

I would also like to commend Varsity Brand's support for USA Cheer, the United States All Star Federation (USASF), and the American Association of Cheerleading Coaches and Administrators (AACCA). Through the CheerSafe initiative led by these organizations, the safety of more than 3 million cheerleaders is improved.

CheerSafe members work to ensure that every cheerleading team is trained under the direction of a knowledgeable coach. Members also ensure that every cheerleading team follows the established safety rules and has an emergency plan in place. To this end, the CheerSafe coalition provides training to more than 4,500 coaches and instructors each year.

In addition, AACCA and USA Cheer have partnered to distribute concussion information to coaches of over 400,000 cheerleaders. There are currently more than 20,000 coaches across the United States who have completed the AACCA Risk Management course and are in good standing. Through these efforts, the risk of participation in cheerleading has decreased since 2006 and the risk of serious injury is now lower than in many other school sports.

USA Cheer is the national governing body for sport cheering. It exists to help grow and develop interest and participation throughout the United States. The program is designed to promote safety education, while representing the United States in international competitions.

USASF's mission is to support and enrich the lives of All Star athletes and members. It provides consistent rules, strives for a safe environment, drives competitive excellence, and promotes a positive image for the sport.

AACCA was created to form a structured platform for cheerleading safety. The first set of standard safety rules were published in 1988 and the first Cheerleading Safety Manual in 1990.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing the combined efforts of Varsity Brands, USA Cheer, the United States All Star Federation for Cheer and Dance Teams, and the American Association of Cheerleading Coaches and Administrators to prevent injuries and increase safety in cheerleader performance.

HONORING DR. SANGTAE KIM

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2013

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Dr. Sangtae Kim, distinguished professor of mechanical and chemical engineering at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Dr. Kim was recently awarded the 2013 Ho-Am Engineering Prize from South Korea, the highest engineering research award issued by that nation. Dr. Kim, a Korean-American, was born in Seoul, South Korea, and his family immigrated to Canada when he was seven years-old.

While on leave from Purdue, Dr. Kim is a visiting professor of chemical engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he also previously served on the faculty as professor and department chair.

He is the founder and chairman of Pro WD Sciences Inc., a Wisconsin drug-discovery and drug-development company.

Dr. Kim came to Purdue in 2003 from Eli Lilly and Co. in Indianapolis, where he was the Lilly Research Laboratories' Vice President and Information Officer in research and development. Prior to this, Dr. Kim also served in leadership positions at Pfizer Inc. and Parke-Davis Pharmaceutical Research.

In addition, Dr. Kim served as inaugural director of the National Science Foundation's Shared Cyber-infrastructure Division from 2004–2005 and has led research projects funded by the National Science Foundation and the Office of Naval Research. Dr. Kim's research has included work in mathematical and computational methods for "microhydrodynamics," including a book on the subject published in 1991.

I ask the 6th Congressional District and entire State of Indiana to join me in congratulating Dr. Kim for this great achievement.

COMPLEX TAX CODE PLACES BURDEN ON FAMILIES AND BUSINESSES

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2013

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, this week, American citizens and businesses across the country will be surprised by the amount of their annual tax bill.

This surprise is a direct result of a staggering 4 million-word tax code filled with confusing deductions and loopholes that make it difficult to understand and file tax returns.

The basic fact is that the tax code is overly complex and out of date. It places an enormous burden on families and businesses and needs to be reformed and simplified.

Families and businesses paying taxes throughout the year should not be burdened each April by an additional round of time-consuming and expensive tax filing headaches.

Americans deserve better.

A TRIBUTE TO CECI DOMINGUEZ

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2013

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the outstanding contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District.

I would like to recognize an exceptional woman, Ceci Dominguez. A resident of Elysian Valley for 41 years, Ms. Dominguez has been an advocate for clean air and creating green areas in our community. She has helped not only plan, but also establish the Jardin Del Rio Community Garden, the Marsh Street Park, and the Marsh Skate Park.

Currently, Ceci serves as President of the Elysian Valley Seniors, and serves on the boards of the Sotomayor Learning Academies ArtLab School Site Governing Council, and the Cornerstone Theater Company, where she received the Community Visionary Award. She

also serves as the President of the Park Advisory Board at the Elysian Valley Recreation Center, where she co-organized the Health and Holiday Fair in 2010 and the first Mammogram Social for women in 2011, where health services were provided free of charge to the public. She is also involved with community organizations such as the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition, Friends of the Los Angeles River, and Elysian Valley Girl Scouts of America.

Previously, Ceci served as a Board Member of the Elysian Valley Riverside Neighborhood Council. She also co-founded the NorthEast Residents for Clean Air in 2011. Along with her late husband, Rey Dominguez, Ceci raised two wonderful children, Laura and Rey, and is the proud grandmother of Ricky.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring a truly extraordinary woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Ceci Dominguez.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL STEVEN M. DOTSON

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2013

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of Lieutenant Colonel Steven M. Dotson. Lt. Col. Dotson will be retiring from active duty service in the United States Marine Corps after almost 28 years on September 30, 2013.

Lt. Col. Dotson's roots are in the Eighth District of Tennessee, as he was raised in the town of Sharon. He enlisted in the Marines on October 5th, 1985, in Union City, Tennessee. Currently, Lt. Col. Dotson serves as a Strategic Mobility Officer for the Marine Corps Installations & Logistics Department.

Lt. Col. Dotson proudly represents the United States, and I am proud to represent him as a Member of Congress. As we reflect on the career of this exemplary public servant, I express appreciation for his distinguished and selfless service on behalf of a grateful nation. It is his sacrifice, along with the sacrifices of those in uniform around the world, which helps to keep our Nation strong and secure.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LT. COL. DON C. FAITH

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2013

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and respect an American hero. Today, the Korean War Medal of Honor winner from Washington, Indiana, Lt. Col. Don Faith, was finally put to rest at Arlington National Cemetery.

Forced to assume command of a small U.S. Army task force, due to his superior being killed in combat, Lt. Col. Faith put together a plan. Renowned as "Task Force Faith," Lt. Col. Faith was responsible for maintaining a more defensible position.

Grossly outnumbered and surrounded by Chinese People's Volunteer Forces, Lt. Col. Faith continued to rally his troops, and personally led an assault on a CPVF position. Lt.

Col. Don C. Faith Jr. was awarded the highest U.S. military honor for valor, the Medal of Honor, during the battle of Chosin Reservoir in 1950 for his heroics and leadership.

I rise today to celebrate the life, honor, leadership and incredible sacrifice of a true American hero. An honor to which we all owe a debt of gratitude.

May God bless you, Lt. Col. Don C. Faith Jr.

IN RECOGNITION OF EDWARD
VITTARDI

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2013

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ed Vittardi who has proudly served 31 years in public education in the great State of Ohio. Mr. Vittardi's career began as a social studies teacher at Dodge Middle School in Twinsburg, Ohio. From there, he served in many other roles in Twinsburg, ultimately becoming principal of Dodge Middle School. He also served as principal of Claggett Middle School (Medina), Independence Middle School (Independence), and North Royalton Middle School (North Royalton). For the past four years, Mr. Vittardi has worked as the North Royalton City District Superintendent. Under his leadership the district has made incredible progress. The Strategic Plan, developed in 2010 with unprecedented community involvement, has become a true living document. Through Mr. Vittardi's direction, the North Royalton City School District has maintained its Excellent rating on the Ohio Department of Education's Local Report Card. He implemented a five-year strategic plan, engaging more than 800 community members. Mr. Vittardi was also instrumental in the development of the North Royalton Stadium Foundation which raised more than \$1.3 million to build a new stadium complex, including field turf, without a tax increase. I would like to acknowledge his achievements throughout his long career of public service and thank him for his outstanding contribution to the 16th Congressional District and the community of North Royalton.

KENYA'S 2013 ELECTIONS: AN
EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE MODEL?

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a hearing that examined U.S. actions to support the March 2013 elections in Kenya, a critically important African ally. The United States has devoted more than \$35 million since 2010 alone to prepare for and manage this year's election process.

After the massive violence following the closely contested December 2007 election, many precautions were taken to prevent a similar occurrence in 2013, and election-day

and post-election violence have been greatly reduced. However, an effort to use new technology did not work as well as hoped. There were questions about the effectiveness of this election, which had promised to be a technological advancement. Given future important African elections, this hearing will look at what a responsible U.S. policy toward African elections should look like in an era of constrained development aid budgets.

The tragic election day deaths of 19 people, although attributed mostly to Islamic separatist elements and not to specifically election-related causes, cannot be overlooked and the perpetrators must be held to account. It is unacceptable that in the violence that followed the 2007 elections, an estimated 1,200 Kenyans were killed, and approximately 600,000 were displaced, according to media reports. Yet no one has thus far been held accountable.

Kenya this year conducted its first election under the 2010 constitution. In addition to voting for a president and members of the National Assembly, Kenyans selected members of the new Senate, as well as governors and local Assembly representatives in the 47 newly-created counties, each with a designated women's representative. More technology was brought into polling places to better ensure accuracy of voting and vote tabulation. Unfortunately, reported malfunctions of the equipment in some polling stations and at the national level, where a server broke down, for awhile stoked fears of vote rigging. If the court process had not been handled well as it was, we might now be looking at another wave of post-election violence.

Uhuru Kenyatta was elected President with 6,173,433 votes to 5,340,546 votes for Raila Odinga, and this was certified by the Kenyan Supreme Court. Nevertheless, violence was still a possibility until Odinga gave a magnanimous concession speech following the court ruling.

The amount of U.S. support for the Kenya election was extraordinary. American and Kenyan civil society organizations were enabled to conduct civic education, including radio and television messages and programs aimed at youth to encourage participation in the election process and discourage violence. Youth organizations were created nationwide to give young people an enduring voice in their country's political system. Several innovative approaches were created, including a comic book called Shujazz with young characters involved in commenting on the Kenyan political scene.

The three organizations presenting testimony today all played major roles in creative preparations for the 2013 Kenyan election. The International Republican Institute printed nearly 1.2 million sample ballots and 400,000 election posters for the IEBC and also distributed 800,000 Shujazz posters. The National Democratic Institute conducted an important poll on voter attitudes heading into the election, covering such issues as whether the country was headed in the right direction, whether their lives would improve during the next five years, whether the election posed a security threat to them and their community and whether they felt others were being encouraged to do harm to their ethnic group because of the elections.

The International Foundation for Electoral Systems advised Kenya's electoral commis-

sion on the process to conduct an election where there were 1,882 different configurations of the ballot, depending on the local races being run. The cell phones necessary for reporting of vote totals from polling stations were so late in being procured that IFES went ahead and purchased 1,200 to send into the field in time for election day.

Despite the extraordinary efforts by NGOs in preparing for the Kenyan election, we must be selective in what lessons we take from this experience. We will not be able to devote such resources to what will be several important elections yet to be held in 2013.

The U.S. Government has pressed both the governments of Mali and Madagascar to hold elections at the earliest possible date in order to normalize relations after coups replaced elected leaders. Zimbabwe, which recently held a constitutional referendum, is scheduled to hold presidential and legislative elections that many in that country hope will break the long cycle of repression of the political opposition. Ethiopia's next election will replace the late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and also will determine whether the political opposition will have more space to operate than in previous elections. Guinea's election also is being conducted in an atmosphere of uncertainty for the political opposition.

These elections are important to U.S. foreign policy as was the election in Kenya. So how do we ensure that they are successful and represent the will of the voters if we can't devote the resources we did in Kenya? That was the question we put to the witnesses, whose organizations have broad experience with African elections and have a unique viewpoint that we hope will allow Congress and the administration to agree on funding for a policy that is fiscally sound while being politically effective.

HONORING DANIEL B. HASTINGS,
JR.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2013

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of the late Daniel B. Hastings, Jr. of Laredo, Texas—a well-know, local businessman and philanthropist.

Daniel B. Hastings was born January 8, 1948 in Laredo, Texas to Daniel and Irma M. Hastings. Daniel Jr., and was the third child and only son among the couple's five daughters. Daniel graduated from Martin High School in 1965, and continued his education at Laredo Junior College and later received his B.S. degree in chemistry with minors in both math and physics from Texas State University (formerly then, Southwest Texas State University).

At the young age of 13, Mr. Hastings, Jr. began working in Laredo for the U.S. customs brokerage firm, Daniel B. Hastings, Inc. The company, established by his great-aunt, provided him and other members of the Hastings family a strong livelihood. It was not long until Daniel, Jr. moved up in ranks from running errands and performing warehouse duties to officially joining the firm as a partner in 1973. Seven years later, in 1980, he would follow his father's footsteps and assume ownership.