

THE COOPER-WOLF SAFE  
COMMISSION BILL

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 27, 2009*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, the national unemployment rate is 9.8 percent with nearly half of the states reporting increases in the month of September. And it is growing—it could reach 10 percent.

The national debt is approaching \$12 trillion, and the '09 fiscal year registered a staggering \$1.4 trillion in red ink. Meanwhile the House is expected to consider a health insurance reform package with a price tag nearing \$900 billion, with a Government run public option.

America is going broke.

We have watched the dollar slide—recently reaching a 14-month low against all other major currencies—which if not addressed this could lead to even higher consumer prices.

We can't spend our way out of this mess, and it won't magically get better without action from Congress.

The country is in trouble and it's time to stop the bleeding.

The action that will lead to a solution is the bipartisan commission JIM COOPER and I have proposed with every spending program on the table with tax policy. Over 75 members of the House support this idea.

Senate Budget Chairman KENT CONRAD and ranking member GREGG have similar legislation in the Senate. So do Senators VOINOVICH and LIEBERMAN.

The Cooper-Wolf SAFE Commission bill is an opportunity to create a renaissance in this country for our children and our grandchildren.

**KATHRYN RUSSELL**

**HON. THOMAS S.P. PERRIELLO**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 27, 2009*

Mr. PERRIELLO. Madam Speaker, today I recognize the untimely passing of Kathryn Russell, who was killed in a car accident on the evening of October 22, 2009. She will be sorely missed by her friends, family, and community as well as independent farming advocates throughout the country. My heart goes out to her husband Wayne and their children Holly, Lynn, Laura, Emily, Beth, Charlotte, Caleb, and Hannah.

Kathryn returned to her grandparents' roots by beginning her farm over a decade ago and was a valued member of the North Garden community in Albemarle County, Virginia. As the owner of Majesty Farms and a founder and leader of the Virginia Independent Consumers and Farmers Association, she worked to protect family farms, locally grown food, and to promote ecological and economic sustainability. Kathryn took great pride in her work and believed strongly in the importance of community-based farming to create a vibrant local economy and a healthy citizenry. I can personally attest to her fearlessness and tirelessness in promoting traditional farming. She was an ardent skeptic of big government and corporate agriculture, and often saw through attempts by both to consolidate power at the

expense of consumers and small farmers. While she was a strident advocate, she was also patient enough to help those of us who needed a little extra educating to get up to speed on these issues. Today, there are too few farmers like Kathryn Russell and her husband Wayne. I have strong hopes that she has passed on her legacy to her eight children and four grandchildren, and that they will maintain her memory by continuing the work toward lasting rural communities for generations to come.

HONORING COLONEL GINA GROSSO

**HON. JOHN H. ADLER**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 27, 2009*

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Colonel Gina Grosso and the fellow recipients of National Association of Women Business Owners' 2009 Beyond the Glass Ceiling Award. As Joint Base and 87th Air Base Wing Commander, Colonel Grosso was awarded this year's Trailblazer Award for her work overseeing the unification of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.

Colonel Grosso entered the Air Force in 1986 as a Reserve Officer Training Corps distinguished graduate from Carnegie-Mellon University. She has held several command and staff positions throughout her career and her command tours include a Headquarters Squadron Section, Military Personnel Flight, Mission Support Squadron, and command of the Air Force's sole Basic Military Training Group.

As commander, Colonel Grosso provides installation support to more than 40 mission commanders at McGuire, Dix, and Lakehurst, the Department of Defense's first and only joint base with consolidated Air Force, Army, and Navy installations. She is responsible for providing mission ready expeditionary Airmen to combatant commanders in support of joint and combined operations.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Colonel Gina Grosso. She is truly a trailblazer and an outstanding leader deserving of this award.

RECOGNITION OF OCTOBER AS NATIONAL SPINA BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 27, 2009*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of October as National Spina Bifida Awareness Month. During the month of October, the Spina Bifida Association seeks to bring awareness to the nation's most common permanently disabling birth defect—affecting 3,000 pregnancies every year. New data from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has found that there are 154,000 Americans with Spina Bifida, double what was previously thought. Increasing awareness of Spina Bifida will also focus attention on the need to expand and intensify evidence-based

research to improve the quality of life of those living with Spina Bifida.

Spina Bifida is a disease that occurs within the first month of pregnancy and leaves a permanent opening in the spinal column, which subsequently impacts nearly every organ system. People with this birth defect face many complications—including physical, developmental, educational and vocational challenges, to name just a few. All women of childbearing age are at risk for having a Spina Bifida affected pregnancy.

Too many Americans suffer needlessly from this birth defect when many cases are preventable. An estimated 70 percent of neural tube defects, including Spina Bifida, are preventable through consumption of folic acid prior to pregnancy. National Spina Bifida Awareness Month plays a critical role in conveying this prevention message to the public. As a 2005 study uncovered, the current system of care for people with Spina Bifida does not fully meet current or anticipated needs, and physicians have little evidence-based research on which to build appropriate treatments. A greater commitment to prevention and improving quality of life for those affected by Spina Bifida is absolutely necessary.

Drs. Cheng and Yerkes, who are pediatric urologists at Children's Memorial Hospital in the 5th Congressional District of Illinois, and are on the Professional Advisory Council of the Spina Bifida Association, visited my Washington office on October 20, 2009 to discuss the challenges facing children with Spina Bifida. I thank Drs. Cheng and Yerkes and the Spina Bifida Association for all of their efforts and leadership over the years.

I stand ready to work with my constituents and the Spina Bifida Association to help elevate awareness of this condition and its prevention. I urge my colleagues to learn more about Spina Bifida, to meet with affected constituents, and to support the Spina Bifida Association in its important endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF GERALD BARNES ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 27, 2009*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Gerald Floyd Barnes upon the occasion of his 90th birthday. Mr. Barnes has spent a lifetime serving others, and it is a privilege to recognize him on his accomplishments today.

Gerald Barnes was born on October 30, 1919 in Baker, Florida. He is one of five children born to Otis and Vera Barnes, and he is a life-long Northwest Florida resident. When he was five years old, Gerald and his family moved to Milton, Florida. In 1942, he married Irene Russell. They have two children and four grandchildren. When World War II ended, Gerald joined his father in the grocery business, later opening his own store in downtown Milton—Barnes Supermarket.

Gerald began his life of elected public service in 1950. He served on the Milton City Council between 1950 and 1962, and then was elected as County Commissioner for Santa Rosa County in 1966. In 1972, Gerald was elected as the Clerk of the Court for

Santa Rosa County where he served for twenty years. During this time, he has also served as a deacon of First Baptist Church of Milton, working in various roles including Director of the Junior Department and Director of the Adult Department. Gerald is also a member of The Gideons International and the Kiwanis Club of Milton.

Madam Speaker, Gerald Barnes is a Northwest Florida community leader who has spent a lifetime serving the public. My wife Vicki and I wish him a happy birthday and his entire family all the best for the future.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 27, 2009*

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, on October 26, 2009, I was unable to be present for all rollcall votes due to an unexpected travel delay.

If present, I would have voted accordingly on the following rollcall votes:

Roll No. 814—aye;

Roll No. 815—aye.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 27, 2009*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for 1 minute and revise and extend my remarks.

On Monday, October 26, and Friday, October 23, I was unavoidably delayed on my return to Washington from American Samoa and

Samoa where I had been monitoring ongoing relief and recovery efforts of FEMA and others currently underway in response to the devastating earthquake and tsunami that struck those islands on September 29. As the Member of Congress with the nation's largest concentration of Samoan Americans on the mainland and as a member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, undertaking this fact-finding mission was directly related to my representational, legislative, and committee responsibilities.

Because of this excused absence I was not present for rollcall votes 814 through 815.

Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

1. On rollcall No. 814. I would have voted aye. H. Res. 368—Congratulating the University of Iowa Hawkeyes wrestling team on winning the 2009 NCAA Division I National Wrestling Championships (Rep. Loeb sack—Education and Labor).

2. On rollcall No. 815, I would have voted aye. H. Res. 562—Congratulating Syracuse University for winning the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Men's Lacrosse Tournament (Rep. Maffei—Education and Labor).

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
ASSISTANCE FOR POLITICAL  
STATUS EDUCATION PROGRAM  
FOR GUAM

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 27, 2009*

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, today I have introduced a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to award grants and extend assistance to the Government of Guam for the purpose of helping to facilitate a polit-

ical status public education program for the people of Guam.

This bill is introduced in recognition of the Secretary of the Interior's administrative responsibility for the economic, social and political development of the territory of Guam. Executive Order 10077 signed in 1949 transferred the administration of Guam from the Secretary of the Navy to the Secretary of the Interior, and Congress has provided certain levels of self-government for the people of Guam since the enactment of the Organic Act of Guam in 1950.

However, the political status of the territory of Guam remains unresolved. The Guam Legislature has passed local laws authorizing the holding of a political status plebiscite. Any plebiscite requires a public education program to inform the people of Guam of various political status options.

This bill specifically authorizes federal assistance for such a public education program. Federal funding for political status public education programs is not without precedent. U.S. Public Law 101-45 provided \$3,500,000 to the Territory of Puerto Rico to "participate in the legislative process involving the future political status of Puerto Rico." Additionally, the now independent Republic of Palau was appropriated by U.S. Public Law 101-219, "such sums as may be necessary for a further referendum on approval of the Compact, if one is required, or other appropriate costs associated with the approval process in Palau."

The people of Guam have expressed their desire for a new political status in the past, however, such political status aspirations were not realized, despite past efforts by Guam's representatives, the administration and Congress. As a result, a commission of the Government of Guam has been established to prepare for a new plebiscite.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to review this bill.