

Northwestern Ohio Missionary Baptist Association, Lucas County Mental Health Board, Interracial Interfaith Committee, Evangelical Board of the National Baptist Convention, and NAACP.

A beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather, friend and mentor, Reverend Johnson has been a guiding light in our community for generations. Always alongside him, First Lady Johnson has been a nurturing mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, friend and confidant. Their union is a dynamic partnership which has been a beautiful example to all.

Together, Pastor and First Lady Johnson have turned hearts toward Jesus Christ and his message of Love. They exemplify the words of Thessalonians 1:3, "We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." The congregation of St. Mark's, their family and our community celebrate Rev. I.J. and Mrs. Betty Johnson in their life's work. We congratulate you, reminisce with you, and look toward the future together.

KARINA ROSALES

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Karina Rosales for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Karina Rosales is an 11th grader at Mapleton Expeditionary School of the Arts and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Karina Rosales is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Karina Rosales for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING ASIAN-PACIFIC  
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

### HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in observance of Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month. I extend my warm wishes to all Asian-Pacific Americans (APA), whose contributions to our society cannot be understated. From our unique culture, culinary practices and art, to the construction of vital infrastructure and contributions to science and technology, APA's have always been at the forefront of American innovation.

We as Congress have the ability and duty to recognize these important contributions to our

society, and it is my honor and privilege to do so. In 1977, Congress declared the first week of May as Asian-Pacific American Heritage week; and in 1992 passed a resolution that set aside the entire month to recognize APA's and the many contributions that they have made to American culture, science and industry.

As the Senior, APA Republican in Congress, I want to take this opportunity to celebrate Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month. I could not be more proud of the influence and contributions of those who came before me. It is their memory and sacrifices that drive me while performing my duties as the Member of Congress who represents American Samoa and I look forward to continuing the important work that they began.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the many contributions that APA's have made to this great nation and I ask that we carry this spirit throughout the entire year.

HONORING MELVIN LEE LOPER

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a self-motivated leader and innovator of the community, Mr. Melvin Lee Loper, who was born on March 16, 1920 in Finkbine, Mississippi, which is no longer on the map. It was a logging camp for the loggers which was his father's occupation. His parents, the late Marshall and Mamie Loper, later moved to Raymond, Mississippi where they worked as sharecroppers. His only sibling was a younger brother, Otis Loper, who is now deceased.

In those days, rural schools did not go further than 8th grade. He lived with a cousin in Jackson, Mississippi to attend high school, and graduated from Lanier High School in 1939. He entered Tougaloo College but was drafted in the United States Army in World War II. He served for four years with a tour of duty in Europe. He returned to Tougaloo College and completed his studies in 1948 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics.

In 1973, he received a Master's Degree in Administration from Jackson College, after many years of attending summer school and taking classes on Saturdays. That was the way of life to further your education back in the day.

He began his teaching career in Smith county; later Sumner Hill High School and Jackson Public Schools. After thirty-three years of teaching he retired in 1985. He continued teaching several years after retirement because Mathematics teachers were always in demand.

He has been an active member of Farish Street Baptist Church for 55 years. He served as: Sunday School teacher, a Member of the Boy Scout Committee, and attended Wednesday night Bible Study faithfully until his recent illness. He has been in the choir for fifty years, and served as Church Treasurer for thirty-three years.

He was an original member of the Jackson Tougaloo Alumni Club, organized by the late Mrs. Thelma Sanders forty-four years ago. He

was serving as President when the club sponsored the Broadway play, "Aint Misbehavin'" which was a great success. He worked for years with the committee sponsoring the Ebony Fashion Show. He is a loyal supporter of Tougaloo College with his funds and presence, when able.

He is married to Gwendolyn Nero Loper and they have three children: Rodney, Larry and Gerrilyn; ten grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

His secret to longevity is hard work, attending to your business, being an avid sports fan, and marrying a good cook.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Melvin Lee Loper.

LEYDA BELMONTE

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Leyda Belmonte for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Leyda Belmonte is a 10th grader at New Heights Academy and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Leyda Belmonte is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Leyda Belmonte for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

CONDEMNING RUSSIAN  
AGGRESSION

### HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn recent actions taken by Russia that threaten to destabilize an already tenuous international order. Putin's interventionist policies that seek to reestablish the Russian Federation as a world power have incited chaos and conflict along NATO's southern flank. Post-Soviet states once free from the yoke of oppression have been thrust back into civil and economic instability by Russian policies designed to sow discord and distrust along NATO's vulnerable underbelly.

Moscow's invasion of Georgia set in motion what has become an increasingly obvious pattern. Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014 and ongoing military campaign in the eastern parts of Ukraine have made it clear that Russia is openly proclaiming the redrawing of Europe's borders. Equally troubling, NATO members in Central, Eastern, and Southern Europe continue to face antagonism from Russia, including a substantial military

buildup in Armenia where Putin has deployed advanced fighter aircraft and attack helicopters just 25 miles from the Turkish border. This is the same NATO border that Russian military aircraft have regularly violated, culminating in the downing of a Russian bomber by Turkish defense forces. I need not remind this House that Turkey is an indispensable ally in the fight against ISIL, and the effort to restore stability in the Middle East. Unnecessary Russian provocations such as this increase the risk of miscalculation and escalation between nuclear powers, and are intended to drive a wedge between NATO allies.

Just last week, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg made a symbolic trip to Washington, D.C. where he met with the President and members of the Senate Armed Services and Foreign Relations Committees to discuss the threats posed by an increasingly assertive Russia. I myself moderated a NATO Parliamentary Assembly Panel, where our partners from around the world raised concerns about a resurgent Russia, and whether the United States will continue to play its indispensable role in ensuring a stable world order.

Mr. Speaker, on the bleached bones of great civilizations and nations are written the pathetic words: "Too little, too late." Ladies and gentlemen, I call on Members of Congress to heed these words, and to stand undaunted in the face of Russian aggression before it is too late. Putin's escalating aggression in his efforts to project power is a direct threat to our NATO allies and U.S. interests abroad. We must stand with our NATO allies now, more than ever, to ensure that security in the region is maintained. We must pursue peace and diplomacy for the sake of future generations. That peace will only come through unified strength.

IN RECOGNITION OF JEFFREY E.  
"JEFF" PHILLIPS

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**  
OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to use this time in recognition of Jeffrey E. "Jeff" Phillips, an extraordinarily gifted leader from Leesburg, VA. Mr. Phillips is retiring from the United States Army as a Major General in the Army Reserve. Currently, as the Executive Director of the Reserve Officers Association of the United States, Mr. Phillips serves over 50,000 members in promoting the development of national security-minded military policy to ensure future American security.

Prior to joining the ROA, Jeff served his country proudly for nearly 37 years in various positions in the U.S. Army. Mr. Phillips was commissioned in the Regular Army in 1979 as a second lieutenant of armor, and eventually commanded an M-1 Abrams tank company in the 2nd Armored Division. Having been deployed overseas to Afghanistan, the Balkans, Egypt, Honduras, Israel, Iraq, and Germany, Mr. Phillips always conducted himself in a manner in which he highlighted the American ideals.

Years of hard work and dedication to his country led to Mr. Phillips being appointed by President George W. Bush as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs and White

House Liaison for the Department of Veterans Affairs

For his service, he has been awarded two Legions of Merit, Two Bronze Stars, an Army Parachutist Badge, and shares the 1988 Nobel Peace Prize for his work with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Mr. Jeff Phillips for his service and dedication to the United States of America. He is a true patriot, and I wish him all the best on his future endeavors.

MATTHEW DE LOA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**  
OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Matthew De Loa for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Matthew De Loa is a 12th grader at Westminster High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Matthew De Loa is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Matthew De Loa for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING THE CORINTHIAN  
YACHT CLUB

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**  
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Corinthian Yacht Club of San Francisco in honor of its 130th anniversary. Located in Tiburon, California, the CYC is the second-oldest yacht club in the western United States, and continues to serve as a premier cultural and sporting center in the Bay Area.

Founded in 1886, the CYC sponsors local and international races, hosts more than 35 social events annually, and serves hundreds of members and guests at its dining sites. In particular, the club is known for its Opening Day on the Bay and Blessing of the Fleet events, as well as its spectacular views of the San Francisco Bay.

The CYC also participates in and supports several philanthropic causes in Northern California and beyond. They host scholarship fundraising events through their Wooden Boat Show and hold an annual regatta to raise money for lung cancer research. Additionally, they convene sailing seminars for women and an educational speaker series that covers a range of educational and environmental topics.

With a record of business success, commitment to yachting and boating, and involvement

in the community, the historic Corinthian Yacht Club remains a cultural cornerstone that extends beyond the Town of Tiburon. Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that we honor the Corinthian Yacht Club of San Francisco on their 130th Anniversary for their ongoing contributions to Marin County and the Bay Area.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EDGEWOOD CHILDREN'S RANCH

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**  
OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the broad impact and faithful service of the Edgewood Children's Ranch during the past 50 years. As a residential facility in Central Florida that provides a home and education for boys and girls in troubled family circumstances, the Edgewood Children's Ranch has made a remarkable impression on the lives of the young people who have been under their care.

The vision for the Edgewood Children's Ranch began in 1966 when Juvenile Court Judge D. Arthur Yerger identified the need for a residential home where boys could be placed after displaying negative social behaviors due to family situations. This realization led Judge Yerger into contact with John W. "Jack" Lynd, who subsequently opened the Edgewood Boys Ranch in Orlando, Florida.

Today, 50 years later, the residents Edgewood Children's Ranch consist of both boys and girls ages 6-17, with a capacity for 70 children at a time. The Ranch encompasses 110 acres, thanks to the generous donation of "Aunt" Minnie Rouse in 1968. The sprawling acreage is a small symbol of the many hearts and lives that have been changed through the impact of the Edgewood Children's Ranch.

RECOGNITION OF GHOST ARMY  
MEMBER, MR. WALLACE WATSON

**HON. WILL HURD**  
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, April 26, 2016*

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Mr. Wallace Watson.

Wallace was born in Alpine, Texas and joined the U.S. Army in March 1943 at the age of 19. He was chosen to be a member of the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops, recognized today as the "Ghost Army". The Ghost Army's World War II operations consisted of deceiving German reconnaissance aircraft and radio interceptors by using only their creativity and a handful of props. The heroic actions of Wallace Watson and his fellow soldiers afforded the U.S. Military invaluable positioning throughout the war and saved countless American lives.

Upon the conclusion of the war, Wallace moved to Monahans, Texas, where he continued to serve his community by taking on leadership roles on the local school board and in his church. On behalf of the 23rd Congressional District of Texas, I want to thank Wallace for his contributions to the United States