

Germany. The people noticed the need to start the organization again, so that the displaced Ukrainian youth army might benefit from its programs. Once again, they wanted to continue to promote the national and cultural heritage of the Ukrainian people living outside Ukraine and to protest against Russian Communism. In 1946, in Augsburg, Germany, the first branch of a revived Ukrainian Youth Association was officially formed.

In 1991, Ukraine gained its independence and branches of the Youth Association were formed across the territory of the new democratic and independent Ukraine. After the first branch of the Ukrainian Youth Association was formed, other branches formed in Europe, North and South America and Australia. In 1991, one branch, located in Whippany, New Jersey was formed.

Today, the Ukrainian Youth Association is filled with energetic youth trying to learn more about the principles of democracy and emphasizing the importance of the rights of individuals and the rights of nations in order to develop and continue their individual and national spirituality.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the members of the Ukrainian Youth Association of Whippany, New Jersey for all of their service to the community.

HONORING MS. LAURA JOSIEPHINE TOWNER

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, this month and all this month I rise to give honor to a member of my district whom most people don't know but need to know. So today, I rise to honor Ms. Laura Josiephine Towner of Pace, MS.

Ms. Towner was born on July 2, 1923 to Willie and Ada Towner. She was born south of Pace, MS as the third child of three children born out of that union. She was affectionately called "Nina" by her father but the love between mother and daughter was unparalleled. Ms. Towner was educated in the colored school in Pace, MS. She later furthered her education through Coahoma Junior College and Jackson State College.

Life shrinks and expands according to one's drive and ambition. Ms. Towner taught school for a few years; however, knowing that her sister and brother were running a club and earning more money than she was at the time, \$50.00 per month, she widened her scope to include a club of her own. Life was great and her place earned the reputation as the place to be in Pace. Her move to open a club proved to be prosperous and opened up many doors to growth.

A woman is like a full circle because within her is the power to create, nurture, transform, and re-adjust when necessary. Ms. Towner was married three times and divorced just as many. She is the mother of four children: Auwilda, Herby, Sonya, and Monroe. She never broke stride in her pursuit of life and prosperity. To her, family meant everything, it was her mother, sister and brother who stepped in and helped her with her children while she pressed forward as a night club

owner, a beautician, and a farmer. Those professions were more than adequate income, thus allowing her to provide for her children. When she became a grandmother, Ms. Towner remembered the help she had and therefore it was her turn to help. She stepped in and helped her children with their children when necessary. Her grandchildren include: Carin and Myrick (Auwilda); Kevin, Chanay, and Barry (Herby); Gareed and Meagan (Sonya); and Aldrich, Lisa, Amara, and Tanji (Monroe). Ms. Towner is now the great grandmother to twelve great grandchildren. She made sure Auwilda, Herby, Sonya, and Monroe went to college and sometimes made contributions to her grandchildren's college education.

Just watch, all of you men and women, and see what a woman can do when she is determined. Ms. Towner's children were never without food or clothing. She fed both adults and children, many from the community, friends, acquaintances, and even a stranger or two. Oftentimes, men without wives went to her for a good southern meal because she was known for her cooking. Ms. Towner extended credit to many of the residents of Pace by allowing them to purchase items from her store and club on their promise to pay. And when someone did not pay, her understanding and big heart would not refuse them more credit. She would smile, only remembering how good God has been to her and therefore she could not refuse. Much of the early economic stability of Pace is attributed to her. She was mother and father to her own and many others in the community.

Ms. Laura J. Towner is a prominent member of Elbethel Missionary Baptist Church. Elbethel MB Church is home to many members of her family, both in life and after life. From 1973 to 1988 she was the City Clerk of Pace, performing her job with high integrity and standards. Her lifetime presence and service in Pace has won the hearts of many people from different races, black, white, and others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Laura Josiephine Towner of the Mississippi Second Congressional District.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2016*

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes on Tuesday, April 12, 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on roll call votes 139 and 140.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL MICHAEL AMARAL

**HON. BETO O'ROURKE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2016*

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Colonel Michael L. Amaral on his retirement from the United States Army after 30 years of service to our

country. An esteemed and respected member of the Army's Medical Service Corps, Colonel Amaral most recently served as the Deputy Commander for Administration at Fort Bliss' William Beaumont Medical Center. In this capacity, he managed the day-to-day operations of a facility comprised of over 3,700 staff members and over 72,000 beneficiaries. He also played an integral role in strengthening the relationship between Fort Bliss and the El Paso community.

Colonel Amaral's distinguished career began as a platoon leader with the 54th Support Battalion in Germany, and included assignments with the 44th Medical Brigade at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; the Walter Reed Army Medical Center; the TRICARE Regional Office in Rosslyn, Virginia; and within the Army's Training and Doctrine Command. During this time, he deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

As Colonel Amaral embarks on a new chapter in life, it is my hope that he may recall, with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment, the outstanding contributions he has made to the William Beaumont Army Medical Center and to the United States Army. I would like to send him my best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2016*

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on March 23, 2016 I traveled to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to attend the funeral of my dear friend, John Sullivan, who lost his battle with cancer. For this reason, I missed rollcall vote Number 136 through 138 on the floor of the House of Representatives. Had I been present, I would have voted yea, nay, yea, respectively.

TRIBUTE TO ALEX DUONG

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Alex Duong 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 a marketing and communications specialist at the Mediacom Communications Corporation, Alex has been given the opportunity to pursue his passion, marketing. His willingness to exceed expectations and dedication to

customer service are big reasons why he was given this honor. Not only has he worked tirelessly in his professional life, but Alex has dedicated his time to organizations like the Des Moines Public Library Foundation board of directors, the Greater Des Moines Young Professionals Connection, and Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Central Iowa. His emphasis on civic duty is a true testament to his character.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Alex in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Alex on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2016 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

WELCOME ANNIBEL FRANCES  
SCHUERFELD

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2016*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate Deputy Staff Director for the House Armed Services Committee, Jenness Bergeron Simler and her husband, Gary Warren Schuerfeld, on the birth of their new baby girl, Annibel Frances "B.B." Schuerfeld who was born at 11:24 a.m. on Monday, June 29, 2015, at Palmetto Baptist Hospital in Columbia, South Carolina. She weighed eight pounds and two ounces and measured 20 and 1/2 inches long. I have no doubt her talented parents will be dedicated to her well-being and bright future.

I would also like to congratulate her brother, Taggart McRae Schuerfeld, and grandparents, Shellie Ann Kenna Simler of Tucson, Arizona, and Pierre Bergeron Simler of Litchfield, Connecticut. Congratulations to her entire family as they welcome their newest addition of pure pride and joy.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JERSEY BATTERED WOMEN'S SERVICE

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2016*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Jersey Battered Women's Service located in Morristown, Morris County, New Jersey as it celebrates its 40th Anniversary.

The Jersey Battered Women's Service, or JBWS, began as a hotline for victims of domestic violence. However, after the murders of two callers by their husbands, the small group of female pioneers responsible for the original hotline recognized the dire need for a greater service for domestic violence victims in New Jersey. In 1978, the Jersey Battered Women's Shelter opened its doors to those requiring refuge from violence at home. Today, it operates

as a full-service, private, not-for-profit domestic violence agency.

The Jersey Battered Women's Service is a multi-faceted operation, focused not just on providing protection to survivors, but also on helping these individuals rebuild and restart their lives. JBWS is heavily involved in raising awareness for domestic violence, specifically through providing education services on the consequences of domestic violence and how it can be prevented. The organization is notable for its domestic violence advocacy efforts and its mission to improve the rights of survivors. The shelter aims to empower the women who seek its safety, transforming them from victims to survivors. Ultimately, the goal of the Jersey Battered Women's Service is to create a community culture that refuses to tolerate partner and family violence of any sort.

Alongside staff, the over 120 Jersey Battered Women's Service volunteers dedicate their time and energy to combating domestic violence. Services JBWS offers include legal assistance, victim services and shelter, counseling for friends and family members of survivors, batterer's intervention, child services and protection, and teen dating abuse protection and prevention services. These services, and the efforts of volunteers, have been crucial in helping survivors and their families rise above the abuse.

The 40th Anniversary of the Jersey Battered Women's Service is marked by the grand opening of the Morris Family Justice Center. This comprehensive center combines various organizations to provide counseling, protection, legal and immigration assistance, and children's services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, all conveniently in one location.

For forty years, the Jersey Battered Women's Shelter has provided protection and support for survivors of domestic violence. The organization has made incredible strides in increasing domestic violence awareness and strengthening education about relationship and familial violence. I commend the Jersey Battered Women's Service for the remarkable contributions they have made to New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring the Jersey Battered Women's Service as the organization celebrates its 40th Anniversary.

HONORING LAWANDA W. PARKS

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mrs. LaWanda W. Parks, who served as the Executive Assistant to the Network Director of the South Central VA Health Care Network, an integrated system of 10 VA medical centers providing a full range of specialty, tertiary, mental health, and long term care in an eight-state region. As a member of the Network's Executive Leadership Team, Mrs. Parks was the Network's liaison to VA Central Office in Washington, DC, served as the Network Management Support Officer and provided oversight for VISN administrative operations.

Mrs. Parks joined the VA 17 years ago as an Administrative Resident at the New Orleans

VA Medical Center and has held positions of progressive responsibility at the local and National levels before returning to her home state of Mississippi as the Executive Assistant to the Network Director in 2007.

Mrs. Parks is a 2010 graduate of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Health Care Leadership Institute and a 2012 graduate of the VHA Executive Career Field program. She is a mentor for the Network's Advance Leadership Development Institute and has served on a number of national workgroups and committees. Mrs. Parks is also a member of the American College of Health Care Executives and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. From August 2010–October 2010, Mrs. Parks served as the interim Assistant Medical Center Director of the Birmingham, Alabama, VAMC.

A native of Magnolia, Mississippi, Mrs. Parks holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from Tougaloo College and a master's degree in Health Care Administration from the University of Alabama-Birmingham. She and her husband, Mr. Michael Parks have one son, Ezekiel.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. LaWanda W. Parks for her dedication to serving others.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DANIEL  
"BUD" ALAN AYRES

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2016*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Daniel "Bud" Alan Ayres, 53, of Poland, OH who passed away on Wednesday March 30, 2016. Daniel was born on March 28, 1963 in Belleville, Illinois and was a veteran of the United States Army where he served in Korea and Washington, DC as a Military Police Officer.

Together with his family, and throughout his 11 year military career, Daniel was stationed in many locations throughout the U.S. and in Germany. After September 11, 2001, he joined Homeland Security as an Air Marshal.

To Daniel, there was no such thing as a stranger—only a friend that he had yet to meet. His passion for family, friendships, Texas style BBQ, Alabama & Patriots football, togetherness and fun, will live on in everyone who knew and loved him.

Daniel will be deeply missed by his family. He leaves behind his loving wife of 28 years, Kimberly Ann of Poland. They raised four children, Joshua Alan, Dustin Alan, Chance Alan, and Grace Ann. He leaves one brother, Steven (Linda) Ayres of Beeville, Texas; mother-in-law and father-in-law, Patsy and Ricky Smith of Austin, Texas; sister-in-law Sherri (David) Fossati of Houston, Texas; and a niece, nephew and many close friends, all of whom adored him.

Daniel will be greatly missed by his family and the Poland community. He has lived a long and prosperous life and will be remembered for his service.