George was born to George and Marilyn Alcott and raised in the city of Quincy, Massachusetts, where he graduated from North Quincy High School. After attending Boston College, George taught in the Boston school system and was also a manufacturer's representative.

George began his career with New England Telephone in 1983 as a Yellow Pages Sales Representative and worked in the Boston and Providence, Rhode Island markets. He quickly became a leader among his peers, and in 1986 was elected Vice President of Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 1301, a position he held through 1989. In 1990, George became President of CWA Local 1301 and remained the Local's leader through 2010, representing Yellow Pages Sales Representatives throughout New England for two decades.

During his tenure George served on both the Local and Regional Bargaining Committees and negotiated numerous contracts, which were viewed in the industry as ''best in class'' for the hundreds of members that he represented. These contracts provided workers and their families with outstanding compensation, healthcare and pension benefits. Although he has stepped down as President, George still works tirelessly on behalf of active and retired members of CWA Local 1301 on issues critical to their well being.

Currently, as a Vice President on the Executive Board of the Massachusetts AFL–CIO, George represents hundreds of thousands of working people in Massachusetts. He also sits on the Board of Directors of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, and in this role is able to provide the perspective of labor and working families to his colleagues of this leading healthcare organization. His lifelong commitment to the people he represents has earned George Alcott the admiration and respect of the men and women in the labor movement, in Massachusetts and across the Nation.

When reflecting on a lifetime of good works, George counts as his greatest achievements marrying his loving wife of 11 years Kathy, and raising his children, Daniel and Courtney.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take the floor of the House today to join with his family, friends and contemporaries to thank George for his commitment to the men and women of Communications Workers of America, Local 1301, and the working families of Massachusetts and New England. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing George Alcott's efforts and dedicated service to others.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION FOR SUPPORT OUR TROOPS OF TUCSON, ARIZONA

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Support Our Troops, a non-profit organization in my hometown of Tucson, Arizona, that over the past four years has sent more than eight tons of care items to our troops serving around the world.

Support Our Troops was the brainchild of veteran Jonathan Rice, who served in the U.S. Army from 1966 until 1970 and in the U.S. Army Reserve from 1981 until 1985. Mr. Rice is a resident of Atria Bell Court Gardens, an independent senior community in Tucson. He formed Support Our Troops as a non-profit organization to let troops from Arizona know that their fellow Arizonans support them and appreciate their efforts.

Support Our Troops has sent more than 1,600 packages that have benefitted nearly 12,000 Arizonans serving in the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines. Two years ago, I had the honor of visiting Mr. Rice and the other residents of Atria Bell Court Gardens for the completion of their 1,000th package for our troops. The packages contain snack and hygiene items for our men and women in uniform as well as small gifts for children in the areas where the troops are deployed.

The packages have been delivered to Iraq, Afghanistan, Serbia, Kosovo, Qatar, Kuwait and other nations where our troops have been deployed. Since the packages have been sent, a number of troops have returned to Tucson and visited Atria Bell Court Gardens to say how much they appreciated these generous gifts of love and support.

Residents of Atria Bell Court Gardens shop for the contents of the packages each week and pay for the items out of their own pockets. The boxes are packed each Saturday and owners of Atria Bell Court Gardens pay for all postage costs. The residents and owners of this community have spent tens of thousands of dollars to send these gifts of appreciation to our Armed Forces.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Jonathan Rice, his fellow residents of Atria Bell Court Gardens as well as owners of the retirement community on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of their Support Our Troops program, which has delivered an untold amount of good will and support to the men and women who defend our country.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, last year on the 22nd of October I submitted remarks in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a tradition that started in this House in 1989. Today, Madam Speaker, I'm doing the same. Domestic violence is a debilitating scourge in our society, and our goal in this House and as a nation should be to completely eliminate it.

Before joining this House in 2004, I spent 33 years in law enforcement, Madam Speaker. I witnessed acts of domestic violence, and I watched the debilitating results play out in families and communities for weeks, months, and years afterward. The toll domestic violence takes on people across this country is incalculable. Madam Speaker, domestic violence recognizes no boundaries.

Children who witness abuse and are themselves abused are more than twice as likely to commit acts of domestic violence as adults. Generations of Americans have failed to break this terrible cycle of violence and even more alarmingly, many of those same Americans have not properly identified acts of domestic violence or sought help or protection due to ignorance, fear, or a host of other troubling reasons. In 2006, a survey conducted by Teen Research Unlimited showed that fifteen percent of teens who have been in a relationship reported being hit, slapped, or pushed by their boyfriend or girlfriend. Madam Speaker, we must work harder to raise awareness of this critical issue to ensure people know that help is available, and that they can feel safe in reaching out and taking hold of that help.

I urge members of this House to support organizations committed to stamping out domestic violence, Madam Speaker. I also urge every American to take the time during October—Domestic Violence Awareness Month—to tell their spouse or child how important each is to their lives. Hug your spouse. Hug your children. And should people feel moved to do so, figure out how to extend a helping hand to victims in communities across our country. Every day in October we have the opportunity to work against domestic violence. Americans must stay vigilant; thank you.

INTRODUCING RESOLUTION ''RECOGNIZING 75 TEXAS WORLD WAR II VETERANS VISITING WASHINGTON, D.C., ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2010, TO VISIT THE MEMORIALS BUILT IN THEIR HONOR

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I am introducing today a resolution honoring 75 Texas World War II veterans who are being flown by Dow Chemical Company to Washington, DC on September 27, 2010. These veterans have spent their post-WWII careers working at Dow's Freeport, Texas Operations, which is in the district I represent. Now they are finally getting the chance to see the WWII monument, which was built to honor their service to our country in the war.

Madam Speaker, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to these veterans and all the veterans of WWII and I am pleased that Dow Chemical Company is making it possible for them to come to Washington, DC.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ARMY RANGER SPECIALIST CHRISTOPHER WRIGHT

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, today I pay tribute to Army Ranger Christopher Wright, from Tollesboro, Kentucky, who lost his life on August 19, 2010 from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his unit with small arms fire in the Konar Province of Afghanistan.

He was assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Hunter Army Airfield in Georgia.

Specialist Wright was a 2005 graduate of Lewis County High School and was on his second tour of duty overseas.

He was the beloved son of James Cochran and Linda Dennis. He also was a role model for his three younger siblings.

Today, as we celebrate the life and accomplishments of this exceptional Kentuckian, my thoughts and prayers are with Specialist Wright's family and friends.

We are all deeply indebted to Specialist Wright for his service and his sacrifice.

HONORING BLUE DIAMOND GROWERS

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Blue Diamond Growers, celebrating 100 years of quality service, both domestically and worldwide.

The seed for this American icon was planted on May 6, 1910, by 230 California almond growers, forming the California Almond Growers Exchange, a cooperative created to establish a market for quality almond production.

Sixty percent of California's almond growers joined the cooperative, giving birth to America's first almond brand, the Blue Diamond, named after the world's rarest and most precious of gems, a true symbol of quality.

In an effort to expand Blue Diamond's commitment to innovation and quality, the Blue Diamond forefathers made their first voyage to Italy and Spain, in 1917, to share cultural and marketing information. This marked the first promotion by an American cooperative to provide almonds to a foreign market. Soon after, Spain would become a leading market for California almonds.

Blue Diamond established a partnership with the Federal government in 1928 to obtain better rail rates, thus facilitating the first speech in America aboard a train headed cross country about the importance of equitable almond prices.

With continuing commitment to innovation, integrity, and satisfaction of customer needs, Blue Diamond developed the first cellophane bag to package almonds. The company funded the first nutritional research program, establishing almonds as a viable source of protein and energy. As a result, almonds are now an essential source of food in the Federal School Lunch Program.

Continually searching for new ways to make almonds enjoyable and fun, Blue Diamond introduced the first almond snack, Smokehouse Almond, an American favorite for airline passengers.

In 1950, Blue Diamond established the Almond Board of California, a federal marketing order, which helped to collect market information by funding research and promoting California almonds.

With a commitment to quality and a desire to provide for almond lovers everywhere, Blue Diamond led the way in opening the Japanese market and established its first foreign office in Japan in the 1950s.

Blue Diamond exported California almonds to Russia when it was still known as the Soviet Union. In the 1970s, Blue Diamond provided the Indian market with California almonds, a relationship that still exists today. India now imports over $100 million dollars of California almonds, making almonds the number-one U.S. export to India.

Blue Diamond is currently expanding the almond market in China, which ranks among the largest in the world for California almonds.

From Blue Diamond's modest beginnings as a small industry of three million pounds of almonds in 1910, California is now producing more than 1.65 billion pounds and 80 percent of the global supply. Blue Diamond's business has grown to nearly $1 billion dollars with over half of the state's almond growers owning the cooperative.

Due to Blue Diamond's diligence and commitment to quality, almonds are now California's largest food export and rank as the largest tree crop in the world. Blue Diamond represents the best of the American entrepreneurial spirit and its products have become ingrained in many aspects of Americans' lives. It is a privilege to honor Blue Diamond Growers for its 100 years of leadership in developing and promoting the California almond industry both domestically and abroad.

LI–ION MOTORS CORP ''WAVE II'' X PRIZE WINNER

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. McHENRY. Madam Speaker, on September 16, 2010, the X PRIZE Foundation, an educational nonprofit prize organization, and Progressive Insurance, awarded a total of $10 million to three teams who successfully completed the rigorous Progressive Insurance Automotive X PRIZE competition. Among the three winning teams was Li–ion Motors Corp. in my district. Li–ion Motors emerged from an original field of 111 competing teams, representing 136 vehicle entries from around the world. The winning vehicles were showcased to an audience of individuals from the auto industry, national and international businesses, and U.S. government leaders.

Li-ion Motors' design of the "Wave II" was awarded $2.5 million for the Alternative Side–by–Side Class category. The two–seat battery electric car was built on a lightweight aluminum chassis and weighed in at only 2,176 pounds, despite the weight of its powerful lithium ion batteries. The Wave II demonstrated outstanding low mechanical and aerodynamic drag that resulted in 187 miles per gallon equivalent, MPGe, in combined on–track and laboratory efficiency testing, and a 14.7 second zero-to-60 mph acceleration time. The vehicle also has a range of 100 miles in a real-world driving cycle.

This is a great day for all the individuals who work at Li–ion Motors and helped achieve this amazing accomplishment. This company is now eligible for a U.S. Department of Energy program that will help ready highly efficient vehicles for introduction to the U.S. market.

SUPPORTING ARMS SALE TO TAIWAN

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for strengthening the bilateral relationship the United States has with Taiwan. Taiwan is an important ally and trading partner, and we must continue to support its defense.

Taiwan faces a continuous threat from the People's Republic of China, PRC, and must be capable of defending itself in the event of an attack. Section 2(b)(4) of the 1979 Taiwan Relations Act, which is the cornerstone of United States-Taiwan relations, declares that it is the policy of the United States "to consider any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means, including by boycotts or embargoes, a threat to the peace and security of the Western Pacific area and of grave concern to the United States." Section 3(b) of the Act stipulates that both the President and Congress shall determine the nature and quantity of defense articles and services that Taiwan needs.

On January 29, 2010 the Obama Administration announced to Congress a planned arms package to Taiwan totaling $6.4 billion. The package included 114 Patriot PAC–3 missiles, 60 Black Hawk helicopters, 12 Harpoon missiles for training purposes, two Osprey class refurbished mine hunters, and military communication equipment. This package was extremely significant and will help ensure the security of the Taiwan Strait. However, this package did not include the 66 F–16 fighter aircrafts, which were requested by Taiwan in 2006. I request that the Obama Administration give full, prompt, and fair consideration to Taiwan's request for the F–16 fighter aircrafts.

HONORING AND CELEBRATING THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF VAN P. AND MARGARET SMITH

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Van P. and Margaret Smith—of Muncie, Indiana—on the extraordinary occasion of their fiftieth wedding anniversary. Their dedication to one another, their family, their friends, and their community is a shining example of the foundational values which have made this nation great.

Margaret Ann Kennedy, born October 27, 1934, in Chicago, Illinois, moved to Muncie with her family as a young girl. There she attended Muncie Central High School and graduated from Ball State University in 1956 with a degree in Education. She went on to teach at Washington Elementary School in Muncie from 1956 to 1961.

Van P. Smith was born on September 8, 1928, in Oneida, New York. He graduated from Colgate University with a degree in Public Administration and Economics in 1950, and from Georgetown University with a Doctor of Jurisprudence in 1955. He has also received