

OMB will reinvigorate the interagency evaluation working group established in 2010 with a series of meetings focused on issues commonly affecting evaluators, such as procurement rules, the Paperwork Reduction Act, and the integration of evidence in agencies' decision-making process.

The Performance Improvement Council will convene research, performance management, and program officials to develop ways to improve performance measures, validate their correlation with outcome data from program impact evaluations, and use data analytics to support more cost-effective decision-making.

The Office of Science and Technology Policy has created a "community of practice" for agency personnel involved in designing and managing incentive prizes and has organized a Science of Science Policy working group that is developing tools aimed at establishing a more scientific, empirical evidence basis for science and technology policymaking.

To discuss which ideas in this memo make most sense at your agency, please contact your agency's OMB contact. For more general support on evidence-based policy and evaluation, you also may contact Dan Rosenbaum (Dan T. Rosenbaum@omb.eop.gov).

HONORING WAIRTERRICA
GALMORE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a remarkable young woman, Ms. Wairterrica Galmore, the Valedictorian of Coahoma Agricultural High School Class of 2012. Wairterrica is the proud daughter of Latoya Reddick and Eric Galmore. She has six siblings and they reside in Friars Point, Mississippi.

Wairterrica has always viewed learning as a priority. She was an honor student throughout school, remaining on either the Superintendent or Principal lists. Her performance in the classroom landed Ms. Galmore placement in "Accelerated" and "Gifted" classes.

As a student in high school Wairterrica maintained her placement in high accelerated courses, while also participating in extracurricular activities. She was a member of the Olive Branch All Girls High School Senior Choir and the Olive Branch High School Co-Ed Choir. Wairterrica also received many awards while at Olive Branch High School such as the Positive Award, Highest Average in Math, and the Highest Average in Art. Her test scores on the Mississippi Curriculum and Subject Test ranked in the "Advanced and Proficient" categories. Wairterrica was also one of two students chosen to represent Coahoma Agricultural High School in a women's conference at Tougaloo College in the summer of 2011. Relocation caused Wairterrica to complete tenth through twelfth grade at Coahoma Agricultural High School, where despite the challenge she reigned victorious, gaining the honor of class Valedictorian.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Wairterrica Galmore, the Valedictorian for Coahoma Agricultural High School's Class of 2012.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise regarding my excused absence from rollcall votes 452–454 on Monday, July 9, 2012. I was unavoidably delayed on my return to Washington from Houston, TX due to weather.

I would have voted "aye" for rollcall vote 452, on motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill H.R. 4155, "Veterans Skills to Jobs Act", which would require the head of each federal department or agency to ensure that an applicant for any federal license who has received relevant training while serving as a member of the Armed Forces is deemed to satisfy any training or certification requirements for the license, unless the training received is found to be substantially different from the training or certification requirements for such license.

I would have voted "aye" for rollcall vote 453 on motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill H.R. 4367, "To Amend the Electronic Fund Transfer Act to limit the free disclosure requirement for an automatic teller machine to the screen of that machine", which cancels the requirement that such a fee disclosure appear in a prominent and conspicuous location on or at the ATM.

I would have voted "aye" for rollcall vote 454 on motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill H.R. 5892, "Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2012", which Amends the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) to increase from 5,000 to 10,000 kilowatts the size of small hydroelectric power projects which the Federal Energy.

IN HONOR OF THE ANNIVERSARY
OF THE SIX ASSURANCES AND
THE LIFTING OF MARTIAL LAW
IN TAIWAN

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate two important anniversaries this month in relation to our close friend and ally: the country of Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker: Since the end of World War II, the United States and Taiwan have fostered a close relationship that has been of enormous strategic and economic benefit to both countries. When the United States shifted diplomatic relations from Taiwan to the People's Republic of China in January 1979, Congress moved quickly to pass the Taiwan Relations Act, TRA, to ensure that the United States would continue its robust engagement with Taiwan in the areas of commerce, culture, and security cooperation. On April 10, 1979, this important and lasting piece of legislation became the "Law of the Land" and has since served as the statutory basis for U.S.-Taiwan relations going forward.

After 33 years, the TRA still stands as a model of Congressional leadership in the history of our foreign relations, and, together with the 1982 "Six Assurances," it remains the cor-

nerstone of a very mutually beneficial relationship between the United States and Taiwan.

These "Six Assurances" were designed by President Reagan to further clarify U.S. policy toward Taiwan (in particular to the sale of arms to Taiwan) to reiterate our commitment to Taiwan's security under the TRA and to reaffirm our position on Taiwan's sovereignty. It also stipulated that we would not pressure Taiwan to enter into negotiations with the PRC.

July 14th marks the 30th anniversary of President Reagan issuing said Six Assurances in 1982. It also marks the 25th anniversary of the lifting of martial law in Taiwan in 1987.

Martial law was promulgated in Taiwan on May 19, 1949 by the Chinese Nationalist government, and was ended 38 years later. July 14, 1987 set the stage for a momentous process of democratization in Taiwan that continues to this day. We very are glad to see that Taiwan has transformed into a full fledged Democracy since then.

Over the past three decades, Taiwan has remained a trusted ally of the United States that shares with us the ideals of freedom and democracy. However, the people of Taiwan continue to live day after day under the ominous shadow cast by over 1400 short and medium-range ballistic missiles that the People's Republic of China, PRC, has aimed at them. The PRC persists in claiming Taiwan as a "renegade province," refusing to renounce the use of force to prevent Taiwan's formal de jure independence.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Six Assurances and the 25th anniversary of the lifting of martial law in Taiwan, to further underline our unwavering commitment to the people of Taiwan and to affirm our support for the strong and deepening relationship between the U.S. and Taiwan.

HONORING MARY ALICE O'CONNOR

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY and Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI, to recognize Mary Alice O'Connor as she retires after 7 years as Executive Director of the Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center.

Mary Alice, born in Chicago, Illinois, was ordained a minister by the Unity of the Spirit Ministry School in 1991 and earned her bachelor's in business administration from Golden Gate University in 2002. After many years working for industry leaders in the communications sector, Mary Alice joined the Peace and Justice Center as executive director in 2005. Over the past 7 years, her work has embodied the Peace and Justice Center's mission "to work for a culture of peace through education, advocacy and community building," while at the same time increasing business operations and doubling the Center's operational budget in just 3 years.

Under Mary Alice's leadership, the Peace and Justice Center planned, expanded, and promoted a number of invaluable community programs that have raised awareness for both local and global issues of social justice. The