

and colleagues should stand as an example of what we should all hope to be. I join Bob's colleagues at the South Carolina Research Authority, the citizens of our State, and his wife, Penny, his daughters and grandchildren in commending Robert G. Kiggans for his lifetime of service to South Carolina and this great Nation. May God bless them all.

**EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO
FAMILIES OF VICTIMS OF
SOWELL MURDERS AND DECRY-
ING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, Anthony Sowell raped and murdered 11 women in my own Congressional District. I offer condolences to the families of these women, whose names are: Tonia Carmichael, Nancy Cobbs, Tishana Culver, Crystal Dozier, Telacia Fortson, Amelda Hunter, Leshanda Long, Michelle Mason, Kim Yvette Smith, Diane Turner, and Janice Webb.

In honor of the women he victimized, we must address the underlying issue of violence against women.

Consider that 1 in every 4 American women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime. However, only about half of domestic violence incidents are reported to police. Even though African-American women are more likely than others to report their victimization to police, intimate partner homicide is the leading cause of death for African-American women ages 15–45.

A report issued in 2000 found that 17.6 percent of women in the United States have survived rape or attempted rape. Of these, 21.6 percent were younger than age 12 when they were first raped, and 32.4 percent were between the ages of 12 and 17. About half of all rape victims are in the lowest third of our national income distribution.

In 2010, the Violence Against Women Act is scheduled for reauthorization. Since its enactment, this Act has saved the lives of numerous women by providing funding for life-saving shelters and services, and educating the public about the cycle of violence. Congress has a unique opportunity to strengthen these programs and raise the profile of violence against women. Our Nation's current response is insufficient.

As we move forward, we must act with outrage about how our nation responds to violence against women and girls. Education and prevention is the key to break this cycle of violence.

**COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND
ACHIEVEMENTS OF ISIAH "IKE"
JESSE WILLIAMS III**

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and

achievements of my lifelong friend and widely respected community leader, Isiah "Ike" Jesse Williams III, who died on November 25, 2009, in Jacksonville, Florida, at the age of 78. Ike had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease 6 years prior to his death, and my thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Marilyn Wilkerson-Williams; daughter, Helen Rogers; sons, Rodney Williams, Ira Marche, Isiah Williams IV, and Mark Benson; and the rest of his family and friends at this most difficult time. Ike was a community activist, scholar, lawyer, publisher, journalist, historian, and union organizer. Above all, however, he was a true inspiration to everyone who knew him.

Ike was born to Helen and Isiah Williams of Jacksonville on September 27, 1931. He attended Fessenden Academy, a small private school in Ocala, Florida, and graduated in 1949. A truly brilliant man, Ike went on to earn numerous degrees, including an associate's degree from Edward Waters College, a bachelor's Degree from Florida Memorial College, a Juris Doctor from Florida A & M University, and a master's degree from Brooklyn Law School in New York. He also studied at the New School for Social Research and Xavier Institute of Labor Relation in New York City. During his studies, Ike pledged Psi Beta Sigma, of which he was a dedicated member for more than 50 years.

A man of courage and excellence, Ike served with distinction in the U.S. Army and was a proud veteran of the Korean war. After his service, he moved to New York and successfully practiced law for 10 years. It was during those historic years of the civil rights movement that Ike was an attorney for the Black Panthers and became friends with powerful leaders such as Adam Clayton Powell and Malcolm X.

Back in his home State of Florida, Ike continued his fight for civil equality in the community. He was a true champion of the people and came to be known as a respected community leader in Jacksonville through the many important organizations where he held positions. Ike was a lifetime member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), a Mason, a founding member of the National Business League, and the founder of the Jacksonville Advocate, which was published weekly for 30 years. Furthermore, Ike also served as Publisher Emeritus of the People's Advocate. Both newspapers featured articles that highlighted accomplishments in the African American community. An early member of the Jacksonville Historic Landmarks Commission, Ike was a fitting keeper for the preservation of the history of the African American community and organized the Joseph E. Lee Library-Museum. In addition, he also helped form the Brotherhood of Black Firefighters.

Ike's hard work and dedication on behalf of all those who have been denied a voice earned him many awards. In 2005, he was awarded with the Onyx Award for Communications, a state honor that he dearly cherished. Most recently, he received the National Whitney M. Young Lifetime Achievement award presented by the Jacksonville Urban League.

Madam Speaker, Ike's legacy will live on for generations to come in the lives he has

touched, and continues to touch. He was my dear friend and I am proud and fortunate to have known him.

HONORING VINCENT PETRUCCI

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Vincent Petrucci upon being honored with the "Lifetime Achievement Award" at the 2009 San Joaquin Winegrowers Association 7th Annual San Joaquin Valley Wine & Grape Industry Forum. The luncheon will be held in Fresno, California, on Friday, November 20, 2009.

Mr. Vincent Petrucci was born on July 13, 1913, in California. He attended the University of California, Davis where he earned his bachelors of science degree in pomology in 1947 and his masters of science degree in horticulture in 1948. Upon completion of his masters, he was hired by Fresno State College, now California State University Fresno, as a faculty member with the task of organizing and developing the curriculum and facilities of the viticulture and enology program. Mr. Petrucci played an instrumental role in developing the Viticulture and Enology Research Center which opened in 1985 where he has served as director and is currently director emeritus. He taught classes in grape and wine production, raisin production and processing and numerous other classes encompassing the field of viticulture. After 45 years, Mr. Petrucci retired in 1993 from California State University, Fresno and was awarded an honorary doctorate of science degree on May 28, 1994.

Over the years, Mr. Petrucci has served as a consultant, offering advice to many European and South American countries as well as China and Australia. He has been active in several organizations including the International Office of Wine and Vine, the American Society of Horticulture Science, the California Grape Growers Coalition, the University of California Grape Research Committee, the American Vineyard Foundation, and the American Society for Enology and Viticulture. He has also published numerous papers, journal, articles and written books on the subject of wine and grape growing. Mr. Petrucci's involvement has resulted in the international recognition of the viticulture program at CSU Fresno. For his accomplishments, Mr. Petrucci received the CSU Fresno "Outstanding Professor Award" in 1971, was named Wine and Vines "Man of the Year" in 1981, received the "Founder Award" for Enology in 1985, CSU Fresno "Meritorious Performance and Professional Promise Award" in 1986, the University of California, Davis "Distinguished Achievement Award" in 1995 and the American Vineyard "Outstanding Service Award" in 1996.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Vincent Petrucci upon being honored with the "Lifetime Achievement Award." I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Petrucci many years of continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE HARRISON
SCHMITT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
FOR RECEIVING THE BLUE RIB-
BON AWARD

HON. HARRY TEAGUE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Mr. TEAGUE. Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate Harrison Schmitt Elementary School in Silver City, New Mexico, for receiving the Blue Ribbon School Award awarded by the U.S. Department of Education for demonstrating academic excellence and dramatic gains in student achievement levels.

The Blue Ribbon Schools award was created in 1982 to recognize schools where the students attain and maintain high academic standards and are pushed to improve themselves and further their dedication to scholastic achievement. This award shows that Harrison Schmitt Elementary School is striving to close the achievement gap.

Schools like Harrison Schmitt Elementary achieve such great distinctions because of the hard work and its dedicated educators and families. The students also deserve to be recognized for making the most of the opportunities afforded to them by the excellent staff. Harrison Schmitt Elementary School is a prime example for the academic progress other schools throughout the nation should strive to achieve.

I am honored to have Blue Ribbon Schools like Harrison Schmitt Elementary School in my district. I commend their achievement and wish them luck in the continuing their academic achievement.

PERMANENT ESTATE TAX RELIEF
FOR FAMILIES, FARMERS, AND
SMALL BUSINESSES ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2009

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4154, the Permanent Estate Tax Relief for Families, Farmers, and Small Businesses Act of 2009. This legislation is a necessary step in cleaning up the toxic fiscal legacy of the Bush administration.

The estate tax is set to expire completely in 2010 unless Congress acts. Under current estate tax parameters, an individual can inherit, tax-free, a trust fund worth \$3.5 million—more than a middle class family making \$70,000 a year earns in a lifetime. For couples, the exemption is \$7 million. H.R. 4154 would permanently extend these generous parameters, ensuring that 99.8 percent of Americans never pay a dime in estate taxes.

This legislation helps put the Nation back on a path of fiscal sustainability. While it affects only a handful of the wealthiest Americans, the estate tax is an important source of Federal revenue. Eliminating this tax completely would expand the deficit by \$662 billion and reduce funding available for schools, roads and other priority investments. The bill also includes a “pay-as-you-go” provision that mandates fiscally responsible spending, restoring a 1990s law that turned record deficits into surpluses.

Without congressional action, the estate tax will return in 2011 at a much higher rate. By permanently extending current levels, H.R. 4154 is a compromise between higher estate taxes in the next decade and a complete elimination of the tax.

Republican opposition to this compromise legislation is wrong-headed and hypocritical. By supporting nothing but a full repeal, Republicans are pushing for a policy that adds \$662 billion to the deficit. This is extraordinarily irresponsible in a time of rising deficits and economic recession. With many middle-class families losing their jobs and their homes, it is difficult to justify a costly new tax cut for the Nation's wealthiest estates so they can pass on even larger inheritances tax-free. H.R. 4154 is a far more reasonable approach.

HONORING BAYSHORE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the people of the Second District of Texas are proud to recognize the students, faculty, and staff of Bayshore Elementary School in La Porte, Texas. Bayshore Elementary has earned the prestigious rating of “Exemplary” from the Texas Education Agency. This honor is especially meaningful for the students, teachers, and administrators of Bayshore Elementary because of the challenges they faced in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike.

Despite being dispersed to five other neighboring campuses, the students of Bayshore still performed at the “Exemplary” level on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills test. In the tradition of the Americans and Texans that have gone before them, the students and staff of Bayshore Elementary were able to rise above a difficult situation and achieve excellence in the face of adversity. This award not only recognizes their resilience but their determination to overcome difficulty and that is extremely honorable.

The Second District of Texas is proud of Bayshore Elementary school and commends them for their “Exemplary” award.

CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF THE VOICE OF AMER-
ICA'S UKRAINIAN SERVICE

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today on the special occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Voice of America's first Ukrainian-language broadcast. As Co-chair of the Ukrainian Caucus, it is my honor to recognize this day. In the darkest hours of the cold war, Ukrainians behind the Iron Curtain have received VOA broadcasts of accurate, balanced and comprehensive news and information. The VOA reports that Ukrainian dissidents imprisoned in Siberian camps and human rights activists who worked clandestinely to avoid arrest say they drew strength from its broadcasts.

As the Communist system began to fissure, VOA notes it continued to provide Ukrainians

with the news and information that their own censored, government-controlled media would not provide. Through the decades VOA was there to tell Ukrainians stories about the Hungarian Revolution in 1956, the Prague Spring of 1968, the rise of the Solidarity movement in Poland in the 1980s, the cover up of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant explosion in 1986, the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, and the Ukrainian independence and democracy movement which played a key role in the collapse of the U.S.S.R. in 1991. Through Ukraine's struggles with independency, VOA was a vital source of accurate news and responsible commentary.

Today, VOA continues to reach millions of Ukrainians each week. The radio broadcasts that began in the early cold war period have been replaced with daily television broadcasts and reporting on VOA's web site. Ukrainians still look to VOA not only to hear about the Washington perspective on what is happening in Ukraine, but also to comprehend America's story—its foreign policy objectives, national politics, social challenges, culture, arts, educational opportunities, business successes and achievements in science, technology, and medicine. The United States continues to serve as an important example for Ukrainians on maintaining a vibrant, prosperous, pluralistic society. Through its strict adherence to journalistic excellence over the past 60 years, the Voice of America's Ukrainian Service has been a key institution in U.S. public diplomacy. Today, its mission remains critical as ever, and we proudly mark this milestone anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF DANE
NOWELS

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dane Nowels, an American patriot who passed away on December 1, 2009. As a resident of Colorado Springs and Colorado, Nowels was a true servant to his nation and community. I rise today to honor his contribution to our community and country.

Born in Oakland California on October 18, 1947, Nowels graduated from The Ohio State University in 1969 with a degree in agricultural economics. As an agricultural enthusiast, Nowel was a four time National Champion in Tractor Pulling using the tractors that he built himself.

After service in the Army and a career as a commodities broker, Nowels moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado to provide heavy equipment to farmers and ranchers throughout southern Colorado for Ellen Equipment Company.

Nowels was a natural leader, and he used his talents to serve others in the El Paso County community. As President of the Pikes Peak Firearms Coalition and Vice-Chairman of the El Paso County Republican Party, Nowels accomplished much in El Paso County in defense of liberty. Nowels encouraged minorities, youth, young adults, and businesspeople to rally behind local and state candidates who