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Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 158 WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 2012 No. 118

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FLORES).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
August 3, 2012.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BILL FLORES 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:

Dear Lord, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We come to You as a Nation in the midst of great uncertainty and worry. As people look for causes and solutions, the temptation is great to seek ideological position.

We ask that You might send Your spirit of peace and reconciliation, that instead of ascendancy over opponents, the Members of this people's House, and all elected to represent our Nation, might work together, humbly, recognizing the best in each other's hopes, to bring stability and direction toward a strong future.

This Chamber is now silent, Members gone for the August recess. The weather continues to damage crops, the economy continues to struggle, sequestration threatens interests of all Americans, from a myriad of points of view.

During these coming weeks, may all Americans find respite from their struggles, and may all Members of this people's House find rest and resolve to return to the service of these United States as citizens empowered by their constituents to address the needs of the Nation.

May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(a) of House Resolution 747, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore 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, August 3, 2012.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, 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 August 3, 2012 at 9:23 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 3245.

That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 59.

That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 58.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4240.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3670.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1402.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 135.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

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. 3245. An act to extend by 3 years the authorization of the EB–5 Regional Center Program, the E–Verify Program, the Special Immigrant Nonminister Religious Worker Program, and the Conrad State 30 J–1 Visa Waiver Program, to the Committee on the Judiciary; in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce 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.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(b) of House Resolution 747, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. Tuesday, August 7, 2012.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 5 minutes a.m.), the House adjourned until Tuesday, August 7, 2012, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

7182. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Services B.V. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0039; Directorate Identifier 2011-NM-144-AD; Amendment 39-17087; AD 2012-12-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 20, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7183. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Aeronautical Accessories, Inc.,

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High Landing Gear Aft Crosstube Assembly [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0083; Directorate Identifier 2010-SW-022-AD; Amendment 39-17077; AD 2012-11-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 20, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7184. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2011-1255; Directorate Identifier 2010-NM-182-AD; Amendment 39-17084; AD 2012-12-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 20, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7185. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2011-1415; Directorate Identifier 2011-NM-145-AD; Amendment 39-17089; AD 2012-12-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 20, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7186. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2011-1170; Directorate Identifier 2010-NM-264-AD; Amendment 39-17080; AD 2012-12-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 20, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7187. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Alpha Aviation Concept Limited (Type Certificate previously held by Alpha Aviation Design Limited) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0279; Directorate Identifier 2012-CE-007-AD; Amendment 39-17073; AD 2012-11-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 20, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7188. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0034; Directorate Identifier 2011-NM-153-AD; Amendment 39-17105; AD 2012-13-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 20, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7189. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0719; Directorate Identifier 2010-NM-087-AD; Amendment 39-17074; AD 2012-11-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 20, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7190. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Saab AB, Saab Aerosystems Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0330; Directorate Identifier 2011-NM-116-AD; Amendment 39-17103; AD 2012-13-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 20, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7191. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Continental Motors, Inc. (CMI) Reciprocating Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2011-1341; Directorate Identifier 2011-NE-41-AD; Amendment 39-17062; AD 2012-10-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 20, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7192. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Services B.V. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0300; Directorate Identifier 2011-NM-276-AD; Amendment 39-17086; AD 2012-12-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 20, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7193. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0265; Directorate Identifier 2010-NM-216-AD; Amendment 39-17098; AD 2012-12-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 20, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7194. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; WACO Classic Aircraft Corporation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0578; Directorate Identifier 2012-CE-019-AD; Amendment 39-17071; AD 2012-11-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 20, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7195. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; BAE SYSTEMS (OPERATIONS) LIMITED Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0106; Directorate Identifier 2011-NM-150-AD; Amendment 39-17093; AD 2012-12-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 20, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7196. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Hartzell Engine Technologies Turbochargers [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0565; Directorate Identifier 2012-NE-16-AD; Amendment 39-17075; AD 2012-10-52] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 20, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7197. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0152; Directorate Identifier 2011-NM-059-AD; Amendment 39-17092; AD 2012-12-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 20, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7198. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0418; Directorate Identifier 2012-NE-12-AD; Amendment 39-17064; AD 2012-11-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 20, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7199. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0298; Directorate Identifier 2011-NM-072-AD; Amendment 39-17096; AD 2012-12-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 20, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7200. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0298; Directorate Identifier 2011-NM-072-AD; Amendment 39-17096; AD 2012-12-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 20, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7201. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2011-1254; Directorate Identifier 2010-NM-178-AD; Amendment 39-17083; AD 2012-12-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 20, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7202. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Agusta S.p.A. Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0013; Directorate Identifier 2010-SW-043-AD; Amendment 39-17090; AD 2012-12-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 20, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7203. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2011-1257; Directorate Identifier 2011-NM-124-AD; Amendment 39-17099; AD 2012-12-19] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 20, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7204. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2011-1412; Directorate Identifier 2011-NM-158-AD; Amendment 39-17088; AD 2012-12-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 20, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

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:

By Mr. KUCINICH (for himself and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 6357. A bill to prohibit the extrajudicial killing of United States citizens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Armed Services, 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. KUCINICH (for himself, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO):

H.R. 6358. A bill to examine, label, and communicate adverse human biological effects associated with exposure to electromagnetic fields from cell phones and other wireless devices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

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. KUCINICH:

H.R. 6357.

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

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is Article XIV of the Constitution, which enumerates that no United States Citizen can be ''deprived of life, liberty, property, without due process of law.'' The bill will assert Congress' responsibility to defend the rights included in the Bill of Rights of the Constitution.

By Mr. KUCINICH:

H.R. 6358.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause III of the Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 1742: Mr. RANGEL and Ms. BASS of California.

H.R. 2524: Mr. LUJÁN and Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 3067: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 3713: Mrs. ELLMERS.

H.R. 4212: Mr. MARKEY.

H.R. 6241: Mr. FATTAH, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. CHU, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. ACKERMAN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. DOYLE, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. BASS of California, Mr. ANDREWS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. FARR, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 6290: Mr. JONES and Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 6292: Mr. ROHRABACHER.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 158 WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 2012 *No. 118*

Senate

The Senate met at 10:15 and 9 seconds a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware.

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 as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, August 3, 2012.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUYE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COONS thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2012

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate stands adjourned until Tuesday, August 7, 2012, at 11 a.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 10:15 and 34 seconds a.m., adjourned until Tuesday, August 7, 2012, at 11 a.m.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE LIFE OF L.L. POWELL, JR. OF ASHLAND, OKLAHOMA

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of L.L. Powell, Jr. of Ashland, Oklahoma, who suddenly died on June 29, 2012. I extend my deepest sympathies to his family, friends, and the community of Ashland for their loss.

L.L. will be remembered as a dedicated and thoughtful servant to his community. While he will be missed tremendously by all who knew him, he leaves with us a legacy of service that will inspire others to follow in his footsteps for many years to come.

As an employee of the McAlester Army Ammunition Plant in McAlester, Oklahoma, where he worked for 22 years, L.L. was part of the important effort to produce and field munitions to far corners of the globe for use by the U.S. military. As many will tell you, the ammunition plant is the pride of southeastern Oklahoma, and no one took its mission more seriously than L.L.

He was a man of many roles at the ammunition plant. In his capacity as president of American Federation of Government Employees Local 2815, L.L. was an advocate for his fellow federal employees. A calm and steady hand, he worked effectively to resolve disputes and problems. Each spring he traveled to Washington to brief my staff and me on employee issues at the ammunition plant. I could always count on him to shoot me straight.

Work was but one place where L.L. made his mark. Always answering the call of duty, he provided a valuable public service to his community by working for the Ashland Volunteer Fire Department. He was an avid supporter of local little league athletic programs, including football and basketball, and participated in local activities such as Pittsburg Play Day, Founder's Day, and the Savanna Booster Club, among many others.

Above all things, L.L. was a man who was dedicated to his family. He treasured his wife, Jeannie, and four children. In addition, he enjoyed nothing more than spending time with his twelve grandchildren and close friends.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, L.L. was not only someone with whom I enjoyed working on issues of importance to southeastern Oklahoma, but a trusted friend and confidant. Like his family members, friends, and the community of Ashland, I will miss his presence tremendously.

HONORING JACQUELINE BOWENS, CHILDREN'S NATIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise and give gratitude to Jacqueline Bowens, who, after serving for 25 years as Executive Vice President and Chief Government and External Affairs Officer, is leaving Children's National Medical Center.

Jacqueline Bowens joined Children's National to make a difference. She established the first-ever government and community affairs program at Children's National. She and her team played a pivotal role in recruiting support from regional and national leaders, as well as federal agencies, to make sure the hospital kept pace with growing demands for more beds and increased specialized services for the region's children. Following 9/11, she spearheaded the effort to build the region's first pediatric decontamination and quarantine facility at the hospital, so that in the event of another national emergency, children and their families could be treated together.

Under her stewardship, facilities at the hospital were built, expanded and greatly enhanced to address a commitment to patient- and family-centered care. The emergency room at Children's National was expanded and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, NICU, was enhanced and grown, as was the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, PICU, and the Cardio Intensive Care Unit. Additionally, the East Inpatient Tower was built, the Children's Research Institute was established, the Child Protection program was created, and Children's most-recognized logo—Dr. Bear—was born.

Jacqueline's professionalism and graciousness earned Children's National favored reviews from Congress, the White House, and visiting dignitaries and diplomats from around the world who recognize Children's National as an esteemed, world-class pediatric institution.

I will personally miss working with Jacqueline and can't thank her enough for her tireless dedication and commitment to the children and families of the entire metro region, the country, and the world. While we wish her all the best, she will be greatly missed, as she has become Children's most visible and committed advocate. Ms. Bowens has been the voice for those too little to speak and for their families too consumed with the day-to-day trials that go along with caring for a sick or physically challenged child.

IN HONOR OF BARBARA SCHAARS' DISTINGUISHED CAREER

HON. BEN CHANDLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. CHANDLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and contributions of a Central Kentucky educator and one of my constituents, Barbara Schaars.

After graduating from North Hardin High School in Radcliff, Kentucky, Barbara received both her bachelor's and master's degrees in special education from the University of Kentucky. A proud member of the Kentucky Education Association, she taught special education, gifted education, first grade, and art in the Anderson County School District for over 30 years before finally retiring in 2007. Along the way, she touched the hearts and minds of hundreds of students.

Barbara's accomplishments speak for themselves. She served twice as president of the Beta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, an honor society for women educators. She received a citation for outstanding elementary art program from the Kentucky State Legislature and was honored with the Golden Apple Award from Ashland Oil. As coach of Anderson County Schools' academic teams and creative problem solving teams, her dedication to her students went beyond the classroom.

Since her retirement, Barbara has been pursuing her Masters of Divinity at Lexington Theological Seminary. She is a student minister at Bethany Christian Church, Disciples of Christ and previously served as the president of the Women's Fellowship at the First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ in Lawrenceburg.

Barbara's passion for education, whether in the classroom or at church, inspires those around her and challenges all of us to make a positive difference in everything we do. Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing one of Central Kentucky's finest educators, Mrs. Barbara Schaars.

HONORING MARINE SERGEANT JUSTIN M. HANSEN

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, today, I join all Northern Michigan in extending my greatest sympathies to my constituent Ms. Vickie Hayes, of Vanderbilt, Michigan, as she and her family mourn the loss of Marine Sergeant Justin Hansen. Sergeant Hansen was killed during combat operations in Badghis Province, Afghanistan on July 31, 2012. Justin had previously served in Iraq and was serving his second tour of duty in Afghanistan.

A gifted athlete, Sergeant Hansen served as captain of the track, wrestling and football teams for the Kingsley High School Stags during his high school career. Sergeant Hansen also enjoyed outdoor activities such as snowboarding and was an avid motorcyclist—often doing these activities with members of his family.

Sergeant Hansen graduated in 2003 from Kingsley High School and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 2005. He attended the School of Infantry at Camp Pendleton, California, where he graduated with honors. In 2006, Sergeant Hansen was selected to participate in and graduated from the Basic Reconnaissance Course in Coronado, California. He was also stationed at Camp Schwab with the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion in Okinawa, Japan. He was later deployed with the 31st Expeditionary Marine Unit and joined the Special Operations Command in 2009. His honors include the Purple Heart, two Combat Action Ribbons, two Good Conduct Medals, certified Corps Parachutist, and a brown belt in the U.S. Marine Corps Martial Arts program.

Sergeant Hansen is survived by his parents, Ms. Vickie Hayes of Vanderbilt, Michigan, and Mr. Richard Hansen, of Williamsburg, Michigan. Sergeant Hansen is also survived by his stepmother, Shawna Hansen; stepfather, Steven C. Cornell; sisters, Adrienne (Matthew) Russell, of Traverse City, Morgan Compton and Veronica Compton of Kingsley; stepbrothers, Jeremy Borey, of Chicago, IL, and Adam Cornell, of Traverse City; stepsister, Jessica Borey, of Elk Rapids; grandparents, Wayne and Ardyce Hansen, of Traverse City, Ken and Sandra Sleder, of Traverse City, and Carol Hays, of Jackson; niece and nephew, Madison Goodwin and Garrett Russell, of Traverse City; aunts and uncles, Steve Hansen of Pacifica, California, Richard and Sue Costlow of Traverse City, USAF Chief MSgt. Erick M. and Mary Hays, of Benton, Louisiana, Lonnie and Valerie Schaub, of Grand Rapids, Dave and LeAnne Sleder, of Traverse City, Jeff and Bev Sleder, of Katy, Texas, and Kathy Sleder, of Fort Collins, Colorado; as well as a large extended family throughout the United States.

I can find no words that can fully express my gratitude for his service to our country or for the sympathy I feel for family, friends, and loved ones by the loss of this young man. I know Justin's memory will live on through our actions and conduct towards others.

To Justin's family, I can offer only the hope that you will find solace in the loving embrace of your family, friends, and the kind providence of God. I am well aware that my words will not soften your overwhelming grief, but I am reminded of the words of President Lincoln, written to a mother during the Civil War, ''I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.''

On behalf of the citizens of the First District of Michigan, I would like to express my profound sadness for the loss of Sergeant Justin Hansen. Northern Michigan has certainly lost one of its finest, and his memory and service will not be forgotten.

MARINE DEBRIS ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House passed H.R. 1171, known as the Marine Debris Act Amendments of 2012.

This act reauthorizes the NOAA Marine Debris Program at currently appropriated levels through fiscal year 2015. It has strong bipartisan support, particularly from my colleague DON YOUNG, who was an original co-sponsor.

Look, nobody wants to go out on the water or to sit on the beach and see trash. But it's not just an eyesore—marine debris is a very critical problem for marine ecosystems, fisheries, and shipping. Marine debris can have devastating impacts on the U.S. economy too. For instance, it is estimated that $250 million of marketable lobster is lost annually to derelict fishing gear, which can also cause up to $792 million per year in damages to boat propellers.

Right now, an estimated 5–20 million tons of debris from the Japan's tsunami are floating across the Pacific Ocean toward the United States. As this first wave of tsunami debris—including a 66-ft dock teaming with over 90 non-native species—washes ashore, I am astounded by the magnitude of this disaster's global impact. Cleanup costs can be huge. Alaska has already spent $200,000 just for aerial monitoring of the local debris field from the Japanese tsunami. While the Japanese tsunami debris resulted from a natural disaster, ocean trash is preventable.

Added to the debris that's already out there—is an average of 7 million tons of new trash dumped into the ocean each year. Solving this problem is going to require:

Local action, national and international coordination;

Unique partnerships between private and public sectors;

Innovative technology;

Education, Research and Prevention.

The NOAA Marine Debris Program has been achieving real successes at sea and on shore, for a modest amount of funding. But this program expired in 2010 and must be reauthorized. Over the past 5 years, funding has ranged from 3.2 million to 4.9 million dollars.

It is clear from the recent tsunami debris events—the boat off the coast of Washington and the dock washed ashore in Oregon—that the problem is growing. There is no doubt in my mind that the Marine Debris Program could effectively spend $10 million dollars a year—that is the magnitude of the problem. And that is what was authorized in 2006. As this bill moves through the legislative process, I hope we can bring up the funding levels. Most of these funds go to local communities in the form of grants for marine debris cleanup, education, research, and prevention efforts.

Mr. Speaker, NOAA's Marine Debris Program is leading the effort to address this growing problem proactively and I thank my colleagues for passing for H.R. 1171.

HONORING FLORENCE MURNEY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Florence Murney, a lifelong resident of Chicago, who is celebrating her 100th birthday.

Florence Murney née Klein was born on August 9, 1912, on the southwest side of Chicago where she has resided her entire life. Florence is the older of two daughters of Edward and Augusta Klein; her loving younger sister, Dorothy Buhe, recently celebrated her 98th birthday. Florence and her sister grew up in St. Raphael's Parish where they attended Catholic school and developed their lifelong devotion to the Catholic faith.

On May 22, 1937, Florence married Edward Murney at the historic St. Rita's Church. The married couple lived happily in the same apartment building in the Chicago Lawn neighborhood as Dorothy and her husband making sure that Dorothy's children would never be too far away from their beloved ''Auntie Florence.''

Florence worked as a jewelry and clothing saleswoman at several Chicago stores including Busch Jewelers, Bond's Clothing store, and O'Keefe's Men's Wear. During World War II, Florence served our country as a true ''Rosie the Riveter'' working in a plant that manufactured airplanes for the war effort.

In 1956, Florence and her husband moved to a house in the Mt. Greenwood neighborhood of Chicago where she still resides by herself with no assistance. Florence remains a devout parishioner at St. Christina's Church and is very involved with Catholic Charities.

Florence Murney is a beloved and cherished aunt, great aunt, and great-great aunt to 15 nieces and nephews. She is also the godmother to several people who are all honored to know her.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Florence Murney a happy 100th birthday, and to thank her for being such a great contributor to her community and our country.

HUDSON HIGHLANDS LAND TRUST AND THE WESTCHESTER LAND TRUST ACCREDITATION

HON. NAN A.S. HAYWORTH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the Hudson Highlands Land Trust and the Westchester Land Trust for receiving accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. Accreditation represents the highest standard of excellence in land conservation, and provides public recognition of land trusts that are engaged in the long-term protection of the land in the public interest.

As a supporter of legislation to make permanent the tax deductions for conservation easements, I am committed to working with organizations to promote responsible stewardship of our nation's most cherished natural resources. The Hudson Highlands Land Trust and the

Westchester Land Trust have played a crucial role in protecting the beauty of our Hudson Valley; preserving biodiversity; and keeping our air, water, and public lands for future generations to enjoy.

Congratulations to the Hudson Highlands Land Trust and Westchester Land trust for their dedication and leadership in conserving land for the people of New York, and may they continue to enjoy great success in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, July 31, 2012 I unfortunately missed three votes on account of travel delays due to weather at Reagan National Airport. I realize the importance of the votes I missed and therefore would like to state for the record how I would have voted on the three bills that were before the House of Representatives on Tuesday.

First, I would have supported S. 679, the Presidential Appointment Efficiency and Streamlining Act. S. 679 would seek to reduce the burdens and improve the efficiency of the appointment process for executive branch officials.

I would have supported H.R. 828, the Federal Employee Tax Accountability Act. H.R. 828 would prohibit individuals who have ''seriously delinquent'' tax debts from being eligible for federal employment in the executive and legislative branch.

Lastly, I would have supported H.R. 3803, the DC Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. As a co–sponsor of H.R. 3803, I whole heartedly support this measure that would prohibit abortion within the District after 20 weeks fetal age, unless the mother's life is endangered.

A TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF DOROTHY RUMSEY MILLER

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Dorothy Rumsey Miller, a lifelong resident of Contra Costa County and native of Richmond, California, who passed away on July 8, 2012, at the age of 97 years old, surrounded by her devoted family after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease.

Dorothy Rumsey Miller is survived by four children, including our distinguished colleague in the U.S. House of Representatives, her son Congressman GEORGE MILLER III of California's 7th Congressional District, his wife Cynthia and three exceptional daughters, Laura Miller of Martinez, Gretchen Miller of Martinez, and Kat Miller of Mexico; four wonderful grandchildren, George Miller IV (Wendy) of El Dorado Hills, Stephen Miller (Kathleen) of Lafayette, Michael D'Aloisio and Sam D'Aloisio (Barbara) of San Francisco and ten beautiful great-grandchildren and two nephews.

Dorothy Rumsey Miller was the daughter of Sea Captain John Rumsey and Laura Rumsey. She graduated from Richmond High School and attended the University of the Pacific.

She was an accomplished and dedicated artist, who for more than fifty years, painted with her Point Richmond artist group where her passion and love of arts and the water were expressed on her canvases.

As an entrepreneur she successfully opened and managed Rumsey's restaurant, and went on to be one of the proprietors of Mama's Mercantile, both in Martinez.

Dorothy was an avid reader of all books, including eastern and western spirituality. In her earlier days she volunteered at Loaves and Fishes, and the Special Olympics. As one of the original Women of the Waterfront, a group which helped develop the Martinez Waterfront Park, Dorothy's daily walks brought her great peace and solace throughout her life.

Dorothy's greatest joys were her children, her family, and her friends. The Miller home was always a safe haven and a warm gathering place for the young and old seeking her sage advice and loving ways. Through her wonderful wit, eccentricity, humor, counsel, and spirit she was able to share her wisdom and laughter with her children.

Dorothy was predeceased by her sister Laura Carey and her distinguished husband, State Senator George Miller Jr. who passed away in 1969, while serving California's 7th State Senate District. Senator Miller was a highly respected legislator, recognized for his warmth, vigor, vision, courage and tremendous accomplishments as Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join my colleagues—Leader NANCY PELOSI; Representative MIKE THOMPSON; Representative DORIS MATSUI; Representative LYNN WOOLSEY; Representative BARBARA LEE; Representative JOHN GARAMENDI; Representative JERRY MCNERNEY; Representative JACKIE SPEIER; Representative PETE STARK; Representative MIKE HONDA; Representative ZOE LOFGREN; Representative SAM FARR; Representative DENNIS CARDOZA; Representative JIM COSTA; Representative LOIS CAPPS; Representative BRAD SHERMAN; Representative HOWARD BERMAN; Representative ADAM SCHIFF; Representative HENRY WAXMAN; Representative XAVIER BECERRA; Representative JUDY CHU; Representative KAREN BASS; Representative LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD; Representative MAXINE WATERS; Representative JANICE HAHN; Representative LAURA RICHARDSON; Representative GRACE NAPOLITANO; Representative LINDA SÁNCHEZ; Representative JOE BACA; Representative LORETTA SANCHEZ; Representative BOB FILNER; and Representative SUSAN DAVIS—in extending our deepest condolences to Dorothy's children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nephews, and friends, as well as her caregivers who were so loving and dedicated to her over an extended period of time.

We celebrate Dorothy's life and her accomplishments, and we are proud to honor her memory in the House of the People. Our nation has lost a beloved citizen who made her community stronger and our country better.

HONORING SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN WEST TENNESSEE

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize schools in the Fayette County, Henry County, Hollow Rock-Bruceton, McKenzie Special, Milan Special, South Carroll County Special, and Union City districts. Each of these districts in West Tennessee earned the state's highest status of ''exemplary'' for their efforts to raise student growth and close achievements gaps during the 2011–2012 school year.

The Tennessee Department of Education recently received a federal waiver to replace the No Child Left Behind accountability system with its own. Tennessee's new accountability system recognizes students across the state have different needs and a one-size-fits-all approach doesn't always work. It measures growth and improvement based on a school's starting point of proficiency, rather than expecting all schools to meet specific proficiency targets each year.

To reach exemplary status under Tennessee's new accountability system, schools in the Fayette County, Henry County, Hollow Rock-Bruceton, McKenzie Special, Milan Special, South Carroll County Special, and Union City districts met the majority of their achievement and gap closure targets and ensured students moved forward or held steady in target areas. Attaining exemplary status shows these schools are truly making improvements and helping students learn.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I commend the teachers and staff of these school districts for their hard work and commitment to improving public education for all students in Tennessee. Please join me in congratulating them on their success and achievements.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE OF KRISTINE J. MICHALSON TO THE CONSTITUENTS OF COLORADO'S FIFTH DISTRICT

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, it is with mixed feelings that I announce the departure of a valued member of my staff, Kristine J. Michalson. Words are not adequate to express how much she will be missed.

For the past four years, Kristine has professionally and enthusiastically served the constituents of the Fifth Congressional District of Colorado as my Legislative Assistant and Press Secretary. She successfully handled her duties with a wealth of knowledge of the legislative and procedural processes. Her dedication and work ethic will be very difficult to replace.

Beginning her career on the Hill as my Staff Assistant and Deputy Press Secretary, she faithfully carried out her duties and was promoted to handle a variety of issue areas. She has particularly aided me in the area of Foreign Affairs, focusing on Israel and the Middle

East. Because I am co-chair of two Israel caucuses, she has coordinated various briefings and meetings on my behalf.

Kristine graduated from Grove City College in December, 2007 with a Bachelor of Arts in History and certification in Secondary Education Social Science.

She is the daughter of Richard and Berit Michalson of Ramsey, New Jersey, and is sister to Jacob and Andrew. She has worked hard for the people of Colorado. Her conservative and Christian values are needed today more than ever. So while I will miss her and her contribution greatly, I know that she will provide great service to our country in the future. I truly believe God will bless her in her future endeavors.

THE KEEP AMERICA SECURE ACT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to take a bold step to keep America secure and rebuild our domestic electronics sector. Today I am introducing the ''Keep America Secure Act,'' legislation that directs the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to only purchase electronic components that are manufactured in the United States. These electronic components—including computer chips, communications devices, and guidance systems—are used in crucial defense and homeland security equipment. This bill is the perfect complement to our ongoing efforts to enhance ''Buy American'' requirements and to ensure that all DoD and DHS equipment be Made-In-America.

If we are to maintain the most advanced military force, with the most advanced weaponry, we must have a dedicated stream of domestically produced parts. Regrettably, today this simply is not happening. Our armed forces dependence on foreign parts has major security ramifications. From missiles to computers, much of our crucial defense and homeland security equipment relies on sophisticated electronic components to function. We must act now to eliminate our reliance on foreign electronic components in our defense systems.

In May 2012 the Senate Armed Services Committee concluded a yearlong investigation that found a substantial increase in the number of counterfeit electronic parts used in the production of sensitive military equipment. The Committee noted, ''Our report outlines how this flood of counterfeit parts, overwhelmingly from China, threatens national security, the safety of our troops and American jobs.''

Furthermore, the SASC report found approximately 1,800 cases of counterfeit parts in U.S. Military Aircraft while noting that both defense contractors and the Department of Defense lack an adequate understanding of the depth and severity of the problem. My legislation will ensure that no counterfeit parts ever find their way into any U.S. military aircraft by requiring that these parts be made right here at home. And, for the first time, it will require the Federal Aviation Administration to formulate rules to ensure no counterfeit parts are making their way into passenger aircraft as well.

When Operation Iraqi Freedom began in March 2003, a Swiss company stopped shipments of a crucial guidance system component for U.S. smart bombs. Both these incidents could have resulted in U.S. forces being in harm's way without necessary tools to defend themselves. Fortunately, neither incident caused threats to our troops, but they clearly demonstrate the need to protect our production supply lines from being cut, especially in times of war.

Similarly, during the first Gulf War, the United States was forced to turn to Japan—not once, but on three separate occasions—for essential parts in the production of the Patriot Missile.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, as one who is very concerned about the state of domestic manufacturing, I strongly believe that the Keep America Secure Act will help re-ignite our high-tech sector. Between 2000 and 2010 the United States lost more than 5 million manufacturing jobs.

The Keep America Secure Act would help promote the remaining U.S. high tech firms. We need to rebuild the domestic electronic components industry, and this bill will help us do it.

We have spent the last ten years rebuilding Iraq and Afghanistan while continuing to neglect our weakening manufacture sector here at home. Congress must make a commitment to rebuilding our domestic manufacturing base and to ensuring that our courageous defenders continue to have the best equipment available. And as our economy suffers, let us give the manufacturing sector a needed shot in the arm. Unless Congress stands up and puts a halt to it we will eventually be at the mercy of any adversary who controls the manufacturing of our weapons or the critical components of our weapons.

Mr. Speaker, in the days to come, I will look to my like-minded friends, on both sides of the aisle, and say to my colleagues: let's work together to keep America secure.

INTRODUCING TRANSPARENCY FOR LETHAL CONTROL ACT

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Transparency for Lethal Control Act (TLC), legislation requiring the United States Department of Agriculture to publish clear and accessible information on animals killed through the Wildlife Services program of the Animal Health and Inspection Service.

The Wildlife Services program is responsible for intervening in situations when an animal is considered a threat or serious nuisance to humans. In some cases, animals are killed to fulfill this mission.

Efforts to gather adequate information regarding Wildlife Services operations have been difficult. The USDA has not made detailed data available to the public relating to where, why, how, and which animals have been killed. This lack of transparency and public reporting makes oversight impossible. The USDA could be acting inappropriately or recklessly and without this data, we can't know. That is why I am introducing legislation to require the USDA to publish kill data online by state, county (or other similar political subdivision), and municipality.

The killing of animals should not be a routine or reflexive government response. It should only be undertaken, if at all, after careful deliberation and under strict supervision. For that reason, the public and Congress need to have the opportunity for vigorous oversight to ensure that the USDA is acting appropriately and considering all cheaper and more humane alternatives.

Congress must improve oversight of the Wildlife Services program and ensure that the USDA is using tax dollars efficiently and appropriately. I urge passage of the Transparency for Lethal Control Act (TLC).

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PAIN-CAPABLE UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to applaud, yes applaud, my Republican colleagues, who voted this week with the Democrats to reject the anti-choice legislation H.R. 3803 D.C., the 20 Week Abortion Ban Bill. This bill was rejected by a vote of 220 to 154.

Had it passed, H.R. 3803 would have contained no exception for rape or incest, for medically futile pregnancies, or for the health of the woman—forcing pregnant women facing medical complications to wait until their conditions become life-threatening before termination of the pregnancy becomes an option. Additionally, under this piece of legislation, doctors could face two years in prison and fines of up to $250,000 for performing abortions and could be sued by their patients or their patients' families.

This bill would have not only harmed women, but also is unconstitutional since this legislation absolutely goes against current law as established in 1973 by Roe v. Wade. Herein lies the irony of the bill, Republicans, especially those who are members of the Tea Party, constantly espouse their support and respect for the law, yet they conveniently forget the fact that Roe v. Wade is the law of the land. Trying to circumvent that law, which this bill attempted to do, is in fact unconstitutional.

My colleague Delegate ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, who is the only duly elected representative for Washington, D.C. in Congress, was even denied an opportunity to testify during a hearing on this bill. Even the Republicans know that this bill is a travesty of justice!

No matter what a person believes about abortion, everyone can agree that we should reduce the number of unintended pregnancies and the need for abortions. Abortion should be a last option, not a form of birth control. In order to reduce the demand for abortion, we must provide our children with comprehensive sex education and access to safe and affordable health care and birth control.

Since the Republicans want to deny women their right to choose, why not do something so

that most women will not have to be put in a situation where they have to choose. So, I ask my Republican colleagues to join me in supporting the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, which will provide the needed access to affordable health care and contraceptives and in doing so, not put women in the position where they have to consider abortion.

HONORING NEW JERSEY'S PROUD AGRICULTURAL TRADITION AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF FARMS LOCATED IN THE 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize New Jersey's proud agricultural tradition and the contribution of farms located in our 11th Congressional District.

The prospering agricultural industry of today's New Jersey is the continuation of many years of farming dating back to colonial settlement in the sixteenth century. Primarily a rural society, struggling settlers developed small family farms to stave off starvation. Soon local farms not only became an important source of fruits, vegetables, and grain, but also for raw materials used for the prospering textile industry. Easy access to cotton, wool, and other farm products fueled the Industrial Revolution in New Jersey. Agriculture became not only a very profitable industry on its own, but also fed secondary manufacturing and merchant businesses.

Every day, farmers across the state raise animals, harvest vegetables, pick fruit, and participate in the 400 year old tradition that built New Jersey into an economic powerhouse.

Today, New Jersey agriculture constitutes an $82 billion industry that provides a strong backbone for New Jersey's economy. It also benefits surrounding businesses with the growing popularity of agrotourism. This extremely successful business model involves enticing people from near and far to visit, learn about everyday farm-life, and participate in activities such pumpkin, wine tasting, hay rides, petting zoos, or horseback riding. This not only brings customers from the surrounding tri-state area to appreciate what New Jersey has to offer, but also fosters a greater public understanding of commercial farming. New Jersey's large agricultural sector provides employment, not only for farm workers, but also for those in construction for irrigation and drainage projects. This multibillion dollar industry supports New Jersey, providing jobs and raw materials, drawing in customers, and serving as its own lucrative business.

New Jersey truly is the Garden State, as our motto says. Having a strong agricultural industry not only provides a great deal of economic benefits to New Jersey, but also contributes to a rich social tapestry. There are over 790,000 acres of lands across the state devoted to farmland. This has been celebrated as an extremely environmentally friendly use of land that preserves both a smaller carbon footprint and the beautiful greenery characteristic of New Jersey. In a world where food insecurity remains one of the most difficult problems for mankind to combat, thriving agriculture reduces the acuteness of this issue and diminishes our dependence on food imports. This land also provides access to fresh, locally grown foods, giving residents in the area healthier meal options. The agricultural industry is unparalleled in its contributions to New Jersey society, providing jobs, tourism, environmental protection, food security, raw materials for manufacturing, and so much more.

Standing as a shining example of New Jersey's proud agricultural tradition is Wightman's Farms, located in Harding Township, Morris County. Celebrating their 90th Anniversary this year, Wightman's Farms has worked continuously to expand what began as a farm into the prospering business it is today. The farm is one of over 8,000 other family owned and operated farms in New Jersey that support their local and state economy. Currently managed by the third generation of Wightmans, the integration of tradition and innovation has certainly helped Wightman's Farms not only last the test of time, but develop into a flourishing business enjoyed by customers near and far.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing New Jersey's agricultural tradition and the contributions of 11th District farmers.

RECOGNIZING THE PORT OF SEATTLE FOR RECEIVING THE 2012 SECRETARY OF DEFENSE EMPLOYER SUPPORT FREEDOM AWARD

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Port of Seattle for receiving the 2012 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The Port of Seattle is one of just fifteen employers across the country to receive this honor.

Each year, the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, an agency of the Department of Defense, awards employers with their annual Freedom Award. This is the Department of Defense's highest recognition awarded to employers for their exceptional support of Guard and Reserve employees. More than 3,000 nominations from Guardsmen and Reservists, or their family members on their behalf, were submitted and the Port of Seattle distinguished themselves among all the nominees.

A Naval Reservist nominated the Port of Seattle because of the Port's focus on hiring military members and veterans, as well as for their participation in the military's Transition Assistance Program. Twenty percent of the Port's employees have served in the military and the Port has started a fellowship program to help returning service members transition from active duty to the civilian workforce. The Port of Seattle's efforts at employing Guardsmen and Reservists serves as a model for other port districts that are establishing programs to hire more service members.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I honor the Port of Seattle for their superb treatment of Guard and Reserve employees. The Defense Employer Support Freedom Award is a well-deserved honor.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE ELENA PARENT

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Georgia State Representative Elena Parent on the occasion of her retirement from the Georgia General Assembly. In her short time in the Georgia State House, Elena has made a profound impact on the Georgia Legislature, and I know that she will be missed by her constituents from the 81st District.

Outside of public office, Elena is incredibly involved in the Metro Atlanta community, currently serving on the Foundation Board of the Georgia Association of Women Lawyers, the Advisory Board of Directors of It's a Journey, Inc., and the Women and Minorities in the Profession Committee of the State Bar of Georgia. She has also conducted fundraising and development efforts for HOPE Atlanta, a homelessness-prevention non-profit. I commend her for such meaningful service to the people of Georgia.

Elena recently announced that she will begin working as the Executive Director of Georgia Watch, a consumer advocacy group, at the end of her term this year. Having already received numerous awards for her leadership, including inclusion in the Atlanta Business Cronicle's "40 Under 40," Elena is an excellent choice for this position, and I look forward to hearing of her successes in the future.

I wish Elena, her husband, Briley, and their son, Brooks, the very best.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE OF AUTUMN M. LEVA TO THE CONSTITUENTS OF COLORADO'S FIFTH DISTRICT

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, it is with mixed emotions that I announce the departure of a valued member of my staff, Autumn M. Leva.

Autumn has served in my Washington D.C. office for the past year and a half, first as our Staff Assistant and most recently as my Executive Assistant, Scheduler, and Legislative Aide. She has successfully handled her duties with a wealth of knowledge of the legislative and procedural processes. Her dedication and work ethic will be very difficult to replace.

A longtime resident of Colorado's fifth Congressional District and a graduate of Salida High School, Autumn received her Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education with a minor in Spanish from the University of Montana in 2007 and went on to receive her Juris Doctor from Regent University School of Law in 2010. She is the daughter of Kathy Messick of Salida, Colorado and sister to Shane Leva.

Autumn's sparkling personality, enthusiastic can-do attitude, and team-player mentality will be truly missed. However, it is her love for the Lord that will be most remembered by myself

and her colleagues. Always ready with an encouraging word, Autumn harnessed her passion for the law and traditional Christian values by handing the legislative portfolio of values issues. As her zeal for these issues deepened, she felt the Lord calling her to serve in this capacity fulltime and so she will serve as spokeswoman for the Minnesota for Marriage campaign this fall.

Autumn has worked hard for the people of Colorado. Her conservative and Christian values are needed today more than ever. So while I will miss her greatly, I know God will bless her in her future endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LOUISBURG COLLEGE

HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Louisburg College on their 225th anniversary as an institution of higher learning.

Throughout its tenure, Louisburg College has continued to prosper and educate students during its 225 years, attracting students from 42 states and 15 countries.

In four different centuries, students from Louisburg College have excelled in many areas of our economy, including business, government, politics, education, sports, and the military. Today Louisburg College has over 700 students and nearly 14,000 alumni.

I thank those who have played a role in the success of Louisburg College and join the administration, faculty, students, alumni, Town of Louisburg, and the County of Franklin in celebrating the 225th anniversary of Louisburg College.

May God continue to bless Louisburg College, the students, teachers, and families that make it a great place to learn.

HONORING PEDRO LUIS RUSTAN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American Hero, a man whose focus, drive, intellect and leadership were responsible for spawning innovative systems that have saved lives and ensured the security of our great nation.

Pedro Luis Rustan, known as ''Pete'' to all within the Intelligence Community, was an extraordinary American. His passing leaves a void within the Intelligence Community and for all his family and friends.

Pete may not have appreciated my remarks because he was never concerned about who received the credit, only that the job was done. However, he was a man who was grateful for the gifts that God gave him and he could think of no greater use for these gifts than service of the Nation that had blessed him and his family with freedom.

Pete was born in 1946 in a small city 40 miles from the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay. In August 1967, he made a dramatic escape from Communist Cuba with his father, two sisters, and brother-in-law. They fled to a railway, climbed inside a railroad boxcar and jumped from the moving train as it approached the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo. Pete and his family swam and waded through a snake-infested swamp before reaching multiple tall security fences topped with barbed wire. Pete carried his younger sister on his back over the fences. After being picked up by a Navy patrol craft they sought and received political asylum.

In the early 1970s Pete studied electrical engineering at the Illinois Institute of Technology, and was quickly drafted into the Air Force. In the Air Force he served first as an enlisted man, and then successfully completed Officer Candidate School, becoming a U.S. Air Force officer. He eventually went on to graduate school at the University of Florida, from which he received a doctorate in electrical engineering in 1979.

During his 26-year career with the U.S. Air Force, Pete ran several advanced technology space programs and was mission manager for a joint NASA—Defense Department project, the Clementine mission, a small, low-cost spacecraft that made history by mapping the surface of the Moon and discovering ice at its south pole. Daniel Golden, a former NASA director, said that Pete always ''seemed to take on things that were impossible.'' He retired from the Air Force in 1997 with the rank of colonel but continued to deliver intelligence systems that accomplished the seemingly impossible with National Security technical systems.

After retiring from the Air Force, Pete consulted on commercial space ventures and for federal intelligence agencies. He was on an advisory board that recommended changes at the National Security Agency, one of the country's largest intelligence agencies. As Michael V. Hayden, a former director of the National Security Agency said of Pete, ''He was hands-down the most valuable member of that board. He was creative. He was energetic. He was candid without ever being caustic or unkind.''

After the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Pete returned to the government, leading research efforts in satellite reconnaissance for the Defense and Intelligence Communities. He held numerous positions at the National Reconnaissance Organization, NRO, including Director of the Advanced Systems and Technology Directorate, Director of the Ground Enterprise Directorate, Director of Small Satellite Development and most recently, Director of the NRO's Mission Support Directorate. He retired from the NRO officially in October 2011. In each instance he enhanced the capability of the organization and demonstrated his well earned reputation as a technical innovator and advocate of streamlined acquisition principles in space programs. He was a true asset to the NRO and to our country.

Pete contributed to improving the world outside of work as well. He personally led missions to a small impoverished town in Honduras where he provided shoes, developed aqueducts and tilapia fish farms. In his private and personal life he also was one who accomplished the seemingly impossible.

On June 28, Pedro ''Pete'' Rustan lost his battle with cancer but won his eternal reward after 65 vibrant years, passing away at his home in Woodbridge, Virginia. He is survived by his wife, Alexandra, and children, Peter and Amy. He leaves behind a legacy of intelligence systems and people whom he mentored to continue to achieve the seemingly impossible in his memory. He will be greatly missed in the Intelligence Community and by the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

RECOGNIZING HARCUM COLLEGE'S NONPROFIT BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Harcum College of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania on receiving the Nonprofit Business of the Year Award from the Main Line Chamber of Commerce.

Harcum College is an outstanding, independent, two-year, co-educational college that seeks to prepare students for meaningful careers by offering majors in over twenty disciplines. Enrollment has risen over 70% in the past six years, reaching new levels every semester since 2009, and is currently at a record high of 1,615 students. Harcum employs 140 full-time faculty and works with many organizations on the Main Line, including the Main Line Chamber of Commerce, the Red Cross, Main Line First Fridays, Montgomery County Dental Association, and the Shriners.

Harcum has been the recipient of over $1.3 million in federal funding over the past five years which has been used to update and improve classrooms, technology, student programs, and training for secondary school teachers. And Harcum College has been a Main Line Chamber member for almost 60 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating Harcum College of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania on receiving the Nonprofit Business of the Year Award from the Main Line Chamber of Commerce.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ED BRIDGES, DIRECTOR OF THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Ed C. Bridges, longtime Director of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, which is the oldest state archives agency in the United States. After 30 years of service in this position, Dr. Bridges will be retiring at the end of the current fiscal year.

Dr. Bridges is a graduate of Furman University, where he achieved both the Woodrow Wilson and Danforth Fellowships. He went on to receive his Masters and Doctorate in History from the University of Chicago. This fervent pursuit of knowledge eventually translated into a lifelong career.

Before holding his current position as Director, Dr. Bridges wore many hats in the academic world; including, teaching at the high school level in South Carolina, teaching at the

collegiate level at the Georgia Institute of Technology, doing contract research at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and serving six years at the Georgia Department of Archives.

Outside of his academic work, Dr. Bridges has also participated in numerous state and community activities. He has served as President of the Alabama Historical Association, as a member of the Alabama Historical Commission, on the Governor's Mansion Advisory Board, and many more. He received the Alabama Humanities Foundation's Annual Humanities Award and was inducted into the College of Communications Hall of Fame at the University of Alabama. Dr. Bridges expertise is also recognized beyond the State of Alabama, having represented the United States in archival exchanges with both the former Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China, and as vice chairman of the Information Policy Task Force of State Governments.

Ed Bridges embodies the very best qualities of a true scholar, one who knows that knowledge means nothing without the will to pass it on to others and to future generations. Dr. Bridges has done this and more though his outstanding career.

On behalf of the people of Alabama and my colleagues in the Alabama Delegation, I would like to extend my personal appreciation to Dr. Bridges for his service to Alabama's past, present, and future through his stewardship and tremendous leadership of the Alabama Department of Archives and History. I would like to wish him, his wife Martha and their family the very best in their future endeavors.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PAIN-CAPABLE UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN QUAYLE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Mr. QUAYLE. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week the House voted on H.R. 3803, the District of Columbia Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act that was introduced by my colleague from Arizona, Representative TRENT FRANKS. This bill would generally prohibit abortions, except in cases where the mother is at risk, 20 weeks after fertilization, the point at which studies have shown an unborn child has the capacity to feel pain.

I strongly believe that we have a moral obligation to protect life and defend those who cannot defend themselves. Recognizing the gruesome nature of late stage abortions, nine states, including my home State of Arizona, have enacted laws to restrict this procedure.

While I'm disappointed that we failed to secure the two-thirds vote necessary to pass H.R. 3803 this week, I was heartened that a majority of my colleagues in the House stood to protect the unborn. This week's vote has only strengthened my resolve to continue to advocate for pro-life polices to hasten the day when all life is valued and treated as a gift.

HONORING JACQUES ALEXANDER MARQUIS MATTHEWS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable 22-year-old young man from Shaw, Mississippi. Jacques Alexander Marquis Matthews has answered the call of duty to his country and is currently serving as an active soldier in the Mississippi National Guard stationed in Afghanistan.

Specialist Matthews comes from a lineage filled with military servicemen and women. His paternal grandfather, Mr. William Carter, is a Vietnam Veteran who served in the United States Air Force; his maternal uncle, Mr. James Attaway, served in the United States Marines; and his mother, Ramona Matthews, had just enlisted in the United States Army when she learned she was pregnant with her first child, Jacques.

Specialist Matthews was raised in a single parent home by his mother, Ramona, along with his two younger brothers, Chauncey and Malik. Specialist Matthews understood the pain of his mother as she struggled to provide for them and the reproach of his grandparents, William and Alicestean Carter and Susie Matthews. As his mother's oldest child, much was expected of him and he wanted to fulfill those expectations. But like many other young men, what appears to be quick and easy was tempting. And sometimes he was prey to those temptations. In fact he said and I quote, "my mother was more determined than me—for me to succeed. So, she snatched me from that wrong path and told me my life had three paths it could take and I had to choose one right then, college, military, or she was going to commit a homicide and that's all I needed to know. Needless to say, I chose the military."

Mr. Speaker, Specialist Matthews has a litany of highlights during his military career including:

2008 Year. Specialist Matthews enlisted in the Mississippi National Guard.

August 2008–October 2008. Specialist Matthews did his basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

October 2008. Specialist Matthews completed his basic training. He was recognized during graduation for having scored a perfect 300 on the physical fitness portion of the training.

July 10, 2010–July 31, 2010. Specialist Matthews was a member of the 2089th Vertical Company, 223rd Engineer Battalion. He received the Army Achievement Medal for his Superior and Unflagging Support of his unit.

November 6, 2010. Specialist Matthews was honored with the Commanders Award for scoring 297 on the Annual Army Physical Fitness Test while he was a member of the 223rd Engineer Battalion.

November 7, 2010. Specialist Matthews while in the 168th Engineer Brigade received the Silver Castle Challenge Certificate of Achievement for having completed the Army Physical Fitness test with a score of 297. He was recognized for distinguishing himself by his excellent conditioning. He is truly to be commended for the accomplishment and deserving of the recognition for his sacrifice and self-discipline.

May 2011. Specialist Matthews was in the 2089th Vertical Construction Company when he was honored with the Army Meritorious Achievement Medal for his selfish service, loyalty and honor, dedication and integrity as an example for all to follow for his significant contribution to the success of his unit and the Mississippi Army National Guard.

October 2011–November 2011. Specialist Matthews received the Meritorious Service Award in recognition of his superior physical ability during the annual training while assigned to Detachment 1 of the 2089th Vertical Construction Company.

May 7, 2012. Specialist Matthews' unit, the 289th Vertical Construction Company, 223rd Engineer Battalion was activated to Afghanistan.

I want Specialist Matthews' story to serve as a one of encouragement to those who think there is no hope for change and to those who prejudge someone because of their circumstances. Specialist Matthews has expressed great interest in building an exciting career in the military answering the call at home and abroad whenever and wherever he is needed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Specialist Jacques Alexander Marquis Matthews, from the Second Congressional District of Mississippi, now serving as a member of the Mississippi National Guard currently stationed in Afghanistan. As he so proudly represents the United States, I too am proud to represent him as a Member of Congress. I wish him a continued rewarding military career and a safe return home to the United States.

ON INTRODUCING THE PCIP IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2012

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the PCIP Improvement Act of 2012, a bill that will make much needed improvements to the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan (PCIP) program, created by the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

As you know, the ACA prohibits insurance companies from refusing to sell coverage or renew policies because of a person's pre-existing condition. While the provision already affects children up to 19 years of age, it will only apply to adults in January 2014. In the meantime, adults with a pre-existing condition can get coverage through the PCIP program, a temporary high-risk pool which has helped over 50,000 previously uninsured individuals get coverage.

While I have always been a strong supporter of this important program, I believe that some improvements need to be made in order to make it a success. Indeed, enrollment has been significantly lower than initial projections, which varied from 200,000 to 375,000. One of the biggest obstacles for enrollment in the program is a Congressional mandate requiring that individuals applying for PCIP coverage have not had creditable insurance coverage during the 6 months prior to the date they

apply to the program. Since the program's inception in July 2010, 69 percent of applications have been denied because individuals had creditable coverage within 6 months of applying.

While well-intentioned, this wait period has shown adverse effects by incentivizing people with pre-existing conditions to go uninsured for 6 months to qualify for the program. Individuals who lost their health insurance through no fault of their own and can no longer find coverage must wait 6 months to apply, thus exposing themselves to high out-of-pocket medical costs and unnecessary health risks. Unfortunately, because they go without insurance for such an extended period of time, they enter the program with a need for immediate care and cost more to the program.

Furthermore, considering mini medical plans as creditable coverage also encourages individuals to go with absolutely no coverage for 6 months in order to apply to PCIP. Mini medical plans are basic plans that may pay for portions of a doctor's visit or prescription drug, but do not provide catastrophic coverage or enough benefits for people with pre-existing conditions. Individuals who choose to obtain such a plan within 6 months of applying for PCIP to limit their medical liabilities will no longer be eligible for the program.

Such a misfortune happened to one of my constituents who lost his health insurance when he lost his job and has been denied coverage because of a pre-existing condition since then. In June 2010, he received limited coverage through a mini medical plan that did not cover his pre-existing condition. When he applied to PCIP in September 2011, his application was denied because he had such plan within 6 months of applying. The only way for him to qualify was to go completely uninsured for 6 months. I cannot, in good conscience, advise my constituents in need of immediate care to wait 6 months to seek medical coverage.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will address these serious issues by eliminating the 6-month wait period and excluding mini medical plans from creditable coverage. My bill will bring us on step closer to ensuring accessible, affordable, and quality health care for all Americans. I urge my colleagues to help make PCIP a more successful program by supporting this important legislation.

HONORING DR. ROBERT LIGHTFOOT, RECIPIENT OF THE SAMUEL BUFORD WORD AWARD

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Robert Dickson Lightfoot, for being awarded the Samuel Buford Word Award. This is the highest award given by the Medical Association of the State of Alabama in recognition of service to humanity beyond the usual scope of medical practice.

Dr. Lightfoot is a fourth-generation physician who graduated with honors from the University of Alabama School of Medicine in 1981 and completed a general and vascular surgery residency at the University of Kentucky Medical Center in 1986. He later returned to school receiving a Bachelors of Science in Psychology in 1997.

After participating in several medical mission trips to Central and South America, Dr. Lightfoot and his wife, Tami, realized a need for affordable, quality primary adult health care in their own community. Out of this need, Dr. Lightfoot founded Victory Health Partners in Mobile, Alabama, in 2000 and began seeing patients in 2003 with incomes less than 300 percent of the federal poverty line.

What began as an act of faith by one physician and his wife has now turned into a fully functional partnership involving hundreds of volunteers, medical providers, and churches. The clinic has grown from seeing 12 patients on its first day in 2003, to serving more than 18,000 in this past year. The clinic's patients come over 20 counties in Alabama, eight in Mississippi, and four in Northwest Florida. In the past decade, Dr. Lightfoot has seen Victory Health Partners expand to offer dental and eye care, as well as wound care and diabetic classes for adults.

Dr. Lightfoot has devoted his life to medicine and providing healthcare to the needy. Through his brilliant acts of generosity, faith, and dedication to his community, Dr. Lightfoot is an accomplished physician who has earned the respect of his patients, staff and colleagues.

On behalf of the people of Alabama and my colleagues in the Alabama Delegation, I wish to extend a personal thank you and congratulations to Dr. Lightfoot on his monumental achievement and selfless acts of generosity for the people of South Alabama and surrounding areas. May God continue to be bless him, his staff and all those they serve.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PAIN-CAPABLE UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3803, the District of Columbia Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. Although nine other states have passed similar abortion bans, this is the first attempt to pass a law of this kind on a federal level. However, even the nine state laws include at least a narrow exception to protect women's health. This bill unfairly singles out the District of Columbia, but more importantly it lacks any health exceptions to the ban. Pregnancy can become dangerous, sometimes even life-threatening. This bill fails to provide women with necessary health exceptions to save their lives or their ability to have children in the future.

In addition to not protecting women who are pregnant, H.R. 3803 fails to provide exceptions in instances of rape or incest, even when it involves young girls. About 25,000 women become pregnant due to rape each year and about 30 percent of rape cases involve women under 18. This bill falls short in providing the necessary protections for these women.

I would have voted against H.R. 3803. Unfortunately my plane was delayed due to weather coming in to Washington, DC, causing me to miss the vote. I have been a strong supporter for women's health in the past and I plan to continue to do so.

COMMENDING THE FIRST GRADUATING CLASS OF NORTH HUNTERDON HIGH SCHOOL

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the first graduating class of North Hunterdon Regional High School in Hunterdon County, New Jersey. The class of 1952 celebrates its 60th anniversary this year.

As a graduate of North Hunterdon Regional High School and as the Representative for New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District, I have had the honor to observe the growth and expansion of the school's educational excellence. North Hunterdon continues to excel as one of our Nation's top high schools. In 2002, the Department of Education awarded North Hunterdon the Blue Ribbon of Academic Excellence Award and it was recently highly ranked by the Washington Post.

The class of 1952 began an outstanding tradition of academic achievement at North Hunterdon Regional High School that has continued for sixty years. I am proud to honor my alma mater and I thank the first graduating class for commencing these celebrations.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF EMMA SHAW

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask Congress to congratulate Emma Shaw, a beloved and respected community member of San Bernardino, who is celebrating her 100th Birthday on August 9, 2012.

Born in Tallulah, Louisiana, Emma was raised and began her education in Louisiana where she attended Madison Parish Training School. During her schooling, she met her future husband George Shaw, whom she married on February 6, 1933.

Emma and George Shaw lived in Tallulah for nine years, until moving to Las Vegas, Nevada, in 1942 in search of a better life for their family. Two years later, in 1944, the family moved to San Bernardino, California, where the Shaw family has resided since.

In San Bernardino, George Shaw worked hard as a construction worker, and was also the only African American barber in San Bernardino for many years. Emma worked as a housekeeper to help provide for her 11 children. Although times were tough and money was tight, Emma always found extra time and resources to give back to her community and those in need.

Since moving to San Bernardino, Emma and her family have been active members at the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, and later the Greater New Jerusalem Church of God in Christ. Emma is known for her kindness and generosity; all who know Emma affectionately call her ''Mother Shaw''. Emma

often shares her wealth of experiences that she gained over the years in order to educate and pass on her wisdom to the younger generations.

I wish Emma the best as she celebrates her 100th Birthday with a large family gathering on August 11, 2012. Her 8 living children, 45 grandchildren, 87 great grandchildren, and 9 great-great grandchildren will join Emma in celebrating this monumental milestone. My congratulations go out to Emma, along with those of my wife, Barbara, and my children, Rialto Councilman Joe Baca Jr., Jeremy, Natalie, and Jennifer. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating a beloved community member, Emma Shaw.

EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program has been an invaluable source of funding for state and local law enforcement jurisdictions across the country, including in my district. Without this broad-based source of funding, safety in our communities would suffer. This invaluable grant program supports a wide range of areas including from crime prevention and education to technology improvements for police departments.

In addition, the Byrne JAG Program provides resources for body armor, an area that I highlighted during action on H.R. 6062 in the Judiciary Committee, of which I am a Member. The grant program allows local law enforcement agencies and other grantees to purchase equipment, which can include bulletproof and stab-resistant vests. Although the Bureau of Justice Assistance (''BJA'') is not required to track body armor purchases with Byrne JAG funds, according to a Government Accountability Office (GAO) study released in February of this year, roughly 14 percent of grantees surveyed had used JAG funds to buy body armor in 2010.

Without a doubt, personal body armor plays a critical role in saving law enforcement officers from disabilities and death. As a matter of fact, FBI data shows that the risk of death for officers who did not wear body armor was 14 times greater than those who did. Despite this finding, the Bureau of Justice Statistics estimates that only 71% of local police departments require field officers to wear body armor at least some of the time, while only 59% of departments require the officers to wear protective armor at all times. The benefits from wearing body armor are evident, and yet . . . many departments still don't require it.

Recently, the U.S. Attorney General instituted a new requirement for Fiscal Year 2011 grantees seeking matching funds from the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Act (BVPA)—grantees now need to have mandatory body armor wear policies in place. This means that uniformed officers on patrol are required to wear a protective vest. Unfortunately, this same mandate is not included in the Byrne JAG program.

This is why I proposed an amendment in Committee—similar to an amendment proposed to the BVPA reauthorization by Senator GRASSLEY, Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and accepted by that Committee—that would have unified this mandatory wear policy and extended it to the Byrne JAG program. Chairman SMITH graciously noted his willingness to work with me on this front, and so I agreed to withdraw my amendment, but the issue is still worth mentioning on the floor since it is such an important issue. I welcome the interest of any of my colleagues who would also like to work with me on ensuring the extension of mandatory wear policies for body armor to additional federal grantees.

I highlighted another issue when proposing my amendment in the Judiciary Committee, which is body armor fit—an issue that concerns all law enforcement officers, but particularly the growing number of women in law enforcement. According to Bureau of Justice Statistics, the number of women in local law enforcement grew from 7.6% in 1987 to 12% in 2007. In 2007, women accounted for 18% of sworn officers in 12 of the 13 largest local police departments.

The need for properly fitted body armor for women is extremely important. Much of the armor currently offered is designed for male officers and simply does not take into account the anatomical differences. This of course leads to poor fit and discomfort. Fit issues also apply to male officers, who we know also come in different shapes and sizes. And whenever officers put on body armor that is not properly fitted, they are exposing themselves to greater harm since they are not as protected as they could be.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police/DuPont Kevlar Survivors' Club (Survivors' Club) has documented more than 3,150 saves from disability or death by wearing of or use of protective body armor. As noted in a July 19th letter to me from Retired Police Chief Ron McBride, Program Manager for Survivors' Club, ''It is appropriate to ensure that taxpayers' dollars expended on providing body armor results in consistent wear of an issued vest. Protective body armor left in an officer's locker provides zero protection. Unique fit is essential to optimizing protection. A well fitted armor provides best coverage of an officer's torso and is more comfortable to wear. These two issues equate to enhanced officer safety.''

This is why the second part of my amendment offered in committee would have required that body armor purchased with Byrne JAG funding be uniquely fitted to each officer, including female officers.

The issue of properly fitted body armor should not be taken lightly when considering the overall safety of law enforcement officers. Body armor saves lives, but only if it fits properly and is worn by officers. I look forward to continuing to work with the Chairman, Ranking Member CONYERS, and other interested Members in these areas.

REMEMBERING CARL STEPHENS, THE VOICE OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I note the passing of a beloved South Alabama broadcaster and familiar voice of Auburn University football. Mr. Carl Stephens passed away August 1, 2012, at the age of 77.

A native Alabamian, Carl Stephens was attracted to sports and broadcasting early in life, taking the mic as a sportscaster at the age of ten in his native Gadsden. He later served as student manager of the college radio station while at the University of Alabama. After graduation, Carl Stephens began his television career with WSFA–TV in Montgomery, which spanned from 1957 to 1998.

His booming, pleasant voice and professional over-the-air delivery were for decades synonymous with WSFA News. However, for many Alabamians he was best known as host of a popular children's cartoon show in the late 1950s and co-anchor of the Auburn Football Review for many years.

As Sports Director at WSFA–TV in Montgomery from 1963–75, Carl Stephens served as the producer and host of Coach Ralph ''Shug'' Jordan's weekly television show where the popular Auburn phrase, ''You're so right, Carl,'' was born. Following Carl Stephens' opening comments of each show, Coach Jordan would respond with, ''You're so right, Carl.''

Along with his duties as host of the Auburn Football Review and responsibilities at Jordan-Hare Stadium, Mr. Stephens also served as the PA announcer at Auburn basketball and baseball games and as the voice of the Auburn Marching Band at football games.

In addition to his work for Auburn, Mr. Stephens was the public address voice for the first 15 Southeastern Conference Football Championship games, 14 SEC Basketball Tournaments and six SEC Baseball Tournaments. Mr. Stephens also did public address work for NCAA Basketball Tournament games in Birmingham.

Prior to the 1973 Auburn football season, Mr. Stephens was asked to take on additional responsibility with Auburn as its public address announcer at the old Cliff Hare Stadium. Mr. Stephens held the PA duties at Auburn football for three seasons before moving to Columbia, S.C., to serve as Program Director for WIS–TV for two years.

Carl Stephens returned to Montgomery in 1978 as Program/Promotions Manager for WSFA and resumed his PA duties at Jordan-Hare Stadium for the 1979 Auburn football season, which he has held ever since.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Alabama, I wish to extend condolences to his wife, Mary, son Richard, daughter Sandra and entire family. Carl will be missed.

HONORING JUDGE JOSEPH P. CRONIN JR.

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a great American, legal scholar and friend—Judge Joseph P. Cronin, Jr. Judge Cronin has shown a lifelong commitment to public service and to Delaware County, Pennsylvania. Judge Cronin first served his nation as a Marine and following law school he joined the District Attorney's Office in Delaware County where he prosecuted cases in the Juvenile Court. Following his service as a prosecutor, he went on to become Partner at the law firm of Cronin, Emuryan and Breen. Although in private practice at the time, Judge Cronin still remained dedicated to the community by serving his township as commissioner.

On November 5, 1991 Judge Cronin was elected to his first 10-year term to the Delaware County Court of Common Pleas. During these years as a trial Judge he earned a reputation as a fair-minded and wise jurist. Judge Cronin was retained for a second term and in January 2008 he was elected President Judge by the 19-member Board of Judges to serve a five-year term. In that role, Judge Cronin showed tremendous skill in leading a busy Court System with significant responsibilities. Recently, Judge Cronin was instrumental in helping Delaware County establish a veteran's treatment court to aid those heroes who now suffer from substance abuse and mental illness. Judge Cronin will retire from his position on the Court of Common Pleas on August 31, 2012.

Judge Joseph Cronin's service to Delaware County has been invaluable and he has our enduring gratitude. I join the citizens of Delaware County and the 7th Congressional District in wishing him and his family the best for the future.

RECOGNIZING MARK JOHNSON

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mark Johnson, the first African-American in history to capture both a World Flyweight and Super Flyweight championship twice in his career. Also known as ''Too Sharp,'' Mr. Johnson was a top pound-for-pound fighter during his sixteen-year career from 1990 to 2006. He perfected finesse, power, and speed. Attesting to his athleticism, his perseverance, and his well-developed skills, Johnson attained twenty-one knockouts before his matches made it to the fourth round.

Mr. Johnson had more than execution; he had an array of intangibles that set him apart from the rest of his profession. In his pursuits, Mr. Johnson left his natural division to take a Super Flyweight title and then go on to challenge bantamweights. While Mr. Johnson did not reach significant popularity due to his weight class and lack of defining fights, he went on to become one of the top pound-for-pound fighters in boxing for several years.

During his career, Mr. Johnson won forty-four professional boxing matches and lost only five. He had twenty-eight knockouts. During Mr. Johnson's amateur career, he won 125 boxing matches and lost only six. He won the first Junior World PentaContinental title in 1993. He held the International Boxing Federation Flyweight title from May 1996 to September 1998, the International Boxing Federation Super Flyweight title from April 1999 to November 1990, and the World Boxing Organization Junior Bantamweight title from August 2003 to September 2004. Mr. Johnson was the first African-American in history to capture both a World Flyweight and Super Flyweight boxing championship, and he did that not once, but twice.

Since 2008, after retiring from professional boxing in 2008, Mr. Johnson, along with his father and lifelong trainer, Abraham ''Ham'' Johnson, has been training underprivileged boys and girls in their gym located in Southeast Washington, D.C. Today, Mark Johnson is employed as a Roving Leader within the D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation, and in that capacity, he conducts home and school visits, and teaches at-risk children to read and write. He also is heavily involved in gang violence prevention. Mr. Johnson serves as a positive and accomplished role-model for troubled youth within the Washington, D.C. area.

Mr. Speaker, on June 10, 2012, Mark ''Too Sharp'' Johnson was the first Boxer from Washington, D.C. to be inducted into the Boxing Hall of Fame, and, at 40 years old, he is the youngest ever to have received such an honor. ''I have known Mark since he was 6; he deserves it and he's the best bantamweight ever,'' former world-champion Sugar Ray Leonard said of Mark Johnson's induction into the Hall of Fame. I ask the House to join me in commending Mark Johnson for his outstanding accomplishments as a boxing champion and his ongoing commitment to the youth of the District of Columbia.

TRIBUTE TO MERCERDESE CLARK

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. BROWN of Florida. On behalf of the constituents of the Third Congressional District of Florida, I rise now to offer heartfelt condolences and pay tribute to the life of an extraordinary accomplished woman, Mrs. Mercerdese Clark, a humanitarian, healer, life activist, and friend.

We are moved and encouraged when recalling the life achievements and service of Mrs. Clark as a nurse, community leader, and social activist. She has been an advocate for social service, health awareness and a role model and mentor to youth and entrepreneurs in the Central Florida community for many years. An Orlando native who received her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from Hampton University in Virginia, Mrs. Clark served as a nurse at Orange Memorial Hospital and Winter Park Memorial Hospital. Shortly after, she became the first African-American female to be the Director of the Orange County Health Department in Orlando, Florida. At the time of her retirement, she worked as a Nursing Care Coordinator at Orlando Veteran Administration Outpatient Clinic.

As a community activist, she gave of herself and her talents to benefit both the individuals and the many organizations she served. Mrs. Clark became chairwoman of the Parramore Heritage Renovation project which was responsible for assessing the needs and defining solutions for existing conditions within this historic neighborhood. She worked tirelessly to maintain the goal of the agency to preserve, develop and improve the economics of the area; improve the educational level of the residents; and preserve the cultural heritage of the community. She took special pride in the area because she had close ties to the community having grown up there as well as her own personal and historical connection her family had to the neighborhood. Mrs. Clark's parents, Leroy E. Richardson and Rosa James Richardson, her paternal grandmother, Adeline Richardson, and other family members were among Orlando's earliest residents in Central Florida. Mrs. Clark could recall the early days of the founding Orlando community where needs of families were often provided from the surplus of another. It was those memories that inspired and motivated her to become president of the Parramore Heritage Foundation, president of the Carter Street Neighborhood Association, and Board Director for the Orlando Neighborhood Improvement Corporation. She also became a business owner in the area to contribute to the economic development of the vicinity by opening a women's boutique, Clarks' Ladies Fashion. Mrs. Clark had a very successful career and received numerous awards through her continuous involvement of various community, social and civic groups in Central Florida including the Orlando Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated where she was recognized for 15 years of outstanding service and commitment.

A virtuous woman and mother of two, we embrace her children and her family. She was a loving and caring mother who nurtured not only her children, but the community. We honor Mrs. Clark for the many contributions and the impact she had on the lives of many. She was truly an invaluable member of our community and an outstanding servant. The life of Mercerdese Clark was one of accomplishment, excellence and service. In her passing, we pay tribute to a consummate professional woman for her life of service and we pray that by her example each of us become the bearers of her spirit and humanitarian legacy of passion for service and excellence. We come now to join in prayer for, son, Kenneth Clark and daughter Kim G. Clark and a host of loving relatives, Sorority Sisters, and friends whose lives have been forever changed by this woman of God. We thank Our Heavenly Father for allowing us to be blessed with the time spent with Mrs. Mercerdese Clark.

PESONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARTIN HEINRICH

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, on July 31, 2012, I unfortunately missed three votes, which included rollcall Nos. 537, 538 and 539.

If I had been present, I would have voted ''yes'' on rollcall vote 537.

If I had been present, I would have voted ''yes'' on rollcall vote 538.

If I had been present, I would have voted ''no'' on rollcall vote 539.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS ON GOVERNANCE OF THE INTERNET

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join Representative ESHOO, Representative BONO MACK, Representative UPTON, and Representative WALDEN as an original co-sponsor of this resolution.

The Internet has been a unique and powerful driver of social and economic progress. A critical element of that success has been the open manner in which the Internet is governed. Rather than relying on centralized control by governments, the Internet instead adopts a multi-stakeholder model in which all who have an interest can have a voice in the Internet's operation.

Lately, however, the multi-stakeholder model towards Internet governance has been under assault on the global stage. In a few months at the World Conference on International Telecommunications in Dubai in December, the International Telecommunication Union may consider proposals that could fundamentally alter the way the Internet operates. Some of these proposals, if adopted, would undermine the successful decentralized approach to Internet governance and impose a government-controlled management regime, thereby threatening citizens' access to content and information via the Internet as well as the global free flow of information online.

We cannot allow this to happen.

The Obama Administration has worked diligently to ensure that the Internet remains a tool for the global dissemination of ideas, information, and commerce. In doing so, the Administration continues the work of previous Administrations of both parties in protecting a global open Internet as a tool that benefits citizens around the world.

In May, the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing to examine proposals that would change the Internet governance model.

At that hearing we heard from witnesses from the Administration and experts with a long history of working on issues relating to Internet governance. The witnesses all agreed that the United States must continue to resist any proposals that would undermine the multi-stakeholder model. Their testimony reinforced my belief that Democrats and Republicans in Congress must stand united with the Administration in its efforts to resist proposals that would undermine the existing multi-stakeholder approach.

I am pleased that so many Democrats and Republicans have signed on as co-sponsors of this resolution.

This large, bipartisan coalition of co-sponsors demonstrates that there is support across the political spectrum for continuing the multi-stakeholder model that allows the Internet to thrive. We urge the Administration to continue to resist international efforts to allow greater government control of the Internet, and I urge my colleagues to vote for this resolution.

RECOGNIZING FLEX-A-LITE ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Flex-a-lite company, a Fife, Washington manufacturer for their 50 years of American manufacturing. The company has continuously set itself apart from its competition in the automotive industry by promoting strong domestic sales and rarely outsourcing manufacturing abroad.

Eddy Davis, along with his son-in-law, Rainer Willingham, founded Flex-a-lite in 1962. The company dramatically changed the automotive world, by inventing the very first flexible fan created from hand-cut fiberglass roofing material. In 1978, the founders patented the first electric fan and three generations later, the company continues to prosper.

The current president of Flex-a-lite and granddaughter of Eddy Davis, Lisa Chissus, has said that the business has been able to overcome hardships during tough economic times because Flex-a-lite remained loyal to three key factors: innovation, quality, and smooth succession.

The company has consistently produced new, innovative products and continues to bring new ideas to the table. Flex-a-lite takes great pride in their top quality products that are made and sold in the United States. It is clear that the business's family-owned values have helped to successfully guide the company for a half century.

Mr. Speaker, it is with honor that I recognize the Flex-a-lite company. I am confident that Flex-a-lite will flourish for years to come.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT INGRAM, BALDWIN COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Robert Ingram, who is retiring as President and CEO of the Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance. Under his leadership Baldwin County became the top ''micropolitan statistical area'' in the state and the 27th out of 576 in terms of economic strength ratings for the United States.

Robert's record in economic development is considerable. He is a Past Chairman of the 17-state Southern Economic Development Council, and in 2001, 2003, 2006 & 2007 received the organization's highest award, the Chairman's Award of Distinction. Robert is a past president of the Mississippi Jaycees, past National Vice President of the United States Jaycees, and past International President of the University of Southern Mississippi Alumni Association. He previously served as President of the Mississippi Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives and President of the Mississippi Economic Development Council. Robert holds the Professional Community Economic Developer designation, is a graduate of the Community Development Institute, and served on the National Board of Directors of CDI. In 2010, he was named by Janus Economics, an international economic development consulting firm, as the first Janus Fellow, in recognition for his service to the profession.

Robert has also served as Senior Vice President of Economic Development for the Metro-Jackson Chamber of Commerce, has coordinated the marketing/recruitment effort of the three-County, Metro Economic Development Alliance, served as President/CEO of the Greenwood/Leflore Industrial Board and served as Economic Development Assistant to the President of the University of Southern Mississippi. Robert holds both a Bachelors and Masters Degree in Business Administration from Southern Miss.

On the volunteer side Robert has served as president of a chamber of commerce and chairman of an economic development foundation. In the private sector he has been a senior business developer and commercial lending officer in a major financial institution and made multi-million dollar business loans. In the public sector he has worked in economic development for the State of Mississippi and has created a comprehensive county economic development agency and 501(c) 6 subsidiary ''from scratch''. He also served as Mayor of the City of McComb, Mississippi, where he both reorganized local government and helped consolidate local economic development agencies. On the entrepreneurial side, he was one of seven organizers and a charter director and officer of Pike County National Bank.

In his current position, Robert oversees the day to day operation of the Alliance and works closely with private and public sector leaders on countywide and regional community/economic development related issues critical to the future of south Alabama. Robert was active in the regional work of the Coastal Recovery Commission and currently serves on the Board of the Coastal Alabama Leadership Foundation.

On behalf of the people of Alabama and my colleagues in the Alabama Delegation, I would like to extend my personal appreciation to Mr. Ingram for his service to Alabama's past, present, and future through his leadership with the Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance.

HONORING CHRISTA HARMOTTO OF THE USA OLYMPIC TEAM

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Christa Harmotto, an outstanding athlete selected to the United States Olympic Team from the 9th Congressional District of Pennsylvania. Ms. Harmotto's Olympic Volleyball side has done very well to this point of the competition, and has earned an undefeated record following their first three matches in their group.

Christa Harmotto was brought up in Hopewell Township, PA where she excelled at sports from a young age. In high school, as a multiple year letterman for volleyball and basketball, Christa won the Pennsylvania Gatorade Player of the Year. She then transferred her high school success to that at Penn State, where she chose to continue her pursuit of volleyball. Her student athlete career was one of great success and achievement, as she acted as an integral member of a two-time national championship team, while simultaneously attaining All-American status for four straight years. A prominent figure on the squad as a middle blocker, Christa makes her Olympic debut in 2012. I am positive she will continue to fight valiantly and work hard for her side in their journey to win the gold medal.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate this Olympic hero of Pennsylvania's 9th district. With her effort and determination, this young lady is destined to do great things for our country and the 9th district of Pennsylvania. I am very proud of her hard work and determination to win for the United States Olympic Team, and will continue to track her team's success throughout the duration of their competition. I hope you join me in wishing Christa and the rest of our Olympic athletes well in their respective competitions at this year's Games.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 537 due to a travel delay stemming from yesterday's inclement weather, I was unable to cast my vote on this legislation.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

CRITICAL PATH INSTITUTE

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Critical Path Institute, a nonprofit organization based in Tucson, Arizona, that plays an important role in helping to improve the way that much-needed drugs are brought to the market.

Critical Path, or C-Path, was founded six years ago by the University of Arizona and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. It is not affiliated with any single entity or interest group—a status that allows C-Path to serve as an effective and objective facilitator among scientists from the government, academia and the private sector.

C-Path was founded after the FDA called attention to an alarming decline in the number of innovative medical products being submitted for government approval. The FDA cited the need for applied research to bridge the gap between basic scientific research and medical product development.

Since then, C-Path has worked with scientists from academia as well as biotechnology companies, the government and the pharmaceutical industry to develop innovative new testing methods. This enables lifesaving drugs, devices and biological products to reach patients faster and with proven safety.

Developing effective drugs and medical devices is a lengthy and expensive process—even under the best of circumstances. It is a process that can take more than 12 years and cost $1 billion in laboratory research and testing. About 95 percent of new compounds fail during development.

C-Path has demonstrated that public/private partnerships focused on noncompetitive consensus science have the capacity to provide new tools so drug developers can speed important new medicines from discovery to patients more quickly.

C-Path was founded by Dr. Raymond L. Woosley, who stepped down as president and CEO earlier this year. He was succeeded by Dr. Carolyn Compton, an internationally respected scientist with extensive experience in translational science and personalized medicine.

I am proud to recognize the Critical Path Institute, based in Tucson, Arizona, for its important role in improving the way that researchers, academia, the private sector and government work together to bring needed medical advancements to the people who need them.

C-Path has shown us what is possible when we work in partnership and collaboration to solve important national concerns.

IRAN THREAT REDUCTION AND SYRIA HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, the Iranian nuclear threat is a daunting and dangerous challenge. With Iran stalling diplomatic talks, adding enrichment centrifuges, and continuing work at unmonitored enrichment sites, there is frustration and alarm that time may be running out. But time has not run out and if we are to avert a military confrontation with Iran over its nuclear weapons ambitions, we must make use of every opportunity to pressure Iran to change course. This bill achieves that goal with sanctions that are deeper and stronger than any we have ever seen.

Without a doubt sanctions against Iran are having a powerful impact. In the last year alone, exports of Iranian oil have dropped by sixty percent. The value of Iran's currency has plummeted by more than one-third. Full tankers are idling in Iranian harbors unable to sell crude in the world market. Although Iran has attempted to work around the sanctions by reflagging vessels and hiding transactions, the shell game isn't sustainable. Sanctions announced by President Obama in recent days and weeks and those authorized in the bill before us today will tighten the grip.

Our message to Iran is loud and clear—there is no escaping accountability. The consequences of defying the international community and continuing an illegal nuclear program are severe and they will be gravely worse if the Iranian government continues on its current course.

This bill is our third round of congressional sanctions legislation since the Obama Administration successfully galvanized U.N. Security Council support for multilateral sanctions against the Iranian nuclear program in June 2010. Together with sanctions enacted in July 2010 and December 2011, the sanctions in the bill before us today reinforce the message to countries, companies and financial institutions that now is not the time for business as usual with Iran.

The bill gives the Administration an array of new tools to shore up international resolve. It has sharp enforcement mechanisms to help enlist other countries in the effort to starve the Iranian nuclear program of cash flows from Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, the National Iranian Oil Company, the National Iranian Tanker Company, and other Iranian banks, businesses and government entities being used to funnel money into nuclear activities.

The bill also expands sanctions against Iranian and Syrian officials responsible for human rights abuses by using electronic monitoring and tracking of regime opposition and specifically targets the paramilitary organizations that have been most insidious in terrorizing democracy activists.

But what this bill does not do is authorize war with Iran. In fact, the bill explicitly says so. I want to underscore that point, because the motivation of the sanctions is to pressure Iranian leaders to abide by the International Atomic Energy Agency's demands and negotiate in good faith and to avoid a military escalation.

As President Obama has stated clearly, the United States does not have a policy of containment. All options are the on the table if Iran does not change course. By passing this legislation we will continue to leave no stone unturned in our determination to try and achieve a diplomatic resolution to this crisis.

HONORING MR. JOE HECKSTALL

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Georgia State Representative Joe Heckstall on the occasion of his retirement from the Georgia General Assembly. For thirty-one years, Joe has served the people of Georgia, first as a City Councilman for the City of East Point, Georgia and then as a State Representative from Georgia's 62nd House District. These many years of public

service make him the longest serving elected official in the history of South Fulton County, Georgia.

Throughout his time in office, Joe has fought valiantly for those who face social and economic challenges, especially veterans and minorities, and he has strived to bring businesses and prosperity to the communities he represents. I know that he will be greatly missed by his constituents.

I commend Joe for his courageous efforts to break racial barriers throughout his career. He was elected the first African American City Councilman of East Point, and as a Councilman, he helped the city become one of the first in America to celebrate the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday before it became a State or Federal holiday.

Outside of government, Joe is an active member of the Greater Atlanta community, having worked as a real estate salesman, corporate personnel assistant, motivational speaker, school teacher, and teen counselor. He is known for his love of people and his encouraging attitude.

I wish Joe and his wife, Andrea, the very best with their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO BOB HIGGINS, BALDWIN COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Bob Higgins, senior vice president of the Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance. On August 1, 2012, Bob retired from his leadership position, which he has held for the past decade.

Bob Higgins joined the Baldwin Economic Development Alliance in 2002. While serving in the BCEDA, he organized many development projects that have led to the betterment of our community. One of these projects, which was facilitated through the Baldwin Business Incubator, created an aviation training center for local high school students at the Fairhope airport. With the recent announcement of Airbus' decision to locate its new manufacturing facility in Mobile, this effort will be instrumental in preparing a workforce for this new industry.

Bob Higgins' work has not only helped to create future jobs in our area, but has also aided in supporting local companies as they battled the 2010 oil spill. Through his accomplishments, the Coastal Resiliency Coalition and Business Support Center were created to raise support for those who were severely affected by the oil spill, and their efforts continue today.

Though he will be retiring from the BCEDA, Bob Higgins' work with these two groups will not be ending. He now intends to shift his focus and devote more time to worker training to help businesses prepare for the future, while the main focus of the Alliance will be in recruiting industry for the Baldwin County megasite and in support of Airbus.

As many of Bob's former coworkers can attest, Bob's work ethic and drive have been influential in transforming Baldwin County into a better place to live and work. Upon his retirement, Bob is looking forward to having more time for personal activities and spending more time with his four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Alabama and my colleagues in the Alabama Delegation, I would like to extend a personal appreciation to Mr. Bob Higgins for his service to Alabama's past, present, and future through his leadership in the Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance.

IN CELEBRATION OF FOR THE LOVE OF THE LAKE'S 200TH CONSECUTIVE SECOND SATURDAY SHORELINE SPRUCE UP

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate For the Love of the Lake, a community organization, on its 200th consecutive Second Saturday Shoreline Spruce Up that will be held at White Rock Lake on November 10, 2012.

For the Love of the Lake is committed to the preservation of White Rock Lake Park and sponsors the Second Saturday Shoreline Spruce-Up initiative along with many other noteworthy programs. Since April 1996, volunteers of the Second Saturday Shoreline Spruce-Up have gathered on the second Saturday of each month to pick up trash and scattered debris around the shores of White Rock Lake. They also work closely with the City of Dallas' Parks and Recreation Department to protect the local wildlife. Over the years, this organization has devoted countless hours to this endeavor, ensuring that White Rock Lake is kept clean and beautiful for all to enjoy. I have had the privilege of laboring alongside these dedicated volunteers and know firsthand the hard work it takes to clean up the shoreline.

For the Love of the Lake truly understands the importance of conservation, and continues to protect White Rock Lake Park so it may remain an urban oasis for the City of Dallas. I am thankful for these dedicated volunteers and For the Love of the Lake. Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in congratulating For the Love of the Lake on its 200th consecutive Second Saturday Shoreline Spruce-Up. This remarkable achievement speaks loudly to the organization's continued commitment to maintain the integrity of White Rock Lake Park.

ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDER CONTEMPT VOTE

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, the death of U.S. Customs and Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry is a great loss for our nation. Congress has the responsibility to complete a full investigation into the events related to his death. That is why I supported Mr. DINGELL's motion on June 28, 2012, to ensure a comprehensive, bipartisan and complete investigation into Operation Fast and Furious—including a public hearing, with witnesses previously prevented from testifying by the Majority party on the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Unfortunately, however, House Republicans voted unanimously against this motion, in order to proceed instead with unprecedented, baseless and politically motived measures to hold Attorney General Eric Holder in civil and criminal contempt. I declined to participate in these partisan political games, and joined with my colleagues in vacating the House Floor in protest of the abuse of power and process demonstrated by the Majority Party's decision to bring H. Res. 711 and H. Res. 706 to the full House of Representatives, before undertaking a serious effort to resolve the disagreement between Congress and the Department of Justice regarding the disclosure of materials related to Operation Fast and Furious. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on roll call votes 441 and 442.

CONGRATULATING BARRY HUTCHINSON ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor Barry Hutchinson on his retirement from the Department of Defense after more than 40 years of dedicated and distinguished service to our country and to our men and women in uniform.

Mr. Hutchinson began his career as a stock handler at the Andrews Air Force Base Commissary in Camp Springs, Maryland, in 1972. Throughout his years of service, he developed expertise in a wide variety of areas, including supply management, logistics, program management, and information operations. For the past 34 years, Mr. Hutchinson worked for the Defense Logistics Agency at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, where he provided exemplary leadership serving the Information Operations Directorate and retires as the Staff Director for IT Business, Licensing, and Performance Management.

Mr. Hutchinson certainly embodies the commitment and caliber of our federal employees. While he will be missed in the Defense Logistics Agency we will continue to benefit from the expertise and work ethic he has imparted in his coworkers.

Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Hutchinson relied upon the support of his family. He will enjoy his well-deserved retirement with his wife, Joanne, daughters Krista and Kerri, grandchildren, Ashley, Jonathon, and Hannah, and grand dog, Cutter. He will continue serving his community, relying on his degree in Theology while teaching Christianity 101 at his local church. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Barry Hutchinson for 40 years of honorable and valuable service to our nation, thanking him for his many contributions and the sacrifices he and his family have made, and wishing them well in all of their future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF TEICHERT, INC.

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Teichert, Inc. and its employees as the company celebrates its 125th anniversary. For well over a century, this company has enabled the Sacramento region to grow and prosper into the wonderful place it is today. As Teichert's management, staff and business partners gather to celebrate the company's 125th anniversary, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Teichert, Inc. and its rich history.

Beginning with its inception in 1877, the company has truly captured the spirit of the American Dream. Its founder, Adolph Teichert emigrated from Germany with little more than a keen eye for outstanding craftsmanship and an unyielding drive to succeed. Adolph was soon hired by California Artificial Stone Company to supervise various construction projects, including laying concrete pavement around some of California's most recognizable landmarks, such as Golden Gate Park. Adolph then started his own construction firm and would become a pioneer in Sacramento's business community.

Over the next few decades, Adolph's small business progressively expanded into a multifaceted corporation that is responsible for many of Sacramento region's highways, neighborhoods and iconic pieces of infrastructure. In 1912 the company became known as A. Teichert and Son when Adolf's son joined its ranks. Since its founding, Teichert has maintained its roots as a family business. Its current CEO, Jud Riggs is the 4th generation Teichert to lead the company and Fred Teichert leads the Teichert Foundation. The 5th generation of Teicherts are dutifully at work within the company's ranks.

125 years after its founding Teichert, Inc. is the proud holder of the State of California's oldest active contractor's license, license No. 8. The company has led a wide array of Northern California's most significant construction projects, varying from the construction of the Sacramento Weir in 1918 that has kept Sacramento safe from flooding to being an integral part of the team that built Sacramento International Airport's beautiful new state-of-the-art Terminal B, which opened in 2011 and now welcomes travelers to California's capital city.

The company's values of "building," "trust," and "tradition" have helped sustain the company in good times and bad. The company has grown to include Teichert Construction, Teichert Materials, StoneBridge Properties, and Teichert Foundation embracing construction, aggregate production, real estate development, and charity.

By encouraging employee philanthropy and honoring their commitment to the region, Teichert has created a special bond with the people of Sacramento. Above all of their industrial efforts, the company is celebrated for the charitable reach of the Teichert Foundation. The foundation's work is evident in many aspects of the Sacramento area, including the Boys and Girls Clubs' location in Lemon Hill that carries the Teichert name.

Mr. Speaker, as the leadership and employees of Teichert, Inc. come together to celebrate the company's 125th anniversary, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring their dedication to building the infrastructure that has made Sacramento what it is today. I am confident that the company's dedication the Sacramento community will stand for generations to come.

HONORING COLONEL SAMUEL ''BO'' MAHANEY UPON ASSUMING COMMAND OF THE 452D AIR MOBILITY WING, MARCH ARB

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer congratulations and good wishes to one of the members of our armed forces, Colonel Samuel "Bo" Mahaney, who put in exemplary service as a Military Fellow in my office and who will soon assume command of the 452d Air Mobility Wing at March Air Reserve Base, California.

It is true, Mr. Speaker, that we in this body are proud of every brave member of our military. Their service to our nation deserves recognition every day, and their sacrifice deserves our gratitude and honor no matter where they are posted or what their rank or station.

But as a former Fellow, Col. Mahaney became a highly valued member of my staff, and he and his wife Chris became a part of the extended "Lewis family." It is especially delightful to be able to congratulate Bo on his Assumption of Command of the Air Mobility Wing at March, which is near my Redlands home and congressional district in the Inland Empire of California.

Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues will agree that the Military Fellows program is an outstanding example of a collaborative venture that helps Congress better understand the Pentagon, and helps the military become familiar with the ways of the legislative branch. After an intense selection process, 100 young men and women are assigned by the services to join a congressional office or committee for a year of service. These are some of the Pentagon's brightest young officers, and the expertise they provide Congress is invaluable.

While I served as chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee and later as Committee Chairman, I was honored to have the aid of six Military Fellows: Army Colonel Craig DeDecker, Marine Corps Colonel Michael Reilly, Marine Corps Colonel Carl Kime; Army Colonel Chris Gibson; Air Force Colonel Bo Mahaney, and Air Force Colonel Anthony "Awgie" Genatempo. All have gone on to distinguished commands and careers—and one of them, Chris Gibson, is now one of our colleagues from New York!

Colonel Mahaney was commissioned in July 1985 as a graduate of the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC). He was a B–52 electronic warfare officer and commanded a KC–10 aircraft, amassing over 5,000 flying hours over the years. His academic training includes a Masters Degree in Public Administration and a law degree, as well as time as a Harvard National Security Fellow and a Georgetown Legislative Fellow. He is a licensed attorney and an adjunct professor at Georgetown University School of Law. He has received the Meritorious Service Medal, Aerial Achievement Medal, and many other medals for outstanding service and accomplishments.

Colonel Mahaney assumed command just last year of the 459th Air Refueling Wing at Joint Base Andrews outside of Washington, D.C. In that short time, he has led the wing to top marks for operational readiness and received high praise from commanding officers.

He is now moving to take over command of the 452d Air Mobility Wing, which includes a C–17 "Globemaster III" flying squadron and two KC–135R "Stratotanker" flying squadrons as well as numerous support squadrons. March Air Reserve Base provides air refueling to Air Force, Navy and NATO aircraft as well as rapid delivery of troops and all types of cargo in times of war and national emergency to anywhere in the world. The base creates a total economic impact of $522 million in the local area. More than 8,500 people work there.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud and honored to have been able to contribute to the distinguished career of Colonel Bo Mahaney, and I am delighted that he and Chris will soon be neighbors in the Inland Empire. I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating him on his new command, and expressing our gratitude to all of the exceptional men and women of the armed forces who have served us so ably in the Military Fellows program.

HONORING THE WASHINGTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE MEETINGHOUSE

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. BASS of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 225th birthday of the Washington, New Hampshire Meetinghouse on August 11, 1787. In 1752, Governor Jonathan Belcher granted a charter to the settlement that was later established as the town of Washington, New Hampshire—named for our first president, George Washington.

The original charter decreed that "a Convenient Meeting house be built." The colonial-style, wooden structure henceforth erected has remained largely unchanged in both appearance and purpose. Although a tower was added in 1825, the meetinghouse retains its original exterior. Inside, the building has adapted to the community's needs, continuously serving as church, cultural center, school, and Town Hall for over two centuries.

The meetinghouse is a foundational establishment, fostering the civic growth of Washingtonians who have contributed to both our state and nation through their work as service members, small businessmen, farmers, educators, lawyers, ministers, and doctors. Merging its natural beauty with its dedicated and lively community, the town of Washington is truly representative of the best qualities of the State of New Hampshire.

Mr. Speaker, I join the people of the Granite State in congratulating the town of Washington on the 225th birthday of its Meetinghouse. This tribute celebrates the history and birth of

political discourse in the United States with Meetinghouses, and honors these institutions as symbols of American freedom and independence, whose creation and preservation are reminders of the founding of our country.

IRAN THREAT REDUCTION AND SYRIA HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1905.

Today, it is vital that the U.S. sends a strong message to the Iranian government.

A nuclear capable Iran is our greatest security threat in a region currently defined by conflict, chaos, and uncertainty.

We must prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons through any and all means necessary.

There needs to be strong economic sanctions and focused diplomatic efforts.

As a nation it is also essential to prepare a strategy in the event that sanctions and diplomatic efforts are not successful.

Allowing Iran to become a nuclear threat is not an acceptable outcome.

That is why we must pass H.R. 1905, which increases the economic pressure on Iran's leadership to abandon their illicit efforts to develop a nuclear weapon.

Iran has the power to threaten and provoke regional allies without consequence.

We must stand with our allies in these dangerous and challenging times to prevent a nuclear capable Iran.

We must pass H.R. 1905 before it is too late for sanctions and diplomacy to reduce the Iranian threat.

RECOGNIZING ED WENZEL AND HIS HONOR FROM THE NATIONAL CIVIL WAR TRUST

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ed Wenzel for his passion, effort, and success in preserving our nation's historic Civil War battlegrounds. Mr. Wenzel recently received an honor from the national Civil War Trust on behalf of his preservation efforts for a Civil War battlefield site in Chantilly, Virginia. The Ox Hill Battlefield Park was dedicated in 2008 thanks in large part to the tireless efforts of Mr. Wenzel.

Mr. Wenzel spent 22 years working to preserve the grounds on which the Battle of Chantilly—referred to as the Battle of Ox Hill by the Confederacy—occurred on September 1, 1862. It was during this battle that the Union army lost commanders Major General Philip Kearny and Major General Isaac I. Stevens, but it ultimately succeeded in slowing General Stonewall Jackson and the Confederacy's advancements and ended the Second Manassas campaign. In 1915, monuments were built in commemoration of both Major Generals Kearny and Stevens on the site.

During my tenure on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I was proud to work with Mr. Wenzel and members of the Civil War Roundtable to raise awareness of the County's Civil War heritage, to erect new historic markers, and create a new five-acre public park highlighting the monuments and the battle significance in the history of our County and our Country.

Additionally, Mr. Wenzel played a major role in the Save the Battlefield Coalition, which successfully opposed construction of a shopping mall at Manassas battlegrounds in 1988, and he was a founding board member of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ed Wenzel for his most recent accolade and in thanking him for his tireless pursuits to protect such important aspects of our Nation's rich history.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL PETE DEROUIN

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a fellow Oregonian and good friend, Lieutenant Colonel Pete Derouin of the Oregon Army National Guard, as he departs the National Guard Bureau's Office of Legislative Liaison in Washington, DC to return to Oregon. While Pete has served around the world over the past decade, he has always kept a very special place for Oregon in his heart.

Pete was born and raised in my great state and joined the Army by earning his commission through the University of Oregon's ROTC program. He served for many years as a part-time soldier in Oregon as an officer in the Oregon National Guard. After the attacks of September 11, 2001, Pete felt the call of service and decided to leave the comforts of home and make military service his full time career. Over the last decade, he has served his country in different corners of the globe, including Iraq, Bosnia, and Kosovo.

For the last four years, Pete has worked here on Capitol Hill as an outstanding advocate for the National Guard. I've worked closely with him during his time as a legislative liaison for the Guard, and have found his dedication and effectiveness to be exceptional. We worked together on obtaining approval for the new Readiness Center in The Dalles and on allowing the Oregon National Guard to retain parts of the Umatilla Chemical Depot. Pete was also instrumental in efforts to make sure that National Guard soldiers were not unfairly denied promised bonus payments due to paperwork errors by the Guard.

Now the time has come for Pete to return home to Oregon. He has been selected to lead the 2nd of the 641st Theatre Aviation Battalion, which controls all of Oregon's Army National Guard aviation assets. I have no doubt that he will serve our state and nation well in this new role.

I would like to thank Pete and his wife Andrea for tolerating the frantic pace which comes with working here in Washington, D.C., and wish them happiness and success as they continue their service to our nation back in Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I invite our colleagues to join me in saying thank you to Lieutenant Colonel Pete Derouin for his dedication to our country.

INTRODUCTION OF COMPASSIONATE FREEDOM OF CHOICE ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the "Compassionate Freedom of Choice Act." This legislation allows terminally ill patients to use drugs, treatments and devices that have not yet been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) if their physicians certify: (i) such patients have no other treatment options; and (ii) the patient executes written, informed consent that they are aware of any potential risks from the drug, device, or treatment.

It is important to remember that this legislation only applies to otherwise terminally ill patients. Denying these patents a possible opportunity to cure their illness—or at least reduce their suffering—is nonsensical and cruel. The FDA's approval process for drugs, devices, and treatments is costly and time consuming. Yet, time is the luxury terminally patients do not enjoy. So why should the FDA deny terminally-ill patients access to drugs, devices, and treatments that the patient's physicians have determined represents the patent's only possible chance for survival?

For example, the FDA refused to allow Abigail Burroughs (who was diagnosed with head and neck cancer at the age of 19) access to the cancer drugs Iressa and Erbitux by the FDA. Never mind that a renowned oncologist at Johns Hopkins had determined there was a significant chance of saving her life if she could use these new drugs. With her only chance of survival denied by the federal government, Abigail passed away on June 9, 2001, at the age of twenty-one.

Another example of why this bill is necessary is the case of thirteen-year old Anna Tomalis, who enjoyed horseback riding and soccer until she was diagnosed with embryonal sarcoma. Chemotherapy and surgery failed to reverse the cancer, so Anna's parents decided to try experimental drugs. They petitioned the FDA for approval to use Deforolimus, developed by Merk and ARIAD. Unfortunately, the FDA decided Ana was too sick to be admitted in Deforolimus's clinical trials and did not grant her a "compassionate use" exemption until three weeks before she died.

Mr. Speaker, I have attached a list of other patients who were denied access to treatments by the FDA even though their doctors believed these treatments where the only option left to potentially save their lives. I ask my colleagues to help make sure that no more Americans with terminal disease are denied treatments simply because the FDA has decide these Americans are better off facing certain death than using an "unapproved" drug, treatment, or device. Please cosponsor the Compassionate Freedom of Choice Act.

PERSONS DENIED ACCESS TO COMPASSIONATE DRUG USE BY THE FDA

(I) ABIGAIL BURROUGHS

Abigail Burroughs learned at the age of nineteen that she had head and neck cancer. http://abigail-alliance.org/WLF__ FDA__Lawsuit.pdf (last accessed May 21, 2012). For the next eighteen months, Abigail fought the cancer by undergoing painful chemotherapy and radiation treatments, to no avail. Id. Abigail was told in March of 2001 that she had run out of FDA-approved options. Id. Abigail's cancer cells had very high EGFR (Epidermal Growth Factor Receptors) expression. Her renowned oncologist at Johns Hopkins knew there was a significant chance of saving her life if she could get the new EGFR cancer drugs Ire ssa and Erbitux. Id. Abigail could not get Iressa, however, because the clinical trials were very limited as to the number and type of patients who could qualify—as is usual for clinical drug trials. Id. The Erbitux clinical trials were for colon cancer patients only. Id. Abigail never obtained Iressa or Erbitux, and thus a chance to live, and so she died on June 9, 2001, at the age of twenty-one. Id. The Abigail Alliance, created by her father Frank Burroughs shortly after her death, is a 501(c) non-profit organization and can be accessed through http://abigail-alliance.org. The Abigail Alliance is now dedicated to expanding access to experimental drugs through the compassionate use exemption.

(II) DAVID BAXTER

High school student David Baxter was diagnosed with colorectal cancer in the spring of 2001. http://abigail-alliance.org/WLF FDA Lawsuit.pdf (last accessed May 21, 2012). David was unable to participate in clinical trials of promising new cancer drugs because clinical trials are usually open only to patients eighteen and older. Id. In the following months he endured various types of chemotherapy. Id. Of one of his hospital stays, he wrote, ''You hear a lot of scary stories about cancer patients, and let me tell you right now that they are true—every single one of them.'' Id. From the stories of nurses coming in at two in the morning to take your vitals for some awful reason, to the noises from the room across the hall—either screams or moans of who knows what.'' David died in his sleep at home on October 6, 2001, shortly after his seventeenth birthday. Id.

(III) ALITA RANDAZZO

Alita Randazzo, age thirty-five, was diagnosed with colorectal cancer in the spring of 2000. Id. Alita responded well at first to Eloxatin (Oxaliplatin), but she had to endure the expense and physical demands of traveling to France to get the drug. Id. She did not qualify for the clinical trial of Eloxatin in the U.S. and was not fortunate enough to get into the drug's limited compassionate use program. Id. (Before finally being approved in the U.S. in May of 2003, Eloxatin had been approved in Europe six years earlier.) After eight months, Eloxatin stopped helping Alita and her doctors believed her last chance was Erbitux. Id. Alita was unable to obtain Erbitux, and died on July 20, 2002. Id.

(IV) JOEL OPPENHEIM

Joel Oppenheim was first diagnosed with multiple myloma in 1995 but the disease did not become active until 1999. Id. At that time, he was treated with dexamethadrone (''dex''), which had unpleasant side effects and was only minimally effective. Id. Thalidomide, which is not approved for multiple myeloma, was added to the dex by Joel's doctors. This off-label use of thalidomide was possible because thalidomide had been approved for leprosy, and is thus available for doctors to prescribe for other conditions as they see fit. Thalidomide has become the first line of treatment for multiple myeloma. Id.

As Joel's disease worsened in 2000, his oncologists recommended that he seek to participate in clinical trials of Revamid or PS–341 Velcade. Id. Revamid is a derivative of thalidomide that avoids thalidomide's side effects (which extend well beyond its notorious effect on pregnant women). Id. Joel was unable to obtain a place in the Revamid trials or Velcade trials because his prior treatment with dex put him outside the narrow protocols of the trial. Id. The massive number of patients who applied for the trials would have rendered it unlikely for Joel to win a place, in any event. Thus, Joel was prevented from using Revamid, which was safer and more effective than his thalidomide treatment. Id.

In light of Joel's inability to obtain Revamid or Velcade, his oncologists recommended an autologous bone marrow transplant, which he underwent on April 15, 2001. Id. This is a dangerous and damaging medical procedure. Id. Joel survived the transplant, but was disabled from working and still suffers from an impaired immune system. A disease such as the West Nile virus that would typically have mild effects on other people would probably kill Joel. Id.

Approximately a year and a half after the bone marrow transplant, Joel's cancer worsened again. Id. He again attempted to enter numerous trials for Velcade, but was rejected. He was disqualified from some trials on account of his prior dex treatment and from others on account of his transplant (which had been made necessary by his lack of access to Velcade or Revamid). Id. To increase his chances of acceptance into a trial, on his doctors' advice, Joel stopped taking dex or any other treatment; one of the criteria of the trials was no dex or other drugs within the prior six months. The trials were repeatedly delayed. Id. Without medication, Joel's cancer grew much worse. Id. Finally, in June of 2003, through the efforts of one doctor, Joel was admitted to a trial of Revamid. Over the last three years, FDA restrictions on investigational drugs have caused countless patients like Joel to die or suffer from bone marrow procedure. Id.

(V) GIDEON SOFFER

Gideon was active in the Los Angeles Jewish community and a student at U.C. Berkeley. http://abigail-alliance.org/WSJ%20Sen%20Kennedy%20Gideon.pdf (last checked May 21, 2012). He passed away January 11, 2012. http://www.tributes.com/show/Gideon-Joseph-Sofer90709467 (last checked May 21, 2012). In 2003 he was 22 years old; he stood five foot six inches tall and weighed just over 100 pounds. Id. He suffered from Crohn's disease which caused him to remove half of his intestine. Crohn's disease is an inflammatory disease of the bowels, which can cause breakage and perforations in the intestines. 1.5 million Americans suffer from it, including a disproportionate number of Ashkenazi Jews. Id. In 2007 Gideon enrolled in a clinical trial for a treatment that could save his life: an adult stem cell therapy that helps damaged intestinal tissue regenerate from the inflammation caused by Crohn's. The sponsor, Osiris Therapeutics, reported that Crohn's patients in the therapy's Phase II trial all experienced clinical improvement after receiving the cells. Id. A Phase III trial for the treatment was nearing completion at the time of the petition, but the FDA approval was years away. He was placed in the trial but was withheld the life-saving drug and given a placebo instead. http://abigail-alliance.org/WSJ%20Sen%20Kennedy% 20Gideon.pdf (last checked May 21, 2012).

(VI) KIANNA KARNES

44 year old Kianna Karnes was a mother of four and grandmother of one when doctors told her she had kidney cancer that was spreading throughout her body. http://abigail-alliance.org/3_WSJ_Editorials_Kiannas_Law.pdf (last checked May 21, 2012). Two different developmental drugs, BAY 43–9006 and SU 11248, showed great promise against this once untreatable disease, but the FDA did not move to approve the drugs, and instead began imposing new testing requirements that make it all but impossible for their developers—Bayer and Pfizer—to provide them to terminal patients on a ''compassionate use'' basis by forcing a placebo. Id. Karnes died in 2005, the very same day that the FDA granted her compassionate use exemption. Id.

(VII) ANNA TOMALIS

13 year old Ana Tomalis liked horseback riding and soccer. http://online.wsj.com/article/SB1219447890_05365195.html?mod = opinion _main_commentaries (last checked May 21, 2012). From 2005 to 2008 Ana fought embryonal sarcoma, a rare form of liver cancer. Id. After chemotherapy and surgery did not work her parents turned to experimental drugs. Id. One drug that they petitioned the FDA for was Deforolimus, developed by Merk and ARIAD. Unfortunately Ana was too sick to be admitted in the clinical trials and the FDA did not grant her a ''compassionate use'' exemption until three weeks before she died, August 15, 2008. It was too little too late. Id.

(VIII) JACOB GUNVALSON

Jacob, since the age of eight, had Duchennemuscular dystrophy, a rare and devastating disease, which has confined him to a wheelchair. http://www.huffingtonpost .com/2008/12/17/jacob-gunvalson-terminall _n _151650.html (last visited May 21, 2012). His mother, Cheri Gunvalson, with a master's degree in nursing, was instrumental in getting federal legislation passed to provide more research money for the disease. Id. Jacob's only hope was PTC Therapeutics' PTC124, an experimental drug given to only 165 in a clinical trial. Id. Jacob was ineligible because his disease was too far advanced already rendering him unable to walk. Id. In December of 2008 the Third Circuit ruled against the Gunvalson's reversing a lower court decision stating that a pharmaceutical company does not have to provide an experimental drug to terminally ill person. Id.

(IX) BRANDON RYAN

Brandon, at 22 years old, had severe melanoma skin cancer.http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/19/health/research/19trial.html?page wanted=5&_r=3&partner=rss&emc=rss&src =ig (last visited May 21, 2012), http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/ bakersfield/obituary.aspx?n=brandon -p-ryan&pid=143628760 (last visited May 21, 2012). He shared that skin cancer and the shared slim chance of survival with his cousin Thomas McLaughlin. Id. A new drug issued by Roche called PLX 4032 was being offered in clinical trials at the University of Los Angeles Medical Center which was near their homes. Id. Thomas who was in the trial urged his cousin to join lauding that the tumors stopped growing after only two months of taking the pills. Ryan was admitted to the trial but was assigned by the lottery to be the control arm—instead of taking the pills; he was to get infusions of a chemotherapy that had been notoriously ineffective in treating melanoma. Id. The standard chemotherapy used in melanoma, decarbazine, slowed tumor growth in 15 percent of patients for an average of two months. Id. By contrast, PLX 4032 had halted tumor growth

in 81 percent of patients for an average of eight months. Brandon died in 2010. Id.

(XI) LIDDY SHRIVER

In April 2002, Elizabeth Shriver was diagnosed with Ewing's sarcoma. http://sarcomahelp.org/liddy.html. She died January 15, 2004 at the age of 37 after the cancer metastasized to her right thigh, lungs, brain and abdomen. Id. Liddy was a computer scientist and sought to approach the cancer as ''just another problem to solve reading as much as she could about cancer, various treatments, and the results of clinical trials. Id. More information can be reached by going to http://sarcomahelp.org/index.html.

(XI) LORRAINE HEIDKE MCCARTIN

Lorraine raised four children and has been battling a rare form of breast cancer since 2006. http://www.boston.com/business/healthcare/articles/2011/01/05/testing__rules__force__patients__to__wait__for__new drugs/?page=2 (last viewed May 21, 2012). In 2010 her hopes were buoyed when doctors said she was a good candidate to take a promising experimental drug called T–DM1 which had reduced patient's tumors with few side effects in clinical trials. Id. But before the treatments were to start under an expanded access program the drug's maker Roche shut down the program after the FDA refused to speed the approval process. Id. She is still alive, but must drive about 500 miles to get the treatment.

RECOGNIZING MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER (RET.) JOHN R. BRINKHEIDE AND HIS MORE THAN 20 YEARS OF HONORABLE SERVICE TO THE U.S. NAVY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Master Chief Petty Officer (Ret.) John Robert Brinkheide for his more than 20 years of honorable and courageous service to the United States Navy, his subsequent 17 years of service as a contractor supporting the Department of Defense, and his continued service to our community. We are fortunate to have among us veterans with MCPO Brinkheide's sense of duty and continued commitment to public service.

MCPO Brinkheide enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1962 and completed electronics school the same year. From 1962 to 1964 he served aboard the USS *Semmes*, a ship he describes as truly unique, tied together by a crew committed to doing good. His service aboard the USS *Semmes* instilled in him his sense of professionalism and ethics that guided him throughout the entirety of his military and professional career. He attended advanced electronics school in 1965 upon leaving the USS *Semmes* and then served for three years in Vietnam aboard an in-river LST. After completing his tour in Vietnam, MCPO Brinkheide served aboard the USS *America* from 1969 to 1976 and was promoted to Master Chief Petty Officer. MCPO Brinkheide's last few years at sea were served aboard the USS *Nashville* as the Electronics Material Officer from 1976 to 1980. MCPO Brinkheide spent his last year with the Navy working on strategic communications for the Naval Electronic Systems Command performing oversight of electronic equipment acquisitions.

After retiring from the Navy in 1981, he began a long career as a contractor supporting the Department of Defense, specializing in systems acquisitions. Since retiring from the Navy, Mr. Brinkheide has actively worked to better his community through the Knights of Columbus and served as the Grand Knight of the John Paul I Council of Dale City, Virginia, from 2006 to 2007. MCPO Brinkheide also worked tirelessly for 24 years to help organize and implement the Prince William County Tree Trimming Day of Remembrance, a ceremony held to honor those who died in alcohol- and drug-related vehicle crashes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise to join me in recognizing and thanking John R. Brinkheide for his steadfast and selfless service to our country and our community.

IRAN THREAT REDUCTION AND SYRIA HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference agreement for H.R. 1905, the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012, a bill of which I am a cosponsor. In addition to imposing sanctions on anyone found to be guilty of committing or contributing to the repression or abuse of the human rights of the Syrian people, this measure also continues the congressional efforts to apply pressure to the government of Iran for its nuclear enrichment activities.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday the president announced the application of new sanctions on the Iranian oil industry and on Chinese and Iraqi banks for helping Iran to circumvent the global sanctions regime. These sanctions are a part of an escalating series of penalties against Iran. In June, the U.S. imposed a round of sanctions targeting any foreign country that buys Iranian oil. Then, in early July, the EU, a major market for Iranian oil, put in place a complete embargo of oil imports from the country.

Since the effort began, Iranian oil production has declined by a million barrels a day, its exports have fallen by about 50 percent and its currency has plunged more than 40 percent against the dollar. Today, the House meets to further tighten the sanctions on Iran's energy, shipping and insurance sectors. This package of sanctions will be the most comprehensive passed to date. Virtually all of Iran's energy, financial, and transportation sectors will be subject to U.S. sanctions and any company that does business in these sectors will run the risk of losing access to U.S. markets.

The economic sanctions imposed on Iran have succeeded in bringing the Iranians to the negotiating table. It remains to be seen whether the Iranians are simply engaged in stall-tactics or are willing to end their effort to produce weapons-grade nuclear material.

As President Obama has made clear, it is unacceptable for Iran to develop a nuclear weapon. The U.N. Security Council has passed numerous resolutions demanding that Iran comply with the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and suspend its nuclear enrichment activities. The IAEA has repeatedly found Iran to be in violation of the U.N. resolutions.

A nuclear-armed Iran would pose a grave threat to the State of Israel, a country the President of Iran has stated should ''be wiped off the map.'' A nuclear Iran could also trigger a nuclear-arms race in the Middle East that would further destabilize an already volatile region. It is in the national security interests of the United States to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons.

By most accounts, the sanctions passed by Congress have ratcheted up pressure on the Iranian government. But Iran continues to increase its stockpile of enriched uranium. This bi-partisan measure is necessary to give the President additional tools to penalize the Iranian regime for its continual refusal to heed the objections of the international community.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of this conference agreement.

VIETNAM'S CONTINUING ABUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the record several months' worth of correspondence with the State Department regarding Vietnam's deplorable human rights and religious freedom record.

The correspondence includes a recent letter signed by three other members and myself calling for the removal of David Shear, U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam, for his failure to advocate for basic human rights and religious freedom in Vietnam while conditions are getting worse.

The U.S. must ensure that human rights and religious freedom are at the forefront of bilateral relations with Vietnam and the American embassy must be an island of freedom.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, May 15, 2012.

Hon. DAVID SHEAR,
U.S. Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, U.S. Department of State, C Street, NW, Wasington, DC.

DEAR AMBASSADOR SHEAR: We write today to express our concern over the arrest and detention of a U.S. citizen, Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan, by Vietnamese authorities on April 17, 2012. Further, we write to express our concern that you, as U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam, have not yet visited the U.S. citizen and democracy activist, who has been imprisoned for nearly one month on politically motivated charges.

During a hearing convened by the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission today, Dr. Nguyen's wife, Mrs. Mai Huong Ngo, provided emotional testimony about her husband's ongoing detention. It was shocking to hear that no one from the U.S. Embassy has reached out to Mrs. Ngo regarding the detention of her husband. We urge you to personally contact both Dr. Nguyen and Mrs. Ngo to show solidarity with and concern for two American citizens.

In addition, if Mrs. Ngo decides to go to Vietnam and attempt to see her husband, we request that you ensure her safety by personally meeting her at the airport and escorting her to the embassy and the jail where Dr. Nguyen is being held so that she does not meet the same fate as her husband.

If the U.S. Embassy does not stand with Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan then what assurances

do other U.S. citizens have when traveling to authoritarian countries? America must be a voice for the voiceless. The U.S. Embassy in Vietnam must be an island of freedom.

We urge you to meet with Dr. Nguyen and work to secure his immediate release so he can be reunited with his wife and two sons. To speak with Mrs. Ngo, please contact Representative Wolf's office at 202–225–5136 for her information.

We would like to be kept abreast of this case and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF.
DANIEL E. LUNGREN.
LORETTA SANCHEZ.
ZOE LOFGREN.
BOB FILNER.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 6, 2012.

DAVID SHEAR,
U.S. Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, U.S. Department of State, C Street, NW., Washington, DC.

DEAR AMBASSADOR SHEAR: I write to follow up on our recent phone call, after the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission hearing on Vietnam. I appreciate your willingness to assist in the case of imprisoned U.S. citizen Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan. I hope that after our conversation a senior person from the U.S. Embassy has reached out to his wife, Mrs. Mai Huong Ngo. As I mentioned to you—both in my previous letter and on the phone, the U.S. Embassy in Vietnam must be an island of freedom.

It is with this in mind that I truly hope you will invite Vietnamese dissidents and their families to the embassy's July 4th celebration this year. In addition, I urge the U.S. Consulate in Ho Chi Minh City to continue to work for the release of Dr. Nguyen. Please let me know of any updates in his case and when the embassy intends to have an Independence Day celebration that includes freedom-loving people in Vietnam. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, DC, June 26, 2012.

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.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, 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.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, DC, June 26, 2012.

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.

DAVID S. ADAMS,
Assistant Secretary,
Legislative Affairs.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 13, 2012.

Hon. HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON,
Secretary of State,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY CLINTON: I write to follow-up on my letter of July 9 regarding Ambassador David Shear's deeply disappointing pattern of sidelining of human rights and religious freedom in Vietnam. In fact I was so troubled by his approach that I urged you to fire him. I continue to believe that Ambassador Shear is not the man for the job. Furthermore, I am eager to know when the State Department will be able to provide me with a list of invited guests for the recent July 4 event held at the embassy.

I read with interest your public remarks earlier this week in Vietnam. While I appreciated your general comments regarding human rights concerns, I was disappointed to see no public mention of the imprisoned Vietnamese-American democracy activist Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan.

As you know, I have been unreserved in my criticism of this administration's policies in China on a host of levels. But, I will gladly concede that I have seen a promising trend with Ambassador Gary Locke, himself a Chinese-American. In numerous meetings with dissidents, human rights lawyers and activists, I have learned that they have been welcomed into the embassy under Ambassador Locke's leadership. He has taken a personal interest in their cause. This is in keeping with the finest traditions of our nation's embassies over the years. It bears noting that Chinese human rights activists and self-trained legal advocate Chen Guangcheng recently sought refuge in the American embassy—not the embassy of any other country.

The American embassy must a beacon for those seeking basic human freedom and dignity. The American ambassador must be a stalwart defender of dissidents and advocate for human rights. Increasingly I hear from the Vietnamese-American community in the U.S. that they no longer have any confidence that Ambassador Shear is up to the task.

I again urge you to remove Ambassador Shear and appoint a Vietnamese-American ambassador, preferably someone who is well versed, through personal experience, in the oppressive ways of Vietnam's communist government, to take his place. Such an individual would not need to be reminded that human rights and religious freedom advocacy feature prominently in their job description.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, July 19, 2012.

Hon. HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON,
Secretary of State,
Washington DC.

DEAR SECRETARY CLINTON: We strongly believe that human rights and religious freedom in Vietnam need to be at the forefront of bilateral relations with Vietnam, including any discussion about a strategic partnership with the United States. While we were pleased to hear that you mentioned democracy activists, lawyers and bloggers on your recent trip to Vietnam, we were deeply disappointed that there was no public mention of imprisoned Vietnamese-American Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan. In fact, in a letter sent earlier this month prior to your trip, several members of Congress urged you to raise the matter of his continued detention and press for his release.

We do not believe that this administration, especially Ambassador David Shear, have sufficiently advocated for basic human rights and religious freedom in Vietnam. In fact, Ambassador Shear has sidelined these issues which has been a cause for concern. The people of Vietnam yearn for American leadership in this realm—leadership which Ambassador Shear has been simply unable or unwilling to provide. As such, we urge you to dismiss Ambassador Shear from his post, and move swiftly to appoint an individual who will embrace the struggle of the Vietnamese people and advocate on their behalf.

Unfortunately, the outstanding congressional request for the list of invitees to the Embassy Hanoi's July 4th celebration remains unfulfilled. As such, we also urge you to make sure that the list is provided in a timely fashion so that we are able to see which religious freedom and democracy activists were invited, if any.

We wish to see a mutually beneficial relationship with Vietnam. In order for this to happen, we must have confidence in this administration's efforts to promote religious freedom and democracy in Vietnam. We have lost confidence that Ambassador Shear is up to the task.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF.
DANIEL E. LUNGREN.
CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH.
JOSEPH R. PITTS.

TO RECOGNIZE THE 2012 BEST OF BRADDOCK AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the recipients of the 2012 Best of Braddock Awards. The awards are given annually to deserving individuals, organizations and companies in the Braddock Magisterial District of Fairfax County, Virginia, who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the community.

Residents of the 11th Congressional District enjoy an exceptional quality of life. Fairfax County schools are ranked as some of the best in the country, our communities are safe, and our employment rate is one of the highest in the nation. However, much of what defines a community cannot be found in statistics; it lies in the commitment and contributions of all who strive for the betterment of the community as a whole. It is my pleasure to recognize the following individuals for their service to our community, and to congratulate each of them on being named a Best of Braddock honoree:

Citizen of the Year: Kathy Augustine, Braddock District and Fairfax County Communities.

Young Person of the Year: Dawson Taylor, Frost Middle School.

Most Outstanding Business Person: Patrick Gloyd, Burke Centre Conservancy.

Most Can-Do State Public Employee: Katherine Stramel, Northern Virginia Community College.

Most Can-Do Local Public Employee: Gaela Hime, Laurel Ridge Elementary School Crossing Guard.

Club or Organization Making a Difference: Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke.

Neighborhood Enhancement or Beautification, Community Association: The Burke Centre Conservancy.

Special Recognition Award: Marian Hardy (Annandale Christian Community for Action).

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these outstanding residents and companies and also in thanking them for their service to our community. Their efforts and leadership have been a great benefit to our community and truly merit our highest praise.

RECOGNIZING THE ATHLETES AND MEMBERS OF THE GUAM NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE'S DELEGATION TO THE 2012 OLYMPIC GAMES

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the athletes and members of the Guam National Olympic Committee's (GNOC) delegation to the Games of the 30th Olympiad in London, England. Since 1896, the Olympic Games have been the premier gathering for athletic competition throughout the world with more than 200 nations participating. Guam first participated in the Olympic Games in 1988 and has sent a delegation to every competition since then.

This year I am proud to recognize eight athletes who carry the distinguished honor of representing Guam in London. Our athletes are, Amy Atkinson, a runner competing in the women's 800 meter event; Ricardo Blas, Jr., a judoka competing in the men's +100 kilogram event; Christopher Duenas, a swimmer competing in the men's 100 meter freestyle event; Maria Dunn, a wrestler competing in the women's 63 kilogram freestyle event; Derek Horton, a cyclist competing in the men's cross-country mountain bike event; Derek Mandell, a runner and my former Assistant Press Secretary, competing in the men's 800 meter event; Benjamin Schulete, a swimmer competing in the men's 10 kilometer marathon event; and Pilar Shimizu, a swimmer competing in the women's 100 meter breaststroke event.

I commend each athlete for their dedication, passion, and sacrifice in preparing for their individual sporting events. Additionally, I acknowledge the support of their families, relatives, and friends in contributing to their successes as they represent our island and people.

I also commend the GNOC Executive Board Members, staff, and stakeholders for their efforts in preparing our athletes for this unique opportunity. I join our island in wishing Team Guam the best of luck and I look forward to their successes in this year's games.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VETERANS OUTREACH CLINIC IN PLYMOUTH

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the opening of the new Veterans Outreach Clinic in Plymouth.

Our veterans in the South Shore of Massachusetts have long been calling for a local veterans' medical center of their own. After many years of working toward achieving this goal, the Department of Veterans Affairs' regional office in Boston was proud to announce that they would be opening a new Veterans Outreach Clinic in the Town of Plymouth. For the first time, veterans in the Plymouth area will no longer need to travel to Cape Cod, Brockton, or Boston in order to receive care. In particular, this new addition to the VA Boston Healthcare system will make a tremendous difference to those unable to seek medical care due to limited mobility or transportation resources. As approximately 40,000 veterans live in Plymouth County alone, the new Veterans Outreach Clinic will go a long way towards providing the quality care that our veterans deserve without overburdening them with long travel.

When the Veterans Outreach Clinic opens next spring, it will already have the capacity to care for up to six hundred patients. A doctor, a nurse, an LPN, and a medical assistant will be on hand five days a week to treat veterans and to assist them with the various challenges that they may face. It is essential that we do not forget the sacrifices that our veteran population has made for our country. We must continue to care for these men and women once they return home, and ensuring access to medical services is a necessary facet of the long-term care that our veterans deserve.

Mr. Speaker, it brings me great pride to recognize the opening of the new Veterans Outreach Clinic in Plymouth. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the importance of this new facility, and of the valuable role that it will play in the lives of many local veterans.

COMMEMORATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GUADALCANAL CAMPAIGN OF WORLD WAR II

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Guadalcanal campaign of World War II.

This month, as we approach the 70th anniversary of Guadalcanal, we are reminded of the many sacrifices that brought freedom and security to the South Pacific. We reflect upon the 7,100 men who gave their lives in the Guadalcanal campaign.

Guadalcanal lasted more than six months and effectively ended the military expansion of our enemies in the South Pacific. During that time, more than 60,000 Allied personnel participated in gaining control of Guadalcanal, its surrounding islands, and Henderson Field, a particularly important location to enemy forces. There is no doubt that this victory significantly contributed to the eventual end of the Second World War.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and remembering this great sacrifice and appreciating the advancement of freedom that came at such a high cost 70 years ago.

HONORING THE D.L. MARTIN CO. ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the D.L. Martin Company as it celebrates its 50th anniversary on August 9th, 2012, and to recognize and honor its founder and owner, Donnie L. Martin for receiving ''Business Person of the Year'' in Franklin County, Pennsylvania.

The D.L. Martin Company has experienced outstanding growth since it was first founded in 1962, when Donnie Martin first purchased a 3,000 square foot machine shop in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania and hired his first two employees. D.L. Martin has now grown to over 40 acres and 150,000 square feet of manufacturing floor space and employs nearly 200 people, making it an integral business in our community.

We are proud of the resilience that the D.L. Martin Company has shown and the excellent service that it has provided to Franklin County over the last 50 years. The company has become a world class provider of heavy industrial, construction and mining equipment, and also specializes in manufacturing custom hydraulics, elevator jacks and components, and engine and transmission parts for class 8 trucks. Their commitment to quality products and customer service has not gone unnoticed to their clients or to our community.

The company is holding a celebration in Mercersburg, Franklin County, Pennsylvania to commemorate its 50 years of business on August 9th, 2012. Current and former employees as well as family and friends in the community are invited to celebrate this anniversary and the promising future of D.L. Martin.

I would like to thank Donnie Martin for his service to our community and for being such an important employer to so many in our district. His integrity and strong work ethic have brought him great success thus far and have enabled his company to grow and thrive in our community. D.L. Martin continues to provide quality service and lasting jobs to the citizens of Franklin County and in other areas of Pennsylvania. As Congressman of the 9th district of Pennsylvania, I believe that their service has been very beneficial to the community and I know that they will experience continued success for many years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 539, due to a travel delay stemming from yesterday's inclement weather, I was unable to cast my vote on this legislation. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea.''

IN RECOGNITION OF THE REDEDICATION OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 40 HONORING PFC EDWARD RIBIERO

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the rededication of American Legion Post 40 in Plymouth, Massachusetts, honoring PFC Edward Ribiero.

In the spring of 2010, heavy rains caused Little West Pond in Plymouth, Massachusetts to overflow, flooding American Legion Post 40. The flooding occurred not long after renovations had been completed on the Post and caused damage. The damage was so extensive that the entire building needed to be demolished. The Post's members began construction on a new, larger building in the hope of funding some construction costs by renting out their function room and gaining new members.

Even when faced with such adversity and loss, the members of American Legion Post 40 persevered. They remained committed to pushing forward the reconstruction of a new building, and did not falter. Such determination is a testament to the character and integrity of the men and women who have defended our nation both past and present, and to Post members who undertook this project.

The role of American Legion Posts cannot be understated. They remain sacred places for our veterans, playing a vital role in helping reintegrate our servicemen and women into society, especially those recently returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. That is why the rebuilding of American Legion Post 40 is such a great accomplishment. The members of the Post realized the important need for veterans to have a support community and they remained committed to ensuring that Plymouth had that in the new Post.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the members of American Legion Post 40 for their hard work and determination. I am certain Post 40 will serve the community for many years to come.

IRAN THREAT REDUCTION AND SYRIA HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the amended version of H.R. 1905, the Iran Threat Reduction & Syria Human Rights Act.

I am a co-sponsor of and voted for the original version of this bill when it was on the House floor in December 2011. Since that time, the bill has been refined in the Senate with language designed to essentially paralyze Iran's oil sector, which has already seen its oil exports fall by 60 percent as a result of sanctions imposed to date. The improved bill before us even more broadly targets Iran's oil sector and anyone who tries to do business with Iran in this area. It will prevent the Central Bank of Iran from repatriating funds from the sale of oil as part of bilateral trade agreements Iran may have with other nations. Indeed, prior sanctions passed by this Congress have caused India and Turkey to deny Iranian banks licenses to set up branches in those nations. Finally, this bill includes sanctions targeting Syrian officials responsible for the massacres in that nation since the Syrian people began their uprising more than 18 months ago.

These are important steps we must take as part of a strategy to use every means available to compel Iran to meet its international obligations. Iran must renounce any effort to acquire nuclear weapons, and that claim must be verified through thorough, intrusive on-site inspections and monitoring.

I should also note that yesterday, President Obama announced a fresh set of sanctions against Iran's energy and petrochemical sectors based on existing sanctions law and his own authority as president. As President Obama noted this week, "The United States remains committed to a diplomatic solution, but the onus is on Iran to abide by its international obligations. If the Iranian government continues its defiance, there should be no doubt that the United States and our partners will continue to impose increasing consequences." The government of Iran should understand that Congress, on a bipartisan basis, is sending the same message by passing H.R. 1905. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

MAJOR TIM CROWE

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major Tim Crowe, United States Army, who is soon ending his tour of duty in Washington, D.C. Major Crowe distinguished himself as both an Army Congressional Fellow and as a Legislative Liaison Officer with the U.S. Army and the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO). His next assignment is in my district at Fort Huachuca in Southern Arizona.

Like many of today's service members Major Crowe spent years away from his family and serving our country in harm's way, including deployments to Somalia, Kosovo and twice to Iraq. I came to know Major Crowe when he was an Army Fellow working for Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords in 2009. Originally an Infantry Officer and now a Military Intelligence Officer, Major Crowe provided much needed expertise to the office, with a special understanding of Fort Huachuca, home of the Army's Intelligence Joint Center of Excellence. He was an indispensible member of our team, who made significant contributions to a variety of constituent issues, and guided several legislative efforts addressing veterans affairs, health care, and financial services issues.

Major Crowe spent eighteen months at the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO). He consistently provided insightful advice to JIEDDO's senior leadership on the impact of proposed counter-IED initiates. He filled an important role keeping Congress informed of the Department of Defense efforts to counter IEDs; the greatest source of combat casualties this decade. Major Crowe was instrumental in developing a Department of Defense legislative proposal to amend JIEDDO's authority enabling it to fund critical interagency efforts to disrupt the flow of improvised explosive components entering Afghanistan. U.S. Central Command identified this authority as an urgent need, as the majority of IEDs used against our troops are made with materials smuggled into Afghanistan. The measure was included in the Fiscal Year 2013 Defense Authorization Bill.

Major Crowe's high level of integrity, dedication, outstanding leadership, relentless pursuit of excellence, and focus on the mission, significantly contributed to the effectiveness, readiness, and outstanding quality of the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization. In so doing, our men and women in uniform have been provided the tools necessary to carry out their mission in Iraq and Afghanistan. His outstanding service coupled with his selfless devotion to duty will have a lasting and positive effect on JIEDDO's future relations with Congress. I look forward to being Major Crowe's Representative as he embarks on the next stage of his career at Fort Huachuca.

HONORING MS. KATHY ASHE

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 21 years of service in the Georgia General Assembly House of Representatives by Kathy Ashe. Upon her decision to retire this year she leaves a legacy of altruism inside and outside the legislature and her contributions will be greatly missed.

Kathy represents the heart of Atlanta, the city that I am proud to call home and represent in the U.S House of Representatives. Kathy has stood firm in her advocacy for women and children, and has been a leader in k–12 public education and a leader by example in higher education.

Kathy was born in DeKalb, Illinois and has always spent her life in service to the community; first as a community leader, later as an educator, and continually as a volunteer. She is an example of someone who practices what she preaches and has always used her bipartisan leadership to represent the needs of her constituents. Before being elected to the Georgia Assembly in 1991, Kathy graduated from Agnes Scott College and went on to receive a Masters of Arts in Teaching from Emory University and further continued her path to higher education graduate studies at Georgia State University. She taught in the Marietta and Cobb County public schools for 8 years before dedicating herself to a career in public service.

Kathy has taken an active leadership role in a variety of organizations including the Atlanta Community Food bank, Atlanta Women's Network, Planned Parenthood Atlanta, Central Health Center, City of Atlanta Child Care Task Force, and many other boards and foundations. It goes without saying that her involvement in the community is consistent and done with a graceful dedication.

Representative Ashe, your presence and leadership will be missed in the General Assembly. Let it be known that your hard work and dedication to all Georgians and to the people of Atlanta is appreciated, and I wish you the best in your future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FIRST ANNUAL STAND DOWN EVENT AT CAPE COD ACADEMY

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the first annual Stand Down event at Cape Cod Academy.

On August 11, 2012, at its Stand Down event, Cape Cod Academy in Osterville will open its doors to local veterans and will provide these men and women with a variety of services and support. The term "stand down" originated as a military term, designating that a combat unit was temporarily moved away from the front lines for rest and rehabilitation. The tradition of hosting service-oriented events for veterans, and giving them the "Stand Down" name, originated in the United States after the Civil War, when returning soldiers were offered food and medical treatment in the towns they passed on their long journeys home. Modern Stand Down events have evolved as an opportunity to provide needed services to local veterans.

The Stand Down event at Cape Cod Academy will provide services—such as general health screenings and dental care, benefits assistance, registry of motor vehicles services, the availability of clergy, and free clothing and hygiene items—in a safe and welcoming environment. Most of the volunteers at this event will be Cape Cod Academy students. It is truly admirable that these young people are ready and willing to give their time on a Saturday afternoon to honor our local veterans.

As more than thirty thousand veterans call Cape Cod home, it is crucial that we offer assistance to the men and women who have served our nation. Cape Cod Academy, its students, and its faculty have truly done the community a great service by planning and hosting this event. I look forward to seeing the Academy's success as it continues this newly-annual tradition in the future.

Mr. Speaker, it brings me great pride to recognize the first annual Stand Down event at Cape Cod Academy. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the students and faculty who have worked to bring this event to life, and the importance that this event will have to the Cape Cod community.

TRIBUTE TO DR. CAROL LOWMAN DEPUTY TO THE COMMANDING GENERAL U.S. ARMY CONTRACTING COMMAND

HON. MO BROOKS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. BROOKS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize and applaud the achievements of Dr. Carol Lowman, who serves as the deputy to the commanding general of the U.S. Army Contracting Command (ACC). Headquartered at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, ACC includes more than 6,300 military and civilian employees across the globe who provide support to our warfighters by acquiring equipment, supplies, and services vital to our Soldiers' mission and daily needs. Dr. Lowman will soon retire after more than 20 years of distinguished service to America's Army. Throughout her career, Dr. Lowman has demonstrated the highest level of professionalism, initiative, and selfless service in the execution of programs supporting the total force of quality Soldiers and Department of the Army civilians. The distinctive accomplishments of Dr. Lowman reflect great credit upon her, the Army Contracting Command, the U.S. Army, and the Department of Defense.

Dr. Lowman began her Army career as a contracting intern with the Information Systems Command at Fort Richie, Maryland. She has served with distinction at virtually every level in the Army contracting community. Prior to her ACC Headquarters assignment, she was the acting director of the Mission and Installation Contracting Command at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. She has also served as the director and principal assistant responsible for contracting and chief, Business Systems Division for the Army Contracting Agency Southern Region in Atlanta, Georgia and as chief, Management Branch for the Contracting Division at the U.S. Army Forces Command at Fort McPherson, Georgia.

While her career accomplishments are many and significant, I wish to highlight Dr. Lowman's contributions to the establishment of the Army Contracting Command on March 13, 2008. She was one of several senior Army leaders who worked tirelessly to create a new major command from the ground up in record time. Her wisdom, insight, and vision were essential elements in building the foundation of a global enterprise that awarded and managed more than 198,000 contractual actions valued at more than $86.9 billion in fiscal year 2011.

Dr. Lowman also played a key role last year in the relocation of ACC Headquarters from Fort Belvoir, Virginia, to Redstone Arsenal. This move followed the transfer of ACC's parent-Command, the Army Material Command (AMC) Headquarters to Redstone from Fort Belvoir, as directed by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission's decision in 2005. While AMC had several years to plan for and transition to its new Alabama home, ACC completed its relocation in less than 18 months. This tremendous accomplishment was a direct result of Dr. Lowman's inspired leadership, foresight, and team building skills.

Dr. Lowman assumed leadership of the ACC, as executive director, on September 27, 2011. This was the first time a female Senior Executive Service member was designated the senior leader of a military command and was a true testament to the faith and confidence Army leadership had in her ability to support Army acquisition requirements during a time of war. Dr. Lowman resumed her deputy duties on May 17, 2012 when ACC welcomed its first commanding general.

On September 20, 2011, the President appointed Dr. Lowman as the Army representative on the Committee for Purchase from People Who are Blind or Severely Disabled. The committee is an independent federal agency that administers the AbilityOne program which is the largest employment resource for people who are blind or have other significant disabilities.

I also wish to acknowledge and thank Dr. Lowman's husband, Mark, a retired U.S. Army Reserve colonel, for supporting his wife and for his service to our country. The Lowmans have been blessed with five children and five grandchildren. We wish Dr. Lowman and her family all the best in the years ahead.

IN HONOR OF CHUCK RUNION

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor Chief Petty Officer Charles Clinton Runion, U.S. Navy Retired, who resides in Washington, NC.

Mr. Runion was born in Irwin, TN, on August 7, 1923, and over his lifetime he has served his country and distinguished himself as a role model in patriotism.

In October of 1940, Mr. Runion enlisted in the United States Navy and served his country for 24 years before retiring. As a successful Navy pilot during WWII and the Korean War, he has flown over 80 different aviation vessels throughout his military and civilian life.

Mr. Runion has had the honor and privilege to fly many important people of the time. He has flown President Gerald Ford and First Lady Mamie Eisenhower. He flew First Lady Jackie Kennedy from Washington, DC, to Growton, Connecticut, to launch the USS *Lafayette* nuclear submarine. Mr. Runion continued his streak of flying the country's most important into the 1960's with Hubert Humphrey, Lady Bird Johnson and Tennessee Congressman Jimmy Quillen.

Throughout his career, Chuck Runion has been honored with many accolades. He has been awarded an air medal with gold star, Navy unit commendation, an American defense letter "A," an American/European Pacific theater medal, a WWII victory medal, a Korean unit commendation and a good conduct medal with four stars. He also earned a humanitarian ribbon and a Berlin airlift ribbon. Mr. Runion's last flight was on Aug. 7, 2011—his 88th birthday.

Mr. Speaker, Chuck Runion is part of the Greatest Generation. Like most members of this generation, when the war was over they came home and became an important part of the community. Mr. Runion not only became an important part of his community, but he was able to continue his love of flying.

I have been fortunate enough to visit Mr. and Mrs. Runion at their home. I was pleased to look through the scrapbooks from Mr. Runion's years of service to this country. That is why today I want to recognize him on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Runion remains active in his community and remains involved in current political issues. He is a member of Wanoca Presbyterian Church in Washington, NC, and has a good friend in Pastor Travis Boyd. I am honored to represent such a fine man who has been such an asset to our country and pleased to have him recognized by the United States Congress.

IN HONOR'S CODE, THE U.S. CPL CODY STANTON

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor CPL Cody Stanton of Raleigh North Carolina, United States Army, 21st MP CO "ABN". On January 26, 2012 while out on a mission CPL Cody Stanton was almost killed in an IED explosion. With the quick help of his brother in arms SSG Marcus Emelio, his life was saved when he applied two tourniquets. In a few short months Cody has come so far and so fast in his recovery over at Walter Reed Hospital in Bethesda. Another very important part of his recovery has been his mother Nancy Stanton who has been there for him constantly. The families of our wounded warriors are the unsung heroes who make the difference in recovery. I ask that this poem penned in his honor by Albert Caswell be placed in the RECORD.

In Honor's Code . . .
What men must bare,
this heavy load!
All in where they must go!
All in what they must do!
While, all in the face of death their fine hearts stand true!
All for me and you!
To so provide freedom's hue!
All for that old red, white and blue!
All in times of war,
when hearts of courage must stand true!
As what they are,
in what they do!
As so Cody,
as so have you!
As a man of faith . . .
Whose fine heart would not so wave!
Who so lives by such an ethos,
SUCH A CODE,
that which so means the most!
Who to this our nation so gave!
Almost his life,
and his two fine strong legs . . .
as death stood close!
For this hero,
can you but not so hear the Angel's pray, all of those?
For it was on a battlefield of honor bright,
where heroes are so made who for us so fight!
Where this fine hero almost so lost his life!
But, coming back from the dead as his great heart shone so bright!
As he so looked down upon his new plight!
As he so realized that things would never be the same that night!
As his heart so went Air Borne,
oh what a sight!
As one of Carolina's favorite son's!
Went off to war to so patriotically do what must be done!
As have all of our most courageous sons!

Who but buy us peace,
with but their most sacred lives and arms and legs all of these ones!
Who upon this earth their most magnificent blood so runs!
But, quit is a word that Cody just never so learned!
As so deep down inside this Southern Son, something so burns!
With his next mission to recovery this courageous Carolinian he earns!
To So Teach Us!
To So Beseech Us!
To So Reach Us!
As all in him what we must learn!
That arms and legs we all need!
But, what lies within ones heart above all else supercedes!
As one day this man will go back to Carolina's to live under her blue skies,
as a hero indeed as so comprised!
Air Borne,
all in what his fine heart has formed . . . as a special breed!
For such things forever live on as these . . .
In men of faith who so live by such a code of honor,
and believe . . .
For Heaven so awaits all of them and all these!
Who live by such an honor's code indeed!
By what code in your life will you so live?
All in your heart's of honor to this our world what will you so give?
IN HONOR'S CODE!

IN RECOGNITION JIM PINKHAM AND MARK FLAHERTY

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jim Pinkham and Mark Flaherty, the two honorees at this year's ''Thanks Labor'' Day Cookout in Lakeville, Massachusetts.

Mr. Pinkham and Mr. Flaherty are the President and Secretary/Treasurer, respectively, of the Plymouth-Bristol Central Labor Council, which represents union members living and working in Plymouth and Bristol County in Massachusetts. It is not an overstatement to say that they have dedicated their lives to protecting the rights of workers and ensuring that the hardworking people of Plymouth and Bristol County are adequately represented in their unions.

Mr. Pinkham is a lifelong member of the Utility Workers Union of America Local 369 and a former Boston Edison employee. Mr. Flaherty is a member of the Boston and Carmen's Union and has been involved with union activities throughout his tenure as an MBTA employee. As leaders of the Plymouth-Bristol Central Labor Council, Mr. Pinkham and Mr. Flaherty represent nurses, teachers, electrical utility workers, law enforcement and public safety personnel, construction workers, public sector employees, and other working men and women of Massachusetts. Throughout their careers as union representatives, they have worked with companies to bring more jobs to the state, ensuring that the jobs brought are ones that come with fair wages and working conditions. They have also walked picket lines, worked voter registration tables, and organized educational campaigns, all civic activities with great importance for our communities. Their efforts strengthen Massachusetts' economy and workforce, and they are an essential part of the Commonwealth's effort to make the state a better place to live and work.

Labor union representatives play a critical role in Massachusetts, ensuring that wages and benefits are fair and that working conditions are safe for the hardworking individuals who drive our economy. Our sincere recognition is due to the men and women who ensure that these unions run smoothly and successfully, as they often remain unsung heroes in our society. As longtime advocates of the workers of southeastern Massachusetts, Mr. Pinkham and Mr. Flaherty are highly deserving of the honor that is being bestowed upon them.

Mr. Speaker, it brings me great pride to recognize Jim Pinkham and Mark Flaherty, this year's honorees at the ''Thanks Labor'' Day Cookout. I am proud to call them friends and I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing these two individuals who have worked so hard to represent the workers of southeastern Massachusetts.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 1905, IRAN THREAT REDUCTION AND SYRIA HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Senate amendment to H.R. 1905, the Iran Threat Reduction Act. This bipartisan legislation is critical to the protection of the American people and our allies around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is imperative that the United States take the lead in opposing Iran's effort to produce nuclear weapons. Such a development would introduce an intolerable and destabilizing element into one of the world's most volatile regions. The discovery of a plot to assassinate the Saudi Ambassador to the United States on American soil is but a reminder of the urgent need for the United States to take forceful and effective action to ensure that Iran does not succeed in developing the capability to produce nuclear weapons.

In, Congress passed H.R. 2194, the Iran Sanctions, Accountability and Divestment Act, which at the time were the most comprehensive sanctions ever imposed on Iran by the United States. But more needs to be done.

While current sanctions on Iran have impeded Iran's ability to successfully develop a nuclear weapon, most experts agree that Iran will have nuclear capabilities in the next two to three years if tougher sanctions are not imposed. According to a report released by the International Atomic Energy Agency, Iran has a stockpile of low-enriched uranium that if further enriched could produce three nuclear weapons.

Last year, I wrote to Chairman ROS-LEHTINEN, Ranking Member BERMAN, Leader PELOSI, and Speaker BOEHNER urging them to bring before the House legislation imposing sanctions on the Central Bank of Iran. Shortly thereafter, I was very encouraged and pleased that the Committee reported favorably and the House passed H.R. 1905.

H.R. 1905 strongly reflects the demands of the international community that tougher sanctions must be placed on Iranian leaders to end their nuclear program. H.R. 1905 increases sanctions on human rights violators in Iran, imposes tougher sanctions on the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), and codifies U.S. policy to prevent Iran from developing unconventional weapons and ballistic missiles. This bill takes steps to peacefully thwart Iran's nuclear aspirations.

During the markup of this bill, an amendment offered by Ranking Member Berman to strengthen sanctions against Iran's Central Bank was unanimously agreed to. The Berman Amendment strengthens H.R. 1905 by inserting language that directs the President to determine whether the Central Bank of Iran is engaged in sanctionable activity.

By sanctioning the Central Bank of Iran, the United States would set a strong example for countries around the world that depend on a geopolitically stable Middle East for their own security and prosperity. Imposing tougher sanctions on the Iranian economy will demonstrate that the international community will not tolerate Iran's continued refusal to end their nuclear enrichment program.

Specifically, the Berman Amendment directs the President of the United States to determine whether the Central Bank of Iran has: (1) assisted Iran's VVMD or missile programs, including proliferation of WMD to other governments; (2) financed Iran's procurement of advanced conventional weapons; (3) provided financial services for the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps; or (4) facilitated Iran's support of international terrorism.

Should the President make the determination that the Central Bank of Iran is involved in any of these areas, the bill requires him to apply sanctions under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act. The President will have 30 days to make this determination. These sanctions would ensure that any foreign bank involved in significant transactions with the Central Bank of Iran is excluded from doing business with the U.S.

Mr. Speaker, the bill also includes Title WI, entitled the ''Syria Human Rights Accountability Act of 2012.'' I support the inclusion of this title. What began as a peaceful stand against tyranny has degenerated into the bloodiest movement of the Arab Spring. According to the International Red Cross more than 16,00o people have been killed in the conflict and the violence has increased substantially in the past few weeks.

This is why Title VII of this bill is necessary. It builds upon efforts to bring about a peaceful and swift resolution by

(1) requiring the President to identify within 90 days and impose sanctions on officials of the Syrian government or those acting on their behalf who are complicit in or responsible for the commission of serious human rights abuses against Syria's citizens, regardless of whether the abuses occurred in Syria;

(2) imposing sanctions on anyone who transfers equipment or technologies including weapons, rubber bullets, tear gas and other riot equipment, and jamming, monitoring and surveillance equipment which the President determines are likely to be used by Syrian officials to commit human rights abuses, and

(3) imposing sanctions on anyone who engages in censorship, or activities relating to censorship, in a manner that prohibits, limits,

or penalizes the legitimate exercise of freedom of expression by citizens of Syria.

Mr. Speaker, history has taught us that strong sanctions can bring about peaceful change. A generation ago, Congress passed the Anti-Apartheid Act which led to the end of the apartheid regime and brought about a peaceful revolution resulting in the new democratic South Africa.

H.R. 1905 will help to refocus our efforts on appropriately addressing these critical issues. Leaders in the Iranian and Syrian governments have shown repeatedly that they are unwilling to comply with international demands.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 1905 and the Senate amendments. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting to pass this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INTERSTATE LAND SALES UPDATE ACT OF 2012

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise along with my colleague Rep. MCHENRY to introduce the Interstate Land Sales Disclosure Act Update of 2012.

The Interstate Land Sales Disclosure Act was enacted in 1969 to protect consumers from being sold property where the property's description in the contract and related materials was not what was to be delivered to the buyer.

It was intended to protect out-of-state buyers who were sold land that was not what was advertised and provides a right of action to rescind the contract and walk away from the deal. However, Courts have ruled over the years that ISLA applies to condominiums, and developers are required to file redundant paperwork that is unnecessary and out of keeping with modern condominium development.

During the economic downturn, some buyers have used the recording requirements of ILSA to rescind otherwise valid contracts for economic reasons, an unintended consequence of the act and its intent. The law now needs a technical fix to distinguish condominium sales from other types of land sales and to recognize the unique conditions under which these units are sold in today's market.

I fully support the consumer protections that were enacted through ILSA, and this proposed legislation does nothing to affect those protections. But I also believe that we need to make distinctions for condominiums in order to allow the condominium development industry to rebound from the recession. The bill would only exempt condominiums from ILSA's registration requirements but will maintain the consumer protections to ensure consumers still have the right to rescind contracts in cases of fraud. Developers would, of course, still be required to comply with state laws that require specific disclosures.

As we recover in this still fragile economy, we want to encourage, not discourage, buyers and sellers to enter into real estate deals responsibly.

That is why this bill is important to ensure development and the return of an important industry in our country, residential condominium sales. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CAPE COD CRANBERRY GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 125th annual meeting of the Cape Cod Cranberry Growers' Association, a professional organization representing over 330 cranberry growers throughout Massachusetts.

Established in 1888 to standardize the 100 pound barrel, the measure with which cranberries are sold, the Cape Cod Cranberry Growers' Association, CCCGA, is one of the oldest farmer organizations in the country. Since its creation, the CCCGA has stayed true to its original goal—to support and promote the interests of Massachusetts cranberry growers.

To execute its mission, the CCCGA's professional staff continuously sponsors professional development seminars for growers, assists growers in regulatory compliance, provides resources for environmental sustainability, and supports community and professional outreach activities. Through investments of over $500,000 dollars in studies and research efforts to improve the efficiency of cranberry farmers as well as to promote environmentally compatible farming techniques, the CCCGA promotes the sustainable success of the Massachusetts cranberry grower.

Cranberries are synonymous with Massachusetts and the significance of the Commonwealth's cranberry industry is illustrated by the revenues generated in 2012, which exceeded $120 million and the roughly 5,000 workers employed in the industry. In addition to supporting large, commercial enterprises, the Cape Cod Cranberry Growers' Association provides assistance to small, family owned and operated businesses. Approximately seventy percent of CCCGA businesses are family owned and operated, and some have been continuously run by the same family for as many as five generations.

The importance of the resources provided to sustain the success of such hard-working growers cannot be overstated. Through its continued support, the CCCGA is working to ensure that Massachusetts cranberry farmers can adapt to environmental changes, that they survive urbanization, and that they continue to experience success and growth into the future.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the 125th annual meeting of the Cape Cod Cranberry Growers' Association. May the CCCGA continue to fulfill its mission and be a strong, viable supporter of Massachusetts cranberry growers.

ON THE TRAGIC SHOOTING IN AURORA, COLORADO

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my sincere condolences to the families of the victims of the Aurora, Colorado shooting, which took place on July 20, 2012.

Twelve people were killed and 58 wounded in this senseless carnage, as they sought to enjoy a film with their family and friends. Compounding this tragedy, among the victims were children and U.S. service-members, who had bravely fought for this country.

While we will never truly understand what causes someone to take the lives of others in cold blood, faith will console where reason cannot. We must find solace in the admirable examples of courage in the line of fire, as ordinary citizens risked life and limb to help each other.

The shooter underestimated the strength and resolve of the community of Aurora. Aurora will overcome this tragedy and we as a country will support them because what impacts them directly impacts us all indirectly.

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD PROBES

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker. I submit the Politico article titled ''In defense of Michele Bachmann, Muslim Brotherhood probes'', dated July 29, 2012, and authored by former Speaker Newt Gingrich.

The recent assault on the National Security Five is only the most recent example of the fear our elites have about discussing and understanding radical Islamists.

When an orchestrated assault is launched on the right to ask questions in an effort to stop members of Congress from even inquiring about a topic—you know the fix is in. The intensity of the attack on Rep. Michele Bachmann (R–Minn.) as well as Republican Reps. Trent Franks of Arizona, Louie Gohmert of Texas, Tom Rooney of Florida and Lynn Westmoreland of Georgia is a reminder of how desperate our elites are to avoid this discussion. Yet consider this rush to silence questions in light of our history of unpleasant surprises during the Cold War.

Given all the painful things we learn about people every day and the surprises that shock even the experts (the head of the FBI anti-spy effort was a Russian spy, for example), you have to wonder why people would aggressively assert we shouldn't ask about national security concerns.

Remember the shock in 2001 when we learned that FBI agent Robert Hanssen had been spying for 22 years—first for the Soviet Union and then the Russian Federation. This disaster came just seven years after the 1994 arrest of Aldrich Ames, a CIA counterintelligence officer who was a Soviet spy for eight years.

Why should we assume we're in better shape today, when political correctness is passionately opposed to tough counterintelligence screening? It's as though our

leaders have forgotten every lesson of the 1930s about fascism, Nazism and communism and every lesson from 1945 to 1991 about communism. We have replaced tough mindedness about national security with a refusal to think seriously and substituted political correctness and a ''solid'' assurance that people must be OK because they are ''nice'' and ''hard working'' for the systematic, intense investigations of the past.

I'm not suggesting that our primary threat is espionage. Our greatest problem is getting the wrong analysis, advice and policy proposals. It is the bias of the advisers and the disastrous policies they propose that are our gravest danger at this stage of the long struggle with radical Islamists. Our elites refuse to even consider that the advice they are getting is biased, tainted, distorted—or just plain wrong.

The underlying driving force behind this desperate desire to stop unpleasant questions is the elite's fear that an honest discussion of radical Islamism will spin out of control. They fear if Americans fully understood how serious radical Islamists are, they would demand a more confrontational strategy.

Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair warned last week, ''The West is asleep on this issue.'' Islamist extremists, Blair asserted in an interview with The Telegraph, seek ''supremacy, not coexistence.'' A young John F. Kennedy wrote ''Why England Slept'' to try to understand how the leadership of a nation could ignore, repress and reject warnings about Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany. A future JFK may write ''Why Washington Slept'' to explain our current period. The case of the National Security Five would be a good chapter on the desperation of the elites to avoid reality and their determination to smother any wake-up call, which might make them come to grips with Blair's warning.

This desperate avoidance of reality is not new. After Maj. Nidal Hasan shouted, ''Allahu Akbar'' (''God is great'') in Fort Hood, Texas, and killed 12 soldiers and one Army civilian while wounding 29 others, there was pressure to avoid confronting his acts as inspired by his support for radical Islamism. An American of Palestinian descent, Hasan had been in touch with a radical American cleric in Yemen, Anwar al-Awlaki. He declared Hasan a hero. Al-Awlaki was himself declared a ''specially designated global terrorist'' and, with presidential approval, was killed by a predator missile. Yet, despite the evidence, Wikipedia reports, ''One year after the Fort Hood shooting, the motivations of the perpetrator were not yet established.''

It did offer suggestions about motivation, however. For example, ''A review of Hasan's computer and his multiple email accounts has revealed visits to websites espousing radical Islamist ideas.'' Talking about Islam, he said, ''Nonbelievers would be sent to Hell, decapitated, set on fire and have burning oil poured down their throats.''

A rational person would have some hints about what motivated a terrorist killing spree. If even Wikipedia could reach some conclusion about motivation, you would think the national security system could do the same. Not so. The Defense Department official report instead focused on Hasan's actions as though they were ''workplace violence'' rather than terrorism. President Barack Obama, in his speech at Fort Hood, described the attack as ''incomprehensible.''

Despite every effort by our enemies to communicate why they hate us and why they want to replace our world with theirs, our leaders find their motives ''incomprehensible.'' Clearly, Obama hasn't understood Blair's warning.

An even more bizarre example of ignoring reality was New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's initial response to news that a car bomb had been found in Times Square. Bloomberg is mayor of the city attacked on Sept. 11—so did he shrewdly identify the probable perpetrator? Of course not. Bloomberg opined it was a ''homegrown, maybe a mentally deranged, person or someone with a political agenda that doesn't like the health care bill or something. It could be anything.''

Just as Bloomberg was desperately avoiding blaming radical Islamists, the New York Police Department noted the similarities to a 2007 jihadist car bombing in London. A Taliban video from Pakistan claimed responsibility for the car bomb. The person being looked for was a U.S.-naturalized citizen from Pakistan.

Given that evidence, Bloomberg's will to hide from the truth illustrates the challenge that the National Security Five face in raising appropriate and even frightening questions.

The case of the Pakistani-American car bomber has yet another lesson for those willing to learn it. At his sentencing, Faisal Shahzad asserted, ''If I'm given 1,000 lives, I will sacrifice them all for the life of Allah.'' He had apparently planned to build another car bomb in the next two weeks. The Pakistan Taliban had given him $15,000 and five days of explosive training just months after he became a U.S. citizen.

As Fox News reported: ''The judge cut him off at one point to ask him if he had sworn allegiance to the United States when he became a citizen last year. 'I did swear' Shahzad answered, 'but I did not mean it.' ''

Judge Miriam Goldman Cedarbaum clearly understood the threat. She stated in sentencing: ''The defendant has repeatedly expressed his total lack of remorse and his desire, if given the opportunity, to repeat the crime.'' Shahzad was not some desperate representative of poverty or repression. His father had been vice chief of the Pakistani Air Force. This was the bomber Bloomberg was confused about.

The reaction to the National Security Five and their request for investigations by the inspectors general must be seen in this context of willful avoidance and denial. In fact, there is a good deal in the Obama administration's national security and foreign policy to ask about. One theme of the inspectors general letters is the administration's courting of individuals viewed as leaders by the U.S.-based Muslim Brotherhood. A recent terrorist finance trial produced 80 boxes of evidence related to the activities of the Muslim Brotherhood network in North America over the past 40 years.

Unlike the Cold War, the primary focus of concern in government today is not espionage but influence. In the Cold War, there was value to learning secrets. The right spy at the right place could give one side or the other a big advantage.

This long war with radical Islamists is a very different struggle. There are many nuances and long-term developments. Much of the struggle involves ideas and language alien to most American leaders and unknown even to most of the State or Defense Department professionals.

So the right or wrong adviser can be enormously powerful. Getting the right advice can be everything. Therefore, whose advice we rely on becomes central to national security. Asking who the advisers are, what their prejudices are and what advice they give is a legitimate—indeed, essential—part of any serious national security system.

It was this question that the National Security Five focused on. They were right to do so and it weakens national security for them to be attacked for simply asking basic questions. One clear example of the Obama administration's indefensible bias is its decision to co-sponsor the Global Counterterrorism Forum, which explicitly excluded Israel. Launched on Sept. 22, 2011, by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, this forum brought together 29 countries and the European Union. Yet it excluded the country that has been the most frequently attacked and has the most experience defeating terrorism.

On June 7, 2012, Sens. Joe Lieberman (I-Conn.) and Mark Kirk (R-I11.) condemned the U.S. government for giving in to demands to exclude Israel.

To make matters worse, Maria Otero, the undersecretary for civilian security, democracy and human rights, gave a speech ''in which she notably failed to mention Israel and Israelis as victims of terrorism.''

Isn't it legitimate to ask: Who advised Clinton to launch a counterterrorism initiative that excluded Israel? Isn't it also legitimate to ask: Who advised Otero to give a major speech on terrorism and ignore the attacks on Israel and Israelis?

The anti-Israeli bias in the Obama administration shows up in strange ways. Daniel Halper of The Weekly Standard reported in August 2011 that the ''White House has apparently gone through its website, cleansing any reference to Jerusalem being in Israel.'' It seems the Obama administration even went back to public documents from earlier administrations to pretend this White House's rejection of Jerusalem as part of Israel had been prior administrations' policies. This is the Orwellian nature of the Obama system.

Its hostility to the city of David being considered Israel's capital was displayed as recently as Thursday in the following colloquy between reporters and Jay Carney, White House press secretary:

Reporter: ''What city does this administration consider to be the capital of Israel? Jerusalem or Tel Aviv?''

Carney: ''Um . . . I haven't had that question in a while. Our position has not changed. Can we, uh . . .''

Reporter: ''What is the capital [of Israel]?''

Carney: ''You know our position.''

Reporter: ''I don't.''

Lester Kinsolving, World Net Daily: ''No, no. She doesn't know, that's why she asked.''

Carney: ''She does know.''

Reporter: ''I don't.''

Kinsolving: ''She does not know. She just said that she does not know. I don't know.''

Carney: ''We have long, let's not call on . . .''

Kinsolving: ''Tel Aviv or Jerusalem?''

Carney: ''You know the answer to that.''

Kinsolving: ''I don't know the answer. We don't know the answer. Could you just give us an answer? What do you recognize? What does the administration recognize?''

Carney: ''Our position has not changed.''

Kinsolving: ''What position?''

Carney then moved on to another question.

Isn't it legitimate to ask: Who advised the Obama administration to erase Jerusalem from Israel? Isn't it fair to ask: Who went back and forged public documents and who told them to do it?

Another example of these legitimate questions, consider the strange case of Louay

Safi. Safi ran the Islamic Society of North America (an unindicted co-conspirator in the Holy Land Foundation Hamas financing case) and who was himself an unindicted co-conspirator in the Sami Al-Arian terrorism case (involving Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorist org). As Andy McCarthy, a former federal prosecutor in terrorism cases, explained, ''So what happens? Pentagon hires him as expert to teach Islam to our troops before they deploy from Fort Hood! And now, of course, he is the leader of the [Muslim] Brotherhoods' government-in-waiting for Syria. You just can't make this stuff up!''

Isn't it appropriate to ask: Who were the Muslim chaplains approved by this extremist? How did he get chosen to be in such a key position? What system of checking for extremism broke down so badly, or is so biased, that it allowed members and allies of radical Islamist organizations to play key roles in the U.S. government?

Part of the reaction to the National Security Five raising questions about the influence of the Muslim Brotherhood has come from a deliberate effort to deny the importance and the radicalism of the Muslim Brotherhood as a worldwide network. The level of self-deception necessary to misunderstand the Muslim Brotherhood verges on a psychosis. The organization's motto is ''Allah is our objective. The Prophet is our leader. The Quran is our law. Jihad is our way. Dying in the way of Allah is our highest hope.'' Our elites discount all these words—and refuse to take them seriously.

Yet doesn't the lesson of Munich in 1972, New York City on Sept. 11, Hasan at Fort Hood, the Times Square car bomber, the bombings in Iraq this week—the list is endless—show that these words matter?

Consider clause seven of one branch of the Muslim Brotherhood—Hamas. Perhaps no one in our elites wants to read the Hamas Charter's clause seven because it is too horrifying. Consider: ''The Day of Judgment will not come until Muslims fight the Jews, when the Jew will hide behind the stones and trees. The stones and trees will say, ''O Muslims, O Abdullah, there is a Jew behind me, come and kill him.'' Apologists for Hamas insist this clause has no meaning. But the Hamas leaders claim they cannot remove it from their charter.

The Muslim Brotherhood, in a 1991 document called the ''Explanatory Memorandum,'' explained to its own supporters that its goal was ''a kind of grand Jihad in eliminating and destroying Western Civilization from within and 'sabotaging' its miserable house by their hands and the hands of believers so that it is eliminated and God's religion is made victorious over all other religions.''

This memo cited 29 different allied groups, including the Islamic Society of North America, the Muslim Students Association and the Islamic Association of Palestine. Leaders in some of these allied groups founded the Council on American-Islamic Relations. Just Friday, the Dubai chief of police warned about a Muslim Brotherhood effort to take over the emirates and seize their oil and natural gas wealth.

The Muslim Brotherhood is a serious worldwide organization dedicated to a future most Americans would find appalling. Seeking to understand its reach and its impact on the U.S. government is a legitimate, indeed essential, part of our national security process.

The National Security Five were doing their duty in asking difficult questions designed to make America safer. Their critics represent the kind of willful blindness that increasingly puts America at risk.

If we do not want a book to describe ''Why Washington Slept,'' we will have to encourage elected officials to follow the advice of a later Kennedy book and exhibit ''Profiles in Courage.''

Bachmann, Franks, Gohmert, Rooney and Westmoreland are showing a lot more courage than the defenders of timidity, complicity and passivity.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SISTER CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the arrival of a delegation from Shichigahama, Japan, in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

This August, the Town of Plymouth will be welcoming individuals from its sister city, the Town of Shichigahama in Miyagi Prefecture, Japan, for a week-long stay. This visit is particularly special to the people of the two towns, as it is the first opportunity that they have had to reconnect since the devastating earthquake and tsunami that ravaged Shichigahama's community and surrounding region in 2011. For nearly twenty-two years, Plymouth and Shichigahama have shared this unique status as sister cities, an appropriate relationship as the two cities have many commonalities. They both are coastal towns that are surrounded by beautiful scenery with similar industries and population statistics. The people of Plymouth and Shichigahama have long taken in each others' high school students on exchange trips, and they have supported each other during times of tragedy. In particular, the Town of Plymouth organized a number of fundraising events in order to aid Shichigahama following the 2011 tsunami. The deep bond that these two towns share is a prime example of how distance, variance in language, and cultural differences can all be overcome in the interest of shared human experience and unity.

Mr. Speaker, it brings me great joy to recognize the arrival of a delegation from Shichigahama, Japan, to its sister city of Plymouth. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the significance of this visit, in welcoming our friends from Plymouth's sister city to the United States, and in wishing the delegation a pleasant stay.

IRAN THREAT REDUCTION AND SYRIA HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1905, the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012. This is yet another broad and indiscriminate sanctions bill that will only serve to hurt ordinary Iranian people, undermine their democracy movement and further tie the hands of the President and his team in their efforts to achieve a diplomatic resolution over its nuclear program.

Proponents of this bill believe that tightening sanctions on Iran will bring us closer to a diplomatic solution with Iran. We only need to look to the latest round of failed talks to recognize that these sanctions achieved the exact opposite response. U.S. negotiators lacked the flexibility they needed to secure Iranian concessions through the freezing of certain sanctions.

I strongly support Section 604 of this bill which makes clear that nothing in this bill shall be construed as a declaration of war or an authorization of the use of force against Iran or Syria. Yet this bill would further undermine and thwart the most effective tool we have to ensure that the United States does not get sucked into a war with Iran: diplomacy.

THE EFFECTS OF SANCTIONS ON ORDINARY IRANIAN PEOPLE

The Senate Banking Committee summarized this bill by saying that it ''aims to prevent Iran from repatriating any of the revenue from sale of its crude oil, depriving Iran of hard currency earnings and funds to run its state budget.'' Spoken plainly, this bill will destroy the Iranian economy and further hurt the Iranian people that we claim to support. Iranians are already suffering under stifling sanctions as they experience rising food prices and a lack of access to basic medicine.

For example, the sanctions against the Iranian banking sector have greatly diminished the value of Iranian currency and have had a negative effect on nearly every aspect of the lives of ordinary Iranians: the price of rent, education and bread have all increased. Rather than having the sanctions weaken the Iranian regime, they are weakening the Iranian people and their ability to make a living or pursue an education.

A recent publication by the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN) quotes an Iranian women's rights activist as saying that ''The international community's sole focus on the nuclear issue has resulted in the adoption of policies that greatly inflict damage on the Iranian people, civil society and women. Militarization of the environment will prompt repressive state policies and the possibility of promoting reform in Iran will diminish.''

The report further highlights that the sanctions this Congress pushed ''directly affected the availability of foreign-made medication and other healthcare products including vitamins for children and pregnant women. . . .'' It points out that these sanctions are ''doing the most damage to those who are already vulnerable—the urban poor.''

Iranian-Americans are even facing discrimination here in the United States. Several Iranian-Americans were recently prevented from buying an iPhone or other Apple products simply because of their ethnicity. Such discriminatory treatment is emblematic of the unintended effects of sanctions.

UNDERMINING THE IRANIAN CIVIL SOCIETY

These sanctions directly undermine Iran's civil society by giving the regime an excuse to crack down even harder on internal dissent. These sanctions will ensure that this continues to happen. With many ordinary Iranians struggling to simply make ends meet under our sanctions regime, they cannot afford to or spend the time necessary participating in social movements which provide basic social services or to push for democratic change in their country. Are these the intended effects we wish to have on the Iranian people or Iranian-Americans? If not, passing another broad and indiscriminate sanctions bill sends the wrong message.

If the sanctions the U.S. imposed on Iraq are any precedent, we know that sanctions are not an effective tool in promoting or supporting domestic democracy movements. We also know that those sanctions did not prevent an unnecessary and wasteful war with Iraq.

In effect, the expansion of the broad and indiscriminate sanctions included in this legislation hurts our ability to negotiate with Iran and imposes long-term detrimental harm on the Iranian people. It detracts from the real human rights abuses currently occurring in Iran by allowing the regime to deflect blame on the United States and its allies.

SUPPORTING REGIME CHANGE AND TYING THE PRESIDENT'S HANDS

Section 217 in this bill effectively states that sanctions on Iran's central bank would not be lifted unless there is regime change. It does this by creating new requirements for the termination of sanctions that are dependent on the cessation of the Central Bank's financing of the Revolutionary Guard. Section 205 imposes new restrictions on the President's ability to waive certain sanctions. Collectively, these provisions have moved the goal post from negotiations over Iran's nuclear enrichment program to regime change. The U.S. record on successful regime changes is not impressive.

The National Iranian American Council has pointed out that this legislation "imposes collective punishment on the Iranian people by seeking to destroy the Iranian economy. The goal is to bankrupt Iran, and cause hyperinflation by destroying the value of Iran's currency, the rial."

If your goal is to punish the Iranian people, undermine their brave efforts to push for democracy, and thwart our sensitive and critical negotiations, then support this bill. If not, I urge you to join me in opposing this legislation.

SYRIA SANCTIONS INCLUDED IN THIS LEGISLATION

This legislation also requires the President to impose sanctions on actors that are responsible for or complicit in certain human rights abuses in Syria.

This legislation fails to acknowledge that the United States and a number of our allies are actively participating in stoking the violence on the ground, including through the arming and support of Syrian rebel groups. Divisions and in-fighting within the various militias operating on the ground are already occurring. If our own intelligence agencies are unable to fully grasp what is transpiring on the ground in Syria, we can be sure that these targeted sanctions will overlook other non-state actors that are participating in human rights abuses.

Recent reports also indicate that the instability and chaos in Syria has opened the door for fundamentalist groups to move in, including Al Qaeda. This threatens stability in the region as a whole and U.S. allies in the region, including Israel.

We can all agree that the violence in Syria must end. But in order to do that, supporters on both sides of the conflict must cease providing either side with the tools to continue this bloody conflict.

WELCOMING NAYYAR IMAM

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, today's opening prayer was delivered by Nayyar Imam from Mt. Sinai, New York—in my district on Long Island.

I am honored to welcome Nayyar to the House as a distinguished representative of Long Island's Muslim-American community.

I also welcome his wife of 24 years, Rizwana, and their son, Ahmer, who attends Baruch College, City University of New York, who are joining us from the gallery.

I am especially pleased that Nayyar was able to make the trip during Ramadan, the holy month of fasting and spiritual renewal.

I have known him for ten years—as a trustee of his mosque in Selden, New York and as a leading authority of Islamic culture across Long Island. He also serves the Islamic Association of Long Island and the Suffolk County Commission on Human Rights.

As the first Muslim-American chaplain of the Suffolk County Police Department, Nayyar has delivered the benedictions at its memorial services. He has also delivered opening prayers of the Suffolk County legislature.

I commend him for his service to my district and Long Island, as well as for the spiritual leadership he provides my constituents.

I thank Nayyar Imam and his family for joining us to open the chamber with today's prayer.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE U.S.

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the problem of human trafficking. Every day all over our country, vulnerable women, and children and even men are stolen away from their communities and forced into work to line the pockets of criminals. Their stories and situations are different, but one common denominator remains: they are moved away, they are forced to work, their wages are stolen, and they are unable to leave. They are modern day slaves.

Under the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act, human trafficking is defined as the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person to perform labor or a commercial sex act through force, fraud, or coercion. You can find human trafficking victims everywhere. They are working in restaurants; nail salons; as maids and nannies; on farms; in factories; in brothels, on the street, and as online escorts—they exist in any industry where one's work and freedom can be stolen from them.

The Justice Department supports task forces dedicated to investigating human trafficking cases. Between 2008 and 2010, these task forces rescued 527 confirmed human trafficking victims. Some of the people rescued were sex trafficking victims, others were labor trafficking victims. But the statistics are telling. The majority of trafficking victims are women: women made up 98 percent of sex trafficking victims and 68 percent of labor trafficking victims. The traffickers were overwhelmingly (81 percent) male. Most of the victims were under the age of 25. With sex trafficking, most of the victims were U.S. citizens, while labor trafficking largely affected undocumented individuals. But this data just scratches the surface of the problem that is out there, within our own borders.

Hundreds of thousands of trafficking victims are exploited every year in the United States. The Polaris Project estimates that there are 100,000 child sex trafficking victims in the U.S. alone each year. This figure came into clear focus in my hometown of Toledo, Ohio back in 2005, when a child prostitution ring in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania was broken up. The sting involved 177 girls, 77 of whom were from Toledo. One was a ten year old girl. They had all been stolen away from their family, from their community, and forced into prostitution in a city over 400 miles away. That discovery led to the discovery of many other girls from Toledo who had fallen victim to sex trafficking.

The problem is big, but progress is being made. One state representative from Toledo has worked tirelessly to address this issue at the state level. Representative Teresa Fedor recently saw her signature legislation signed into law. The legislation, Ohio's "Safe Harbor" law, ensures that children who have been trafficked are treated as victims and not charged with violations like solicitation. The law also increases the penalties faced by adult traffickers and helps victims access services to help return to society. Prior to the signing of this law, Representative Fedor passed a law to create a human trafficking charge that could be added to related crimes to increase the severity of the sentence.

The good work that Representative Fedor has done will undoubtedly help victims of trafficking in Ohio. I would like to ask unanimous consent to include an article from the Toledo Blade detailing her work in this area.

Human trafficking will remain a scourge on our society until we can assure that no human being is turned into a slave. I applaud the steps that have been taken so far, but also recognize that much more needs to be done.

[From the toledoBlade.com, July 31, 2012]

FEDOR FOUND VOICE IN HUMAN-TRAFFIC BATTLE

(By Jim Provance)

COLUMBUS.—"Without her, we wouldn't have a voice," a former human-trafficking victim recently said of Rep. Teresa Fedor.

But one might also say that it was this victim and others like her who gave the Democratic lawmaker from Toledo her voice.

The former elementary school teacher and former Air Force staff sergeant has without a doubt experienced political success. She'd been in the Ohio House only two years before Lucas County voters promoted her to the Senate in 2002. In 2010, when term limits forced her out of the chamber, they sent her back to the House. She faces no Republican opposition for re-election this year.

But making legislative gains proved more elusive.

An unscientific poll in the summer of 2007 by Columbus Monthly magazine of 100 lawmakers, lobbyists, and players in Gov. Ted Strickland's administration, and other Statehouse insiders ranked her among the least effective and politically savvy of state lawmakers.

Her colleagues in the Senate Democratic Caucus, a very small club, dumped her as

their elected leader in early 2008 after an internal coup.

But just two weeks ago, many of those same Democratic senators and their more plentiful Republican counterparts gave Ms. Fedor a standing ovation after the chamber unanimously passed House Bill 262, the so-called ''Safe Harbor'' bill.

Gov. John Kasich is to sign it into law Wednesday at Second Chance, a Toledo social service program offering help to trafficking victims and prostitutes.

''There's no higher calling than fighting for those who can't fight for themselves,'' said Sen. Mark Wagoner (R., Ottawa Hills), the Senate Judiciary Committee chairman who helped to work through last-minute changes to get the bill over the finish line.

''Teresa is to be commended for taking up this issue, for the energy she put behind it, and for the commitment to see it through,'' he said.

The bill seeks to push the reset button for government, law enforcement, judges, and others to look at those forced or coerced into selling themselves, especially minors, as victims rather than as criminals.

Initially struggling to get bipartisan support, Ms. Fedor reached out to a man who, at least through much of 2011, was considered by Democrats to be the enemy—Mr. Kasich.

When the Republican governor signed on, Ms. Fedor was in disbelief.

''This was different for her,'' Mr. Kasich recalled. ''She asked me, 'Are you really serious that you're going to help me?' ''

The highly contentious fight over Senate Bill 5, which ended last November when voters rejected the Republican-passed restrictions on public employee unions, was still fresh in lawmakers' minds.

''I know I'm dancing on the edge of a knife here, but this issue's more important than the politics of this place,'' said Ms. Fedor.

No political backlash came.

The trafficking issue has brought Mr. Kasich, the father of 12-year-old twin daughters, close to tears multiple times.

''I knew about human trafficking worldwide, but I was certainly not aware of the situation in this state. . . .'' he said. ''It doesn't just touch me because I have daughters. That's part of it, but it's anybody's children.''

In addition to signing the bill into law, Mr. Kasich's own interagency task force on trafficking will release its recommendations on how the state can better respond to the problem on Wednesday.

''Instead of prosecuting these people, we're beginning to recognize these people are victims,'' Mr. Kasich said. ''Secondly, those people who knowingly engage with these traffickers and abuse them, the book is going to be thrown at them. We had this bust [near Bowling Green] that's had a significant amount of attention, so the word is out: You're going to jail and for a long time.

''And the women who are out there, the people who have been trafficked, they can come forward, and we will not prosecute you,'' he said. ''We will treat you and help you get your life back.''

INCREMENTAL GAINS

The gains have been incremental. In 2008, Ms. Fedor persuaded her colleagues to amend a separate bill to create a human trafficking specification that, when attached to a related crime such as compelling prostitution, could increase the severity of the sentence.

Ms. Fedor said she knew the specification would not be used, but saw it as the first step to getting human trafficking recognized in Ohio law.

More important, she said, was a provision authorizing then Attorney General Richard Cordray, a Democrat, to create a commission to quantify modern-day slavery in Ohio.

The statistics that emerged from the commission were a kick in the stomach.

They suggested that as many as 2,879 youths born in Ohio are at risk for sex trafficking and that 1,078 have been trafficked over the course of a year.

In terms of raw numbers of arrests, investigations, and rescues of children involved in the sex trade, the commission suggested that Toledo ranked fourth in the nation behind Miami, Portland, Ore., and Las Vegas. When adjusted for population, Toledo climbed to No. 1.

''We feel that the models were reasonable and conservatively estimated, but I also think the estimate woke some people up,'' said Celia Williamson, professor of criminal justice and social work at the University of Toledo and leader of the commission subcommittee that presented the numbers.

But even when armed with those numbers, she was surprised at the success Ms. Fedor had.

''I was astonished that she was able to pass such a comprehensive Safe Harbor law,'' Ms. Williamson said. ''It's more than we could have realistically dreamed.''

The numbers were somewhat skewed by a 2005 federal child prostitution sting in Harrisburg, Pa., involving 177 females. Seventy-seven of them, including a 10-year-old, were from the Toledo area. A 2006 series by The Blade trained a spotlight on Toledo's role as a major recruiting hub for children in the sex trade.

''It made no sense to me that pimps weren't getting arrested, that johns weren't getting arrested,'' Ms. Fedor said. ''They were all misdemeanors. The whole focus was on the prostitutes. In other words, it was always the woman's fault. . . . And then, when I saw that it was reaching down to our children, I thought, 'Enough is enough.'?''

RUGGED DETERMINATION

Judge Tim Grendell of Geauga County Common Pleas Court was a Republican state senator in 2010 when he teamed with then Sen. Fedor for the next step, creation of Ohio's first stand-alone, second-degree felony of ''trafficking in persons.'' Mr. Grendell's northeast Ohio district was dealing with its own problem of Asian massage parlors investigated for trafficking.

''She brought a rugged determination and dedication to the issue that, I think, was critical in passage of that legislation a year and a half ago and this legislation,'' he said. ''In my personal opinion, [the latest bill] certainly would not have passed in this advanced state without her efforts.''

But he also said that without Mr. Kasich's intervention, a bill as strong as the one that ultimately just passed probably still would have been several years off.

''She's been a huge force,'' said Attorney General Mike DeWine, a Republican who resurrected the trafficking commission begun under his predecessor.

''She has a real passion for this and persistence,'' he said. ''I've found in government that you have to have those two, and she has them on this issue.''

Theresa Flores, of Columbus, a former trafficking victim and now a member of Mr. DeWine's commission, detailed her story in the 2007 book The Sacred Bath: An American Teen's Story of Modern Day Slavery: As a teenager in an affluent Detroit suburb, she was blackmailed and trafficked at night, even if she did return to her own bed under her unsuspecting parents' roof before the sun rose.

''[Ms. Fedor] really is empowering victims and survivors to find their voices,'' she said. ''She's helping them to realize that what happened to them wasn't necessarily their fault. Somebody did this to us, and we need to go after them.''

Although happy with the bill that reached Mr. Kasich's desk, Ms. Fedor is already plotting her next move, battling what she perceives to be a misunderstanding among her colleagues over whether a trafficking victim can consent to prostitution—even if she is over 16, the legal age of consent.

''Age of consent should never apply,'' she said. ''These victims are not consenting. They're enslaved. They can't get out. They're being forced to have sex with 20 or 30 men a night—beaten, drugged, raped, kidnapped. They go from city to city. There's no consent involved at all.''

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BREAST CANCER COALITION

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Against the Tide, a competitive race benefitting the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition, MBCC, an organization dedicated to ending breast cancer.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer and second leading cause of death for women. Studies estimate that in 2012, breast cancer will claim the lives of over 39,000 women in the United States. Statistics also show that approximately 1 in 8 women born today will be diagnosed with breast cancer at some point in their lifetime.

The citizens of my home state of Massachusetts have been severely impacted by breast cancer. Our state has the highest incident rate of breast cancer in the United States, affecting 139.5 per 100,000 women in Massachusetts, as compared to a national average of 121.9 per 100,000 women. Additionally, the highest incident rates of breast cancer are within the counties of Dukes, Nantucket and Barnstable, which are all located in my district.

The Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition, the MBCC, was founded in 1991 to combat breast cancer. The organization challenges the commercialization and exploitation of breast cancer by corporations which stand to profit from the disease and those companies whose products contain carcinogens linked to breast cancer. Its mission to combat cancer through prevention has led the MBCC to advocate the investigation of environmental links to breast cancer, to dispel misconceptions about the realities of breast cancer, and to reject the concept of breast cancer as a chronic disease.

Through the funds raised by the Against the Tide race, the MBCC has been able to continue its cause to combat breast cancer. 2012 is the twentieth consecutive year the MBCC will hold this popular race, which unites people of all ages and backgrounds in a common fight against breast cancer.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in applauding the efforts of the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition to fight this devastating epidemic and wish them the best of luck for a successful race.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PAIN-CAPABLE UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, as a society we must work to ensure that lives of those who are unable to protect themselves are safeguarded; however elected leaders also have an obligation to ensure that laws which are passed, especially at the national level, allow for public input by the people they affect.

I strongly agree with the underlying intent of H.R. 3803, the District of Columbia Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, to prevent the termination of lives of the most vulnerable in our society—that of unborn children. H.R. 3803 would prohibit abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy, except when an acute physical condition endangers the life of the mother. The bill further requires that any termination of pregnancy be done in a manner that provides the best conditions for the unborn child to survive.

I am, however, concerned with the process used to develop and publicly debate the bill. Further, I am concerned about the impact it has on home rule for the District of Columbia. Congress has delegated much authority to the D.C. government to establish policies that reflect the needs of those who live here. But H.R. 3803, which only affects Washington, D.C., would implement this abortion ban without the input of D.C. residents and Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON who represents the people of the District of Columbia in the United States Congress.

I believe that the United States should enact strong policies that recognize and protect the sanctity of human life. However if Congress wants to make meaningful progress to achieve this, legislation should consider the views of those impacted by the legislation and not ignore their points of view or concerns.

IRAN THREAT REDUCTION AND SYRIA HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, Today, a time of heightened tensions in U.S.-Iran relations, I voted for the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012, H.R. 1905, a balanced and serious approach towards ensuring Iran will never have nuclear weapons.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have firmly opposed the use of indiscriminate sanctions as a blunt tool of foreign policy, one often more successful as political fodder than as leverage to effect positive change.

The timing of previous Iran sanctions legislation was damaging, undermining the administration in the midst of complex, delicate discussions with Iran. Today, the circumstances have changed. Negotiations are stalled, and this legislation has been focused and toned-down, making it an asset, not a liability, for the administration as it works to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran.

A coherent and unified U.S. policy towards Iran is the best way to strengthen diplomacy, which remains the best, some say the only, way to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. This revised legislation—based on input from a broad coalition, including the White House—brings coherence and focused pressure to the negotiating table.

I commend Chairwoman ROS LEHTINEN and Ranking Member BERMAN of the House Foreign Affairs Committee for producing a bill that is based on policy, not politics. There were extreme voices pushing to include some very harsh language that, for example, would have made the few currently permitted humanitarian transactions with Iranian financial institutions illegal. To the benefit of the U.S. and innocent Iranian civilians, these provisions were left out.

Another critical change to this legislation is language that clarifies in the Act is not an authorization of the use of force against Iran or Syria.

The resolution would provide the administration with additional leverage for their broader diplomatic effort. Sanctions are effective when it is clear that if concessions are made, the other side has the ability to reciprocate by easing elements of the sanctions regime. This bill provides the administration with such flexibility.

In the midst of negotiations yet to yield progress, focused sanctions that unite both Congress and the executive provides leverage that increases the likelihood of success, and an alternative to military action, which our nation can ill-afford and which I oppose.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker on rollcall No. 539, on Tuesday, July 31, 2012, my plane was delayed in Detroit due to bad weather. As a result, I missed votes that evening, including a measure of personal importance, H.R. 3803, the District of Columbia Pain Capable Unborn Child Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL GUARD UNIT IN AMERICAN SAMOA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will authorize the Secretary of the Department of Defense to establish a National Guard unit in American Samoa.

Mr. Speaker, the National Guard has a long, proud history in the United States. As part of their federal duties, National Guard units have been mobilized to supplement regular armed forces during times of war or national emergencies. As State entities, National Guard units have been utilized in their respective States upon declaration of a State of Emergency.

National Guard troops have been activated in response to emergencies as a result of snowstorms, droughts, flooding, earthquakes, and other natural hazards that require providing basic necessities to people across the country. Indeed, one is reminded that National Guard units played a major role in providing security and assisting recovery efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, in September 2005.

Mr. Speaker, today, there are 54 separate National Guard units—one for each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia, plus Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. There is no National Guard unit in American Samoa.

Mr. Speaker, on September 29, 2009, American Samoa was hit by a powerful earthquake which struck below the ocean about 140 miles southwest of Pago Pago, American Samoa, and 125 miles south of Samoa. The earthquake, which registered 8.3 on the Richter scale, set off a massive tsunami that crashed into American Samoa. Entire villages were devastated creating a disaster of epic proportion in the Territory.

Mr. Speaker, one of the lessons of the 2009 Tsunami is the fact that American Samoa is prone to disasters and we must be prepared. Especially, with American Samoa being out there on its own in the midst of the vast South Pacific Ocean, it is very difficult to coordinate and organize first responders from the mainland. Having a National Guard unit is extremely helpful when there is a State emergency.

In addition, American Samoa has a per capita enlistment rate in the U.S. military which is higher than any State or U.S. Territory. Our sons and daughters have served in record numbers in every U.S. military engagement from WWII to present operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. We have stood by the United States in good times and bad, and I believe this relationship would only be strengthened by establishing a National Guard unit in American Samoa.

For these reasons, I am pleased to introduce legislation today to establish a National Guard unit in American Samoa. I understand that there are several other issues to consider in order to fulfill the objectives of this legislation. My hope is to work together with my colleagues to make improvements and adjustments as needed.

I urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

CONGRATULATING JOHN ANNALORO ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor John Annaloro, the CEO of the Northwest Credit Union Association, on his retirement after nearly 30 years of working in the credit union industry.

John's passion for people and economics first brought him to the credit union industry in

the mid-1980s. After leading the Congressional and regulatory affairs teams of the California Credit Union League, John became the CEO at the Washington Credit Union League in 1997. He led the Washington League through an efficient and effective merger with the Credit Union Association of Oregon in 2011. Now known as the Northwest Credit Union Association, this organization advocates for more than 160 credit unions in the States of Washington and Oregon. Currently nearly 4.4 million consumers belong to a credit union in Washington and Oregon.

John came to the credit union movement with a great deal of previous experience. He spent seven years as the Chairman and CEO of a computer software development corporation with a worldwide client base. He spent six years at the University of California as a mathematics professor, dean, and department chairman. He is an author with more than a dozen published books and articles on computer science and business. This extensive expertise explains John's approach to effecting change in the credit union system.

Under John's leadership, Washington credit unions encouraged the creation of a television program, BizKid$ on PBS, to teach school children about business. John was approached by a team of producers who were trying to create a program to help educate children about corporations, financial responsibility, and entrepreneurship. John and his staff brought credit unions together to finance this program, which is now seen by children in nearly every State.

John worked to ensure credit unions would lend responsibly and was a driving force behind the establishment of the Business Lending School at the Northwest Credit Union Association. Through this, credit union professionals receive expert training on business lending issues. On John's watch, the credit unions of the Northwest maintained a safe and sound financial position, even during times of overall financial instability.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize John Annaloro. John is a leader who personifies the core philosophy of credit unions, which is ''People Helping People.'' I wish him the best for his retirement.

MARINE DEBRIS ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Marine Debris Act Reauthorization Amendments, which is important legislation to my district in Northern California and the West Coast. This bipartisan legislation will maintain current efforts to remove marine debris from our coastlines, provide updates on the status of marine debris, and prevent redundant activities among state and federal agencies.

Marine debris has been a problem for our oceans and coasts for decades. Trash has been filling our oceans and thereby impacting human health, harming wildlife, and littering our favorite beaches. For over 25 years, we have been relying heavily on volunteers, nongovernmental organizations, and local governments to patrol our shores and pick up our trash. For example, in 2010 more than 5,400 cars could have been outfitted with the tires found during beach cleanup efforts. The work of these volunteers and organizations is invaluable and they need our help. Not only in terms of their planned cleanup activities, but to help in times of catastrophic events that create debris that is beyond physical and fiscal capabilities to remove.

Today, marine debris is of even more concern since a massive tsunami tragically struck the coastline of Japan 16 months ago. The disaster claimed nearly 16,000 lives, injured 6,000, and destroyed or damaged well over a million buildings with 130-foot waves.

Studies by the Japanese government estimate approximately 5 million tons of debris was swept into the ocean. Of that, 1.5 million tons are thought to be heading towards the West Coast of the United States.

As the Congressional representative for the longest coastline in the lower 48 states, the impending arrival of the tsunami debris is of utmost concern. It is essential that we have fully developed contingency plans to remove debris that hits our shores, especially objects that are considered hazardous.

Over the past few months, debris from the Japanese tsunami (ranging from soccer balls to 66-foot piers) has landed along the Pacific Coast of the United States. It is clear we cannot deal with this issue without proper funding and resources. In this economic climate, we need to think critically and creatively to develop funding solutions that address this increase in marine debris.

The reauthorization of the Marine Debris Program by this legislation will facilitate national and international efforts to research, prevent, and reduce the impacts of garbage on our shores. Once we pass this crucial legislation, the next step is to provide funding to our states to handle both emergency debris issues and everyday trash problems.

Marine debris is a global problem with local implications. More than ever, we need knowledge and guidance on marine debris and I urge a yes vote for H.R. 1171.

HONORING NATALIE DELL OF THE USA OLYMPIC TEAM

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Natalie Dell, an outstanding athlete selected to the United States Olympic Team from the 9th Congressional District of Pennsylvania. I am very proud to announce that Natalie and her Olympic team earned the bronze medal in yesterday's Women's quadruple sculls boat event.

Natalie Dell, raised in Clearville, PA was a standout track star throughout her high school career. Upon attending Penn State University, Dell decided that she had reached her full potential in track and field and wanted to pursue another competitive sport. She chose to begin rowing where she quickly fell in love with the sport. After graduation, she continued to hone her strength and technique and joined the Riverside Boating Club in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Although Natalie was less experienced than the rest of her peers, her talent and status advanced rapidly as she soon became a member of the U.S. National Rowing Team. Her rigorous training and the perfection of her skill proved to be well worth the effort. Dell achieved a position on the 2012 Olympic Women's quadruple sculls boat and is the first alumnus from Penn State to row for the USA National Rowing Team. Her six day per week, two-a-day training has aptly prepared this courageous woman to represent the United States and the 9th district of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate this Olympic hero of Pennsylvania's 9th district. With her effort and determination, this young lady is destined to do great things for our country and the 9th district of Pennsylvania. I am very proud of her hard work and determination to help secure a win for the United States Olympic Team, and am very happy to see that all of her work has paid off with such an enormous honor. I hope you join me in congratulating Natalie Dell and her teammates and wishing the rest of our Olympic athletes well in their respective competitions at this year's Games.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 538 and 539, I would have voted ''yea'' on both.

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA BASEBALL

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise and celebrate the achievements of the University of Arizona baseball team, which has been selected for induction into the University of Arizona Sports Hall of Fame.

This honor is extremely well deserved.

Earlier this summer, the UA Wildcats were crowned national champions after winning the College World Series in Omaha for the fourth time.

The Wildcats won the title by beating the South Carolina Gamecocks 4 to 1.

This was the Wildcats' year. They won all 10 of their postseason games—going through the regionals, the super regionals and the College World Series without a loss. In those 10 games, they outscored their opponents 88 to 28.

I want to especially make note of the play of Robert Refsnyder, the right fielder for the Wildcats, who was named the most valuable player of the 2012 College World Series.

I also want to praise the work of Head Coach Andy Lopez. He previously won a national title as coach of Pepperdine University, and this is the first of what we expect to be many titles with the University of Arizona.

The decisions Mr. Lopez made throughout the College World Series were crucial in Arizona's success. I'm sure he has more national titles in his future at Arizona.

Congratulations to these latest inductees into the University of Arizona Hall of Fame.

As a UA alumnus, I am proud of my alma mater on many levels and I am thrilled to say, well done, Cats, for this incredible season. Continue to "Bear Down Arizona!"

HONORING MS. STEPHANIE STUCKEY BENFIELD

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Representative Stephanie Stuckey Benfield upon her retirement from the Georgia General Assembly and to thank her for her fourteen years of service.

For years, Stephanie has valiantly fought for women's rights, the environment, and families. She has been a leader in the Democratic Party, an advocate for all Georgians, and a dear friend.

Born in Eastman, Georgia, Stephanie has always been an outdoors enthusiast. Her love for nature has translated into an active dedication to improving the environment and a commitment to clean water and air that grew stronger when her son was diagnosed with asthma.

Stephanie obtained both her undergraduate and law degree from the University of Georgia. While in office, she received several prestigious awards, including the Environmental Leadership Award by the Georgia Conservation Voters and the Georgia Urban Forest Council Award for Promoting Arbor Day in public schools. It goes without question that her most notable accomplishment, however, has been her impeccable and unwavering service and support to Georgians.

We all know how much Stephanie adores her husband, Robert H. Benfield, Jr., her son, Robert, and her daughter, Beverly. Although we will miss Stephanie's enthusiasm and infinite knowledge in the General Assembly, I applaud her for continuing to be a proponent of the environment. Upon the end of her term, she will be the full-time leader of GreenLaw, where she will maintain her pledge to prevent air and water pollution that endangers human health and degrades Georgia's natural resources.

Representative Benfield, we will miss you terribly; you leave enormous shoes to fill. Thank you for your 14 years of service and for always putting the people of Georgia first.

RESPA HOME WARRANTY CLARIFICATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wesnesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2446, the RESPA Home Warranty Clarification Act.

This bill clarifies that the sale of home warranties cannot be considered a settlement service, and therefore cannot be governed under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act, or RESPA.

Many individuals buying a home want to avoid the financial risk of having to pay for major repairs on major systems and appliances.

To reduce that risk and to get the peace of mind that comes with knowing they can help guard against the cost of significant repairs, home buyers often purchase a home warranty.

Many individuals selling a home find that providing a home warranty at their own cost can help facilitate a quicker sale at a higher price by reducing the risk of the unknown for potential buyers.

It is important to note that the purchase of the product is completely optional, and is not made mandatory by any financial institution or government sponsored enterprise during the home-buying process.

Recently, however, HUD erroneously issued an interpretive rule blocking real estate agents from receiving a modest fee when they recommend the product to their client upon the purchase of their new home.

As such, if this rule is allowed to stand, realtors would have no incentive to inform their clients about this product.

Consequently, first-time homebuyers, or low- and moderate income-families may not be made aware of this option, instead being forced to pay full price for the replacement of their home's most expensive appliances.

At a time when our economy is still struggling, we need to ensure that hard working American families are still allowed to gain access to financial products that they depend on.

That is why I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2446.

CONGRESS MUST CALL FOR A NATIONAL MONTH OF VOTER REGISTRATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, recent events have highlighted ongoing efforts to suppress the voting rights of American citizens. State representatives and political leaders in New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, and Florida have made public admissions that their particular state laws were designed to put a dent in the democratic process.

In order to confront this assault on the right to vote, we are introducing a resolution, expressing the sense of Congress that the month of September be dedicated to ensuring that every eligible citizen is registered to vote in the United States, calling for a National Month of Voter Registration.

This resolution will call for a nation-wide focus to challenge voting age citizens around the country to register to vote and confirm the status of their voter registration.

The National Month of Voter Registration will encourage citizens to take action and mobilize voter education efforts and voter registration efforts across the country. Since the 2010 elections, misguided efforts in many states have led to the enactment of laws that could turn the clock back to pre-2008 levels of voter registration and voter turn-out. With no response, thousands of Americans may be subjected to state actions that are not in compliance with our federal voting standards and that harm the franchise.

This national focus will challenge civil rights groups, third party voter registration groups, and voting eligible citizens to take action to conduct the following:

Register to vote. With voter registration deadlines approaching, many citizens may face significant barriers if they wait until the final hours to register to vote.

Verify voting status. Every voting eligible citizen will be encouraged to verify their voting status by confirming their presence on the voter rolls, and confirming that their address and personal identifying information in hand matches what the state or local board of elections has on file. Many voters believe that their voting status and information is current, however, citizens in Tennessee and Florida have already found that voter purging is real and can impact the right to vote without a voter being aware.

Confirm polling place. Every voting eligible citizen will be encouraged to verify voting location before Election Day. Voters may find that their poling location has changed from prior elections.

Mr. Speaker, I have not seen such an assault on the right to vote since the civil rights movement. As I look back on where we have come from in this country, it seems to me that some of these state voting changes mirror the negative trends of Jim Crow in their effect to scale back voting rights.

For instance, last week, the Brennan Center released another report showing how new voter ID laws could impose serious financial burdens on eligible voters. If the right to vote is available to every American citizen, then why are states making it harder to exercise that right?

I. addition, a second Judge in Wisconsin has deemed Wisconsin's strict voter ID law unconstitutional under the state's constitution. Litigants in the law suit found that the law created unnecessary hardships for minority voters who are less likely to possess a valid ID. On the other side of the argument, the state of Wisconsin argued that the law was going to help prevent voter fraud.

Some state lawmakers have raised the issue of voter fraud to justify strict voter ID requirements and other strict voting changes. However, they won't tell you that during the George W. Bush Administration's five year probe of voter fraud from 2002–2007, that Administration came up with scant evidence of widespread voter fraud.

In addition, they won't tell you the amount of voter fraud cases that have come out of states that have strict voter ID, because there are none. There were no cases of fraud in state of Indiana when the Supreme Court ruled on Indiana's voter ID law in Crawford v. Marion, and states like Pennsylvania, Florida, and Texas have publicly stated that there are no current cases of voter fraud being pursued in their states. Mr. Speaker, our voting rights are being threatened by the non-existent issue of voter fraud.

Therefore, if states are going to present their worst laws to impact the franchise, then the American people have to rise up and combat these laws with better practices.

During the National Month of Voter Registration, we encourage every American citizen to take back their right to vote. We will work with citizens to ensure that they register to vote, confirm their voting information is correct on the voting rolls, and verify that they know where to go to vote on Election Day.

It is a troubling thought that in 2012, the Congress has to rise up and introduce this bill to protect voting rights. Even though Reconstruction Era and the Civil Rights Movement are technically in America's past, the current threat against voting rights is just as real as in those days. We are proud to stand with the American people to protect the exercise of their voice in our democracy.

THE BERRIEN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Berrien Community Foundation's 60th anniversary of providing invaluable financial support to southwest Michigan.

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the Berrien Community Foundation after six decades of impeccable service to our community. Founded in 1952 by William Vawter and many conscientious business men and women, the Foundation has, been committed to finding innovative ways to invest charitable dollars to help residents of Berrien County. From grants to scholarships, the Berrien County Community Foundation has been working to educate our young people and prepare them to enter the workforce. Without that assistance, many students would not have the academic prospects they do today.

The Berrien Community Foundation represents the very best our district has to offer. Philanthropic individuals who desire to help deserving individuals reach their goals and meet their dreams are able to do so in a financially responsible way by collaborating with the Foundation. I have been very impressed by the Foundation's creative approach to making dollars go far to help individuals who just need a little help in moving forward with their aspirations. I continue to marvel at their dedication and good will and hope their work continues for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to again recognize the achievements and irreplaceable contributions the Foundation has provided to my district and look forward to their continuing efforts to make Berrien County a better place to live and work.

COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMPLETION OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Appalachian Trail's completion.

On the 18th of August, 1937, the last mile of the original Appalachian Trail (AT) was completed at Sugarloaf Mountain in Maine's Carabassett Valley. Although the idea of a super trail on the scale of the AT had been discussed for years, it was the vision and determination of Benton Mackaye and Myron Avery who truly gave the project life. The legacy of the trail was not always secure however, with severe weather, the Great Depression, and World War II threatening its continuity. Fortunately, the tremendous efforts of trail enthusiasts, lead by Mainer Stanley Murray, launched a campaign to save the AT and preserve it for future generations.

Maine's Appalachian Trail Club will be hosting a 75th anniversary celebration of the AT's completion 75 years ago. Members of the Club, Maine's Appalachian Trail Land Trust, the Trust for Public Land, the High Peaks Alliance, the University of Maine, and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy will be present. The event will be an opportunity to reflect on the beauty of the trail and honor the countless volunteers who have helped to sustain this national treasure throughout the years.

The enormous significance of the Appalachian Trail to the state cannot be overstated. Many of our local economies benefit from the thousands of hikers that are drawn to Maine every year along its paths. I am deeply proud to share in this celebration of Maine and American history.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in commemorating this momentous anniversary.

MARCH OF DIMES COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the March of Dimes Commemorative Coin Act.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor and to work with my colleague from Illinois, Mr. DOLD, to issue a commemorative coin honoring the 75th anniversary of the March of Dimes, based in my district in White Plains. Funds from the sale of the coins would be used to support the March of Dimes' vital work to ensure healthy pregnancies.

The March of Dimes has a long and proud history. President Franklin Roosevelt took the four billion dimes sent to him by Americans in the Great Depression and created the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. Later renamed the March of Dimes, the foundation was dedicated to supporting the care of thousands of Americans with polio, as well as supporting research into the prevention and treatment of the crippling disease.

The March of Dimes fulfilled President Roosevelt's dream of a polio-free nation by funding the development of polio vaccines, which led to its eradication in the United States and much of the world.

In the decades that followed, the organization helped stamp out rubella, pushed for Neonatal Intensive Care Units, promoted folic acid to prevent neural tube defects, and brought newborn screening to every American baby.

Today, the March of Dimes focuses on reducing prematurity. Every year, nearly half a million babies in the U.S. are born premature, the leading cause of newborn death. In my home state of New York, almost 600 infants are born preterm every week—representing 12.2% of all live births in the state.

The March of Dimes New York State Chapter has one goal—to help babies start life in the healthiest way possible by helping moms-to-be learn to care for themselves before, during and after their pregnancy. The New York Chapter also partners with local medical groups and organizations to establish guidelines for how to care for pregnant women and premature infants.

Over four million babies will be born across the United States this year, and each and every one will benefit from the March of Dimes historic legacy of scientific breakthroughs—from the polio vaccine to newborn screening. The March of Dimes Commemorative Coin will help us reach the day when we celebrate a new scientific breakthrough: preventing premature birth.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the gentleman from Illinois, and I urge your support.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF GORE VIDAL

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight and remember the life of Gore Vidal, a celebrated American literary and cultural icon, who passed away this week at the age of 86. A writer famed for his acerbic wit, elegant style, tough-minded radical views, and versatile talent, Vidal's incredibly varied career boasted over 20 novels, in addition to memoirs, essays, plays, television dramas, and screenplays.

Vidal was impressively characterized by the inimitable and revered Christopher Hitchens as being a 20th century answer to Oscar Wilde, a tribute to Vidal's cleverness and eloquence. As British author Martin Amis said in praising Vidal, "he is learned, funny and exceptionally clear-sighted. Even his blind spots are illuminating."

In 2009, Vidal won the annual Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters from the National Book Foundation. Unlike many of his intellectual contemporaries, however, he saw his role as a public intellectual not as a sidelined observer, but rather as an active participant in democracy and public affairs, contributing frequently and prolifically to the American political debate.

This weekend, I will travel to New York to see a revival of his play "The Best Man," starring my fellow Memphian, Cybill Shephard. I ask everyone to join me honoring Gore Vidal for his many contributions. His was a life well lived.

INVEST IN A CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE!

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced the Clean Energy Victory Bonds Act. (H.R. 6275) The purpose of this legislation is to invest in a clean energy future.

This legislation will allow all Americans to invest in new clean energy technologies that will create over 1.7 million competitive American

jobs, increase energy security, and secure our nation's competitiveness in the rapidly growing field of clean energy technologies.

With Clean Energy Victory Bonds, today's Americans can invest in our nation's future, and ensure that the American economy remains competitive for generations to come. Funds raised from Clean Energy Victory Bonds would:

Create billions of dollars in incentives to accelerate the development of clean energy and energy efficiency technologies;

Create over 1.7 million new American jobs;

Ensure that the U.S. is a world leader in this increasingly crucial and competitive sector;

Reduce U.S. dependence on foreign sources of energy;

Allow Americans a safe opportunity to invest in the future of their country.

The Clean Energy Victory Bonds Act draws on the powerful history of Americans investing together to ensure our nation's victories. During World War II, millions of Americans purchased Victory Bonds, raising over $185 billion for the war effort, the equivalent of over $2 trillion in today's dollars.

HONORING PRIESTS FOR LIFE

HON. TIM HUELSKAMP

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in honoring and celebrating the more than 20 years of service and work of the Priests for Life ministry. Under the leadership of Father Frank Pavone, Priests for Life has grown from a no-staff operation to one of more than 60 people. The have proclaimed the pro-life message at more than 12,000 events across the country, and have worked inter-demoninationally and ecumenically to advance the pro-life cause. Religious and secular leaders alike praise the efforts of Priests for Life. They are second-to-none in their advocacy and their support for the pro-life mission.

But, in his humility, Father Frank would not want us spending this hour talking about him. He would want us talking about why his organization preaches the gospel of love and of life.

Abortion, plain and simple, is the taking of an innocent human life. It may be deemed a 'right' by judges, but a wrong it still is. What does it say about our society that for some people, it is a child at 20 weeks; for others it is property, subject to mutilation at the hands of a so-called medical professional. If it is a child to some, it should be a child to all. There is no gray area, no two ways about it. The scientific fact is without question—life begins at conception.

What does it say about our society that our Commander-in-Chief views an unplanned pregnancy as a ''punishment''? President Obama said that if one his daughters became unexpectedly pregnant, he would not want them to be punished with his unborn grandchild.

Priests for Life is known internationally for its work. In fact, Mother Teresa of Calcutta encouraged all priests and deacons to join the organization. And, she invited Fr. Frank to travel to India to preach the pro-life message. We know that message is needed there now more than ever. As reported by The Economist and ABC News, gendercide is alive and well. 50,000 unborn girls are aborted every single month in India simply because they are girls, not boys.

While Priests for Life is preaching abroad the right to life for all—boys and girls alike—they are preaching here at home the right to life for all—boys and girls of all races and ethnicities. Close to home for me is their ministry to the African-American community, led by Dr. Alveda King, the niece of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. You see, my wife and I are the proud parents of four adopted children. And, two of our children came to us through crisis pregnancy ministry—the exact type of ministry Priests for Life promotes.

We pray and wait for the day that a ministry like Priests for Life will not be necessary—a day when no woman is encouraged to end the life of her unborn child. While those of us vested with the responsibility have the ability to pass laws that promote a culture of life, our work is incomplete without the efforts of groups like Priests for Life that provide the support women and families need in order to live the culture of life.

THE BREATH OF FRESH AIR ACT

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, later today I will be introducing the Breath of Fresh Air Act. This legislation would establish a grant program to make funds available to elementary and secondary schools to purchase nebulizers. I am proud to be joined by Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON as an original co-sponsor, and I urge my colleagues to join me as a co-sponsor.

A nebulizer is an extremely effective and easy-to-use medical device used to treat asthma attacks. It delivers the medicine in the form of a mist directly to the person's lungs and is the best remedy for young children who may not cooperate in their time of distress. This bill authorizes funding to purchase nebulizers as well as to provide training to school personnel who administer the nebulizers.

Mr. Speaker, across the United States, nearly 25 million people have been diagnosed with asthma, including almost 7 million children. That means on average one out of every 10 school-age children suffers from the shortness of breath, chest pain, and airway restrictions that are common symptoms of asthma. This serious disease impacts every district in every state, and its effects are far-reaching.

Low-income and minority communities are disproportionately affected by this chronic respiratory disease, and their health outcomes are likely to be worse. The Environmental Protection Agency reports that black children are twice as likely to be hospitalized and four times as likely to die from asthma as white children. Low-income and minority communities also disproportionately live in areas afflicted with high levels of air pollution, allergens, and other environmental factors that trigger asthma attacks. They may also have limited resources to put towards asthma management or to deal with the financial challenges of medical bills and missed days at school and work.

I have been particularly concerned with this issue, as it affects my home district in California. The Ports of Long Beach and Los Angles operate within and near the 37th Congressional District, and if left unregulated, the California Air Resources Board estimates that the ports will be the largest source of pollution in the state by 2020—greater than the impact of every car on the road in California. The neighborhoods of Los Angeles and Long Beach also rank as one of the U.S. cities most polluted by Particle Pollution. Exposure to air pollution such as this can be dangerous for children whose lungs are still developing, and it increases the risk of emergency room visits for asthma attacks.

The purpose of this grant program is to provide schools with the equipment to treat asthma attacks as soon as symptoms present themselves, and without contributing to the nearly 2 million asthma-related emergency room visits each year. School personnel, particularly school nurses, play an invaluable role in detecting early symptoms and administering a quick medical response in emergency situations. This grant program would be a way to support their efforts even as schools face budget cuts. It will ensure that they have access to all possible resources and can properly assist the students and families with the full range of asthma management decisions.

I also want to acknowledge the indispensable work of my able staff members, Anna Bartels and Gregory Berry, in developing this important legislation.

I would also like to submit into the RECORD a letter of support from the Allergy and Asthma Network/Mothers of Asthmatics, and I thank them for their hard work to ease suffering from asthma, allergies, and other related conditions.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of the Breath of Fresh Air Act. Let us work together to make schools a healthy and safe place for children.

ALLERGY AND ASTHMA NETWORK,
MOTHERS OF ASTHMATICS,
McLean, VA, August 2, 2012.

Hon. LAURA RICHARDSON,
1330 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE RICHARDSON: Founded in 1985 by families for families, Allergy & Asthma Network Mothers of Asthmatics (AANMA) is the leading national nonprofit family organization dedicated to eliminating death and suffering due to asthma, allergies and related conditions.

AANMA supports the ''Breath of Fresh Air Act'' which would provide student access to nebulizers at school for use with their prescribed medications.

Working together with 28 organizations, AANMA led the nationwide effort to ensure students have the right to carry and self-administer their lifesaving inhalers and auto-injectable epinephrine during the school day. Today 50 states protect that right for students with asthma and 49 states protect students' rights to carry their auto-injectable epinephrine.

While students can carry and self-administer their inhalers, in some cases students may best be served by inhaling these medications via the nebulizer.

We support the ''Breath of Fresh Air Act'' and look forward to its passage.

Sincerely,

NANCY SANDER,
President and Founder.

RESOLVING ENVIRONMENTAL AND GRID RELIABILITY CONFLICTS ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud that the Energy & Commerce Committee has been able to come up with another bipartisan piece of legislation that addresses a significant problem. I thank Chairman UPTON, Ranking Member WAXMAN, as well as my good friends Mr. GREEN and Mr. DOYLE. The work they and their staffs put into this bill is admirable.

To quote Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist, ''the law is an ass.'' Current law makes no sense by forcing a utility to comply with one federal agency and then be fined by another for complying. The bill before us eliminates this contradiction and will provide certainty to utilities that might need to operate under an order in the future. I believe the compromise negotiated will allow environmental protections to stay in place while ensuring the Department of Energy has the tools it needs in order to respond quickly to true emergencies.

Of the few emergency orders that have been issued under the Federal Power Act, most have been short term propositions. If an emergency order violates an environmental law, the negotiated compromise will allow the Department of Energy to react to an emergency situation and quickly issue a 90 day order which is longer than most of the orders that have been implemented. Should the emergency last longer than 90, the Department is required to consult with the appropriate Federal agency of the violated environmental law. The appropriate agency will submit its recommendations on how to tailor the extended order to minimize violations adverse environmental impacts. The Department of Energy may exclude recommendations it believes will interfere with implementation of the emergency order.

I believe this is a good piece of compromise legislation that solves an unnecessary contradiction in current law. I urge all my colleagues to support the Olson bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASIAN COMMUNITY CENTER OF SACRAMENTO VALLEY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Asian Community Center of Sacramento Valley (ACC) as they celebrate their 25th anniversary. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the hardworking staff, volunteers and supporters of the ACC who have ensured that this fine organization has continued to provide valuable senior health and social services to Sacramento's seniors.

Originally established as the Asian Nursing Home in 1987, the Asian Community Center offers a wide array of culturally sensitive services and programs dedicated to improving the lives of Sacramento's seniors and their families. Today, the ACC Nursing Home continues to provide 24–hour, long-term health and nursing care to vulnerable seniors.

Recognizing the growing need to provide more culturally sensitive services to senior citizens in Sacramento, the Asian Nursing Home changed its name to the Asian Community Center and established its Park City activities center. Through Park City, the ACC is able to provide more than 150 classes each month in a variety of subjects including wellness, computer literacy, physical activity and art.

Located at Park City, the ACC Respite program provides daily care to older adults with disabilities and impairments, and gives them the opportunity to participate in activities specific to frail adults, and those with Alzheimer's Disease, dementia or Parkinson's. In many cases, the ACC Respite program provides a valued service to the families of disabled and impaired adults, and gives them an opportunity to fulfill daily tasks, run errands and attend appointments.

Additionally, in light of state and local budget cuts in 2010, the ACC then took over the operation of Sacramento's Meals on Wheels program. The ACC created a separate nonprofit and accepted responsibility for the program as local service providers were faced with shutting down the program. Today, Meals on Wheels by ACC serves meals to 5,660 home bound seniors and older adults each week, and recently served its one millionth meal!

Lastly, the Asian Community Center has been instrumental in the creation of the Bridge to Healthy Families program, which seeks to build strong support systems for the families caring for elders suffering from Alzheimer's disease or dementia. Through its many programs and services to seniors citizens and their families, the ACC has become an anchor in Sacramento.

Mr. Speaker I am honored to recognize and celebrate the outstanding service of the Asian Community Center of Sacramento Valley on its 25th Anniversary. The Asian Community Center's success is owed in large part to its executive director, Donna Yee, its board of directors, staff, volunteers, and the countless supporters who keep it running each day. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring their valuable contributions to the community and honoring their continued tradition of supporting Sacramento's seniors and vulnerable citizens.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 537, 538, and 539.

I was unavoidably detained in Georgia due to a scheduling issue, and could not return to Washington in time to cast my vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted ''nay'' on rollcall No. 537, and ''yea'' on rollcall No. 538, and 539.

CONGRATULATING ALI BERNARD

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Ali Bernard for being named to the U.S. Olympic Team, and having the opportunity to compete in London this summer. This is an unbelievable accomplishment, and a testament to American dedication and talent.

Ali has been an incredible competitor in wrestling since high school. From the Junior Nationals to the Pan American Games to the World Championships, it has all led up to becoming a two-time Olympian. Ali's achievement is an inspiration and a source of pride for the New Ulm community, and I am proud to represent such an outstanding individual.

I look forward to watching Ali represent our country in London. I wish her and all the members of Team USA the best of luck in the 2012 Olympic Games.

RECOGNIZING THE OPENING OF THE LEMAY—AMERICA'S CAR MUSEUM

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize The LeMay—America's Car Museum, located in Tacoma, Washington for opening its doors to the Pacific Northwest this summer. The LeMay Museum is one of the largest automobile museums in the world and will attract people of all ages with its modern look and unique history.

The museum, named after Harold LeMay, honors one of the most accomplished businessman from Tacoma, Washington. Harold was born in Yakima, Washington in 1919, but grew up in the Pierce County area where he pursued his love for motorized vehicles. As a young entrepreneur, he became associated with an automobile business in the Lincoln District of Tacoma. From there, he built Harold LeMay Enterprises, joined dozens of community organizations, and began his impressive automobile collection.

Harold and his wife, Nancy LeMay, owned one of the largest privately-owned collections of automobiles, motorcycles, trucks, and other motorized vehicles in the world. The LeMays formed the Harold E. LeMay Museum, a charitable organization that would donate their automobile collection to benefit the community Harold adored. In November 2003, just a few years after Harold's passing, the museum's board of directors approved the proposal to open The LeMay—America's Car Museum in the City of Tacoma.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate The LeMay—America's Car Museum. The museum showcases the history behind America's admiration for automobiles and Harold's inspiring story.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ELECTRIC VEHICLE PURCHASING CREDIT EXPANSION ACT

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, every day, we see the damage done by our dependence on oil. We see high gas prices threatening our economic recovery and burdening families already struggling to make ends meet. We see rising temperatures and sea levels. We see higher respiratory disease rates. And we see any number of distant regimes holding our foreign policy hostage, weakening our ability to stand by our principles and our friends.

It is time for us to throw off these burdens and step into the future.

One of the most promising and necessary things we can do to leave oil behind is speed our transition to electric vehicles. Passenger cars alone use more than 40 percent of the oil consumed in this country. By 2020, the National Resources Defense Council estimates Americans will spend $260 billion a year on gas. Just think of what we stand to gain from switching to electric vehicles. I drive an electric vehicle myself, back home in Los Angeles. I get to drive right on past the gas station. In fact, I have not been to a gas station in almost a year. The technology is here, all we need to do is implement it.

Unfortunately, the higher price tag of electric vehicles has impeded wide-spread adoption by placing them beyond the reach of many of the Americans who stand to benefit most.

The Electric Vehicle Purchasing Credit Expansion Act would increase the existing tax credit offered for the purchase of these vehicles—broadening access and speeding deployment in the near term, and helping to jumpstart the market and realize the economies of scale that will make electric vehicles no more expensive than a gas-powered car.

Since 2009, qualified plug-in electric vehicles have received a federal income tax credit of up to $7,500, depending on their kilowatt-per-hour capacity. The Electric Vehicle Purchasing Credit Expansion Act would increase the tax credit to $10,000, raising the base credit claimable by all plug-in electric vehicles to $3,750, and the maximum kilowatt-per-hour credit to $6,250 (fully claimable at 19 kwhr).

By passing this bill, we can clean our air, free our foreign policy by strengthening our hand with regimes like Iran, and put money lost at the pump back into the pockets of American consumers.

''THE FEW''—1ST LT NATHAN RIMPF, 2–16 RANGERS, 4BDE–1ST ID ''DEMON CO'', THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a real American hero from Raleigh North Carolina, Ranger 1st Lt Nathan Rimpf of The United States Army. Nathan was the team leader of Demon Company 2–16 Rangers, while on patrol when he stepped on an IED on July 8th 2012 in Andar Province in Afghanistan. Already within two short weeks his recovery and his can do attitude is something to behold. With his parents support and his brother is a Capitol Policeman he is making remarkable strides. I submit this poem penned in his honor by Albert Caswell for the RECORD.

THE FEW

The . . .
The Few!
Only, The Few!
Only, The Brave!
Can but so wear that most heroic title and beret,
of a United States Ranger as who!
And so bathe, all in that most heroic hue!
Ranger's like Jimmy Regan, Pat Tillman,
and Kyle Comfort who our world have so graced!
Who have all so worn courage's most courageous face!
For Ranger's Fight!
And Ranger's Lead!
And Ranger's do it all at such deadly speeds!
And for us one all,
Rangers will so die and bleed!
As The United States Ranger's so give to our nation what she needs!
And Ranger's hunt!
And Ranger's evil do so confront!
To stand strong,
to so right all of those wrongs!
To so intercede,
to so bring us peace!
Bought and paid for,
with but all of their fines lives indeed!
As all in Strength In Honor they so believe!
Beware, ''THE DEMONS'' are after you . . . time to run!
Sorry but it's time for you to so confront your ''DEMON'S'' my son!
As their strong arms and legs for all of us they so willingly concede!
For all out there but in the darkest of all nights!
As that's where you shall so find them Leading The Way . . . The Charge, The Fight!
The United States Rangers,
who but bring their most magnificent of all lights!
Because, Rangers Lead!
Men like Nathan Rimpf,
whose hearts so shine upon us all on this very night!
As it was on a July patrol,
When this fine man's life almost went away . . .
With his two strong legs gone,
as for him his men so knelt and prayed!
And that's when this platoon leader got up and ran,
ran with his heart that very day!
Just one more hill to climb!
Just one more mountain to so scale all in his time!
As against all odds once again we would find!
That this Ranger led the way!
Like Superman, the only thing that can stop him is Kryptonite this day!
For such men are put upon this earth,
to so show us what comes first!
To So Teach Us!
To So Beseech Us!
To So Reach Us!
Who out of such darkness but defeat the worst!
And come shining through like a star burst!
As have you Nate,
The Carolina Kid who at light speed has so traversed the most!
For there are but blue skies up ahead of you Nate to host!
''Can't you just feel the sunshine?''
And if ever I had a son, I wish he could shine as bright as this one!
Who so teaches us how the game of life is won!
Moment's are all that we so have!
To fight the bad!
To make a difference with it all!
For something noble, it's better to lose your two fine legs . . .
Then at the end of your life to so moan and beg,
as so wished you a better world you had so made!
But, Only The Few to our world such gifts can claim!
As you Nathan, The Few . . . are but one and the same!
And that's why the word Ranger is in front of your name!
The Few can claim!

RECOGNIZING THE OBERTO SAUSAGE COMPANY

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Art and Dorothy Oberto and the Oberto Sausage Company, based in Kent, Washington. This family-owned business was built on a foundation of providing quality products for their customers and treating their employees well. This has made Oberto, which is also commonly known as Oh Boy! Oberto, one of the most iconic companies of the Pacific Northwest.

In 1918, Constantino Oberto and his uncle, John, founded the Oberto Sausage Company in Seattle, Washington. From the very beginning, Constantino and John dedicated their company to selling the very best handmade Italian sausages and salami. Art Oberto has run the Oberto company since he was just 16, when his father passed away. In all, Art has been responsible for the family business for nearly seven decades.

In 1964, Art introduced Natural Style Beef Jerky. He experimented with the product at home and the jerky was a tremendous success. It led to the company doubling in size and soon after Oh Boy! Oberto products were available nationwide.

Art and the Oberto Sausage Company continued to be dedicated to innovation. They launched turkey jerky in 1994 which solidified Oh Boy! Oberto as the nation's top jerky manufacturer. In 2011, Oberto released one of the biggest innovations to the jerky industry, All Natural Jerky. The company was the first major company to develop a jerky made with all-natural ingredients.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize the hard work, perseverance and innovation of Art and Dorothy Oberto of Oh Boy! Oberto. Their dedication to quality and our community will drive the company forward for many years to come.

IMPORTANCE OF VOTER PROTECTIONS

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, the freedom to vote for our elected leaders is the very

heart of our democracy and the most basic of rights in our representative government. Unfortunately, several states across the nation have enacted laws that would impede the ability of millions of Americans across our country from exercising this right. Throughout the nation, including in my home district of Guam, many voters have lost faith in the integrity of the electoral process or become complacent that their vote is irrelevant.

In Guam, voter turnout has decreased significantly over the last several years and allegations of election misconduct have become common during every election cycle. Many of my constituents have been disenfranchised much in the same way as in some states trying to lower voter turnout. I have raised this issue with the Department of Justice, and I hope they will focus on this issue in every state and territory where efforts to disenfranchise voters are being made.

The free exercise of the right to vote is the cornerstone of American democracy, and it ensures that government is accountable to and representative of the people.

IN MEMORY OF DANIEL FRIEDLANDER

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness and privilege that I honor one of my constituents, Mr. Daniel Friedlander, who died on Monday, July 9, 2012. Dan was born on February 3, 1945, in Chicago. He received a Masters Degree in Economics from the University of Chicago and spent the last years of his life as Principal at CleanTech Solutions in Boulder, Colorado.

Known for his environmental activism and art, Dan was an incredible resource for the Boulder community. He spent his life focused on building start-up businesses that moved information technology into the 21st century. Using his expertise, he later shifted his focus on our growing enivornmental crises and sought to marry his long history of activism with his professional life with his position as Principal at CleanTech Solutions. He engaged his community by creating the Shanahan Neighbors for Climate Action, a neighborhood group intent on becoming more aware of how lifestyle changes can make a significant and positive impact on the environment and each other.

Beyond his successful career and activism, Dan was also a gifted artist. He worked with clay tiles to create extremely unique pieces that he described as the unity of his conscious and unconscious.

Dan was a dedicated father, husband and friend. I am privileged to have known his family including his wife, Diane Rosenthal, and his two sons, Michael Friedlander and David Friedlander. It has been an honor to consider Dan my friend and I know that he will be missed by the countless people who considered him a friend.

HONORING THE KIDS JUST WANT TO RIDE ACT

HON. DENNY REHBERG

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the upcoming one-year anniversary of the Kids Just Want to Ride Act being signed into law. This bill, which I authored to end enforcement of an overreaching prohibition of lead in youth-sized ATVs, motorcycles and snowmobiles, was added to a larger piece of legislation that was signed into law on August 12, 2011.

When Congress passed a law banning lead from children's toys, no one thought that those enforcing the law would expand the definition of "toy" to include youth-size ATVs, motorcycles and snowmobiles. But over the strong protests of riders and their advocates, Washington bureaucrats forced youth-sized ATVs and motorcycles to be pulled off showroom floors. All this did was force our kids to ride more dangerous adult-sized vehicles, putting them at extreme risk.

This just didn't make sense. I authored the Kids Just Want to Ride Act so that this issue would be solved legislatively once and for all, but I didn't do it on my own. An amazing community of youth riders, their parents, and those who love youth racing and recreational activities backed me up with letters, phone calls, and visits to Washington, DC, to rally for the bill. I was honored to be included in the riding community and continue to be impressed by their love for sport and for their fellow riders.

Mr. Speaker, I am again honored to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the Kids Just Want to Ride Act, and thank you for the opportunity to celebrate the amazing American riding community that rallied behind it.

TRIBUTE TO DR. PATRICIA GABOW

HON. DIANA DEGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the tireless work and exceptional accomplishments of Dr. Patricia Gabow, Chief Executive Officer of Denver Health and Hospital Authority. After a remarkable 20 year career at the helm of Denver Health, Dr. Gabow is retiring and leaving behind national models for institutions and aspiring leaders in the field.

Dr. Gabow's commitment to Colorado's health care safety net has been recognized in many areas. She has been elected to the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame for her generosity in mentoring others, her innovation in going outside health care in search of new management ideas, and her commitment to best practices. In addition, Dr. Gabow is the recipient of numerous awards including the American Medical Association's Nathan Davis Award, the Florence Rena Sabin Award, and the 2008 National Healthcare Leadership Award. She has been named as one of the top 25 women in health care, one of the top 50 physician executives, and one of the 100 most powerful people in American health care. Of note, Dr. Gabow was one of only four women named to this list in 2006, and I want to acknowledge my pride in the path she creates for future generations to find their own way in the business of quality health care delivery.

Knowing Dr. Gabow was hard at work in Denver was a comfort and a source of pride as I worked in Congress to improve the health and potential of people in my home state of Colorado. Like many Members of Congress, I have often turned to Dr. Gabow for her expertise in health care policy. For example, during the process of crafting the Affordable Care Act, Dr. Gabow testified before the Energy and Commerce Committee on the role of safety net providers in providing coordinated care, Medicaid's vital function in health reform, and the importance of protecting Medicaid and Medicare funding that helps hospitals treat the uninsured and underinsured. Her influence helped to expand the Medicaid program under health reform, which will help millions of children and their families across the nation. We share so many priorities and it is with a deep appreciation of and affection for Dr. Gabow that I recognize her invaluable service to our community and country.

Dr. Gabow has proved that a researcher can run a hospital and run it well. In an era when many hospitals are operating in the red, Dr. Gabow has taken a hospital that, even while treating thousands of uninsured patients, maintains a viable, successful business model. Dr. Gabow has led this success by looking to other industries, like the auto industry, and translating their business efficiencies into the health care sector by developing integrated care models. Hospital administrators, doctors, and researchers have looked to and will continue to turn to Dr. Gabow for ways to reimagine heath care in America.

I do not know what is next for Patty Gabow. But I do know that whatever she does, we will be inspired, impressed, and indebted to her for all she will continue to do to strengthen the rights and the outcomes for those among us who are sick and in need of quality health care. Thank you, Patty, for your friendship and work on behalf of the people of the First District of Colorado.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JACKIE SCHMID

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, Monday July 23 started like any other day in our congressional offices. But shortly after noontime, the unthinkable happened. Our office was called by our dear friend Sandi Schmid. During that call, Sandi told our District Director Megan Corbett Rizzuto that her daughter, our longtime Executive Assistant and Office Manager Jackie Schmid, had suddenly passed away.

To suggest that we were blown away is a severe understatement. There's little that can be said at a time like this, when someone so young is taken suddenly from our midst. Jackie was universally loved among civic, government and political leaders throughout our community. Acting as the hub of our Buffalo office, Jackie was at the center of all of the action, and played a role in virtually everything our office would do for the constituents I was elected to serve.

On Saturday July 28, Sandi and the rest of Jackie's family honored me by asking that I eulogize her by sharing a few thoughts about her life and legacy. Jackie was a giver, a contributor. She gave more than she got—a lot more. She gave so much of her time and of herself to the many causes she loved so much.

Mr. Speaker, Within this extension, you will see the remarks I delivered last Saturday in honor of Jackie, and you will also see the obituaries published in the Buffalo News and the Am-Pol Eagle.

EULOGY OF JACKIE SCHMID DELIVERED BY THE HONORABLE BRIAN HIGGINS, ST. JOHN GUALBERT CHURCH, CHEEKTOWAGA, NY, SATURDAY, JULY 28, 2012

St. John Gualbert was an 11th century Benedictine monk. One Good Friday, he entered Florence with armed followers and came upon a man who had killed his brother. He was about to kill the man in revenge. Suddenly the man fell to his knees, said he was sorry and begged Gualbert to be spared. Gualbert spared him, forgave him and helped the man to his feet. He encouraged the man to go forth and do good for the world. Gualbert then entered the Benedictine Church in Florence to pray, and the figure on the crucifix bowed his head to in recognition of Gualbert's act of mercy and forgiveness to his fellow man. This is a story of redemption and second chances.

Thank you, Father Michael Burzynski for welcoming us to your beautiful church this morning. You make us feel very much at home here, and Jackie would be most proud of you and of this loving community. St. John Gualbert's was Jackie's spiritual home. She attended grammar school here and remained very active in support of this church throughout her adult life and her final days.

Today we say goodbye to the only daughter of Sandi and Bill Schmid. A loyal friend, a beloved colleague in government and politics, a civic leader and Polonia's goodwill ambassador to WNY and to the world. A leader like few others, holding important positions within the Cheektowaga Symphony Orchestra, the Cheektowaga Patriotic Commission, the Pulaski Day celebrations, the Cheektowaga July 4 celebrations, the Annual Western New York Dyngus Day celebrations, the Cheektowaga Democratic Committee, and so much more. In fact, the Cheektowaga Chamber of Commerce named Jackie as its ''Citizen of the Year'' for 2012—an award that will now be bestowed posthumously.

Jackie's was an impressive list of civil and cultural engagement. Someone once said to Sandi: ''Jackie runs everything in Cheektowaga.'' To which Sandi replied, ''Not everything. She never ran the vacuum cleaner, or the washing machine, or an iron.''

But while it is her civic involvement that she will be remembered and honored for, it is her loving and generous heart that we will truly miss. I along with my colleagues in our Congressional office knew her as a trusted friend and advisor. Jackie was loved and admired by her colleagues—truly loved and admired. She held the title of Executive Assistant, but she was much more than that. She ran the office and set the tone for our workspace. Jackie organized birthday parties for her colleagues and helped with weddings and showers, and any time there was a need for someone to provide music, to find tables and chairs or to secure a hall for a fund raising event, Jackie always ''had a guy.'' She was always ready, she was always ''on it,'' and incredibly willing to help. Jackie directed our student interns and was so loved by them that she would often receive phone calls and postcards from them long after their service was completed. She engendered a rare degree of love, respect and loyalty. She was charismatic and had a following of dutiful friends who would eagerly walk through walls for her.

There was one persistent constituent caller who routinely called Jackie with his complaint of the day. Something he had seen on television or had heard on talk radio, often fueled by a vote I had taken with which he had disagreed. Jackie was polite but would give it right back to him when he crossed the line. One Christmas Eve he called not with a complaint, but rather to wish Jackie a Merry Christmas. Because Jackie was kind to him and showed a respect a caring that he rarely received.

If Jackie loved you, you knew it. If Jackie liked you, you knew it. If Jackie didn't like you, you didn't know it. But we did!

Lyndsey Barnes is our newest staff member. She said that she was originally reluctant to accept a position in our office because she was uncertain that she could handle the job responsibilities. Chuck Eaton, our chief of staff, said, ''The job, you can learn. But you get along with everyone. And most importantly, Jackie likes you.'' Jackie gave Lyndsey the confidence and encouragement she needed to get off to a good start in our office. And she always provided friendship to her.

Carol Burns and Bill Greeley often gave Jackie a hard time about all of the events Jackie would organize in Cheektowaga, civic polka parties and church fundraising events among dozens of others. Jackie would remind them, ''Listen. On my first day of work, the Congressman told me that my job was to keep Cheektowaga happy—and that's what I'm doing.'' Jackie not only kept Cheektowaga happy, Cheektowaga is what Jackie lived for and loved. At the funeral home for yesterday's wake, seventeen different people introduced themselves to me as Jackie's best friend. Many more thought they were as well; that was her gift to all of you and all of us. Unconditional love, devotion and friendship.

Not only did they make their way because of Jackie's love, she made her way because of theirs. And especially because the love and the life she found in her mom Sandi. Theirs was not always an easy relationship. Like with any relationship, they had their moments. But Sandi always gave Jackie strength and purpose, joy and friendship, and stood by her always, especially in these last and hardest days.

None of us can know or certain how long we have on this earth. We cannot know what hardship and tragedy will test us along the way. We cannot know what God's plan is for us. What we can do is live our lives as best we can with purpose, and love and joy. We can leave bitterness and that which is unimportant behind, to reach beyond for love and forgiveness. We can learn from our mistakes and grow from our failures. And we can use each day to show those who we are closest to us how much we care about them, and how much we love them. And we can treat others with the kindness and respect that we wish for ourselves.

This is Jackie's legacy. This is how she lived her life. We do not grieve today because of the prestige and praise attached to her name. We grieve because we loved this kind and giving woman. A woman who was moved, not for the sake of greed or self-aggrandizement, not for wealth or power, but only for the people and community that she loved so very much.

Jackie has gone home now guided by her faith and by the light of those she loved and lost. At last she is with them once more leaving those of us who grieve her passing with the memories she gave and the good that she did.

Today, St. Peter is at the gates of Heaven, sitting at the table, selling split club tickets. God has turned to Peter and said, ''Slide over. Jackie is here now. She's on it.''

May God Bless Jackie, and may she rest in eternal peace.

[From the Buffalo News, July 26, 2012]

JACQUELYN A. SCHMID, HIGGINS' EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Jacquelyn A. Schmid, executive assistant to Rep. Brian Higgins and well known as a community and civic leader, died unexpectedly Monday in her Cheektowaga home. She was 51.

Ms. Schmid over the years achieved a key position in the congressman's Buffalo operation, essentially serving as office manager—and, in the words of one staffer, ''organizer extraordinaire.''

Her colleagues say she achieved that status through her ability to deal with people, an essential skill for those in the world of politics and government.

She was active in many community and Polish heritage organizations as well as Democratic politics. Higgins called her ''Polonia's goodwill ambassador to Western New York.''

''Jackie was a big part of our team,'' he said. ''She had a unique relationship with each and every person based on loyalty and good humor, as well.''

''She had a cult following of friends who really loved her,'' he added, ''all a result of her special charisma.''

A graduate of St. John Gualbert Elementary and Villa Maria Academy, Ms. Schmid also attended Erie Community College.

She was a member of Dyngus Day Buffalo and the point person in planning the Pvt. Leonard Post Pre-Dyngus and Dyngus Day celebrations. Four years ago, she helped found the Cheektowaga Crabapple Festival for families to enjoy at Cheektowaga Town Park and served as general manager of the Cheektowaga Community Symphony Orchestra.

Ms. Schmid was also a staff writer for the Am-Pol Eagle, where she wrote a weekly column on Polonia, and annually organized the St. John Gualbert chicken dinner and theme basket auction.

As a vice chairwoman of the Cheektowaga Democratic Party, Ms. Schmid played a key role in petition drives, fundraisers and Election Day activities. She was elected as a district committeewoman for many years.

She was recognized by the Buffalo Bisons in 2008 as Polish-American of the Year for her decades of service to the Polish community, including stints with the Cheektowaga Patriotic Commission, Cheektowaga Polish American Arts Festival and General Pulaski Association.

Her final public event occurred the day before she died, as she supervised the Pulaski Day Parade—at which she became a familiar figure directing activities from behind the reviewing stand—which capped off the annual Cheektowaga Polish Arts Festival in Cheektowaga Town Park.

In September, Ms. Schmid was to be honored by the Cheektowaga Chamber of Commerce as its ''Citizen of the Year.''

The award will now be bestowed posthumously.

She is survived by her mother, Alexandra ''Sandi'' Lawkowski Schmid; her father, William F. Sr.; and a brother, William F. Jr.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 10 a.m. Saturday in St. John Gualbert Catholic Church, Gualbert Avenue at Doat Street, where Higgins will deliver the eulogy.

[From the Am-Pol Eagle]

JACKIE SCHMID DIES

Am-Pol Eagle's polka columnist, polka promoter, Polonian and political activist Jackie Schmid, 51, died at home on Monday.

Schmid, an executive assistant to Congressman Brian Higgins, had just helped organize the Cheektowaga Polish American Arts Festival and General Pulaski Parade in Cheektowaga last weekend.

Schmid was a Cheektowaga Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year in 2012. She was presented the Polish American of the Year award by the Buffalo Bisons in 2008. At that time Judge Michael Pietruszka said of Schmid, ''She is definitely one of the unsung heroes of Polonia. She works on all of these projects behind the scenes and just does wonderful things for the community.''

Despite feeling ill, Schmid attended the Pulaski Parade and Cheektowaga Polish Arts Festival on Sunday. Last year Schmid stated: ''The Polish Festival is really important to keep the Polish heritage alive and pass down the traditions. The younger generations need to keep the traditions going.''

Ron Urbanczyk of the band City Side had said of Schmid: ''She promotes not only polka music but the Polish tradition.'' Schmid planned the Pvt. Leonard Post Pre-Dyngus Day and Dyngus Day celebrations.

Schmid was vice chairwoman of the Cheektowaga Democratic Committee, general manager of the Cheektowaga Symphony Orchestra, a director of the General Pulaski Assn., Inc., an organizer of Squeezefest (an accordion festival and old-fashioned polka party), and a member of the Polish American Arts Festival Committee. She was also active as a polka promoter and member of St. John Gualbert Parish in Cheektowaga.

Cheektowaga Supervisor Mary Holtz has referred to Schmid as an ''event planner extraordinaire'' for the Cheektowaga Crabapple Festival. Schmid was also an active volunteer with the Cheektowaga Patriotic Commission which organizes the Independence Day celebrations including the parade in the town.

Schmid was born in Buffalo and raised in Cheektowaga, where she was active in local Democratic politics. She was a 1979 graduate of Villa Maria Academy. She also cooked for her family's restaurant, which was located on Broadway and Shepard Street on Buffalo's East Side, before it was moved to Cheektowaga. The restaurant was closed in 1985.

Brian Rusk, president of the General Pulaski Assn., lauded Schmid's collaboration with other directors as she served as co-chair of the parade for 10 years. He called her, ''A fine and dedicated woman.''

Rusk added, ''She was a foundation of our Pulaski Assn. and parade for the last 15 years. We will miss her at the General Pulaski Assn. and I personally dedicate the parade yesterday in her memory.''

Pulaski parade co-chair Mira Szramel said Schmid was always dependable. ''I knew I could count on her,'' Szramel said. She added that she knew she could always ''Call Jackie'' and the job would get done.

Schmid is survived by her mother, Sandi (Alexandra), father William Sr., and brother William.

A wake will be held at Barron Miller, 3025 William St., Cheektowaga on Friday from 2–8 p.m. A Mass of Christian burial will be offered 10 a.m. Saturday at St. John Gualbert Church in Cheektowaga.

RECOGNIZING STAFF SGT. JEFFREY KELLY

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to express my sincere appreciation for Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Kelly's service to his country.

After joining the U.S. Army Reserves in 2000 and transferring to the Regular Army in 2006, Sgt. Kelly served three tours in Iraq. In 2008, during his last tour, Sgt. Kelly was seriously injured when his convoy came under rocket-propelled grenade and mortar fire. Despite his injuries, Sgt. Kelly completed his assigned mission.

Sgt. Kelly is a native of Central Florida and graduated from Westside Vo Tech in Winter Garden. Sgt. Kelly now lives in Clermont with his wife, Michelle, and two young children, Jade and Lindsey.

On behalf of the people of Central Florida, I am pleased to express our gratitude and to praise Sgt. Kelly for his courage and dedication to his country. His commitment to his country and his selfless service is an inspiration to us all.

CONGRATULATING GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to congratulate Grambling State University (GSU) on its 111th anniversary. This milestone is a testament that GSU is a true leader in education.

Opening on November 1, 1901, GSU was organized by a group of African American farmers who wanted to organize and operate a school for African Americans in north Louisiana. What began as an industrial school, Grambling State shifted its focus to rural teacher education in the late 1930s. GSU transformed in the early 1950s into an institution that offered students education in the areas of science, liberal arts, and business. The university now offers 68 degree programs to its students.

In recent years, Grambling has incorporated new academic programs and has added new facilities including a business and computer science building and school of nursing. Throughout the university's 111-year history, the value of each individual student has always been emphasized. GSU continues to be an institution ''where everybody is somebody.''

I commend Grambling State University on this significant milestone, and its dedication to positively influencing the lives of its students. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Grambling State University for this momentous occasion.

SEEKING FREEDOM FOR AMERICAN TRAPPED IN BOLIVIAN PRISON

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights, which I chair, held a hearing to shine a spotlight on and to search for a resolution of the extreme injustice being perpetrated by Bolivian government officials against Jacob Ostreicher, an American trapped in the infamous Palmasola prison. Charged with crimes for which the Bolivian Government has produced no evidence, either of the crimes themselves or that Mr. Ostreicher committed either one, he is being denied the most fundamental due process and human rights both under Bolivian law and international human rights standards.

On June 9, Sheri Rickert, my Staff Director on the subcommittee, and I went to Bolivia to meet with Mr. Ostreicher and to attend a court hearing for his release on bail which had been repeatedly delayed since September of last year. The testimony presented at the Subcommittee's June 6 hearing about this case revealed the repeated due process violations being committed by Bolivian officials.

On June 11, I had the opportunity to witness some of them myself. Two attorneys from the Bolivian Ministry of Government, who I understand should not be intervening in the case, aggressively threatened to take legal action against the judge if he refused to recuse himself. Although the judge rightly rejected the ludicrous reasons on which the Ministry of Government attorneys based their threat, they accomplished their goal of having the hearing postponed and Mr. Ostreicher returned to prison.

To underline the absurdity of the Bolivian judicial system, Mr. Ostreicher's case was then referred to a court where the judge is detained in the same prison as Mr. Ostreicher. It took fully six weeks for the hearing to be rescheduled in another court that has a judge. I've been told that, unfortunately, the same scenario as occurred at the June 11 hearing took place again on July 23. The Ministry of Government attorneys injected themselves into the hearing and aggressively threatened the judge if she failed to recuse herself. The judge rejected out of hand the basis asserted for the threat, but again postponed the hearing and returned Mr. Ostreicher to jail.

While in Bolivia, I met with the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Juan Carlos Alurralde, the Minister of Government Carlos Romero Bonifaz, and the Minister of Justice Cecilia Ayllón Quinteros to advocate for Mr. Ostreicher's release. Each one of them have made commitments with respect to this case but have not followed through.

And in the meantime, Mr. Ostreicher continues to face daily threats to his life in the violent, unsanitary, drug-infested Palmasola prison. He has been on a hunger-strike since April 15, and he was already extremely frail and weak when I saw him over a month ago. Both a private and a Bolivian government doctor have examined Mr. Ostreicher and recommended that he be referred to a medical clinic for evaluation. Given everything else that

has happened in this case, it is highly suspicious that the prison officials are unable to find police escorts to take him there.

Although our own State Department officials are finally acknowledging that Mr. Ostreicher's due process rights are being violated, they continue to seem hesitant and uncertain about what action to take on his behalf. The State Department was invited to testify at yesterday's hearing, but indicated that they were not available to do so this week. I look forward to arranging a follow-up hearing at the earliest possible date when they are prepared to discuss their efforts in this case.

Since undertaking my own advocacy efforts on Mr. Ostreicher's behalf in early June, I have received reports about several Americans who are imprisoned overseas and who are being denied their fundamental due process and human rights. Out of a sense of obligation to do all I can to help Mr. Ostreicher, but also to assist other U.S. citizens in similar situations, I am introducing legislation that will hold accountable those foreign government officials who are responsible for the violation of due process and human rights of imprisoned Americans.

This legislation is entitled the ''Justice for Imprisoned Americans Overseas Act'' or ''Jacob's Law.'' It is premised on the principle that foreign government officials responsible for violations of fundamental due process and human rights of imprisoned U.S. citizens, as well as their immediate family members, should not have the privilege of traveling to the United States while our citizens unjustly languish in their prisons.

The bill would prohibit the issuance of a visa and deny entry to any foreign government official who is violating, or failing to fulfill a responsibility to uphold, the rights of an imprisoned American. The legislation would also deny entry to such officials if the American dies from any cause while in prison. These visa and entry prohibitions would likewise apply to these officials' immediate family members.

Entry to the U.S. would be denied only when an American's fundamental rights are being violated. Americans who violate the legitimate laws of foreign countries must accept the consequences of their crimes. But the United States cannot stand by and simply ''monitor'' the case when our citizens are being held hostage contrary to international human rights standards.

I would emphasize that already under current law, 22 U.S. Code Section 1732, the President must demand the release of any citizen who has been unjustly deprived of his liberty by or under the authority of any foreign government, and to undertake appropriate means to obtain the release of such citizen. This legislation provides the State Department with a tool that it should welcome in order to help it fulfill this responsibility.

We were privileged to have with us yesterday two attorneys who are representing Mr. Ostreicher in the Santa Cruz courts. I would like to thank them for coming all the way from Bolivia to participate in this hearing on Mr. Ostreicher's behalf. We also received an update about the case from Mr. Ostreicher's wife, Ms. Miriam Ungar, and his daughter, a constituent who resides in my district in New Jersey, Ms. Chaya Weinberger. Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to Mr. Stephen Moore, a retired FBI special agent who has spent considerable time and effort investigating Mr. Ostreicher's case and who interrupted his book tour in Washington State in order to join us yesterday.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE OF MAJOR GENERAL ANTHONY G. CRUTCHFIELD

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major General Anthony G. Crutchfield, Commanding General of the United States Army Aviation Center of Excellence, upon completion of his tour of duty at Fort Rucker.

Since August 2010, when Major General Crutchfield took command of the United States Army Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker, he has demonstrated a deep personal commitment not only to his troops, but also to their families and the surrounding community.

Major General Crutchfield's mastery of the area of Army aviation is well known, and his vision for the future of his branch has had a direct positive impact in the Army. But, equally important, Major General Crutchfield's well-known dedication to his soldiers is, perhaps, his most honorable attribute. Further, his devotion to the success of his soldier's training, performance, and morale illustrates his proven leadership among those who dutifully serve.

When Major General Crutchfield took command of Fort Rucker, there was an untenable backlog of would be pilots waiting to begin training. As one of his first directives, he challenged his staff to find a solution to this vexing problem. Despite counsel from many that this was an unreasonable task, the backlog has been eliminated. Such actions exemplify his ''can do'' attitude. The entire Army Aviation community has benefited as a result.

Always thinking about military families, Major Crutchfield would not accept that, despite the growing population on base, Fort Rucker was not scheduled to receive a new commissary until 2016. Through his efforts, Fort Rucker and its families will enjoy the benefits of a new commissary in 2013. However, this pales in comparison to his other efforts in support of military families. As an example, Major General Crutchfield would often participate in story time with children of deployed family members. To think that a man of this magnitude would make time in his busy schedule to spend with the children of deployed soldiers, on more than one occasion, speaks volumes about his genuine concern for his military families. It also says a great deal about his character as a man.

Major General Crutchfield has also built solid relationships with the Fort Rucker civilian community throughout his command. He took time to meet members of the community, and worked hard to get to know them personally. Most recently, after undergoing a coaching change at Enterprise High School, Major General Crutchfield spent some time with the football team and offered a motivational speech to those young adults. Such actions are typical of his efforts to bond with the community and will have a lasting effect on those student athletes for years to come.

Major General Crutchfield's tour as Commander of the United States Army Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker is a textbook example of our great military leaders. From his dedication to his troops and their families to his unwavering support of the local community, his leadership and commitment to excellence contributed significantly to our nation's defense.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am pleased to recognize the significant impact Major General Crutchfield has had on Fort Rucker and the surrounding community. My congressional staff, my husband Riley, and I each offer Major General Crutchfield and his wife Kim our most heartfelt gratitude for their service to our Nation and wish them fair winds and following seas as they move on to their new duty station at Camp H.M. Smith in Hawaii.

HONOR FLIGHT ALASKA RECOGNITION

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of a grateful Alaska Congressional Delegation, state, and country, to welcome four heroes to our nation's capital. On September 27, 2012, four World War II veterans are coming on an Honor Flight from Alaska to visit the World War II Memorial here in Washington, D.C.

The Honor Flight program was started in 2005 to provide national transportation to D.C. for veterans who might otherwise never see the memorials built in their honor. Initially run entirely by individual volunteers, the program has grown into a non-profit network of volunteers, organizations, and airlines that work together to extend this amazing opportunity to those who most deserve it.

The four veterans on this Honor Flight are World War II veterans: William Joseph Nuggent, Army Air Force; Louis Elmer Fessler, U.S. Army; Marc Stella, U.S. Marine Corps; Robert J. Ingram, U.S. Navy.

Mr. Speaker, these four veterans from Alaska join over 81,000 veterans, from across the country, who have traveled to our nation's capital since 2005 to visit and reflect on memorials built in their honor. This Honor Flight was made possible through generous public donations and contributions from those who wish to honor these heroes.

We truly can never repay the debt we owe the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines who put themselves in harm's way to protect our freedom. The sacrifices made by these heroes—and the families they left behind—are truly incredible. These servicemen returned home with heavy burdens and scars from war, and still helped our nation rebuild and achieve unprecedented prosperity. Their honor, courage, commitment, and sacrifice brought freedom to much of the world, and allowed us to enjoy the freedoms we cherish today.

Please join me in thanking these Alaska veterans for their selfless dedication, commitment, and service to our great nation. God bless America and these brave men.

A TRIBUTE TO TIFFANY JOHNSTON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ms. Tiffany Johnston of Graettinger, Iowa for being named a national recipient of the 2011 Teacher Mentor Award from the National Association of Agricultural Educators. Ms. Johnston is one of only six individuals nationwide who received this great honor.

Over the past six years, Ms. Johnston has been educating high school students at Graettinger-Terril High School as well as Iowa's new agriculture teachers through the Iowa Association of Agricultural Educators New Teacher Program. Ms. Johnston's passion has reinvigorated our state's agricultural education through updated methodology and countless hours of dedication.

During the 2010 Iowa Association of Agricultural Educators Summer Conference, Ms. Johnston teamed up with fellow Iowa agricultural educator, Tara Fastert, to help other new teachers in the profession. Together they would help develop a new teacher program to provide teachers with more resources and ideas for their lesson plans, as well as introduce them to cutting-edge online resources to assist in further professional networking. Ms. Johnston's work to establish partnerships within an agricultural education program, starting at the local level, has culminated to her nationwide recognition through the Teacher Mentor Award.

Mr. Speaker, the commitment Ms. Johnston has shown to Iowa's agriculture, educators, and students is unparalleled. Her efforts embody Iowa's proud traditions of quality education and hard work, and it is an honor to represent Tiffany in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating her on this remarkable achievement and will wish her continued success in educational excellence.

TRIBUTE HONORING THE 109TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ILINDEN UPRISING

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 109th Anniversary of the Ilinden Uprising. On August 2, 1903, the Macedonian people rose together to fight for their freedom. Today is a cause for true celebration.

The Ilinden Uprising's ideas were rooted in the ideals of the American and French Revolutions. The Macedonian people fought for an independent state, whose people would enjoy civil liberties and be free in their pursuit of happiness.

Macedonia's forefathers fought bravely for the Macedonian nationhood, and their dream became a reality in 1991, when the Republic of Macedonia became free, independent and sovereign.

I would also like to take a moment to congratulate the Macedonian-American community in my district, in New Jersey, and throughout the entire United States on the progress their homeland has achieved. Today marks the Anniversary of a huge step towards an independent Macedonia, and I am happy to support the Republic of Macedonia as it continues to move forward on its path to full NATO membership.

I am always pleased to recognize and commemorate historic occasions such as this one. As a proud member of the Congressional Caucus on Macedonia and Macedonian-Americans, I again commemorate the 109th Anniversary of the Ilinden Uprising in Macedonia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, all Macedonian people, and me, in recognizing the 109th Anniversary of the Ilinden Uprising in Macedonia.

JOB PROTECTION AND RECESSION PREVENTION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 8, the Job Protection and Recession Prevention Act of 2012. I oppose this bill because it extends the 2001 and 2003 Bush tax cuts to millionaires who do not need it, have not requested it, and at a time when the nation cannot afford it.

The extension of this 2001 tax policy would keep the rates of all tax brackets at a reduced level. While this reduced level would keep more funds in the hands of American families, it provides for a disproportionate distribution of the tax burden on different income levels. These reduced rates give a greater break to the incredibly wealthy, placing unfair monetary responsibility on the middle class.

The extension of this tax policy also maintains a lower rate on capital gains, and taxes dividends at the same rate as capital gains instead of as ordinary income. In addition, this extension lowers the estate tax. Lower rates on such incomes further burden the middle class, as they further relieve the incredibly wealthy from their duty to give back to this country. As a result of these policies, the average income tax cut for households making more than $1 million a year would be over $74,000 in 2013.

Concurrently, as a result of H.R. 8, some of the tax cuts for working families which were adopted in 2009 would be allowed to expire, and eligibility for the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit will be reduced. This bill also ends the American Opportunity Tax Credit, 85 percent of the benefactors of which made less than $100,000 a year. These actions will effectively raise taxes on 25 million middle- and low-income households by an average of $1000.

The conversation surrounding our nation's tax policies has focused on ensuring that tax cuts for the middle class are extended. It has been made clear, on both sides of the aisle, that this is imperative not only to helping American families get back on their feet, but also to the continuing recovery of the United States economy.

Unfortunately, my Republican colleagues are determined to use these middle class tax cuts as leverage to make sure that the Bush-era tax cuts for the wealthy are extended. They use top-down economics as the argument for the validity of these cuts—that they help to restore our economy and reduce the unemployment rate, because the individuals earning incomes in the top two percent are "job creators." Contrary to this claim, the facts demonstrate that fewer than 35 percent of small business owners make over $250,000 a year. Allowing the Bush tax cuts for the upper class to expire would not affect the vast majority of "job creators" in the American economy, but it would help relieve the tax burden of working families.

Mr. Speaker, I oppose H.R. 8 not only because the policies included within it would inflict an unbalanced tax burden on working families, but also because it will prevent this Congress from helping to reduce America's budget deficit. My colleagues across the aisle consistently claim they are committed to reducing our deficit, yet they have fought to pass this bill, extending Bush's tax cuts for the wealthy. If we were to let these cuts expire, our deficit could be reduced by $50 billion in 2013 alone. Simply stated, the tax plan laid out in H.R. 8 will not raise adequate revenue to fund our national priorities or repay our debt.

Instead of arguing over tax cuts for those individuals who don't need our help, this Congress should be working across the aisle to create a fair, comprehensive tax reform that unburdens our working families. The conversation should be focused on continuing to rebuild our economy and reduce our deficit, not give handouts to the wealthy few. When a bill that outlines real, fair tax reform comes up for consideration on the Floor, I will support it.

Mr. Speaker, it is for these reasons that I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing H.R. 8, the Job Protection and Recession Prevention Act of 2012.

RECOGNIZING MARK DAVIS FOR 45 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE AIRLINE INDUSTRY IN SEATTLE

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mark Davis of Auburn, Washington, for forty-five years of dedicated service to the airline industry.

In 1967, Mr. Davis began working on the ramp for Northwest Airlines, with a propeller-driven Lockheed Electra. Over the next 45 years, he served in a variety of capacities for his company. These included time as a ramp agent, cleaner, working in the commissary, fueling aircrafts, serving at the post office and, finally, as a freight runner.

At a special ceremony, Mr. Davis received a pin commemorating his 45 years of service. Delta Cargo leaders and employees surprised him by unveiling a ramp tug personalized with his name, employment date and years of service.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Mark Davis for a long career of service to the airline industry in Seattle, Washington. Employees like Mark make companies, our economy, and our country thrive.

IN HONOR OF SAMUEL L. ODLE ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Samuel L. Odle on his retirement from Indiana University Health. IU Health is our state's most comprehensive healthcare provider, encompassing twenty hospitals and health centers. U.S. News & World Report has named IU Health as one of the ''Best Hospitals in America'' for fourteen consecutive years—a laudable achievement and further evidence of Mr. Odle's prowess as one of the very best health care executives in the Nation. For 31 years, Mr. Odle has worked to improve patient care and expand the reach of IU Health to underserved communities throughout Indiana. The establishment of the new IU Health Pathology Laboratory and Neuroscience Center are testament to his leadership and devotion to advancing the practice of medicine.

In addition to spending long hours at IU Health and raising his three children, Mr. Odle has worked tirelessly on behalf of the United Way of Central Indiana, the Jordan Foundation, the Crossroads of America Boy Scouts Council, and the Methodist Health Foundation.

Mr. Odle is more than just an outstanding executive, community leader and philanthropist. On a personal level, he has served as a role model for me and a source of inspiration for many years. Samuel L. Odle is a pillar in the community; he sets a fine example for all of us.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Sam Odle for his exceptional service to the 7th District of Indiana. I wish him the very best in his retirement, and look forward to working with him for many years to come.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 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 $15,907,138,660,280.97. We've added $5,280,261,611,367.89 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 HONOR OF SISTER MARY CECELIA HARRISON, FMS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an inspiring woman of faith, beloved educator and spiritual leader, Sister Mary Cecelia Harrison, FMS. Sister Cecelia will be retiring after 25 years of outstanding leadership as Principal of Mother Mary School in Phenix City, Alabama. On Saturday, August 4, 2012, Sister Cecelia will be honored with an appreciation luncheon at the Columbus Trade and Convention Center in Columbus, Georgia.

Sister Cecelia, a native of Kingston, Jamaica, was born on May 7, 1937, the ninth child of Philip and Agnes Harrison's ten children. In 1956, she entered the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help of Jamaica. She graduated from Boston College in Massachusetts in1966 and then assumed a variety of principalships in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands where she oversaw the increase of enrollment in several schools and was appointed Member of the Cayman Islands Board of Education by the Governor for seven years.

In 1988, Sister Cecilia was assigned as School Principal and Program Coordinator at Mother Mary Mission School in Phenix City, Alabama at a time when the school was almost defunct. It had poor academic standing and low enrollment and plans were in place for its closing. Sister Cecelia was only too happy to take on this challenge. Within three years, Mother Mary School was thriving with increased enrollment, high academic standards and improved facilities.

In her 25 years as Principal of Mother Mary School, Sister Cecelia has become an educational and spiritual mentor in the community. Not only does she contribute to the education of young minds but she also works to provide assistance to the needy within the community. Her generosity is flowing and never ending and her faith is strong and enduring.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things I admire most about Sister Cecelia is her selfless determination to help others. While she was in the Cayman Islands, there was an area of land next to the school where she was Principal that was unusable because of its rocky and uneven terrain. Sister Cecelia wanted the children to be able to use this land for much-needed recess so in any spare moment she had, she would go out there and pick up the rocks one by one herself. Her dedication inspired others to help and within a year, Sister Cecelia had the area leveled, graded and cleared of rocks for the children to enjoy.

Proverbs 11:25 says, ''A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.'' Sister Cecelia has given her life to God and dedicated herself to the service of others. She has been blessed in many, many ways and enjoys watching the children she has mentored and nurtured grow into good, generous and hardworking men and women of faith.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Sister Mary Cecelia Harrison for her legacy of selfless life service and her 25 years of dedicated leadership to Mother Mary School and the surrounding community.

A STORY OF RECOVERY FROM THE ALABAMA TORNADOES

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, the State of Alabama will never forget the devastating tornadoes of April 27, 2011.

But the story that has been told since that destructive day is an inspiring one of personal resilience and a resolve to rebuild neighborhoods and communities.

A critical factor has been the commitment that employers have made to their communities.

After a natural disaster of this scale, there is always a choice to confront: rebuild or relocate?

An important part of the economic recovery efforts in Jefferson County was the decision made by Cliffs Natural Resources to rebuild its Oak Grove Mine and Concord Preparation Plant and remain as a strong presence in Alabama.

The tornadoes caused significant damage to the mine preparation plant and overland conveyor system at the coal facility, an employer of more than 500 workers in the western portion of Jefferson County. It also disrupted the transportation system that Cliffs and other companies rely on to receive and move materials.

Most critically, and thankfully, all employees were accounted for after the storms and no one was reported as injured.

Even before the full magnitude of the recovery challenge facing Alabama became clear, company officials were already thinking about how quickly they could begin to resume operations. It soon became evident that this would entail the plant providing its own power and even building a new road. The company's management and workers were undeterred.

In spite of many daunting challenges, underground mining was restarted within two weeks. Within eight months, coal was again being processed to meet our nation's energy demands.

While planning for the long-term work needed for full capacity, the company responded to the emergency needs of the ravaged communities around it. Cliff's donated $100,000 to the American Red Cross and another $60,000 to organizations serving storm victims in the immediate area.

The Oak Grove operations marked a significant milestone on May 16, 2012 with a ceremony that highlighted the rebuilding of the Concord Prep Plant. This engineering and construction achievement represented a $52 million investment and was accompanied by an additional $30 million investment in a new, LEED-certified mine portal facility.

In all, Cliffs invested $120 million towards its Alabama operations and preserved more than 500 jobs during a year when our state needed it the most. It is a tale of resilience, determination, and a strong work ethic that stands out as my state continues its recovery from the historic storms.

ON THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOUSTON EDUCATION FUND

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the League of Women Voters of Houston Education Fund for their commitment to the encouragement of active and informed participation of citizens in government.

The League of Women Voters of the United States and the League of Women Voters of the Houston Area were both established in 1920, the year that the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States gave women the right to vote. The League of Women Voters is a direct descendant of the women's suffrage movement, and has become an active and effective organization that serves all voters.

The League of Women Voters of Houston Education Fund has an extensive, respected history of encouraging civic engagement throughout the Houston community. Their mission to encourage active and informed participation by providing accessible information and support services to the people is critical to the success of a democracy.

This August marks the 92nd anniversary of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment. I join the League of Women Voters in celebrating Women's Equality Day by remembering this historic achievement and the courage, perseverance and accomplishments of women who fulfill the promise of the Nineteenth Amendment.

Members of the League of Women Voters of Houston Education Fund are volunteers who work in their communities to help the realities of the American system of government live up to its ideals. The organization would not be the success that it is today without their hard work and dedication. Their service to our community is greatly appreciated.

And so it is with great pleasure that I recognize the League of Women Voters of Houston Education Fund and celebrate the anniversary of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment.

TRIBUTE TO LAKE HEALTH DISTRICT CEO GORDON ENSLEY

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a long time community leader in the heart of Southern Oregon, Gordon Ensley.

On June 30th, after a career in health care spanning 38 years, Gordon retired as Chief Executive Officer of the Lake Health District in the great town of Lakeview, Oregon. In 1996, after 11 years at another small town hospital in Gold Beach, Oregon, Gordon and his wife Pauline moved to Lakeview so he could serve as the Lake Health District Chief Financial Officer. Then in 2003, Gordon took the helm as Chief Executive Officer, and under his leadership the health district's local hospital, long term care facility, and home care and hospice programs, have experienced tremendous growth and improvement.

Most of Lakeview's 3,000 residents, whether they have encountered Gordon as an employee, patient, colleague, or friend, are likely to agree about the positive impact he has made on their community. This included one of Gordon's crowning achievements, a 10-year project to expand and upgrade the hospital. Gordon and his board knew this project wouldn't be without its obstacles, but nevertheless began work on a plan to find additional finances, which included a plea to the community to support an $8 million bond. In 2008, voters agreed that improving overall patient care and access was a worthy investment, and approved the ballot measure to help finalize a 33,000 square foot expansion and upgrade to the hospital.

Mr. Speaker, even with this achievement, Gordon still understood the struggles associated with providing health care to rural patients. Most areas within Oregon's Second Congressional District are as rural as you can get, and access to a health provider can be difficult. Lakeview is no exception, but fortunately for this community and its surrounding areas, Gordon embodies the dedication and vision that is necessary to provide quality care and improved access. All this, however, and Gordon will be the first to say that while working in the rural health care field offers its challenges, it presents even greater rewards.

And as we develop policies in Washington, D.C., it is crucial for Congress to do so only after seeking the advice of on-the-ground experts like Gordon and those like him. Fortunately, he has always been more than willing to take time out of his otherwise busy days to offer his valuable expertise, and he has never been afraid to get in touch with me to express his concerns. Whether discussing pending legislation, burdensome federal regulations—on which Gordon has certainly made his position known—or even sometimes non-health related issues, I have greatly appreciated his expert guidance and useful counsel over the years.

So as Charlie Tveit, the Lake Health District's new CEO, takes over, he begins on the solid foundation laid under Gordon's strong leadership. And while I know Gordon had reservations about leaving his post after so many dedicated years of doing what he knows best, I think all of those who know him, most notably his wife Pauline and their family, would agree that he has earned a well-deserved break.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Gordon's many years of service to his community as we wish him a long and happy retirement.

CONGRATULATING THE MSC COYOTES GREEN UNDER-14 GIRLS SOCCER CLUB ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an incredible group of young ladies—proud members of the MSC Coyotes Green Under-14 Girls Soccer Club—who brought home to the great State of Maryland the National Championship.

Yes, this team has reached the top of youth soccer. They may just be rising 9th and 10th graders—most of them residents of Montgomery County, Maryland—but they have already achieved in sports what most young athletes can only dream about. And they didn't get there without putting in the work. Being fast and strong and athletic are important, but putting in the work is what sets you apart from your competition. These young ladies trained endlessly—in rain, snow, extreme heat, and freezing cold—while staying focused on academics.

They arrived in Rock Hill, SC last week as the sole representative of Region 1 (Maine to Virginia), and they left Rock Hill, SC as the top U14 girls club team in America. I rise to recognize these young ladies, their families, and their great coaches for all of their hard work, dedication, grit, and perseverance.

The MSC Coyotes Green qualified for the National Championships after winning the Region 1 Championships in Lancaster, PA having to survive matches against some of the top ranked teams in America. They won this prestigious Regional Championship but not the easy way—the Coyotes won their semi-final and final matches in winner-take-all penalty kicks.

The National Championships was a round-robin between the Final 4 teams in America from Maryland, California, Ohio, and Tennessee. To put the MSC Coyotes Green achievement in perspective, over 10,000 club teams competed for a chance to play in the Regional and National Championships.

The National Championships round-robin started Wednesday, July 25, 2012 in Rock Hill, SC. The Coyotes Green tied their first match against Beach FC '97 from California 0–0 on Wednesday; lost their second match against Tennessee '98 Azzurri 2–0 on Thursday; and won their third match—a win or go home game—on Friday against Ambassador FC from Ohio 3–0. The Coyotes qualified for the Title Game and earned a rematch with Tennessee '98 Azzurri on Saturday, July 28, 2012 at 6:45 p.m. in Rock Hill, SC for the U14 Girls National Championship. It was a tough match, but the MSC Coyotes Green won 2–0, earning their spot as the nation's top U14 girls team.

I would like to recognize the following MSC Coyotes Green players who will play—or already do play—for several Washington, DC and Maryland suburban high schools:

1 McKenzie McCaull, F, Linganore; 2 Naomi Gross, GK, B–CC; 3 Annika Jansa, M/D, Bullis; 5 Sara Johnston, D, Stone Ridge; 10 Paula Germino-Watnick, M/F, B–CC; 13 Julia Abbott, F, Good Counsel; 14 Cristina Valianatos, M, Walt Whitman; 15 Jade Ruiters, F/M, Holy Cross; 16 Amanda Wilson, D, Good Counsel; 20 Lindsay Wytkind, D, Walt Whitman; 21 Emma Anderson, F, Walt Whitman; 23 Kristen Darragh, GK, Poolesville; 25 Deena DeSilva, D, Magruder; 26 Kristen Bissell, M/F, Undecided; 27 Juliana Comer, M, Churchill; 28 Elizabeth Coletti, F, St. John's Catholic Prep; 29 Clare Severe, M/F, Walt Whitman; and 44 Julianne Keehan, F, Holy Cross.

I also want to commend the two coaches who led them to victory—Alex Gould and Kevin Layton.

It's not often that you can pause to recognize national champions in your congressional

district. Today it is my privilege to recognize and congratulate the MSC Coyotes Green U14 Girls Team, the best U14 girls soccer team in America.

WESLEY GROVE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a legacy of faith and community in Virginia's Third Congressional District. This year, Wesley Grove United Church of Christ in Newport News, Virginia is celebrating its 125th anniversary, and I would like to take a moment to reflect on the history of this esteemed institution and its contributions to the greater Newport News community.

Originally organized in 1887 by a group including Reverend J.H. Edlow and Deacon G. Wesley Raney, the Wesley Grove congregation originally met in a building just 20 by 30 feet, at the time too large for the small congregation. As a poor congregation, it was difficult for them to pay for this space. Fortunately, the congregation found ways to make ends meet, and in 1895, under Reverend James M. Parson, a new house of worship was completed.

In 1897, Elder S.A. Howell became pastor of the Church. As time went by, the congregation continued to expand, eventually growing to over 1,000 and finding itself in need of a larger place of worship. Under the leadership of Reverend Howell, a new building was constructed on the 700 block of 19th Street in Newport News. Dedicated in 1900, this building was used by the congregation under the leadership of Reverend T.S. Crayton, Reverend J.B. Jones, Reverend Thomas J. Moore, and Reverend Zander P. Jenkins.

In 1964, under the leadership of Reverend Jenkins, having once again outgrown their place of worship due to mergers with other congregations, the Wesley Grove congregation completed the purchase of a building owned by another local church. Reverend Jenkins, feeling called to serve elsewhere, left the congregation in 1970.

Over the next few years, the congregation struggled without a pastor at times. Reverend Vernon Harris served the congregation for a year in 1972 before Reverend Jenkins, having fulfilled his calling to other congregations, returned in 1974. Unfortunately, Reverend Jenkins passed away suddenly, leaving Wesley Grove again without a pastor.

With Reverend Jenkins' passing, Reverend G. Wesley Raney, III, the grandson of one of Wesley Grove's founders, proved ready to lead the congregation. During his ministry, the church flourished. Feeling called to pastor a church in another state, Reverend Raney left Wesley Grove in 1985, and was succeeded by Reverend Isaac L. McDonald. Under his leadership, numerous programs were established to help Newport News youth excel in their educational pursuits.

Reverend McDonald was succeeded by Reverend Prince Raney Rivers, who was called to minister Wesley Grove as both a pastor and a teacher until 2005. A descendant of one of the founders of the church, Reverend Rivers presided over another period of tremendous growth for the church. Under his leadership, the Church established new ministries, expanded membership, and created lasting community partnerships to address issues and challenges facing the community.

Reverend McDonald was succeeded by Reverend Dr. Alexander Jamison, Sr., who served the community from 2007 until 2011.

Wesley Grove remains committed to maintaining its legacy of faith and community action to this day. With a congregation that has historically included a large number of professionals in the field of education, Wesley Grove established education programs that include after school tutoring and Project REACT, a technology focused tutoring program to help improve students' performance. It has also provided numerous scholarships to college bound students, including the G. Wesley Raney III Scholarship, the Olivia Smith Scholarship, and the Emma Gupton Scholarship. Wesley Grove also has an accomplished and talented choir program, featuring a men's choir, a senior's choir, and a children's choir. These programs, amongst others, continue to demonstrate Wesley Grove's commitment to the Newport News community.

As the Wesley Grove United Church of Christ gathers to celebrate this historic milestone, the church can truly remember its past, celebrate its present, and focus on its future. I would like to congratulate all of the members of the Wesley Grove United Church of Christ on the occasion of its 125th Anniversary, and I wish them many more years of dedicated service to the community.

A TRIBUTE TO TYLER HANSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Tyler Hanson of Sergeant Bluff, Iowa for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained over the past century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. For his project, Tyler planned, organized, and painted badly faded curbs, light poles and parking lines at his local church. His project also included adding handicap accessible parking spaces in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The work ethic Tyler has shown in his Eagle Project, and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank, speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Tyler and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him in obtaining the Eagle Scout ranking, and will wish him continued success in his future education and career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, due to an operational issue with the voting machine on the House floor, my vote did not register on the passage of H.R. 3803 (Rollcall vote No. 539). Had this issue not arisen, I would have voted "no" on this vote.

HONORING MR. JASON ROBERTS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jason Roberts, a White House "Champion of Change" from Oak Cliff, Texas. This week, the White House honored Mr. Roberts and other leaders from across the U.S. for their groundbreaking initiatives to enhance their communities.

Mr. Roberts' leadership has been exemplary in his initiatives to improve local areas, and revitalize communities in South Dallas. As founder of the Oak Cliff Transit Authority, a nonprofit organization dedicated to reclaiming Oak Cliff's past distinction, Mr. Roberts worked to revive and modernize the Dallas streetcar system. Through hard work and ingenuity, Mr. Roberts led the city's effort to obtain a $23 million TIGER grant from the Federal Transit Administration for their revitalization efforts.

Mr. Roberts' "Better Blocks" project reclaims blighted areas, converting vacant properties into temporary walk-friendly districts, complete with pop-up businesses, bike lanes, café seating, and landscaping. Mr. Roberts' efforts have been so successful in South Dallas that over 20 U.S. cities have taken steps to enhance neighborhoods in the same fashion based on his work. Mr. Roberts' "Better Blocks" project has even gained international recognition, and has since been featured in the New York Times, TED Talks, and on NPR.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor the hard work and vision that Mr. Jason Roberts continues to bring to South Dallas. His hard work and vision have allowed him to not only envision a better Dallas, but to also act on that vision. I look forward to seeing what future advances that Mr. Roberts will spearhead next, and I stand ready to support these efforts at every turn.

''WE STOOD!''—REMEMBERING THE FALLEN OF THE CHINOOK HELICOPTER CRASH ON AUGUST 6, 2011, IN AFGHANISTAN, ''WHO GAVE THAT LAST FULL MEASURE'' ON THIS ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY, THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, ARMY, AND NAVY

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and in remembrance on this up and coming one year anniversary of the thirty magnificent lost heroes from the Navy Special Warfare Units, The Army and Air Force. Who so heroically gave That Last Full Measure for God and Country aboard a Chinook Helicopter in Afghanistan on August the 6th, 2011. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them and their families and all of their Brothers and Sisters in Arms, on this anniversary, as I read this poem penned in their honor by Albert Caswell.

P01 (SEAL) Darrick C. Benson,
CPO (SEAL) Brian R. Bill,
P01 (SEAL) Christopher G. Campbell,
CPO (SEAL) John W. Faas,
CPO (SEAL) Kevin A. Houston,
LCDR (SEAL) Jonas B. Kelsall,
MCPO (SEAL) Louis J. Langials,
CPO (SEAL) Matthew D. Mason,
CPO (SEAL) Stephen M. Mills,
CPO Nicholas H. Null,
SCPO (SEAL) Thomas A. Ratziaff,
CPO (SEAL) Robert J. Reeves,
CPO (SEAL) Heath M. Robinson,
P01 (SEAL) Jon T. Tumilson,
P01 (SEAL) Aaron C. Vaughn,
P01 (SEAL) Jason R. Workman,
P01 (SEAL) Jesse D. Pittman,
P02 (SEAL) Nicholas P. Spehar,
P01 Expeditionary Warfare Specialist Jared W. Day,
P01 Expeditionary Warfare Specialist John Douangdara,
P01 Expeditionary Warfare Specialist Michael J. Strange,
SCPO Expeditionary Warfare Specialist Kraig M. Vickers,
Army SGT Alexander J. Bennett,
SPC Spencer C. Duncan,
Chief Warrant Officer Brian J. Nichols,
Chief Warrant Officer David R. Carter,
SGT Patrick D. Hamburger,
Airmen Tech SGT John W. Brown,
Staff SGT Andrew W. Harvell,
Tech SGT Daniel L. Zerbe,
The United States Army, Air Force, Navy.

WE STOOD!

We!
WE STOOD!
WE STOOD!
so you can sleep!
While, out across our Nation, our Mother's now so weep!
WE FOUGHT,
so you can live!
All in such blessed peace,
that which our most selfless sacrifice so gives!
As all in such pain and heartache our families must now so live!
WE STOOD, so you could sleep!
Upon, That Bed of Freedom so very sweet!
As to all of you our promises WE Did So Keep!
As it was all for you, WE Now So Sleep!
So Sleep, all in such cold dark quiet graves so very deep!
WE GAVE!
All of Our Most Precious Lives!
While, all of our Brothers In Arms did so cry. . .
and did not ask why!
As WE so raised our hands so way up high!
And so swore to pledge our most precious lives!
To Make A Stand!
To Make A Difference With It All!
As WE so gave That Last Full Measure While Standing Tall!
As WE died and so bled!
To so keep all of our most solemn vows of honor, said!
As way out across our Nation Our FAMILIES Now So Weep!
All For The Greater Good, WE so gave all we could!
AS WE STOOD!
As WE pray now to our Lord their fine souls to so keep!
For THEY So Stood For What Was Right.
All with their most brilliant souls so burning bright!
As THEY died,
all for that Old Red White and Blue this sight!
As into that face of evil,
THEY so marched off casting their most heroic lights!
To so go forth,
all in such a most brilliant force to fight!
For THEY'D,
MUCH RATHER HAVE DIED FOR SOMETHING!
THAN, TO HAVE LIVED FOR NOTHING AT ALL!
FOR STRENGTH IN HONOR!
Was but THEIR most sacred battle cry. . . call!
Because, moments . . . are all that WE so have!
To Make A Difference!
To Hear That Call!
To Change The World!
To go off so boldly with flags unfurled!
Troops mount up, as Heaven calls!
Move on! Move out!
As there are 30 more new Angels,
In The Army of Our Lord . . .
To fight that battle, who shall not pause!
To so watch over us all!
And when there comes a gentle rain,
their tears will wash down upon us to so remain!
To ease our pain,
so we won't have to cry anymore!
As forever in our hearts YOUR most sacred names,
WE will carry ALL!
Because,
YOU died so WE can sleep!
Upon, That Bed of Freedom . . . YOUR Gift of Peace!
As now WE LAY YOUR FINE BODIES down to rest,
to sleep!
BECAUSE YOU STOOD!
Amen!

HONORING DOUGLAS CROPPER, MAINE STATE TROOPER

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr Speaker, I would like to recognize a Maine State Trooper in my district who literally put his life on the line to prevent what could have been a terrible tragedy.

While performing a traffic stop on Interstate 295 in Portland on the afternoon of July 1, Trooper Douglas Cropper received a call that a motorist was driving northbound in the southbound lane of Maine's busiest highway. Seeing no other options to stop the wrong-way driver, Trooper Cropper raced ahead of the car and nosed his cruiser into the travel lane. The driver hit the cruiser and came to a stop just in time for oncoming motorists to avoid a collision. A dramatic dashboard video from the cruiser shows just how quickly the incident unfolded.

No one was injured, and I'm extremely grateful that this scary moment didn't end up being a tragic one. But it's very likely that this would not have been the case without Trooper Cropper's quick thinking and outstanding bravery.

Trooper Cropper says he was simply doing his job. But it's my belief that he went above and beyond to protect lives—and that he saved many in the process.

I want to thank Trooper Douglas Cropper for his actions, and for what he and other Maine State Police officers do every day in Maine: putting their lives on the line to protect people of our state. We owe them all a debt of gratitude for keeping us safe.

HONORING TAYLOR MORRIS

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Petty Officer Second Class, Taylor Morris.

Taylor grew up in Cedar Falls, Iowa, and after graduating from high school in 2007, Taylor joined the Navy. Looking for a challenge, Taylor trained as an Explosive Ordinance Disposal Technician. While all of our servicemembers face danger in the course of their service, EOD techs literally put their lives on the line to disarm bombs and keep all of our forces safe.

Taylor deployed to Afghanistan for the first time in January of this year. On May 3, while working with Army Special Forces in the Kandahar province of Afghanistan, Taylor stepped on an IED while clearing a route. The blast of the IED blew off all four of Taylor's limbs. Remarkably, Taylor remained conscious after the blast and called out to the medics that were rushing to help him to stop, recognizing the possible danger of other IEDs. After the second EOD with Taylor had cleared the area, medics arrived to address his wounds.

On May 6, Taylor arrived at Walter Reed Medical Center, not too far from here in Bethesda, MD, where I first had the chance to meet this remarkable young man, along with his girlfriend, Danielle, and his mother, Juli, who've stuck by him since he got home. Taylor is one of only five quadruple amputees from the last decade's wars, and despite his wounds he's remained upbeat and shown remarkable courage in working to recover. Even a few weeks after his injuries when I visited with him for the first time he was raring to move forward and get better.

Just last week, on July 23, I was proud to welcome Taylor, Danielle, and his sister Claire

to the Capitol for a tour. Every time I've met Taylor, I've left inspired by his courage and dedication, and I know we all can learn something from his cheery demeanor in the face of such odds.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to enter the full text of a poem by Albert Caswell that was written for Taylor, titled "Greater Than Gold" into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Taylor is truly an American hero.

GREATER THAN GOLD—IN HONOR OF AN AMERICAN HERO, E5 TAYLOR JOHN KRULL MORRIS, THE UNITED STATES NAVY

GREATER THAN GOLD

Greater!
Greater than gold!
All in our lives to be told!
All in ones heart we can mold!
All in our moments now so to behold!
All in what we so hope to all know!
All in ones life,
that which forever so glows!
Forever so glows!
As is "MIGHTY MO!"
Are such things to be found,
as are all as so!
That which are but far much more precious than gold!
Precious than gold!
To Have and To Hold . . .
To Have and To Hold!
As upon our world,
as your gifts to us Taylor you now so bestow!
So bestow!
As have all of our American Heroes!
Heroes!
All in what our children must all now know!
As is such so!
As is such so!
Something, that is far much more greater than gold!
Something, that could so launch a thousand ships as is so!
Something that so leads men into battle,
yet not to know!
While, living on the very edge of death . . .
while there all so!
As time and again,
as Taylor you so chose to so stand!
As something so very special,
to have and to hold!
To have and to hold!
That which so brings such tears,
to even the Angels eyes as is so!
As is so!
As from you Taylor,
of what I now know!
What is far greater than gold!
As from that first moment on,
when I so walked into your hospital room so!
With that smile on your face!
I knew in an instant,
oh what a man of such splendor and grace!
As stood before me so!
So!
As all in that moment,
as I so looked into courage's face!
As all of those tears,
I could not so hold,
and would not so erase!
Yea, Greater Than Gold!
As it was all in that moment Taylor I want you to know,
when you so taught me the true greatness of the human race so!
And what is far much more Greater Than Gold!
As I so looked so deep down into your very soul!
As your fine heart so all out to me so glowed!
So glowed!
To have and to hold!
To have and to hold!
To carry with me now,
as I grow old!
As you so taught Taylor,
so taught me there so!
Like the corn fields of Iowa,
your heart has so grown!
All in what is far much more greater than gold!
Greater Than Gold!
And what we so hold in our hearts is but The Greatest of All of Those!
As it was you Taylor who so chose to so live,
and would not let go! Let go!
And yet that even without legs,
as still you stood so!
And that even without arms,
all of our hearts still you can hold!
Still hold!
Far greater than gold!
Greater than Gold!
As now Taylor,
to me you have so showed!
That The Greatest of All Things,
is but what so lies in one's soul!
In one's soul!
So deep down inside of our hearts,
all in what we so hold!
As now,
it's all ahead full . . . The Navy's Crown Jewel!
As you so recover even in that hospital bed!
For you have mountains to climb,
all in your time!
As you even make The Navy Seals,
say "Taylor you are my hero!"
And you've got places to go!
And hearts to so heal,
as they so watch you all so!
And people to so inspire,
for you will not ever so tire wherever you go!
As you So Teach,
and So Beseech Us . . . and all of those!
All in that one fine thing that we all must now know!
That what lies in one's heart and one's soul,
is but Far Much More Greater Than Gold!
Greater Than Gold!
Yes arms and legs we all need,
but we can get by!
But, without a heart and a soul . . .
we will so surely die!
And in Heaven you need not arms nor legs!
And Taylor,
that's where you are going one day!
To look into our Lord's eyes as so!
Yes, Taylor . . .
by God you were Taylor Made so!
To have and to hold,
to have and to hold!
For you Taylor,
and what's in your heart is Far Much More Greater Than Gold!
Yea, "Mighty Mo" what's in your soul!
Is Far Greater Than Gold!

Albert Carey Caswell, 2012

IN RECOGNITION OF BRICE W. HARRIS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the service of Brice Harris, as he retires from his position as Chancellor of the Los Rios Community College District. Throughout his remarkable 16 years as chancellor, Mr. Harris has skillfully guided the district on a steady path leaving a lasting legacy across the Sacramento region. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring this remarkable Sacramentan.

Chancellor Harris joined the Los Rios Community College District in 1996. He had been serving as the President of Fresno City College and spent time in the leadership positions with community colleges in the Midwest. One of his many remarkable accomplishments as Chancellor was the oversight and accreditation of the district's fourth college, Folsom Lake College, which is a wonderful addition to the Sacramento region serving more than 9,000 students to date. Furthermore, his concern for students' ability to access a quality education, led him to fight to keep fees low in a time of budget cuts, encouraged light rail and public transit access to the district's colleges and led to efforts to pass local bond measures to expand Los Rios facilities.

Under his leadership, the district began to create programs to meet both the needs of the local workforce and students transferring to the state's four year college system. Understanding the need for more nurses and healthcare professionals, Chancellor Harris formed the HealthForce program, which has strengthened and expanded the Los Rios' nursing programs. He then went on to create GreenForce, which encourages students to enter into, and train in, the growing clean technology fields. These initiatives exemplify Chancellor Harris' forward thinking approach to education and his unwavering drive to help students succeed.

Chancellor Harris has been an outstanding member of the Sacramento community. He was honored by the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce as "Sacramentan of the Year" and named "Humanitarian of the Year" by United Cerebral Palsy of Sacramento and Northern California. In addition, he has served as chair of the Sacramento Area Commerce and Trade Organization and of the Northern California World Trade Center. Chancellor Harris was also an active participant on the Crocker Art Museum Board of Directors.

Mr. Speaker, as Chancellor Brice Harris prepares to retire I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him continued good fortune in his future endeavors. Chancellor Harris has stood as an instrumental force behind the strengthening of Sacramento's education system and workforce, and we all are thankful for his efforts.

THE FEDERAL RESERVE TRANSPARENCY ACT (H.R. 459)

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Reserve is by charter and design an independent central bank. At the same time, because ours is a system of checks and balances, the Federal Reserve's operations are governed by congressional mandate and subject to strict accountability and oversight.

Specifically, the Federal Reserve has for many years been audited by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), as well as independent, third-party firms. Additionally, pursuant to the Humphrey-Hawkins Act, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve testifies before both chambers of Congress twice a year. Minutes of the Federal Reserve's Open Market Committee are made public 6 weeks after its meetings occur, and the Fed publishes updated balance sheets on its website weekly.

Moreover, the recently enacted Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform law further enhanced the Federal Reserve's transparency by expanding the types of audits GAO must conduct and by mandating disclosure of transactions at the Federal Reserve's discount window.

In light of these facts, the issue in H.R. 459 is not whether the Fed should be audited. It already is. Instead, what is at issue in this legislation is whether the Fed's internal deliberations concerning the formation of monetary policy should be made public. This is the equivalent of asking whether Supreme Court justices' pre-decisional debate should be made public—and it is a bad idea for the same reason. It would have a predictably counterproductive and chilling effect on that debate and ultimately undermine the Fed's independence. Time and time again, history has shown that central banks whose decision-making falls under the influence of short-term political considerations quickly lose all credibility with the public and with the credit markets. This cannot be allowed to happen.

It's ironic that most, if not all, of the information proponents of this legislation cite to justify its enactment is in the public domain because of the transparency measures that are already in place. Indeed, many advocates of H.R. 459 are avowedly less interested in striking the right balance between independence and accountability at the Federal Reserve than they are in abolishing the Federal Reserve altogether—or in ending the Federal Reserve's dual mandate to achieve both stable prices and maximum employment.

I am in neither camp. I support an independent Federal Reserve pursuing its congressionally directed dual mandate, subject to strict oversight and accountability—and that is why I oppose this bill.

HONORING HARRIET TRUDELL ON HER 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and achievements of Harriet Trudell of Las Vegas, Nevada on the occasion of her 80th birthday.

Harriet was born on August 22, 1932 in St. Petersburg, Florida, into a family passionate in their beliefs of the Democratic Party and its principles.

In 1948, 16-year-old Harriet had a life-changing experience when she accompanied her father to the Democratic National Convention where he was an alternate delegate. Hearing Hubert Humphrey's civil rights speech during the convention had a great impact on Harriet's life, and she returned home to Florida passionate for the cause of equality and began a lifelong quest for social change.

Throughout every decade since, Harriet has been a force to contend with, fighting for fairness and equality for all.

During the early 1950's, Harriet organized unions for the state AFL–CIO in Florida.

In 1962, Harriet moved to Las Vegas with her husband and two children where she continued her passion for equality.

In 1965, Harriet marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other civil rights activists from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, raising the awareness of voting rights of African-Americans.

Coming full circle from her attendance at the 1948 Democratic National Convention, Harriet served as the Southern Nevada Director of Hubert Humphrey's 1968 presidential campaign.

During the 1970's, Harriet was active in the League of Women Voters, National Organization for Women (NOW), and the Clark County Women's Democratic Club. She fought passionately against segregation in the Clark County School District, for welfare rights and for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

In March 1971, Harriet marched down the Las Vegas Strip in support of opportunity for the disenfranchised.

Harriet served as Southern Nevada Aide for Governor Michael O'Callaghan from 1974 to 1978 and as the Foreign Affairs Aide for Congressman Harry Reid in Washington, D.C. from 1983 to 1986.

In addition, throughout her extraordinary career, Harriet has been an advocate for Operation Life, served on the board for NOW, and been a lobbyist for the Feminist Majority Foundation in Washington, D.C.

Fifty years after Harriet's initial foray into national and state politics, she was a driving force in NOW's "Elect Women 2000." While serving as Campaign Director in Louisiana, she traveled throughout the State, and was successful in tripling the number of women elected to the Louisiana State Legislature.

Presently, this remarkable woman serves as the Political Director for the Nevada State Democratic Party.

As the Representative for Nevada's First Congressional District, it gives me immense pride to honor Harriet Trudell of Las Vegas, Nevada, and I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of this incredible woman on the occasion of her 80th birthday.

CURRENT SITUATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, on March 26, 2012, I introduced H.R. 4258, the Republic of Georgia Democracy Act of 2012. I introduced this bill in response to the growing acts of repression by the Government of Georgia against the Democratic opposition there in the run-up to the October 2012 parliamentary election.

After reviewing reports from the region and meeting with members of the opposition, I became worried that the parliamentary election would be viewed as illegitimate if the situation did not change.

I offered H.R. 4258, which threatened termination of the tens of millions of dollars the United States gives Georgia each year in assistance—including millions for democracy promotion—in the event of illegitimate elections, in an attempt to demonstrate to the ruling regime the cost of stealing the election.

I regret to report that the situation is getting worse.

The United Nations, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the European Union have all raised concern. Even Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has publically called for free, fair, and competitive elections, but the Georgian government does not seem to be listening.

For more than two decades, successive administrations and my colleagues in Congress have worked hard to expand democracy in the post-Soviet world. We did so believing that the former Soviet states would be more stable and more economically prosperous if governments were more responsive to the will of the people.

This is especially true in Georgia, where the United States has invested considerable financial resources and political capital in an attempt to create a model democracy in a complex region.

These investments are now at risk. The Georgian government is succeeding in creating an atmosphere of intimidation and fear, handicapping the opposition's ability to operate and access the media and voters, and taking steps to ensure victory before election day.

The United States can ill afford to stand aside and watch democracy in Georgia unravel.

If another round of illegitimate elections occurs, there will be more instability, including the possibility of peaceful protests and a violent government response, which has been the historic norm.

This would threaten key American interests, including democracy promotion, energy security, stability in the Caucasus, relations with Russia, and operations in Afghanistan.

I have included a recent article that highlights the Georgian government's efforts to repress the democratic opposition. The article from the Economist notes that only 38% of Georgians think their country is a democracy and that this election could be on course to a political crisis.

If things continue on their current track, there are few scenarios where this election will be seen as legitimate.

The United States should take steps now to prevent a potential political crisis that would arise just before the U.S. presidential election. I would encourage the Obama Administration and my colleagues to communicate clearly to the Georgian government the importance of free, fair, and competitive elections and that Georgia's relationship with the United States cannot survive a stolen election or subversion of democratic principles.

Like a canary in the coal mine, I will do my best to continue to warn my colleagues of this looming disaster and provide regular updates. I hope the United States acts before it is too late.

[From the Economist, Jul. 13, 2012]

GEORGIAN POLITICS—BLOOD FEUD

(by G.E. Tbilisi)

Georgian democracy in trouble? The government claims that the "Russian-influenced opposition" could subvert Georgia's parliamentary elections in October this year. In contrast, Bidzina Ivanishvili, the founder of Georgian Dream, an opposition party, complains of systematic discrimination at the hands of an increasingly authoritarian regime. New polling results show that only 38% of Georgians think that Georgia is now a democracy, compared with 49% in February.

Georgians may have too pessimistic a view of their own country. As a recent pre-electoral assessment from the National Democratic Institute (NDI) points out, Georgia has implemented several key democratic reforms in recent years. New institutions ensure the accuracy of the voters' list or regulate party financing. Amendments to the electoral code in late 2011 and early 2012 introduced a raft of positive changes although the failure to redraw electoral districts (which range from 6,000 to 158,000 voters) means some votes are worth less than others. Recent ''must carry'' provisions will improve opposition parties' access to the media by obliging cable providers to transmit all television channels with news programmes during the sixty-day campaign period. In all, the ''2012 electoral process is more formalised and regulated compared to past elections'', the NDI concludes.

Even so, the dark side of Georgian politics, which Thomas de Waal has likened to ''a blood feud'', has been all too evident since Mr. Ivanishvili entered politics in October last year. Georgia's richest man remains without Georgian citizenship, an absurd situation of which most of his compatriots disapprove; the sooner that is resolved, the better. The Chamber of Control stands accused of levying disproportionate fines on the Georgian Dream movement, which Mr. Ivanishvili has refused to pay. (It has responded by seizing some of his assets). And before Parliament adopted the must carry provisions, Channel 9, a new television station co-owned by Mr. Ivanishvili's wife, and Global TV, the only broadcaster that carried it, suffered from almost continuous harassment.

Both sides continue to vilify each other, complaining of harassment, improper campaign spending, attempted bribery of state officials and abuse of administrative resources. A debate in the European Parliament on 4th July about Georgian politics reached similar extremes. As punch-ups during Georgian Dream campaign meetings in the central Georgian villages of Mereti on 26th June and Kareleti on 12th July suggest, it could get nastier still.

Yet Mr. Ivanishvili's political awakening has also awoken Georgian voters. Huge, peaceful rallies have taken place across the country, far beyond anything seen in recent years. Many more Georgians (75%) now plan to vote in October's elections than intended to so in September last year (51%), polls show. And the political debate is increasingly focused on issues that matter to ordinary Georgians, not just personalities.

Georgian Dream unveiled some of their plans in May: cutting utility costs, investing in agriculture, free universal health-insurance and increased pensions. Vano Merabishvili, the former interior minister who became prime minister in late June, announced the government's four-year post-election programme shortly after taking office. He too wants to boost pensions, provide universal health-insurance, and invest in agriculture. Mr. Merabishvili has also set up a new ministry to tackle unemployment (roughly 34% of Georgians say they are unemployed, compared with an official rate unemployment rate of 16%), and promises to provide each family with vouchers worth $600.

Does Mr. Merabishvili's appointment indicate that Mikheil Saakashvili, the president, is unlikely to become prime minister once his term in office expires in early 2013? As one of the few big beasts of Georgian politics, Mr. Merabishvili would certainly be hard to shove aside. At any rate, slightly more Georgians would oppose such a job-swap á la Putin than would approve of it.

Reassuringly, 55% of Georgians surveyed think the elections will be well conducted, and only 21% fear falsification. But there is little room for complacency. Mr. Ivanishvili has said that if he has any evidence of vote-rigging by the authorities, he will call for street protests. For most foreign observers, and many Georgians, that would be a step backwards. Yet 27% of those polled say he would be justified in doing so. Come October, that sentiment could matter.

While most Georgians are focused on who will win, Georgia's allies say the credibility of the electoral process is key. As the NDI states, ''further development of democratic institutions and practices offer the best chance for western integration and for long-term prosperity and stability.'' With the political temperature likely to rise further in coming months, Georgia's politicians would do well to bear that in mind. Will they?

IN HONOR OF ALEXANDER COCKBURN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Alexander Cockburn, the bold Irish-American journalist who passed away after a courageous, private battle with cancer. He left this world on Saturday, July 21, 2012 at the youthful age of 71.

Alexander Cockburn was born in Scotland on June 6, 1941 and spent most of his childhood living in Ireland. He attended the University of Oxford and earned a degree in English literature and language in 1963. Alexander became a permanent resident of the United States in 1973, where he wrote for several noteworthy publications. He spent his first ten years in the U.S. writing for The Village Voice, an alternative weekly magazine based in New York City. He then became a writer for The Nation until the time of his death, in addition to a variety of publications including The Wall Street Journal and New York Press. Alexander was also the co-editor of CounterPunch, a newsletter in which he frequently expressed his controversial, unfiltered opinions for which he became renowned and deeply respected.

Friends and co-workers remember Alexander for his remarkable talents. He could quickly write dazzling columns that were full of passion and conviction. He was unafraid to speak his mind, often writing in opposition to his colleagues at the same publications. His bold style set him apart as a truly remarkable journalist.

Alexander died on July 21, two years after he was diagnosed with cancer. He kept his illness a secret and continued to write until the day of his death, refusing to let cancer get in the way of his passion. He will be missed by his family, friends, and many readers.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Alexander Cockburn, the talented journalist and audacious man who has left a lasting legacy on the world of literature and the world at large.

TRIBUTE TO CPL MARCUS W. DANDREA, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Florida's brightest sons, Corporal Marcus W. Dandrea, United States Marine Corps, from Jacksonville. On February 24th of this year, CPL Dandrea, a member of Charlie Company, stepped on a pressure plate while patrolling a mountain top in Sangin, Helmond Province. His recovery has been fast and furious, as he is already moving to start the next phase of his already inspiring life. However, his U.S. Marine Corps active duty service will continue through his wife, Lance Corporal Victoria Dandrea. They have three children, Naomi, DJ, and Micah. I ask that this poem, penned in their honor by Albert Caswell, be placed in the RECORD.

INTEL

Intel . . .
In every battle . . .
And in every fight . . .
And in every war,
there is but such need to so bring such insight!
Intel . . . Intelligence,
is what a war's life blood so ignites . . .
leading us all to victory by shedding such light!
To illuminate the darkness of war,
to burn bright!
For there are but only a few who so gather such insights . . .
For there are The Ph.D's of the battlefield who fight . . .
The men who are but armed with mind of might,
and with heart's of steel in sight!
Top Secret!
The United States Marine!
One of our brightest of all shades of green!
Jar Heads,
who with such Intelligence so fight . . . and so convene!
Where Technology So Meets Might!
Saving lives,
but with all of the knowledge that they so provide . . .
As from all of this,
such battle plans are so devised!
As many times,
making the difference between death and life!
Darkness or Light!
So that out across a Nation,
a mother will not have to so cry this night!
As warriors drop in from no where,
from out of sight!
For they are both beauty and the beast,
all at their height!
Fighting with their brains and bodies,
oh what an awesome sight!
Putting, The Stealth in Technology!
As how wars are won,
all in the cover of day and or night . . .
As when it all so depends on who lives or dies
As is the high cost so compromised!
As that's where you will find,
all of their most magnificent of all silent battle cries!
As it was out on such a secret mission,
when this young Marine's life would almost not reach its fruition!
As an IED went off,
as so close to death he'd lie!
As right there but on its very edge,
as when Marcus so reached so deep down with something so left inside!

To so cheat death!
As from somewhere so deep . . . so deep . . . so deep . . . down inside . . .
From this Marine's heart, but came his battle cry!
To somehow stay alive . . .
And from that moment on, he was gone!
Moving up and moving on!
As this Marine got up and ran towards recovery . . .
For he had a life to live,
and to this our world so much more to give . . .
Oooh . . . Rahhhh! Jar Head!
For, it's far better to die for something . . .
than to live for nothing at all!
And that's why you joined the Core
And your fine heart so answered that most noble call!
For some people are but put upon this earth,
To So Teach Us! To So Reach Us! And So Beseech Us,
with all of their fine worth!
As this fine son from Jacksonville,
gives us all of us such a thrill . . .
As you has so shone us what so comes first!
For this United States Marine,
is one of the greatest things our nations has ever seen!
The only secret he could not so keep!
Is what so runs in your most magnificent heart so very deep!
That which so out shines them all!
For Marcus, you won't cry and he won't crawl!
As he you can climb any mountain, of them all!
And if I ever had a son, I'd wish he'd have a heart half as tall!
Surely, Marcus you are but one of Florida's Most Brightest of All Son's!
Because, up in heaven you need not arms nor even legs to run . . .
And that's were you are going Marcus, one day my son!
For you have so made our Lord so proud,
with all of your inspiration and faith bestowed upon us all now!
Maximus . . . Marcus . . . you've put the I in Intel this day!
But, there are No Secrets . . .
all in what you magnificent heart so says!
For you are one of our Nation's, America's Best!
Ooo . . . Rah Jar Head

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 537, 538, and 539, I was absent due to travel delays and inclement weather. Had I been present, I would have voted ''no'' on rollcall No. 537, and ''yea'' on rollcall Nos. 538 and 539.

CELBRATING FIRST BOOK'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring First Book on the occasion of their twentieth anniversary and celebrating their work on behalf of children in need, in Illinois and across the country.

First Book is a nonprofit that provides brand-new books and educational resources to schools and community programs serving children from low-income families. Since 1992 they have distributed over 90 million new books to kids in need.

First Book was founded twenty years ago by Peter Gold, Elizabeth Arky and Kyle Zimmer. After working with children in some of the poorest neighborhoods in the Nation's capital and seeing how their futures were limited by their lack of access to books and resources, they created First Book.

Ms. Zimmer continues to lead the organization today, and her vision and passion have helped First Book grow from a local nonprofit to a global social enterprise with an unsurpassed record of success.

First Book is set apart by more than their deep commitment to the children, teachers and community leaders they serve. By working with the publishing industry to create new and innovative ways to get books and resources to children in need, they are creating a groundbreaking and self-sustaining model that benefits both the donors and the recipients.

First Book is also committed to empowering teachers and program leaders, ensuring that the educators closest to the children choose the books that have the greatest chance of turning those young people into lifelong readers.

I ask the House to join me in honoring First Book and further ask the members to introduce First Book to teachers and community leaders in their home districts. The more schools and local programs join First Book's network, the closer we will come to achieving equity in education for all our children.

HONORING THE SOLDIERS, AIRMEN AND AVIATORS IN THE BATTLE OF DIEPPE 70 YEARS AGO

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor the sacrifice 70 years ago this month of more than 3,600 Allied soldiers, airmen and aviators in the Battle of Dieppe during a critically pivotal point in World War II. The Dieppe Raid, also known as Operation Jubilee, was an Allied attack on the German-occupied port of Dieppe on the northern coast of France on 19 August 1942. The assault began at 5:00 a.m. and by 10:50 a.m. the Allied commanders were forced to call a retreat. Over 6,000 infantrymen, predominantly Canadian, were supported by limited Royal Navy and large Royal Air Force contingents. Among Allied soldiers who took part in the Battle of Dieppe were 50 U.S. Rangers, including one from Michigan, and two additional civilian support personnel from my State. Almost 60 percent who made it ashore in that crushing battle 70 years ago were either killed, wounded, or captured

This battle became a critical learning point for the Allies who less than two years later launched D Day in June 1944 in the invasion that eventually led to the defeat of Nazi Germany. ''I have no doubt,'' said Lord Mountbatten, who helped plan the raid, ''that the Battle of Normandy was won on the beaches of Dieppe.''

On August 18, one of our esteemed former colleagues, former Congressman and former state Senator James Barcia, and Viet Nam veteran Terry Watson, who is supervisor of Bangor Township, Michigan will represent the United States during memorial ceremonies in Dieppe, France. The ceremonies will honor the courage and sacrifice of the men who took part in Operation Jubilee, including three Michigan men who have since passed away. They are: Pfc Stanley Bush, Walter A. Bresnahan and James C. Moseley.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me today in honoring those whose sacrificed 70 years ago at Dieppe, France and helped win the war that saved our Nation from the tyranny of Nazi Germany.

TRIBUTE TO LAURA FROEHLICH

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a dear friend of mine, Laura Froehlich. Laura passed away on Wednesday, August 1, 2012. As a pillar of the Moreno Valley and Riverside County military communities, her sudden passing was a shock to all and she will be dearly missed.

Laura served honorably in the Air Force and began volunteering in 1985 through the Moreno Valley Military Affairs Committee, which she eventually chaired. March Air Reserve Base (MARB) was and still is heavily used by Marines from nearby Twentynine Palms and Camp Pendleton bases. As increasing numbers of troops began to flow through the MARB facilities in the buildup to Operation Iraqi Freedom, Laura wanted to ensure that the troops leaving and returning from war received a timely farewell and warm welcome, a far cry from the public indifference and occasional contempt experienced by veterans returning from Vietnam, such as her father. She had organized a similar effort during the Persian Gulf War of 1991.

With the help of her team of more than 100 volunteers, she transformed MARB's austere Hangar 385 into a welcoming center where troops could relax and enjoy good food and entertainment during their 6–8-day layovers. Her motto was, ''When they come to March, they're taken care of.''

Laura, fondly known as the ''Flag Mama'' because of her patriotic attire, made it a point to be present for the arrival and departure of virtually every MARB flight carrying troops to and from the Central Command Area of Responsibility. She even purchased a motor home to park in the lot near the hangar so she could go quickly between home and the base. At the end of 2008, Laura had individually greeted more than 200,000 men and women on 4,000 flights. When the troops saw ''Miss Laura'' at the base to shake their hands and give them a hug, it was how they knew they were home.

Regardless of the recognition she received, Laura remained humble and modest. Upon returning home to California from the Pentagon

in Washington, DC after accepting the Spirit of Hope Award in 2009, she remarked:

I keep getting thanked for something I shouldn't be getting thanked for . . . What I and my awesome group of volunteers do, we do it because it's the right thing to do. The men and women who put their life on the line every day for my freedom, for my grandkids to play safe in my backyard, they're the ones that deserve to be thanked.

It is hard to imagine that Laura had any free time in addition to her tireless work at MARB yet she always found time to serve the community in other ways. She worked with many aid agencies including the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Salvation Army, and was the longtime coordinator of Moreno Valley's Fourth of July Parade, the "Trees for Troops" campaign, and the Annual Family Day picnic at March Air Reserve Base for all the military services, including 500 Navy Reservists who drill at Navy Operational Support Center Moreno Valley.

Laura is survived by her husband Larry, daughter Laurice (Don) Souron, and two granddaughters, Laural Hite and Taylor Hite.

Laura will always be remembered for her incredible work ethic, generosity, contributions to the community and love of family. Her dedication to our men and women in uniform, family, and community is a testament to a life lived well and a legacy that will continue. I extend my condolences to Laura's family and friends; although Laura may be gone, the light and goodness she brought to the world remain and will never be forgotten.

WEST END BAPTIST CHURCH 120TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a legacy of faith in Virginia's Third Congressional District. This year, West End Baptist Church in Hampton, Virginia is celebrating its 120th anniversary, and I would like to take a moment to reflect on the history of this esteemed institution and its contributions to the greater Hampton Roads community.

The story of West End Baptist Church begins on December 12, 1892, when Robert and Mary Herbert sold a piece of land forty feet by one hundred feet to Joshua Morris, Isaiah Dillard and John Seton, Trustees of West End Baptist Church, for $75.00. It was recorded that the land be used solely for the purpose of building a church.

In 1901, the West End Baptist Church was up and running under the leadership of Pastor Linas. The fellowship began in the old Bates School House that was located where the Beau Brummell building now stands. After the death of Pastor Linas, Pastor Beverly Garner became his successor. He saw a need for a new sanctuary for his followers. The congregation began to build the new church at 2916 Shell Road. Unfortunately, Pastor Garner passed away before he could see his dream completed. However, the new church sanctuary was completed in 1903 under the leadership of Pastor Bray. After Pastor Bray's tenure, Pastor Hall was selected as the next leader and Pastor Atkins succeeded him.

In 1965, Rev. Hallie Richardson, Sr. became West End Baptist Church's leader. He served faithfully until September 1990. During his ministry, the membership flourished. Due to the growth in the congregation, there again was a need for a larger sanctuary. The first service in the new sanctuary at 2413 Shell Road took place in July 1982, and West End Baptist Church has remained there to this day.

Pastor Rufus Hill succeeded Pastor Richardson in September 1990, and he served until 1999. Guest ministers rendered services until April 2001. During this time, West End also saw its first woman, Edith Green, appointed to the Diaconate. Rev. James Gray was officially installed as Pastor on November 2, 2003 and served until 2007. Pastor Paul Sims was elected to serve as the 10th Pastor of West End Baptist Church in November 2008.

Over the years, the West End Baptist community has continued to grow and flourish. Its members have offered programs in the Youth Ministry, Outreach Ministry, Culinary Ministry and more. In addition to Sunday prayer, the church offers Wednesday Noon Prayer Assembly. The Church is home to numerous bands and choirs. The church has also organized many functions including Children's Church, new converts' and new members' orientation classes, a monthly Men's Fellowship Breakfast, hot meals for the hungry and an Annual Homecoming.

As West End Baptist Church gathers to celebrate this historic milestone, the church can truly remember its past, celebrate its present, and focus on its future as "the friendly church by the side of the road, in the heart of the community with the community at heart." I would like to congratulate Pastor Sims and all of the members of the West End Baptist Church on the occasion of their 120th Anniversary. I wish them many more years of dedicated service to the community.

THE "CONGRESSIONAL REPLACEMENT OF PRESIDENT OBAMA'S ENERGY-RESTRICTING AND JOB-LIMITING OFFSHORE DRILLING PLAN" (H.R. 6082)

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, domestic oil production is at an 18 year high, and President Obama's "All of the Above" energy strategy has reduced our reliance on foreign oil from 57 percent of consumption during the last year of the Bush Administration to 45 percent today. We now have 50 percent more floating drilling rigs operating in the Gulf of Mexico than we did before the BP oil spill—and more rigs operating in the United States than the rest of the world combined. The Administration's existing 2012–2017 offshore drilling lease plan makes more than 75 percent of our offshore oil and gas resources available for drilling, and the Interior Department reports that oil and gas companies already possess 26 million acres in the Gulf of Mexico containing 18 billion barrels of oil that have yet to be developed.

Yet here we are for the eleventh time in the past eighteen months wasting valuable floor time on another drill bill that has absolutely zero chance of becoming law when our nation's fiscal cliff looms, and Americans are looking to their government for effective leadership so we can accelerate economic growth and put people back to work. These fundamental defects are further compounded by the conspicuous absence of any safety or royalty reform in this legislation, and the majority's insistence on gutting environmental review for the additional lease sales this legislation requires—including lease sales off the mid-Atlantic coast as early as 2013.

I support the responsible development of our nation's oil and gas resources as part of a comprehensive "All of the Above" energy strategy that emphasizes a greater use of renewables, efficiency and other clean energy sources over time. The forced lease sales in this legislation do not constitute responsible development, and the "Oil Above All" strategy advanced by the majority in this legislation and throughout this Congress is ultimately a prescription for energy dependence and economic decline.

I urge a "no" vote.

HONORING THE TRADITION OF VETERANS DAY

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, honoring our veterans and their families for the sacrifices they have made to protect the freedoms that we enjoy as Americans is not only proper, but a privilege that should always be cherished.

On November 11, 2012, Birmingham, Alabama will mark its 65th consecutive year of serving as a national model for the commemoration of Veterans Day. Birmingham's Veterans Day ceremonies are the oldest and largest in our country. The legacy extends across generations.

Birmingham's reputation as "the cradle of National Veterans Day" first took root in the final months of World War II.

Originally, November 11 was recognized as Armistice Day to solemnly commemorate the end of World War I, which was supposedly the "war to end all wars."

Barely more than two decades later, America's soldiers would be again called to duty, this time to confront the gravest threat to individual freedom in world history.

As World War II ended with the defeat of the Axis powers, Birmingham's Raymond Weeks, a Navy veteran, began a new mission that would define the rest of his life: ensuring that the service and sacrifices of all of America's men and women in uniform would not be forgotten.

In 1945, the concept of a National Veterans Day became fixed in his mind. In 1946, he personally took a petition and a proposed program, "National Veterans Day 1947," urging the creation of a national holiday to honor all veterans to General Dwight Eisenhower, who was then the Army Chief of Staff. In 1954, then-President Eisenhower signed legislation formally establishing November 11 as Veterans Day.

In presenting the Presidential Citizens Medal to Raymond Weeks on Veterans Day

1982, President Reagan said, ''Mr. Weeks has exemplified the finest traditions of American volunteerism by his unselfish service to his country. As director of the National Veterans Day Celebration in Birmingham for the past years, Raymond Weeks, a World War II veteran himself, has devoted his life to serving others, his community, the American veteran, and the Nation. He was the driving force behind the congressional action which in 1954 established this special holiday as a day to honor all America's veterans.''

The tradition of respect and honor established by National Veterans Day in Birmingham would be ably carried on by Raymond Weeks' successor, Colonel Bill Voigt. To this pivotal position of community leadership, Colonel Voigt brought his experience from the Alabama Air National Guard and U.S. Air Force Reserves and a deep and abiding concern for our veterans. His dedication went above and beyond duty. New leadership has been tasked to continue this tradition.

As we look toward the 65th anniversary of America's first Veterans Day and to 2014, the 60th anniversary of the legal holiday, we can cast our vision. It is to continue to honor our veterans.

We would do well by restoring emphasis on General Eisenhower's request of Raymond Weeks in 1947 for Veterans Day to perpetuate world peace: ''I wish you every success in your purpose of arousing all American citizens to the need for cooperating among ourselves to the utmost to achieve the greatest of all goals—assurance of enduring peace.''

The history of Veterans Day is a lesson in character education that can be used to inspire students to learn ''living history'' from our veterans. Alabama teaches character traits daily, including those illuminated by the history of the founding of Veterans Day—patriotism, courage, perseverance, loyalty and citizenship. Raymond Weeks demonstrated these qualities in his pursuit of the creation of a National Veterans Day and stands as an example of good citizenship for all students and every generation.

The symmetry of service has been a powerful constant through the generations in Alabama.

As an example, recently a rededication was held for the Rainbow Viaduct Memorial in Birmingham, which commemorates the heroism of the 167th Alabama Infantry during World War I. At that same ceremony, members of the modern-day 167th Alabama National Guard were recognized as they prepared for deployment to Afghanistan. Almost a century apart, the challenges may be different but the ethos of service and duty remains the same.

It is important to remember both what we honor and who we honor on Veterans Day. We honor soldiers and their devotion to freedom, yes. But we reflect that these are people around us who have willingly and unselfishly served on our behalf: fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, grandparents, a favorite uncle or cousin, a high school buddy or college roommate, a best friend or a childhood playmate.

Some we have joyfully welcomed back from an assignment or waved at during a parade. Others we thank at their gravesite, shedding a tear in their memory. We thank them for their sacrifice, bravery, and patriotism. We forget none of them.

This is what inspires us as we prepare for the annual observance of Veterans Day this coming November, and it is what continues to motivate my native Birmingham to set the highest standard for honoring those who have preserved the precious gift of freedom for all of us.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEIGHBOR WORKS HOMEOWNERSHIP CENTER SACRAMENTO REGION

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the NeighborWorks HomeOwnership Center Sacramento Region and its employees as they celebrate their 25th anniversary. NeighborWorks is a nonprofit organization committed to improving the Sacramento community by increasing opportunities for families to purchase their own homes and preserving homeownership. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring NeighborWorks Sacramento Region for their important contribution to the Sacramento community.

Originally founded in 1987, NeighborWorks has grown tremendously and now serves the entire Sacramento Region as well as parts of California's Central Valley. Lead by a committed board of directors and CEO Pam Canada, the devoted staff and partners of NeighborWorks continually work alongside local residents to improve Sacramento's neighborhoods, and make the dream of homeownership a reality for all. For 25 years, NeighborWorks has been successful in increasing homeownership, assisting first-time home buyers, and empowering residents through education and community engagement. It is my privilege to serve as an honorary member of their Board of Trustees, as it was the honor of my late husband, Congressman Robert T. Matsui too. I have enjoyed working with Pam, and always find her and her staff to be responsive to the needs of my constituents.

As our nation's foreclosure crisis continued this past year, the NeighborWorks Sacramento Region has counseled more than 19,800 customers on a variety of housing related issues including foreclosure prevention, refinancing and home purchasing. Through their 3 offices, they have prevented more than 400 foreclosures by helping these distressed homeowners acquire loan modifications, and assisted 2400 residents in purchasing affordable homes. In conjunction with the McGeorge School of Law, NeighborWorks has provided more than 670 customers with free legal services through the National Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling program. Through their work, they have helped hundreds of families avoid homelessness.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the NeighborWorks HomeOwnership Center Sacramento Region on its 25th Anniversary. I am confident that the organization will continue to be a beacon for those seeking the American dream of homeownership. I ask all my colleagues to join me in recognizing the excellence of the staff and of NeighborWorks Sacramento Region who commit their lives and professional careers to the people of Sacramento.

TRIBUTE TO YOUNG STAFF MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE 37TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, each year about this time I rise to recognize the wonderful young men and women who have contributed a substantial amount of work to my office. Members of Congress know well, perhaps better than most, how important it is to have such exceptional young men and women working towards our nation's future.

We know this because we see them and benefit from their contributions every day. Many of them work for us in our offices as junior staff members, congressional fellows or interns. They do amazing work for the constituents we are privileged to represent, and are a vital part of every aspect of this establishment.

Although the United States has experienced some hard times in recent years, I simply have to look to the eager and idealistic young staff members and interns in my office to know the future of our country is bright and our best days lay ahead.

These are the people who toil in obscurity, but who willingly and happily jump at every task they are given because they know they are serving a great purpose.

Mr. Speaker, I believe there is no higher calling than serving your country. That is why I ran for public office. When I was six years old I dreamed of becoming a public servant when I grew up so I could help others. As the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King once said:

> Everybody can be great because anybody can serve . . . You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.

This rings true for a number of great young men and women who served as volunteers this year in my office. Their contributions to the constituents we serve are deeply appreciated and I wish to acknowledge them. They are: Ashley Guill, Ashley Bobo, Aliya Wishner, Quentin Scott, Anna Bartels, Tara Karoian, Lilit Rostomyan, Amanda Osborne, Monique Morgan, Sarah Birk and Francisco Guerra.

Mr. Speaker, the infusion of energy, intelligence, and idealism young people bring to their internships in my office and those of my colleagues helps keep our democracy vibrant. The insights, skills, and knowledge of the governmental process they gain from their experiences will last a lifetime and prove invaluable to them as they go about making their mark in this world.

This is why I am so optimistic about our country's prospects for the future. As Margaret Mead said:

> Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

These particular young people I have had the honor of getting to know have displayed extraordinary talent, quality, commitment and energy in their time in Washington. Their initiative and drive have shown me that in time,

they will assume the responsibility of leadership.

Mr. Speaker, if these young men and women are a representation of the future, I know our country will remain a nation of fairness, equality and greatness for generations to come.

GRATITUDE FOR THE SERVICE OF BENJAMIN STAUB

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank one of the most dedicated and productive members of the Judiciary Committee staff for his service to the House, Benjamin Staub. For six years Ben has worked ably and diligently for the Judiciary Committee, and I would like to commend him on his achievements.

After growing up in Greeley and Silverthorne, Colorado, and being named a Boettcher Scholar, Ben graduated cum laude from Yale University. During his time at Yale, Ben worked for the Undergraduate Admissions Office, taught health in New Haven high schools with the Community Health Educators, worked at the Blake Street Head Start and Calvin Hill Day Care, volunteered in the welfare-to-work early childhood educator program at All Our Kin, and served as a Freshman Counselor for Davenport College. He served as the Executive Co-Coordinator and on the Board of Directors of Dwight Hall at Yale—the student-run nonprofit for community service and social justice with more than 3,000 annual undergraduate volunteers. He interned at the Paris branch office of the UN Office of the High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR) and wrote and recorded a year-long radio column for Colorado Public Radio about his senior year in college. He earned Yale's John C. Schroeder Prize for social service and the Davenport College Prize for Citizenship.

Ben came to Washington following graduation to work for the political television advertising firm of Murphy Putnam Shorr and Partners, and following the 2006 election, came to work for the House Judiciary Committee.

During his time with the Committee, Ben has worked on a host of issues of national significance—principally in intellectual property policy, antitrust law, and civil liberties. He distinguished himself as an excellent writer and was instrumental in the Committee's work on performance rights legislation and protecting intellectual property from digital theft. He authored large portions and supervised the editing and publishing of the Committee staff's report Reigning in the Imperial Presidency: Lessons and Recommendations Relating to the Presidency of George W. Bush, and always stood ready to work on a host of issues at a moment's notice, including voting rights, health care, civil rights, immigration policies, and Executive Branch oversight.

Finally, Ben is well known among his peers as a dedicated athlete and began a trend in our office to use stability balls as desk chairs.

On behalf of the Judiciary Committee, its staff, and this distinguished body, I would like to thank Ben for his exemplary work, generosity, sense of humor, and loyalty. He will be sorely missed as a colleague, advisor, and friend. We wish him the best of luck and extend to him our deepest gratitude.

STATEMENT OF INTRODUCTION, RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CENSUS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to be introducing a resolution supporting the importance of census surveys and the data they produce. Special thanks to Senator JOHN ROCKEFELLER for his leadership on the issue and for introducing the Senate companion, and to the House original cosponsors, Reps. MICHAEL HONDA, JUDY CHU, KEITH ELLISON, JOHN OLVER, BETTY MCCOLLUM, JOSÉ SERRANO, LAURA RICHARDSON, EARL BLUMENAUER, FORTNEY STARK, JOHN LEWIS, and BARNEY FRANK, for their strong support of census surveys.

Since our founding, Congress has recognized the value of census surveys to inform policymaking and measure our country's progress. By including this modern invention in our Constitution, the founders turned a survey into a tool of political empowerment. The decennial census is the basis for fair representation and fair distribution of hundreds of billions of dollars in federal aid. In recent times, the information is used by the public and private sectors for planning purposes and to better understand the needs of communities.

The statistics gathered through the Census Bureau give politicians, researchers, urban planners, educators, and other interested Americans, a regular and measurable snapshot of the growth and the socio-economic status of our Nation. Census programs like the American Community Survey and the Economic Census provide vital data to federal, state, and local governments, to all sectors and industries, and to all geographic areas across the country—from rural to urban to suburban neighborhoods.

These surveys are a fundamental building block for how our country measures itself; the value of these statistics cannot be underestimated. They let us know how we are doing as a nation, identifying areas where we could grow, where we could be more economically efficient, and how best to compete globally. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

IN MEMORY OF SHERMAN HEMSLEY

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and memory of my friend, actor Sherman Hemsley. This man was best known as the iconic and central figure, George Jefferson, in the sitcom, "The Jeffersons" who became one of the most enduring, beloved characters in television history.

Much of that credit belongs to Mr. Hemsley, the gifted character actor who gave life to the blustering black Harlem businessman on "The Jeffersons", one of the longest-running sitcoms with a primarily black cast in television history.

With the gospel-style theme song of "Movin' On Up," the hit show depicted the wealthy former neighbors of Archie and Edith Bunker in Queens as they made their way on New York's Upper East Side. The show often dealt with contemporary issues of racism, but more frequently reveled in the sitcom archetype of a short-tempered, opinionated patriarch trying, often unsuccessfully, to control his family.

Despite the character's many faults Hemsley managed to make the character endearing, part of the reason it stayed on the air for so long. Hemsley's Jefferson loved his family, his friends (even the ones he relentlessly teased) and had a good heart. His performance was Emmy and Golden Globe nominated. The show's producer Norman Lear said that when Hemsley read for the part "the minute he opened his mouth he was George Jefferson."

This man, the son of a printing press-working father and a factory-working mother, served in the Air Force and worked for eight years as a clerk for the Postal Service.

Having studied acting as a teen at the Philadelphia Academy of Dramatic Arts, he began acting in New York workshops and theater companies, including the Negro Ensemble Company. For years, he kept his job at the post office while acting at night, before transitioning to acting full-time. Sherman embodied the American dream, to "move on up".

He had many other production credits other than playing George Jefferson. He made his Broadway debut in 1970's "Purlie," a musical adaptation of Ossie Davis' Jim Crow-era play "Purlie Victorious." (He would later star in a 1981 made-for-TV version of "Purlie," as well.) It was while touring the show that he was approached by Lear about playing a character on the sitcom that would become "All in the Family."

In an interview Hemsley said his show business career actually began in childhood. "Making people laugh was automatic," he said. "I was in a play in elementary school and had to jump up and run away. I was nervous and tripped and fell down and everyone laughed. Their laughter made me relax, so I pretended it was part of the show."

When we visited with each other, I was truly impressed with his good-spirited personality and optimism that could brighten the mood of any room he entered. He was a fun man with a good heart. He once said, "I always told my mother I wanted a job where I could have a lot of fun and have a lot of time off. She asked me where I was going to find that, and I said, 'I don't know, but it's out there.'"

Sherman Hemsley will forever be remembered as the loud and boisterous yet good-hearted family man whom he played for almost 10 years. The world is a little less funny today, and we should all celebrate the memory of Sherman Hemsley.

HAPPY 108TH BIRTHDAY MRS. LUCY SPELLER

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Saturday, August 4, 2012, the 108th birthday of native Washingtonian, Mrs. Lucy Speller.

Affectionately known as ''Aunt,'' and ''Sister,'' Mrs. Lucy Speller was born in 1904, was married for 76 years, and is a lifelong resident of the District of Columbia. As a Sunday school and Vacation Bible School teacher at Calvary Episcopal Church, Lucy Speller demonstrated her love of the District's children by touching their hearts and cultivating their minds. Students of Mrs. Speller often recall her kind-hearted nature and the guidance and support that she offered through the years. Many residents also celebrate Lucy Speller's work as a professional planner for weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, and numerous other functions. She even planned her own golden wedding anniversary.

I ask the House to join me in recognizing the 108th birthday of Mrs. Lucy Speller, a special lady, whose service to our community is greatly appreciated.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH, HURON, OHIO

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the centennial anniversary of Macedonia Baptist Church, located in Toledo, Ohio. The congregation will celebrate this milestone event on August 25, 2012.

Since its founding in 1912, Macedonia Baptist Church has served its congregation and its community inspired by Christ's teachings as recorded in Matthew 25:40 that, ''Whatsoever you do to the least among you, that you do unto me.'' Its ''rich history of service began on Yondota Street on the East side of Toledo'' where the church originally stood and continues to the present day from its location in West Toledo.

Through a century of service the church has been a neighborhood mainstay. In addition to worship services, Macedonia Baptist Church members teach fellowship and provide services to families in need. Motivated by their servants' hearts and strong pastoral leadership, the church carries forth a tradition of reaching out. All are welcome into the faith-filled, inspired congregation. We proudly commemorate this 100th anniversary while looking forward to Macedonia Baptist Church's future.

HONORING GRAY'S GENERAL STORE

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, since 1788, Gray's General Store has served customers in Rhode Island. For seven generations the Waite family has owned what is considered the oldest general store in the Nation. Gray's General Store closed its doors for the final time last Sunday.

This store has been a cultural cornerstone for more than two centuries in Little Compton, a town in my district which itself was established in 1682.

Since 1879, the Waite family has owned and operated Gray's General Store allowing generations of Rhode Islanders to have a place to share an ice cream and a laugh.

Despite the tremendous loss the community will face, I extend my well wishes to the present owner, Jonah Waite, as he transitions into a new chapter of his life.

I Honor Gray's General Store for its place in the history of Little Compton.

TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR E. ''GENE'' GOLDMAN ACTING DIRECTOR, NASA'S MARSHALL SPACE FLIGHT CENTER

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2012

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Arthur E. ''Gene'' Goldman, Acting Director of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, on the occasion of his retirement from NASA and his 28 years of distinguished federal service. Mr. Goldman provided superb leadership to over 5,000 personnel across a wide variety of disciplines, and provided sound fiscal management of a $2.5 billion budget. With those resources, he achieved cutting edge advancements in launch systems, spaceflight vehicles, and the supporting research and development efforts. All of these will shape our great nation's space program for years into the future.

Mr. Goldman was born and raised in Russell, Mississippi, where he was introduced and attracted to the awe of space when his father took him out one night and showed him the Echo satellite passing overhead. With that inspiration and desire to learn, he graduated from Mississippi State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering and thereafter earned his Registered Professional Engineer-Civil certification, with the intention of building bridges. Although he never physically built a bridge, he certainly built, mended and maintained a multitude of bridges among NASA components, stakeholders and customers.

While at NASA, Mr. Goldman also held the positions of Deputy Director of Marshall Space Flight Center; Director and Deputy Director of Stennis Space Flight Center; Manager and Deputy Manager of the Space Shuttle Main Engine Project; and project engineer on the Marshall Shuttle Project Integration Office. He was assigned to the Senior Executive Service in 2004. Prior to joining NASA in 1990, he worked for the Tennessee Valley Authority for 6 years and in the nuclear power industry.

During his tenure, Mr. Goldman was awarded the prestigious Presidential Rank Award in 2010, the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal in 2007, the Exceptional Achievement Medal in 2002, the NASA Certificate of Appreciation in 1997, and the Marshall Space Flight Center Director's Commendation in 1992. He also completed the Senior Executive Fellows Program at Harvard University.

Mr. Goldman is widely known and appreciated throughout NASA for treating every single person he encounters with utmost respect and value, regardless of their function. His strategic guidance, sage advice and leadership have brought him unqualified success and significant positive impact on NASA's mission. With extraordinary and sincere gratitude, I thank Mr. Goldman for his dedicated service and outstanding contributions to our country. I wish Mr. Goldman all the best as he retires from NASA, and may God bless him, his wife Nancy, his daughter Jennifer, and his entire family in the days ahead.

TRIBUTE TO FIRST SERGEANT HECTOR SOTORODRIGUEZ FROM THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS HOUSE LIAISON OFFICE

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize and pay tribute to First Sergeant Hector Sotorodriguez United States Marine Corps, on the occasion of his transfer from the United States Marine Corps House Liaison office back into the Fleet Marine Force. First Sergeant Sotorodriguez has served our great Nation for many years, earning many decorations and awards. I, and many other members of this chamber, have had the pleasure of working with him over the past two and a half years that he has served as part of Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs, OLA, Fellow and as the Senior Staff Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge of the House OLA liaison office.

First Sergeant Sotorodriguez distinguished himself through exceptional meritorious service while serving as the Senior Staff Non-Commissioned Officer In-Charge of the Marine Corps House Liaison office. Every day he served in direct support of not only the Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs but in direct support of every member of Congress, every Marine and every American. His keen abilities in organization, interpersonal relationships, and communication were extremely critical to the successful accomplishment of the Marine Corps mission. His achievements and ability to get the job done have been understated but always effective and noteworthy. While serving in the Liaison office, First Sergeant Sotorodriguez was able to develop and execute legislative strategy for the United States Marine Corps. This strategy was instrumental in creating a shared understanding between congress and the Marine Corps, allowing leadership the ability to train and equip the Nation's most elite fighting force, ensuring their

success on the battlefield. He routinely turned broad guidance into action which energized the Office of Legislative Affairs and members of Congress alike. His actions allowed the Marine Corps to engage members of Congress and their staffs, directly facilitating the increased emphasis on improving Congressional relationships—a cornerstone of the CMC's strategic vision.

Throughout his service he consistently demonstrated his expertise and knowledge by providing timely and accurate information to the Congressional Members and their respective staffs. First Sergeant Sotorodriguez was a vital asset for all matters relating to the Marine Corps in the House of Representatives. Members and staffers alike respected and trusted First Sergeant Sotorodriguez's straightforward and dependable assistance. His forthrightness and knowledge were key attributes in maintaining the Marine Corps' superb relationships with the many Members of the House of Representatives.

Throughout his tour, First Sergeant Sotorodriguez personally responded to, or supervised hundreds of congressional inquiries, some of which gained national level attention. Through his exceptional inter-personal skills, broad knowledge in a wide range of military affairs, and personal efforts he assisted the Director, Marine Corps Liaison Office, in gaining the Members' support and trust on critical issues. First Sergeant Sotorodriguez's has contributed immeasurably as a member in the Marine Liaison Office here on Capitol Hill and to the Marine Corps as a whole. I wish him well in all of his future endeavors.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SINES NICKEL & DIME STORE

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Anniversary of Sines Nickel & Dime Store, a local institution in my home of Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

For 100 years, Sines has been family owned and operated, offering a chance for its customers to step back in time and find hundreds of antiques, many of which come right from the local community. As part of Sine's commitment to friendly and dependable service, breakfast and lunch are made from scratch and served daily at the Soda Fountain where friends and neighbors gather as they have for generations.

Today, Sines continues to sell novelties of the past as they cope with the challenges that many small businesses across our nation face.

The dedication and perseverance demonstrated by the Sine family in these difficult economic times serves as an example of the American entrepreneurial spirit which drives our economy. Sines Nickel & Dime Store is an example of dedication to serving its customers, I congratulate them on their 100 years of success and wish them many more to come.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL PAUL H. GUEMMER FOR HIS SERVICE AS COMMANDER OF THE 92ND AIR REFUELING WING, FAIRCHILD AIR FORCE BASE

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2012

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary service of Colonel Paul H. Guemmer, Commander, 92nd Air Refueling Wing, Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington.

After receiving his commission as a Distinguished Graduate from the Reserve Officer Training Corps, Col. Guemmer has held multiple flying assignments as an aircraft commander, instructor, and examiner pilot. Prior to assuming command at Fairchild, Col. Guemmer commanded at the squadron level, including a deployment as an expeditionary operations support squadron commander. His previous staff experience also includes tours in the Air Staffs Joint Requirements Oversight Council Issues and Actions Division and the Joint Staff J–3's Readiness Division and Multinational Operations Division. Col. Guemmer also deployed as the Vice Wing Commander for the 379 Air Expeditionary Wing.

Since assuming command at Fairchild two years ago, Col. Guemmer has overseen many improvements on the base. These improvements include completion of a nearly 14,000 foot runway, a new fitness center, and even more recently, ground breaking on a new wing command headquarters. Each of these improvements represents an investment in Fairchild's future. While the physical improvements cannot be understated, even more important is the investment Col. Guemmer has made to solidify the relationship between the Air Force's 92nd Air Refueling Wing and the Air National Guard's 141st Air Refueling Wing. Under Col. Guemmer's leadership, the association between the 92nd and the 141st Air Refueling Wings has become one of the gems in the Air Mobility Community when it comes to utilization, collaboration, deploying to common locations and maintenance.

Mr. Speaker, Col. Guemmer has made caring for Fairchild's airmen and airwomen and their families a top priority. Whether serving a Thanksgiving meal to those unable to make it home for the holidays or taking time to speak to the ''Caring for People Summit'', Col. Guemmer has tirelessly worked to improve the quality of life for Eastern Washington's servicemen and women and their families.

So, today I urge all of my colleagues to join me in thanking Colonel Paul H. Guemmer for his service to the United States Air Force and the 92nd Air Refueling Wing at Fairchild. I am grateful for Paul's unyielding dedication to our country and for all of his accomplishments as Commander of the 92nd Air Refueling Wing. While I look forward to hearing of his future successes as Deputy Director (Military) Strategy, Policy, Programs and Logistics Directorate at Scott Air Force Base, Paul and his family will be greatly missed in Eastern Washington.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

The Senate met at 10:15:09 a.m. in pro forma session, and adjourned at 10:15:34 a.m. until 11 a.m., on Tuesday, August 7, 2012.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 2 public bills, H.R. 6357–6358 were introduced. **Page H5716**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H5717**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Flores to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H5715**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H5715.

Senate Referrals: S. 3245 was referred to the Committees on the Judiciary and Education and the Workforce; S. Con. Res. 58 and S. Con. Res. 59 were held at the desk. **Page H5715**

Quorum Calls—Votes: There were no Yea-and-Nay votes, and there were no Recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2012

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

11 a.m., Tuesday, August 7

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, August 7

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: The House will meet in pro forma session at 10 a.m.

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