

(NCAE) as a student at WSSU, serving as president of the campus affiliate of the organization. He later served as president of the Forsyth County chapter. In 2008, Mr. Ellis became vice president of NCAE, and in 2012 he was elected President.

As an advocate and a leader, Rodney Ellis was energetic and effective, reflecting a passion for ensuring access to education for all students. He defended public investments in our schools at a time when they were under threat, first from the Great Recession and then from hostile political leadership.

Mr. Ellis stepped down from the NCAE presidency in July after serving the maximum two two-year terms. He returned to Winston-Salem to spend more time with his family and teach middle school language arts to students of low-income families. He continued to be a committed educator of students of all socioeconomic backgrounds until the very end of his life.

Rodney Ellis leaves a legacy of dedication and commitment that saw North Carolina education through tough times. Both in the classroom and in statewide leadership, his work will benefit thousands of students for generations to come.

D.C. STATEHOOD

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, D.C. statehood has just crossed another historic threshold. For the first time, the District of Columbia Republican Party now supports D.C. statehood, making D.C. statehood a bipartisan effort. Moreover, the upcoming "Statehood Yes" vote to put D.C. residents on the record on statehood is being led by a Republican resident, George Vradenburg, a retired AOL executive and philanthropist. D.C. Republicans have consistently supported equality for our citizens, including the bipartisan bill for a House vote and the recent budget autonomy referendum. It is now clear that D.C. statehood, including my bill, the New Columbia Admission Act, enjoys the support of D.C. residents, regardless of party.

On November 8 this year, D.C. residents will vote not only for a Member of Congress and Members of the D.C. Council, they will vote on whether they desire to become the 51st state, and, if so, on the constitution for the new state.

Making the District of Columbia our nation's 51st state would overcome the longest denial of democracy by our country to any of its citizens. Surely, 215 years of second-class status for the American citizens who live in the nation's capital can no longer be tolerated, especially today, when D.C. residents pay the highest federal taxes per capita in the United States.

TRIBUTE TO JULIE WALTERS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Julie Wal-

ters of Villisca, Iowa, for being selected as a 2016 Women Impacting the Land award recipient.

The Women Impacting the Land award showcases Iowa women for their contributions to managing farmland and livestock. While serving as the Page County Clerk of Court for the last 31 years, Julie has also worked on her family's cattle farm with her husband Dave. She attributes some of her extensive knowledge of cattle farming to courses she participated in over the years, like Annie's Project and Women Managing Cattle. Julie is constantly fine-tuning her family's cattle operation and making changes to improve their farm's productivity.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Julie for her hard work and dedication in improving and managing her family's farm. Her efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Julie for her achievements and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING JEANETTE JAMES

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Jeanette James, Professional Staffer for the House Armed Services Committee, on being awarded The Military Coalition's 2016 Freedom Award for her outstanding service and significant contributions to the military and veterans' community.

On September 22, 2016, The Military Coalition, an association of 32 military, veterans, and uniformed services organizations, recognized her for over a decade of dedicated work with the House Committee on Armed Services. During her tenure with the committee, she has been a crucial part of crafting important legislation and an exceptional asset for the Military Personnel subcommittee now chaired by Congressman JOE HECK of Nevada. She was previously recognized as a Freedom Award recipient in 2012.

I am grateful for her admirable service and dedication to the committee and our servicemembers and military families. She has maintained the high standards of her predecessor, the late John Chapla.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE OPENING OF THE SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a bipartisan resolution which recognizes the opening of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) on Saturday, September 24, 2016. I am so proud that over 110 of my colleagues

from both sides of the aisle have joined me as original cosponsors.

This weekend will mark an historic moment in our Nation's history. Hundreds of thousands of people will convene in Washington, D.C. on the National Mall to celebrate and welcome this historic institution which is dedicated to documenting African American life, history, art, and culture. Many people in this body, across the nation, and around the world shall celebrate this great day.

Tonight, I applaud Dr. Lonnie Bunch, III, the Founding Director, Kinshasha Holman Conwill, the Deputy Director, Cheryl Johnson, Chief of Staff, and the hundreds and thousands of people who worked so hard to make this dream a reality. For over 10 years, they have toiled day in and day out to prepare for the opening and operation of the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

I know that the leadership and staff of the Museum have labored tirelessly for years and years—designing the building, raising funds, envisioning the exhibits, collecting artifacts, conducting research, and meeting with the many people across this country and around the world who are so excited about this historic moment. Mr. Speaker, I thank each and every one of them for their hard work, determination, and dedication to the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Mr. Speaker, the National Museum of African American History and Culture took over 100 years to evolve from a dream to a reality in the Nation's Capitol on the National Mall. The most recent congressional effort began with the late former Congressman Thomas "Mickey" Leland from Texas who revitalized the legislation in 1985. I was proud to continue his work and fought for 15 years for the bill to pass the House and Senate before finally being signed into law by President George W. Bush.

It was a long, hard, labor of love, and there were so many wonderful Members on both sides of the aisle and the dome, who helped accomplish this mission, which spanned generations, decades, and movements. In 1993, the late Senator Paul Martin Simon from Illinois introduced a companion to the House legislation. Beginning in 2001, former Senator Sam Brownback from Kansas, former Senator Max Cleland from Georgia, and former Senator Chris Dodd from Connecticut joined the House coalition which included Representatives William "Bill" Clay from Missouri, J.C. Watts, Jr. from Oklahoma, and Jack Kingston from Georgia who helped take this bipartisan, bicameral effort across the finish line.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not also thank some of the former congressional staff who worked for so many years to pass the legislation which authorized the Museum—Tammy Boyd in my office; Kerri Watson with former Rep. J.C. Watts; LaRochelle Young with former Sen. Sam Brownback; and Donni Turner with former Sen. Max Cleland. They refused to give up; they refused to give in, and we thank them for their hard work and service.

On the eve of this long-awaited day, I join with more than 110 of my colleagues in congratulating Smithsonian Institution's family, the countless staff, and many volunteers of the National Museum of African American History and Culture on their persistence, their determination, and—very, very soon—on their success.

Tonight, we should all be proud, and each and every one of us must take the necessary

hours, days, weeks, and months to visit, learn, explore, and reflect on the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture and all that it signifies and entails.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good day; it is a great day.

HONORING THE JUNIOR LEAGUE
OF SAINT PAUL

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Junior League of Saint Paul (JLSP) as the organization marks 100 years of dedicated community service to the people of Saint Paul, Minnesota. Since 1917, the Junior League of Saint Paul has been an all-female volunteer organization committed to the work of its founder, Elizabeth Ames Jackson. For the past century, JLSP has forged coalitions and leveraged the talents and passions of volunteers to address our community's greatest challenges.

After working on behalf of the Red Cross and supporting the war effort in the 1920's, JLSP found a cause of their own to champion. Realizing that there was a need in the community for women to have a place to recover peacefully from surgery, they created a Convalescent Home for Women and Girls. This allowed women to have a place out of the hospital where they might regain their strength before returning to the stresses of work and family.

In 1933, the JLSP was approached by the Children's Hospital to create a needy-bed fund for children whose families could not afford medical care. The JLSP eagerly stepped in and started a city wide push for funds to support the hospital. Their success culminated in the creation of the Children's Hospital Association, which in later years has gone on to fund hospital initiatives and start-up programs. The Children's Hospital Association is still providing for the healthcare needs of children in the Saint Paul area to this day in part because of the work of the JLSP.

Understanding that there were other challenges to address in the community, the JLSP shifted their focus to the development of recreational spaces for Saint Paul's youth. They partnered with the Neighborhood House and the Community Chest, which later became the United Way, to start Saint Paul Community Services. With the help of \$12,000 of seed money from the JLSP, Saint Paul Community Services, now known as Keystone Community Services, is still in operation today.

In the 1980's as Saint Paul welcomed an influx of Hmong refugees, the women of the Saint Paul Junior League saw a way that they may help their new neighbors. The JLSP saw the beauty and opportunity represented in the story cloths made by Hmong women. By helping to market these beautiful cloths for sale in the community, JLSP assisted in empowering their new neighbors to earn money and improve their English.

In the 1990's the JLSP pivoted to the issue of domestic violence and started the Minnesota chapter of Silent Witness; an organization that helped to bring awareness and honor the memory of women killed as a result of

abuse. In the new century, members of JLSP worked with Women's Advocates in Saint Paul, the nation's first battered women's shelter. They helped to make the shelter more physically comfortable, inviting, and safe for women who were seeking refuge.

Over the course of a century, the JLSP has taken on daunting challenges in Saint Paul to create solutions to lift up those disadvantaged and struggling members of our community. Mr. Speaker, please join me in rising to honor the Junior League of Saint Paul on its 100th anniversary—and for the next century of service to the community.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL
WILDERNESS MONTH

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of September as National Wilderness Month.

This month we marked the 52nd anniversary of the Wilderness Act of 1964, which created our National Wilderness Preservation System and established the procedure for designating federal lands as wilderness by Congress.

Earlier this year, Congress was blessed with a visit from Pope Francis, who took his papal name from St. Francis of Assisi, the protector of the proper joyful balance in care for the earth. In his encyclical, the Holy Father notes St. Francis's request that "part of the friary garden was always left untouched," just like America's extraordinary wilderness.

Arkansas is home to 12 of these unique wilderness areas, including the Flatside Wilderness in the Ouachita National Forest. In March, I was joined by Arkansas Rep. Rick Beck, members of the Boy Scouts, the Ozark Society, the Sierra Club, and representatives from the U.S. Forest Service on a six mile hike through Flatside, enjoying the serene beauty of this area left wild.

During National Wilderness Month, we recognize these wilderness areas in our great country and the need to preserve them for future generations of Americans.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS.
DOROTHY HYATT

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my personal congratulations and best wishes to an exceptional community leader and outstanding citizen, Mrs. Dorothy Hyatt, on the occasion of her retirement as Executive Director of Girls, Inc. of Columbus, Georgia.

A Columbus native, Dorothy Hyatt starting going to Girls, Inc. at an early age and continued her attendance throughout high school. Her mother worked many hours to support Dorothy and her four siblings so Dorothy would spend much of her time at Girls, Inc. where she would do arts and crafts, learn how

to cook and sew, and play in the swimming pool. Her peers and mentors at Girls, Inc. encouraged her to attend college after her graduation from Jordan High School in 1972. She received a scholarship from Girls, Inc. and earned a Bachelor's degree in Social Rehabilitation from Troy State University in 1976 and a Master's in Criminal Justice from the same university in 1980.

Girls, Inc. had been such an integral part of her childhood and teenage years that it came as no surprise when Mrs. Hyatt returned to Girls, Inc. to work as Center Director of the Garrard Center in Columbus in 1976. In 1981, Mrs. Hyatt became the Executive Director of Girls, Inc. of Columbus and has served in this capacity ever since. There was no better candidate to run the organization than Mrs. Hyatt. Having been on the receiving side of the program, she knew the impact it could have on a young girl and the decisions she made during the most formative years of her life. Girls, Inc. can be the difference between a bright, successful future and a life of drugs, crime, or poverty. Mrs. Hyatt's understanding of the organization's mission on a personal level has helped to keep Girls, Inc. effective in mentoring girls and shaping them into strong, independent women.

In addition to her leadership of Girls, Inc., Mrs. Hyatt has proven to be an exceptional member of her community. She has served on the Columbus South Task Force and the Columbus Coalition of Children and Youth. She served as a board member of the Downtown Kiwanis Club and the St. Francis Hospital Advisory Committee for Women's Health. In 1996, Ms. Hyatt served as President of the United Way Directors Association. She is a 1993 graduate of Leadership Columbus and a 1998 graduate of Leadership Georgia.

Ms. Hyatt has been recognized numerous times for her professional and community work. She is a recipient of the Girls, Inc. Southern Regional Professional of the Year Award; the Judge Aaron Cohn Community Service Award; the Keith Bissel Volunteer Award from the Kiwanis Club; the Gracious Lady Award, the Leadership Georgia Foundation Award, and the Governor Honors Award, among many others.

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays often said: "You make your living by what you get; you make your life by what you give." Not only has Mrs. Hyatt made her living at Girls, Inc. by mentoring and uplifting girls beyond their circumstances, but she has also made her life by giving back to the great city of Columbus in so many ways. We are all very grateful for her tireless advocacy in making our community stronger. A woman of great integrity, her efforts, her dedication, and her expertise are unparalleled, but her heart for helping others utilizing these qualities has made her life's work truly special.

Mrs. Hyatt has accomplished much in her life but none of it would be possible without the love and support of her husband, Phil; her children, Emilee and Wynn; and her grandson, Harrison.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Mrs. Dorothy Hyatt upon the occasion of her retirement from an outstanding career spanning four decades with Girls, Inc. of Columbus.