

corruption, as well as political, economic and judicial reforms, and encourage Georgia to continue this modernization process regardless of the election results.

I encourage my colleagues to support H. Res. 526 in order to strengthen U.S. engagement with the Republic of Georgia by helping Georgia to enhance its security and restore its territorial integrity through peaceful means, and supporting the Government of Georgia's commitment to a policy of peaceful and constructive engagement with the authorities in control of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

STOP THE WAR ON COAL ACT
PRESS CONFERENCE

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, "When the work underground stops, everything above pays the price."

That solemn observation was made by a TV reporter one week ago in Boone County, West Virginia.

News was breaking that two local coal mines were soon going to be laying off workers—one preparing to layoff 116 miners in a matter of weeks.

On Tuesday this week, we learned of Alpha Natural Resources will be closing 8 mines and laying off 1200 workers.

I met with the Alpha CEO shortly after the announcement, and he lamented the administration's regulatory assault on coal.

Sadly, the list of layoffs goes on because of the administration's "all of the above, but nothing from below" energy policy.

Coal is the cornerstone of our economy—estimates suggest that every mining job creates an additional 3.5 jobs.

We are electricity dependent—and we want to stay that way.

Coal is Abundant. Coal is Affordable. Coal is Reliable. Coal is Jobs.

Today, the House will stand up for jobs, families, and affordable energy.

We must Stop the War on Coal.

COMMEMORATING TAIWAN'S
COMMITMENT TO PEACE

HON. DAVID RIVERA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. RIVERA. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I rise today to draw attention to the increasing conflict in the East China Sea and to reiterate the necessity to remain involved in the region given the growing security threats and challenges to U.S. interests.

In light of the latest controversies in the East China Sea and the Diaoyutai Islands, President Ma Ying-jeou of the Republic of China (Taiwan) proposed the East China Sea Peace Initiative in August 2012, which calls on the People's Republic of China, Japan, and Taiwan to resolve the Diaoyutai dispute peacefully.

With respect to the Diaoyutai issue, the government of Taiwan has consistently affirmed

its position of "safeguarding sovereignty, shelving disputes, pursuing peace and reciprocity, and promoting joint exploration and development."

The Diaoyutai Islands are located in the East China Sea, which is an important air and sea transportation hub in the western Pacific, and therefore have clear significance for security and peace in the Asia-Pacific region.

In order to foster regional peace and stability, economic prosperity and the sustainable development of the marine environment, as well as to seek out a path to coexistence and mutual prosperity, the government of Taiwan proposes the East China Sea Peace Initiative and calls on all parties concerned to:

1. Refrain from taking any antagonistic actions;
2. Shelve controversies and not abandon dialogue;
3. Observe international law and resolve disputes through peaceful means;
4. Seek consensus on a code of conduct in the East China Sea;
5. Establish a mechanism for cooperation on exploring and developing resources in the East China Sea.

I believe we must stand with Taiwan, an ally that shares our values of freedom and democracy. I commend the peace initiative proposed by President Ma and recognize Taiwan government's efforts in promoting peace and stability in East Asia.

IN HONOR OF MICHAEL LEONE

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Michael (Mike) Leone upon his retirement after nineteen years as the Port Director of Boston at the Massachusetts Port Authority. As Director of the Port of Boston, Mike oversaw the operation and management of the public marine facilities in the Port of Boston, including Conley Container Terminal, Black Falcon Cruise Terminal, Boston Fish Pier, Boston Autoport, Foreign Trade Zones, and other supporting maritime infrastructure.

In addition, Mike lead the way in implementing business and marketing strategies that directly lead to the increase in the volume of cargo and passengers moving over all marine terminals, which generates an annual economic benefit of \$2.5 billion dollars and accounts for over 34,000 jobs. While managing an organization of 120 employees and over 200 members of the International Longshoremen's Association, Mike also directed the operations, maintenance, and security at Massport's commercial properties including nearly 30 acres of public parks, numerous roads, hotels, office buildings, apartments, and marinas.

Mr. Speaker, Mike Leone has also played an important role in the development and operation of Massport properties in and around the South Boston waterfront as that area evolves into a waterfront destination. As Director, Mike was instrumental in turning Boston into a major hub for cruise ship traffic, in part by expanding and modernizing the Black Falcon terminal. In 1998 approximately 106,000

passengers came through the Black Falcon terminal; today, the number of passengers is on track to set a new record of roughly 350,000 this year.

During the course of his time at Massport, Mike was a leader of the American Association of Port Authority (AAPA). AAPA is the principal advocate of 160 public port authorities in the United States, Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Mike first served as Chairman of the Board for the AAPA in 2003 and was elected again as Chairman of the Board in 2009, becoming the first person in the Association's 97 year history to serve for a second term.

Mr. Speaker, Mike Leone also proudly served in the United States Coast Guard, leading a team of attorneys that provided legal advice and counsel to all Coast Guard commands in New England, New York, and New Jersey. Ultimately, Mike was appointed as the deputy regional counsel for the Coast Guard's Great Lakes operations and also served as Chief Operating Officer for all Coast Guard activities in the Port of New York, Hudson River, and Lake Champlain.

Mr. Leone is a graduate of The National Law Center at George Washington University, where he received his Juris Doctor with Honors. He attended the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Management with Honors.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents and a grateful maritime association, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of a true public servant who selflessly dedicated his life to the service of our country and equally important as a key figure in maritime security and operations.

I cannot thank him enough for everything he has done to protect our Nation's waterways and the millions of Americans who live, work, and visit them every day. This Congress and our Nation owe Mike a debt of gratitude for his commitment to maritime security and his leadership at the Massachusetts Port Authority.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, on September 14, 2012, I unfortunately missed one recorded vote on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall 582.

PRESIDENT PETER J. FOS

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the continued achievements of President Peter J. Fos, a native of my hometown of New Orleans, Louisiana. Today, I wish to congratulate President Fos on his appointment as the sixth leader and the first President in the history of the University of New Orleans in

January 2012. President Fos is a proud graduate of the University of New Orleans with experience as an administrator and faculty member. President Fos boasts a proven record of conducting research, fundraising, developing collaborative relationships with other academic institutions, and implementing institutional effectiveness and student success programs.

President Fos previously spent three years as the Provost and the Executive Vice President of the University of Texas at Tyler where he oversaw five academic colleges, the graduate school, the Robert R. Muntz Library, as well as the Palestine and Longview campuses. President Fos held the Sam A. Lindsey Endowed Chair, which is awarded to a recognized scholar in an academic discipline that is of strategic importance to the university. Prior to that, President Fos served as dean of the College of Health at The University of Southern Mississippi for four years. Before his tenure at Southern Miss, President Fos also held the position of chief science officer at the Mississippi State Department of Health.

President Fos has received numerous honors and awards since beginning his academic career. In addition, President Fos has published more than 50 peer-reviewed papers, technical reports, white papers and book chapters in the areas of healthcare decision analysis, environmental health, data mining, neural networks, health services research, and managerial epidemiology. He is an author and has presented more than 50 papers and abstracts at international, national, regional and local conferences.

President Fos received his undergraduate degree in biological sciences at the University of New Orleans, a doctor of dental surgery at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, and a master of public health and doctor of philosophy in health care decision analysis at Tulane University. I hold President Fos in the highest regard for his dedication to family, friends, colleagues, and his community. President Fos represents the best of what New Orleans has to offer and is an example of the very best in our educational community. His commitment to the city and its future brings hope and promise to ensuring that New Orleans remains one of the most empowered and unique places in the world.

I wish to congratulate President Peter J. Fos and his wife Lori on his recent Investiture as the sixth leader and first President of University of New Orleans.

RECOGNIZING CHILDHOOD
OBESITY AWARENESS MONTH

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as Childhood Obesity Awareness Month. Childhood obesity is a growing epidemic and is a serious problem facing this country. According to the Centers for Disease Control, the rate of childhood obesity has more than tripled over the past 30 years. In 2011, 15 percent of high school students in my home state of Ohio were obese. Children and adolescents who are obese are more likely to continue this trend as adults, and obese adults are much more at risk for

health problems such as heart disease, diabetes, stroke, and cancer.

Childhood obesity is an issue that affects the whole nation and needs to be addressed for the future of our children. Hundreds of billions of dollars are spent annually to treat obesity-related medical conditions, and as a growing number of adolescents are not able to pass a physical fitness test to serve in our nation's military, it has become a national security threat as well.

As a co-chair of the Congressional Task Force on Childhood Obesity, we are working to identify, discuss, and promote policy ideas to address this epidemic. Everyone has a role to play in finding a solution—parents, families, communities, schools, and local governments.

In Central Ohio, valiant efforts have been made to not only promote healthy eating and physical activity, which have been proven to lower the risk of becoming obese, but also to find other innovative ways to address this issue. The Ohio State University (OSU) is spearheading a number of research initiatives to explore how biological processes appear to play a large role in influencing the risk for obesity. This research is helping us to better understand the causes for obesity so that we can work towards a meaningful solution.

There are many programs at Nationwide Children's Hospital in my district to tackle the problem of obesity. I share their belief that an important approach to addressing adult obesity is beginning with children. One program, the Center for Healthy Weight and Nutrition, focuses on programs for the home, school, and community to ensure the development and promotion of healthy lifestyles. The hospital has also played a role in establishing the Ohio Healthy Weight Outcomes (OHWO) coalition, which is a public-private partnership that is currently implementing an obesity prevention and treatment project in a low-income neighborhood in Columbus. Their goal is to reduce the prevalence of childhood obesity in 5th graders by 10 percent in five years.

Across the country families, schools, communities, and organizations like OSU and Nationwide Children's Hospital have all made strides in addressing the obesity epidemic. However, much remains to be done, and I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress as well as with my constituents in Central Ohio to find solutions to lower the rate of childhood obesity.

CRANE HERITAGE DAY HONOREE—
EVELYN STRODER

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a stalwart of our community, Evelyn Stroder, who is being recognized as this year's Crane Heritage Day honoree.

When I think of what it takes to make a strong community, I think of someone like Evelyn. Communities can be united in many aspects, but one central component found in strong communities is service. And service to our community has been at the core of Evelyn's life.

Evelyn's journey began in Corpus Christi where she graduated from high school and at-

tended Del Mar Junior College before she went on to earn a B.A. in English and Journalism from Baylor University. Later she earned an M.A. in American Literature and Mass Communications from UTPB.

In 1955, Evelyn and her husband, Charles, moved from Corpus Christi to Crane. Once in Crane, Evelyn would use her education to give back. She served others as an educator for 28 years and continues to serve on the Crane School Board. While Evelyn no longer teaches, she still remains active in the Permian Historical Society and the Crane County Historical Commission. Her journalistic accomplishments include her presented papers and published work in a variety of publications throughout Texas, and currently she serves as the assistant editor of the Permian Historical Society Annual.

One would think that with such a busy schedule, Evelyn would not have time for much else in life. However, in between all these accomplishments, she has managed to raise three children, seven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren—a notable accomplishment in itself!

On behalf of the 11th District, it is an honor to recognize Evelyn because she is an example of those who have made our nation strong. Our nation did not become great from the top down, but from the bottom up—from the people in our neighborhoods willing to serve and make their community a better place for others and their children. Evelyn is one of these individuals. Through this award, she is rightly recognized for the time and sacrifice she has dedicated to others and it is an honor to represent her in the Halls of Congress.

HONORING IRENE SAUCEDA FOR
HER TIRELESS EFFORTS ADVOCATING FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN IN AMERICA

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional young lady named Irene Saucedo. From a very young age, Irene and her family struggled to stay in one place. Irene went to seven different elementary schools. A variety of difficult circumstances made it impossible for Irene to stay in one school for more than a year, until high school. Irene graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in San Antonio, Texas in 2011 with a 4.0 GPA. She was the President of Gamma Sigma Girls, a leadership organization within the Girl Scouts, and was also President of the National Technical Honor Society. Irene is now a sophomore at Texas State University, where she is studying Anthropology and Social Work.

The economic downturn has impacted children in very unique and troubling ways—none more so than the idea of a family losing their home and depriving a child of a much-needed and deserved stable home. I commend Irene for having the fortitude and determination to succeed so phenomenally amid such tumultuous circumstances. I am also including, for the record, Irene's very moving personal testimony from the briefing:

"My mother had dropped out of high school in tenth grade which I feel contributed greatly