

Knepper. Austen is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 214, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Austen has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Austen has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Austen has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Austen organized and led the construction of a trail at the Parkville Nature Sanctuary in Parkville, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Austen James Knepper for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### TRIBUTE TO MS. ALICE COACHMAN

### HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 16, 2014*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to a great woman, legendary athlete, and outstanding public servant, Ms. Alice Coachman. Sadly, Alice passed away on Monday, July 14, 2014, at the age of 90 in Albany, Georgia. The memorial service is scheduled for this Friday, July 18.

Alice was born the fifth of ten children on November 9, 1923, to the late Fred and Evelyn Coachman in Albany, Georgia. From an early age, Alice spent much of her time running and was quite inventive, using ropes and sticks for improvised high jumps. Her hard work, dedication, and resourcefulness paid off as Alice qualified for the 1940, 1944, and 1948 Olympic Games, although the first two were cancelled due to World War II. At the 1948 Olympic Games in London however, Alice made history when she soared to a record-breaking height of 5 feet, 6 and 1/8 inches in the high jump finals, becoming the first African American woman to win an Olympic Gold Medal. Although the track and field star's career concluded with the London games, Alice's commitment to serving others never ceased.

Before and after her record-breaking victory, Alice dealt with challenges representative of the Deep South during the Jim Crow era. Because of such segregation, Alice was forbidden from using public training facilities. However, she continued to train to ensure her competitiveness on the national and international scenes. Throughout her career, Alice won over 20 national track and field championships, and she was named to five All-American teams. It was her unwavering faith in herself and God that guided her along the way as she blazed the trail for countless other female African-American athletes.

In 1954, Alice once again set another record—this time as the first African American woman to endorse an international product when she agreed to serve as Coca-Cola's spokeswoman. The Olympic Champion was also inducted to the USA Track and Field Hall

of Fame in 1975 and the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame in 2004. She was recognized as one of the top one hundred Olympic athletes of all time at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

Alice's title as an Olympic Champion, however, serves as only a fragment of the powerful legacy she leaves behind for current and future generations. She followed her calling to be a teacher in the classroom after the 1948 games and also actively supported youth participation in track and field. In Alice's later years, she established the Alice Coachman Track and Field Foundation to offer assistance to young athletes and former Olympic competitors.

George Washington Carver once said, "No individual has any right to come into the world and go out of it without leaving behind distinct and legitimate reasons for having passed through it." We are all so blessed that Ms. Alice Coachman passed our way and during her life's journey did so much for so many for so long. She leaves behind a great legacy of service to her beloved family and to all those whose lives she touched. She will truly be missed.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife, Vivian, and the nearly 700,000 residents in Georgia's Second Congressional District in paying tribute to Alice Coachman for her numerous outstanding achievements on and off the track. We extend our deepest sympathies to her family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time and we pray that they will be consoled and comforted by, an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

#### FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

SPEECH OF

### HON. DENNIS A. ROSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 14, 2014*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5016) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes:

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Chair, I rise today in relation to language in H.R. 5016 addressing Puerto Rico's financial management.

I applaud the effort to work in tandem with the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico—an island composed of U.S. citizens—to provide lasting improvements to their financial structure and day-to-day management.

I am concerned, however, that the taxpayer funds provided to assist Puerto Rico could potentially be spent in vain. I believe that stronger language holding the government of Puerto Rico to basic economic and democratic standards is essential to providing productive assistance.

Two ongoing issues backed by the government of Puerto Rico give me pause.

One was recently outlined by Mary O'Grady in the Wall Street Journal.

In reference to the current financial woes and the enactment of a new bankruptcy law in Puerto Rico—O'Grady said, and I quote, "so far Puerto Rico's political class seems more

inclined to stick it to creditors and keep on keeping on," instead of getting their books straight.

The bankruptcy bill—shepherded and signed into law by Puerto Rican Governor Alejandro Garcia Padilla—allows the restructuring of more than 19 billion dollars of debt by the government owned electricity, water, and highway monopolies.

The constitutionality of this law has also been widely called into question.

This is not the approach you want from a Government facing a potential default, especially one whose debt is 'widely held by mutual funds and individuals'.

It is important that any technical assistance provided by the U.S. Government is predicated on a strong foundation for the rule of law. Investors nationwide will suffer if Puerto Rico's political class does not stalwartly uphold the rule of law.

This is a serious and timely matter. At the end of June—Moody's Analytics reported that Puerto Rico's probability of default within the year is higher than that of Argentina, Venezuela, and Ukraine.

These concerns regarding the political class have already played out through the government's lack of respect for its contractual obligations.

For example, after seven years of agreements between the government of Puerto Rico and a private institution—the Doral Financial Corporation—the government is now refusing to uphold its end of the contractual obligations. Puerto Rico's Government has announced a unilateral decision to annul the contract that required the Government to pay over \$200 million in tax refunds to Doral.

This example demonstrates a true lack of regard for the rule of law.

As the U.S. Congress considers providing technical assistance to the Government of Puerto Rico due to the deteriorating economic and fiscal situation—certain assurances must be established to ensure that U.S. taxpayer dollars are spent on achievable, reliable, and long-lasting objectives.

In conclusion, I believe that assurances should be made by the government of Puerto Rico to uphold all contractual obligations and respect for creditor rights in order to receive U.S. Treasury technical assistance.

Moreover, if such assurances are made, I express my support for the collaboration between the U.S. Treasury and Puerto Rico to improve Puerto Rico's financial management.

#### FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

SPEECH OF

### HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 14, 2014*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5016) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes:

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chair, this Financial Services Bill seeks to overturn the intent of Dodd-Frank by bringing the Consumer Financial Protection