

HONORING PINE TREE LEGAL
ASSISTANCE

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pine Tree Legal Assistance in celebration of their 45th anniversary this month.

Pine Tree Legal Assistance is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing high quality, free, legal assistance to low-income individuals. Serving as the primary legal aid provider in Maine with six offices ranging from Presque Isle to Portland, Pine Tree Legal strives to provide access to legal assistance in all corners of the state.

Since its founding on July 19, 1967, Pine Tree Legal Assistance has worked to remove the barriers to justice that can be experienced by low-income Mainers. Their services range from providing basic legal advice to active representation in the most serious cases. The organization continues to place a priority on helping individuals and families meet their basic human needs, such as access to housing, food, income, safety, and education. Pine Tree Legal also boasts innovative, issue-specific divisions such as a Native American Unit and KIDS LEGAL, as well as providing help with unemployment issues and foreclosure prevention. More recently, they have been responsible for the development and ongoing support of Stateside Legal, which is an online resource to provide legal information to veterans and military families.

Pine Tree Legal Assistance maintains an excellent reputation in the field of legal advocacy. They also serve as one of six Maine nonprofits that meet the Better Business Bureau standards for charitable accountability. I am pleased to share in the celebration of Pine Tree Legal Assistance's 45th year of exemplary legal assistance to the people of Maine.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Pine Tree Legal Assistance on achieving this tremendous milestone.

IN HONOR OF THE 20TH VENTURA
COUNTY STAND DOWN

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the outstanding achievements of Ventura County Stand Down, which next week will mark 20 years of helping homeless veterans combat life on the streets.

During the three-day, two-night Stand Down, veterans will live on the campus of the California Army National Guard Armory in military-style tents erected by the Seabees. They will have access to showers, toiletries, new and used clean clothing, and hot meals each day.

Working in conjunction with dozens of public and private agencies, Stand Down 2012 will provide homeless veterans with a myriad of services such as medical treatment, legal services, prescription lenses, employment counseling and referrals, VA benefits, drug and alcohol counseling, general relief information, transitional housing information, along

with a range of other government and social services.

It's a monumental undertaking. Ventura County Stand Down would not be a success—or have even been launched—without the skill and perseverance of Claire Hope, the founder and chairperson of Ventura County Stand Down. The daughter of a World War II veteran and mother of a veteran of Desert Storm, Claire Hope has a soft heart for veterans and a strong will to help those in need.

About 300 volunteers help Claire each year. Another nearly 300 companies, corporations, and non-profit organizations are on board. About 20 service providers take part and 20 committees oversee all aspects of the event, from planning, to execution, to cleanup, to follow-up.

Many of the volunteers have been with Claire since the beginning. While I can't name them all, I would be remiss without noting several key people whose efforts have meant so much to our veterans. They include 20-year Executive Committee Chairs J. Roger Myers, Herb Williams III, Dr. Cal Farmer, Madeline Lee, Gene Ogden, Jean Farley, and Hal Nachenberg. Other Executive Committee Chairs include Judge Pro-Tem Nancy Aronson, Jodi Prior, Yasmin Morrison, Mary Gene Ryan, Betty Zamost, Charles Lane, Jane Towley, Bob Shiverdecker, Carl Lanterman, Gary Erland, Connie Biggers, Carol Rogers, and Jim Rogers.

Special recognition for their ongoing major contributions to Stand Down belongs to: International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 952; California Army National Guard Armory, Ventura; American Legion Auxiliary; American Legion; Beacon House—San Pedro; Salvation Army of Ventura; Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 11395 Thousand Oaks; Marjorie Mosher Schmidt Foundation; New Directions Technologies, Inc.; U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Beacon House San Pedro; Naval Facilities Expeditionary Logistics Center & the Thirty-First Seabee Readiness Group; Ventura County Bar Association Ventura County Public Defenders; Chief's Council of the 146th Airlift Wing of the California Air National Guard; Ventura Superior Court Homeless Court; and Neal C. Green, DDS.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be affiliated with Ventura County as Honorary Cochairman for the 20th year. I know my colleagues will join me in recognizing the importance of Ventura County Stand Down and in thanking Claire Hope and her myriad of volunteers for their selfless efforts in helping those who served our country and who fell on hard times to have a fighting chance to resume a life of stability and peace. It's a yeoman's effort, and one worth undertaking.

STAND WITH THOSE WHO SERVE

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today, I honor "Stand With Those Who Serve Week" in my home state of Washington. Governor Christine Gregoire today urged all citizens to join her in "this special observance to support the many activities and efforts of Washington's public safety personnel and services."

The public safety and law enforcement community in Washington State has endured a lot of heartache over the past years, and those losses are always at the forefront of our thoughts. Such terrible incidents remind us that despite the risk, our police officers and other public safety personnel do not pause for fear or self-interest. They serve bravely, boldly and selflessly and continue every day to earn our respect, admiration and gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, the support that my colleagues across state and party lines have shown demonstrates our commitment to the brave men and women in the law enforcement and public safety professions. It is my hope that through all of this support they continue to have the tools and encouragement that they need.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I join with Governor Gregoire today, along with other elected representatives in Washington, community leaders and private citizens in standing in solidarity with our brave public servants and law enforcement personnel. While they work to reduce crime, protect the vulnerable and keep our communities safe, we will stay mindful of their efforts and in turn serve them, wherever and whenever possible.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4348,
MOVING AHEAD FOR PROGRESS
IN THE 21ST CENTURY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act. After nearly two years of Republican control, there is finally a true jobs bill on the floor of the House.

MAP-21 will protect and create 3 million American jobs. This two year transportation authorization will also provide much-needed certainty for state departments of transportation, construction companies and construction workers after nearly three years without a long term authorization.

Passage of this bill was inexcusably delayed by House Republicans for four months—first due to their refusal to negotiate with the Senate and then, due to a long list of misguided policy riders. I am pleased that a prohibition against coal ash regulation and many other unrelated riders were stripped from the final bill.

While I support the underlying legislation, I am concerned about reduced support for bicycle and pedestrian projects such as Safe Routes to School. This funding is necessary to create a modern, multimodal transportation system that gives commuters and families more choices. Under MAP-21 funding for these programs is cut by 34 percent. This is a disappointing step backwards at a time when Americans are seeing their budgets' under pressure from high gas prices. Moreover, the authorization timeframe should be longer, and the overall funding level for this bill should be higher in order to meet the country's mounting infrastructure needs.

This legislation represents a compromise between the House and Senate that is far worse than the original Senate bill. It is long overdue and far from perfect. Still, despite