma and immediately put his engineering degree to work in the energy industry.

For many years, Pat worked for Pan American, which became Amoco. Then Pat ventured out on his own forming his own energy companies and making his mark as an independent oilman. Pat even formed a manufacturing company to make pup joints for the energy industry.

A quarter century ago Pat, and his lovely wife of 59 years, Colleen, whom he met on the campus at the University of Oklahoma, made The Woodlands their home. Their three sons all earned engineering degrees from the

University of Texas, which makes the annual Sooners-Longhorn match-up quite the event in the Hosford house.

All three of Pat's sons have made their mark on domestic energy production. Jim, John, and Mike, their wives, 9 children and two great-grandchildren are Pat's pride and joy. Now retired, Pat finds being a grandfather to be as great a rush as striking oil.

I had the privilege of being in the same Woodlands office building with Pat for years. Seeing Pat frequently meant I benefitted from his experience and insight into our area's top business sector. His service on the Woodlands-South Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce board was a great help in the early days of The Woodlands when we were working to attract new energy companies to our community. Pat served wherever and whenever he was needed with a smile on his face, a faithful heart, and an open door for anyone who needed solid advice or help. A man of strong faith, Pat has always been active in his local church.

One of my funniest, if not strangest, memories of Pat was seeing him, and other Woodlands leaders, dressed up bizarrely and jokingly offering folks a chance to make a donation or kiss a pig. Their over the top stunts made us laugh while raising a lot of money for the local United Way.

Thank you will never be enough, Pat. Cathy and I are blessed to have you and Colleen as friends, as sounding boards and supporters since I first ran for office as a Texas State Representative. Today it is my privilege to honor Patrick Eugene Hosford on his 80th birthday and to wish him 80 more.

#### A LIFE-SAVING ACT OF KINDNESS

### HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 8, 2016*

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Minnesota State Trooper Glen Bihler and Mary Dinger of Aitkin, MN for their selfless acts of kindness toward a fellow Minnesotan in need of shelter on a cold winter night.

Winters in Minnesota tend to be cold but the temperature on January 19th was particularly cold at 15 degrees below zero. Mary Dinger was driving along Highway 169 in Aitkin County, Minnesota. At mile marker 249 Mary saw a man lying down on the side of the road. Although we are all taught not to stop and pick up strangers—particularly on dark rural roads late at night—Mary stopped to help and let the man warm up in her car while she called 911 and waited for a state Trooper to arrive. After Trooper Bihler picked up the man and confirmed he did not have frostbite, Bihler brought him to a fast-food restaurant for a hot meal. Trooper Bihler said he was just doing what he could to help the man out. Afterwards he brought the man to the lobby of the Aitkin County Sheriff's office, the only place open so late, where he could rest in a warm place until a ride could be arranged to a shelter in the Twin Cities.

Once again I want to thank both Minnesotans for the compassion and care they showed for a fellow citizen desperately in need.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 8, 2016*

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes on Wednesday, February 3, 2016, due to illness. Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

On Roll Call 55, I would have voted no (On Ordering the Previous Question, H. Res. 595).

On Roll Call 56, I would have voted no (H. Res. 595).

On Roll Call 57, I would have voted yea (Amendment No. 1, H.R. 1675).

On Roll Call 58, I would have voted yea (Amendment No. 6, H.R. 1675).

On Roll Call 59, I would have voted yea (Amendment No. 7, H.R. 1675).

On Roll Call 60, I would have voted yea (On Motion to Recommit with Instructions, H.R. 1675).

On Roll Call 61, I would have voted no (H.R. 1675).

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 8, 2016*

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast roll call votes on Monday, February 1, 2016. Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes:

I would have voted Aye on roll call vote 46; and

I would have voted Aye on roll call vote 47.

In addition, on Tuesday, February 2, 2016, I would like to clarify for the record that I strongly opposed the amendment under consideration and intended to vote Nay on roll call vote 50 during consideration of H.R. 3700.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF HAWAII STATE SENATOR GILBERT KAHELE

### HON. TULSI GABBARD

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 8, 2016*

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 2016, the Aloha State lost the Honorable Gil Kahele, a U.S. Marine, a Hawaii State Senator, and a loving husband and father. His life was extraordinary from beginning to end, and he will be sorely missed.

Hawaii Island State Senator Gilbert Kahele was born to Peter and Rebecca Kahele, both of Hawaiian descent, in a grass shack by the sea on May 15, 1942 at Kalihi, just south of the Hawaiian fishing village of Miloli'i in South Kona. His parents valued education, so in 1947, they moved the family to Hilo, 90 miles away when Gil was five years old. It was a big change for the Kahele family because Hilo was a bustling town after recovering from World War II and the 1946 tsunami. It was full of commerce, cars, buildings, sporting events, and multiple nationalities, a far cry from the isolated fishing village of Miloli'i on the other side of the island.

Gil attended Hilo High School and played on the Vikings football team—graduating with the class of 1960. After graduation, Gil began his long career of service to his country by joining the United States Marine Corps. Stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, Twenty-Nine Palms and Camp Pendleton, California, Gil was part of the engineering troop responsible for refrigeration. As a young Hawaiian traveling through the South in the 1960's, Gil remembers riding a bus across the country and seeing the discrimination of African Americans on buses, in bus stations, and restrooms in the South. He saw segregation for the very first time. The black man was treated differently than the white man in this part of the country, something that was uncommon to him growing up in Hawai'i where everyone was treated with aloha.

After four years serving as a Marine, Gil was honorably discharged and settled in California for a few years. His first son Gibson was born in October of 1963, and he attended Chapman and Laney Colleges in Northern California. After graduating with an Associate Degree in Science in 1967 from Laney College, Gil moved back to Hawai'i where he began a civil service career that would last 33 years. He got a job with the Federal Government at Naval Station Wahiawa as a refrigeration mechanic. He married United Airlines stewardess Linda Haggberg in October of 1971, and the couple lived in Wahiawa. In 1976, the couple moved to Hilo. They had two children, Kai and Noelani. For the next 25 years Gil drove from Hilo up the Saddle Road to his job at the Pohakuloa Training Area, where he would eventually retire in 2000 as the Director of Public Works.

During the 1980s, Gil spent a lot of time in Miloli'i and made a name for himself as a successful community organizer in South Kona as a result of his ability to bring people together in the village to rally around a common cause or project. In 1986, Gil teamed up with Boone Morrison to produce a documentary, "Song of South Kona". Featuring Diana Aki, the film took a look at the history of the village and the songs that had been passed down through generations of musicians. Additionally, Gil, the president of Pa'a Pono Miloli'i at the time, successfully prevented the development of Kapua Bay and Kahuku by the Farms of Kapua and the Hawaiian Riviera Resort.

Tragically, Gil's younger sister Mona died in a car accident along with her husband Eric, leaving their three young children without parents. To Gil and Linda, family was their priority, so they adopted the three children, Ihilani, Ilima and Imaika, and Gil began to spend more time in Hilo and less time in Miloli'i.

In 2011, Hawaii Governor Neil Abercrombie selected Gil Kahele to fill a vacancy in the State Senate, where he would end up serving for the remainder of his life. Gil boasted an impressive record rather quickly because of his sincere desire to make a difference for the people of the Big Island and all of Hawai'i.

I recently saw Gil in Washington, DC, where as always, he was ready with a smile, a hug, a heart full of aloha. My heart is with the Kahele family (ohana), and all of Hawai'i Island. Gil, you are missed. Thank you (Mahalo nui loa) for dedicating your life to serving others and for demonstrating how much we can achieve when we work together in the spirit of aloha. God bless you (Ke Akua me ke Aloha).

INTRODUCTION OF THE “RIGHTS FOR TRANSPORTATION SECURITY OFFICERS ACT OF 2016”

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 8, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today, I join with Representative NITA LOWEY (D-NY) to introduce the “Rights for Transportation Security Officers Act of 2016,” legislation to ensure that the dedicated men and women that serve on the frontlines at our Nation’s airports have receive the rights and protections afforded to their counterparts within the Department and the Federal government.

When the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) was established in 2002, in response to the September 11th attacks, Congress acted swiftly to transfer responsibility for security screening at airports from the private sector to the Federal government. We did so with the expectation that a system-wide approach would be taken to protecting our Nation’s vital aviation sector and the passengers that are its lifeblood. Over the years, Congress has come to realize that some of the flexibilities that were provided to TSA when it was established were too broad and warranted refinement. For instance, when Congress recognized that TSA’s exercise of acquisition flexibilities was not yielding the outcomes that TSA and the flying public need, TSA was required to comply with the Federal Acquisition Regulation, just like most other Federal agencies. We are introducing the “Rights for Transportation Security Officers Act of 2016,” because we believe that the time has come for TSA’s personnel and labor management systems to be brought into compliance with the longstanding Federal systems and protections afforded to Federal workers under Title 5.

TSA has had its fair share of challenges, particularly with respect to its personnel services. Repeatedly, there have been instances where TSA’s personnel system at attracting, retaining, and developing talent has fallen short. And with respect to labor management, the promise of the 2011 determination by then-TSA Administrator John Pistole has not lived up to its promise, insofar as the labor union that was elected as the exclusive representative for the Transportation Security Officer workforce can only bargain and represent workers in limited cases and issues in dispute that may be raised to a neutral third party are limited.

The fight for basic worker protections for Transportation Security Officers has been a long one. These dedicated individuals serve honorably on the front lines, protecting us from those who want to do us harm through our aviation sector. Back in 2007, we came close to ensuring that Transportation Security Officers would be put under Title 5 but a veto threat from then-President Bush all but closed the door to getting the fix. When President Obama took office, the TSA workforce and many of us in Congress were hopeful that under new leadership, workers would get the rights and protections that had been denied to them for years. However, now that we have seen successive TSA Administrators fail to address longstanding unsettled workforce issues, it is imperative that Congress come together

and enact legislation that will grant the workforce rights and benefits that they deserve.

I hope that other Members will join myself and Representative LOWEY and support this important legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF SEAT EGRESS IN AIR TRAVEL (SEAT) ACT

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 8, 2016*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Seat Egress in Air Travel (SEAT) Act. This bill would direct the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to establish minimum seat size standards for passenger seats on aircrafts operated by carriers in the U.S. for the health and safety of passengers.

Consumers are tired of being squeezed—both physically and fiscally. The average distance between rows of seats has dropped from 35 inches before airline deregulation in the 1970s to about 31 inches today. The average width of an airline seat has also shrunk from 18 inches to about 16½.

This isn’t just a matter of comfort. It is about safety and health. The FAA requires that planes be capable of evacuation in 90 seconds or less, but the FAA hasn’t conducted emergency evacuation tests on airlines with a distance between rows of less than 29 inches. Some airlines fly with rows as close as 28 inches apart. Furthermore, doctors warn of deep vein thrombosis which can afflict passengers who don’t move their legs enough on longer flights.

Moreover, average seat sizes have been shrinking while the average size of Americans has been growing. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the average man in 1960 weighed 166, and the average woman weighed 140 pounds. Now the average man is 196 pounds and the average woman is 166 pounds—and both are about an inch taller.

This just doesn’t make any sense. I hope that Congress will quickly act on this bill to direct the FAA to establish minimum seat size standards to provide appropriately for the safety and health of airline passengers.

INTRODUCTION OF THE “MAKING YOUR RETIREMENT ACCESSIBLE ACT” OR THE “MYRA ACT”

**HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 8, 2016*

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce, along with Congressman KEITH ELLISON, the “Making Your Retirement Accessible Act,” also known as the “myRA Act,” to help address the savings and retirement security crisis in America.

Here are a few startling facts:

According to a 2015 Federal Reserve Report, 31 percent of non-retired individuals said they have no retirement savings or pension whatsoever.

Among workers who do not participate in a 401(k) or other defined contribution plan, 42

percent say that is because their employer does not offer one.

For part-time workers, it can be even more difficult, as a 2015 BLS Economic Release found that 62 percent of part-time workers don’t have access to a retirement plan at work.

To address this looming crisis, the Obama Administration recently launched the myRA program to help workers who face obstacles to saving, such as by not having access to an employer-sponsored retirement plan or not having enough in personal funds to purchase and contribute to their own IRA.

The myRA program allows workers to open their own retirement savings account with as little as \$1, and gives them the ability to make automatic payments every pay period.

Employers would only be responsible for setting up a payroll deduction for employees to create and deposit funds into their individualized myRA accounts.

myRA accounts not only encourage workers to build a nest egg for their future, but also give workers peace of mind that they can access these funds in emergencies.

Under the myRA program, participants can withdraw funds from their account tax-free and penalty-free—so these funds can be used as an emergency rainy-day fund as well as a future retirement account, further breaking down a barrier against savings.

The funds invested go solely into U.S. Government savings bonds, ensuring these accounts remain stable, not at risk in the market.

Further, the accounts do not have any associated maintenance charges or fees, which means every dollar that is invested will be returned—plus interest—to the account holder.

Recognizing most Americans will have a number of jobs in their lifetime; myRA accounts are also portable, allowing employees to change jobs while still being able to easily maintain their accounts.

The Administration has taken an important step forward by using their existing legal authority to create this program. I salute them for their actions in creating this program.

The myRA program represents an important saving tool, and as such it should be welcomed as more than just an administrative program—it should be codified into law.

Today, Congressman ELLISON and I are taking that next step to ensure this worthwhile program can continue, allowing everyone in our country to plan ahead for a secure retirement for themselves and their families.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of 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 Tuesday, February 9, 2016 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

## FEBRUARY 10

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the importance of enacting a new Water Resources Development Act.

SD-406

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider S. Res. 99, calling on the Government of Iran to fulfill its promises of assistance in the case of Robert Levinson, the longest held United States civilian in our Nation's history, S. Res. 361, urging robust funding for humanitarian relief for Syria, and S. Res. 330, congratulating the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet for winning the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine United States policy in Central Africa, focusing on the imperative of good governance.

SD-419

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider H.R. 3572, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to reform, streamline, and make improvements to the Department of Homeland Security and support the Department's efforts to implement better policy, planning, management, and performance, S. 1526, to amend title 10 and title 41, United States Code, to improve the manner in which Federal contracts for construction and design services are awarded, to prohibit the use of reverse auctions for design and construction services procurements, to amend title 31 and 41, United States Code, to improve the payment protections available to construction contractors, subcontractors, and suppliers for work performed, S. 236, to amend the Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 to create an expedited procedure to enact recommendations of the Government Accountability Office for consolidation and elimination to reduce duplication, S. 1411, to amend the Act of August 25, 1958, commonly known as the "Former Presidents Act of 1958", with respect to the monetary allowance payable to a former President, S. 795, to enhance whistleblower protection for contractor and grantee employees, S. 2450, to amend title 5, United States Code, to address administrative leave for Federal employees, S. 2418, to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish university labs for student-developed technology-based solutions for countering online recruitment of violent extremists, S. 2340, to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to issue a directive on the management of software licenses, H.R. 3361, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the Insider Threat Program, S. Res. 104, to express the sense of the Senate regarding the success of Operation

Streamline and the importance of prosecuting first time illegal border crossers, H.R. 1656 and an original bill entitled, "Secret Service Improvements Act of 2015", to provide for additional resources for the Secret Service, and to improve protections for restricted areas, an original bill entitled, "DHS Acquisition and Accountability Reform Act", an original bill entitled, "Combat Terrorist Use of Social Media Act of 2016", an original bill entitled, "Federal Property Management Reform Act of 2016", an original bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to build partnerships to prevent violence by extremists, an original resolution directing the Senate Legal Counsel to bring civil action to enforce a subpoena of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, and the nomination of Beth F. Cobert, of California, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management for a term of four years.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine mental health and the justice system.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Defense

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2017 for the Air Force.

SD-192

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2017.

SD-215

2 p.m.

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2017.

SD-215

2:30 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine a new scam by global drug traffickers perpetrated against our nation's seniors.

SD-562

## FEBRUARY 11

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the National Commission on the Future of the United States Army in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2017 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-G50

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management

To hold hearings to examine agency discretion in setting and enforcing regulatory fines and penalties.

SD-342

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine emerging health threats and the Zika supplemental request.

SD-138

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the semi-annual Monetary Policy Report to the Congress.

SD-538

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2017.

SD-215

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 247, to amend section 349 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to deem specified activities in support of terrorism as renunciation of United States nationality, S. 483, to improve enforcement efforts related to prescription drug diversion and abuse, S. 524, to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to address the national epidemics of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use, and the nominations of Elizabeth J. Drake, of Maryland, Jennifer Choe Groves, of Virginia, and Gary Stephen Katzmann, of Massachusetts, each to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

SD-226

10:15 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Karen Brevard Stewart, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Robert Annan Riley III, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia, and Matthew John Matthews, of Oregon, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as United States Senior Official for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum, all of the Department of State, and Swati A. Dandekar, of Iowa, to be United States Director of the Asian Development Bank.

SD-419

1 p.m.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine an update on the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, focusing on religious freedom, anti-Semitism, and rule of law.

HVC-210

2:30 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

## FEBRUARY 23

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2017 for the Department of the Interior.

SD-366

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine the Department of Energy atomic energy defense activities and programs in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2017 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-232A



FEBRUARY 25

1:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Tribal Law and Order Act 5 years later, focusing on the next steps to improve justice systems in Indian communities.

SH-216

MARCH 2

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Communications Commission.

SR-253

MARCH 3

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment

To hold hearings to examine regulatory reforms to improve equity market structure.

SD-538

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2017 for the Department of Energy.

SD-366

MARCH 8

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2017 for the Forest Service.

SD-366

MARCH 9

2 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the enforcement of the antitrust laws.

SD-226