

I could not be prouder of Dr. Bronte and the rest of the team at the Foundation for Sickle Cell Disease Research for taking up this important work. I am proud to be an advocate for those affected by Sickle Cell Disease and I stand in solidarity with this community to educate, advocate, and ultimately eliminate Sickle Cell.

IN HONOR OF ABDUL KARIM
KABIA, SR.

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Abdul Karim Kabia, Sr., who was born in August of 1952 in Bo Sierra Leone, West Africa to the late Mohamed Ishmin and Fatmata Yailey Kabia.

Mr. Kabia graduated from Saint Andrews secondary school in Bo Sierra Leone and at 18, his parents sent him to Europe to learn different languages and have new, exciting life experiences. Mr. Kabia studied under a Master Chef while in Spain and became a wonderful cook. He could speak Italian, German, Spanish and several African dialects.

After moving to the United States of America, he received a degree in Human Services through Camden County College and began a thirty-four year career as a social worker at the Camden County Board of Social Services before he retired in 2014. During his time with the Board of Social Services, he was an active member of the Communication Workers of America Local 1084 and became a passionate political campaigner.

Upon moving to the United States of America in 1975, Mr. Kabia met Dorleen Chism and they were married on Valentine's Day in 1976. Throughout their forty-year marriage, they had two children, Fatinata Yailey Kabia and Abdul Karim Kabia, II. He was a proud grandfather to Fyar Ishmirr Kabia.

In addition to his family, he was a mentor, surrogate father and uncle to many individuals who he encountered throughout his life's journey, providing them advice and support and showing them kindness and love.

Mr. Kabia was a devoted family man who will be remembered fondly and deeply missed by all who had the pleasure to have known him. His always present smile and his soulful laughter will be impossible to forget.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Kabia was an inspiration to his family and truly exemplifies the American Dream. I hope that you will all join me in honoring his memory here today.

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE ANNIE
GRAY HICKS

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include the following:

Annie Mae Hicks was born August 18, 1935 in Culpeper, Virginia to the late William Festus Gray, Sr. and Laura Mae (Scott) Gray. She was the eldest of 6 children, Wil-

liam Jr. Regina, Claudine, Hattie and Lillian.

Ann, as she preferred to be called, spent her formative years on her parents' farm where they raised livestock and grew vegetables. The Gray family was a loving family and her father believed in working hard. The Gray children all had chores, but Ann had a deep love for learning and would often be found doing homework or reading a book. Her siblings said she loved school so much that if she missed a day she would cry.

At the young age of 16 she graduated from George Washington Carver High School and was offered a scholarship to Virginia Union College. Ann decided to attend college in Rochester, NY where she had a cousin named Regina Alexander. She was accepted at Brockport State College and worked as an elevator operator at a local department store while she attended college. Her bus ride to Brockport and back was an hour each way.

Soon after arriving in Rochester she joined Mt. Olivet Baptist Church and she became active in the young adult fellowship program. It is there that she met a young man named Harry A.D. Hicks. At the time, Harry had already served in the Air Force and was working on his Bachelor's Degree at Rochester Institute of Technology. During this period, Harry learned about Ann's gift of gab and her ability to do homework at the same time.

After graduating from Brockport State with a degree in Elementary Education, Ann became a teacher. But, she found that teaching was not her calling. She later became a Social Worker and worked for 28 years at Monroe County Department of Social Services, retiring in 1987. Ann worked hard and took her job seriously. She knew that there were individuals and families that needed to be connected to critical resources in the community.

As a Social Worker, she traveled all over Monroe County meeting with families. In November 1975 she was one of the initial 19 members of a class action law suit against Monroe County Social Services for not hiring and promoting minorities in supervisory positions. Ann and countless others paved the way for those that followed them to be promoted into senior level positions.

After retiring, Ann and Doug, as she affectionately called him, were able to travel to Italy, France, and England. They also enjoyed traveling to Washington, DC and Florida to spend the winter with their daughter and family. Ann and Doug enjoyed a marriage 49½ years.

Ann, surrounded by family left to be with her beloved Doug on November 14, 2016. She is survived by her sons Kevin and Keith Hicks, Rochester, NY; her daughter Santhea Hicks Brown; (Honorable Alvin Brown), Florida two grandsons, Joshua Andrew and Jordan Latham Brown, her siblings William Gray, jr. (Alice), Regina Grayson (Ed), Claudine Cottom (Jim), Hattie Hicks (Don), and Lillian Jones (Irving); nieces, nephews and extended family, church family and many friends.

Ann will be remembered as a loving wife, mother, grandmother and a child of God.

HONORING USAID AND THE RECONSTRUCTION OF HAITI'S NATIONAL CAMPUS OF HEALTH AND SCIENCES

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida,

I rise to recognize the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the design-build team for their efforts to reconstruct the National Campus of Health and Sciences of Haiti.

As the proud Congressional Representative for one of the largest populations of Haitian Americans in the United States, I am deeply concerned about the quality of life for Haitians here and in Haiti. I am beaming with pride and honored to commemorate the great works that are being undertaken by USAID and others to improve living conditions in Haiti.

The National Campus of Health and Sciences of Haiti was developed by USAID as a part of Haiti's recovery following the devastating 2010 earthquake. The catastrophic earthquake caused widespread death and destruction, and destroyed the original National Medical University and National School of Nursing where the majority of Haiti's doctors and nurses were trained.

The National Campus of Health and Sciences was originally built in 1862. The loss of the two important learning institutions had a major impact on the delivery of medical care in Haiti and their replacement was critical to the country's recovery. The new facility is set to produce approximately 1,500 doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and other health practitioners over the next 10 years.

The collaboration, of the design-build team was remarkable and worthy of recognition. The team was led by Tseng Consulting Group, under the leadership of George S. Tseng, PhD, PE, and included Mr. Eric Accime, Mr. Jene C. Thomas, Mission Director of USAID-Haiti, Mr. Manish Kumar, PE, of USAID, Dr. Jean-Claude Cadet, Dean of the National Campus of Health and Sciences, and many other USAID key personnel.

The reconstruction of the National Campus of Health and Sciences was based upon the best practices of design-build and delivery techniques as developed and promoted by the Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA). Jane H. Hsiao, PhD, Dr. Tseng, and Mr. Accime also provided significant financial contributions to the National Campus for Health and Sciences to ensure its long term maintenance and sustainability.

Haiti has provided the world with learned scholars, renowned and acclaimed artists, and some of the most delectable cuisine. I am excited about the new contributions that Haitians will be able to make to the world through the reconstructed National Campus of Health and Sciences.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you, my colleagues in Congress, and all Americans to please join me in recognizing USAID and the design-build team for their commitment, dedication, and excellence in the reconstruction of the National Campus of Health and Sciences of Haiti.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, December 5, 2016, I was unable to vote due to prior commitments. Had I been present on the House floor, I would have voted "aye" on roll call No. 601, final passage

of H.R. 5015, the Combat-Injured Veterans Tax Fairness Act. I would have voted “aye” on roll call No. 602, H.R. 6427, the Creating Financial Prosperity for Businesses and Investors Act, and “aye” on roll call No. 603, S. 1635, Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017.

HONORING SERGEANT BRENTON
GARRICK

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Brenton Garrick, whom I have named a 2016 Public Safety Hero of the Year for Solano County in California's 5th Congressional District. This award is given to exceptional members of our community who perform beyond their duty as a public servant.

Sergeant Garrick is a 25 year Veteran of the Vallejo Police Department, and was appointed to be the community engagement officer last year. His work is instrumental to the Vallejo Police Department's successful community policing efforts, demonstrating extreme care and decisive leadership when appropriate.

As a community engagement officer, Sergeant Garrick has made communication with the residents of Vallejo a top priority for the department. He regularly meets with students and parents at schools, staffs events such as Late Night Basketball, and hosts Coffee with the Cops and the annual Department open house. His work helps Vallejo Police officers connect with the people they work for and builds trust between law enforcement and citizens in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Sergeant Garrick for his dedication to our community's safety. For this reason, it is fitting and proper that I honor him here today.

THWARTING GOVERNMENT WASTE
AND REPRIORITIZING AMERICAN
TAXPAYER DOLLARS

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the concerning \$125 billion in bureaucratic waste brought to light by the Washington Post this week.

This article came on the heels of two major votes last week in the House of Representatives: an additional \$4.8 billion in funding to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the authorization of \$611.2 billion for the Department of Defense. Considering these measures back-to-back leads me to put them in context with each other.

On the one hand, Congress has allocated hundreds of billions of dollars to fund a military that is larger than the next seven country's combined, including China, Saudi Arabia, Russia, the United Kingdom, India, France, and Japan. On the other hand, we are providing a helpful, but relatively minute, sum of money to increase lifesaving medical research, educate

our nation's youth, and support our first responders.

To then discover that the Pentagon has identified at least \$125 billion in waste further underscores our nation's misguided priorities. If just ten percent of the self-identified waste were redirected to the NIH, new cures could be found and lives could be saved. In this year's Defense Authorization, \$1.5 billion is spent to upgrade an aircraft carrier that the U.S. Navy had asked to retire. Why not reprioritize that money to improve veterans' healthcare or expand access to education?

This gratuitous spending must stop. The American taxpayer deserves to know that their hard-earned dollars are going toward promoting American values and being reinvested in their wellbeing. It's not just the programs that I highlight that deserve a higher priority—it's Medicare and Medicaid, it's Social Security, it's social safety net programs—the list goes on and on. Until we press the Pentagon to undergo a rigorous audit, I cannot and will not support bloated spending at the Defense Department. The American people deserve more transparency and accountability.

Dwight D. Eisenhower shared my fears and concerns. Our 34th President, a five-star general in the United States Army during World War II, and Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces in Europe once said, “[i]n the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists, and will persist.”

TRIBUTE TO GALEN ZUMBACH

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Galen Zumbach of Creston, Iowa, for being inducted into the Creston High School Hall of Fame.

Galen came to Creston High School in 1977 as the agriculture education instructor and Future Farmers of America advisor. He taught at Creston High School for 33 years. Under his direction, Creston FFA students participated in more than 100 activities each year. The local FFA chapter has been considered one of the nation's best throughout Galen's teaching career and has been named Iowa Supreme Chapter 13 times. During his tenure, Creston High School FFA was the only chapter in the nation to win five National Chapter Award competitions.

Over his 33 year career at Creston High School, Galen stood on the stage as 209 students received their State FFA degrees, with 56 earning American FFA degrees. Under his leadership, 22 members held offices at the state or national level of FFA. Even with such success, Galen's dedication to his students didn't stop at FFA—he also coached high school football during a majority of his time at the school.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Galen for this outstanding achievements and his unwavering commitment to improving the lives of his students. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join

me in congratulating Galen and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LINDA
McMAHON

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, President-elect Donald Trump selected Linda McMahon of Greenwich, Connecticut, to head the Small Business Administration where she will continue to make a difference with vision to create opportunities and jobs.

President-elect Trump announced, “Linda has a tremendous background and is widely recognized as one of the country's top female executives advising businesses around the world . . . Linda is going to be a phenomenal leader and champion for small businesses and unleash America's entrepreneurial spirit across the country.”

The Hartford Courant reported, “The mother of two and grandmother of six, McMahon is a fiscally conservative Republican who embraces the party's small-government ethos. In her two runs for Senate, she campaigned on a promise to bring fresh energy, a businesswoman's savvy and an outsider's common-sense approach to Washington.”

I believe that Linda McMahon will be a passionate advocate for small businesses and further facilitate a climate of job creation in this country. I look forward to working with Ms. McMahon to create jobs and expand opportunity for all Americans. The citizens of Connecticut are being recognized for their entrepreneurial expertise.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops and may the President by his actions never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

HONORING OFFICER LUIS
PANIAGUA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Luis Paniagua, whom I have named a 2016 Public Safety Hero of the Year for Napa County in California's 5th Congressional District. This award is given to exceptional members of our community who perform beyond their duty as a public servant.

A native of Santa Rosa, California, Officer Paniagua graduated from Santa Rosa Junior College with an Associate's Degree in Administrative Justice before joining the Calistoga Police Department. Additionally, Officer Paniagua works with third grade students through the Read Aloud Partners program.

Officer Paniagua showed outstanding leadership and bravery during a robbery incident this year. Despite his relatively short tenure, Officer Paniagua reacted quickly and bravely to stop two armed suspects from fleeing the robbery of an armored car. He even managed