

last attempt by the Confederate Army to attack Washington.

Taken together, these battles were pivotal to the outcome of the war and the freedom and democracy that the war represented for this country. It is therefore fitting that we recognize these sites by redesignating them as a national historic park as we commemorate the 155th anniversary of the start of the Civil War. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

HONORING PASTOR LINDA SWEEZER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a driven and ambitious woman, Pastor Linda Sweezer. Pastor Sweezer has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to make a positive difference in doing God's will and spreading his Word.

Linda Sweezer was born the youngest child in a family of ten to Bessie Dillard and the late Alfred Dillard, Jr. in Vicksburg, Mississippi. She was saved at the tender age of ten.

She is a 1978 graduate of Vicksburg High School and attended and graduated from Milsaps College, Jackson, MS in 1982. She worked at Vicksburg Family Development Service for 19 years—fourteen of those years as the Co-Director.

She was called into the Gospel Ministry on February 5, 1995, ordained in 1997 and again in 2006 by Bishop T.D. Jakes of Dallas, Texas at The Potter's House International. She was called to pastor and founded The House of Peace Worship Church in December 2001. It is known as: "The Church Where the Holy Spirit is in Charge." In May 2006, the Holy Spirit led Pastor Sweezer to begin another church in the Rolling Fork area; it is known as The House of Peace Worship Church International/Delta.

Apostle Linda Sweezer is also a playwright and has written, produced and directed fifteen major productions, which were performed in the theater in the surrounding areas of Vicksburg, Rolling Fork and Fayette, Mississippi and Texarkana, TX.

She is the author of a book entitled, "Eating Along the Way!—A Survivor's Guide for People Who Are Serious About Hearing God's Call." In addition, she was the co-owner of a Christian bookstore.

She was affirmed into the Apostolic calling on July 29th 2011. The Affirmation Ceremony was conducted by Apostle Michael O. Exum, Executive Director of The Potter's House International Pastoral Alliance and Apostle Eyvone Smith of His Harvest Ministries, Oxford, Mississippi.

Some other achievements include: appointed Board Member of the United Way of West Central Mississippi (2011–2014); Director of The House of Peace Substance Abuse Prevention Program; appointed for a second term to the Election Commission (2009–2012); appointed to the Election Commission (2005–2009); appointed twice to the City of Vicksburg Civil Service Commission. Pastor Sweezer was honored as a Local Recipient of 100 Black Women; recognized as a Distinguished

African American by St. Mark Freewill Baptist Church; nominated as one of the 50 Leading Business Women of America.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. named a scholarship in Pastor Linda Sweezer's name at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast and she was appointed to the Vicksburg-Warren School District Advisory Council to develop plans for building Mega Schools. She also has received several awards and recognitions. She was selected by the Iyettes of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. as one of the Religious Role Models; Outstanding Young Women of America; Woman of Excellence Award in Art and Literature; Sower of the Lord Award and Peacemaker Award given by the Flying High for Jesus Outreach.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Pastor Linda Sweezer for her passion and dedication to spread the word of God and desire to make a difference in the lives of others.

COMMEMORATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF PATTY FUCHS

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Patty Fuchs on her twenty-two years of dedication and service to Goodwill Industries of Central Illinois.

From the very beginning, Patty Fuchs, a native of Peoria, Illinois and the CEO of Goodwill Industries of Central Illinois, strived to support the people around her and ensure success for every facet of the Central Illinois community. A graduate of Peoria High School and Bradley University, where she ultimately earned her master's degree, Patty decided to first give back to the Peoria education system by becoming a teacher at McKinley Grade School. At this point in her life, she discovered her passion for watching people grow to their full potential.

When Patty accepted the CEO position at Goodwill Industries of Central Illinois, she turned a struggling non-profit into a flourishing and successful institution. Under Patty's nearly two decade long tenure, Goodwill Industries of Central Illinois underwent a period of tremendous expansion. Currently, the non-profit oversees eleven stores and provides vocational programs across twenty-one counties. Because of their annual successes, total persons served grew from 100 in 1993 to 1,800 served in 2014. In addition, the organization, today, employees nearly 400 people compared to the mere 65 employed in 1993 when Patty began her role as CEO. These statistics attest to Patty's dedication to the organization and her tireless efforts to successfully expand and develop the non-profit to serve more individuals and families in the community.

Goodwill Industries of Central Illinois as well as the Central Illinois community ultimately benefited under Patty's leadership. I wish her a wonderful retirement surrounded by her family and loved ones. Again, congratulations, Patty, on your successful career and retirement.

TRIBUTE TO WARREN D. "DUSTY" WILLIAMS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to Riverside County, California, are exceptional. On April 14th, Warren D. "Dusty" Williams will be retiring from the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District after 39 years of dedicated service, including over 13 years as its General Manager-Chief Engineer.

Dusty began his career in June 1977 as a student intern with the District. For the next four decades, he dedicated himself to loyal, conscientious, innovative and outstanding service to residents of the area, culminating with his leadership of the organization. Dusty is recognized as a national leader on flood safety, stormwater capture and environmental regulatory issues. He served as President of the National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies, on national committees including the National Committee on Levee Safety, and has testified before several Congressional Committees on such important issues as levee safety and amendments to the federal Clean Water Act.

Dusty has also been a strong local partner with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; guiding ongoing and critical federal projects including the Santa Ana Main Stem Project and the Murrieta Creek Flood Control Environmental Restoration and Recreation Projects through technical, fiscal and administrative hurdles. I believe the reason Dusty was such an effective leader was the depth and range of his technical expertise, effective communication skills, commitment to excellence and loyalty to his community.

In light of all that Dusty has done for our region and the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, it is only fitting to honor him on the occasion of his retirement. Dusty has contributed immensely to the betterment of our community and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and my friend. To conclude, Mr. Speaker I want to thank Dusty for his service to the people of Riverside County—his dedication, insight and passion for flood management will be greatly missed.

HONORING VIVIAN LEE ON THE OCCASION OF HER INDUCTION INTO THE WASHINGTON STATE NURSES HALL OF FAME

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Vivian Lee for her recent induction into the Washington State Nurses Hall of Fame. This a fitting recognition of her years of considerable contributions to the healthcare community.

Mrs. Lee has been an influential leader in Seattle's nursing and healthcare industry for decades by demonstrating her exceptional

commitment to selflessly serving others in need. During her tenure as the Program Management Officer of the federal Title X program, she helped low-income citizens receive family planning assistance, among other healthcare services, at an affordable cost.

Mrs. Lee has also pioneered the way for future African American nurses to be successful in the healthcare field. She holds the distinction of being the first African American to be admitted into the University of Washington's prestigious Bachelors of Science nursing program. She was also the first African American to receive the Washington State School Nurse of the Year Award, serve as a registered nurse at Seattle's VA Hospital, and be hired by the U.S. Public Health Service. Through these notable accomplishments, Mrs. Lee broke historic ground and her example serves as an inspiration to many in our region.

Outside of her impressive record in the healthcare field, Mrs. Lee is actively engaged in important community issues including civil rights, child nutrition, and women's issues. She has shown her passion for women's health by serving as the inaugural leader of the first Federal Regional Office on Women's Health, which has grown to 144 clinics nationwide that focus on women's reproductive health research and national women's health policy. Mrs. Lee has shown her passion for educating and mentoring students by serving on the UW Alumni Board of Trustees, co-founding the UW Multicultural Alumni Partnership, and chairing the UWAA Diversity Committee.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Vivian Lee for her admirable achievements in the healthcare and nursing industries. Through her many accomplishments she has continued to improve the quality of healthcare that many people receive in the greater Seattle area.

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#### EQUAL PAY DAY

### HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, today is Equal Pay Day, which symbolizes how many additional days since the beginning of this year a woman had to work full-time to earn the same amount a man earned last year. The sad truth is that equal pay for American women remains a goal, not a reality.

It is unacceptable that in the 21st century, women still earn just 79 cents for each dollar a man earns. For women of color, the facts are even worse: African American women earn just 60 cents, and Latinas just 55 cents, for each dollar earned by white, non-Hispanic men.

These pay gaps are appalling, and cannot be justified. Today, mothers are the breadwinners or co-breadwinners in more than half of U.S. households. Like men, their families depend on their salaries to pay for shelter, food, their children's education, and health care.

Women merit and deserve equal pay for equal work. Congress must pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. This will strengthen America's families and our national economy as well. Let us reaffirm the simple truth that when women succeed, America succeeds.

#### HONORING CAROL KUNZE

### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Representative GARAMENDI and Representative HUFFMAN, rise to recognize and honor Ms. Kunze for her great contribution to the designation of the Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument by President Barack Obama on July 10, 2015.

This outstanding accomplishment was made possible by the tireless work of countless advocates like Ms. Kunze. Their commitment to engaging friends, colleagues, local residents, businesses, stakeholders across the country, and policymakers in a coordinated effort to achieve permanent protection was critical to the establishment of the Monument.

Now, the Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument may be counted among the hundreds of pristine parks across the country that represent America's most treasured public resources. The region's unique geological formations will play host for the world's scientists for years to come. Centuries-old archeological sites will draw curious historians and researchers as they piece together the stories of generations past. And avid bikers, hikers, campers, horsemen, and sportsmen will be able to enjoy this landmark that is now forever open and accessible to outdoor enthusiasts from Northern California and beyond.

The Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument serves as proof of the value of the Antiquities Act and the power of the Executive to protect these lands in the face of inaction by Congress. After extensive input from interested parties and substantial evidence of this region's value, the Obama Administration honored the support of stakeholders, and the gravity of conservation.

The legacy of public lands is one of the most important we can leave for future generations. The Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument is a critical piece of a preservation system that stretches from the Hawaiian Islands to the Maine Coast. It has been a privilege working with Ms. Kunze to further our mutual goal of preserving our nation's great open spaces, and we look forward to collaborating in the future.

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#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE SIKH COMMUNITY OF CONNECTICUT ON VAISAKHI

### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sikh Community of Connecticut, and their dedicated leaders who are working hard to challenge the misconceptions and stereotypes the Sikh community faces in Connecticut, and the nation as a whole. Many American Sikhs face misunderstanding in their schools and workplaces, despite the over 100-year history of the faith in America. I thank the Sikh Community of Connecticut for their work to bring greater understanding of Sikh values to all Americans. In particular, Mr. Swaranjit

Singh Khalsa and the Sikh Sivak Society, who organized an awareness campaign in my district to educate eastern Connecticut residents about Sikhism through public service advertisements seen around town. I was fortunate to meet Mr. Singh in my office recently to discuss the project and the challenges the community is facing.

Sikhism originated in the Punjab region of South Asia, founded on the ideals of devotion to God, service to others, social justice, and equality of all people. Twenty-five million people practice Sikhism all over the world, including 250,000 Sikhs in the United States, making Sikhism the fifth largest religion in the world. Immigration of Sikhs to the United States primarily began in the 1960s, as many came in search of higher education, and stayed to raise families. Indeed, Sikhs have made great contributions to the culture, economy, and society of the United States.

This month, Sikhs all over the world will be celebrating Vaisakhi. This holiday commemorates the founding of the Khalsa, or the collective body of committed Sikhs.

Vaisakhi is a time to acknowledge the values of Sikhism, and the growth of the Sikh community. This year, the Sikh Community of America organized the Freedom March for Sikh Nation on April 9th in Washington, D.C. This event is a time for all Americans to come together to learn about and celebrate Vaisakhi, and bring attention to issues surrounding Sikh identity in the United States.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Sikh community for their many contributions to American culture, Mr. Singh for his efforts to bring understanding about Sikhism to my region, and to wish all a joyous Vaisakhi.

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#### TRIBUTE TO ANNIE BRANDT

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Annie Brandt for being named a 2016 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2016 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 640 business leaders and growing.

As the Community Engagement Leader at Thrivent Financial Annie works tirelessly to facilitate generosity across the state of Iowa. She is reminded on a daily basis that the greatest thing a human can do is dedicate themselves to helping and giving to others. Annie exemplifies that professionally and personally. She dedicates her time and talents to a number of organizations in the community including Oakridge Neighborhoods, Des Moines Community Playhouse, Young Women's Resource Center, Habitat for Humanity,