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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 9, 2012.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ANDY HARRIS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Loving and gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As the Members of this assembly return from days away celebrating our Nation's birth, grant them safe and restful journey. May they return ready to assume a difficult work which must be done.

We pray for the needs of the Nation and world and all of creation. Bless those who seek to honor You and serve each other and all Americans in this House through their public service. May the words and deeds of this place reflect an earnest desire for justice, and may men and women in government build on the tradition of equity and truth that represents the noblest heritage of our people.

May Your blessing, O God, be with us this day and every day to come, and may all we do be done for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. MCCOLLUM led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 29, 2012.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on June 29, 2012 at 5:01 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 3238.
That the Senate passed S. 2165.
That the Senate passed S. 2239.
That the Senate passed S. 3363.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 29, 2012.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on June 29, 2012 at 4:39 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6064.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IS ON THE WRONG SIDE OF JUSTICE

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, thousands of dead people and citizens of other countries are reportedly registered to vote in the battleground State of Florida.

Texas, however, has passed a law that would require citizens to display a photo ID when they vote. But the Justice Department isn't interested in fixing voter integrity, even though the Supreme Court has said voter ID laws are constitutional.

The DOJ, ignoring the Supreme Court decision it doesn't like, sued Texas anyway, claiming the law discriminates. The DOJ, with its battery of high-dollar lawyers, apparently has yet to find any evidence to back their claim, so it brought in a hired gun to try to find some support for its allegation—a biased liberal data group called Catalist, a self-defined agent for progressive organizations. So much for the DOJ being objective.

Instead of attacking Texas for constitutionally enforcing the law, the DOJ should focus its resources on protecting the sanctity of the ballot box.

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It seems the people who would be disenfranchised by voter ID laws would be unlawful voters or dead people.

The DOJ is on the wrong side of justice again.

And that's just the way it is.

STOP THE ENDLESS POLITICAL GAMES

(Ms. MCCOLLUM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, this ''do nothing'' Republican Tea Party Congress is killing jobs with its endless political games. This week's gimmick vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act is a meaningless vote to deny millions of Americans health care.

Meanwhile, the House's failure to pass an extension of the wind energy tax credit to producers of all American energy is killing jobs. Thirty-seven thousand American jobs in the wind energy sector are at risk.

Minnesota is a leader in wind energy production, but because of its refusal to act, this Congress is causing businesses to lay people off, killing jobs, and harming our clean energy future. The wind energy tax credit supports clean energy developers, manufacturers, and construction companies in America and in Minnesota.

This Republican Tea Party Congress needs to stop the gimmicks, stop killing jobs, and, instead, immediately pass the wind energy tax credit to save jobs and to create more American jobs.

THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT CONTINUES TO HURT PATIENTS AND DOCTORS

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today The Dallas Morning News and the Fort Worth Star-Telegram carried stories that only 31 percent of Texas doctors are accepting new patients who rely on Medicaid. In 2010, the last time the survey was taken, it was 42 percent. In the year 2000, it was 67 percent.

The Texas Medical Association conducted the survey and attributes the dropping numbers to a low reimbursement rate for physicians and increasing red tape. Doctors appear to be losing patience with government-funded health plans and government-run health care in general.

You know, shortly after the Supreme Court decision, all of the cable talk shows talked about it's free riders that are driving up the cost of health care in this country. No, it's not. The biggest freeloader is the Federal Government.

The Federal Government, with its Medicare and Medicaid programs being structured the way they are, is actually causing the cost of health care to skyrocket in this country, and that's something that needs to stop. They're freeloading on an underfunded program, and it's costing us money. And more importantly, it's inexcusably hurting patients.

The Affordable Care Act is a bad law. We all knew it was bad law when it passed. It was written by lobbyists in secret down at the White House. It was a rough draft passed by the Senate that got forced to the House.

This House is going to hold a repeal vote this week. I suspect it will pass. I urge the Senate to take up and pass this repeal vote so we can get on to the important business of reforming the system in this country.

SUGAR, RICE, AND SOYBEAN INDUSTRY SUPPORT

(Mr. BOUSTANY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, as the House Agriculture Committee considers farm bill legislation, I rise in strong support of responsible policies for all of our agriculture producers, especially the sugar, rice, and soybean industries.

Our no-cost sugar program has kept sugar supplies stable in this country, while allowing for industry expansion under the 2008 farm bill.

Last week, the St. Mary Parish Chamber of Commerce passed a resolution highlighting the critical importance of the sugar industry to south Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I will enter it into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD later.

The sugar industry contributes $3.5 billion annually to Louisiana's economy, while supplying more than 16,000 jobs.

I'm pleased to see the chairman's initial draft language also includes multiple risk management options benefiting south Louisiana rice and soybean farmers. The chairman recognizes that a one-size-fits-all policy for our Nation's diverse agricultural economy is not feasible. I applaud their effort to work with all commodity groups to come up with an excellent final product in this farm bill.

As the farm bill moves forward in the House, I urge my colleagues to support policies that will work for all agriculture producers—not just some, but all—including Louisiana farmers.

□ 1410

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2012

(Mr. GUINTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GUINTA. I rise today to add my voice to those calling for the passage of H.R. 4114, which would give a cost-of-living adjustment to our disabled military veterans.

My State, New Hampshire, has one of the largest per capita veteran populations of any State in our Nation. Nearly 128,000 former servicemen and women call the Granite State home. As its name indicates, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act would provide a much-needed benefit increase, starting this December 1, for qualifying disabled veterans. It provides an increase similar to what Social Security recipients receive.

Our disabled veterans made a special sacrifice during their time in uniform, and they now live with the result of that sacrifice each and every day. Increasing their monthly benefit checks is a small price for a grateful Nation to pay. Our military Armed Forces answered the call when our country needed them most, and I believe that we must now be there for them.

I urge my colleagues to join with me in passing this important cost-of-living increase for the disabled men and women who gave so much to our country.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS) at 4 p.m.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
July 6, 2012.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: I herewith tender to you my resignation from the office of United States Representative for Michigan's 11th Congressional District effective midnight tonight, Friday, July 6, 2012.

Sincerely,

THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
July 6, 2012.

Governor RICK SNYDER,
Lansing, MI.

DEAR GOVERNOR SNYDER: I herewith tender to you my resignation from the office of United States Representative for Michigan's 11th Congressional District effective midnight tonight, Friday, July 6, 2012.

Sincerely,

THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of

the resignation of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER), the whole number of the House is 432.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

VETERAN SKILLS TO JOBS ACT

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4155) to treat relevant military training as sufficient to satisfy training or certification requirements for Federal licenses, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4155

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Veteran Skills to Jobs Act''.

SEC. 2. CONSIDERATION OF RELEVANT MILITARY TRAINING FOR ISSUANCE OF A FEDERAL LICENSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The head of each Federal licensing authority shall consider and may accept, in the case of any individual applying for a license, any relevant training received by such individual while serving as a member of the armed forces, for the purpose of satisfying the requirements for such license.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this Act—

(1) the term ''license'' means a license, certification, or other grant of permission to engage in a particular activity;

(2) the term ''Federal licensing authority'' means a department, agency, or other entity of the Government having authority to issue a license;

(3) the term ''armed forces'' has the meaning given such term by section 2101(2) of title 5, United States Code; and

(4) the term ''Government'' means the Government of the United States.

SEC. 3. REGULATIONS.

The head of each Federal licensing authority shall—

(1) with respect to any license a licensing authority grants or is empowered to grant as of the date of enactment of this Act, prescribe any regulations necessary to carry out this Act not later than 180 days after such date; and

(2) with respect to any license of a licensing authority not constituted or not empowered to grant the license as of the date of enactment of this Act, prescribe any regulations necessary to carry out this Act not later than 180 days after the date on which the agency is so constituted or empowered, as the case may be.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We are here today to discuss H.R. 4155, the Veteran Skills to Jobs Act, introduced by Mr. DENHAM of California. I really appreciate the approach that this is taking with jobs and the economic environment as such. This is a commonsense, good measure. I think it is widely supported on both sides of the aisle, and I would urge my colleagues to pass it.

Essentially, H.R. 4155 ensures that applicants for Federal licenses receive credit for relevant training completed while serving as a member of the Armed Forces. While most licenses are issued by the States, the Federal Government does grant a number of licenses, most notably in the aerospace, communications, and maritime sectors.

After 40 months with the unemployment rate above 8 percent, we must do more to help create jobs; and with the unemployment rate for post-9/11 veterans at 12.7 percent, we must better support our veterans as they transition to the civilian workforce.

In April, the Defense Business Board issued a report recommending Federal agencies review military training as a qualification for their respective program requirements. H.R. 4155 is in line with this recommendation.

The bill provides some certainty to veterans during their transition from the military by ensuring their training is taken into account when applying for Federal licenses. The bill does not infringe on the jurisdiction of the licensing agency. Instead, it leaves the agency free to determine whether military training is sufficient to meet license requirements.

H.R. 4155 will reduce the licensing burden for qualified veterans, enabling them to more quickly re-enter the workforce and ease their transition to civilian life.

Again, I appreciate the work of Mr. DENHAM, Mr. WALZ, and others in a bipartisan way to introduce this bill, and I would urge my colleagues to support it.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4155 and yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank the sponsors of H.R. 4155, especially Mr. DENHAM and Mr. WALZ, for their dedicated service to our Nation while in uniform and for their commitment to supporting our veterans here in Congress.

I deeply value and appreciate the sacrifices made by the men and women in our Armed Forces, and I'm proud to represent thousands of them who reside in the 11th District of Virginia, a district that takes military service very seriously and holds it in high esteem.

I believe that we here in Congress have a sacred duty, Mr. Speaker, to provide for their well-being. For that reason, I strongly support efforts to expedite the transition of our Nation's warriors to civilian life. We need to do all we can to help these dedicated veterans find gainful employment. It's a shameful fact that the men and women who volunteer to safeguard our country are having so much trouble finding steady, good-paying jobs. A double-digit unemployment rate for post-9/11 veterans—almost double the national average—is simply unacceptable.

Transitioning to civilian life is difficult under any circumstance; however, this hardship is compounded when veterans cannot easily translate their military skills into careers in the Federal or private sector workforce through no fault of their own.

In addition, there's the task of educating employers to better understand that so much of military training is readily transferrable to civilian job requirements in the private sector.

We need to do better for our veterans, and I believe H.R. 4155 is a strong step in that direction. It would require each agency with Federal licensing authority to treat relevant military training as sufficient to satisfy training or certification requirements for Federal licenses. This will help our returning servicemembers get credit for their military training towards a license which they can use to get Federal or private sector jobs and reintegrate into civilian life.

The Federal Government, private sector employers, and our economy will benefit by being able to take full advantage of their talent, unique skills, and experience as veterans.

Mr. Speaker, the Senate has already passed an identical version of this noncontroversial, but important, bill by unanimous consent. I urge all Members to support this bill that will enable our Nation's veterans to get back to work.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield as much time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from California, the sponsor of the bill, Mr. DENHAM.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support legislation I authored, H.R. 4155, the Veteran Skills to Jobs Act.

America is blessed with the strongest, most capable and professional military in the world. Unfortunately for many of our veterans, transitioning from service means a battle with joblessness. And as my friend from Utah explained, the unemployment rate is 12.7 percent; but for our young veterans, it's 29.1 percent for those that are under the age of 25.

The Federal Government has invested in our servicemen with some of the most unique, expensive, and valued training in the world. These brave young men and women have put their lives on the line and deserve to be able to use this training when they come back home.

With 200,000 servicemen and -women transitioning to the civilian workforce each year, we must ensure that they're able to find jobs when they come home. I have personally dealt with this issue when I left Active Duty as a crew chief. Though I had training on the most sophisticated aircraft in the world, to work on less-sophisticated aircraft on the civilian side it would have taken me 3 years of training after I left Active Duty.

In my conversations with Mr. WALZ from Minnesota, some of the challenges that his veterans have seen in Minnesota involve having to go through the same State licensing procedure.

It's time to say enough is enough. If you've had the best training in the world, you ought to be able to get the best jobs in the world; and this body ought to make sure that certification, that licensure is a seamless process. If you leave Active Duty today, you ought to have work tomorrow in the private sector utilizing that very same training.

This legislation not only mirrors similar efforts on the State level but follows the recommendation of the Defense Business Board and the Department of Defense that issued a report calling for exactly this same type of reform. The Veteran Skills to Jobs Act would help fix this problem, and I'm glad to see that both Chambers of Congress are working together in a bipartisan fashion to accomplish this very same goal.

Helping our returning veterans find jobs is not the concern of one party or one body of Congress. The Senate adopted this matter unanimously last week before we left for break, and it's time that this body do the same.

□ 1610

Again, I want to thank Mr. WALZ of Minnesota for his hard work on this effort, for the bipartisan effort. He and I have been in close communication this entire 112th Congress in making sure that this comes to reality, as well as Senator NELSON from Florida offering the companion bill in the Senate. It's time to make sure that we have a bipartisan and quick solution to this issue.

I also want to thank the American Legion, of which I'm a member. They have worked tirelessly in both bodies, as well as from a grass-roots perspective across the Nation working with many other service organizations, to actually make this a reality. Now it's time that this body does its job and pass this important measure.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to my good friend and colleague from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ), the cosponsor of this legislation.

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. I thank the gentleman from Virginia for his support of this bill and other veterans issues.

First of all, I'd like to thank the gentleman from California. Mr. DENHAM's service in uniform to this Nation is to be commended, and his service to our veterans has been unwavering.

He's right, we've worked on this a long time. I had the opportunity on numerous occasions to travel downrange to visit our veterans, the last one with my good friend from California (Mr. DENHAM), and the care and concern that he showed listening to his veterans of what they need, listening to them talk about this. One of the things on the minds of our veterans, as they're fighting downrange defending our freedoms and doing what's asked of them is how are they going to be able to take care of their family when their service obligation ends.

So Mr. DENHAM came back, and working and reaching across the aisle, and working over in the Senate, crafted a piece of legislation that's not only morally the right thing to do, taking care of our veterans—you hear a lot about the 99 percent and the 1 percent. There's truth in that: 99 percent of us enjoy the benefits of security and national defense while 1 percent provide it. So the moral obligation of providing this is pretty much unquestioned, but the thing that I think Mr. DENHAM looked into on this is making sure the economic impact was felt also.

And on this, I think this is very important to keep in mind: We spend $140 billion a year training our military. That's an investment into those folks. When they finish their career, whether it be a stint of 4 years or whether it's a 20- or 30-year career, they come out with incredible skill training, with incredible professionalism, and they are a very mature workforce. Why would we not want to get our best and brightest back working in the economy? These are entrepreneurs. These are the folks that can get things done. This piece of legislation was crafted in such a way to do exactly that.

Implementation of concurrent credentialing has no undue burden on the military nor on its readiness. In fact, opportunities for credentialing will be a selling point for our military. You can come out and move directly into a job as an aviation mechanic or whatever it may be.

I'd like to mention just quickly here, in my State of Minnesota, an average Active Duty servicemember with an aviation mechanic or avionics occupation will have attended over 18 months of training and had a minimum of 4 years of practical experience. A certified aviation maintenance technician school costs $20,000 a year. So we've invested. We have a trained mechanic, but we're going to have them come back, have them be unemployed, have them try and use their GI Bill—which is Federal dollars—to get the very same credentialing that they had when they left at a time when we need to put them into the job. So in Minnesota, Thief River Falls is the only place you can get this. We're asking folks to line up and get positions that they don't have enough spots for. It makes no sense.

So I'd like to thank the gentleman for a commonsense piece of legislation, for a piece of legislation that addresses both our moral and economic need. And I'd also like to say, Mr. Speaker, as the Members in this House see, we can work together to solve problems. We can understand—and on this issue—the sacrifice that our servicemembers made so that we could have the honor and the privilege of self-government and stand here and debate the country's business. We owe it to them to conduct ourselves in a manner that's reflective of their sacrifice and service.

And I would like to congratulate the gentleman from California for bringing that type of comradery, that type of can-do spirit, and that type of willingness to compromise to get things done for the good of the soldiers.

With that, I urge my colleagues, support this legislation. Let's get it passed.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, with that, let me just urge my colleagues, in the spirit of bipartisanship, to come together and support our veterans and to make opportunity more available. It is, as I said, a sacred duty, it seems to me, that those men and women who are willing to put on that uniform and serve their country ought to be treated with respect and dignity and a job when they come home, and this bill will go a long way to doing that.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, this is a good, commonsense, bipartisan bill. I appreciate both these gentlemen who spoke here earlier for their work on this, Mr. DENHAM and Mr. WALZ.

The Veteran Skills to Jobs Act, H.R. 4155, it makes sense, it's good government, it's what our troops deserve; and I encourage all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this and send a strong message to the military and to the private sector to let them know that we support them, that the work they do, the skills that they learn are a value, and that they are needed within the workforce as a whole, and that the skills and the training they get—the best in the world—mean something. And we can bypass this licensing issue and get them back to work sooner rather than later.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr.

CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4155, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4114) to increase, effective as of December 1, 2012, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4114

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2012''.

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

(a) RATE ADJUSTMENT.—Effective on December 1, 2012, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall increase, in accordance with subsection (c), the dollar amounts in effect on November 30, 2012, for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation under the provisions specified in subsection (b).

(b) AMOUNTS TO BE INCREASED.—The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to subsection (a) are the following:

(1) WARTIME DISABILITY COMPENSATION.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1114 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1115(1) of such title.

(3) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—The dollar amount under section 1162 of such title.

(4) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO SURVIVING SPOUSE.—Each of the dollar amounts under subsections (a) through (d) of section 1311 of such title.

(5) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO CHILDREN.—Each of the dollar amounts under sections 1313(a) and 1314 of such title.

(c) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.—

(1) PERCENTAGE.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), each dollar amount described in subsection (b) shall be increased by the same percentage as the percentage by which benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased effective December 1, 2012, as a result of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

(2) ROUNDING.—Each dollar amount increased under paragraph (1), if not a whole dollar amount, shall be rounded to the next lower whole dollar amount.

(d) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may adjust administratively, consistent with the increases made under subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation payable to persons under section 10 of Public Law 85–857 (72 Stat. 1263) who have not received compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in the Federal Register the amounts specified in section 2(b), as increased under that section, not later than the date on which the matters specified in section 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) are required to be published by reason of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act during fiscal year 2013.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I rise in support of H.R. 4114, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2012.

This critically important piece of legislation authorizes a cost-of-living increase for disabled veterans in receipt of disability compensation payments from VA, veterans clothing allowance payments, and other compensation for survivors of veterans who die as a result of their service to this country. The amount of the increase will be determined by the Consumer Price Index, which also controls the cost-of-living adjustment for Social Security beneficiaries.

I want to thank my colleague from New Jersey (Mr. RUNYAN), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, for introducing this important piece of legislation and for working with me and the ranking member to move it forward.

I want to urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 4114, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I wholeheartedly support the Veterans' Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2012, H.R. 4114. While this committee does not control the amount of the COLA, it is critical that we pass the bill so that it can be put in place when the Social Security COLA is enacted. It is so important that the payments that our veterans, their families, and survivors receive keep pace with inflation and better enable them to put food on the table and a roof over their heads.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that last year's veterans COLA increase was 3.6 percent for 2012 and that we can likely expect an increase for 2013. The exact figure will be tied directly to the Social Security COLA, whose beneficiaries will also see the same increase in their payments.

As it has since 1976, Congress, through the passage of the Veterans' Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act, directs the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs to increase the rates of basic compensation for disabled veterans and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation to their survivors and dependents. This bill will benefit disabled veterans, their families, and their survivors from the World War I era through the current conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Many of the over 3.5 million veterans who receive disability compensation benefits depend on these payments not only to provide for their basic needs, but for those of their spouses, children, and parents as well. Without an annual COLA increase, these veterans, their families, and survivors will likely see the value of their hard-earned benefits slowly eroding.

Mr. Speaker, I think we would be derelict in our duties if we fail to guarantee that those who sacrifice so much for this country are able to receive benefits and service that keep pace with their needs and inflation.

□ 1620

We fund the wars; let's fund the warriors. Let me repeat: we fund the wars; let's fund the warriors.

I urge my colleagues to support the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2012, H.R. 4114, without delay.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield as much time as he might consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. RUNYAN), the subcommittee chairman of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, not only the author of this particular piece of legislation, but since coming to this Congress, he has become one of the most ardent supporters of our veterans.

Mr. RUNYAN. Chairman MILLER, thank you for those kind words, and thank you for your support in helping me move this piece of legislation forward.

I rise today in support of H.R. 4114, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2012.

H.R. 4114, which I introduced in February, puts veterans on equal footing with Social Security beneficiaries by increasing the amount provided to several kinds of compensation by the amount of the Social Security cost-of-living adjustment. These include disabled veterans compensation, veterans' clothing allowance, and the DIC for veterans' survivors.

This annual and noncontroversial bill, which has been scored by CBO as having no budgetary impact, is a critical part of ensuring that benefits for disabled veterans and their families are sufficient to meet their needs.

I am proud that the first bill I introduced in Congress last year was the veterans' COLA bill, which gave the first cost-of-living adjustment to our

veterans that they had received in several years. I am equally proud that we are doing right by our veterans by moving the COLA bill increase this year in the form of H.R. 4114.

I urge all Members to support this critical piece of legislation.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last month we were honored with the presence of over 400 Montford Point Marines in the Capitol to receive the Congressional Gold Medal. From 1942 to 1949, almost 20,000 African American Marines experienced basic training at Camp Montford Point near the New River in Jacksonville, North Carolina.

These heroes fought on two fronts, at home against discrimination, and across the sea to defend our Nation. This highest civilian award in the United States was first presented during the Revolutionary War to George Washington. It is fitting that this latest award should go to those men who, years before Jackie Robinson and Rosa Parks, joined the Marines to defend their country.

During this week when we are going to be debating the Affordable Care Act, we need to discuss a project that affects veterans health in my State of Florida. On July 1, the VA paid an additional $500,000 to rent a portable operating room for a project that is 95 percent complete in the Miami VA Medical Center. When this renovation was first proposed, two minor projects, each costing $10 million, were sponsored to fulfill the requirements of the project.

I visited the medical center last month and heard directly from the administrators of the facility about the project. The planners on the ground soon realized that patients could have been put at risk due to contamination of the operating rooms by the construction on the other side of the room.

Veterans health care was being put at risk, and rather than let this happen, it was decided by those who know the veterans health the best—those at the health facilities—to combine the projects into one and rent the portable operating rooms.

We need a procedure to give the Secretary the ability to correct these kinds of projects and not waste taxpayers' money. I will soon be introducing legislation to give the Secretary the help he needs to save taxpayers money.

In the last Congress, our Democratic leadership in the House and the Senate, with President Barack Obama, we were able to pass the largest increase in the veterans budget in history. We also passed advanced appropriations for the VA health care so that veterans would not be subject to the deadline that Congress seems to miss every year to pass a proper budget. It allows the VA to plan for the following year's health care needs and reassure veterans that they will be able to get the care that they need.

We also passed the caregivers law to help those who are taking care of the members of the military, funded PTSD and TBI mental health programs, homeless programs and rural health care in the veterans homes. It is the least we can do for those who have given so much to protect our freedom. We did not just talk the talk but walked the walk.

And since we're discussing repeal of the health care law tomorrow, I would like to briefly discuss how, in fact, the Affordable Care Act benefits our Nation's veterans and all Americans. Although not a perfect bill—and no bill is since there are many compromises made—this is a perfect start, and attempting to obtain universal health care has been a primary goal of every single President and Congress since the days of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who had fought for quality, accessible health care insurance reform for all Americans. And now, 75 years later, after the Supreme Court ruling just over a week ago, our Nation has finally attained that goal.

Millions of Americans have already come to rely on the wide-ranging and lifesaving benefits of the Affordable Care Act.

And let me just say, I keep hearing ObamaCare. Let me just be clear. Obama cares for the American health care.

Before Congress passed the Affordable Care Act, nearly one in five citizens in the wealthiest country in the world had little or no hope of affordable insurance and access to regular health care. When fully implemented, the Affordable Care Act will cover an additional 30 million Americans and 3.8 million African Americans who otherwise would remain uninsured.

Already under the Affordable Health Care Act, 17 million children with preexisting conditions can no longer be denied coverage; 105 million Americans no longer have a lifetime limit on their coverage; 32.5 million seniors received free preventive service in 2011; 54 million Americans in private plans have received free preventive services; 6.6 million young adults up to the age of 26 have obtained insurance through their parents' plan; and 5.2 million seniors and disabled people save an average of $704 each on their prescription drugs; 360,000 small businesses received tax credits to help them afford coverage for 2 million workers; 13 million families will receive insurance premium rebates averaging $151 in 2012.

However, instead of debating a health care repeal, we should be debating a construction reauthorization bill to deal with the waste of taxpayer dollars, like I indicated in Miami—$500,000 this month for a portable operating room.

In closing, let's get to work.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I think it's rather interesting that my colleague would talk about the supposed great things that are in the ObamaCare bill and not talk about how it's going to be paid for—in fact, the largest tax increase on the American people that this Congress has ever placed on their backs.

They would make you believe that it was all free, but it's not. It's going to cost somebody, and that's going to be the American citizens.

□ 1630

I also want to talk about the Miami project very quickly. I had to go down and actually visit and then pressure the VA Secretary to make sure that the director of the Miami Medical Center left her job because she was not doing what she was supposed to do. In fact, this was, in a way, a skirting of the rules and of the laws by splitting a project into two, thus costing the taxpayers of the United States considerably more money, including the cost of the rental of the trailers that are being used as temporary operating rooms.

We continue to wait for the Department of Veterans Affairs to actually make an official request for us to come forward and take care of this problem that exists in Miami, specifically because of, I think, poor administrative oversight not only at the administrative level in Miami but with the VISN Director in VISN 8 as well.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, at this point, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous materials that they may have on H.R. 4114.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the Senate itself hasn't been able to pass a budget for almost 4 years, and they cannot pass an appropriations bill on time, so I do support the advanced appropriation that this House supported and that ultimately was signed into law. With that, I encourage all Members to support H.R. 4114.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4114.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFER ACT AMENDMENT

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4367) to amend the Electronic Fund Transfer Act to limit the fee disclosure requirement for an automatic teller machine to the screen of that machine.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4367

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FEE DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENT.

Section 904(d)(3)(B) of the Consumer Credit Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 1693b(d)(3)(B)) (commonly known as the ''Electronic Fund Transfer Act'') is amended—

(1) by striking ''REQUIREMENTS.'' and all that follows through ''The notice required under clauses (i) and (ii)'' and inserting ''REQUIREMENT.—The notice required under clauses (i) and (ii)'' after ''NOTICE''; and

(2) by striking '', except that during the period beginning'' and all that follows and inserting a period.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to add extraneous material to this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today, we are considering one of the most commonsense bills seen in some time. This bill provides a real solution to a real problem that is impacting banks, credit unions, and merchants nationwide.

Regulation E currently mandates that ATM fee disclosures appear both in physical placard or in sticker form on the machines as well as through an on-screen electronic notification. Unfortunately, some individuals have seen the potential to make a quick buck off a frivolous claim and have begun to remove stickers from ATMs across the country, thereby placing financial institutions and merchants out of compliance. This is exactly what has happened to some small financial institutions in my district and throughout Missouri. Someone was traveling through the State, removing stickers from ATM machines, and then was offering to settle with the banks for several thousands of dollars per machine or the banks would face lawsuits.

The premise of this bill is simple: to eliminate an outdated and unnecessary regulatory burden facing merchants and financial institutions while continuing to ensure consumer protections for all ATM users through required on-screen fee disclosures.

It is important to recognize that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has also expressed interest in eliminating this duplicative fee disclosure requirement. In December of 2011, the CFPB asked the public to comment on the elimination of this requirement. However, during the public comment period, the CFPB admitted that it may not be able to remove the duplicative disclosure requirement and that it would be up to Congress to take action.

Today, Mr. Speaker, it is time for us to take action.

H.R. 4367 is supported by the National Association of Federal Credit Unions, the Credit Union National Association, the American Bankers Association, the Independent Community Bankers of America, the United States Chamber of Commerce, the Electronic Funds Transfer Association, the Consumer Bankers Association, The Clearing House, the Food Marketing Institute, the Financial Services Roundtable, the National Association of Convenience Stores, the American Gaming Association, and the ATM Industry Association as well.

This legislation has broad bipartisan support from its 145 cosponsors. Among them is the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT), who has been a great partner on this initiative, and I thank him for his efforts.

Again, I want to remind my colleagues that this bill does not in any way alter the mandate for on-screen fee disclosures, meaning that customers will have a clear understanding of what they will be charged before they complete their ATM transactions.

It is time to put an end to these frivolous lawsuits. I thank my colleagues for the sponsorship of this legislation, and I ask all Members to support this bill today.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First of all, let me say that this is very much bipartisan legislation in that it has been sponsored by both Democrats and Republicans. I am very, very pleased to have as an original cosponsor on this and to have worked very closely with Mr. LUETKEMEYER, who has done an admirable job in providing leadership on a much, much needed piece of legislation, which is H.R. 4367. As I said, I am proud to be an integral part of moving forward a very timely, reasonable, and vital piece of legislation.

Let me just say at the outset, Mr. Speaker, that our banking system, our retail system, our credit unions all sit at the center—at the epicenter—of this Nation's great economic system, which is facing tremendous challenges. As Mr. LUETKEMEYER said, we are faced with people who are basically scam artists, those who will go in and remove the labeling off the ATM machines, knowing that the penalty is upwards of one half a million dollars, and then will try to bring class action lawsuits against these financial institutions in very tough economic times. So this legislation has been developed to address this and to fix this so that our banking industry and our financial services industry will not have this threat over them.

What it would do is repeal the requirement for both a physical placard as well as an electronic notice disclosing the transaction fees on the ATM screens. Currently, as it works now, if an ATM machine does not display a physical placard, a financial institution—a bank, a credit union or our retailers—can be subject to a class action lawsuit, which would potentially amount to, as I said, one half a million dollars, or 1 percent of its net worth. This penalty has the potential of prompting bogus lawsuits against financial institutions simply due to a lack of the physical placard, even when the electronic notice is shown to a customer, perhaps because the placard was removed by a third party. So you can see that this is not fair for these institutions to be faced with up to a half million dollars in penalty fees, especially in these tough economic times. At the same time, many of these institutions continue to struggle to maintain standard operations while being faced with our current economic climate.

□ 1640

Mr. Speaker, let me just talk about that for a moment because there have been 31 bank failures in this country this year alone. About 3 weeks ago, three banks shut their doors, including the Security Exchange Bank in Marietta, Cobb County, Georgia, which is located in my district. As a matter of fact, in Georgia alone, 78 banks have closed their doors since our crisis began.

Georgia leads the Nation, unfortunately, in bank closures. That's why I am so particularly concerned about it and so pleased to have this measure pass, because this sensible legislation that we consider today would remove the threat of legal action against financial institutions—a bank or a credit union—simply for the lack of the physical placard at one of its ATM machines.

Passage of this bill, as Mr. LUETKEMEYER pointed out, will still provide the consumer with the protections that they need because a notice informing them of any fees will still be required upon the start of a transaction on the ATM screen. In addition, consumers will still be able to benefit from the convenience that the estimated 445,000 ATMs in operation in this country provide.

I'm very proud to have worked on this bill. It's very timely. It's very important for our economy that we move with this bill. The bill certainly deserves the strong bipartisan support that we have, and it's been a pleasure to work with Mr. LUETKEMEYER on it. I urge my colleagues to support this measure today.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, it is now my distinct honor to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) to

speak on the bill, our distinguished chairman on the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I came here to compliment the two gentlemen who have spoken on this bill, who are the cosponsors of a bipartisan bill.

When I first heard about this legislation, I thought, like most legislation this year, it won't go anywhere. I thought it may pass the House, but it may not pass the Senate. I understand that with this particular legislation, that our Senate colleagues are waiting for it and they're ready to act upon it.

Mr. SCOTT brought up, I think, a salient point when he said that we're having many banks and credit unions who are struggling, because when people don't have jobs, they can't pay back their loans. Our banks and credit unions are trying to cope with the added expense of more regulation. Particularly at a time like that, but at any time, for people to take advantage of a statute that is intended to protect the American people is really audacity and greed in its purest sense.

I'm an attorney, and I can tell you that 999 out of 1,000 attorneys or former attorneys would absolutely be enraged to find that very few of their colleagues are taking advantage of Regulation E and the Electronic Fund Transfer Act to sue these institutions on lawsuits that are totally against the public interest, and particularly are against the interests of those living in low-income areas and high-crime areas. The people in those areas are coping with so much that to add to that, having an ATM machine removed from that location or from a low-income area, just adds another expense for people who have very little means of financing their life today. That's what's happening.

Either the vandals themselves are going and vandalizing the sticker that we've all seen—we've all used an ATM. We've all seen the sticker there. We probably didn't notice the sticker there because what really caught our attention is when we get on the screen and we see that same notice, but that notice actually on the screen requires us to affirmatively say ''yes,'' we will agree to it. So people today probably don't even notice that sticker. The few people who noticed that sticker and took advantage of it were people that were up to no good, people that were willing to bring what some of us would call a ''frivolous lawsuit.''

These lawsuits can ask for a half million dollars worth of damages. And because it is actually a statutory failure to have it, these lawsuits sometimes result in a $100,000 or $200,000 judgment. They're also resulting in these ATMs not being located in areas that are subject to vandalism. Of course, almost any area could be subject to it, but we've penalized those Americans who are least able to afford to travel a greater distance for the convenience of an AMT machine.

As Mr. LUETKEMEYER and Mr. SCOTT said, people come up; they scrape it off. Some of these appear to be well-organized efforts by the very people that bring the lawsuit to go out and do these in an organized manner among hundreds of machines. They then come in and file a class action.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER, at one time, was a banker in a small Missouri community. And in most cases, particularly a small credit union or a community bank or a local bank, they can't afford to battle these for $50,000 or $100,000—it actually may be a big law firm bringing these lawsuits—so they settle them for $50,000. This will put an end to that.

Let me tell you, no one on the Financial Services Committee expressed any doubt about this legislation. I don't think anyone would, other than those people who are complicit in vandalizing these machines and making money on what we sometimes called ''unintended consequences.'' I tell you, it certainly was unintended. If we had, in our imagination, sat down for days and said what is the worst thing that could happen by requiring us to put a sticker on as well as electronic notice, we would have never come up with this. We would have never come up with the ingenuity of some people to take advantage of the law. But that's what's happened here.

Today, I think, unanimously, hopefully, we're going to shut the door on this practice and send this bill over to the Senate, particularly for areas where there is high vandalism in our rural communities. We're going to set a wrong right.

Let me say that this is a model for how this Congress ought to operate, of coming together, having a consensus, coming up with good, commonsense legislation that benefits the public and reduces unnecessary costs and puts what I consider and I think is criminal behavior out of business. We're going to put some criminals out of business with this legislation.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. SCOTT, and all Members who are cosponsoring this bill, I commend each and every one of you.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in closing I certainly would just like to say how important this legislation is.

As the chairman of our Financial Services Committee, Chairman BACHUS, just stated, these are sophisticated individuals. These are people who know the system. That's why I refer to them as scam artists.

This is a racket, and it's a racket that we need to put out of business that's causing tremendous headaches, tremendous difficulties for the heart of our fine economic system, which is our banking system, our commercial system. This will go a long way in helping to take away a very superfluous but serious enough threat.

The other thing about this that's very fine is we hear a great cry among the American people for great bipartisanship. Here's a great example of Democrats and Republicans working together for the good of the United States of America.

Thank you very much for working with me on this, and I appreciate having an opportunity to work with you.

And since I have no other speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1650

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, again, I want to thank Mr. SCOTT from Georgia for helping this bill along. As he articulated, Georgia has had an inordinate number of banks this past year, 2 or 3 years, that have suffered and have gone out of business.

This is just another situation here where this bill may not be a very big bill in the light of things, but it certainly is going to relieve some stress on some of our institutions, also some exposure for some of our merchants. I think, as our distinguished chairman articulated, it's time to put some of these folks out of business as well.

I have had, unfortunately, some of these things go on in my district, and this is how it was brought to my attention. But I think we have come together as a group, and we had a great meeting the other day in Financial Services and had strong bipartisan support. We have the support in the Senate.

With that, I will close and ask for the support of the body.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4367.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

HYDROPOWER REGULATORY EFFICIENCY ACT OF 2012

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5892) to improve hydropower, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5892

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2012''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Findings.
Sec. 3. Promoting small hydroelectric power projects.
Sec. 4. Promoting conduit hydropower projects.

Sec. 5. FERC authority to extend preliminary permit periods.
Sec. 6. Promoting hydropower development at nonpowered dams and closed loop pumped storage projects.
Sec. 7. DOE study of pumped storage and potential hydropower from conduits.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the hydropower industry currently employs approximately 300,000 workers across the United States;

(2) hydropower is the largest source of clean, renewable electricity in the United States;

(3) as of the date of enactment of this Act, hydropower resources, including pumped storage facilities, provide—

(A) nearly 7 percent of the electricity generated in the United States; and

(B) approximately 100,000 megawatts of electric capacity in the United States;

(4) only 3 percent of the 80,000 dams in the United States generate electricity, so there is substantial potential for adding hydropower generation to nonpowered dams; and

(5) according to one study, by utilizing currently untapped resources, the United States could add approximately 60,000 megawatts of new hydropower capacity by 2025, which could create 700,000 new jobs over the next 13 years.

SEC. 3. PROMOTING SMALL HYDROELECTRIC POWER PROJECTS.

Subsection (d) of section 405 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2705) is amended by striking ''5,000'' and inserting ''10,000''.

SEC. 4. PROMOTING CONDUIT HYDROPOWER PROJECTS.

(a) APPLICABILITY OF, AND EXEMPTION FROM, LICENSING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 30 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 823a) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (a) and (b) and inserting the following:

''(a)(1) A qualifying conduit hydropower facility shall not be required to be licensed under this part.

''(2)(A) Any person, State, or municipality proposing to construct a qualifying conduit hydropower facility shall file with the Commission a notice of intent to construct such facility. The notice shall include sufficient information to demonstrate that the facility meets the qualifying criteria.

''(B) Not later than 15 days after receipt of a notice of intent filed under subparagraph (A), the Commission shall—

''(i) make an initial determination as to whether the facility meets the qualifying criteria; and

''(ii) if the Commission makes an initial determination, pursuant to clause (i), that the facility meets the qualifying criteria, publish public notice of the notice of intent filed under subparagraph (A).

''(C) If, not later than 45 days after the date of publication of the public notice described in subparagraph (B)(ii)—

''(i) an entity contests whether the facility meets the qualifying criteria, the Commission shall promptly issue a written determination as to whether the facility meets such criteria; or

''(ii) no entity contests whether the facility meets the qualifying criteria, the facility shall be deemed to meet such criteria.

''(3) For purposes of this section:

''(A) The term 'conduit' means any tunnel, canal, pipeline, aqueduct, flume, ditch, or similar manmade water conveyance that is operated for the distribution of water for agricultural, municipal, or industrial consumption and not primarily for the generation of electricity.

''(B) The term 'qualifying conduit hydropower facility' means a facility (not including any dam or other impoundment) that is determined or deemed under paragraph (2)(C) to meet the qualifying criteria.

''(C) The term 'qualifying criteria' means, with respect to a facility—

''(i) the facility is constructed, operated, or maintained for the generation of electric power and uses for such generation only the hydroelectric potential of a non-federally owned conduit;

''(ii) the facility has an installed capacity that does not exceed 5 megawatts; and

''(iii) on or before the date of enactment of the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2012, the facility is not licensed under, or exempted from the license requirements contained in, this part.

''(b) Subject to subsection (c), the Commission may grant an exemption in whole or in part from the requirements of this part, including any license requirements contained in this part, to any facility (not including any dam or other impoundment) constructed, operated, or maintained for the generation of electric power which the Commission determines, by rule or order—

''(1) utilizes for such generation only the hydroelectric potential of a conduit; and

''(2) has an installed capacity that does not exceed 40 megawatts.''.

(2) in subsection (c), by striking ''subsection (a)'' and inserting ''subsection (b)''; and

(3) in subsection (d), by striking ''subsection (a)'' and inserting ''subsection (b)''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (d) of section 405 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2705), as amended, is further amended by striking ''subsection (a) of such section 30'' and inserting ''subsection (b) of such section 30''.

SEC. 5. FERC AUTHORITY TO EXTEND PRELIMINARY PERMIT PERIODS.

Section 5 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 798) is amended—

(1) by designating the first, second, and third sentences as subsections (a), (c), and (d), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) (as so designated) the following:

''(b) The Commission may extend the period of a preliminary permit once for not more than 2 additional years beyond the 3 years permitted by subsection (a) if the Commission finds that the permittee has carried out activities under such permit in good faith and with reasonable diligence.''.

SEC. 6. PROMOTING HYDROPOWER DEVELOPMENT AT NONPOWERED DAMS AND CLOSED LOOP PUMPED STORAGE PROJECTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—To improve the regulatory process and reduce delays and costs for hydropower development at nonpowered dams and closed loop pumped storage projects, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (referred to in this section as the ''Commission'') shall investigate the feasibility of the issuance of a license for hydropower development at nonpowered dams and closed loop pumped storage projects in a 2-year period (referred to in this section as a ''2-year process''). Such a 2-year process shall include any prefiling licensing process of the Commission.

(b) WORKSHOPS AND PILOTS.—The Commission shall—

(1) not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, hold an initial workshop to solicit public comment and recommendations on how to implement a 2-year process;

(2) develop criteria for identifying projects featuring hydropower development at nonpowered dams and closed loop pumped storage projects that may be appropriate for licensing within a 2-year process;

(3) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, develop and implement pilot projects to test a 2-year process, if practicable; and

(4) not later than 3 years after the date of implementation of the final pilot project testing a 2-year process, hold a final workshop to solicit public comment on the effectiveness of each tested 2-year process.

(c) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Commission shall, to the extent practicable, enter into a memorandum of understanding with any applicable Federal or State agency to implement a pilot project described in subsection (b).

(d) REPORTS.—

(1) PILOT PROJECTS NOT IMPLEMENTED.—If the Commission determines that no pilot project described in subsection (b) is practicable because no 2-year process is practicable, not later than 240 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that—

(A) describes the public comments received as part of the initial workshop held under subsection (b)(1); and

(B) identifies the process, legal, environmental, economic, and other issues that justify the determination of the Commission that no 2-year process is practicable, with recommendations on how Congress may address or remedy the identified issues.

(2) PILOT PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED.—If the Commission develops and implements pilot projects involving a 2-year process, not later than 60 days after the date of completion of the final workshop held under subsection (b)(4), the Commission shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that—

(A) describes the outcomes of the pilot projects;

(B) describes the public comments from the final workshop on the effectiveness of each tested 2-year process; and

(C)(i) outlines how the Commission will adopt policies under existing law (including regulations) that result in a 2-year process for appropriate projects;

(ii) outlines how the Commission will issue new regulations to adopt a 2-year process for appropriate projects; or

(iii) identifies the process, legal, environmental, economic, and other issues that justify a determination of the Commission that no 2-year process is practicable, with recommendations on how Congress may address or remedy the identified issues.

SEC. 7. DOE STUDY OF PUMPED STORAGE AND POTENTIAL HYDROPOWER FROM CONDUITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy shall conduct a study—

(1)(A) of the technical flexibility that existing pumped storage facilities can provide to support intermittent renewable electric energy generation, including the potential for such existing facilities to be upgraded or retrofitted with advanced commercially available technology; and

(B) of the technical potential of existing pumped storage facilities and new advanced pumped storage facilities, to provide grid reliability benefits; and

(2)(A) to identify the range of opportunities for hydropower that may be obtained from conduits (as defined by the Secretary) in the United States; and

(B) through case studies, to assess amounts of potential energy generation from such conduit hydropower projects.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes the results of the study conducted under subsection (a), including any recommendations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS) and the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 5892.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5892, the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2012, which I introduced, along with my good friend from Colorado, Representative DIANA DEGETTE.

To see the potential and the benefits of hydropower, all we have to do is look at my home State of Washington, which gets over 75 percent of its power from clean, reliable hydropower and has some of the Nation's lowest electricity rates.

The Columbia and Snake River dams in eastern Washington, through irrigation, transformed a dry, barren desert with sagebrush to one of the most productive agriculture regions in the world. The low cost of hydropower brought high-tech companies like Google and Yahoo to relocate their servers there. Manufacturing facilities like BMW have now opened plants in Moses Lake, and the significant transportation benefits hydropower infrastructure provides to our Nation's barging are all as a result of hydropower.

Yet, notwithstanding all of these benefits, the regulatory approval process for hydropower development, especially for smaller projects, can be unnecessarily slow, costly, and cumbersome. That's why I authored, and I urge my colleagues to support, H.R. 5892, which reforms and streamlines the hydropower permitting and regulatory process for small hydropower and conduit projects, reducing the burdens impeding development and getting low-cost electricity to communities faster.

Mr. Speaker, few would disagree that we as a Nation need to become more energy independent. Along with Members on both sides of the aisle, I support an all-of-the-above energy strategy. The Department of Energy has also a goal of doubling the amount of hydropower produced in the United States, which a recent National Hydropower Association study revealed could be accomplished without building a single new dam by simply investing in new technologies and turbines. Mr. Speaker, the benefits and the overwhelming potential is why I urge the President to include hydropower in his all-of-the-above energy strategy.

As part of an all-of-the-above strategy, we need to domestically produce more oil, coal, natural gas, and renewable energies like hydropower. According to the Energy Information Administration, currently 75 percent of all renewable energy produced in the United States is hydropower. However, that only accounts for 7 percent of the total electricity nationwide, and we've hardly scratched the surface of hydropower's potential. By utilizing currently untapped resources, the United States could add approximately 60,000 megawatts of new hydropower by 2025.

Furthermore, with job growth still at a sluggish pace and far too many Americans out of work, we should be looking at every opportunity to put Americans back to work. Increased hydropower development will do just that, with the potential to create up to 700,000 jobs over the next decade. Unleashing American ingenuity to increase hydropower production will lower energy costs and help create thousands of jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support American energy and support H.R. 5892.

I reserve the balance of my time.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
May 29, 2012.

Hon. BARACK OBAMA,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: As we continue to advance policies that will reduce America's dependency on foreign energy under the ''all-of-the-above'' mantra, I respectfully urge you to consider our nation's largest, cleanest, and most inexpensive renewable energy source—hydroelectric power.

According to your Department of Energy, approximately only seven percent of our nation's total electricity and nearly seventy-five percent of all renewable energy comes from hydropower. Hydropower's undeveloped potential is nearly exponential. Currently, only three percent of the 84,000 dams in the United States produce hydropower and hydropower production could double without building a single new dam. Not to mention the commonsense regulatory reforms that can be made to reduce the regulatory burden constraining hydropower production. The first and foremost beneficiary of increasing the development of this clean renewable energy source will be consumers with lower utility bills.

While I applaud your decision to embrace an ''all-of-the-above'' energy approach, I am disappointed your ''all-of-the-above'' approach does not include hydropower. According to your campaign website, the United States' leading renewable energy source does not play a role in our nation's energy future. With the potential and benefits of hydropower in mind, I respectfully urge you to re-evaluate and include hydropower in your ''all-of-the-above'' approach to energy independence.

Sincerely,

CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS.

NATIONAL HYDROPOWER ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, July 9, 2012.

Hon. CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS,
Washington, DC.
Hon. DIANA DEGETTE,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MCMORRIS RODGERS AND REPRESENTATIVE DEGETTER: On behalf of the National Hydropower Association (NHA) I want to extend our appreciation for your leadership on hydropower issues and recognize your tremendous work on H.R. 5892, the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2012.

NHA fully supports the legislation, which provides common-sense improvements to the development process for small hydropower and conduit projects while also seeking solutions to unlock new generation at existing non-powered dam infrastructure and closed-loop pumped storage facilities.

Hydropower is an integral part of America's energy portfolio. The adoption of smart, targeted policies, such as H.R. 5892, allows our nation to tap new hydropower resources to meet future energy needs.

Once again, we commend your work to increase affordable, reliable, and renewable hydropower deployment and for crafting a bill that has garnered broad bipartisan support as well as the endorsement of both the industry and the environmental community.

Sincerely,

LINDA CHURCH CIOCCI,
Executive Director.

HYDROVOLTS,
June 19, 2012.

Hon. CATHY MCMORRIS ROGERS,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MCMORRIS RODGERS: We are writing to express our support for H.R. 5892, the ''Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2012.''

Hydrovolts, headquartered in Seattle, Washington, is a manufacturer of portable hydropower turbines that harvest hydrokinetic energy from water channels. Primarily working with irrigation districts, water treatment plants and other water system operators who can purchase multiple turbines, we are working to help revolutionize renewable in-stream hydropower generation and make it cost-effective for the USA and for an untapped global export market. Deployed in the huge water supply canals that now cross the continents, these turbines have no environmental impact and can be mass-produced like cars, creating good manufacturing jobs. Hydrovolts' ingenious design and business plan have won awards from cleantech venture contests and investments from individuals and corporations. Please see the online video about Hydrovolts at www.youtube.com/watch?v=gbh6K5LVrj0.

By taking advantage of the regulatory scheme created in H.R. 5892 that allows for the rapid deployment of small hydropower technology, Hydrovolts will be able to affordably harness the hydrokinetic energy flowing through thousands of miles of canals. Hydrovolts has already built and installed turbines that are scalable, portable, low cost and easy to install. They will create clean energy that is accessible and affordable in potentially millions of sites.

H.R. 5892 will directly and dramatically help our company grow and succeed, by removing regulatory barriers that are unreasonably imposed on this untapped hydropower resource. We will get many more customers and hire more people because of this legislation. It will help launch an entirely new clean energy source for America—canal power—as well as removing a major regulatory barrier to many existing proposed hydropower projects. This is an example of pursing an ''all of the above'' energy security objective from a new perspective of distributed hydropower that supports manufacturing and agriculture. Above all, Hydrovolts supports this legislation because it is an important step towards the goal of expanding hydropower production.

Founded in April of 2007, Hydrovolts has proven that it is a strong small business with large potential. To date, our most notable achievements are:

Performance design and function validated at University of Washington, USGS lab, US Navy

Successful demonstration project in Washington's Roza Irrigation District

Signed first-ever licensing agreement for demonstration in Federal canals with USBR

Winner of three national contests for cleantech business plans

Raised $3 million from private investors and grown to 14 employees, without receiving any government subsidies or grants.

On June 19th, we met with Shaughnessy Murphy on your staff to discuss this important legislation and we look forward to continue working with you on this important legislation. The leadership you have demonstrated on the issue of renewable energy is appreciated. If there are opportunities for entrepreneurs to testify to Congress in support of H.R. 5892, we will be happy to come to Washington DC to speak up. Please don't hesitate to reach out for this.

Should you have any additional questions or wish to reach me, please feel free to contact me at 206.658–4380 or burt@hydrovolts.com.

Sincerely,

BURT HAMNER,
CEO, Hydrovolts, Inc.

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
OF CHELAN COUNTY,
Wenatchee, WA, July 5, 2012.

Hon. CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MCMORRIS RODGERS: On behalf of Chelan County PUD, I would like to thank you for sponsoring H.R. 5892, the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2012. Your leadership in recognizing the importance of hydropower's renewable character and economic contributions is very much appreciated. As a large hydropower generator in north central Washington State, Chelan PUD and our customers benefit significantly from this clean source of electric generation. We believe hydropower is a critical and under-appreciated resource in our nation's electric generation mix.

We are encouraged that H.R. 5892 will help facilitate hydropower development by addressing regulatory barriers for small hydropower and conduit hydropower, projects at non-powered dams, and closed loop pumped storage. These efforts are an important step in increasing generation from renewable hydropower and better-utilizing existing infrastructure. We also agree that studying the potential for pumped storage to support integration of intermittent renewable generation will be helpful as the Northwest and other regions work to integrate increasing amounts of wind into the electric grid.

Overall, we are hopeful that your legislative efforts will bring needed recognition and appreciation for the contributions of hydropower to our nation's electric generation mix. We thank you for your hard work and dedication to this issue.

Sincerely,

JOHN JANNEY,
General Manager.

GRANT COUNTY, Public Utility District, Excellence in Service and Leadership,
Ephrata, Washington, July 5, 2012.

Hon. CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN MCMORRIS RODGERS: Grant County Public Utility District (Grant PUD) applauds your extraordinary leadership in Congress to increase our nation's renewable hydropower capacity and expand American jobs and economic opportunities throughout the United States.

Grant PUD strongly supports your bi-partisan legislation—H.R. 5892, the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2012. We are pleased that this bi-partisan bill, introduced by yourself and Rep. Diana DeGette (D–CO), is scheduled for passage by the U.S. House of Representatives on July 9, 2012. Grant PUD believes it will foster significant growth of sustainable hydropower development that will strengthen our domestic economy, environment and renewable energy supplies.

We also commend the many additional co-sponsors of this legislation, which include:

Rep. John Dingell (D–MI)
Rep. Cory Gardner (R–CO)
Rep. Robert Latta (R–OH)
Rep. Ben Luján (D–NM)
Rep. Ed Markey (D–MA)
Rep. Jim Matheson (D–UT)
Rep. Todd Platts (R–PA)
Rep. Lamar Smith (R–TX)
Rep. Lee Terry (R–NE)
Rep. Greg Walden (R–OR)

Hydropower is a reliable, available, affordable and renewable energy resource. H.R. 5892 reminds us that hydropower has much more to offer and must play a key role in any ''all-of-the-above'' energy strategy. Think about this one statistic: Of the 80,000 dams across the United States, just three percent (3%) are utilized to generate hydroelectricity. Just three percent! This legislation puts America on a path to tap this available infrastructure, support our environment and employ hundreds of thousands of American workers.

According to the Department of Energy, 12,000 megawatts (MW) of new hydropower capacity could be developed at existing dams that currently do not generate electricity. This would increase U.S. hydropower capacity by 15 percent without building any new dams. That is enough energy to serve 4.5 million residential customers.

Grant PUD strongly supports the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2012, which also enjoys broad public support from American Rivers to the National Hydropower Association.

We appreciate your leadership on national energy issues and stand ready to assist you and the bill's numerous co-sponsors in promoting hydropower as a reliable, available, affordable and sustainable source of renewable electricity that will protect our environment and expand American job opportunities.

Sincerely,

ANDREW D. MUNRO,
Grant PUD—Director, Customer Service Division, and Past President, National Hydropower Association.

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I'm proud to stand here today with my Western colleague, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, to speak in support of the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act, H.R. 5892. Both of us realize how important hydropower is towards our country and towards energy independence. It's the largest source of renewable energy in America today, but, as Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS said, it's only 3 percent of our Nation's dams that are producing this power.

The Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act will enable increased electricity production from clean domestic energy sources by removing roadblocks to new hydropower projects. This legislation will create smarter and more efficient permitting processes for hydropower projects across the Nation by easing the licensing requirements for small hydroelectric projects.

In particular, the bill will allow the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to extend preliminary permits for those projects that had been conducted responsibly and to expand the number of hydropower projects that are exempt from FERC licensing requirements. The bill also directs FERC and the Secretary of Energy to perform studies that will reveal new potential for hydropower production and to increase grid reliability. This legislation will promote growth in our hydropower industry and it will create new jobs.

Since my colleague, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, and I began crafting this bill in December of last year, it has advanced with strong bipartisan support every step of the way. This is a testament both to the substance of the bill and to the spirit of everybody who contributed to the process. Members, staff, and stakeholders negotiated constructively and openly to produce this legislation. It's important for us to realize that even in these politically charged times, such collaboration is possible and necessary for us to fulfill our commitment to the American public.

I want to thank my colleague across the aisle for her hard work on this bill, and I also want to acknowledge Ranking Member WAXMAN and Chairman UPTON on the Energy and Commerce Committee for their support throughout the process.

H.R. 5892 will expand our potential to advance clean energy production and create jobs. I urge all Members to vote for this bill.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5892.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order: H.R. 4155; H.R. 4367; and H.R. 5892, in each case by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

VETERAN SKILLS TO JOBS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4155) to direct the head of each Federal department and agency to treat relevant military training as sufficient to satisfy training or certification requirements for Federal licenses, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 369, nays 0, not voting 62, as follows:

[Roll No. 452]

YEAS—369

Ackerman
Adams
Aderholt
Alexander
Altmire
Amash
Amodei
Andrews
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baldwin
Barber
Barletta
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (CA)
Bass (NH)
Becerra
Berg
Berkley
Berman
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bono Mack
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Camp
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clay
Clyburn
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Denham
Dent
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellmers
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Heinrich
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hochul
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Kucinich
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Levin
Lewis (GA)
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Maloney
Marchant
Marino
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Moore
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olver
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quayle
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Reyes
Ribble
Richardson
Richmond
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schilling
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stark
Stearns
Stivers
Sullivan
Sutton
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Webster
Welch
West
Westmoreland
Wilson (FL)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Woolsey
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—62

Akin
Austria
Benishek
Bonner
Brooks
Butterfield
Campbell
Cardoza
Carter
Cassidy
Chandler
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Coble
Conyers
Culberson
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Ellison
Farenthold
Filner
Flake
Fleischmann
Frank (MA)
Gingrey (GA)
Gosar
Green, Al
Gutierrez
Hirono
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Johnson (IL)
Landry
Lee (CA)
Lewis (CA)
Lipinski
Lynch
Manzullo
Meeks
Miller, George
Murphy (CT)
Myrick
Neal
Olson
Pascrell
Paul
Pence
Peters
Rohrabacher
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (WI)
Schmidt
Schock
Scott (VA)
Shuler
Simpson
Stutzman
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Young (AK)

□ 1855

Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Mr. ALTMIRE changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote 452, the vote for H.R. 4155, the Veteran Skills to Job Act, had I been able to vote, I would have voted "aye."

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 452, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 452 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFER ACT AMENDMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4367) to amend the Electronic Fund Transfer Act to limit the fee disclosure requirement for an automatic teller machine to the screen of that machine, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 371, nays 0, not voting 60, as follows:

[Roll No. 453]

YEAS—371

Ackerman
Adams
Aderholt
Alexander
Altmire
Amash
Amodei
Andrews
Baca

Bachmann
Bachus
Baldwin
Barber
Barletta
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (CA)
Bass (NH)
Becerra
Berg
Berkley
Berman
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bono Mack
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Camp
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clay
Clyburn
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Denham
Dent
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Heinrich
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hochul
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Kucinich
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Levin
Lewis (GA)
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Maloney
Marchant
Marino
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Moore
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olver
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quayle
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Reyes
Ribble
Richardson
Richmond
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schilling
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stark
Stearns
Stivers
Sullivan
Sutton
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Webster
Welch
West
Westmoreland
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Woolsey
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—60

Akin
Austria
Benishek
Bishop (GA)
Bonner
Brooks
Butterfield
Campbell
Cardoza
Carter
Chandler
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Coble
Conyers
Culberson
DesJarlais
Deutch
Edwards
Ellison
Farenthold
Filner
Flake
Fleischmann
Frank (MA)
Gosar
Green, Al
Gutierrez
Hirono
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Johnson (IL)
Landry
Lee (CA)
Lewis (CA)
Lipinski
Lynch
Manzullo
Meeks
Miller, George
Murphy (CT)
Myrick
Neal
Olson
Pascrell
Paul
Pence
Peters
Rohrabacher
Ruppersberger
Rush
Sánchez, Linda T.
Schmidt
Schock
Scott (VA)
Shuler
Simpson
Stutzman
Whitfield
Young (AK)

□ 1902

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 453, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HYDROPOWER REGULATORY EFFICIENCY ACT OF 2012

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5892) to improve hydropower, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 372, nays 0, not voting 59, as follows:

[Roll No. 454]

YEAS—372

Ackerman
Adams
Aderholt
Alexander
Altmire
Amash
Amodei
Andrews
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baldwin
Barber
Barletta
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (CA)
Bass (NH)
Becerra
Berg
Berkley
Berman
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bono Mack
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Camp
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clyburn
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Denham
Dent
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellmers
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Heinrich
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hochul
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Kucinich
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Levin
Lewis (GA)
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Maloney
Marchant
Marino
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Moore
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olver
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quayle
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Reyes
Ribble
Richardson
Richmond
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schilling
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert

Scott (SC)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stark
Stearns
Stivers
Sullivan
Sutton
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Webster
Welch
West
Westmoreland
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Woolsey
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—59

Akin
Austria
Benishek
Bonner
Brooks
Butterfield
Campbell
Cardoza
Carter
Chandler
Cleaver
Coble
Conyers
Cravaack
Culberson
DesJarlais
Deutch
Ellison
Farenthold
Filner
Flake
Fleischmann
Frank (MA)
Gosar
Green, Al
Gutierrez
Hirono
Hunter
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Johnson (IL)
Landry
Lee (CA)
Lewis (CA)
Lipinski
Lynch
Manzullo
McCaul
Meeks
Miller, George
Murphy (CT)
Myrick
Neal
Olson
Pascrell
Paul
Pence
Peters
Rohrabacher
Ruppersberger
Rush
Schmidt
Schock
Scott (VA)
Shuler
Simpson
Stutzman
Whitfield
Young (AK)

□ 1909

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 454, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 9, 2012 I had a meeting regarding environmental matters in Champaign, Illinois. Had I been in Washington, I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 4155 the Veteran Skills to Jobs Act, H.R. 4367 to amend the Electronic Fund Transfer Act to limit the fee disclosure requirement for an automatic teller machine to the screen of that machine, and H.R. 5892 the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2012.

Again, had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on the above stated resolutions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, on July 9, 2012, I missed the following rollcall votes of the day.

Had I been present I would have voted

1. Yes rollcall vote No. 452 H.R. 4155—Veteran Skills to Jobs Act

2. Yes rollcall vote No. 453. H.R. 4367—To amend the Electronic Fund Transfer Act to limit the fee disclosure requirement for an automatic teller machine to the screen of that machine

3. Yes rollcall vote No. 454 H.R. 5892—Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2012

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, this evening, I was called away on personal business. I regret that I was not present to vote on H.R. 4155, H.R. 4367, and H.R. 5892. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on these bills.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, due to airplane maintenance issues affecting flight schedules, my arrival into Washington was delayed this evening. I was unable to cast a vote on rollcall votes No. 1452 (H.R. 4155), No. (H.R. 4367), and No. 454 (H.R. 5892). Had I been present, I would have voted aye on each of those votes.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3798

Mr. WEST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove myself as a cosponsor of H.R. 3798, the Egg Products Inspection Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

FORMER CHARLESTON NAVAL BASE LAND EXCHANGE ACT OF 2012

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2061) to provide for an exchange of land between the Department of Homeland Security and the South Carolina State Ports Authority.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2061

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Former Charleston Naval Base Land Exchange Act of 2012".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) FEDERAL LAND.—The term "Federal land" means the parcels consisting of approximately 10.499 acres of land (including improvements) that are owned by the United States, located on the former U.S. Naval Base Complex in North Charleston, South Carolina, and included within the Charleston County Tax Assessor's Office Tax Map Number 400–00–00–004, and shown as New Parcel B in that certain plat of Forsberg Engineering and Surveying Inc., dated May 25, 2007, entitled in part "Plat Showing the Subdivision of TMS 400–00–00–004 into Parcel B and Remaining Residual (Parcel A).

(2) NON-FEDERAL LAND.—The term "non-Federal land" means the 3 parcels of land (including improvements) authorized to be conveyed to the United States under this Act.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(4) STATE PORTS AUTHORITY.—The term "State Ports Authority" means the South Carolina State Ports Authority, an agency of the State of South Carolina.

SEC. 3. LAND EXCHANGE.

(a) LAND EXCHANGE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In exchange for the conveyance to the Secretary, by quitclaim deed, of all right, title, and interest of the State Ports Authority to the non-Federal land owned by the State Ports Authority, the Secretary is authorized to convey to the State Ports Authority, by quitclaim deed, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Federal land.

(2) EXCHANGE.—If the State Ports Authority offers to convey to the Secretary all right, title, and interest of the State Ports Authority in and to the non-Federal parcels identified in subsection (b), the Secretary—

(A) is authorized to accept the offer; and

(B) on acceptance of the offer, shall simultaneously convey to the State Ports Authority all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to approximately 10.499 acres of Federal land.

(b) NON-FEDERAL LAND DESCRIBED.—The non-Federal land (including improvements) to be conveyed under this section consists of—

(1) the approximately 18.736 acres of land that is owned by the State Ports Authority, located on S. Hobson Avenue, and currently depicted in the Charleston County Tax Assessor's Office as Tax Map Number 400–00–00–158, and as New I–48.55 Parcel B, containing 18.736 acres, on the plat recorded in the Charleston County RMC Office in Plat Book EL, at page 280;

(2) the approximately 4.069 acres of land that is owned by the State Ports Authority, located on Thompson Avenue and the Cooper River, and currently depicted in the Charleston County Tax Assessor's Office as Tax Map Number 400–00–00–156, and as New II–121.44 Parcel C, containing 4.069 acres, on the plat recorded in the Charleston County RMC Office in Plat Book L09, at pages 0391–393; and

(3) the approximately 2.568 acres of land that is owned by the State Ports Authority, located on Partridge Avenue, and currently depicted in the Charleston County Tax Assessor's Office as Tax Map Number 400–00–00–157, and as New II–121.44 Parcel B, containing 2.568 acres, on the plat recorded in the Charleston County RMC Office in Plat Book L09, at pages 0391–0393.

(c) LAND TITLE.—Title to the non-Federal land conveyed to the Secretary under this section shall—

(1) be acceptable to the Secretary; and

(2) conform to the title approval standards of the Attorney General of the United States applicable to land acquisitions by the Federal Government.

SEC. 4. EXCHANGE TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The conveyance of Federal land under section 3 shall be subject to—

(1) any valid existing rights; and

(2) any additional terms and conditions that the Secretary determines to be appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(b) COSTS.—The costs of carrying out the exchange of land under section 3 shall be shared equally by the Secretary and the State Ports Authority.

(c) EQUAL VALUE EXCHANGE.—Notwithstanding the appraised value of the land exchanged under section 3, the values of the Federal and non-Federal land in the land exchange under section 3 shall be considered to be equal.

SEC. 5. BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.

On acceptance of title to the non-Federal land by the Secretary—

(1) the non-Federal land shall be added to and administered as part of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center; and

(2) the boundaries of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center shall be adjusted to exclude the exchanged Federal land.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DOLD). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on S. 2061 currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to transfer property located in South Carolina and owned by the United States in exchange for property owned by the South Carolina State Ports Authority.

The Department will acquire land that is important to the continued operation and development of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center's maritime academy. The State of South Carolina will acquire land that will allow the South Carolina State Ports Authority to develop an access road to Interstate 26.

This exchange would have already occurred, but the Department of Homeland Security Secretary lacked the authority to engage in the transfer of real property. This bill gives the Secretary the necessary authority to facilitate this transaction. This is a commonsense solution that will benefit both the State of South Carolina and the United States.

This bill and the underlying land exchange is supported by the Governor of South Carolina, the South Carolina State Ports Authority, and the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The Senate passed this bill by unanimous consent last month.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Senate 2061, the Former Charleston Naval Base Land Exchange Act of 2012. This bill authorizes the Secretary of Department of Homeland Security to convey a parcel of Federal land in North Charleston, South Carolina, to the South Carolina State Ports Authority in exchange for specified lands owned by the Ports Authority.

The land to be transferred by the Department of Homeland Security formerly comprised a portion of the Charleston Naval Base but is now vacant. DHS currently leases the land it plans to acquire in this transfer and uses it to house some of the operations of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center also known as FLETC.

The Charleston Harbor area includes the fourth busiest international container shipping port in the United States, with one passenger and four container port terminals, as well as numerous privately held terminals. The waterways in this area contain shipping channels, rivers, bays, creeks, streams, the Intracoastal Waterway, and the Atlantic Ocean. These waterways provide a realistic training environment for FLETC's Maritime Law Enforcement and Port Security students.

Specifically, the FLETC Charleston facility is one of Charleston's three residential training centers and includes a variety of specialized capabilities for maritime law enforcement and port security training. The facilities include four deepwater piers for large commercial or military vessels and three sets of floating docks for smaller vessels.

Students at the FLETC Charleston facility engage in programs such as commercial vessel, boarding, training, maritime tactical operations training, and seaport security antiterrorism training. All of these programs are critical to protecting our Nation from the potential of a variety of criminal and terrorist threats.

By allowing a mutually beneficial transfer of the lands between the Port Authority and DHS, we are advancing the important mission of the FLETC.

I urge my colleagues to support Senate 2061, which the Senate has already adopted, so that it may become law.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2061.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1920

THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF ATTACKS ON WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, the House just won't let up on American women. Tomorrow features a committee markup to deprive women of their constitutional right to an abortion. The bill picks on D.C. women because Republicans don't have the nerve to introduce this frontal attack on Roe v. Wade as a nationwide bill. But they make no secret of their purpose. They have already gotten several conservative States to pass similar laws and they seek a Federal precedent. But they can't get a legitimate one.

Women will easily see a House-only bill based on bogus science and limited to D.C. for what it is: The latest in a series of attacks on women's reproductive health this term.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS HOUR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks in accordance with the subject of the Special Order this evening.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. I want to, again, begin by thanking the Democratic leader for giving the Congressional Black Caucus this time to focus on health care reform specifically, especially as the House is preparing to continue their attempts to repeal what we know is a good bill and a needed bill in this country.

Before I begin to yield time, I just want to recognize the 103rd anniversary of the NAACP. They have long been premier champions of health care and fought for health care as a right. They are committed to eliminating the racial and ethnic disparities in our health care system that plague people of color in the United States. Their 880 Campaign is based on the fact that over the past decade, because we have not eliminated health disparities, over 880,000 African Americans and other people of color have died premature deaths from preventable causes. That does not need to happen. So we continue that fight in health care reform. We have made great strides in it. And we look forward to implementing that law, despite the attempts to repeal today.

I want to congratulate the NAACP on their 103rd anniversary this evening, and I would like to yield such time as she may consume to the gentlelady from Texas, Congresswoman EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Thank you very much.

Two weeks ago, the United States Supreme Court justly and commendably upheld the Affordable Care Act, ensuring that millions of Americans will continue to have access to quality, affordable health care. Despite this monumental victory for our country, for the 31st time since its enactment, Republicans are attempting to repeal the health care law, treating it as if this is just some kind of political game played between the two parties.

While the Affordable Care Act will expand coverage for millions of Americans, many Texans will be denied access by their Governor. And I'm a Texan. Just today, Texas Governor Rick Perry announced his decision not to expand Medicaid or implement a State health exchange under the Affordable Care Act—nothing more than

politics. However, during his announcement, Governor Perry failed to provide an alternative plan to address the growing numbers of uninsured Texans. Texas has the highest percentage of adults without health care insurance, and rejecting Federal Medicaid funds would only worsen this predicament for Texans. Without the Affordable Care Act, millions of uninsured Americans will continue to seek primary care in our Nation's overcrowded emergency rooms, leaving taxpayers to pay the tab, if they own property. As a nonpracticing registered nurse, I am all too familiar with this scenario, which has placed a huge burden on our Nation's hospital systems.

Mr. Speaker, this week's GOP messaging vote to repeal is nothing more than political warfare in an election year. Instead of bringing job-creating bills to the floor, Republican leadership insists on wasting taxpayer dollars by debating a law which has been firmly upheld by the Nation's highest court. While the Republicans have introduced numerous measures to undermine and repeal the Affordable Care Act, they have repeatedly failed to introduce one piece of legislation which could serve as a viable alternative to the health care law.

I urge my colleagues to reject this effort to take away patient protections for Americans. Instead, for once, let partisan politics come in second and let the American people win this one.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Congressman JOHNSON. Thank you for beginning to lay out the issue before us this evening, as we know that we've done landmark legislation in passing the Affordable Care Act. It is now settled law and the Supreme Court has ruled and we have a lot of other work that the American people need us to do.

At this time I would like to yield such time as she may consume to the gentlelady from Florida, Congresswoman CORRINE BROWN.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Thank you very much for leading this discussion on health care.

You can fool some of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time. And as we begin to discuss repealing the health care law tomorrow, I would like to discuss just how exactly the Affordable Care Act benefits all Americans. Although not a perfect bill—and I've been elected in Congress for 20 years and I've never seen a perfect bill, but a perfect beginning. And the reason why it's not perfect is because you make compromises throughout the process. This is a perfect start. Attempting to obtain universal health care has been a primary goal of every single President and Congress since the days of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who fought for quality access to health care and health care insurance reform for all Americans. And now, 75 years later after the Supreme Court ruling just over a week ago, our Nation has finally attained that goal. After 75 years, every single President has tried to implement some form of universal health care.

□ 1930

In fact, millions of Americans have already come to rely on the wide-ranging and lifesaving benefits of the Affordable Care Act. And let me say that as far as Obama health care is concerned, let me clear something up. It's President Barack Obama. And let me be clear, he does care. Let me say again, President Barack Obama does care. He cares deeply about the health and well-being of every American.

Before Congress passed the Affordable Care Act, nearly one in five citizens in the wealthiest country on Earth had little or no hope of affordable insurance or getting access to regular health care. And when fully implemented, the Affordable Care Act will cover an additional 30 million Americans and 3.8 million African Americans who otherwise would remain uninsured.

Already under the Affordable Care Act, 17 million children with preexisting conditions can no longer be denied coverage, 105 million Americans no longer have a lifetime limit on their coverage, 32 million seniors received free preventive care in 2011, 54 million Americans in private plans have received free preventive services, 6.6 million young adults up to the age of 26 have attained insurance through their parents' plan, 5.2 million seniors and disabled people saved an average of $704 each on prescription drugs, 360,000 small businesses received tax credits to help them afford coverage for 2 million workers, and 13 million families received insurance premium rebates averaging $151 in 2012.

In my congressional district of Florida, 6,900 young adults in the district will receive health care insurance, 6,200 seniors received prescription drug discounts worth $3.6 million, and the average savings is $600 per senior. And 20,000 children and 80,000 adults now have health care insurance that covers preventive services without co-pay, coinsurance, or deductibles.

Every American who has benefited from this needs to let their local Representatives, their Senator and their Governor know. We all have a dog in this fight.

The Republican Party is constantly complaining about a tax and how this law will raise taxes. But I'd like to reply to them the American taxpayers are already paying a hidden tax right now. Every single time one of the millions of our citizens who lacks health care insurance receives emergency care, that cost is passed on to paying customers through higher fees and premiums.

So the question is, how can we begin to bring our country's health care costs down? And this law is the first step in achieving this.

In closing, as I always say, you can fool some of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. I thank you, and I thank you for pointing out some of the benefits and the numbers of Americans who are enjoying those benefits already over these last 2 years. And those benefits, as you said, extend to all Americans, whether they live in Democratic districts or Republican districts. We want to make sure that people continue to be able to insure their children with preexisting disease, their young people up to age 26, to have our seniors and disabled and anyone who is insured be able to get that important preventive care without a co-pay, and begin to continue to strengthen the Medicare program as we have in the Affordable Care Act.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. I have one question before I leave. The question of tax penalty is a very debatable question. But my concern is anyone that has insurance is not affected, veterans are not affected.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Absolutely.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. And you will not pay that penalty unless you do not—if you can afford it and you don't have it, then you're going to pay some minimum amount?

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Exactly.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Can you explain that to people who are watching? Because, basically, it is just for those small, less than 1 percent, who do not try to get coverage.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. That's correct. And as you said, there is a hardship provision so that if people just cannot afford it and fall in the cracks between the Medicaid expansion and the exchange, they will not have to pay. And it will be a very small percentage, one or two percent, that CBO has said would actually end up paying the penalty, and it's a very small penalty. Yes, for administrative purposes, it's collected through the IRS; but it's a penalty. And very few people would have to pay it.

As you said also in your statement, we pay anyway. And we pay more on the other end for not having everyone insured.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. The question is if you go to the hospital—and I was on the plane with one of the business persons and he was talking about it, and I said, you know, you are already paying. If someone on this plane passes out, they're going to the hospital, they're going to service them, and it is called, what, cost shifting? So you are already paying the cost of the most expensive way to provide health care. And many people do it. They wait until Friday, 5 o'clock and they go to the emergency room, which is the most expensive way to provide it.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. People who are not insured, or even people who are underinsured or who have a high copay, they have not gone for preventive care. Now they can get it without a copay. And without that preventive care, they end up in the emergency rooms in

the hospital when the illness has worsened and the cost is more. We can prevent that by having everyone insured and having everyone have preventive care.

I know people are saying that we are not reducing costs. You can't reduce costs in the first couple of years. But if you look out that 10-year period and even in the 10 years past that, you will see in many ways that the cost will be reduced.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Last question. These Governors, Texas you mentioned, Florida, these Governors are saying, we are not going to take advantage of the expansion. As a private citizen, what can I do? Because the President, just like the Governors, they can only propose. But the legislators are the ones that dispose. The President brought his proposal to Congress, but we had the ultimate decision as to what the final bill would look like. And that is as true in the State houses also.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. That is correct. And we will be working with our State legislatures to make sure that they understand what is at stake. And I'm sure that the voters in their districts who are already enjoying those benefits and who are looking forward to finally having insurance that they can afford for the first time will be talking to them about what they feel is important.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Where are the health care providers and the people that provide the additional services? How should they weigh in?

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. I'm going to read some statements from some of the primary care physicians at the end of this Special Order, but they're beginning to weigh in. And based on what I was reading today, they are weighing in pretty favorably. And they will benefit as well. It is change, and change is difficult no matter what. But they will benefit as well, and they are beginning to speak up.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. I want to thank you again for your leadership on this matter. You've worked throughout the process in keeping us informed. I think you're the only physician——

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. I'm the first female physician. I'm the only physician in the CBC, but there are other physicians in Congress.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. I understand. But you are the only female physician in Congress.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. I was the first. We have one other elected in this Congress.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Well, you are certainly mine, and I thank you for your leadership.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Physicians and other providers, the thing that we don't talk about a lot is the jobs that will be created through this Affordable Care Act. We did finally pass a transportation bill, and thank God that will begin to create some jobs and save some jobs, but the health care reform bill is also a job-creating bill. It's projected it will create about 4 million jobs of all kinds over the 10-year period. So we've been creating jobs as well in the Affordable Care Act.

I would like to yield such time as she might consume to the gentlelady from Ohio, Congresswoman FUDGE.

Ms. FUDGE. Thank you so much. I thank you for yielding, and I thank the gentlelady for all of her work on the Affordable Care Act.

People seem to believe that this was something done in haste. They don't understand that for almost a year or more, people like you, people like members of the CBC worked very, very hard to make sure that we could come up with legislation that would be not only a good piece of legislation for the people of this country, but that would be something that would befit this Congress.

□ 1940

So I thank you for your work. You know that you have been our leader, especially with the CBC, but as well as in this House. You have been our leader on this, and I thank you for that.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues to express my strong support of affordable health care for all Americans. The Supreme Court has spoken, upholding landmark legislation that ensures all Americans have access to affordable, quality health care.

Millions of Americans across the country are already realizing the benefits of the Affordable Care Act, and the numbers are impressive:

Eighty-six million Americans have received free preventive screenings, free physical exams, mammograms, and other cancer screenings;

Seventeen million children with preexisting conditions can no longer be denied coverage, and 6.6 million young adults now remain under their parents' insurance plan until the age of 26;

Seventy thousand previously uninsured Americans with preexisting conditions now have the security of coverage through the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance program.

The act pays for actual care—this is something that people don't understand. The act pays for actual care, not the overinflated salaries of CEOs and executives. As a result, 12.8 million Americans will receive more than $1.1 billion in rebates because their insurance companies spent too much of their premium dollars on administrative costs or CEO bonuses.

Let me repeat that in another way.

They are required to spend the bulk of your money—at least 80 percent—on actual care. If they don't spend it on actual care, then you are reimbursed, and that is what is happening. So now we are going to be rebated more than $1 billion.

Further, the law makes enormous headway toward closing the gap on health disparities—of which my colleague knows so much. It includes increased funding for community health centers, which are so often a critical part of the health safety net in underserved communities.

We should be focusing on creating jobs rather than voting to repeal a law that is estimated to provide health care coverage to up to 32 million Americans. The highest court in the land has ruled, and the American people won. Let's stop this foolishness and focus on jobs.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you.

Congresswoman FUDGE, you're right. This is not a win for Democrats. It's not a win for the President. This is a win for the American people.

Thank you for bringing up the rebates, the $1.1 billion in rebates. In addition to the rebates—because some insurance companies have spent over their 80 percent that has to be provided in service—the Secretary has been able, in at least 12 States already, to keep the increases in premiums at 10 percent or less. That's another function of the Affordable Care Act. And you know our constituents have been crying out over the increases in premiums that they've been experiencing every year, and now the Affordable Care Act gives the Secretary the authority to keep those premiums within not more than a 10 percent increase.

Ms. FUDGE. Thank you, and I thank you again for your service.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you.

So as my colleagues have all said, the Supreme Court has upheld the law. It is settled law. It's time for us to move on.

This is landmark legislation, landmark legislation like Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP. We have a lot more work that the American people need us to do:

We need to continue the middle-income tax cuts.

We need to pass the American Jobs Act.

We need to continue to address the issue of the mortgages that are causing people to lose their homes. I was reading today in one of the papers that African Americans are expected to bear the burden of the mortgage fallout for many years to come, longer than everyone else.

And then we also have to implement the Affordable Care Act. We have the exchanges. I know there is a lot of talk about the exchanges and whether we'll be able to provide the subsidies, but what we ought to be doing is working together to make sure that that very important part of this law can be fully implemented.

We're talking about the working poor, people who are doing the right thing, being responsible, working and trying to take care of their families. It would be so unfair to them, now that they see within their reach affordable health care, to take that away. We're going to pay for it either now or we're going to pay for it later, as Congresswoman BROWN was saying. It's less to pay on this side and ensure that everyone has access to the services that they need to keep them healthy and to keep them from developing those catastrophic illnesses.

I want to talk a little bit about what the Congressional Black Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and the Congressional Asian American Caucus have done in crafting this health care bill.

Congresswoman FUDGE is right. We didn't start just before the bill was passed. We actually started before the debate began in the Congress. We developed benchmarks.

We call ourselves the Tri-Caucus.

We decided very early that insurance would never be enough for our communities that have been left out of the health care mainstream for so long and that health equity had to be a goal of any bill that we passed, so the Tri-Caucus worked together. We worked very hard. We met with House and Senate leadership. We met with the White House several times to ensure that the benchmarks that we set for our communities were going to be met, so that, really, this bill would provide access to quality health care for all Americans—not just a few, but for all Americans.

We hear a lot about the consumer protections:

The fact that children cannot be denied insurance if they have a preexisting disease, which is important to us;

The fact that our young people can stay on our insurance until 26 years old;

The fact that there are no lifetime and annual limits, and all of those important provisions that we hear about all of the time.

But I want to talk a little bit about some of the health equity provisions, because this bill prevents discrimination. It defines what a health disparity is and a health disparity population, and it makes sure that all of the research in the bill, all of the task forces, all of the institutes, the comparative effectiveness research, all of those include monitoring and having a goal of eliminating health disparities in their mandate. There are incentive payments to providers if they can demonstrate that they have eliminated health disparities.

Health disparities actually cost this Nation. In a study done by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, they've shown where, just over a 3-year period, $1.24 trillion was lost in direct and indirect costs just because of health disparities.

We expanded, of course, the coverage in the consumer protections—Medicaid expansion, which we really urge all of the States to provide for their citizens who are at 133 percent or under the Federal poverty level.

The territories, despite the vote to repeal our funding, that funding still stands. My territory is enjoying a great increase in funding. We have not lifted the cap. We are not getting State-like treatment, but for the very first time, many of the territories may be able to cover at least up to 100 percent of the Federal poverty level with the substantial increases that the Affordable Care Act provided.

We also have limited funding to set up exchanges, and the consumer protections and capacity building grants applied to the territories, which really need them.

We included the Indian Health Improvement Act.

We expanded community health centers and school-based health centers within the bill.

We provide for community health worker grants. In communities that have not had the benefit of robust health care services, it's important that people that they trust in the community can help them understand this law and help to make that connection to the health services that will be provided. That's what the community health worker grants would do.

They have community transformation grants.

We tried to include a program that we've been working on called Health Empowerment Zones. We didn't quite get that, but we have funding for communities where those health services have not been available, to be able to prepare that community and to begin to build some infrastructure so that every community can have the benefits of this bill.

□ 1950

We mandated that not-for-profit hospitals create a community health needs assessment every 3 years, and we created a Community Preventive Services Task Force.

Having community-focused, community-developed, community-driven, community-implemented programs is where we're going to see the biggest improvement in health care, especially in communities of color and communities that are poor and our rural communities in our territory.

The bill ensures that Federal health care programs collect and report data on race, ethnicity, sex, primary language, and disability status. We address health care disparities in Medicaid and SCHIP by standardizing data collection requirements.

Again, in comparative effectiveness, we were able to make sure that that research will include racial and ethnic subgroups, women and people with comorbidities. We establish a National Health Care Workforce Commission that requires reporting. For the very first time in this country, we have a national strategy at prevention, and we have a national strategy to eliminate health disparities, for the very first time, all from the Affordable Care Act.

We increase the National Health Service Corps and loan repayment programs, expanded Centers of Excellence, and we made sure to invest in Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-Serving Institutions.

We're going to have to greatly expand our health care workforce on all levels to take care of the 30-plus million new people who will be coming into the system, and we want to make sure that that workforce reflects the diversity of our country, and that the now underrepresented minorities have a chance to get some of those jobs and be able to provide some of those services for the communities that they come from.

We provide support for cultural competence training for health care professionals, grants to the health care workforce, to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services. We require the dissemination of information adapted to a variety of cultural, linguistic, and educational backgrounds so that everyone can understand what it is we're trying to do and be able to access the services.

Mental health and substance abuse parity was included. We included dental services in the basic package for children. We would have wished that it could be in the basic package for all people, but we were able to get it in children.

We establish a prevention and public health fund, and I know the Republican leadership has been trying to repeal that fund, to deplete that fund, but this is an attempt to change the paradigm of how we deal with health care in this country, not to just be dealing with the acute, expensive, long-term care, but to focus on prevention. An ounce of prevention is still worth a pound of cure.

We strengthened and expanded the Office of Women's Health. We elevated the Office of Minority Health to the Office of the Secretary. We've created new Offices of Minority Health in the Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service, SAMHSA, and other agencies where it's really critical that we have that input that really zeros in on the health care of the minorities who are the people who are really underserved and create some of the costs that we're trying to reduce. If we can take care of all of the people in this country, the costs will go down.

We elevated the Center on Minority and Health Disparities to a national institute at NIH, and they're doing great work with all of our universities across the country.

What we've come to understand is that when you're dealing with health, especially when you're looking from a community level, you can't just focus on disease. You have to look at the environment that people live in. And for the very first time we have a National Prevention, Health Promotion, and Public Health Council headed by our Surgeon General.

That council brings about 17 agencies of government together to plan and to look at the impact of their programs, policies, initiatives that help, and to really plan how we can create an environment in our communities and in our country that supports wellness and supports prevention and supports good health, so that people can walk in their neighborhoods, so that they could have fresh fruit and vegetables in their

neighborhoods and other things like that so we can deal with the obesity problem, so we can deal with smoking cessation, and all the things that contribute to poor health and really increase the costs. When we look at communities and focus on community prevention, that's where we're going to reduce the cost of health care.

So, I wanted to just say a word about Medicare because I am so tired of hearing about $500 billion taken out of—cut from Medicare. Now, that's a misinterpretation of what really happened. That $500 billion comes from cutting waste, fraud, and abuse in part.

I was reading in an article in the paper just today that Medicare could probably save $70 billion just in 1 year, in 2010, by really zeroing in on waste, fraud, and abuse and implementing some of the recommendations of the General Accountability Office—they could save $70 billion in 1 year. Multiply that by ten, I think it comes up to $700 billion, which is more than the $500 billion that the Republicans keep saying we took out of Medicare.

We didn't. We made payments fairer, remember, by making the payments more equitable across the board. So we may have lowered some of the reimbursement rates for Medicare Advantage, but we were able to still keep some of the better, more effective Medicare Advantage programs in place.

We began to close the doughnut hole. We took some of that money to close the doughnut hole so that over the 10-year period there will be no time that a senior or a person with disability will have to pay the full cost of their medication.

We are providing preventive care with no copayments and an annual physical exam with no copayment. And in addition to all of that, with that $500 billion, we extended the life of Medicare by 8 years.

So I just want to clear that up. We did not take $500 billion out of Medicare. We used it to reinvest into Medicare, to make it stronger, to provide more services and more benefits for the beneficiaries.

Of course, health care reform will take an investment, but it will reduce costs over time. We'll reduce disparities, we'll have better end-of-life care with planning by individuals and their families, we'll have that community-based prevention, obesity prevention, smoking cessation and health policy and every policy that I talked about. And all of that will reduce the cost of health care.

I just want to close by just reading a few statements from some physicians. I'm a primary care physician, a family physician myself. And Medscape today published an article from a primary care round table. And I know the doctors who spoke here said many, many things. I just want to quote a sentence or two from several of them.

Charles P. Vega, M.D. At the end of his statement he says:

> The Supreme Court decision breathes life into the health care reform movement at a critical time, and we need to take advantage of this fortune, not only to implement the most important parts of the Affordable Care Act, but also to start building towards the next logical steps in health care reform, beginning with an efficient public option that emphasizes smart, quality care.

And Dr. Robert W. Morrow says:

> And now we're in a regulatory space where the health of the public could take precedence over the profits of the commercial health plans. And why not?

Dr. Roy M. Poses, M.D., says of the Supreme Court ruling:

> The news is not bad. We're probably, on balance, somewhat better off with some health care insurance reform than none. However, we're still a long way from meaningfully addressing concentration and abuse of power in health care. There will be no rest for the weary bloggers of the Health Care Renewal.

Another doctor, Dr. Li, says:

> My take is that the plan is not as good as what's being touted by the left, but it's far better than what's being said by the right.

And Dr. Robert M. Centor says:

> Clearly, upholding the individual mandate allows the U.S. to approach universal health care. Universal health care is such a worthy goal that we must applaud this victory.

Dr. Mark Williams says:

> For me the Supreme Court ruling on the ACA implies at least a period of relative clarity and less uncertainty, despite much political rhetoric. In short, we now have some time for planning and innovation.

And he also says:

> Healthcare is too precious to be considered a business or a marketplace commodity. Whatever system we choose must commit itself to the needs of the population and the global community, not simply to our own personal needs. It must be based on needs and not simply on service expansion.

And lastly, from my own American Academy of Family Practice, they say:

> Having the mandate upheld is consistent with what has been AAFP policy for over 20 years. We have advocated for health care coverage for everyone and access to at least basic health services, including good primary care with prevention and chronic illness care. You can argue whether the mandate is the only means to get there, but at least in the analyses that I've seen, it was one of the best identified ways to get everyone covered.

And so, the American people, when you ask them about the different provisions of the law, an overwhelming majority really supports the provisions that we've been able to provide for them in health care reform.

□ 2000

Many physicians are touting the Supreme Court decision and the law. I think, if we can all forget about the political rhetoric of repeal and just work together to make sure that it's implemented in the best way possible, we will really be doing what the American people have sent us here to do.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6079, REPEAL OF OBAMACARE ACT

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112–587) on the resolution (H. Res. 724) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6079) to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND BROKEN PROMISES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

These can be the best of times and the worst of times. There is still so much potential. This country has so much in the way of assets. It is interesting to hear my friends across the aisle talk about the wonders of ObamaCare, but I know this President has said before: if you make more than $250,000, you won't ever have your taxes raised. I won't ever raise your taxes.

He has said it a lot of different ways. Yet, when I read his version of the American Jobs Act, which he, himself, pushed for, promulgated, demanded be passed, it actually raised taxes on everybody who made more than $125,000. So he broke the promise there.

In ObamaCare, it's very clear that, if you make just above the poverty line and if you can't afford the kind of Cadillac insurance that is demanded that you purchase, you're going to get hammered with a tax, and it will ultimately be 2½ percent in extra income tax. He basically has pushed through a bill that makes war with those who can least afford to buy health insurance—adding a 2½ percent tax to the people who are the most vulnerable and hardworking folks. They're just trying to get by, and they're going to have to pay an extra 2½ percent in income tax?

Now, the enlightened Chief Justice explains through pages 11 through 15 of his opinion that it's actually not a tax, that it's clearly a penalty because, if you don't buy the insurance at the high level the government will dictate, then it will be necessary for you to pay an extra hunk of income tax—those who are the hardworking, least able to afford it. I don't see how anybody can say, It's great, and a happy day for you.

If you go through the rest of his opinion, of course he says the Commerce Clause doesn't make the ObamaCare bill constitutional; but then he gets around to saying, Well, regardless of what Congress called it—you know,

they called it a penalty—we'll just say it's a penalty for the purposes of jurisdiction so that it allows us to take up the case; but for purposes of whether or not it's constitutional, we'll call it what it is—a tax. It's one of the worst decisions this Chief Justice has ever made, and it's one of the worst I've ever read—poorly written by a man who should have known better.

But this administration has broken so many promises. It had negotiations with Egyptian leader Mubarak. We are certainly ready to throw him under the bus just as they have our allies, the Northern Alliance, that successfully fought and defeated the Taliban within a matter of months with our assistance but with less than 500 U.S. military in country. Now, after the President added troops and we had over 100,000 troops, this administration is ready to turn the country over to President Karzai and the Taliban. The Taliban has been on national television, saying, Hey, obviously, by virtue of the Obama administration's begging us to come to the table, promising they'll release some of our murdering thugs from confinement and that they'll buy us first-class offices in Qatar, well, gee, it's obvious to the world, they've said, that the United States has lost the war in Afghanistan.

Congratulations, President Barack Obama, for making it clear to the Taliban that you have lost the war for us.

Now we are advised the President has invited Egypt's Islamist leader to the United States. Past administrations have recognized the Muslim Brotherhood's end goal of a giant, worldwide caliphate where we all fall prey under sharia law and where we all have freedom, but that freedom is to only worship Allah and where we have justice but that justice is only under sharia; and this administration is embracing them wholeheartedly.

In this article of July 8, Sunday, from Business and Financial News, it headlines: ''Obama Invites Egypt's Islamist Leader to U.S.'' It talks about how President Barack Obama has invited Egypt's newly elected Islamist President, Mohamed Morsi, to visit the United States in September.

It reads:

> Washington, long weary of Islamists and an ally of ousted President Hosni Mubarak, shifted policy last year to open formal contacts with the Muslim Brotherhood, the group behind Morsi's win.

It reads:

> Morsi formally resigned from the group after his victory, but nowhere is there an indication that Egypt's new President has disavowed the effort to make the United States, which they've called the Great Satan, subservient to sharia law.

In fact, as to the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood's leader as posted yesterday in The Blaze:

> Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood chairman, Muhammad Badi, also known as the group's ''Supreme Guide''—this would be the Supreme Guide over the newly elected Egyptian leader—said last week that waging jihad against Israel is an imperative for every Muslim. Middle East watcher Raymond Ibrahim, who scours the Arabic press and translates it to English for Western eyes, posted this revelation on his blog.

Then it sets out this quote:

> According to last Thursday's edition of Al Wafd, during his weekly sermon, ''Muhammad Badi, the Muslim Brotherhood's Supreme Guide, confirmed the necessity for every Muslim to strive to save al-Quds—and that's Jerusalem—from the hands of the rapists—Israelis—and to cleanse Palestine from the clutches of the occupation, deeming this an individual duty for all Muslims.''

More specifically, he ''called on all Muslims to wage jihad with their money and their selves to free al-Quds''—or Jerusalem—the same, exact language one finds in al Qaeda's tracts.

□ 2010

The article goes on that earlier this year the Middle East Research Institute translated a sermon of bodies in which he called for ''gradually establishing a global Islamic caliphate leading to 'mastership of the world.' ''

''Mastership of the world'' is what's in quotes.

It is interesting, because it hasn't been that long ago. This was posted by my friend Patrick Poole, July 5, 2012. It says, ''Rewind—2010: Egypt's prez Morsi called for expulsion of U.S. ambassadors across Middle East.'' Patrick Poole says:

> While doing a bit of filing in the office yesterday, I came across a September 2010 Reuters article of more recent interest.
>
> You might recall that was the time when Terry Jones, in Florida, was threatening to burn a Koran on the 9/11 anniversary and had the whole Muslim world in an uproar—before he had even committed the act (which happened several months later).
>
> In the mere contemplation of such an action by Terry Jones, the Muslim Brotherhood was calling on all Muslim countries to expel all U.S. Ambassadors. And who was making this call?
>
> According to Reuters:
>
> Mohammad Mursi, spokesman for Egypt's influential Muslim Brotherhood, said the organization was calling for pressure on all Muslim governments to expel U.S. Ambassadors.

Yes, this is what we want to encourage, this type of leader. We want to tell the world by this President's open arms at the White House—not with the ill treatment previously of Prime Minister Netanyahu—but with open arms, a member of the Muslim Brotherhood who never disclaimed the desire to make us subservient to shari'a law, bringing him to the White House.

As some of us travel around and speak to different people around the world, those who are truly fighting for freedom—and not the freedom the Muslim Brotherhood talks about, where it is freedom only to worship Allah; freedom truly to make choices about who one worships or whether one worships at all. They say when the United States invites someone and shows hospitality to people in the world, the rest of the world gets the message that the conduct of those individuals they are inviting and embracing and having smiling pictures with, that their conduct is a good thing.

When this country's leaders embrace leaders of other countries, it tells the world this is what we think in America is the way to act, the way to be, the thing to do. That it is very deflating. Having talked to Iranian refuges in northern Iraq, they just get devastated when they see an American leader being so chummy with people they know embrace terrorism, that have no problem with terrorist activities to promote Islam spreading around the world.

This President should be far more careful about who he encourages and who he discourages, because the true friends of liberty around the world, who stood up to Syria's leader, they were not embraced by this President. There was no statement from this President of: Let's do for the protesters and the rebels in Syria what I demanded we did in Libya. There was nothing like that.

We've sent Secretary of State Clinton over to the Middle East. There have been statements that we don't like what you're doing, but nothing like what this White House did when they cut the legs out from Mubarak who at least tried to keep the peace with Israel to some extent and what he did in actually providing bombs and air cover to take out Qadhafi in Libya.

We knew at the time the Muslim Brotherhood will probably take over Egypt, that they have called us the great Satan. We knew in Libya that there were even al Qaeda who want to bring about this Nation's end violently, and yet this President embraced those al Qaeda rebels, along with the other rebels in Libya, dropped bombs, and provided air cover.

None of that has been done for Syria. It's a little bit strange because much of the world considers Syria's leader to be a mere puppet of the Iranian terrorist leaders. Certainly Russia, who has shown great hostility to some of the things we deem to be appropriate liberty, they embrace the actions of the Syrian leader.

Where was this President when there were true freedom seekers stepping up and being killed? Was he giving a pretty speech?

Another article that was in The Blaze, July 8, says:

> The Jerusalem Post explains:
>
> Washington, long wary of Islamists and a former ally of ousted President Hosni Mubarak, shifted policy last year to open formal contacts with the Muslim Brotherhood, the group behind Mursi's win.
>
> Mursi's success at the polls mirrors the rising influence of Islamists in countries across the Middle East and North Africa in the wake of revolts and protests against autocratic rulers who have led the region for decades.

But the Obama administration has invited Egypt's new Islamist leader, Mohammed Mursi, to visit the United States in September, according to an

Egyptian official, clearly reflecting Washington's changing view of Islamists and the Muslim Brotherhood.

Here is another article, posted April 26 of this year, from The Blaze. It is entitled, ''Want to Know Just How Close the Muslim Brotherhood is to the Obama Administration?'' It says:

On Wednesday evening, GBTV unveiled a powerful documentary, ''Rumors of War III,'' exposing how radical Islamists, including the Muslim Brotherhood, are infiltrating American Government at its highest levels. Above is a video clip from the program outlining some of the key players involved.

It goes on:

Arif Alikahn, Former Department of Homeland Security Assistant Secretary for Policy Development: Now a Distinguished Visiting Professor of DHS and Counterterrorism at the National Defense University, Alikahn also served as Deputy Mayor for Public Safety for the City of Los Angeles, where he reportedly derailed the LAPD's efforts to monitor the city's Muslim community—particularly its radical mosques and madrassas where certain 9/11 hijackers were said to have received support. He is affiliated with MPAC, which has called the terrorist group Hezbollah a ''liberation movement.''

It goes on to establish some of the ties of this administration with members of the Muslim Brotherhood.

It was intriguing to me, when I asked our own Secretary of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano, how many members of the Muslim Brotherhood were on her countering violent terrorism—violent extremism—sorry. She can't use the word ''terrorism.'' She couldn't tell me whether 10 were Muslim Brotherhood or not. She didn't know.

Some of these things for some of us bring back memories of occurrences back from the late seventies when our own President Jimmy Carter, who has to be encouraged by this President's administration—because many people have said they thought he had the worst Presidency in history and did so much damage to international affairs—when you look at what this administration has done.

□ 2020

I mean, to the extent that an African from West Africa, elderly gentleman, but full of wisdom, wanted to meet me and visit when I was there a couple of years ago.

He said, we were very excited that you elected a black man as your President, but we have seen America appear to grow weaker and weaker in the eyes of most people. He asked that I come back and convey—and I have on more than one occasion—that you must not allow the United States to grow weak. Those of us who are Christian in foreign countries rely on the United States' strength to keep us somewhat safe.

If you let the world think that the United States is weak, or become weak, then many of us have no hope of being safe in this life. This country has to stand strong, and we have seen it grow weaker and weaker in the eyes of the world.

There's an article that's reprinted July 9, today, in Human Events, which was originally by Robert Spencer back February 14 of this year. He said:

Last week the Egyptian government announced that it intends to put 19 Americans on trial for fomenting antigovernment protests, a charge they deny. Protests from the Obama administration have so far been futile, met with sneers of contempt.

If you're of a certain age, this should sound familiar. On November 4, 1979, Iranian thugs stormed the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and took 52 Americans hostage. Jimmy Carter's government wrung its hands in futility for the next 14 months, until finally the Islamist Republic released the hostages January 20, 1981, the day Ronald Reagan took office as President of the United States.

The bitter irony in all that was that Carter had betrayed the Shah of Iran, a longtime U.S. ally, and thereby paved the way for the ascent to power of the Ayatollah Khomeini and the Iranian mullahcracy that has ruled Iran ever since. Rather than feel gratitude toward Carter, however, Khomeini viewed his abandonment of the Shah as a sign of weakness and pressed forward with his jihad against the Great Satan.

Iran has been hostile towards the United States since then, including gleeful predictions of our Nation's imminent demise. Just days ago, Iran's Supreme Leader, the Ayatollah Khamenei, declared to an enthusiastic Tehran crowd, that ''in light of the realization of the divine promise by almighty God, the Zionists and the Great Satan (America) will soon be defeated. Allah's promises will be delivered, and Islam will be victorious.''

The original Ayatollah Khomeini, not Khamenei, was said by Jimmy Carter to be a man, a fellow man of faith. Well, he has a different kind of faith, and we have soldiers still dying today because the United States of America allowed some Iranian thugs, terrorists, to commit an act of war by attacking an American embassy, taking Americans hostage, and did nothing to defend our territory.

I was at Fort Benning at the time. We were put on alert. Nobody wanted to go to Iran, but everybody expected, surely we will do something to show these Islamist jihadists, these thugs, that you cannot commit an act of war against the United States and not pay a price. Because as the United States Government, we have a duty to provide for the common defense. We have a duty to protect American property.

When American property is attacked, and under everybody's interpretation of international, an embassy is that country's own property, we let it go without anything but weak-kneed responses, and we are paying the price today. But we see this President who thinks a wonderful speech—and he's good at them, he reads them so well and throwing in constant apologies to people who want to destroy us and see us wiped off the map—will somehow engender love and devotion from people who want to destroy us.

It doesn't work that way internationally. We have a duty to protect this Constitution, and we are not doing so in embracing enemies of this country who still have not disclaimed the pledge, the effort to see this country overthrown.

There was a time when Presidents would view people who have made such claims and pledges or been part of terrorist organizations, we would not embrace such individuals, because we know the harm it does to our allies.

One article from a guy named Michael D. Evans says:

Carter viewed Khomeini as a religious holy man in a grassroots revolution, rather than a founding father of modern terrorism who introduced the Islamofascist ideology we are fighting today in the world war on terrorism.

As Henry Kissinger said, ''Carter has managed the extraordinary feat of having, at one and the same time, the worst relations with our allies, the worst relations with our adversaries, and the most serious upheavals in the developing world since the end of the Second World War.''

That was then, and now we have another President doing the very same thing.

There was an article from The New York Times back in June of 2001:

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel will meet with President Bush at the White House next week, the second time the two have held face-to-face discussions since Mr. Sharon's election.

In contrast, Yasir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, has not been invited to Washington by the Bush administration, and officials made clear today that they had no plans to do so in the near future. So far the administration has kept Mr. Arafat at arm's length, a stark difference from President Clinton, who brought the Palestinian leader to the White House more than any other foreign leader.

Those messages are not missed by allies and enemies alike around the world.

There is another article, this is from The New York Times, posted today:

In his first major speech last month, Mohamed Morsi, the new Egyptian president, pledged to seek the release of a notorious Egyptian terrorist from a North Carolina prison. Not long before that, a member of a designated terrorist organization, Gamaa al-Islamiyya—who also happens to be a recently elected member of the Egyptian Parliament—was welcomed to Washington as part of an official delegation sponsored by the State Department.

''Obama administration officials made no public comment on Mr. Morsi's promise and struggled to explain why the Egyptian Parliament member, Hani Nour Eldin, got a visa''—since after all he was a member of a designated terrorist organization. But he got not only a visa, he got entrance into our most secure administration dwellings.

The article says that the administration cited privacy rules, ''declining to say whether he had been granted a waiver from the ban on such visitors or whether his affiliation simply escaped notice.''

Pressed by reporters after the visa quickly became a congressional controversy, a State Department spokeswoman, Victoria J. Nuland, said Mr. Eldin had been judged to pose no threat to the United States.

□ 2030

''It's a new day in Egypt,'' she added.

''It's a new day in a lot of countries across the Middle East and North Africa.''

And I might add, it was a new day in Iran when the Ayatollah Khomeini took over and President Carter welcomed him as a fellow man of faith.

This article from the Times goes on:

For the Obama administration, as it navigates the tumultuous effects of the Arab spring, it's a complicated day as well. Long-held assumptions about who is a friend of the United States and who is not have been upset, leaving Americans confused.

Well, it's leaving not only Americans confused; it's leaving our allies confused. We have people around the world who have fought with us, they have fought for us, and this administration has turned its back on them. You can go to the country of Afghanistan and some terrible killings have once again occurred. We know that Pakistan, according to the people I've talked to traveling around Afghanistan, Pakistan is basically the biggest source of supplies, reinforcement, or help to the Taliban. And what do we do? We have our Secretary of State apologize to the country who kept our country's biggest enemy, the mastermind behind the killing of more Americans than any other attack in our history on our soil, and they protected him. And they kept him protected. And we are supposed to apologize to Pakistan? Well, this administration did.

And when our soldiers, our military suffered attacks from a certain area there adjoining Pakistan, and apparently in Pakistan, they finally responded to protect themselves, and we have to apologize for people dying who were in the area where attacks were emanating against our own soldiers. We have to apologize to a country who is supplying and funding the Taliban that's killing American soldiers.

Yeah, it's confusing to Americans and it's confusing to our allies. And that's why, when a handful of us were in Afghanistan in April, we were a little surprised that this administration did not want us to meet with our Northern Alliance friends, among them General Dostum. Instead, this administration prefers to address them as war criminals. Yeah, they fight tough. They defeated the Taliban. They fight like the Taliban. And they have no interest in losing because they know it means they lose their lives, they lose their homes, they lose their country. So they fight viciously.

And we were able to take out the Taliban initially with a few hundred soldiers. Less than 500 Americans. We had intelligence. We had special ops. We provided air cover, provided some weapons. And the Taliban was routed. We had a hundred thousand or so military into Afghanistan. We've become occupiers. Occupiers don't do well in that part of the world. Yet this administration continually throws our allies under the bus, thinking if we just embrace our enemies, if we make a great speech, maybe if I read from the teleprompters effectively enough, then they'll see how wonderful I am and America is and they'll come fall and embrace us and just want to provide us nothing but love and affection.

It's an unrealistic view of the world. And yes, I'm a Christian and I believe everyone should be free to worship or not worship as they please. But that is not the case in Egypt right now. It's not the case in Libya right now. It's not the case in Afghanistan right now. It's not the case anywhere in any country where sharia is the law. We want Muslims, we want atheists to be free to worship, not worship. This is America. But any group, whether atheists or any other religion in the world that attempts to force us to comply with their religious laws, should not be tolerated.

Some say you've got a bunch of xenophobes and Islamaphobes. It's interesting that the term Islamaphobe basically was generated by the Organization of Islamic Council, the OIC, that has 50 States—no, wait. They've got 57 States and we've got 50; or we've got 57 and they've got 50. I get confused. Somebody on CNN said, Well, the only reason the President said the U.S. had 57 States is he was tired. So maybe I'm just tired. I can't remember who has 57, who has 50. Some people don't understand sarcasm either.

But the OIC promulgated that term and they've given millions and millions and millions of dollars to universities in America, including some Ivy League schools. They're not Islamaphobes. They have sold their soul for money. Sure, if you will give us millions, you bet you—hundreds of thousands even—we'll teach a course on Islamaphobia. We'll denigrate other religions. We'll denigrate the Founders. We'll denigrate those who would lay down their lives for this country's freedom, and we'll call them Islamaphobes.

Well, there's no Islamaphobia here. That's why I told the security detail at the American Embassy in Afghanistan's capital, when I was told I was not going to be able to go meet our allies at the Massoud residence, our friend Massoud knows something about sacrifice. His brother possibly could have united Afghanistan, but was assassinated a day or so before 9/11 because the Taliban knew that he might be able to unite the country. And if the United States figured out this is where the attack emanated, training emanated from, then they may come. So they assassinated my friend's brother.

General Dostum, who led that gallant charge uphill against the Taliban in the face of RPGs and bullets flying, offered to take me on horseback to reenact that internationally famous battle uphill against all odds. What courage on our behalf and on behalf of people who want freedom in Afghanistan. I was certainly willing—I have grown up riding horses—until the interpreter told me, You do understand, they don't have leather saddles. They're all wood. That kind of changed my desire to do that.

But General Dostum, Massoud, these great Northern Alliance leaders that fought for us, who lost friends and family fighting with us and for us, have been thrown under the bus. But as I told the head of the security detail there, I was going to meet our friends at the Massoud residence. And after I was told we couldn't go, I let them know that I had talked to my friend Mr. Massoud and that they were sending secured vehicles to pick me up and at least two or three other Members of Congress that would go. And when I was told that would not be secure, we couldn't do that, I made clear that they would have to take me down before I got to the gate of the Embassy compound, because I was going, and that I would do that after our next meeting with our soldiers—American soldiers. After the meeting, I was told, We've arranged security for you to go to the meeting so you don't have to ride with the Massoud security folks.

□ 2040

We had a good meeting. It was great to see them. They have trouble understanding why this administration has forsaken them, our allies. I don't hear anybody here calling this administration Islamophobes because they have thrown our Muslim friends under the bus. But they are the enemy of our enemy, the Taliban. And this administration, this President, has made clear to this corrupt regime over there that, look, we're going to be out on this day certain; you'll be on your own for the military.

Well, now, they're negotiating some kind of deal where we may provide some help. But Karzai, for all the things he is, he is not totally stupid. He is not a stupid man. And he knows if all our soldiers are gone, and with all the support that Pakistan has given the Taliban, then the Taliban is going to be there. They will be as vicious as they have in the past, and he'd better make some peace with the Taliban. That's why they've been allowed such freedom in the Afghan capital to the point that the Taliban leader would tell and proclaim, yes, we all can see because the U.S., because the Obama administration is begging them to come negotiate and we'll buy them things, we'll release their thugs that have killed Americans, killed innocents, but we'll release them, we'll do whatever. You just come talk to us.

It's obvious to the world that we've lost. This administration is sending dangerous signals to our allies that you cannot trust this country as an ally of this country. You'd better watch your back. So when this administration says, we've got your back, you better be wearing something that will stop a knife because it could be forthcoming. As President Mubarak found, as the Northern Alliance found, as freedom lovers in Iran have found, as freedom desirers at Camp Ashraf have found, and as some of our allies in Israel have found, this administration is the first American administration to vote with Israel's enemies a couple of years ago when we voted with Israel's

enemies to require them to disclose their weaponry.

So it's confusing to people around the world. Should we take a chance on being a friend to America because a year or two later they may embrace our enemies and throw us under the bus?

I do believe in the teachings of Jesus. I do believe in the teachings and have been there where they say it's pretty certain this is where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount and told us who it was who was blessed. So some say, well, shouldn't our government turn the other cheek? Blessed are those who mourn. Shouldn't we be the peacemakers? Yes, we should be the peacemakers. But as a government, we have a different obligation. Ours is to protect our people. We are to protect those who live in America, who have trusted us to be their public servants so that they can live out the beatitudes if they choose, so that they can live out and follow the teachings of whatever religious leader they choose. But they can't do that unless we keep them safe.

I'm reading a book that I started yesterday called ''The Harbinger.'' It indicates God withdrew His hand from our protection on 9/11. There are interesting things in that book. It's time we look at the signs and we understand from world history that you don't turn on your allies and embrace your enemies and expect to save your country. You convince others who might be tempted to be your allies not to be. You teach your enemies that you are weak in the same way individuals on a school playground do not convince a bully that they are strong when they start giving gifts to the bully and try to buy the bully's kindness and respect because what it buys is not respect, it is contempt. And that is the way this country is now viewed around the world.

If you are evil in the world, just as Romans 13 points out, if you do evil, you should be afraid because this government does not have the sword in vain. We owe a duty to freedom-loving people around the world not to become weak but to protect freedom here so others can enjoy freedom other places knowing that the United States of America does not embrace and fall in love with terrorists or terrorist organizations or leaders of terrorist groups. We fight them, and we embrace those who love peace, not terrorism; and we make the world and this country safer in so doing.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I will include in the RECORD a letter. This is Act for America. I brought this up before, but because we have rules that don't allow things that include too many pages, we had to revisit the issue because there are so many thousands and thousands of signatures. It can be found at this Web site for Act for America. This is a petition and a letter sent to the Honorable JOSEPH LIEBERMAN, the Honorable PATRICK LEAHY, the Honorable DIANNE FEINSTEIN, the Honorable PETER KING, the Honorable LAMAR SMITH, and the Honorable MIKE ROGERS. It's signed online by thousands and thousands of verified signatures, and those can be found from Act for America, Pensacola, Florida.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ACT! FOR AMERICA,
Pensacola, FL, July 9, 2012.

Hon. LOUIE GOHMERT,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN GOHMERT: Attached, please find an ACT! for America Open Letter to targeted members of the U.S. Congress. The letter has been signed by over 21,000 Americans—all of whom are very concerned with ongoing actions by the FBI related to the language of the agency's counterterrorism training materials.

ACT! for America shares the concerns of some Members of Congress, yourself included, that the ongoing purge of counterterrorism training materials used by the FBI as well as state and local law enforcement is a danger to our nation. Further, we see these actions as a continuation of concerted efforts to manipulate, if not altogether eliminate, a clear definition of the threat that radical Islam poses to our nation.

We hope this letter will serve as a useful token of the concern the American people have for this issue as well. It also may be found on our website: http://www.actforamerica.com/index.php/fbi-petition.

Thank you very much for all of your efforts in the United States Congress. The 240,000 members of ACT! for America stand with you every step of the way.

With warm regards,

LISA PIRANEO,
Director of Government Relations,
ACT! for America.

Enclosure.

ACT! FOR AMERICA,
Pensacola, FL.

PLEASE PUT AN IMMEDIATE STOP TO PLANNED CHANGES IN THE FBI'S COUNTERTERRORISM TRAINING POLICIES

Hon. JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN,
Chair, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.
Hon. PATRICK LEAHY,
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee.
Hon. DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
Chair, Senate Select Intelligence Committee.
Hon. PETER KING,
Chair, House Homeland Security Committee.
Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Chair, House Judiciary Committee.
Hon. MIKE ROGERS,
Chair, House Permanent Select Intelligence Committee.

DEAR CHAIRMEN LIEBERMAN, KING, LEAHY, SMITH, FEINSTEIN AND ROGERS: We write to you today in strong opposition to proposed changes to FBI counterterrorism training materials.

We share the concern of many sitting Members of Congress that the ongoing purge of counterterrorism training materials used by the FBI and state and local law enforcement puts our nation at great peril. It is critically important to the safety of our nation and its citizens that our law enforcement officials are permitted to accurately define the threat, and based on that definition, put in place sound policies to protect our nation and its citizens. Law enforcement officials are the front line of counterterrorism, and they must have accurate training materials that cannot be modified at the whim of one or two Members of Congress, or outside consultants whose identities are kept secret from congressional oversight.

Whitewashing of law enforcement counterterrorism materials appears to be an informal implementation of U.N. Resolution 16/18 (the ''The Istanbul Process''). This resolution includes language that seeks to bypass the U.S. Constitution by laying the groundwork for criminalizing any action or speech against a religion, using protection against ''incitement to violence'' as the rationale. The State Department has vowed to aid the Istanbul Process, and this is completely unacceptable. This resolution and the policies it supports are completely prohibited by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and must be rejected by the United States. Political correctness must not trump constitutional rights, nor hamper our country's ability to protect itself by muzzling law enforcement.

We strongly encourage you to hold hearings on this issue and, further, to do all that you can to put an immediate halt to any changes in law enforcement counterterrorism policies before they have been fully vetted through congressional oversight. Your committees share jurisdiction over these matters.

Please know that the American public is becoming more educated about the threats posed to our nation by those who support and/or perform acts of terrorism in the name of political/radical Islam. We are looking to our elected officials to enact sound policies that will protect us, as they swore to do when they took their oaths of office.

Sincerely,

This petition signed by 21,195 verified signators. For a full list of signators please send your request to: ACT! For America, PO Box 12765, Pensacola, FL 32591.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. COBLE (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of travel delays due to weather.

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of a family obligation.

Mr. DESJARLAIS (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of flight delays.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 3238. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community based outpatient clinic in Mansfield, Ohio, as the David F. Winder Department of Veterans Affairs Community Based Outpatient Clinic, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by Speaker pro tempore, Mr. THORNBERRY, on Friday, June 29, 2012:

H.R. 4348. An act to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on June 29, 2012, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 6064. To provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a multiyear law reauthorizing such programs.

H.R. 2297. To promote the development of the Southwest waterfront in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 33. To amend the Securities Act of 1933 to specify when certain securities issued in connection with church plans are treated as exempted securities for purposes of that Act.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, July 10, 2012, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6738. A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's ''Major'' final rule—Core Principles and Other Requirements for Designated Contract Markets (RIN: 3038–AD09) received June 19, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6739. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revision to the Section 8 Management Assessment Program Lease-Up Indicator [Docket No.: FR–5532–F–02] (RIN: 2577–AC76) received June 13, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6740. A letter from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule—Assessment of Fees on Large Bank Holding Companies and Nonbank Financial Companies Supervised by the Federal Reserve Board To Cover the Expenses of the Financial Research Fund (RIN: 1505–AC42) received June 19, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6741. A letter from the Associate Division Chief, Policy Division, PSHSB, Federal Communication Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Review of the Emergency Alert System; Independent Spanish Broadcasters Association, the Office of Communications of the United Church of Christ, Inc., and the Minority Media and Telecommunications Council, Petition for Immediate Relief; Randy Gehman Petition for Rulemaking [EB Docket No.: 04–296] received May 29, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6742. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Safety Evaluation by the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation; Nuclear Energy Institute Topical Report 94–01, Revision 3, ''Industry Guideline for Implementing Performance-Based Option of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J'' received May 29, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6743. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Regulatory Guide 1.215, Revision 1, Guidance for ITAAC Closure Under 10 CFR Part 52 received May 29, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6744. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's ''Major'' final rule—Revision of Fee Schedules; Fee Recovery for Fiscal Year 2012 [NRC–2011–0207] (RIN: 3150–AJ03) received June 19, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6745. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12–061, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6746. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12–058, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6747. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12–016, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6748. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12–045, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6749. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12–024, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6750. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12–037, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6751. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12–036, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6752. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12–011, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6753. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12–007, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6754. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12–054, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6755. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12–030, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6756. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12–027, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 3(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6757. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12–031, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6758. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12–060, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6759. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12–043, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6760. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12–082, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6761. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. RSAT–12–2930, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6762. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12–087, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6763. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. RSAT–12–2931, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6764. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12–012, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6765. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12–041, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6766. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12–026, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6767. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12–017, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6768. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12–023, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6769. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 12–002, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6770. A letter from the Chairman of the Council, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19–385, ''Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Support Act of 2012''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6771. A letter from the Chief Administrative Officer, transmitting the quarterly report of receipts and expenditures of appropriations and other funds for the period April 1, 2012 through June 30, 2012 as compiled by the Chief Administrative Officer, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 104a Public Law 88–454; (H. Doc. No. 112—122); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

6772. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30844; Amdt. No. 3480] received June 8, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6773. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30843; Amdt. No. 3479] received June 8, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6774. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30842; Amdt. No. 3478] received June 8, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6775. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—National Standards for Traffic Control Devices; the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways; Revision; Final Rule [FHWA Docket No.: FHWA–2010–0170] (RIN: 2125–AF41) received June 8, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6776. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30834; Amdt. No. 3471] received June 8, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6777. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment of Restricted Area R–2502E; Fort Irwin, CA [Docket No.: FAA–2012–0461; Airspace Docket No.: 12–AWP–1] (RIN: 2120–AA66) received June 8, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6778. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30833; Amdt. No. 3470] received June 8, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6779. A letter from the Senior Regulations Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Procedures for Transportation Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing Programs: 6-acetylmorphine (6–AM) Testing [Docket No.: DOT-OST–2010–0026] (RIN: 2105–AE14) received June 8, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6780. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Flightcrew Member Duty and Rest Requirements; Correction [Docket No.: FAA–2009–1093; Amdt. Nos. 117–1A, 119–16A, 121–357A] (RIN: 2120–AJ58) received June 8, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6781. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—National Standards for Traffic Control Devices; the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways; Revision [FHWA Docket No.: FHWA–2010–0159] (RIN: 2125–AF43) received June 8, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6782. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment of Restricted Area R–2917, De Funiak Springs, FL [Docket No.: FAA–2012–0226; Airspace Docket No. 12–ASO–10] (RIN: 2120–AA66) received June 8, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6783. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30841; Amdt. No. 500] received June 8, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6784. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment of Class D and E Airspace; Baltimore, MD [Docket No.: FAA–2012–0014; Airspace Docket No. 12–AEA–1] received June 8, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6785. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification, Revocation and Establishment of Air Traffic Service Routes; Windsor Locks Area; CT [Docket No.: FAA–2011–1386; Airspace Docket No. 11–ANE–11] (RIN: 2120–AA66) received June 8, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6786. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30845; Amdt. No. 3481] received June 8, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6787. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment of Class D Airspace; Coco Beach, FL [Docket No.: FAA–2012–0099; Airspace Docket No. 12–ASO–11] received June 8, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6788. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30840; Amdt. No. 3477] received June 8, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6789. A letter from the Acting Deputy General Counsel, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's ''Major'' final rule—Claims for Patent and Copyright Infringement [Notice: (12–0220)] (RIN: 2700–AD63) received June 28, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

6790. A letter from the Acting Deputy General Counsel, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Claims for Patent and Copyright Infringement (RIN: 2700–AD63) received June 8, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

6791. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Implementation of Rev. Rul. 2006–57—Issues for Public Comment [Notice 2012–38] received June 8, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

[Following report was filed on July 2, 2012]

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin: Committee on the Budget. H.R. 5872. A bill to require the President to provide a report detailing the sequester required by the Budget Control Act of 2011 on January 2, 2013; with an amendment (Rept. 112–577). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

[Submitted July 9, 2012]

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1192. A bill to extend the current royalty rate for soda ash; with an amendment (Rept. 112–578). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2027. A bill to revise the boundaries of John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Sachuest Point Unit RI–04P, Easton Beach Unit RI–05P, Almy Pond Unit RI–06, and Hazards Beach Unit RI–07 in Rhode Island (Rept. 112–579). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2154. A bill to correct the boundaries of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Gasparilla Island Unit FL–70P; with an amendment (Rept. 112–580). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. S. 270. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to Deschutes County, Oregon (Rept. 112–581). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SMITH of Texas: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 6019. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to enhance the use of Juvenile Accountability Block Grants for programs to prevent and address occurrences of bullying and to reauthorize the Juvenile Accountability

Block Grants program; with an amendment (Rept. 112–582). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4402. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to more efficiently develop domestic sources of the minerals and mineral materials of strategic and critical importance to United States economic and national security and manufacturing competitiveness; with an amendment (Rept. 112–583 Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1171. A bill to reauthorize and amend the Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act: with an amendment (Rept. 112–584 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. ISSA: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 4155. A bill to direct the head of each Federal department and agency to treat relevant military training as sufficient to satisfy training or certification requirements for Federal licenses; with an amendment (Rept. 112–585). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 4273. A bill to clarify that compliance with an emergency order under section 202(c) of the Federal Power Act may not be considered a violation of any Federal, State, or local environmental law or regulation, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 112–586). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SESSIONS: Committee on Rules. H. Res. 724. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6079) to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Rept. 112–587). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on the Judiciary discharged from further consideration. H.R. 4402 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

[Omitted from the Record of June 29, 2012]

By Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas.

H. Res. 718. A resolution raising a question of the privileges of the House.

[Submitted July 9, 2012]

By Mr. CANTOR (for himself, Mr. CAMP, Mr. KLINE, Mr. UPTON, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. HERGER, Mr. PITTS, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. CARTER, and Mr. DREIER):

H.R. 6079. A bill to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Education and the Workforce, Natural Resources, the Judiciary, House Administration, Rules, Appropriations, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SMITH of Texas (for himself and Mr. CONYERS):

H.R. 6080. A bill to make improvements in the enactment of title 41, United States Code, into a positive law title and to improve the Code; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Mr. COSTELLO, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. CLARKE of Michigan, and Ms. BONAMICI):

H.R. 6081. A bill to accelerate research, development, and innovation in advanced manufacturing, to improve the competitiveness of American manufacturers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Washington:

H.R. 6082. A bill to officially replace, within the 60-day Congressional review period under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, President Obama's Proposed Final Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Leasing Program (2012-2017) with a congressional plan that will conduct additional oil and natural gas lease sales to promote offshore energy development, job creation, and increased domestic energy production to ensure a more secure energy future in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LUCAS (for himself and Mr. PETERSON):

H.R. 6083. A bill to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2017, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. DOYLE):

H.R. 6084. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a refundable tax credit for education and training expenses relating to autism spectrum disorders to increase the number of teachers with such expertise; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BOUSTANY:

H.R. 6085. A bill to amend section 40 of the Revised Statutes of the United States to clarify that for purposes of determining whether a Member of the House of Representatives is subject to a deduction from in pay by reason of absence from the House on a day, the Member shall be considered to be absent if the Member misses any vote held in the House on that day, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. HEINRICH:

H.R. 6086. A bill to direct the heads of Federal public land management agencies to prepare reports on the availability of public access and egress to Federal public lands for hunting, fishing, and other recreational purposes, to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 to provide funding for recreational public access to Federal land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MCCOLLUM (for herself and Mr. SCHOCK):

H.R. 6087. A bill to protect girls in developing countries through the prevention of child marriage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 6088. A bill to repeal certain tax increases enacted as part of health care reform; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TIPTON (for himself, Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. WALDEN):

H.R. 6089. A bill to address the bark beetle epidemic, drought, deteriorating forest health conditions, and high risk of wildfires on National Forest System land and land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management in the United States by expanding authorities established in the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 to provide emergency measures for high-risk areas identified by such States, to make permanent Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management authority to conduct good-neighbor cooperation with States to reduce wildfire risks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON:

H. Res. 725. A resolution expressing support for dancing as a form of valuable exercise and artistic expression and for the designation of July 28, 2012, as National Dance Day; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 4 of rule XXII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

241. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii, relative to House Resolution No. 80 encouraging the Congress to create a separate branch of the United States Armed Forces to combat cyber crime, warfare, and terrorism; to the Committee on Armed Services.

242. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 216 urging the Armed Services Committee to act favorably on H.R. 2148; to the Committee on Armed Services.

243. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 94 memorializing the Congress to take such actions as are necessary to encourage and enable the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to expedite the review and approval of Cheniere Energy's Sabine Pass Liquified Natural Gas facility; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

244. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 10 memorializing the Congress to encourage the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Gulf of Mexico Marine Fisheries Council, and the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council to adopt a weekend-only fishery management scheme for red snapper for 2012; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

245. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii, relative to House Resolution No. 130 urging the Congress to enact the VISIT USA Act; jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Homeland Security.

246. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii, relative to House Resolution No. 25 supporting the Visa Improvements to Stimulate International Tourism to the United State of America; jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Homeland Security.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. CANTOR:

H.R. 6079.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

In *National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius,* the Supreme Court rejected the constitutional basis offered by proponents of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the interstate commerce clause found in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution. Having eliminated the requirement that all Americans buy insurance, the Supreme Court recast the law's penalty for not buying insurance as a tax, which Americans would pay in lieu of purchasing insurance, and five Justices upheld this tax under the taxing power of Congress, found in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. With the individual requirement to buy insurance having been found unconstitutional, and, with the compulsory nature of that requirement being central to the funding mechanism contemplated under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Congress hereby repeals the Act in its entirety. Furthermore, Congress did not intend and does not now intend to invoke its taxing power in relation to the individual requirement to buy insurance.

The Congress, the Executive, and the Judiciary are obligated to act according to the principle of coordinate branch construction based on their respective obligations to ensure that all their actions are constitutional. This is the clear meaning of the Vesting Clauses of Articles I, II, and III along with the Supremacy Clause of Article VI, as well as of the Oath of Office that each constitutional officer of the Federal government must take pursuant to Article VI. James Madison made this clear in 1834 stating, ''As the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial departments of the United States are co-ordinate, and each equally bound to support the Constitution, it follows that each must in the exercise of its functions be guided by the text of the Constitution according to its own interpretation of it.''

The ''Repeal of Obamacare Act'' repeals the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and title I and subtitle B of title II of the Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act of 2010, which included several specific provisions that extend beyond the enumerated powers granted to Congress by the Constitution, including, in particular, the Commerce, Taxing, and the Spending Clauses of Article I, Section 8, as well as the Necessary and Proper Clauses contained therein, and that otherwise improperly extend authority to Federal agencies in a manner inconsistent with the Vesting Clause of Article I, Section 1.

The general repeal of this legislation is consistent with the powers that are reserved to the States and to the people as expressed in Amendment X to the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SMITH of Texas:

H.R. 6080.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation, which makes improvements in the enactment of title 41, United States Code, into a positive law title and improves the Code, pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 6081.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Washington:

H.R. 6082.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, clause 2

By Mr. LUCAS:

H.R. 6083.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: The ability to regulate interstate commerce pursuant to Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 6084.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause I of the Constitution

By Mr. BOUSTANY:

H.R. 6085.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 9, Clause 7 which states that no money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time. The Appropriations Clause provides Congress with a mechanism to control or to limit spending by the federal government

By Mr. HEINRICH:

H.R. 6086.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article IV, Section 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. MCCOLLUM:

H.R. 6087.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, which gives Congress the power ''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing powers.''

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 6088.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Amendment 16 of the Constitution states: The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.

By Mr. TIPTON:

H.R. 6089.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 4, Section 3: The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 139: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
H.R. 218: Mr. MEEKS.
H.R. 459: Mr. CLARKE of Michigan, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, and Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
H.R. 694: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 733: Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BERG, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. POLIS, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. LATTA, and Mr. YOUNG of Florida.
H.R. 860: Mr. CUELLAR and Ms. HANABUSA.
H.R. 865: Mr. CHANDLER.
H.R. 997: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 998: Mr. HOYER.
H.R. 1063: Mr. HARRIS and Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 1171: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 1219: Mr. KISSELL.
H.R. 1244: Mr. POE of Texas.
H.R. 1265: Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 1322: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 1464: Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 1546: Mr. KISSELL.
H.R. 1742: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. HINOJOSA.
H.R. 1775: Mr. BARROW, Mr. CRITZ, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. BOUSTANY.
H.R. 1855: Mr. CHANDLER.
H.R. 1909: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 1912: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 1956: Mr. WOMACK.
H.R. 1968: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2040: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.
H.R. 2053: Mr. CHANDLER.
H.R. 2077: Mr. DOLD.
H.R. 2140: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 2154: Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 2168: Mr. STARK.
H.R. 2268: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
H.R. 2295: Mr. BENISHEK.
H.R. 2316: Mr. MCDERMOTT and Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 2437: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 2472: Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado.
H.R. 2499: Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 2580: Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 2655: Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. KISSELL, and Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 2672: Mr. KISSELL.
H.R. 2689: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 2730: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 2866: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN and Mr. HANNA.
H.R. 2948: Mr. MCINTYRE.
H.R. 2969: Mr. FORBES, Mr. JONES, Mr. CONYERS and Mr. KISSELL.
H.R. 3187: Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. FUDGE, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 3238: Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 3315: Mr. PRICE of Georgia.
H.R. 3337: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 3395: Mr. DUFFY.
H.R. 3510: Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 3643: Mr. WOMACK.
H.R. 3709: Mr. JORDAN.
H.R. 3767: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN and Ms. JENKINS.
H.R. 3780: Mr. SCHOCK.
H.R. 3798: Ms. SUTTON, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. POLIS.
H.R. 3803: Mr. GUINTA.
H.R. 3821: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 3861: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.
H.R. 4035: Mr. SCHOCK.
H.R. 4066: Mrs. ELLMERS and Ms. JENKINS.
H.R. 4070: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas and Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 4083: Mr. WAXMAN.
H.R. 4103: Mr. BUCHANAN, Ms. SPEIER, and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.
H.R. 4124: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 4155: Ms. HIRONO and Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.

H.R. 4158: Mr. BROUN of Georgia.
H.R. 4163: Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 4170: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 4186: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
H.R. 4227: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 4235: Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. HIMES, Mr. CANSECO, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Mr. HULTGREN.
H.R. 4296: Mr. ROONEY and Mr. MCINTYRE.
H.R. 4346: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 4402: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H.R. 4405: Mr. OLVER and Mr. STARK.
H.R. 5129: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 5381: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
H.R. 5542: Ms. FUDGE, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. FILNER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. CRITZ, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. CLARKE of Michigan.
H.R. 5684: Mr. PETERS, Mr. KEATING, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 5707: Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 5742: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 5749: Mrs. MALONEY.
H.R. 5791: Mr. NUNES.
H.R. 5822: Mr. WOLF.
H.R. 5871: Mr. POLIS and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.
H.R. 5893: Mr. SCHILLING.
H.R. 5894: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 5910: Mr. SCHILLING.
H.R. 5925: Mr. GIBSON.
H.R. 5943: Ms. HOCHUL, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 5952: Mr. COBLE.
H.R. 5957: Mr. BROUN of Georgia.
H.R. 5974: Mr. MICHAUD and Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 5978: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. OLVER, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 5995: Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 5998: Mr. GUTHRIE and Mr. KISSELL.
H.R. 6019: Ms. HIRONO.
H.R. 6025: Mr. BURTON of Indiana.
H.R. 6043: Mr. BURGESS, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, and Mrs. BONO MACK.
H.R. 6047: Mr. MCCLINTOCK and Mr. WESTMORELAND.
H.J. Res. 72: Mr. FILNER.
H.J. Res. 110: Mr. CAMP and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H. Con. Res. 129: Mr. GUINTA, Mr. MICHAUD, and Mr. WOMACK.
H. Res. 20: Ms. HAHN.
H. Res. 111: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. CULBERSON, and Mrs. BONO MACK.
H. Res. 130: Mr. KILDEE and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H. Res. 134: Ms. ESHOO.
H. Res. 304: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H. Res. 623: Mr. SCHILLING.
H. Res. 663: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H. Res. 676: Mrs. LOWEY and Ms. TSONGAS.
H. Res. 690: Mr. POLIS.
H. Res. 695: Mr. NUGENT.
H. Res. 713: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. RUSH, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. BASS of California, Ms. HAHN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. CLARKE of Michigan, and Ms. RICHARDSON.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. CAMP

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Ways and Means in H.R. 6079, the ''Repeal of Obamacare Act,'' do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives.

OFFERED BY MR. DREIER

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Rules in H.R. 6079 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. HASTINGS OF WASHINGTON

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Resources in H.R. 6079 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. KLINE

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Education and the Workforce in H.R. 6079, the Repeal of Obamacare Act, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. DANIEL E. LUNGREN OF CALIFORNIA

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on House Administration in H.R. 6079 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF KENTUCKY

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Appropriations in H.R. 6079 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. RYAN OF WISCONSIN

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on the Budget in H.R. 6079, repeal of PL 111–148, PL 111–152, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF TEXAS

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on the Judiciary in H.R. 6079 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. UPTON

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Energy and Commerce in H.R. 6079 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 3798: Mr. WEST.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 158 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JULY 9, 2012 No. 101

Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

King of creation, Your faithfulness reaches to the skies. May every nation on Earth exalt You as King of kings and Lord of lords. Today, remind us of Your strength and grace, for You are mighty to save and gracious to all who seek Your face.

Lord, move in our midst and shower our Senators with wisdom and courage to unite in a common quest to solve the difficult issues of our times. Protect this Nation from dangers seen and unseen, and continue to equip our brave military and civilian protectors with Your full armor.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUYE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 9, 2012.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the State of Connecticut, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUYE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SMALL BUSINESS JOBS AND TAX RELIEF ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 341, S. 2237.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to S. 2237, a bill to provide a temporary income tax credit for increased payroll and extend bonus depreciation for an additional year, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there will be no rollcall votes today. The first vote of the week will be tomorrow at noon on the confirmation of the Fowlkes nomination.

MEASURE PLACED ON CALENDAR—H.R. 4018

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand that H.R. 4018 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The leader is correct. The clerk will report the bill by title for a second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4018) to improve the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings on this legislation at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the measure will be placed on the calendar.

FOCUSING ON JOBS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, last month we got a lot done. It was incredibly productive. Congress and President Obama worked together to prevent interest rates from doubling for more than 7 million college students, and we also worked to put 2.8 million Americans back to work or create new jobs and to rebuild our crumbling roads, bridges, and other parts of our transportation system. The Senate passed an FDA bill, which was so necessary to focus on why we have, among other things, shortages of lifesaving drugs. We also passed something that will allow the construction industry to go forward, which is flood insurance for the entire country. We passed a farm bill that will strengthen the agriculture industry and support some 16 million jobs.

We were able to accomplish this much last month because Republicans and Democrats worked together and compromised. Rather than wasting time participating in political theater, we actually legislated.

I hoped to continue that productive process in this work period, characterized by cooperation between lawmakers on both sides of the Capitol and in both Chambers. Unfortunately, we already know that our colleagues in the House are going to waste much of this short work period refighting very old battles.

Republicans had indicated they would support the ruling of the Supreme Court. They, in fact, said the Supreme Court is going to decide this matter regarding affordable health care. Well, they have now changed their tune. Mitt Romney has said he would nominate Supreme Court Justices just like Justice Roberts. I wonder if he is saying that to his rightwing base today.

But now that the Court has upheld this landmark health care reform with the majority decision, written by Justice Roberts, Republicans refuse to admit that the matter is settled. This

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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week the House will vote—and this is almost hard to comprehend—for the 31st time to repeal health care reform. They have already voted 30 times, but Speaker BOEHNER said: Let's do it again—31 times, taking many hours and many days that should have been spent on creating jobs. Congressional Republicans have spent months trying to repeal a law that has already saved lives and made people more safe as they look at health care in this country.

While House Republicans hold a political showboat, the Senate will take a different approach. We are going to continue to try to be constructive and focus on jobs. While Republicans are stuck in the past, we will be addressing the most pressing issues facing this Nation: creating jobs and securing the economy.

Last week's job report underscored the fact that Congress must do more to strengthen the recovery. So the Senate will immediately consider a package of commonsense tax cuts that will lower the cost of doing business for small businesses and pave the way for small businesses to succeed.

Our legislation will cut taxes for small firms that invest in new workers and equipment. The Small Business Jobs and Tax Relief Act will provide a 10-percent income tax credit for companies that add up to $5 million to their payroll, creating hundreds of thousands of new jobs. Businesses are eligible for a tax break if they hire new workers or if they raise the wages of hard-working employees already on their payroll. And because the credit is capped at $500,000, it is targeted to benefit small businesses most.

The legislation will also allow companies to write off the entire cost of purchases, such as new equipment, and they will be able to do it in the year the purchases are made instead of writing them off over long periods of time.

More than 2 million companies could get a boost to their bottom lines, creating hundreds of thousands more jobs.

Proposals such as these have garnered Republican support in the past, and I hope they will receive bipartisan support again tomorrow.

After our weekly caucus meetings tomorrow, the Senate will vote to end a Republican filibuster and begin to debate these tax cuts. Democrats can't undertake the work of strengthening the economy alone. We will need Republican support, which is why we have proposed consensus tax cuts that should pass the Senate overwhelmingly.

It was good to see that so many reasonable Republicans were willing to work with us last month to save college students money, rebuild the Nation's infrastructure, and help protect American farmers. Tomorrow, Republicans will have an opportunity to prove they are willing to continue working with us to create jobs.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

Mr. REID. I thank the Chair.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, Senators are permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may address the Senate as in morning business for 20 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FAIRNESS

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, ''fairness'' has become one of the watch words in this year's political debates, both at home and abroad. The term echoes throughout Europe, where German Chancellor Angela Merkel is under pressure to come up with billions in bailouts for troubled eurozone countries. Her insistence on reasonable reforms is considered unfair by many in those countries, even though Germans have sacrificed to live within their means, for example, by forgoing wage increases to avoid the problems of their neighbors.

In the United States, President Obama and his supporters have used fairness as a justification for various redistributionist policies, including a massive tax hike, a government takeover of health care, complex financial regulations, and new government spending programs.

The President and his supporters believe the Federal Government should pursue policies that will result in economic equality. But forced equality is inherently unfair. It necessarily relies on the wrong incentives that penalize success. More fundamentally, it is based on a shallow, materialistic definition of ''fairness.''

Aristotle wrote: ''The worst form of inequality is to try to make unequal things equal.''

Contrary to the goal President Obama pursues, the key determinant of lasting happiness and success is not whether you have as much money as your neighbor, regardless of the differences between you. Rather, it is what American Enterprise Institute president Arthur Brooks calls earned success and meritocratic fairness.

Much research shows people are happiest when they have the opportunity to succeed and earn their rewards. Sometimes we take risks and succeed. Sometimes we fail. Sometimes we defer gratification by saving our money. Maybe our neighbor does not. Some of us are better at making money than others. Some deliberately earn less to enjoy other pursuits in life. Decisions about families result in very different economic circumstances.

When the government tries to equalize everyone or take all the trouble out of life by taking care of our every need, it makes earned success and meritocratic fairness that much harder to achieve. When government aims to smooth over every rough patch, it eliminates the experiences that make us resourceful and resilient—the experiences that teach us how to work harder or smarter for our rewards.

Those of us who believe in earned success and meritocratic fairness believe the best way to promote these concepts is through the free enterprise system, a system in which opportunity is sacred and excellence is rewarded. We reject the notion that it is fair to impose interventionist and redistributionist policies to guarantee material equality. As Brooks notes: ''For the overwhelming majority of Americans, fairness means rewarding merit, not spreading the wealth around.''

In his new book, ''The Road to Freedom,'' Brooks asks some fundamental questions related to the future of earned success, the pursuit of happiness, and meritocratic fairness:

First, ''Will we see a growing bureaucracy or more entrepreneurship?''

Second, ''Will we be a culture of redistribution or a culture of aspiration?''

Third, ''Will we be a nation of takers or a nation of makers?''

These are serious questions that will be answered in the long run—not in 1 day or 1 year or in one session of Congress. But for now, I would like to focus on the short term. How do recent government policies help answer these questions about what is fair?

How does government spending, and the staggering debt that comes with it, affect bureaucracy and entrepreneurship? How does a redistributionist tax policy affect the aspirations of job creators and innovators? And how does our burdensome regulatory regime affect the so-called ''makers'' in American society?

Let's take these Brooks' questions one at a time. First, will we see a growing bureaucracy or more entrepreneurship? We all know entrepreneurship requires opportunity and private investment. But a burdensome Federal Government reduces opportunity and it crowds out private investment. Let's take a look at the growth of government under President Obama. Since his inauguration in January of 2009, the Federal debt has increased by more than $5 trillion, and it is rapidly approaching $16 trillion in total.

Meanwhile, the Federal budget deficit has exceeded $1 trillion 4 years in a row. The highest deficit before President Obama was less than half that

amount. How did our deficit and debt skyrocket so quickly? Well, for starters, President Obama's economic policies have resulted in slower GDP growth, which means less tax revenue flowing to the Treasury and more Americans requiring government assistance. So government income is down.

Second, the President has dramatically increased government spending. Prior to the 2008 fiscal crisis, the 40-year average for Federal outlays was less than 21 percent of our gross domestic product. But under President Obama, spending soared over 25 percent of the GDP in 2009. It has remained above 24 percent since then. This new spending has grown the Federal bureaucracy and it has increased the regulatory burden on families and businesses.

For example, the President's 2,700-page health spending law created or codified at least 159 new boards, bureaucracies, and programs, along with thousands of new pages of government regulations and more than 20 new taxes. A recent Bloomberg News report notes that the President's health care law imposes $813 billion in taxes on middle-income families and job creators, according to the Congressional Budget Office. In total, it has imposed $24 billion in new regulatory costs on the private sector and States, as well as almost $59 billion in annual paperwork hours on the economy.

The 2010 Dodd-Frank law is a similar story. It is still creating countless new rules and its direct compliance costs have already exceeded $7 billion. Indeed, according to the Financial Services Roundtable, Dodd-Frank will force more than 26,000 employees to comply with the law.

Other Obama initiatives have failed to pass the Congress, but likewise would have expanded the bureaucracy and funneled resources from the private sector to the government. These initiatives include cap and trade, the deceptively named Employee Free Choice Act, and the more recent Paycheck Fairness Act. We need to get back to basics.

As Congressman RYAN has said, we need to make it easier for people to employ their ''right to rise.'' That means leaving more money in the private sector and reducing the size of the Washington bureaucracy. We can start by stopping tax hikes and bills such as ObamaCare that suck needed resources out of the economy and give unaccountable regulators immense power.

Let's consider Brooks' second question. Will we be a culture of redistribution or a culture of aspiration? Public policy has a direct impact on economic aspiration and economic mobility. America has traditionally been an aspirational society with high levels of mobility. Although President Obama has made class warfare a central campaign tactic, we do not have a class system here in America. We do not have an American aristocracy or noble bloodlines. Because of our meritocratic system, people in America can and do jump from one income level to another throughout their lifetimes, from the one place to another. But with unemployment stuck above 8 percent now for 41 consecutive months, and the Obama administration's preference for redistributionist policies, there is real concern that America's culture of aspiration may gradually be replaced by a culture of redistribution.

Look at the tax issue. President Obama wants to increase the top marginal income tax rates in order to expand the entitlement state and promote what he calls greater ''fairness'' in society. But what about the economic consequences of taking more money from successful people as the economy continues to struggle? The Joint Committee on Taxation has told us that allowing the top two marginal income tax rates to rise from 33 and 35 percent to 36 and 39.6 percent, respectively, will hit 53 percent of net positive income and just under 1 million business owners overall.

Raising marginal tax rates is no way to encourage aspiration or job creation. It certainly imposes a wet blanket on the kind of risk taking that has helped build America. It is merely redistribution under the guise of social justice. The President's approach to investment is also hostile to aspiration and risk taking. He has endorsed raising the top capital gains rate from 15 to 23.8 percent, and he also wants to raise the top rate on dividends from 15 to 43.4 percent.

The so-called ''Buffet tax'' is yet another method of hiking taxes on investment. All of these taxes on investment reduce the value of the asset by reducing the aftertax return. Our private economy runs on business investment, which is highly sensitive to tax rates, especially on capital gains and dividends.

Some of those who prefer higher taxes have argued that if taxes do not go up, those in the top brackets will invest and save more, but that will not do much for job creation and economic growth. Well, that is factually incorrect. Saving does not mean throwing your money under a mattress or burying it in your backyard. Anyone who saves money either puts it into the bank, where it is lent to someone, often a business, so they can hire more people, purchase equipment or invest in stocks and bonds, or the money is directly invested in a stock or a bond, which provides capital for the same purpose.

In other words, savings actually puts the money saved to work providing capital for someone to do something with it. And that creates economic growth. If that increment of income is instead taken from those who earned it and spent by the government, the effect on the economy will almost always be a net negative. If we want to encourage aspiration, innovation, and the job creation that comes with those, is it a good idea to raise the capital gains rate by almost 59 percent and nearly triple taxes on dividends, even though these profits have already been taxed once at the corporate level? The President and some Congressional Democrats think so, but I strongly disagree.

Here is Brooks' third question: Will we be a Nation of takers or a Nation of makers? Many have lamented the decline of the manufacturing base in America. Although the United States is still the largest manufacturing economy in the world, there is no doubt that policies from Washington have made it more difficult for manufacturers—and those are the economy's foremost makers—to compete in global markets. The list of these policies is long. Let me explain a few.

First, the corporate tax rate. At over 39 percent, our combined corporate tax rate is now the highest in the industrialized world. Other countries are cutting their corporate tax rates to encourage economic growth, but we are doing nothing on the tax front to follow their lead and attract more investment to the United States. Is it any wonder jobs are moving overseas? If not, whose fault is it, the company trying to return a profit to its investors or the government which makes it impossible to compete with foreign corporations?

Look at energy. Manufacturers rely on cheap sources of energy to produce products cheaply. Yet President Obama has stood in the way of domestic production of energy such as the Keystone XL Pipeline and worked tirelessly to punitively raise taxes on the oil and gas industries. New regulations on coal-fired powerplants, emissions of greenhouse gases, and industrial boilers will also hurt our economy.

Simply put, domestic makers are being hurt by the President's anti-energy and proregulatory agenda. Is this fair? Why should Americans pay more than the real economic cost of available American energy? And is it fair that a few corporations make billions because the government mandates that we buy ethanol from them, just to cite one example?

Now let's turn to labor. Manufacturers are also being burdened by union-dictated rules including from the National Labor Relations Board such as the ''ambush elections rule'' and new rules on the establishment of ''micro unions'' within the workplace.

With anticompetitive tax, energy, and labor policy, it will be increasingly difficult for our country to compete as a Nation of makers. These are precisely the kinds of policies that encourage employers to move jobs overseas, which hurts American workers and the greater economy. And this is required in the name of fairness?

We are also trending toward being a Nation of ''taking.'' The government is the biggest taker. But a majority of Americans now take more than they contribute. In tax year 2009, 51 percent of Americans paid zero Federal income

taxes, according to the Joint Committee on Taxation—over half of Americans. And these citizens take much more than their follow citizens in government benefits.

Look at food stamps, for example. As my friend Senator SESSIONS has pointed out, ''food stamp spending has quadrupled since 2001. It has doubled just since 2008. A program that began as a benefit for 1 in 50 Americans is now received by 1 in 7.'' Spending on food stamp welfare has increased 100 percent since President Obama took office. Some 80 percent of all spending in the recently passed farm bill will go toward food stamps.

In total, there are 69 means-tested Federal welfare programs costing taxpayers $940 billion every year, including both Federal programs and State contributions to those programs. The number of Americans living off the wealth of ''makers'' keeps growing and growing. There are nearly twice as many government workers today as there are in the manufacturing sector, meaning that there are more government workers than people making products and paying their salaries. Is that fair?

As economist Stephen Moore noted, ''This is an almost exact reversal of the situation in 1960 when there were 15 million workers in manufacturing, and 8.7 million collecting a paycheck from the government.''

The growth of taxpayer-funded dependency is directly connected with the growth in the economy. The more we make as a Nation, the more wealth we generate and the less people who rely on welfare to survive. To get there we need aggressive progrowth policies in place to encourage free enterprise and discourage a Nation of taking. It is neither fair to the makers nor those who must rely on the government for the President to impose policies that reduce economic growth, reduce job creation, reduce savings and investment, and reduce opportunity and freedom.

In conclusion, free enterprise and meritocratic policies are consistent with our founding principles. As Thomas Jefferson declared in his first inaugural address, ''A wise and frugal government . . . shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned.''

Will America remain the country our Founders envisioned or will we become a country where fairness means equal outcomes for all dictated by the government? Will we make it easier or harder for people to earn their success? And will the American people be happier if allowed to pursue their dreams, sometimes failing, sometimes succeeding, or if the government tries to force equal economic outcomes? Which is more moral, which is more fair, which is more American?

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MANCHIN). The Senator from Georgia.

PASSTHROUGH INCOME

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, if the distinguished whip will remain on the floor for a second, as I was passing through listening to his speech, I wanted to add some meat on the bones of this business of passthrough income and the 940,000 American small businesses that will be affected dramatically by the President's announcement today.

For 22 years, I ran a subchapter S corporation. A subchapter S corporation passes through its revenues to its investors who pay it at the ordinary income tax rate of an individual. Now, $250,000 is not an inordinate amount of a number for somebody to have passed through to them in the ownership of a subchapter S corporation.

I passed the money through and paid them back based on the investment they made in the company I ran. When you raise the tax on the individual rate, then for a subchapter S corporation and limited liability corporation, for a limited partnership, you have two decisions to make as the runner of that operation: Do you reduce your retained earning investment in your company to maintain the return to your investors at the same level or do you continue to wind your company down because you cannot distribute at the rate you used to distribute?

It is very important to understand that whichever decision you make has a direct negative impact on future hiring in that company. The Congressional Research Service estimates 940,000 businesses will be affected. But listen to this number. As the leader has said, 53 percent of all passthrough income becomes subjected to the higher tax rate—53 percent, over half. That is American small business. So I want to commend the leader, because he has hit the heart of the story. This is a tax on what we need the most; that is, reinvestment of earnings to hire more people to build more businesses in America. This has the exact opposite effect on the middle class that the President described.

The second thing I will point out is that today America suffers economically from the uncertainty of what is going to happen postelection. With this proposal, the President has now made a recommendation that would extend that uncertainty for another year. The last thing American business needs is to have that uncertainty about when the next shoe is going to drop in terms of taxation on the middle class—or any class.

I commend the assistant leader for coming to the floor and telling the story about American business. We are not here to try to shelter the rich. We are here to empower business, to have more employees in the United States, and to empower our economy. Again, I commend the whip on his remarks on the Senate floor.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. TONI RYSER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of Mrs. Toni Ryser of Laurel County, KY, a businesswoman who is a pillar of her town, East Bernstadt. Mrs. Ryser's entrepreneurial spirit caused her to open a furniture store in East Bernstadt, KY, in 1969 that continues to thrive and service the people of Kentucky and other States in the region. She is a shining example of a Kentuckian who has established a successful business while maintaining an important role in her community.

The daughter of Chester and Carrie Bales, Mrs. Ryser grew up in East Bernstadt. Despite hard financial times during the Great Depression, she grew up as a happy child. Her father was a truck driver and delivered groceries around Laurel County for Laurel Grocery, and her mother worked in the home. Her mother used to joke with family members that of the four children, Mrs. Ryser was the most difficult child because she always did what she wanted and had a mind of her own.

Mrs. Ryser graduated high school at age 16 and worked for Aetna Oil Company. In a bold move encouraged by her then-boss, Mrs. Ryser asked her would-be husband, R.D. Ryser, out to the movies for their first date. The couple married in June of 1947 and at age 20, Toni had their first child, Kandy. The Rysers had two more children, Bo and Kim, over the course of the next 5 years.

Though Mrs. Ryser always wanted to be a mother, she decided she wanted to do more than keep the house during the day. Remembering the skill her mother taught her as a child, she began sewing and selling drapes. Soon Mrs. Ryser's drapery business grew and she could not complete orders as quickly as they arrived. As business increased, she decided to expand and not only sell draperies but also upscale furniture.

In 1969, Mrs. Ryser approached a furniture retailer that was hesitant to do business with her because of the rural nature of East Bernstadt. However, despite the concerns of the retailer, Mrs. Ryser decided she was going to sell furniture and was not dissuaded by the larger company's misgivings. She never doubted her ability to sell the furniture and make a profit. So in September of 1969, when Toni was 39,

Ryser's Inc. was officially open for business.

Despite the continued success of the drapery business, Ryser's Inc. furniture sales did not really take off until 1972, when the Kentucky coal industry experienced a boom. The extra cash flow in the area caused the furniture business to flourish in East Bernstadt and the surrounding region. Before long, the entire family worked for the company: taking orders, making deliveries, and even offering advice on interior design.

Ryser's Inc. quickly became a premier name in furniture in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Florida. The store in East Bernstadt evolved into a warehouse, and Mrs. Ryser spent her time in the Laurel County area and the greater region bringing upscale furniture to the people. The reputation of the family business continued to grow over the years throughout the region and State and caused Mrs. Ryser to be named a Kentucky retailer of the year in the 1990s.

A long standing member of East Bernstadt Baptist Church, a dedicated wife and mother, and a successful business woman, Mrs. Toni Ryser is most deserving of recognition for her contributions to the greater Laurel County community and economy. Mrs. Ryser never hesitated in her journey to establish a fine furnishings store in a rural area some 40 years ago. It was her belief in herself, her family, and most importantly her fellow Kentuckians that allowed her dream to become an enduring reality.

I am honored to recognize Mrs. Toni Ryser's admirable commitment to building a successful family business in East Bernstadt, KY. I ask my colleagues in the U.S. Senate to join with me in celebrating Mrs. Ryser's entrepreneurial spirit and tenacity and her important contributions to the greater Laurel County community. A recent article published in the Sentinel-Echo, a Laurel County publication, highlighted Mrs. Ryser's accomplishments. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that said article appear in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Sentinel-Echo, May 30, 2012]

FAITH AND FAMILY HELPED BUILD FURNITURE BUSINESS

(By Tara Kaprowy)

As Toni Ryser sits down to talk about her life, she is the picture of elegance. With soft, silver hair that frames her face and several long necklaces offsetting a black blouse, she sinks into an overstuffed chair whose arm a cat casually uses as leverage to stretch its back.

The room itself can only be described as magnificent, with ochre tomes toppled against each other on grand bookshelves, drapes embroidered with the most delicate flowers, and a giant, opulent mirror standing sentinel on the far wall. Yet, despite the beauty, the room is comforting and unpretentious, much like Ryser herself.

She was born in Harlan County on Valentine's Day 1931, the daughter of Chester and Carrie Bales. While Ryser was still very young, the family moved to Livingston before settling in Laurel County when she was 7. Chester ''bought a truck and started hauling groceries for Laurel Grocery,'' Ryser said, while Carrie got to work making her home in East Bernstadt, something she was particularly gifted at doing.

''Mother could do anything,'' Ryser said. ''We had beautiful clothes, we had wonderful food, we had a house that was spotless.''

Though money was tight and the Great Depression was raging, there were always fresh-cut flowers in the house and ''I always felt rich because mother knew how to sew so I always looked the part,'' she said.

Ryser was the second-born of four children, and though Carrie was a strict disciplinarian, Ryser had a ''way of finagling and not doing any work so I was a very happy child,'' she said.

And a precocious one. At the age of 4, she was getting paid a quarter to dance on the tables and, throughout her childhood, she said she broke her nose once playing baseball and four more times doing ''whatever else I could get children to play with me.''

She recalled one occasion when an aunt, ''who thought she was an aristocrat out of Louisville,'' came to visit.

''People used to discuss dying earlier than they do now,'' she remembered. ''She said, 'Why Carrie, if something happens to you, who's going to take care of these children?' Mother said, 'Well, so-and-so would take Sara Lee. So-and-so would take Mikey. But I don't know who would want Toni.' I was really lazy.''

Carrie was not, however, and when Ryser started attending East Bernstadt School, she was one of the best-dressed girls in her class.

''I went to school in starched pinafores every day,'' she said. ''In fact, they often made a joke about how my butt had to be cold—I sat right on the seat because my dress went straight out.''

Though she looked like she could be a city girl, her life was firmly planted in East Bernstadt, which ''was a little more town than it is now,'' she said.

''We had a hotel, we bought groceries in East Bernstadt, we went to church in East Bernstadt, we went to the movies in East Bernstadt,'' she said. ''Sometimes, when we got a little older, we would ride the train to London and see an afternoon movie and ride the train back, but we had pretty much what we needed right here in East Bernstadt.''

Ryser was a good student but having fun was still her major goal, and she ''liked to see what I could get away with,'' she said. She became fast friends with Betty Marie Muster and Pat Finney. Together, they were cheerleaders, with a photo still hanging at Weaver's of Ryser wearing her uniform. ''Every Friday night, there was a dance at the Swiss Lodge,'' she remembered. ''That was our big thing as we were going through high school. We did a lot of dancing.''

She graduated from high school at 16 and ''immediately got married.'' During her final semester, she'd gotten a job at Aetna Oil Company and her boss Mr. Miller looked over at Hunt's Cafe one day, saw R.D. Ryser, and said, ''Go over, get a Coke, and ask R.D. out.'' She did, passing ''Colonel'' Harland David Sanders who was eating with Mr. Hunt along the way, and asked him.

''I said, 'Why don't we go to the movies tonight?' He said, 'No, I don't think so.' I said, 'I would like to go with you tonight. I'll be expecting you; I'll be ready at 7:30.' He says, 'I don't think so,' but at 7:30 he showed up. That was the end of him, we got married.''

The wedding was in the afternoon of June 14, 1947.

''The thing I regret the most about it is my mother had made me the most beautiful wedding dress,'' she said. ''You can't even imagine in your wildest dreams what a pretty dress I had. I was so foolish; I never even saved it. It was organdy and it was white and it had a full skirt and sleeves to my elbows and it had the most gorgeous appliqued pink flowers and leaves all the way around the skirt that you've ever seen. Her work was beautiful. I mean, nothing today could compare with it. Now I'd give anything to have that dress.''

Ryser and R.D. moved into the two-room washhouse in the back of her parent's house—''I don't know where mother did her laundry after that''—and in 1949 moved into a home they built together.

At the age of 20, she had her first child, Kandy, followed by Bo three years later and Kim two years after that.

''I had always wanted to be a mother, very definitely,'' she said. ''I just thought it was wonderful.'' Like her father, R.D. was a truck driver, hauling coal to Louisville three times a week—a five hour trek—and returning that day with groceries for Laurel Grocery. Ryser stayed home to raise her children, which she loved doing.

By the time Kim was in sixth grade, though, ''I got to thinking I didn't want to spend my time doing nothing, so I decided to start making draperies.'' She'd been taught to sew by her mother and deeply enjoyed the meticulous work. Asking her friend Ruth Gabbard to help, she went into business and soon had so many orders they could hardly keep up.

''We'd stay backed up. Generally when we'd take an order, we'd tell them it would be two to three months,'' she said.

Eventually, the pressure to couple her drapery business with a furniture store grew.

''What changed things is I would go out to hang drapes and would spend maybe half a day with someone telling them what kind of sofa to go buy or where should they set their bed and wouldn't it be good to hang lights on the wall, that kind of conversation,'' she said. ''I saw I was spending an awful lot of time, so I said if I'm going to spend my time with furniture, I'm going to be selling furniture.''

Opening up a furniture store—which she decided from the beginning would be very high end—in the middle of East Bernstadt was risky. But she had the full support of her husband—''He was enough Swiss that if it was making money, he was for it,'' she joked—and so headed to market in High Point, N.C. She approached the big, upscale furniture lines, one of the only women there who was the main buyer.

''I went to Henredon and they didn't much want to open an account with me,'' she said. ''They'd looked at East Bernstadt on a map. They said, 'Here's what we'll do: You place an order for $20,000. We won't say we'll let you have an account, but we'll come by and see your place, and then we'll know if we want to take you on as a customer.' So he comes by, there's cows on this side, cows on the other side of the store, and he says, 'I want to know: Who in the world do you hope to sell furniture to?' I said, 'I'm not a bit worried about it, you just better believe I'll sell it.' So he opened up an account that day, and there never was any confusion after that.''

Having put up everything she and her husband owned as collateral, Ryser's Inc. opened in September 1969. Ryser was 39.

She was soon working around the clock, keeping her focus by reminding herself, ''All we have to lose is everything R.D. has ever worked for since he was 17.''

The drapery business continued to flourish, but it wasn't until the coal boom in 1972 that furniture sales truly took off.

''Over night, many coal companies large and small hit the big time and there was lots

of extra money in circulation,'' she said. ''We happened to be in the right place at the right time. We had a large inventory and were willing to work night and day to help with their furniture needs. The bottom line was business was good.''

Gabbard and two other women continued making draperies, and Ryser hired her family to do everything else.

''It wasn't too long before Kandy was at the store,'' she said. ''Bo was helping. I'd go out to the high school and Harold Storm was the principal. I'd say, 'Can Bo go with us?' And he'd say, 'How many do you want, Toni?' He'd give me two or three boys and so off we'd go with a truck full of furniture and drapes to hang.''

Once arriving at their destination, Ryser would work her magic, attending to every last detail in a room.

''We did everything,'' she said. ''We moved their old furniture until it looked nice, we put the new pieces in that they really needed. You set up and then you don't want to see a little lamp on the floor, you don't want to leave a picture hanging over here when it should have gone over there, so you just start doing it.''

Once the home owner arrived home, the room would be completely transformed, with the pieces they knew they were buying accompanied by their existing furniture and a few extras that rounded out the space. The effect was enchanting, with all the parts seamlessly coming together to make the whole.

Her eye for design was flawless, with one customer who dealt in antiques asking her what she thought about his plan to mass produce the look of an antique table. Her opinion was so valuable to him that he called it the Mrs. Ryser table, which to this day is still being sold.

Word traveled fast, with the Rysers name soon extending throughout Kentucky and spreading down into Tennessee and Florida.

Ryser was having a ball and was on the road every day, telling her children, ''If we are in the store, we aren't making money.'' Indeed, given its remote location, the store was always meant to be more of a warehouse than a space for customers to shop.

When Bo was in college, she said she ''saw she had too much to handle'' and the flooring side of the business was getting neglected, ''so I told my son, 'If you want to buy the business, it's here for you.' ''

He did. Kandy, meanwhile, had her own set of customers, and Kim, after graduating from Eastern Kentucky University's school of design, joined her siblings. Even her mother Carrie had a hand in things.

''Mother would come down and would tell them a thing or two about drapes. It was her way or no way,'' she laughed. ''But Ruth, she never one time get upset that mother tried to boss. Ruth is a wonderful person, that was her nature.''

Business continued to grow, with customers by now all over the country. In the 1990s, Ryser was named Kentucky's retailer of the year.

Though she stayed constantly busy, ''thinking nothing of going in at midnight or one in the morning,'' Sundays were reserved for church and family.

To this day, she remains one of the most faithful members of East Bernstadt Baptist Church, with Pastor Norm Brock joking the only way to keep Ryser at home on a snowy, icy Sunday morning is to cancel church.

''I feel like God has walked beside me my whole life, my whole life,'' she said. ''I like to give credit where it's due and it's definitely not due me.''

Every Sunday evening, she would cook a sprawling family dinner.

''We had a ball,'' she said. ''They would bring their dates, their friends and this house would fill up from that end to this end. We'd all settle down in my kitchen and there weren't enough seats and all we'd do is discuss all the fun we'd had all week.''

In 1992, she and R.D. decided to build a new house on the land on which he was born and, since they'd enjoyed their first home so much, decided to replicate the floor plan to the letter. She continues to live there.

In 2003, R.D. suffered a stroke and Ryser left the store to take care of him. She returned to work after he died a year later, but in 2006 Ryser also had a stroke. She's taken a back seat to the business for the past five years. But she continues to be active and last spring took a few months off from her regular Body Recall aerobics class to redecorate for a friend who was wintering in Florida but needed her Lexington home completely redone in time for Derby. She only trusted Ryser to do it.

Looking back, Ryser's eyes light up while talking about the excitement of the business and become moist when talking about her faith and family. When asked if she's proud of what she's accomplished, she shakes her head and sits up in her overstuffed chair.

''I'm proud of my family,'' she said. ''I don't feel proud of myself. I've enjoyed it. I enjoyed it a lot.''

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

SOPHIA, WEST VIRGINIA

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to bring attention to a small town in my home State. Sophia, WV, began its 100-year anniversary celebration on June 2, 2012, and will hold a litany of festive events throughout most of the summer.

Many of you present today will recall that Sophia is the town our dear friend and colleague, Senator Robert C. Byrd, so often referred to when he spoke of his home among the hills. This beautiful community served as his and Erma's haven for much of their lives.

The town of Sophia is reportedly named for Sophia Gravley McGinnis, who was born 200 years ago, in 1812. Mrs. McGinnis and her husband, Pyrrhus McGinnis, owned nearly 2,000 acres of land in and around the area according to the family's historical documents. Sophia became the first official citizen and its endeared namesake when the town incorporated in 1912. She went on to live to the ripe age of 104 years old and died in March of 1916. She is buried near Flat Top, WV.

Many times over, Senator Byrd reflected on his and Erma's time in Sophia, fondly remembering the friendships and once-bustling economy. Historically, the town of Sophia was known as the epicenter of the Winding Gulf region where countless tons of coal have been mined and transported all over the world via the extensive rail network intersecting the region.

Senator Byrd is certainly Sophia's favorite son. The memories he shared so freely with all of us act as a reminder of the importance of coal and its far-reaching impact on the State of West Virginia and our Nation. They also bring to mind the tremendous character of the people who helped create those memories and how they helped guide him in his duties as the longest serving member of the Congress.

Unfortunately, as with many towns across our great land, Sophia fell on hard times for a number of years. With the march of technology and the mechanization of the coal industry, fewer men were needed to mine coal and service the railroads, causing Sophia's population to quickly dwindle. Grocers and markets and small shops began to close their doors. Schools helping to educate the children of Sophia were consolidated. The town soon became a shell of its former glory.

However, like other parts of West Virginia that have experienced decline, the citizens of the town of Sophia never gave up. Their story continues today and proves to be a testament of the talented and dedicated residents living there. Many of the efforts to revitalize this rural village have resulted in enormous success. Economic development initiatives have culminated in a bright future for Sophia that includes an economy of growth and a renewal of the spirit that lies deep within the hearts of the people Senator Byrd held in such high regard.

Evidence of the revitalization in the town of Sophia includes the opening of the Affinity Coal mining operation and the regular passage of railcars once again full of coal. Burning Rock Outdoor Adventure Park is bringing visitors from all across the Nation and the rich heritage of the coal industry is creating new tourism proposals and interest in the studies of mine safety and engineering. The young men and women of Sophia are no longer forced to leave their homes to find gainful employment because opportunities are once again available to them and their families.

All of these measures bring me to the floor to recognize what should be considered a shining example of dedication and commitment in times of hardship and adversity. On behalf of the people of the town of Sophia, it brings me great pride to present this statement in recognition of a community spirit that has fostered ongoing transformation, while always holding true to a history rich with fortitude.•

FEDERAL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION REPORT

Derek J. Mitchell, of Connecticut, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Union of Burma, discharged from the Committee on Foreign Relations and confirmed by the Senate on June 29, 2012:

Nominee: Derek J. Mitchell.

Post: Burma.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: $2,500, 12/2/2011, Obama for America; $200, 2009, DNC; $1,000, 9/17/2008, Obama for America; $1,050, 10/5/2008, Obama for America; $200, 2008, DNC.

2. Spouse: None to report.

3. Children and Spouses: Names N/A.

4. Parents: Father—Malcolm Mitchell; $25, 1/21/2011, Friends of Harry Reid; $20, 9/8/2011, ActBlue; $27.50, 6/29/2011, ActBlue; $20, 1/12/2011, Al Franken for Senate; $25, 11/4/2011, Beta O'Rourke Campaign; $50, 1/13/2011, DNC; $25, 2/24/2011, DNC: $20, 6/30/2011, Democracy in Action; $10, 6/2/2011, MoveOn.org; $10, 7/22/2011, MoveOn.org; $20, 10/14/2011, Tammy Baldwin for Senate; $50, 4/21/2011, Obama for America; $25, 9/7/2011, Obama for America; $30, 1/14/2010, Act Blue; $25, 8/11/2010, ActBlue; $25, 9/24/2010, ActBlue; $25, 10/12/2010, ActBlue; $35, 2/1/2010, Democratic Party; $25, 4/23/2010, Democratic Party; $25, 3/6/2010; DNC; $50, 3/25/2010, DNC; $35, 4/17/2010, DNC; $50, 5/19/2010, DNC; $50, 9/2/2010, DNC.

5. Grandparents: Names—None to Report.

6. Brothers and Spouses: Names—None to Report.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Names—None to Report.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 5, 2011, the Secretary of the Senate, on July 2, 2012, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 4348. An act to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 5, 2011, the enrolled bill was subsequently signed on July 2, 2012, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. CARDIN).

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 4018. An act to improve the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 3364. A bill to provide an incentive for businesses to bring jobs back to America.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. COONS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 3364. A bill to provide an incentive for businesses to bring jobs back to America; read the first time.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 387

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 387, a bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to provide flexible spending arrangements for members of uniformed services, and for other purposes.

S. 845

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 845, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the logical flow of return information between partnerships, corporations, trusts, estates, and individuals to better enable each party to submit timely, accurate returns and reduce the need for extended and amended returns, to provide for modified due dates by regulation, and to conform the automatic corporate extension period to longstanding regulatory rule.

S. 1483

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1483, a bill to ensure that persons who form corporations in the United States disclose the beneficial owners of those corporations, in order to prevent wrongdoers from exploiting United States corporations in ways that threaten homeland security, to assist law enforcement in detecting, preventing, and punishing terrorism, money laundering, and other misconduct involving United States corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 1670

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1670, a bill to eliminate racial profiling by law enforcement, and for other purposes.

S. 1747

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1747, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to modify provisions relating to the exemption for computer systems analysts, computer programmers, software engineers, or other similarly skilled workers.

S. 1806

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1806, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow taxpayers to designate overpayments of tax as contributions to the homeless veterans assistance fund.

S. 2134

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2134, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for certain requirements relating to the retirement, adoption, care, and recognition of military working dogs, and for other purposes.

S. 2374

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2374, a bill to amend the Helium Act to ensure the expedient and responsible draw-down of the Federal Helium Reserve in a manner that protects the interests of private industry, the scientific, medical, and industrial communities, commercial users, and Federal agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 3309

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3309, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the assistance provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 3317

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3317, a bill to restore the effective use of group actions for claims arising under title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, section 1977 of the Revised Statutes, and the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, and for other purposes.

S. 3355

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3355, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide taxpayer protection and assistance, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 43

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 43, a joint resolution approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 48

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 48, a concurrent resolution recognizing 375 years of service of the National Guard and affirming congressional support for a permanent Operational Reserve as a component of the Armed Forces.

S. RES. 516

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 516, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the restitution of or compensation for property seized during the Nazi and Communist eras.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that an oversight hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Thursday, July 12, 2012, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to provide oversight on Remediation of Legacy Wells in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510–6150, or by email to Jake_McCook@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Patricia Beneke (202) 224–5451 or Jake McCook (202) 224–9313.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on July 12, 2012, in room SD–628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:15 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled ''Federal Recognition: Political and Legal Relationship between Governments.''

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224–2251.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet in open session on Thursday, July 12, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. in 106 Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled ''Beyond Seclusion and Restraint: Creating Positive Learning Environments for All Students.''

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Michael Gamel-McCormick of the committee staff on (202) 224–5501.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs has scheduled a hearing entitled, ''U.S. Vulnerabilities to Money Laundering, Drugs, and Terrorist Financing: HSBC Case History.'' The Subcommittee hearing will examine money laundering and terrorist financing vulnerabilities created when a global bank uses its U.S. affiliate to provide U.S. dollars, U.S. dollar services, and access to the U.S. financial system to high risk affiliates, high risk correspondent banks, and high risk clients, using HSBC as a case study. Witnesses will include representatives from HSBC and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. A witness list will be available Friday, July 13, 2012.

The Subcommittee hearing has been scheduled for Tuesday, July 17, 2012, at 9:30 a.m., in Room 106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. For further information, please contact Elise Bean of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations at (202) 224–9505.

D.C. COURTS AND PUBLIC SERVICE DEFENDER ACT OF 2011

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 436, S. 1379.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1379) to amend title 11, District of Columbia Official Code, to revise certain administrative authorities of the District of Columbia courts, and to authorize the District of Columbia Public Defender Service to provide professional liability insurance for officers and employees of the Service for claims relating to services furnished within the scope of employment with the Service.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment, as follows:

(Omit the part shown in boldface brackets and insert the part printed in italic.)

S. 1379

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''D.C. Courts and Public Defender Service Act of 2011''.

SEC. 2. AUTHORITIES OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS.

(a) PERMITTING JUDICIAL CONFERENCE ON BIENNIAL BASIS; ATTENDANCE OF MAGISTRATE JUDGES.—Section 11–744, District of Columbia Official Code, is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by striking ''annually'' and inserting ''biennially or annually'';

(2) in the first sentence, by striking ''active judges'' and inserting ''active judges and magistrate judges'';

(3) in the third sentence, by striking ''Every judge'' and inserting ''Every judge and magistrate judge''; and

(4) in the third sentence, by striking ''Courts of Appeals'' and inserting ''Court of Appeals''.

(b) EMERGENCY AUTHORITY TO TOLL OR DELAY JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS.—

(1) PROCEEDINGS IN SUPERIOR COURT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of Chapter 9 of title 11, District of Columbia Official Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 11–947. Emergency authority to toll or delay proceedings.

''(a) TOLLING OR DELAYING PROCEEDINGS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In the event of a natural disaster or other emergency situation requiring the closure of Superior Court or rendering it impracticable for the United States or District of Columbia Government or a class of litigants to comply with deadlines imposed by any Federal or District of Columbia law or rule that applies in the Superior Court, the chief judge of the Superior Court may exercise emergency authority in accordance with this section.

''(2) SCOPE OF AUTHORITY.—(A) The chief judge may enter such order or orders as may be appropriate to delay, toll, or otherwise grant relief from the time deadlines imposed by otherwise applicable laws or rules for such period as may be appropriate for any class of cases pending or thereafter filed in the Superior Court.

''(B) The authority conferred by this section extends to all laws and rules affecting criminal and juvenile proceedings (including, pre-arrest, post-arrest, pretrial, trial, and post-trial procedures) and civil, family, domestic violence, probate and tax proceedings.

''(3) UNAVAILABILITY OF CHIEF JUDGE.—If the chief judge of the Superior Court is absent or disabled, the authority conferred by this section may be exercised by the judge designated under section 11–907(a) or by the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration.

''(4) HABEAS CORPUS UNAFFECTED.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize suspension of the writ of habeas corpus.

''(b) CRIMINAL CASES.—In exercising the authority under this section for criminal cases, the chief judge shall consider the ability of the United States or District of Columbia Government to investigate, litigate, and process defendants during and after the emergency situation, as well as the ability of criminal defendants as a class to prepare their defenses.

''(c) ISSUANCE OF ORDERS.—The United States Attorney for the District of Columbia or the Attorney General for the District of Columbia or the designee of either may request issuance of an order under this section, or the chief judge may act on his or her own motion.

''(d) DURATION OF ORDERS.—An order entered under this section may not toll or extend a time deadline for a period of more than 14 days, except that if the chief judge determines that an emergency situation requires additional extensions of the period during which deadlines are tolled or extended, the chief judge may, with the consent of the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration, enter additional orders under this section in order to further toll or extend such time deadline.

''(e) NOTICE.—Upon issuing an order under this section, the chief judge—

''(1) shall make all reasonable efforts to publicize the order, including, when possible, announcing the order on the District of Columbia Courts Web site; and

''(2) shall send notice of the order, including the reasons for the issuance of the order, to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.

''(f) REQUIRED REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days after the expiration of the last extension or tolling of a time period made by the order or orders relating to an emergency situation, the chief judge shall submit a brief report to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives, and the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration describing the orders, including—

''(1) the reasons for issuing the orders;

''(2) the duration of the orders;

''(3) the effects of the orders on litigants; and

''(4) the costs to the court resulting from the orders.

''(g) EXCEPTIONS.—The notice under subsection (e)(2) and the report under subsection

(f) are not required in the case of an order that tolls or extends a time deadline for a period of less than 14 days.''.

(B) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of chapter 9 of title 11, District of Columbia Official Code, is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to subchapter III the following:

''11–947. Emergency authority to toll or delay proceedings.''.

(2) PROCEEDINGS IN COURT OF APPEALS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 7 of title 11, District of Columbia Official Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 11–745. Emergency authority to toll or delay proceedings.

''(a) TOLLING OR DELAYING PROCEEDINGS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In the event of a natural disaster or other emergency situation requiring the closure of the Court of Appeals or rendering it impracticable for the United States or District of Columbia Government or a class of litigants to comply with deadlines imposed by any Federal or District of Columbia law or rule that applies in the Court of Appeals, the chief judge of the Court of Appeals may exercise emergency authority in accordance with this section.

''(2) SCOPE OF AUTHORITY.—The chief judge may enter such order or orders as may be appropriate to delay, toll, or otherwise grant relief from the time deadlines imposed by otherwise applicable laws or rules for such period as may be appropriate for any class of cases pending or thereafter filed in the Court of Appeals.

''(3) UNAVAILABILITY OF CHIEF JUDGE.—If the chief judge of the Court of Appeals is absent or disabled, the authority conferred by this section may be exercised by the judge designated under section 11–706(a) or by the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration.

''(4) HABEAS CORPUS UNAFFECTED.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize suspension of the writ of habeas corpus.

''(b) ISSUANCE OF ORDERS.—The United States Attorney for the District of Columbia or the Attorney General for the District of Columbia or the designee of either may request issuance of an order under this section, or the chief judge may act on his or her own motion.

''(c) DURATION OF ORDERS.—An order entered under this section may not toll or extend a time deadline for a period of more than 14 days, except that if the chief judge determines that an emergency situation requires additional extensions of the period during which deadlines are tolled or extended, the chief judge may, with the consent of the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration, enter additional orders under this section in order to further toll or extend such time deadline.

''(d) NOTICE.—Upon issuing an order under this section, the chief judge—

''(1) shall make all reasonable efforts to publicize the order, including, when possible, announcing the order on the District of Columbia Courts Web site; and

''(2) shall send notice of the order, including the reasons for the issuance of the order, to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.

''(e) REQUIRED REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days after the expiration of the last extension or tolling of a time period made by the order or orders relating to an emergency situation, the chief judge shall submit a brief report to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives, and the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration describing the orders, including—

''(1) the reasons for issuing the orders;

''(2) the duration of the orders;

''(3) the effects of the orders on litigants; and

''(4) the costs to the court resulting from the orders.

''(f) EXCEPTIONS.—The notice under subsection (d)(2) and the report under subsection (e) are not required in the case of an order that tolls or extends a time deadline for a period of less than 14 days.''.

(B) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of chapter 7 of title 11, District of Columbia Official Code, is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to subchapter III the following:

''11–745. Emergency authority to toll or delay proceedings.''.

[(c) AUTHORIZATION FOR PROGRAM OF VOLUNTARY SEPARATION INCENTIVE PAYMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 17 of title 11, District of Columbia Official Code, is amended by inserting after section 11–1726 the following new section:

''§ 11–1726A. Voluntary Separation Incentive Payments

''The Joint Committee on Judicial Administration may, by regulation, establish a program substantially similar to the program established under subchapter II of chapter 35 of title 5, United States Code, for nonjudicial employees of the District of Columbia courts.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of chapter 17 of title 11, District of Columbia Official Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 11–1726 the following new item:

''11–1726A. Voluntary separation incentive payments.''.

[(d)]*(c)* PERMITTING AGREEMENTS TO PROVIDE SERVICES ON A REIMBURSABLE BASIS TO OTHER DISTRICT GOVERNMENT OFFICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 11–1742, District of Columbia Official Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(d) To prevent duplication and to promote efficiency and economy, the Executive Officer may enter into agreements to provide the Mayor of the District of Columbia with equipment, supplies, and services and credit reimbursements received from the Mayor for such equipment, supplies, and services to the appropriation of the District of Columbia Courts against which they were charged.''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2010 and each succeeding fiscal year.

SEC. 3. LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICE.

Section 307 of the District of Columbia Court Reform and Criminal Procedure Act of 1970 (sec. 2–1607, D.C. Official Code) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e) The Service shall, to the extent the Director considers appropriate, provide representation for and hold harmless, or provide liability insurance for, any person who is an employee, member of the Board of Trustees, or officer of the Service for money damages arising out of any claim, proceeding, or case at law relating to the furnishing of representational services or management services or related services under this Act while acting within the scope of that person's office or employment, including but not limited to such claims, proceedings, or cases at law involving employment actions, injury, loss of liberty, property damage, loss of property, or personal injury, or death arising from malpractice or negligence of any such officer or employee.''.

SEC. 4. REDUCTION IN TERM OF SERVICE OF JUDGES ON FAMILY COURT OF THE SUPERIOR COURT.

(a) REDUCTION IN TERM OF SERVICE.—Section 11–908A(c)(1), District of Columbia Official Code, is amended by striking ''5 years'' and inserting ''3 years''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to any individual serving as a judge on the Family Court of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be agreed to, and the bill, as amended, be read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee amendment was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1379), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. REID. I know of no further debate on this bill, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the bill, as amended.

The bill, as amended, was passed.

(The bill will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 3364

Mr. REID. Mr. President, S. 3364 was introduced earlier today by Senator STABENOW, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3364) to provide an incentive for businesses to bring jobs back to America.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for a second reading but object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2012

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, July 10; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that the majority leader be recognized and that the first hour be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half; and that at 11:30 a.m., the Senate proceed to executive session under the previous order; further, that

the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. tomorrow for our weekly caucus meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the first vote will be at noon tomorrow on the confirmation of the Fowkles nomination to be a Federal district court judge.

There will be an additional rollcall vote at 2:25 p.m. tomorrow, or thereabouts, on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to the Small Business Jobs and Tax Relief Act.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4:23 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, July 10, 2012, at 10 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO LEON AND JOYCE HENRY

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas, Leon and Joyce Henry are celebrating fifty (50) years in marriage today in DeKalb County, Georgia; and

Whereas, on June 18, 1962, because of their union then, our community today has been blessed with a family that has enhanced our district, they both are instruments in our community that uplift the spiritual, physical, economic, and mental welfare of our citizens; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man of God and this phenomenal and virtuous Proverbs 31 woman have been blessed with a wonderful family: Leon, Jr., Jasmine, Jaden, Shelia, Jaxson, Cheryl, Anthony, Kingston, Brooklyn, Monique, Ebony, Elijah, Amy, TJ, Dion, Nahtiah, and "baby Ava"; and

Whereas, Leon and Joyce Henry are distinguished citizens of our district, they are spiritual warriors, persons of compassion, fearless leaders and servants to all, but most of all visionaries who have shared not only with their family, but with our District their passion to improve the lives of others; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Leon and Joyce Henry as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary, fifty (50) years in marital bliss;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim June 18th as Leon and Joyce Henry Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

"WASHINGTON'S MOST WANTED" 300TH FUGITIVE

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Q–13 Fox, the Fox network's affiliate in Seattle, and its program "Washington's Most Wanted" for playing an integral role in the capture of 300 fugitives in Washington State and Oregon.

"Washington's Most Wanted" partners with Crime Stoppers of Puget Sound to produce local television alerting viewers to fugitives from justice in their communities, Mr. Speaker, and those communities have responded in a big way: since the show began in November of 2008, viewer tips and the hard work of the law enforcement community has led to 300 criminals—murderers, rapists, unregistered sex offenders, thieves, and burglars—getting off the streets and out of communities.

Mr. Speaker, dynamic and productive partnerships exist between law enforcement, communications professionals, and concerned citizens all over the United States. I'm proud that such a partnership exists in the Northwest, Mr. Speaker, and I applaud Q–13, Crime Stoppers of Puget Sound, the alert and thoughtful citizens of the Northwest, and our brave and dedicated law enforcement officers for staying vigilant in the fight against dangerous fugitives and crime.

I've been fortunate enough to help in this effort to get fugitives out of our communities and the amount of success this effort has had since 2008 is no surprise—hard work and dedication pay off.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, during consideration of H.R. 5972, I inadvertently switched my votes for consecutive amendments. I would like the record to state the following:

Rollcall vote 434: I would like the record to reflect my vote of "aye" was intended to be "no" on Rep. MCCLINTOCK's amendment to zero out funding for the Community Development Fund including the CDBG program and apply the savings to the deficit reduction account.

Rollcall vote 435: I would like the record to reflect my vote of "no" was intended to be "aye" on Rep. MCCLINTOCK's amendment to zero out the funding for the Community Development Loan Guarantees Program Account and apply the savings to the spending reduction account.

HONORING STEPHEN ARTHUR DYMARCIK, SR.

HON. BENJAMIN QUAYLE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. QUAYLE. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to honor Stephen Arthur Dymarcik, Sr., who honorably served our country in the Army from 1966–1967 in Vietnam. The son of Polish immigrants, his family remembers him as a deeply patriotic and proud American who taught them to be proud of their Polish heritage, while being grateful for the opportunity to live in America. He told his son, "America is the greatest country in the world. We aren't perfect . . . but we are pretty close." Mr. Dymarcik was rated 100 percent service-connected disabled by the Veterans Administration and passed away in August 2003. His loyalty to his country, patriotism and integrity are not forgotten by his family. To Mr. Dymarcik and his family, and to so many others who have honorably served our country, we appreciate your bravery, your service and your sacrifices.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE JAIN CENTER OF NEW JERSEY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Jain Center of New Jersey as its constituents gather to celebrate their newly constructed temple in Franklin Township, New Jersey. Their dedication to further enhance the environment for members of the Jain community is worthy of this body's recognition.

The Jain Center of New Jersey, JCNJ, was founded in 1981 and remains one of the oldest Jain organizations in North America. For thousands of years, Jains have believed in meditation, vegetarianism, environmentalism, equal rights for women, respect for other cultures and forgiveness. The Jain community in New Jersey has continued to grow exponentially and has further developed the need to construct the first all-marble temple in North America. The new temple, constructed with architectural designs from famous temples throughout India, continues to promote the positive themes of truth, non-violence, love, peace and proper conduct. The new worship site will also continue to provide opportunities for members of the community to faithfully commit to the Jain lifestyle that encourages happiness, challenge, discovery and spiritual growth. The construction of the new temple will provide culturally enriching experiences for the community and further disseminate the message of peaceful cooperation amongst others.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in recognizing the Jain Center of New Jersey and congratulating its members on the inauguration of their new temple.

SIMON CALDWELL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Simon Caldwell, of Savannah, Missouri, for his admirable leadership and dedication to the community through the Savannah Lions Club. Simon joined the Savannah Lions Club in 2008, where he has served as the third, second, and first vice president before being elected president of the chapter in 2011.

Throughout his terms, Simon has assisted with many projects including hanging flags on holidays, a fishing derby for kids, and serving at fundraiser meals. Simon has also actively

participated in Special Olympics events, promoting their efforts within the club. As his leadership experiences increased, his confidence in speaking with others grew, and he now proudly conducts the chapter's meetings on a regular basis.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Simon Caldwell, whose commendable public service and dedication to the Lions Club has made him an inspiration for many. His strong moral character and earnest concern for my people makes it an honor to serve him in the United States Congress.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ACCREDITATION BOARD

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Federal Law Enforcement Training Accreditation (FLETA) Board as they celebrate their 10th anniversary on June 5, 2012. The FLETA Board of Directors is comprised of 21 senior officials from federal law enforcement agencies, academia, and professional organizations. Since the FLETA Board's inception, fifteen federal law enforcement academies and over 60 individual law enforcement training programs have voluntarily presented themselves to be assessed through the FLETA process and receive accreditation.

The FLETA Office of Accreditation is one of the smallest entities in the Federal Government with only seven government employees, yet the impact on federal training and operations is extensive. FLETA assists law enforcement agencies in virtually every department of the Federal Government to improve operations through more effective and efficient training. The mission of FLETA is more important now than ever before. This agency's efforts are demonstrative of good government in action, accountability through self-regulation, and exhibit the transparency that Americans expect of their government.

I would like to congratulate FLETA on their 10th anniversary and wish them much success in the future as they continue to assist federal law enforcement operations through training.

TRIBUTE TO DR. KENNETH L. SAMUEL

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas, Victory for the World Church has been and continues to be a beacon of light to our county for the past twenty-five years; and

Whereas, Dr. Kenneth L. Samuel, Pastor and Organizer and the members of the Victory for the World Church family today continues to uplift and inspire those in our community; and

Whereas, Victory for the World Church family has been and continues to be a place where citizens are touched spiritually, mentally and physically through outreach ministries and community partnership to aid in building up our District; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious Church of God has given hope to the hopeless, fed the needy and empowered our community for the past twenty-five (25) years by preaching the gospel, teaching the gospel and living the gospel; and

Whereas, Victory for the World Church has produced many spiritual warriors, people of compassion, people of great courage, fearless leaders and servants to all, but most of all visionaries who have shared not only with their Church, but with DeKalb County and the world their passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the Victory for the World Church family for their leadership and service to our District on this the 25th anniversary of their founding;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim May 23, 2012, as Victory for the World Church Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

UNITED WAY

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the world's largest privately supported not-for-profit organization, which now serves 1,800 communities in 41 countries and territories. The United Way is an organization created by a diverse group of leaders in 1887 in Denver, CO, with a goal of creating opportunities for a better life in their communities. Today, the United Way raises nearly $5 billion dollars annually with a mission to "improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities around the world to advance the common good." In 2008, the United Way set in motion three specific goals of improving education, promoting healthy lives, and helping people achieve financial stability.

Crisis response after the tsunami struck South Asia in 2004 and a youth-led program to rebuild the Gulf Coast after the hurricanes in 2006 are just a few examples of how the organization has been committed to people in need both in the United States and internationally.

Within the fifteenth district of Texas, the United Way has served more than 200,000 people and funded more than 100 programs in two counties. These programs vary from women's programs to Boy Scouts, and include community projects such as the purchase of school supplies to low income children. I hope that you will take a moment with me today, on the official United Way founder's day, to recognize and remember the great contribution the United Way has made to our community in the last 125 years.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF MR. AND MRS. DONALD BARNES

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a very special occasion—the 25th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Barnes of Urbana, Illinois.

Mr. and Mrs. Barnes have been long time close friends of mine and I relish this opportunity to congratulate them on this important milestone in their life.

I salute this lovely couple on the 25th year of their life together and join their family in honoring them on this special occasion. May their union be an inspiration for future generations.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was $10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is $15,879,528,608,975.11. We've added $5,252,651,560,062.03 to our debt in just over 3 years. This is debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ANDY GRIFFITH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of one of the most beloved television personalities of all time, Andy Griffith. For over five decades he entertained us with the wholesome and charismatic energy he was known for. Mr. Griffith's career is the very definition of legendary, and he will be sorely missed.

Mr. Griffith came from humble beginnings. Born in Mount Airy, North Carolina, in 1926, he started out his entertainment career in minor comedic roles and obtained notoriety with his hit monologue "What it Was, Was Football". He went on to star in his first dramatic role in the movie "A Face in the Crowd". The character he played was a country boy who manipulated his way to political power. The movie taught all of us the lesson that power corrupts, and corrupts absolutely.

Although this was his only real big screen success, Mr. Griffith's television roles are what we will remember him for. "The Andy Griffith Show" was an instant success. Mr. Griffith starred as the lovable Sheriff Andy Taylor, and while he never received a writing credit, he was also involved in the development of every script. Overlooked year after year for an Emmy Award, Mr. Griffith congratulated his

costars and crew with graciousness and humility.

It was not until 1987 that Mr. Griffith was recognized with a People's Choice Award for his work on the television show ''Matlock''. He was able to show his diversity as the righteous lawyer Ben Matlock, best known for always coming out on top. Most impressively, Mr. Griffith showed the strength of his character by overcoming leg paralysis from Guillain-Barre Syndrome right before taking part in the show.

Throughout the rest of his career Mr. Griffith never stopped surprising his audience. He released many different albums, and his 1996 release ''I Love to Tell the Story: 25 Timeless Hymns'' went platinum.

In 2005 he was honored by President George W. Bush with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Mr. Griffith truly personified grace and decency, his memorable performances brought millions of Americans joy while demonstrating the finest qualities of our country. Even today, that trademark whistle still makes us think of a sense of neighborliness and small town charm of years past.

Andy Griffith was a true jack-of-all-trades, who demonstrated talents both on screen and off. He started his own production company, completed an award-winning gospel music album, and later became involved in political activism. Yet audiences could be sure that Mr. Griffith would bring the same infectious energy and charisma to each endeavor.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to Andy Griffith's family and loved ones. I hope they can find some comfort in knowing the incredible legacy he leaves behind in hearts across the nation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF MARC TITUS

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, President Kennedy said, ''A nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers,'' and I rise today to remember and honor my dear friend, and a model public servant, Marc Titus.

Marc Titus was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1966. A Warren G. Harding High School graduate, he attended Youngstown State University, and served in the United States Marine Corps as a Nuclear Biological Chemical Specialist.

In April of 1991, Marc continued to serve his community by joining the Warren City Fire Department and becoming a member of the Honor Guard. For the last 21 years, Marc has been a respected leader and role model for new firefighters joining the force.

Over the years Marc has received numerous awards for his service. In 2009, he received the State Fire Marshal's Award for Heroism after pulling 4 people from a burning group home in Warren, Ohio.

Marc served as the president of the International Association of Firefighters Local 204 during the last 8 years of his life. During the recent Issue 2 campaign, Marc showed leadership and dedication to his profession and to his fellow firefighters with tireless work on their behalf. He always went above and beyond the call of duty striving to continually keep the Warren City Fire Department moving forward.

Marc Titus passed away on June 7, 2012 at the age of 46. Marc was a great friend of mine and taught those of us that worked with him that our lives were supposed to be spent serving others. Marc spent his life teaching us that real heroes are the ones that use their time and talents improving the lives of those in their family, community, and country. Marc did this and it was most apparent with how he dedicated his life to his 3 daughters: Jennifer, Julia, and Lindsey. We offer our condolences to them and to Marc's parents. Although his life was short, he taught us much. This hero will be sadly missed.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S BELOVED JAMES ''J.E.'' BLANKENSHIP

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Northwest Florida's beloved James ''J.E.'' Blankenship. Mr. Blankenship served the Northwest Florida community for more than 40 years in the Holley-Navarre Fire District. In addition to his service to the community, Mr. Blankenship was also a loving and dedicated husband, father and grandfather; he is survived by his wife, Kathey (Taffy), his sons, Jeremy and Jody (Carisa), and his grandchildren, Dakota, Haleigh, Morgan and Caden.

Mr. Blankenship was born in Troy, Alabama on July 17, 1949. In 1963, he became one of the original members of the Holley-Navarre Fire District volunteer force, while working at the manufacturing company Solutia, where he retired from in 2005 to start his own small business. Mr. Blankenship continued to serve the people of Holley-Navarre as the Fire District transitioned from a volunteer to a professional force, and he did not take his duties to protect the community lightly. J.E. was an inspiration to his fellow firefighters, and he worked tirelessly to ensure that the Holley-Navarre Fire District had the necessary training and tools to serve the community. Through his tireless work on behalf of the Holley-Navarre community, Mr. Blankenship rose to become Assistant Fire Chief, and in 2003 he became a Fire Commissioner. His position as a Fire Commissioner ensured that Mr. Blankenship was able to continue his work serving the community by overseeing the budget and operations of the department.

To some, J.E. Blankenship will be remembered as a man of conviction and a steadfast advocate for fire safety in his community. To others, he will be remembered as an inspirational leader who fought to ensure that the fire department was equipped to meet its mission. To his friends and family, he will be remembered as a devoted husband, loving father and proud grandfather. His immense contributions to the Northwest Florida community will not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress it is an honor to recognize the life of J.E. Blankenship and his living legacy. My wife Vicki and I offer our sincere condolences to the entire Blankenship family.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4348, MOVING AHEAD FOR PROGRESS IN THE 21ST CENTURY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to voice my support for the transportation reauthorization conference report. While I was disappointed in how House Republicans broke with the tradition of working in a bipartisan fashion on transportation policy, I appreciate the Senate's bipartisan approach, which is responsible in large part for the bill we have today. In addition to the transportation reauthorization, we have been able to come together to prevent student loan interest rates from increasing, and secure a five-year reauthorization of the Flood Insurance program. It is my hope that moving forward we can look at this conference agreement as a model of what can be accomplished legislatively by seeking bipartisan, bicameral common ground.

But as with all legislation, there were many compromises, and there were several aspects of the report which I believe could further be improved. On balance, however, the conference report contains needed policy direction and authorizations that warrant support.

Most importantly, transportation reauthorization will provide much needed stimulus to local economies, and get those in the construction and manufacturing industries back to work. This bill will create or save more than 2 million jobs, and authorize highway and transit programs for more than two years. The bill will also make key reforms in consolidating transportation programs, cut red tape, and leverage federal resources to expand public-private partnerships in transportation.

This is also a good bill for Texas. Under this agreement, Texas is slated to receive more than $3 billion annually in highway formula funds. Unlike the original House legislation, H.R. 7, this conference agreement preserves mass transit funding through the Highway Trust Fund. Funding for mass transit is critical for my district, and Texas as a whole, as we work to develop solutions to alleviate congestion and alternative modes of transportation to accommodate a growing population. Texas has also been very successful in utilizing Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act, TIFIA, funding, and will continue to benefit under the conference agreement, which increases funding for the TIFIA program to $750 million for FY 2013 and to $1 billion for FY 2014. It also increases the maximum share of project costs that can be funded through the TIFIA program from 33 percent to 49 percent. This agreement will give the Texas Department of Transportation, local transit agencies, and contractors some much-needed certainty as they plan transportation projects.

This agreement will also give 461,533 Texas students relief from the impending student loan interest increase. I am very pleased that provisions blocking the rate hike are included in the conference report. In Texas and all across the country, students and recent college graduates are now facing the highest

unemployment rate of any other group. Without action, the loan rates for 7.4 million college students would have doubled, adding $6.3 billion to students' debt burden in one year alone.

As the Ranking Member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, I recognize that the long-term viability of our transportation system requires a continued commitment to quality research and the development of new transportation technologies and materials that will make our transportation infrastructure—and the vehicles traveling on that infrastructure—safer, stronger, and more sustainable. I am pleased that the conference report acknowledges the important role of research and development across the Department of Transportation.

Specifically, we cannot deny that our current transportation system places an enormous burden on the environment and public health, and therefore, I am pleased that the conference report authorizes a separate environmental research program within the Federal Highway Administration. At a time when many metropolitan regions are still struggling to meet basic health standards for air pollution, we cannot afford to stop research that will lead to a cleaner, safer, and more efficient highway system. The research conducted under this program will ensure that State and local transportation officials have the tools they need to make informed and effective decisions about local transportation projects and the environment.

I also want to express my satisfaction that the conference report provides the framework and guidance necessary to allow us to begin to really understand and, more importantly, mitigate the long-term impacts of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill on the Gulf Coast States. Regardless of whether you live in the coastal communities of Texas, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, or Florida, the Gulf of Mexico provides a wealth of products and services that benefit the entire nation. The Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund will provide the resources necessary to restore the health of this unique ecosystem and revitalize the region's economy.

Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues for working with me to fix a technical error in the authorization levels for the research programs under the Federal Highway Administration. In the conference committee's haste to put together the report, it appears that the authorization levels in the Research and Education Division were not updated accordingly, but thankfully this oversight has been addressed.

CBS PRODUCER: ''I'M DONE'' DENYING LIBERAL MEDIA BIAS

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, former CBS producer Greg Kandra recently highlighted the continued existence of the national liberal media's bias.

As a result of the national media's use of selectively edited clips to push its liberal agenda, he stated that he has "grown weary trying to defend" the national media. Kandra declared that he cannot and will not defend his former colleagues against claims of liberal bias.

He writes that the national media has "successfully eroded any confidence" the public has in the news. And that the national media has "done a [great] job of diminishing what was once a great profession and undermining one of the underpinnings of democracy, a free press."

According to a recent Gallup poll, Americans' confidence in the national media is at an all time low. Americans' lack of confidence in the national media will continue until the national media provides the American people with fair and objective coverage of the news.

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT CONTINUATION OF CURRENT SUGAR PROGRAM

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas, Louisiana has produced sugarcane for more than 200 years.

Whereas, Louisiana's sugarcane industry employs more than 16,000 people and contributes $3.5 billion to the state's economy.

Whereas, Louisiana's sugar producers were harmed by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and a strong domestic sugar market is a critical component to continued recovery efforts.

Whereas, the state's sugar producers depend on the sugar policy created in the 2008 Farm Bill for survival.

Whereas, this sugar policy has kept sugar prices affordable for grocery shoppers, has operated at no-cost to taxpayers, and has strengthened the country's food security.

Whereas, this sugar policy has allowed America to become the largest sugar importer in the world; it benefits and is embraced by many developing countries; and it is legal under international trade rules established by the World Trade Organization.

Whereas, domestic confectioners have increased candy and chocolate production under this Farm Bill, have expanded operations and added jobs, and have seen impressive profits.

Whereas, food manufactures from other developed countries pay more for sugar than their U.S. counterparts.

Whereas, industrial sugar users have proposed eliminating current sugar policy in favor of a program that leaves America dependent on imports.

Whereas, the European Union adopted a similar import-dependent model and have suffered sugar shortages. Now therefore, be it

Resolved, That: the St Mary Parish Chamber of Commerce supports the continuation of the current U.S. sugar program and encourages Congress to work with Louisiana sugar producers to adopt a strong sugar policy in the 2012 Farm Bill.

TRIBUTE TO VIOLA REED

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas, the union of Viola Reed and John Walker has blessed us with descendants that have helped to shape our nation; and

Whereas, their union produced many well respected citizens, today we honor all of the matriarchs and patriarchs, who are pillars of strength for the Thomas, Walker and Wilson families; and

Whereas, in our beloved Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, we are honored to have many members of the Thomas, Walker and Wilson families, whom are some of our most productive citizens in our District; and

Whereas, family is one of the most honored and cherished institutions in the world, we take pride in knowing that families such as the Thomas, Walker and Wilson families have set aside this time to fellowship with each other, honor one another and to pass along history to each other by meeting at this year's family reunion in Atlanta, Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the Thomas, Walker and Wilson families;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR., do hereby proclaim, June 29, 2012, as Thomas, Walker and Wilson Family Reunion Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

HONORING THE LOS ANGELES KINGS, 2012 STANLEY CUP CHAMPIONS

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Los Angeles Kings, the 2012 Stanley Cup Champions.

In 1967 the city of Los Angeles was awarded a National Hockey League team. 45 years later, the L.A. Kings have finally been crowned champions, having defeated the New Jersey Devils in the Stanley Cup Finals.

The Kings began the Stanley Cup Finals ranked 8th, going on to defeat the top three ranked teams in their conference while breaking numerous records along the way. Under the leadership of team coach Darryl Sutter and Captain Dustin Brown, the team beat the odds and became the only 8th seeded team to ever win the Cup.

The Kings stand as a symbol of determination and perseverance for the city of Los Angeles. Congratulations to Coach Darryl Sutter, Captain Dustin Brown, Conn Smyth winner Jonathan Quick, the players, staff and all of their dedicated fans who in 45 years, never stopped believing.

CELEBRATING LINK'S 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize LINK, which celebrates 40 years serving the Herndon, Sterling and Ashburn communities in northern Virginia this month.

LINK began as a number of congregations came together to start a food pantry for those in need. Today, LINK is comprised of a strong group of churches from different backgrounds and partners with local businesses, schools and individuals efforts to serve the emergency food needs in our community.

In 2011, LINK utilized over a thousand volunteers to serve over 2,700 families with food, clothing and toys for children. LINK has also been working with public schools in Fairfax County to distribute unused cafeteria food to families in need.

I have had the privilege of working with LINK, and its excellent leadership and volunteers, many times over the years. It is a wonderful organization and I extend my sincere appreciation and deepest gratitude to the volunteers for their many years of hard work to address the serious challenge of hunger in our community.

I submit the following article from the Herndon Patch honoring LINK's 40 years of service.

[From Herndon Patch, June 22, 2012]

LINK CELEBRATES 40 YEARS SERVING THE COMMUNITY

(By Leslie Perales)

This July LINK Against Hunger will celebrate 40 years serving the Herndon, Sterling and Ashburn area communities.

The organization began with a number of congregations combining their efforts to start a food pantry for those in need. Though it's grown and changed over the years, LINK's mission is the same: Christians linking their neighbors to food and financial assistance.

The entire LINK organization is run by volunteers. Patch sat down with three of LINK's volunteers that have spent many years serving their neighbors through the organization.

Bob Ashdown has been volunteering with the organization for about 35 years and is the food pantry manager. He picks up donations from area bakeries, grocery stores, farmers markets and even schools, and oversees the pantry.

Jim Butts is the website manager for LINK and has volunteered with the organization since before it existed. He did much of the organization's paperwork on a daily basis for a time, and helped work with the furniture mission when LINK operated one.

LINK President Lisa Lombardozzi has been working with the organization for about 15 years, beginning when she began staying home with her children. She began as a food coordinator, then worked with the food basket program.

Lombardozzi said the biggest change she's seen in her years with LINK is more involvement from the community, and how the church demographics have changed.

She said with so many area organizations that people can volunteer with, LINK has to fight a little more to stay on people's radars, but at the same time they have been able to expand and respond to the increased need in the community.

Ashdown said in the past few years, during the recession, the community has become more aware of the need and responds very well. Social networking has had a big impact on community response, he said.

When LINK was running low on food for its holiday basket program, volunteers sent out a message on Facebook and people shared the message and responded to the need, Ashdown said.

He said the holiday basket program used to have three to four dedicated volunteers packing food over two to three weeks, but now more than 40 volunteers will come take shifts to pack the baskets.

Butts said he's seen the organization start with a food mission, add a furniture and bed mission, then eventually phase it out again. They also had a clothing mission, which eventually combined with and became The Closet, located in downtown Herndon.

LINK is unique in that it's the only organization that brings the food to its clients instead of having clients come to the pantry, Butts said. When someone in need contacts LINK, volunteers with the organization are usually able to deliver food to them within 24 to 48 hours, he said.

Butts said another unique aspect of LINK is how volunteers are able to assist stranded travelers at Dulles International Airport. He said they can respond within 24 hours to make sure they have what they need if they get stuck in the area while traveling.

Butts said in the first 25 years at LINK they had about 15 to 20 churches rotating responsibilities. Since then some have dropped out and others have joined.

Ashdown said the organization has received a lot of support from government organizations and elected officials, though none of it monetary. Local representatives hold food drives for the organization.

Lombardozzi said LINK has been consistent in its leadership, but has seen many different volunteers. A lot of volunteers come to the organization around Christmas and end up staying when they find they enjoy the work, she said.

Butts said in the near future he sees LINK working to improve communications with other area food pantries and banks. He said he's also working on one phone number for those in need of food to call so based on their location they can connect them with the closest location.

Ashdown said he enjoys getting to meet new people and work with them through LINK, and at the same time the volunteers get to share the gospel and live out Christianity.

LINK gives people the chance to be the hands and feet of Jesus, Lombardozzi said. When they serve clients they get to know them, pray with them and sometimes find other ways to help them, she said.

Lombardozzi said she likes that an organization that includes many faith backgrounds has been able to collaborate to serve their community for 40 years, working together for something they believe in.

To learn more about LINK or how to get involved, visit LINK's website here.

IN OPPOSITION OF REPRESENTATIVE BISHOP'S AMENDMENT—H.R. 2578

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition of Representative BISHOP's amendment in H.R. 2578, the Conservation and Economic Growth Act.

This amendment would give the Department of Homeland Security unrestrained authority over more than 49 million acres of land encompassing major regions heavily populated by Latinos.

These new "operational control zones" would harm communities economically, socially, and environmentally.

DHS would be explicitly exempt from complying with dozens of environmental, public health, and safety laws within 100 miles along the Mexican and Canadian borders.

Even Secretary Napolitano and the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol indicated that environmental protections do not hinder their ability to secure our borders.

This amendment proves to be unnecessary and a threat to our public health.

Also, it jeopardizes the natural parks and public lands that many people use as recreation across our nation.

I understand our nation faces many challenges, but this is no way to enhance border security.

We must respect the liberty of all Americans, enjoy our natural landscape, and ensure every person's right to a healthy life.

I urge my colleagues to vote against Representative BISHOP's amendment.

IN HONOR OF LOUIS A. MITCHELL

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I honor the life and work of Lou Mitchell on the occasion of his passing from this life to the next.

Lou Mitchell's connection to central Ohio reached back several generations and his roots ran deep in our community's soil. His family has lived and contributed to our area for generations. For example, his great-grandfather graduated from Dennison University after returning from his service in the Civil War.

Irrespective of his family's illustrious history, Lou strived to place his own stamp on the place that helped shape him. As a very successful businessman, he could have lived anywhere he wished. He wished to live in central Ohio. He wanted to live among people like himself—people who enjoy and respect hard work and honest dealings. He wanted to give back to the people and community that gave him an education, a career and common sense values.

Lou did give back in many ways over his life. As president of the Board of Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Central Ohio, a member of the Boards of the Ohio Historical Society Foundation and I Know I Can, and a Denison University Life Trustee, his wisdom and spirit influenced the direction and missions of these agencies. Lou gave to causes dear to his heart such as the Licking County YMCA, where the Mitchell Family YMCA Recreation Center was dedicated in 2005, his beloved Dennison University to build the Mitchell Athletic and Recreation Center in 1994, and the non-profit organization he started known as "A Call To College Program," which provides college scholarship money to Newark High School students. In addition, he privately helped countless individuals who he learned had experienced setbacks in life such as large medical bills or educational expenses beyond their means. He did not seek publicity or notoriety for these acts; he did them because he could and he believed it was right.

I offer my deepest sympathies to his family. Their sense of loss is shared by many of us who knew and loved Lou Mitchell. His legacy will stand as an example for all, and he will be dearly missed.

HONORING THE UNITED WAY OF PENNSYLVANIA'S 10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the United Way of Pennsylvania's 10th Congressional District on the occasion of the 125th anniversary.

Founded in Denver, Colorado in 1887 by five religious men and women, the United Way strives to improve public health and welfare though charitable donations, wellness programs, and education initiatives.

Today, the United Way stands as a well known and world-renowned organization promoting good health, sound education policy, and financial stability in communities across the globe. The United Way is one of the leading not-for-profit organizations and forces for good in the world.

I would especially like to honor the men and women who work for the United Way organizations located in Pennsylvania's 10th Congressional District for their good work: United Way of Bradford County, Lycoming County United Way, United Way of the Capital Region, United Way of Mifflin–Juniata, United Way of Wyoming Valley, Danville Area United Way, Lower Anthracite Region United Way, Schuylkill United Way, United Way of Susquehanna County, and United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the United Way of Pennsylvania's 10th Congressional District, and ask my colleagues to join me in praising their commitment to country and community.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NIH RELEASE OF THE WOMEN'S HEALTH INITIATIVE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, ten years ago today, on July 9, 2002, the National Institutes of Health released groundbreaking research findings from the Women's Health Initiative—the largest preventive women's health study ever conducted in the United States. The researchers found that the hormone therapy regimen women were using at and after menopause increased a woman's risk of heart disease, rather than decreasing it, as many had believed, and that it also increased her risk of getting breast cancer.

For decades before this, hormone therapy had been heavily marketed and routinely prescribed to women during menopause, making it one of the most prescribed drug regimens in the country with more than 90 million annual prescriptions written in 1999. But after learning about these research findings, women voted with their feet and hormone therapy prescriptions dropped quickly. This was followed by the first significant drop in breast cancer rates in United States history—there are 160,000 women who were not diagnosed with breast cancer over the last 10 years because they avoided unnecessary exposure to drugs that would have caused it.

Many people deserve credit for this remarkable public health achievement—the researchers at the National Institutes of Health who led the effort, including the late Dr. Bernadine Healy, the first female director of NIH, who spearheaded the launch of the WHI; the women who volunteered to enroll in the WHI as research subjects to advance science for the benefit of all women; women's health advocates like the National Women's Health Network which built public support and demand for research into the pressing health issues of concern to women; and the women in Congress who led the charge in 1991 to increase the nation's investment in women's health research.

The Women's Health Initiative involved more than 27,000 post-menopausal women at 45 clinical centers across the nation. It remains unsurpassed as the largest women's health research study of women in this age group. Despite this historic significance, however, unfortunately women are still underrepresented today in health research. For example, women make up just 34 percent of heart disease prevention trials and less than 40 percent of clinical cancer research. I rise today to call on my colleagues to support a more equitable allocation of resources and to address the vital need for more investment in research on women's health.

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR CAROLINE LEACH

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas, forty years ago a virtuous woman of God accepted her calling to serve in the clergy upon graduation from Columbia Seminary in May 1972; and

Whereas, Pastor Caroline Leach began her work in the ministry after being ordained the 21st woman pastor in the former Southern Presbyterian Church, and today retires as Co-Pastor of Oakhurst Presbyterian Church in Decatur, Georgia; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents, giving the citizens of our District not just a friend who helps those in need, but a fearless leader and a servant to all who ensures that the gospel touches everyone mentally, spiritually and physically; and

Whereas, Pastor Caroline Leach is a cornerstone in our community who has enhanced the lives of thousands for the betterment of our District and Nation; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Pastor Caroline Leach upon her retirement and wish her well in her new adventures and endeavors;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR., do hereby proclaim June 23, 2012 as Pastor Caroline Leach Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

HONORING WOODROW RAYMOND DUHON

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Woodrow Raymond Duhon, member of the Montford Point Marines. The Montford Point Marines were the first group of African Americans to serve in the Marine Corps following Franklin Delano Roosevelt's 1941 Executive Order allowing African Americans to serve in the military.

Mr. Duhon attended a segregated basic training camp at Montford Point, a facility at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, with approximately 20,000 other men. While serving in the Marines, Mr. Duhon fought in World War II and the Korean War in the Seventh Regiment of the First Marine Division to protect and defend American civil rights, despite being denied them himself.

Soldiers who trained at Montford Point were honored at a Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony on June 27 at the U.S. Capitol. I am proud to say Mr. Duhon is among those to be recognized.

It is the brave sacrifices of soldiers like Raymond Duhon that helped the U.S. Marine Corps to grow and advance. Their contributions helped many Marines realize and achieve their dreams. I thank Raymond Duhon for his commitment to our country and his service.

EXTENSION OF THE FEDERAL WIND PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the City of North Saint Paul's Mayor Mike Kuehn for hosting the federal Wind Energy Production Tax Credit Press Conference on July 2, 2012. The press conference brought together business leaders from Minnesota's wind sector. The Wind Energy Production Tax Credit supports clean energy developers, manufacturers, and construction companies in Minnesota and across the country. I am submitting for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD four Minnesota business leaders' comments on the need for passage of the federal wind energy production tax credit.

STATEMENT BY MS. SHANELLE MONTAN OF ENXCO

It is a pleasure to be here and I would like to thank Congressman Ellison and Congresswoman McCollum for being here and supporting the PTC. I grew up on a farm in rural Minnesota and have seen first-hand the economic effect of the wind industry in rural Minnesota. It is my pleasure to work for enXco and to work in an industry that has done so much for communities across Minnesota.

enXco have developed projects in Minnesota for more than a decade. Thus far we have 900 MWs of wind energy from western to eastern Minnesota. Additionally, we have hundreds more MWs in development in the state. As many of the presenters stated

today, wind does not happen overnight. Bringing a wind project to fruition requires meticulous studies, surveys, permitting, and other development activities. The careful placement and development of wind can take years.

We are proud that our projects have boosted the economies of small towns and rural communities across the state. Landowner payments and additional tax revenue for communities provides funding for new roads, schools, and other infrastructure across the community. Farming is sporadic. Today crop prices are high, however, we do not know what prices will be tomorrow. A sustainable income for farmers means more investment in equipment, technology, and the family farm.

Without the PTC extension our pipeline of projects will be at risk. Hundreds of MWs of wind development will be stalled. This lapse will interfere with permitting, interconnection, and other development activities. Developers in Minnesota need a stable market. We look forward to further development across the state. With an extension of the PTC we will be able to ensure the livelihood of rural communities and increase Minnesota leadership within the wind industry.

STATEMENT BY MR. MARK AHLSTROM OF WINDLOGICS

Wind farms are power plants that use wind as their fuel, so careful analysis is needed to find good locations and understand the wind patterns. WindLogics is a Saint Paul company with 52 people here in Minnesota and we provide these weather analysis services to project developers throughout the country. We were bigger. Because it takes time to collect and analyze the weather data to create good projects, we felt the impact of the Production Tax Credit expiration more than nine months ago and had to reduce our staff by 10 people.

It takes 18 months to plan and build a wind project even under the best of circumstances, and companies cannot plan and finance wind projects with uncertainty around the tax credit. So because we work early in the project development cycle, what we saw last fall was that project planning for 2013 essentially stopped.

This is a terrible shame because we have clients who want to invest billions of dollars in new wind projects. The industry has scaled up to the point where it can contribute $20 billion a year in private investment to the U.S. economy, with U.S. manufacturing and jobs, but this is on hold until the Production Tax Credit is renewed. New projects can't just stop and start instantly, so any delay on renewing the tax credit just puts us that much further behind.

Wind energy is a great business that I love, and I want WindLogics to get back to helping people build new projects. We need a prompt renewal of the Production Tax Credit to make that happen.

STATEMENT BY MR. TIM MAAG OF MORTENSON CONSTRUCTION'S RENEWABLE ENERGY

I'll echo the others in emphasizing the importance of this PTC extension. Due to the undeniable success of the PTC, businesses like Mortenson have been able to provide stable jobs for American families.

Mortenson Construction is a Minneapolis-based, family-owned construction company, with over 2,200 full time employees. Mortenson has offices in Chicago, Denver, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Phoenix, and Seattle with international operations in Canada and China. Ranked as the 19th largest contractor in America, according to Engineering News-Record, a large portion of Mortenson's business is generated from the wind industry—nearly 30% of the company's annual revenue. Over 800 craft workers and 350 salaried professionals work in Mortenson's Renewable Energy groups and are focused on constructing renewable energy and transmission & distribution projects. The PTC has contributed greatly to our organization's positive growth in the renewable energy sector.

In 1995 Mortenson constructed our first wind project in Adair, IA, and have constructed over 120 wind projects across North America to date. We've witnessed technology advancements over the past seven years, driven by the PTC, that have helped to make wind energy more affordable and projects more cost competitive. Our construction projects have grown from a handful of turbines to large, multi-phase projects spanning hundreds of square miles.

Right now, Mortenson is building 18 wind projects in 10 states, all scheduled to complete before the end of 2012. Each project constructed in the US bolsters our country's larger economy while playing a vital role in sustaining smaller local economies across America. We've seen firsthand the significant and revitalizing impact on rural communities surrounding wind projects. Over the construction period, jobs are made available to the local labor force, major construction contracts are awarded to local businesses and suppliers, while fabrication, maintenance, and repair shops all see increasingly positive economic impacts due to the wind project. Throughout the life of a project, more than $500,000 may be infused into an area's hotels, restaurants, and living facilities due to construction traveler spending alone.

While Mortenson maintains an aggressive and busy 2012, those here who have spoken before me, are the leading indicators for the likelihood of future project construction. Due to the lack of a PTC extension, we're seeing a decline in turbine orders and hesitation to develop projects. Mortenson is uncertain of the number of US wind farms we will construct in 2013. This will impact the livelihood of hundreds of employees, subcontractors and other industry partners across the country.

The uncertainty surrounding the PTC extension threatens the success of and further development of the wind industry, and thereby the American economy. Because of the long-term nature of the planning and permitting process, short-term extensions of PTC are insufficient for sustaining consistent, long term growth of the industry. In conjunction with those here today, we implore our legislators to reinstate the PTC. A long-term (2–4 year) extension is crucial to averting the damaging impact to America's labor force and the long-term growth of our industry, which holds so much promise to our future generations.

STATEMENT BY MR. DOUG FREDRICKSON OF BLATTNER ENERGY

Blattner has been in the wind industry for 15 years. We have seen the PTC expire before. But there is so much more at stake now than earlier.

There are 500 US manufacturing facilities building components for the wind industry. Once those facilities close, a stable enough wind industry environment may never exist for them to be recaptured. They will be outsourced again overseas. Construction may be an industry that has little fear from job loss due to ''outsourcing''. But you can still lose your job and that's why we're today. The PTC is going to expire and with it tens of thousands of good jobs will be lost. Blattner Energy is a 105 year old Minnesota construction company. We worked on our first wind farm at Lake Benton, Minnesota in 1997. We were significantly smaller than. But that first opportunity positioned us to grow with the wind industry nationwide. Today Blattner and Mortenson are the two largest builders of wind farms in North America.

At Blattner we employ approximately 1,500 people directly in wind and more through our subcontractors and suppliers. Of course our role in a wind project is the last one. Consequently, our employees will be busy right up until December 31 of this year. But as was mentioned earlier, new wind work in 2013 is unlikely and reduction will have to occur.

Blattner has been in the wind industry for 15 years. We have seen the FTC expire before. But there is so much more at stake now than earlier. There are 500 US manufacturing facilities building components for the wind industry. Once those facilities close, a stable enough wind industry environment may never exist for them to be recaptured. They will be outsourced again overseas. Those jobs are beginning to diminish right now because there is no positive signal that a stable tax policy will be in place in the future. We ask Congress to continue its bi-partisan support for the FTC. Keep people working and extend the FTC now before your recess.

BB–USS TEXAS 35

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as a kid growing up in Spring Branch, I always looked forward to the long days of the hot Texas summers. Long days meant more time to play outside. I didn't know that summers in the other parts of the world were not steamy like here in Houston. (I now tell my friends in Washington that are from the north, that Houston has two seasons: Summer and August.) Like most kids in the neighborhood, my sister, Jayne, and I played outdoors a good portion of the day and didn't come in 'til dark. We knew that when the porch light came on, we had to be home within five minutes of seeing the ''beacon'' or there would be consequences. Occasionally, we got to take summer excursions with the family to the battlegrounds, the Monument and, of course, the Battleship *Texas*.

My fondness for the USS *Texas* began in those days and has stuck with me throughout my life and career. As kids, we thought it was ''cool'' that Texas had its own battleship. We would pretend to shoot the guns on the ship, run through the countless corridors, hide in the nooks and crannies, and generally live in the disappearing past of the history of the great battlewagon. My best friend, Pete Cliburn, and I would climb from top to bottom of the ''Mighty T,'' firing every gun and squeezing down every open hatch along the way. We explored the many decks and climbed the ladders of the upper decks as high as we could go. When you reached the top of the ladder of the highest point, you better remember that the metal deck you were about to lay your forearms on was as hot as a cast iron skillet! But, as kids we couldn't care less, we were fighting on the greatest battleship to have ever sailed.

As I got older I learned more about the amazing legacy of BB 35. The USS *Texas* is the last survivor of the great Dreadnought Battleships. She participated in the most important battles of the first half of the Twentieth

Century, including both World Wars. She was launched 100 years ago this year and commissioned on March 12, 1914. She was the most powerful warship that the world had seen, and she participated in the invasion of North Africa, Normandy, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. Her most notable contributions came in WW II, firing at Nazi defenses during the D-Day invasion at Normandy. Called the ''smartest man o'war afloat,'' the Texas was an integral part of many US victories. As the flagship of the US fleet on D-Day, the Texas was the first of her kind to mount anti-aircraft guns and the first US battleship to launch an aircraft. At the end of the War, she made three trips, bringing American servicemen home.

On the anniversary of San Jacinto Day, April 21, 1948, the *Texas* was decommissioned. Her place in history took root right here in our backyard. School children across Texas saved their nickels to help pay to dry dock the Battleship at the site of the Battlegrounds on the San Jacinto River. As a kid, it was obvious to me why General Sam routed Santa Anna—we had a Battleship! After all she was retired on San Jacinto Day. It took me awhile to figure out that the Texas Revolution was in the 1800s, and the Battleship *Texas* was used in the 1900s. While that all made perfectly good sense to me back then, my love for Texas history in the years to come taught me that they were not the same war and General Sam's accomplishments became far more impressive.

During my tenure as a judge, the ''Mighty T'' found its way back into my life and into the lives of offenders that I ordered to be ''enlisted'' in the ''Texas Navy.'' I ordered probationers who were skilled welders, painters, plumbers and electricians to help in the restoration efforts of the Battleship. As one of many creative sentences, this became another effective tool that both served the public and the probationer—a few even went on to be hired by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The probationers became a part of the history of the great ship. After being dry docked in Galveston in the 80's, many much needed repairs were made by different organizations and thousands of volunteers. The Battleship is now moored in its present location.

During my first term in Congress, I joined efforts with Congressman GENE GREEN in securing federal funding to permanently dry dock and display the USS *Texas* so that my grandchildren and generations to come could climb all over one of the world's finest fighting vessels. My DC staff visits the ship, usually in August, and I act as the Texas historian, along with help from the real experts, the Battleship staff from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Today, the Battleship *Texas* serves as a museum and a reminder of wars long past. In 1948, she was designated a National Historic Landmark. Today, the *Texas* has an onboard museum that details her efforts in our fight for freedom and a history of the sailors that called her their own.

But, all is not well with the *Texas*. What her enemies in battle could not do to her, nature has. She is old and is taking on water. She is covered with rubber patches and aluminum plates, and about one thousand gallons of water pour through her body every day. Last week, visitors were turned away from this National Historic Landmark. The grand lady of the seas is closed until further notice. Visitors have been told the ship is closed while workers battle her leaks. Her recovery could cost an estimated 50 million dollars. In a 2007 bond election, voters approved $25 million for her repair. This isn't enough. And, as much as it will help, the money won't be released until September. *Texas* is not just a National Historic Landmark, she is a state treasure to Texans and a monument to American sailors who first sailed her 100 years ago. The *Texas* needs volunteers and money to honor the ship and all who sailed her. Time is not on the side of the ship. Texans must save the ship now.

Otherwise, as we approach the sweltering heat of the ''season'' of August, we may see the beginning of the permanent demise of the USS Battleship *Texas*. Texans cannot allow the great *Texas* to sink from neglect and disappear beneath the water of history. And that's just the way it is.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR. ROBERT JOHN ''BOB'' MESLER, AS PRINTED IN THE MIDLAND DAILY NEWS ON JUNE 21, 2012

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, Robert John ''Bob'' Mesler, Jr., 87, longtime Midland resident, World War II veteran and retired Manager of Emergency Response for The Dow Chemical Company, passed away Wednesday, June 20, 2012, after a lengthy illness. Bob was born on January 4, 1925, in Cass City, Michigan, to Robert John Mesler, Sr. and Ethelyn Louise (Smith) Mesler. The Meslers moved to Midland from Saginaw in 1941. Bob was a January, 1943 graduate of Midland High School, where he played football and ran track. He began his career at The Dow Chemical Company immediately after graduation. Less than six months later, Bob was drafted into the U.S. Army, and after basic training, was assigned to the Army Specialized Training Program at Hendrix College, Arkansas.

Bob married his high school sweetheart Margery Keicher on August 16, 1944, a month before shipping out to England, then to Belgium where he served in the U.S. infantry. During the Battle of the Bulge in January 1945, Sargeant Mesler was taken prisoner, escaping his captors at the end of April 1945, a few weeks before V–E Day. He was initially reported missing, and it wasn't until he had escaped that his family learned he'd actually been a POW.

''At the present, we live for the future, but we will long remember the past,'' he wrote home in an April 8, 1945 letter to his bride that vividly described his capture and treatment at the hands of his German captors, long marches and strafing by friendly fire. He was serious about remembering the past. Whatever it cost him in painful memory, he talked about those wartime experiences with generations of inquiring middle and high school students, as well as with those now-grown children of his fellow World War II veterans who perhaps hadn't shared their stories as candidly. Though he rarely claimed the distinction, Bob was proud to have served as a member of ''The Greatest Generation.'' With Marge by his side, he revisited the Ardennes battlefield in 1989, where he was impressed by a local memorial to his fallen comrades. ''It kind of finished off some unfinished business I had,'' he said upon returning home. Fifteen years later, Bob and fellow Midland veterans Max Bottomley and Bill Kennett—father of Midland Daily News reporter John Kennett—joined their fellow honorees in Washington, D.C. at the dedication of the National World War II Memorial.

With his war service completed, Bob attended Central Michigan University, graduating in 1949, with a B.S. in Biology. He resumed his career at The Dow Chemical Company, capping his 40-year career there by retiring as Manager of Emergency Response. Always active in his church and community, Bob's civic efforts included two terms on Midland's Parks and Recreation Commission, the presidency of the Jaycees, and being district manager for then-Congressman William Schuette. A talented craftsman, Bob also worked on the crew that restored the Midland County Courthouse. Until recently, Bob was the Buildings and Grounds committee chair for St. John's Episcopal Church in Midland, where he had previously served terms on the church vestry as both the senior and junior warden, as well as being a Sunday School teacher and youth leader.

An avid sports booster, Bob coached and refereed Little League baseball as well as coaching Pee Wee Football. Bob and Marge raised two sons; Jeff (Sheila) Mesler and Greg Mesler, both of whom survive him, as does Jeff and Sheila's son Kyle Robert Mesler. Bob's brother Garry (Jean) Mesler also survives him, along with nieces and nephews Kim, Liz, Kevin, Patti, Jim, Ethelyn, Mike, Lyn, John, Janette, Sherry, Mary and Bill.

Bob was ''stand-in grandfather'' to Anna, Maria, Cate and Matt. His extended family, the ''Gang,'' includes Niki (Don) Beckwith, Max and Martha Bottomley, Gloria and Pete Lehman, Bill and Bonnie Kennett, Grace and Mike Merrell, Janet (Larry) Lang, Helen (Bob) Ward and Caroline (Al) Gunkler. Bob was preceded in death by his parents; and two brothers, James Russell Mesler and James Richard Mesler.

Memorial Services will take place at 11 a.m., Monday, June 25, 2012, from St. John's Episcopal Church, The Rev. Rob Skirving and The Rev. Mike Wilson will officiate, with inurnment to take place in the church mausoleum. Bob's family will receive friends at the Ware-Smith-Woolever Funeral Home, 1200 West Wheeler Street on Sunday from 2–4 and 6–8 p.m. Those planning an expression of sympathy are asked to consider the Toni and Trish House or Shelterhouse. Full military honors will be presented by the Midland Area Veterans and the Department of the U.S. Army.

The family would like to give special thanks to Bob's Midland doctors, to Dr. Washer of the University of Michigan, and especially Dr. Hafez of the University of Michigan, for all the special care they gave Bob. Thanks also to the staff of MidMichigan Home Care (Hospice) and Bob's special nurse Raime.

IMPORTANCE OF FUEL EFFICIENCY

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss fuel efficiency, an issue that is near and dear to the heart of all hardworking Americans. As Members of Congress, it is our mission to do all that we can to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil for America's families. We must work hard to create and incentivize ways to produce alternative fuels and reduce gas prices here at home. And we should continue to work with our auto industry to promote the manufacturing of more fuel efficient vehicles right here in America. America's auto industry is hard at work manufacturing and developing the technology to manufacture more fuel efficient vehicles.

My congressional district and the State of Alabama is home to many auto manufacturers and suppliers that are achieving that goal and are even working hard to exceed it. All Americans can contribute to promoting energy independence and environmental sustainability by taking a few simple steps. And as we head into the major summer driving season, it's important to remember that we all can improve fuel efficiency right now.

For example, using cruise control will help drivers maintain a steady speed and save fuel. Studies have shown that tuning your car and keeping tires inflated can increase your fuel economy by 3 or 4%. Driving responsibly and at the speed limit also helps to improve fuel economy.

The EPA's website provides information about fuel efficient driving and there are numerous agencies and organizations that provide information and resources about how to drive more efficiently. Auto manufacturers and associations have also undertaken efforts to increase awareness and educate us all about fuel efficiency, and I support and applaud those efforts.

In closing, I encourage all of us to take the time to learn how to drive more efficiently and maximize our fuel economy. These techniques will save Americans fuel, decrease emissions and help us achieve energy independence.

HONORING KAY A. CALAS

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mrs. Kay A. Calas, who passed away on Monday, June 18, 2012 at the age of 88.

We often hear the term ''founding fathers'' used to describe the framers of this country. Kay Calas was one of the founding mothers of the City of Carson, California, and as a 29–year member of the Carson City Council, she was truly a legend in her own time.

Kay Calas was not only one of the longest tenured elected officials in Los County's history, she was also one of the most effective and revered council-members of her time. She is credited with helping to shape a thriving city from what was once a collection of waste dumps, vacant land patches and oil production facilities in the eastern section of Los Angeles County's South Bay region.

The creation of the City of Carson happened during the time that my father, L.A. County Supervisor Kenny Hahn, presided over that previously unincorporated area. My father's great respect for Kay Calas and her husband John, himself a great community leader and former Carson Mayor, stemmed from their shared vision of an ideal city in which people from all walks of life could live and do business harmoniously. That shared vision made Kenny Hahn a John and Kay Calas ally for life.

Once the loftier goal of incorporating Carson had been accomplished, Kay Calas relentlessly pursued her passion: that is the business of serving the people. Kay was always a champion for the senior citizens, and she had a deep love for fine arts. The Carson Symphony Association had a yearly concert for 3,000 school children, and Kay would routinely pay for the buses to bring the children to the event. She spearheaded the effort to extend Del Amo Boulevard over the San Diego (405) Freeway creating an important throughway to ease rush hour street traffic in the middle of town. The bridge now bears her name, while a park on East 220th Street in Carson is named after her late husband John Calas.

Above all else, Kay Calas was a public servant of the highest possible integrity. Current Carson Mayor James Dear, who served as Mayor with Mrs. Calas during two of her eight terms in office, described Kay Calas' character as ''above reproach''.

I extend my deepest condolences to her three surviving sons, Frank, James and Thomas, and Kay's numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Though Kay Calas is no longer with us, her legacy lives on in the lives of her family and in the community that she served so tirelessly throughout her remarkable life.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. ANNIE JOHNSON-SINKFIELD

HON. HENRY C. ''HANK'' JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas, reaching the age of 80 years is a remarkable milestone; and

Whereas, Mrs. Annie Johnson-Sinkfield was born on June 14, 1932 and is celebrating that milestone; and

Whereas, Mrs. Sinkfield has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God and credits it all to the Will of God; and

Whereas, Mrs. Sinkfield is celebrating her 80th birthday with her family members, church members and friends here in DeKalb County, Georgia, on June 16, 2012, she celebrates a life of blessings; as a wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother and great great grandmother; and

Whereas, the Lord has been her Shepherd throughout her life and she prays daily and is leading by example a blessed life; an advocate, faithful church member at Poplar Springs Baptist Church in Ellenwood, Georgia, and a community leader; and

Whereas, we are honored that she is celebrating the milestone of her 80th birthday in the 4th District of Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Annie Johnson-Sinkfield for an exemplary life which is an inspiration to all,

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. ''HANK'' JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim June 14, 2012, as Mrs. Annie Johnson-Sinkfield Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF LAKEWOOD CALIFORNIA'S BRUCE DUBOIS

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of one of Lakewood California's most prominent residents, Bruce DuBois. Mr. DuBois was born in my own district in 1935 at Seaside Hospital in Long Beach. He attended school in Compton until transferring to Downey High School. He could not stay away from the 37th district for long, and after enlisting in the Army and serving in France, he returned to attend Compton College.

It was during his time in college where Mr. DuBois met the love of his life and the woman he would spend the next five decades with. Diane DuBois was also a student at Compton College, and after the two met at a party it was only a year until they were married. Mrs. DuBois would later go on to become mayor of Lakewood, always with the proud support of her beloved husband.

While being an avid family man, Mr. DuBois dedicated his life to serving the community. He was very active with the Jaycees, a service group that provides leadership training through community service for adults ages 18–40. He met many of his best friends through this organization.

After retirement Mr. DuBois continued his volunteer work with the organization Meals on Wheels. At least once a week he would deliver meals to his community's shut-ins and elderly. His wife stated that he took great pride in this work, and met many friends along the way.

Mr. DuBois' life can be remembered as full of service to his community, friendship and family. He was a man we could all look to for warmth and kindness, and his presence will be sorely missed. He leaves behind his wife, two daughters, four grandchildren and a sister.

HONORING NATIONAL PARK CLIMBING RANGER NICK HALL AND OTHER CLIMBING RANGERS

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize a hero who died last month leading an effort to save four climbers on Mt. Rainier in Washington State.

On June 21 four climbers fell into a crevasse on a glacier on Mt. Rainier. National

Park Climbing Ranger Nick Hall and other Climbing Rangers braved the elements and terrain to rescue the climbers and get them the medical attention they desperately needed. Mr. Hall, a 33-year-old four-year veteran of Mt. Rainier's Climbing Ranger team, tragically fell more than 2,500 feet down the side of the mountain. The Climbing Ranger team was unable to communicate with Mr. Hall after his fall and continued their heroic efforts to save the four climbers. All four climbers were saved and all suffered non-life threatening injuries. I applaud the heroic efforts of the rescue team.

Rangers did reach Mr. Hall hours after the rescue mission began, but, sadly, determined that he had died as a result of his fall. Because of heavy snow, clouds, and the threat of an avalanche, Mr. Hall's body could not immediately be recovered. Finally, on Thursday, July 5, Mt. Rainier National Park personnel were able to confirm that Mr. Hall's body had been recovered.

Mr. Speaker, It has been a tough year at Mt. Rainier. On January 1 Park Ranger Margaret Anderson was gunned down at Mt. Rainier by a fleeing gunman. Now Nick Hall has lost his life saving climbers on the mountain. I grieve with the friends, family, and colleagues left behind.

The week of July 15 has been declared "Stand With Those Who Serve Week" in Washington. Nick Hall is the latest example of someone willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice in service to others. Today I stand with members of the Park Service, Mt. Rainier Superintendent Randy King, and the supportive communities around the mountain.

GOVERNOR PERRY'S LETTER TO KATHLEEN SEBELIUS

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letter.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
July 9, 2012.

Hon. KATHLEEN SEBELIUS,
Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY SEBELIUS: In the ObamaCare plan, the federal government sought to force the states to expand their Medicaid programs by in the words of the Supreme Court putting a gun to their heads. Now that the "gun to the head" has been removed, please relay this message to the President: I oppose both the expansion of Medicaid as provided in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the creation of a so-called "state" insurance exchange, because both represent brazen intrusions into the sovereignty of our state.

I stand proudly with the growing chorus of governors who reject the PPACA power grab. Thank God and our nation's founders that we have the right to do so.

Neither a "state" exchange nor the expansion of Medicaid under the Orwellian-named PPACA would result in a better "patient protection" or in more "affordable care." What they would do is make Texas a mere appendage of the federal government when it comes to health care.

The PPACA does not truly allow states to create and operate their own exchanges. Instead, it gives the federal government the final say as to which insurance plans can operate in a so-called "state" exchange, what benefits those plans must provide, and what price controls and cost limits will apply. It leaves many questions to be answered later through federal "future rulemaking." In short, it essentially treats the states like subcontractors through which the federal government can control the insurance markets and pursue federal priorities rather than those of the individual states.

Through its proposed expansion of Medicaid, the PPACA would simply enlarge a broken system that is already financially unsustainable. Medicaid is a system of inflexible mandates, one-size-fits-all requirements, and wasteful, bureaucratic inefficiencies. Expanding it as the PPACA provides would only exacerbate the failure of the current system, and would threaten even Texas with financial ruin.

I look forward to implementing health care solutions that are right for the people of Texas. I urge you to support me in that effort. In the meantime, the PPACA's unsound encroachments will find no foothold here.

Sincerely,

RICK PERRY,
Governor.

CALLING FOR THE FIRING OF U.S. AMBASSADOR TO VIETNAM

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit a letter I sent to President Obama and Secretary Clinton calling for the firing of the U.S. ambassador to Vietnam.

Ambassador David Shear should be removed because he has repeatedly failed to advocate for human rights and speak out for the voiceless in Vietnam. I recommend that he be replaced by a Vietnamese-American.

I am particularly upset by Ambassador Shear's failure to invite more dissidents and human rights activists to the U.S. Embassy for a July 4 celebration after promising that he would.

Further, I have been disappointed in Shear's handling of the case of Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan, a Vietnamese-American democracy activist and U.S. citizen presently being held by the communist government of Vietnam.

As I stated in the letter, "America must be a voice for the voiceless. The U.S. Embassy in Vietnam must be an island of freedom, headed by a bold American ambassador. Ambassador Shear is not that man."

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
July 9, 2012.

Hon. BARACK H. OBAMA,
The President, The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: On May 15, 2012, the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, which I co-chair, held a hearing on human rights abuses in Vietnam. As you undoubtedly know, the State Department's own annual human rights report aptly describes Vietnam as an "authoritarian state." During the hearing, several of my colleagues and I heard testimony from Mrs. Mai Huong Ngo, the wife of Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan, a Vietnamese-American democracy activist and U.S. citizen. Upon his arrival at Tan Son Nhat International Airport in Ho Chi Minh City on April 17, he was arbitrarily detained and has been in prison ever since. Dr. Quan's wife was invited to testify in light of her husband's plight.

Assistant Secretary Michael Posner was also invited to testify at the hearing on behalf of the State Department. At the time I expressed my shock and dismay that no one from the department, not even the U.S. ambassador to Vietnam, David Shear, had been in touch with Dr. Quan's wife since his detention. Only at my urging did Ambassador Shear initiate contact with Mrs. Ngo to update her on her husband's situation.

This was disturbing on a number of levels. I have long believed that U.S. embassies should be islands of freedom—especially in repressive countries like Vietnam. Under Ambassador Shear's leadership it didn't appear that the U.S. embassy in Hanoi was embracing this important task. But even more troubling is the fact that Dr. Quan is an American citizen, and yet there appeared to be little urgency to securing his release.

In speaking by phone with Ambassador Shear following the hearing I expressed my concerns and urged him to host a July 4th celebration at the embassy, where the guest list was comprised of religious freedom and democracy activists in Vietnam. I stressed that he should fling open the doors of the embassy and invite Buddhist monks and nuns, Catholic priests and Protestant pastors, Internet bloggers and democracy activists. Such was the custom during the Reagan Administration, especially in the Soviet Union. This practice sent a strong message that America stood with those who stand for basic human rights. In many cases it afforded these individuals protection from future harassment and even imprisonment.

Ambassador Shear said that he intended to honor this request. Following my conversation with him I received the enclosed letter from the department indicating that, "Ambassador Shear continues to engage with civil society advocates, promoters of rule-of-law, and democracy activists and will welcome them to the Embassy's July 4th celebration." I took Ambassador Shear at his word and in fact shared this correspondence with members of the Vietnamese Diaspora community in the U.S., several of whom were greatly encouraged by this development.

Late last week it was brought to my attention that many of the most prominent democracy and human rights activists in Vietnam were not invited to the event. These reports seemed starkly at odds with the assurances I had personally received from Ambassador Shear. I called him directly this morning to find out if the embassy had invited the dissidents as had been agreed upon. His response was appalling. He said that he had invited a few civil society activists but then said that he needed to maintain a "balance." I then asked him for a list of the invitees. He initially refused saying he was unable to provide this information, even though presumably the embassy, which he leads, created the guest list. Then he said he would have to address this through State Department. I asked him when we might expect to receive a copy of the guest list and, after initially declining to be specific; he eventually conceded that it would be "in a few weeks."

Ambassador Shear's entire handling of this issue has been unacceptable. He showed little to no initiative in the case of Dr. Quan. Then, after appearing to recognize the shortsightedness of this approach, he agreed to host an Independence Day event at the embassy attended by human rights and democracy activists—only to go back on his word and mislead me about his intentions. Finally, when posed with a simple congressional request for additional information about the guest list at a U.S. embassy event, he was uncooperative at best and obstructionist at worst.

In light of these realities, I write today to call for the firing of Ambassador Shear.

Sadly, his sidelining of serious human rights issues in Vietnam is symptomatic of this administration's overall approach to human rights and religious freedom. Time and again these issues are put on the backburner—to the detriment of freedom-loving people the world over. In a Constitution Day speech, President Ronald Reagan described the United States Constitution as ''a covenant we have made not only with ourselves, but with all of mankind.'' We have an obligation to keep that covenant. If you were to take this action, it would send a critical message to U.S. ambassadors globally, and just as importantly, to repressive governments which fear the words of the Constitution and the promise they hold as much as they fear the aspirations of their own people.

I have repeatedly said that it would be fitting for a Vietnamese-American to serve as U.S. ambassador Vietnam—someone who understands the country, the language, and the oppressive nature of the government having experienced it themselves before coming to the U.S. Such an individual would not be tempted to maintain smooth bilateral relations at all costs. Such an individual would embrace the cause of freedom. The Vietnamese people, and frankly millions of Vietnamese-Americans, deserve better than what Ambassador Shear and this administration are giving them.

America must be a voice for the voiceless. The U.S. Embassy in Vietnam must be an island of freedom, headed by a bold American ambassador. Ambassador Shear is not that man.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

Enclosure.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, DC, June 26, 2012.

Hon. FRANK R. WOLF,
House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. WOLF: Thank you for your letter of June 6 following up on your phone conversation last month with Ambassador Shear regarding the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission's hearing on Vietnam and the case of Dr. Richard Nguyen.

We continue to urge the Vietnamese government to release Dr. Nguyen. In addition to raising his case with high-level Vietnamese officials, our consular officers will continue to provide all appropriate consular assistance to Dr. Nguyen. Ambassador Shear has personally spoken with Dr. Nguyen's wife, Mai Huang Ngo, and senior officials from our Consulate in Ho Chi Minh City remain in close contact with her.

Ambassador Shear continues to engage with civil society advocates, promoters of rule-of-law, and democracy activists and will welcome them to the Embassy's July 4th celebration. This is one of many ways we promote respect for human rights and rule-of-law in Vietnam.

We will keep you and your staff updated on developments regarding Dr. Richard Nguyen. Please do not hesitate to let us know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

DAVID S. ADAMS,
Assistant Secretary,
Legislative Affairs.

AMERICAN HEROES

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as South Carolinians recognized our freedoms on the Fourth of July, we also express gratitude for fallen heroes who made our freedoms possible. A moving tribute was published on June 29th as an editorial in The Greenville News.

FALLEN SOLDIERS, FAMILIES ARE HEROES

Three families in South Carolina—and the state as a whole—were given a bitter reminder earlier this month that men and women still put their lives at risk every day to protect American ideals in faraway places. These men and women are heroes, as are the families that wonder, every day, if their son, daughter, spouse or child will return home.

Three from South Carolina won't. The S.C., National Guard troops were among 21 people killed in a suicide bomb attack on June 20. These brave men soon will be laid to rest, but their families will continue to grieve in ways that few of us can even begin to comprehend. It's a heart-wrenching reminder of the cost of war, and particularly of the cost of the current war in Afghanistan and the one in Iraq. These two conflicts have demanded a very heavy commitment from—and thus taken a very heavy toll on—our National Guard and Reserve troops.

The three members of the 133rd Military Police Company who were killed include Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Brad Thomas, of Easley; 1st Lt. Ryan Davis Rawl, of Lexington; and Spc. John David Meador II, of Columbia. Five other members of the company were wounded in the attack. Thomas' funeral is planned for this weekend.

The 133rd, nicknamed the Palmetto Regulators, is based in Timmonsville. It was in Afghanistan to train the Afghan national police force and was scheduled to return home in August. The three deaths bring to 16 the total of South Carolina National Guard troops who have been killed in Afghanistan since 2003.

These two wars have exacted a heavy toll on military families across the country. Many of those deaths have been among Guard and Reserve troops who traditionally have been used in support roles, but have been called upon during these wars to serve more and longer combat tours, a result of leaner operations for a military force that is spread increasingly thin.

Thomas leaves behind a wife, Jana, and a 3-year-old son, Kayden. The family, who grief cannot be assuaged by our expressions of gratitude, nonetheless deserves our sincerest thanks for Thomas' devotion to this country and its ideals. The family members need our thoughts and prayers as they try to wade through a grief that too many military families have experienced in the past decade.

There have been 6,440 military deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan since the wars began. Of those, 1,022, or nearly 16 percent, have been National Guard or Reserve troops, according to The Washington Post.

Few of us reflect daily on the lives at risk every day in Afghanistan. Despite the continuing draw-down of American forces, it still is an exceedingly hostile place. And our nation still is calling on its part-time warriors to complete that mission.

Maj. Gen. Robert E. Livingston Jr., South Carolina's adjutant general, offered a poignant reminder to all of us that these wars still go on and our brave men and women still risk their lives.

''These men died serving their country and I want to express my deepest sympathy and condolences to their families, who are the unsung heroes of our war effort,'' Livingston said, according to a recent report in The State.

''These deaths are grim reminders that our military, to include the South Carolina National Guard, is still active in combat defense of our country. We are privileged to have such heroes in our midst.

Privileged, indeed.

As the nation pauses in coming week to celebrate its founding and the establishment of liberties and ideals that are desired by people around the globe; it would be worth taking more than a moment to remember the heroes—both the fallen and those whom they've left behind. These spouses and children, and the service men and women they love, are above the political rhetoric of which wars should be fought and how.

They simply serve. Their burdens are tangible reminders that the struggle for freedom continues and that it has a tremendous and painful cost. This is a cost these soldiers knew they might have to pay when they stepped forward to serve in an all-volunteer military during a time of war, but one their families are left trying to comprehend.

These men are mourned. They are praised. And they and their families should be remembered by a state and a nation that needs to be eternally grateful for their service and their immense and incomprehensible sacrifice.

Said Thomas' father, Charles, ''They're doing a very important job. A lot of Americans don't understand that. But they're doing a very important job.''

Amen.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, July 10, 2012 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 11

9:30 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the impact on competition of exclusion orders to enforce standard-essential patents.

SD–226

10 a.m.

Finance

To hold hearings to examine Medicare physician payments, focusing on perspectives from physicians.

SD–215

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the future of Homeland Security, focusing on evolving and emerging threats.
SD–342

2 p.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Thomas M. Durkin, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, and Jon S. Tigar, and William H. Orrick, III, of the District of Columbia, both to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.
SD–226

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To hold hearings to examine international extradition norms and their impact on United States victims of international fugitives, focusing on the case of George Wright and factors that impede or prevent extradition of criminals in the United States, concerns the United States may have regarding extradition requests from other countries, and how the United States might work to advance justice in this process.
2203, Rayburn Building

JULY 12

9 a.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Treaty Doc. 112–7).
SD–G50

9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold an oversight hearing to examine remediation of Federal legacy wells in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.
SD–366

10 a.m.
Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine the latest science on lead's impacts on children's development and public health.
SD–406

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the future of Homeland Security, focusing on the evolution of the Homeland Security Department's roles and missions.
SD–342

Judiciary
Business meeting to consider S. 285, for the relief of Sopuruchi Chukwueke, S. 1744, to provide funding for State courts to assess and improve the handling of proceedings relating to adult guardianship and conservatorship, to authorize the Attorney General to carry out a pilot program for the conduct of background checks on individuals to be appointed as guardians or conservators, and to promote the widespread adoption of information technology to better monitor, report, and audit conservatorships of protected persons, S. 3276, to extend certain amendments made by the FISA Amendments Act of 2008, and the nominations of Terrence G. Berg, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, Jesus G. Bernal,and Fernando M. Olguin, both to be a United States District Judge for the Central District of California, Lorna G. Schofield, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, Frank Paul Geraci, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York, Malachy Edward Mannion, and Matthew W. Brann, both to be a United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, Danny Chappelle Williams, Sr., to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Oklahoma, Department of Justice, and Charles R. Breyer, of California, to be a Member of the United States Sentencing Commission.
SD–226

10:30 a.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine creating positive learning environments for all students.
SD–106

2:15 p.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Gene Allan Cretz, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Ghana, Deborah Ruth Malac, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Liberia, David Bruce Wharton, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Zimbabwe, and Alexander Mark Laskaris, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea, all of the Department of State.
SD–419

Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine Federal recognition, focusing on political and legal relationship between governments.
SD–628

2:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine medication and performance enhancing drugs in horse racing.
SR–253

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Stephen Crawford, of Maryland, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service.
SD–342

Intelligence
To hold a closed meeting to consider certain intelligence matters.
SH–219

JULY 17

9:30 a.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Investigations Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine United States vulnerabilities to money laundering, drugs, and terrorist financing, focusing on HSBC case history.
SD–106

JULY 18

2:30 p.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine to examine the nominations of Marcie B. Ries, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Bulgaria, John M. Koenig, of Washington, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus, Michael David Kirby, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Serbia, Thomas Hart Armbruster, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Greta Christine Holtz, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman, all of the Department of State.
SD–419

JULY 19

2:15 p.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine climate change, focusing on impacts on treaty rights, traditional lifestyles, and tribal homelands.
SD–628

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

See Résumé of Congressional Activity.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4783–S4792

Measures Introduced: One bill was introduced as follows: S. 3364. **Page S4789**

Measures Passed:

D.C. Courts and Public Defender Service Act: Senate passed S. 1379, to amend title 11, District of Columbia Official Code, to revise certain administrative authorities of the District of Columbia courts, and to authorize the District of Columbia Public Defender Service to provide professional liability insurance for officers and employees of the Service for claims relating to services furnished within the scope of employment with the Service, after agreeing to the committee amendment. **Pages S4790–91**

Measures Considered:

Small Business Jobs and Tax Relief Act: Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2237, to provide a temporary income tax credit for increased payroll and extend bonus depreciation for an additional year. **Pages S4783–86**

Messages from the House: **Page S4789**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S4789**

Measures Read the First Time: **Page S4789**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S4789**

Additional Statements: **Page S4788**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S4790**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 4:23 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, July 10, 2012. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S4792.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 11 public bills, H.R. 6079–6089; and 2 resolutions, H. Res. 718, 725, were introduced. **Page H4684**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H4685–86**

Reports Filed: A report was filed on July 2, 2012 as follows:

H.R. 5872, to require the President to provide a report detailing the sequester required by the Budget Control Act of 2011 on January 2, 2013, with an amendment (H. Rept. 112–577).

Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 1192, to extend the current royalty rate for soda ash, with an amendment (H. Rept. 112–578);

H.R. 2027, to revise the boundaries of John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Sachuest Point Unit RI–04P, Easton Beach Unit RI–05P, Almy Pond Unit RI–06, and Hazards Beach Unit RI–07 in Rhode Island (H. Rept. 112–579);

H.R. 2154, to correct the boundaries of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Gasparilla Island Unit FL–70P, with an amendment (H. Rept. 112–580);

S. 270, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to Deschutes County, Oregon (H. Rept. 112–581);

H.R. 6019, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to enhance the use of Juvenile Accountability Block Grants for programs to prevent and address occurrences of bullying and to reauthorize the Juvenile Accountability Block Grants program, with an amendment (H. Rept. 112–582);

H.R. 4402, to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to more efficiently develop domestic sources of the minerals and mineral materials of strategic and critical importance to United States economic and national security and manufacturing competitiveness, with an amendment (H. Rept. 112–583, Pt. 1);

H.R. 1171, to reauthorize and amend the Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act, with an amendment (H. Rept. 112–584, Pt. 1);

H.R. 4155, to direct the head of each Federal department and agency to treat relevant military training as sufficient to satisfy training or certification requirements for Federal licenses, with an amendment (H. Rept. 112–585);

H.R. 4273, to clarify that compliance with an emergency order under section 202(c) of the Federal Power Act may not be considered a violation of any Federal, State, or local environmental law or regulation, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 112–586); and

H. Res. 724, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6079) to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (H. Rept. 112–587).

Pages H4683–84

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Harris to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H4659**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:11 p.m. and reconvened at 4 p.m. **Page H4660**

Member Resignation: Read a letter from Representative McCotter, wherein he resigned as Representative for the Eleventh Congressional District of Michigan, effective at midnight on Friday, July 6, 2012. **Page H4660**

Whole Number of the House: The Speaker announced to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Michigan, Mr. McCotter, the whole number of the House is 432.

Pages H4660–61

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Veteran Skills to Jobs Act: H.R. 4155, amended, to direct the head of each Federal department and agency to treat relevant military training as sufficient to satisfy training or certification requirements for Federal licenses, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 369 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 452;

Pages H4661–63, H4670

Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2012: H.R. 4114, to increase, effective as of December 1, 2012, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans;

Pages H4663–64

Amend the Electronic Fund Transfer Act to limit the fee disclosure requirement for an automatic teller machine to the screen of that machine: H.R. 4367, to amend the Electronic Fund Transfer Act to limit the fee disclosure requirement for an automatic teller machine to the screen of that machine, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 371 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 453;

Pages H4664–66, H4670–71

Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2012: H.R. 5892, to improve hydropower, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 372 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 454; and **Pages H4666–70, H4671–72**

Former Charleston Naval Base Land Exchange Act of 2012: S. 2061, to provide for an exchange of land between the Department of Homeland Security and the South Carolina State Ports Authority.

Pages H4672–73

Recess: The House recessed at 5 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H4670**

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on page H4659.

Senate Referrals: S. 3238 was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs; S. 2165, S. 2239, and S. 3363 were held at the desk. **Page H4681**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4670, H4670–71, and H4671–72. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Committee Meetings

HUMAN RIGHTS ATTACKS ON FAMILIES IN CHINA

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee On Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights held a hearing entitled ''Continued Human Rights Attacks on Families in China''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

REPEAL OF OBAMACARE ACT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on ''Repeal of ObamaCare Act''. The Committee granted, by a record vote, a closed rule providing five hours of debate to be allocated as follows: 30 minutes equally divided and controlled by the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader or their respective designees; 60 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce; 60 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce; 60 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; 30 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget; 30 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee of the Judiciary; and 30 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Small Business.

The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit. Testimony was heard from Representatives Pitts, Pallone, Schakowsky, Price (GA), Levin, Roe (TN), Andrews, Schwartz, Welch (VT), and Garamendi.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, *p. D681)*

H.R. 6064, to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a multiyear law reauthorizing such programs. Signed on June 29, 2012. (Public Law 112–140)

H.R. 4348, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs. Signed on July 6, 2012. (Public Law 112–141)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2012

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to receive a closed briefing on ongoing counterterrorism operations, 2:30 p.m., SVC–217.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine developing the framework for safe and efficient mobile payments, part 2, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine boosting opportunities and growth through tax reform, focusing on helping more young people achieve the American dream, 2 p.m., SD–215.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Afghan National Military Hospital'', 3 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, hearing entitled ''The American Energy Initiative'', 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled ''Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission'', 10:15 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises, hearing entitled ''The Impact of Dodd-Frank on Customers, Credit, and Job Creators'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights, hearing entitled ''U.S. Policy Toward Nigeria: West Africa's Troubled Titan'', 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia, hearing entitled ''Chronic Kleptocracy: Corruption within the Palestinian Political Establishment'', 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security, hearing entitled ''Building a Secure Community: How Can DHS Better Leverage State and Local Partnerships?'', 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Subcommittee on Transportation Security, ''Challenging the Status Quo at TSA: Perspectives on the Future of Transportation Security'', 12:30 p.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, markup of the following measures: H.R. 3796, the ''Adam Walsh Reauthorization Act of 2012''; H.R. 4362, the ''Stopping Tax Offenders and Prosecuting Identity Theft Act of 2012''; H.R. 6063, to amend title 18, United States

Code, with respect to child pornography and child exploitation offenses; H.R. 6029, to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for increased penalties for foreign and economic espionage, and for other purposes; the ''Intellectual Property Attaché Act''; H.R. 6062, to reauthorize the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program through fiscal year 2017; H.R. 1950, to enact title 54, United States Code, ''National Park System'', as positive law; to make improvements in the enactment of title 41, United States Code, into a positive law title and to improve the Code; and H.R. 3803, the ''District of Columbia Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act'', 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, Competition and the Internet, hearing entitled ''The Dodd-Frank Act's Effects on Financial Services Competition'', 3 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Water and Power Subcommittee, hearing on H.R. 6060, the ''Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Extension Act of 2012'', 2 p.m., 1334 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on Health Care, District of Columbia, Census, and National Archives, hearing entitled ''Examining the Impact of ObamaCare on Doctors and Patients'', 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on TARP, Financial Services, and Bailouts of Public and Private Programs, hearing entitled ''The Administration's Auto Bailouts and the Delphi Pension Decisions: Who Picked the Winners and Losers?'', 10 a.m., 2247 Rayburn.

Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Examining the Impact of ObamaCare on Job Creators and the Economy'', 1:30 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 4402, the ''National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act of 2012'', 3 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, hearing entitled ''A Review of Federal Maritime Domain Awareness Programs'', 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Tax Ramifications of the Supreme Court's Ruling on the Democrats' Health Care Law'', 10:30 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of July 10 through July 13, 2012

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday,* at 11:30 a.m., Senate will begin consideration of the nomination of John Thomas Fowlkes, Jr., of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee, and vote on confirmation of the nomination at approximately 12:00 p.m.

On *Tuesday,* at approximately 2:25 p.m., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2237, Small Business Jobs and Tax Relief Act.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Armed Services: July 10, to receive a closed briefing on ongoing counterterrorism operations, 2:30 p.m., SVC–217.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: July 10, to hold hearings to examine developing the framework for safe and efficient mobile payments, part 2, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: July 12, to hold hearings to examine medication and performance enhancing drugs in horse racing, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: July 12, to hold an oversight hearing to examine remediation of Federal legacy wells in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, 9:30 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: July 12, to hold hearings to examine the latest science on lead's impacts on children's development and public health, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: July 10, to hold hearings to examine boosting opportunities and growth through tax reform, focusing on helping more young people achieve the American dream, 2 p.m., SD–215.

July 11, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine Medicare physician payments, focusing on perspectives from physicians, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: July 12, to hold hearings to examine the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Treaty Doc. 112–7), 9 a.m., SD–G50.

July 12, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Gene Allan Cretz, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Ghana, Deborah Ruth Malac, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Liberia, David Bruce Wharton, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Zimbabwe, and Alexander Mark Laskaris, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea, all of the Department of State, 2:15 p.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: July 12, to hold hearings to examine creating positive learning environments for all students, 10:30 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: July 11, to hold hearings to examine the future of Homeland Security, focusing on evolving and emerging threats, 10 a.m., SD–342.

July 12, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the future of Homeland Security, focusing on the evolution of the Homeland Security Department's roles and missions, 10 a.m., SD–342.

July 12, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Stephen Crawford, of Maryland, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: July 12, to hold an oversight hearing to examine Federal recognition, focusing on political and legal relationship between governments, 2:15 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: July 11, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the impact on competition of exclusion orders to enforce standard-essential patents, 9:30 a.m., SD–226.

July 11, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Thomas M. Durkin, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, and Jon S. Tigar, and William H. Orrick III, of the District of Columbia, both to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, 2 p.m., SD–226.

July 12, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 285, for the relief of Sopuruchi Chukwueke, S. 1744, to provide funding for State courts to assess and improve the handling of proceedings relating to adult guardianship and conservatorship, to authorize the Attorney General to carry out a pilot program for the conduct of background checks on individuals to be appointed as guardians or conservators, and to promote the widespread adoption of information technology to better monitor, report, and audit conservatorships of protected persons, S. 3276, to extend certain amendments made by the FISA Amendments Act of 2008, and the nominations of Terrence G. Berg, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, Jesus G. Bernal, and Fernando M. Olguin, both to be a United States District Judge for the Central District of California, Lorna G. Schofield, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, Frank Paul Geraci, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York, Malachy Edward Mannion, and Matthew W. Brann, both to be a United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, Danny Chappelle Williams, Sr., to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Oklahoma, Department of Justice, and Charles R. Breyer, of California, to be a Member of the United States Sentencing Commission, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: July 10, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

July 12, Full Committee, to hold a closed meeting to consider certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture, July 11, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the 2012 Farm Bill, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Armed Services, July 10, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Afghan National Military Hospital'', 3:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

July 11, Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, hearing entitled ''The Future of U.S. Special Operations Forces'', 3:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

July 12, Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing entitled ''Department of the Air Force aircraft force structure reductions'', 11 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, July 10, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, hearing entitled ''The American Energy Initiative'', 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

July 10, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled ''Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission'', 10:15 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

July 11, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''RIN Fraud: EPA's Efforts to Ensure Market Integrity in the Renewable Fuels Program'', 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

July 11, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled ''Helping Veterans with Emergency Medical Training Transition to Civilian Service'', 10:15 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

July 12, Subcommittee on Energy and Power; and Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations joint hearing, on discussion draft on ''No More Solyndras Act''; and ''Smart Energy Act'', 9:15 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

July 12, Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade, hearing entitled ''The renewal of the Federal Trade Commission's authority to combat cross-border spam, spyware and fraud through reauthorization of the U.S. SAFE WEB Act of 2006'', 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, July 10, Subcommittee on Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises, hearing entitled ''The Impact of Dodd-Frank on Customers, Credit, and Job Creators'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

July 11, Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, hearing entitled ''The Impact of Dodd-Frank's Home Mortgage Reforms: Consumer and Market Perspectives'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, July 9, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights, hearing entitled ''Continued Human Rights Attacks on Families in China'', 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

July 10, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights, hearing entitled ''U.S. Policy Toward Nigeria: West Africa's Troubled Titan'', 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

July 10, Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia, hearing entitled ''Chronic Kleptocracy: Corruption within the Palestinian Political Establishment'', 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, July 10, Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security, hearing entitled ''Building a Secure Community: How Can DHS Better Leverage State and Local Partnerships?'', 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

July 10, Subcommittee on Transportation Security, ''Challenging the Status Quo at TSA: Perspectives on the Future of Transportation Security'', 12:30 p.m., 311 Cannon.

July 11, Subcommittee on Transportation Security, hearing entitled ''Has TSA Met the Deadline to Provide Expedited Screening to Military Service Members?'', 2 p.m., 311 Cannon.

July 12, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies, hearing entitled ''Securing Ammonium Nitrate: Using Lessons Learned in

Afghanistan to Protect the Homeland from IEDs'', 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, July 10, Full Committee, markup of the following measures: H.R. 3796, the ''Adam Walsh Reauthorization Act of 2012''; H.R. 4362, the ''Stopping Tax Offenders and Prosecuting Identity Theft Act of 2012''; H.R. 6063, to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to child pornography and child exploitation offenses; H.R. 6029, to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for increased penalties for foreign and economic espionage, and for other purposes; the ''Intellectual Property Attache Act''; H.R. 6062, to reauthorize the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program through fiscal year 2017; H.R. 1950, to enact title 54, United States Code, ''National Park System'', as positive law; to make improvements in the enactment of title 41, United States Code, into a positive law title and to improve the Code; and H.R. 3803, the ''District of Columbia Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act'', 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

July 10, Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, Competition and the Internet, hearing entitled ''The Dodd-Frank Act's Effects on Financial Services Competition'', 4 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

July 11, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, hearing entitled ''National Security Leaks and the Law'', 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

July 12, Subcommittee on Courts, Commercial and Administrative Law, hearing entitled ''Clearing the Way for Jobs and Growth: Retrospective Review to Reduce Red Tape and Regulations'', 9:30 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, July 10, Water and Power Subcommittee, hearing on H.R. 6060, the ''Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Extension Act of 2012'', 2 p.m., 1334 Longworth.

July 11, Full Committee, markup of the following measures: H.R. 3641, the ''Pinnacles National Park Act''; H.R. 4100, the ''Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Enforcement Act of 2011''; H.R. 4484, the ''Y Mountain Access Enhancement Act''; H.R. 4606, to authorize the issuance of right-of-way permits for natural gas pipelines in Glacier National Park, and for other purposes; H.R. 5958, to name the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Visitor Contact Station of the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge unit of Gateway National Recreation Area in honor of James L. Buckley; and H.R. 5987, the ''Manhattan Project National Historical Park Act'', 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, July 10, Subcommittee on Health Care, District of Columbia, Census, and National Archives, hearing entitled ''Examining the Impact of ObamaCare on Doctors and Patients'', 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

July 10, Subcommittee on TARP, Financial Services, and Bailouts of Public and Private Programs, hearing entitled ''The Administration's Auto Bailouts and the Delphi Pension Decisions: Who Picked the Winners and Losers?'', 10 a.m., 2247 Rayburn.

July 10, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Examining the Impact of ObamaCare on Job Creators and the Economy'', 1:30 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, July 10, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 4402, the ''National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act of 2012'', 3 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, July 12, Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, hearing entitled ''Spurring Economic Growth and Competitiveness Through NASA Derived Technologies'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, July 11, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Is FMCSA's CSA Program Driving Small Businesses Off the Road?'', 1 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

July 12, Subcommittee on Investigations, Oversight and Regulations, hearing entitled ''Sinking the Marine Industry: How Regulations are Affecting Today's Maritime Businesses'', 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, July 10, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, hearing entitled ''A Review of Federal Maritime Domain Awareness Programs'', 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, July 11, Full Committee, markup of the following measures: H.R. 5948, the ''Veterans Fiduciary Reform Act of 2012''; H.R. 5747, the ''Military Family Home Protection Act'' and H.R. 4057, the ''Improving Transparency of Education Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2012'', 9:30 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, July 10, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Tax Ramifications of the Supreme Court's Ruling on the Democrats' Health Care Law'', 10:30 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Résumé of Congressional Activity

SECOND SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS

The first table gives a comprehensive résumé of all legislative business transacted by the Senate and House. The second table accounts for all nominations submitted to the Senate by the President for Senate confirmation.

DATA ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

January 3 through June 30, 2012

	Senate	*House*	*Total*
Days in session	84	85	..
Time in session	541 hrs., 12′	452 hrs., 4′	..
Congressional Record:			
Pages of proceedings	S4782	H4657	..
Extensions of Remarks	..	E1202	..
Public bills enacted into law	10	40	50
Private bills enacted into law	..	..	..
Bills in conference	..	..	..
Measures passed, total	204	210	414
Senate bills	28	11	..
House bills	43	132	..
Senate joint resolutions	..	..	..
House joint resolutions	..	1	..
Senate concurrent	7	5	..
House concurrent	8	10	..
Simple resolutions	118	51	..
Measures reported, total	*116	*189	305
Senate bills	81	9	..
House bills	19	144	..
Senate joint resolutions	..	..	..
House joint resolutions	..	..	..
Senate concurrent	..	..	..
House concurrent	..	2	..
Simple resolutions	16	34	..
Special reports	4	24	..
Conference reports	3	3	..
Measures pending on calendar	309	70	..
Measures introduced, total	1,530	2,580	4,110
Bills	1,332	2,313	..
Joint resolutions	13	17	..
Concurrent resolutions	18	35	..
Simple resolutions	167	215	..
Quorum calls	..	1	..
Yea-and-nay votes	172	143	..
Recorded votes	..	306**	..
Bills vetoed	..	..	..
Vetoes overridden	..	..	..

*These figures include all measures reported, even if there was no accompanying report. A total of 77 reports have been filed in the Senate, 216 reports have been filed in the House.

**Proceedings on Roll Call No. 327 were vacated by unanimous consent.

DISPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

January 3 through June 30, 2012

Civilian Nominations, totaling 340 (including 188 nominations carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	173
Unconfirmed	151
Withdrawn	16
Other Civilian Nominations, totaling 1,808 (including 167 nominations carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	1,130
Unconfirmed	675
Withdrawn	3
Air Force Nominations, totaling 5,751 (including 295 nominations carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	2,015
Unconfirmed	3,735
Withdrawn	1
Army Nominations, totaling 4,018 (including 16 nominations carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	3,998
Unconfirmed	19
Withdrawn	1
Navy Nominations, totaling 1,491 (including 16 nominations carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	1,472
Unconfirmed	19
Marine Corps Nominations, totaling 1,310, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	1,309
Unconfirmed	1

Summary

Total Nominations carried over from the First Session	667
Total Nominations Received this Session	14,051
Total Confirmed	10,097
Total Unconfirmed	4,600
Total Withdrawn	21
Total Returned to the White House	0

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, July 10

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: The Majority Leader will be recognized. At 11:30 a.m., Senate will begin consideration of the nomination of John Thomas Fowlkes, Jr., of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee, and vote on confirmation of the nomination at approximately 12 p.m.

At approximately 2:25 p.m., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2237, Small Business Jobs and Tax Relief Act.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, July 10

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Begin consideration of H.R. 6079—To repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Subject to a Rule).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Baca, Joe, Calif., E1207
Boustany, Charles W., Jr., La., E1206, E1208
Camp, Dave, Mich., E1210
Coffman, Mike, Colo., E1204
Denham, Jeff, Calif., E1203
Gohmert, Louie, Tex., E1212
Graves, Sam, Mo., E1203
Hahn, Janice, Calif., E1206, E1211
Hinojosa, Rubén, Tex., E1204
Johnson, Eddie Bernice, Tex., E1205
Johnson, Henry C. ''Hank'', Jr., Ga., E1203, E1204, E1206, E1208, E1211
Johnson, Timothy V., Ill., E1204
Kingston, Jack, Ga., E1204
McCollum, Betty, Minn., E1208
Maloney, Carolyn B., N.Y., E1208
Marino, Tom, Pa., E1208
Miller, Jeff, Fla., E1205
Pallone, Frank, Jr., N.J., E1203
Poe, Ted, Tex., E1209
Quayle, Benjamin, Ariz., E1203
Reichert, David G., Wash., E1203, E1211
Richardson, Laura, Calif., E1204, E1211
Ryan, Tim, Ohio, E1205
Sewell, Terri A., Ala., E1211
Smith, Lamar, Tex., E1206
Tiberi, Patrick J., Ohio, E1207
Wilson, Joe, S.C., E1213
Wolf, Frank R., Va., E1206, E1212

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