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No. 149

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 27, 2012.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE WOMACK 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: Gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

You have blessed us with all good gifts, and this past week, with grateful hearts we gathered with family and loved ones throughout this great land to celebrate our blessings together.

Bless the newly elected Members of the 113th Congress who resume their orientation on Capitol Hill. Give them calm and confidence as they prepare for a new role as servants of our Nation's citizens.

Bless the Members of the people's House who have been entrusted with the privilege to serve our Nation and all Americans in their need. Grant them to work together in respect and affection, and to be faithful in the responsibilities they have been given.

As the end of the 112th Congress approaches and much is left to be done, bestow upon them all the gifts of wisdom and discernment, that in their words and actions they will do justice, love with mercy, and walk humbly with You.

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

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE of Texas 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 6063. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to child pornography and child exploitation offenses.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 15, 2012.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena for documents issued by the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Kings in connection

with civil litigation currently pending before that court.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is inconsistent with the privileges and precedents of the House.

Sincerely,

NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ,
Member of Congress.

PROUD OF UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA'S ARMY ROTC PROGRAM

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, The State newspaper reported that the University of South Carolina's Army ROTC program has been named one of the fastest growing programs in the country. Since the 2005 school year, the ROTC program has tripled in enrollment, placing it third in the Nation.

ROTC inspires leadership skills for bright young men and women, which promotes extraordinary opportunities for service. As a proud father of four sons currently serving in the military—three are Army ROTC graduates, including myself—I know firsthand how the knowledge learned through military service will positively promote a fulfilling life. I am very grateful for the dedication the instructors and cadets of the ROTC program have shown to our country and look forward to hearing of the program's great success in the future.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

ENTITLEMENT REFORM

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

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Mr. KUCINICH. Entitlement reform 2012. Let's see. Wealthy Americans are entitled to tax breaks. Corporations are entitled to billions in giveaways. Arms manufacturers are entitled to bigger contracts. The poor and the middle class? Well, they're entitled to unemployment, underemployment, foreclosures, and cuts in both Social Security and Medicare.

Poor and middle class Americans know all about the fiscal cliff. They've been getting pushed off it for years with an unfair tax system, unconscionable trade deals, and the Fed's monetary policies.

Nearly 50 million people are in poverty in America, 12 million unemployed, millions more underemployed. On January 2, millions stand to lose unemployment benefits. Fourteen million Americans' mortgages are greater than the value of their homes.

On the horizon loom massive cuts to essential services. Will the American austerity replace the American Dream? We need to turn back from the fiscal cliff with wealth creation, education, job creation, infrastructure rebuilding, monetary reform, trade reform, and protection of Social Security and Medicare. We need a great economic revival, not another Great Depression.

HASHTAG: TERRORISTS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, what do @HSMPress, @Alqassam Brigade, and @almanarnews all have in common? Here's a hint: HASHTAG: TERRORISTS.

That's right: foreign terrorist organizations like al-Shabaab, Hamas, and Hezbollah all use an American company—Twitter—to recruit other extremists. They spread their anti-American propaganda and preach violence and murder.

Hamas has over 42,000 followers. Their tweets have included everything from calls for jihad attacks to a "new Holocaust." Isn't that lovely?

Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court of the United States has ruled that when there is a "broader strategy to promote terrorism," foreign terrorist organizations are not protected under free speech rights.

We should be doing everything we can to disarm our enemy, whether that means freezing their bank accounts or freezing their Twitter accounts. Allowing foreign terrorist organizations to freely operate on Twitter is enabling the enemy. The FBI and Twitter must recognize sooner, rather than later, that social media is a tool for the outlaw terrorists, and it has to stop.

And that's just the way it is.

DEMOCRACY IN THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, as the Republic of Georgia deals with its first democratic transition of power, I spent the last few days speaking at length with President Saakashvili and the new Prime Minister Ivanishvili about the necessity to continue the pursuit of the rule of law.

Mr. Speaker, this is a critical moment for the Georgian people that could either put the country inexorably on the path of sustainable democracy or turn back the clock on the tremendous gains that have been made since the Rose Revolution. Mr. Speaker, the United States must remain engaged with the new government to promote continued democratic reform.

A robust democracy demands not only the ability of the majority party to advance its agenda, but also the preservation of the rights of the minority to raise questions and hold the government accountable.

Furthermore, prosecutions must be conducted in accordance with the rule of law, with full inquiries preceding arrests. Great diligence must be exercised to ensure that investigations are legitimate and not politically motivated.

I have urged and will continue to urge, Mr. Speaker, this new government to deliver on its campaign promises of continued democratic development and enhanced transparency.

□ 1410

RECOGNIZING A HOMETOWN HERO OF FRISCO, TEXAS

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

Mr. BURGESS. Today I rise to recognize a member of the Frisco City Council, Captain Tim Nelson. Although he was elected to the council more than 18 months ago, his dais seat has frequently been empty, but for a good reason.

Shortly after taking office, Captain Nelson received orders from the United States Army Reserve and was deployed to Afghanistan. During the past year, Captain Nelson was on the NATO military base with the 980th Engineer Battalion. As the unit's civil engineer, he oversaw construction projects ranging from roads to water crossings to intelligence.

While in Afghanistan, Captain Nelson carried a copy of the United States Constitution everywhere he went. His reason was, "You don't always have to agree with the politics of the day. But truly, by the grace of God, we were born in America. And if you've been to enough places around the world, you'll know how lucky we really are and how wonderful a place we live in."

While Captain Nelson was not able to be at council meetings, he was never forgotten. The opening of each council

meeting included a prayer for his family and for his safe return home. He is home now; and he said, I'll "do my best to pay them back for the time I was gone."

On November 8, he returned back to Texas to his wife, Candice, and their three children.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the service of a councilman of Frisco, Texas, Captain Tim Nelson.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1634

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) at 4 o'clock and 34 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

MANDATORY OPERATIONAL CONTROL REPORTING AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES ACT OF 2012

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6025) to provide for annual reports on the status of operational control of the international land and maritime borders of the United States and unlawful entries, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6025

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Mandatory Operational Control Reporting and Performance Measures Act of 2012".

SEC. 2. ANNUAL REPORTS ON OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF INTERNATIONAL LAND AND MARITIME BORDERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, as part of the Department of Homeland Security's Annual Performance Report, an annual report on the number of miles of the international land and maritime

border between the United States and Canada and the United States and Mexico that are under operational control of the Department, cumulatively and by sector.

(b) ESTIMATES OF UNLAWFUL ENTRIES.—Each report under subsection (a) shall include the estimated number of unlawful entries between ports of entry along the international land and maritime borders of the United States during the period covered by the report, determined using all available sources of data.

(c) INDEPENDENT EVALUATION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall make available to the Government Accountability Office the data and methodology used to compile the statistics used in preparing each report under subsection (a), to ensure the suitability and statistical validity of such data and methodology.

(d) TERMINOLOGY AND METHODOLOGY.—Except as provided in subsection (e), for purposes of consistent usage of terminology and methodology in the annual reports required under subsection (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall use the methodology used to measure such operational control in accordance with the Department's Annual Performance Reports for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2010.

(e) ALTERNATE TERMINOLOGY AND METHODOLOGY.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall use the terminology and methodology described in subsection (d) until such time as an alternate terminology and methodology is—

- (1) required by an Act of Congress; or
- (2) certified as suitable and statistically valid by a Department of Energy National Laboratory with prior expertise in border security.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I might consume.

Among the enumerated powers of the Constitution, providing for the common defense is, in my mind, the most important responsibility of this Congress. A key part of the common defense is ensuring that we secure our Nation's borders, and in the coming months, determining how to measure progress along the thousands of miles—north, south, and coastal—will be absolutely crucial.

H.R. 6025, the Mandatory Operational Control Reporting and Performance Measures Act of 2012, requires that the Department of Homeland Security resume reporting miles of the border under operational control and provide an estimate of the number of unlawful entries between ports of entry.

For years, we relied on operational control as a proxy for border security. It really became sort of the de facto term of art that indicated how much or how little of the border the Border Patrol could effectively control. But at last count, only 44 percent of the southwest border was under operational control, and less than 2 percent of the northern border was adequately secured.

I'm not quite sure how we can go from having less than half of the border under operational control to get to the current thinking that the border is more secure than ever, as the Secretary of Homeland Security has said, without having a legitimate way to measure border security.

In 2010, the Department of Homeland Security stopped reporting the number of miles of border under operational control with the promise of a new, more holistic measure of border security called the Border Condition Index. Nearly 3 years later, we're still waiting for the introduction of that measure without any idea if it will ever be used.

It's time for the Department to provide a suitable measure that adequately captures the security situation on the border, whether that is the Border Condition Index or something else. Until then, the Department should resume reporting miles under operational control.

To ensure that the numbers DHS gives us are sound, this bill, Mr. Speaker, requires that the Department give the Government Accountability Office access to the operational control numbers for third-party verification.

I fully understand that the leadership of the Department believes operational control, as it is currently configured, is not the right measure to describe security at the border. So I think we are all really open to new, more robust standards if it supplements operational control and better describes the level of security at our borders. But we can't just take this administration's word for it that the border is more secure than ever without some agreed upon standard.

To that point, I'm not sure that we should automatically assume that any new measure stacks up against operational control. With an issue this important, we can't just change the rules if we don't like the results.

Under this bill, the use of anything other than operational control to describe the security along the border must be vetted by a national laboratory with prior expertise in border security. Validation by a third party to ensure it accurately measures security along the border boils down to this: trust, but verify.

In testimony, the Government Accountability Office has been clear that the use of apprehensions of aliens at or near the border as a proxy for border security is, at best, incomplete. It tells us that we are catching lots of people, but it doesn't answer the most important question: How effective are we at

keeping the drug cartels, human traffickers, and others from crossing our borders at will?

H.R. 6025 asks the Department to address this issue with an estimate of the number of unlawful entries between ports of entry so that the American people can put the apprehension numbers in the proper context and can stack apprehensions against the number of people who successfully cross the border illegally.

□ 1640

Mr. Speaker, the men and women of the U.S. Border Patrol and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection have a very difficult job, and I certainly want to thank them, as I'm sure we all do, for the very hard work that they do in some very demanding conditions to keep secure our Nation.

How we determine or measure what a secure border looks like has been the subject of a lot of debate, but the fact remains that the Congress and the American people should have a verifiable way to determine if we are making progress along the border.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6025, the Mandatory Operational Control Reporting and Performance Measures Act of 2012, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The bill before the House today would require the Secretary of Homeland Security to report annually to the relevant congressional committee on the number of miles of our international land and maritime borders that are under operational control and, number two, the estimated number of unlawful entries between ports of entry along our international land and maritime borders.

The Department of Homeland Security already tracks much of this data, and I have no objections to it being provided to Congress in our effort to better secure our borders.

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I thought I had another speaker, but I do not see him here. If the gentleman from Mississippi has no further speakers, I am prepared to close.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. I have no further speakers.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I would just ask my colleagues to support this legislation that moves us toward a more full understanding of the security situation along the border.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, as I have no further speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6025, a bill to require the Department of Homeland Security to resume reporting operational control as a measure of border security.

I thank the gentlelady from Michigan and her staff for working with me on this bill and for bringing it to the floor today.

As part of the 2004 Border Strategy, the Border Patrol has been reporting miles of the border under operational or effective control and included it in its annual performance reporting.

However, as of fiscal year 2010, the metric has no longer been reported, with the Department instead relying on reporting apprehensions which tell only a part of what's happening at the border and planning for the yet to be rolled out "Border Condition Index."

In fact, the Department's recently released 2012–2016 Border Strategy makes no reference to operational control or any other readily reportable metrics to evaluate border security.

Far be it from me to ascribe a motive to the situation the Administration has created regarding the border security metrics they are or are not employing, but it certainly looks like they would simply prefer to ignore data that doesn't support their "border is safer than ever" narrative.

Sadly, for those living in border communities, there is some daylight between that narrative and reality and for that reason I urged the Department to resume using operational control during this year's appropriations process.

In speaking with Arizonans making their living on the border, I continue to hear story after story of break-ins, run-ins with armed groups crossing the border, and other dangerous situations.

In recent days much has been made about apparent momentum that is building towards Congress finding solutions to the problems created by our broken immigration system.

I have said it before and I'll say it again: there is little hope of the American public—particularly in border communities—trusting the Federal Government to deal with the many pressing immigration issues if we cannot get it right when it comes to border security.

There is simply no tackling immigration reform without achieving operational control of our southern border, and the Federal Government can't achieve operational control if they can't define it.

This legislation is simple; it would direct the Department to resume reporting operational control exactly as they had been previously.

If Congress and the Administration are in indeed serious about getting about the business of addressing the issue of border security, the successful passage of this common-sense and noncontroversial bill is the least we can do

I urge adoption of H.R. 6025.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6025, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DHS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2012

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 5913) to create an independent advisory panel to comprehensively assess the management structure and capabilities related to the Department of Homeland Security and make recommendations to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the management of the Department, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5913

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "DHS Accountability Act of 2012".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that the Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Management of the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives held a series of four hearings related to the management of the Department of Homeland Security. The key findings from such hearings were the following:

(1) The Department of Homeland Security has not prioritized the missions outlined in its key strategic planning documents. This lack of prioritization may hinder the Department's efforts to effectively manage risks to the United States. Since 2003, the Government Accountability Office designated the transformation of the Department as high risk because the Department had to transform 22 agencies—several with major management challenges—into one department, and failure to effectively address the Department's management and mission risks could have serious consequences to United States national and economic security. The Government Accountability Office continues to designate the transformation of the Department as high risk.

(2) The Department has considerable work ahead to achieve actions and outcomes critical to addressing persistent management challenges. For example, a significant number of acquisition programs proceeded without component or departmental approval of essential planning documents. These reviews are important to ensure the success of an acquisition program. The Department also continues to face challenges implementing key human capital initiatives. Integrating financial data essential to effectively managing the Department also remains a challenge.

(3) Areas of duplicative effort have also been identified within the Department. For example, some Federal Government agencies are paying fees to the Department's Federal Protective Service for facility risk assessments that are not being performed, while at the same time performing their own risk assessments. The Department also lacks robust acquisition practices in place to position programs for success. Federal Government auditors questioned U.S. Customs and Border Protection's plan to secure the Arizona border because the agency could not justify the specific types, quantities, cost, and deployment locations of its surveillance technologies.

(4) Investigators continue to identify cases of employee corruption within the Department. Investigations by the Department's Inspector General led to over 400 arrests of employees in 2011. Examples include Border Patrol agents accepting bribes, thefts by airport screeners, and immigration officers complicit in fraud. In addition, overall employee morale in the Department remains one of the lowest in the Federal Government.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.

There is established in the legislative branch an independent advisory panel to—

(1) comprehensively assess the management structure and capabilities related to the Department of Homeland Security; and

(2) make recommendations to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the management of the Department.

SEC. 4. MEMBERSHIP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The independent advisory panel (in this Act referred to as the "Panel") established under section 3 shall be composed of eight members as follows:

(1) Two members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in coordination with the Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives. Only one of such members may be from the same political party as the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(2) Two members shall be appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, in coordination with the Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate. Only one of such members may be from the same political party as the majority leader of the Senate.

(3) One member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, in coordination with the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives.

(4) One member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, in coordination with the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

(5) Two members shall be appointed by the President, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security. Only one of such members may be from the same political party as the President.

(b) PROHIBITION.—Except as provided in subsection (a), members of the Panel may not be current appointees of the President's Administration or Members of Congress, in order to ensure objectivity of the Panel's assessments.

(c) DEADLINE FOR APPOINTMENTS.—All appointments to the Panel shall be made not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) CO-CHAIRMEN.—The Panel shall have two co-chairmen, as follows:

(1) A co-chairman who shall be a member of the Panel designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(2) A co-chairman who shall be a member of the Panel designated by the majority leader of the Senate.

(e) VACANCY.—In the event of a vacancy on the Panel, the individual appointed to fill the vacant seat shall be—

(1) subject to paragraph (2), appointed by the same officer (or the officer's successor) who made the appointment to the seat when the Panel was first established; or

(2) if the officer's successor is of a party other than the party of the officer who made the initial appointment when the Panel was first established, chosen in consultation with the senior officers of the House of Representatives and the Senate of the party which is the party of the officer who made such initial appointment.

(f) GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Members of the Panel who are officers or employees of the Federal Government shall serve without additional pay (or benefits in the nature of compensation) for service as a member of the Panel.

(g) INITIAL MEETING.—The Panel shall meet and begin the operations of the Panel not later than 60 days after the appointment of all Panel members under subsection (a).

SEC. 5. DUTIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Panel shall assess the current management structure and capabilities of the Department of Homeland Security, including examining the following:

(1) The efficiency and effectiveness of the management structure and capabilities, including the policies, practices, and procedures, of the Department of Homeland Security and its component agencies in carrying out the management functions, such as program acquisition, financial management, information technology, human capital issues, performance measurement, and risk management efforts, related to homeland security.

(2) The extent to which unnecessary duplication exists in such management structure and capabilities, and how, if at all, such duplication negatively affects the mission of protecting the United States.

(3) The extent to which management of key homeland security missions is centralized under the Department.

(4) Options, as appropriate, to reduce or eliminate harmful waste and duplication of effort in the Department.

(5) Measures to evaluate the Department's progress in reducing and eliminating waste and duplication from its management structure and capabilities.

(b) **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS.**—In carrying out its duties, the Panel should consult and leverage the work performed and recommendations made by the Government Accountability Office on the management structure and capabilities of the Department of Homeland Security, in particular with respect to the issues identified under subsection (a).

SEC. 6. POWERS AND AUTHORITIES.

(a) HEARINGS AND EVIDENCE.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Panel or, on the authority of the Panel, any portion thereof, may, for the purpose of carrying out this section—

(A) hold such hearings and sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, receive such evidence, administer such oaths (provided that the quorum for a hearing shall be two members of the Panel); and

(B) subject to subsection (b), require by subpoena or otherwise provide for the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers, and documents, as the Panel, or such portion thereof, may determine advisable.

(2) **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**—Hearings and other activities conducted under paragraph (1) shall be open to the public unless the Panel, or, on the authority of the Panel, any portion thereof, determines that such is not appropriate, including for reasons relating to the disclosure of information or material regarding the national security interests of the United States or the disclosure of sensitive law enforcement data.

(b) SUBPOENAS.—

(1) ISSUANCE.—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—A subpoena may be issued under this subsection only—

(i) by the two co-chairmen; or

(ii) by the affirmative recorded vote of six members of the Panel.

(B) **SIGNATURE.**—Subpoenas issued under this subsection may be—

(i) issued under the signature of the two co-chairmen or any member designated by a majority of the Panel; and

(ii) served by any person designated by the two co-chairmen or by any member designated by a majority of the Panel.

(2) ENFORCEMENT.—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In the case of contumacy or failure to obey a subpoena issued under this subsection, the United States district court for the judicial district in which the subpoenaed person resides, is served, or may be found, or where the subpoena is returnable, may issue an order requiring such person to produce documentary or other evidence. Any failure to obey the order of the

court may be punished by the court as contempt of that court.

(B) **ADDITIONAL ENFORCEMENT.**—In the case of any failure of any witness to comply with any subpoena, the Panel may, by majority vote, certify a statement of fact constituting such failure to the appropriate United States attorney, who may bring the matter before a grand jury for its action, under the same statutory authority and procedures as if the United States attorney had received a certification under sections 102 through 104 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (2 U.S.C. 192 through 194).

(c) PERSONNEL.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Panel shall have the authorities provided in section 3161 of title 5, United States Code, and shall be subject to the conditions specified in such section, except to the extent that such conditions would be inconsistent with the requirements of this section.

(2) **COMPENSATION.**—The co-chairmen, in accordance with rules agreed upon by the Panel, may appoint and fix the compensation of a staff director and such other personnel as may be necessary to enable the Panel to carry out its functions, without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates, except that no rate of pay fixed under this paragraph may exceed the equivalent of that payable for a position at level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

(3) **DETAILEES.**—Any employee of the Federal Government may be detailed to the Panel without reimbursement from the Panel, and such detailee shall retain the rights, status, and privileges of the employee's regular employment without interruption.

(4) **EXPERT AND CONSULTANT SERVICES.**—The Panel is authorized to procure the services of experts and consultants in accordance with section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, but at rates not to exceed the daily rate paid a person occupying a position at level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code.

(5) **VOLUNTEER SERVICES.**—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Panel may accept and use voluntary and uncompensated services as the Panel determines necessary.

(d) **SECURITY CLEARANCES.**—The appropriate departments or agencies of the Federal Government shall cooperate with the Panel in expeditiously providing to the Panel members and staff appropriate security clearances to the extent possible pursuant to existing procedures and requirements, except that no person shall be provided with access to classified information under this section without the appropriate security clearances.

(e) **CONTRACTING.**—The Panel may, to such extent and in such amounts as are provided in appropriation Acts, enter into contracts to enable the Panel to carry out its duties under this Act.

(f) **POSTAL SERVICES.**—The Panel may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as departments and agencies of the United States.

(g) **SUPPORT SERVICES.**—Upon request of the Panel, the Administrator of General Services shall provide the Panel, on a reimbursable basis, with the administrative support services necessary for the Panel to carry out its duties under this Act. Such administrative services may include human resource management, budget, leasing, accounting, and payroll services.

(h) **RULES OF PROCEDURE.**—The Panel may establish rules for the conduct of the Panel's business, if such rules are not inconsistent with this Act or other applicable law.

(i) **NONAPPLICABILITY OF THE FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.**—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Panel.

(j) **TERMINATION.**—The Panel shall terminate on the date that is 60 days after the date of the submission of its final report.

SEC. 7. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

(a) **INTERIM REPORT.**—Not later than one year after the date of the appointment of all the members of the Panel, the Panel shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate an interim report, including the results and findings of the assessment and examination carried out in accordance with section 5.

(b) **OTHER REPORTS AND BRIEFINGS.**—The Panel may from time to time submit to the committees specified in subsection (a) such other reports and briefings relating to the assessment and examination carried out in accordance with section 5 as the Panel considers appropriate. Such committees may request information on the Panel's progress as it conducts its work.

(c) **FINAL REPORT.**—Not later than two years after the date of the appointment of all the members of the Panel, the Panel shall submit to the committees specified in subsection (a) a final report on the assessment and examination carried out in accordance with section 5. Such final report shall—

(1) include the findings of the Panel;

(2) identify lessons learned related to homeland security management issues; and

(3) include specific recommendations related to—

(A) improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the management structure and capabilities, including the policies, practices, and procedures, of the Department of Homeland Security and its component agencies in carrying out the Department's management functions and mission to protect the United States;

(B) reducing or eliminating unnecessary duplication in the management structure and capabilities of the Department and its component agencies;

(C) options, as appropriate, to reduce or eliminate harmful waste and duplication of effort in the Department; and

(D) developing measures to evaluate the Department's progress in reducing and eliminating waste and duplication from its management structure and capabilities.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore**. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. **MCCAUL**) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. **THOMPSON**) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in support of the DHS Accountability Act of 2012.

Congress has an important opportunity to make the Department of Homeland Security a more effective and efficient organization. The purpose of this bipartisan legislation is to create an independent advisory panel to conduct a top-to-bottom examination of deficiencies in the Department's management structure and capabilities. It follows six subcommittee oversight hearings examining corruption, low morale, inefficiency, and waste of taxpayer dollars, and comes almost 10 years since the inception of DHS.

I appreciate the strong support of the ranking member of the Homeland Security Oversight Subcommittee, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KEATING), as an original cosponsor of this bill.

As the third largest Federal Department, DHS has more than 240,000 employees and an annual budget of \$60 billion. Its transformation, according to the GAO, is critical to achieving its Homeland Security mission; however, excessive bureaucracy, waste, ineffectiveness, and lack of transparency have hindered its operations and wasted taxpayer dollars. Mismanagement at the Department is a threat to the security of our homeland.

Since 2003, GAO has designated the transformation of DHS as high risk because the Department had to transform 22 agencies, several with major management challenges, into one Department. Failure to effectively address the Department's management risks could have serious consequences. DHS remains on GAO's high-risk list. While GAO has conducted numerous audits of specific DHS programs, a comprehensive management assessment of the Department has yet to be conducted.

Our hearings and GAO findings conclude that DHS has made some progress but is still dysfunctional in several areas. The Department continues to face challenges in acquisition management, human capital, integration of financial data, and IT. In August, my subcommittee released a report outlining how the Department's management failures, related to a variety of acquisition programs, have wasted taxpayer dollars and had a serious impact on our ability to protect the homeland. The report's findings show why such a panel is needed to help fix the Department's shortcomings.

GAO's recent work also identified areas of duplicative effort. For instance, GAO found agencies are paying for risk assessments that are not being completed while simultaneously conducting their own assessments. Employee morale also remains one of the lowest in the Federal Government. Additionally, there are examples of Border Patrol agents accepting bribes, theft by airport screeners, and immigration officers complicit in fraud. These deficiencies cannot continue.

Based on the findings of these hearings and GAO reviews, I have doubts that the Department can carry out its

core mission of protecting the homeland if the problems persist. These issues of corruption, waste, duplication, and abuse of power are all symptomatic of deeply rooted flaws in the Department's management. I believe it will take a dedicated team of independent investigators to identify the root causes and recommend concrete changes. A top-to-bottom management review is necessary because the current management team is not getting the job done.

The DHS Accountability Act of 2012, as amended, will create an independent eight-member advisory panel appointed by the legislative and executive branches to comprehensively assess DHS management structure and capabilities. It will require the panel to make recommendations to improve DHS's efficiency and effectiveness, and it will require an interim report sent to Congress 1 year after the panel's selection, with the final report due 2 years after its inception.

The panel will possess subpoena power, the authority to conduct hearings, and receive expert witness testimony. The panel's recommendations will help make DHS a leaner, smarter, and more effective organization and ferret out duplicative programs and offices.

Fellow Members, this legislation is our opportunity to take action, and I urge you to support the DHS Accountability Act of 2012.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 5913, the DHS Accountability Act of 2012.

The bill before the House today would create an independent advisory panel to comprehensively assess and make recommendations regarding the management structure and capabilities of the Department of Homeland Security. While there is some question about whether this legislation is necessary, as similar independent initiatives are already underway, I appreciate the effort to improve the effectiveness of DHS's management and will not oppose the bill.

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

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support this bill, and as I have no further speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the ranking member of the Committee on Homeland Security Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Management, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KEATING).

Mr. KEATING. Thank you, Ranking Member THOMPSON, for yielding your time and for your leadership on the Homeland Security Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5913, the Department of Homeland Security Accountability Act of 2012.

As the ranking member for the Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigation, and Management, I was pleased to work with Chairman MCCAUL and serve as the original cosponsor of this measure.

I appreciate the bipartisan discussions that led to the introduction of the amended version we adopted at the subcommittee level, which is the version being considered today.

□ 1650

This bill goes to the heart of the subcommittee's mandate, which is to ensure the effective management of the Department of Homeland Security. Ensuring the effectiveness of the Department of Homeland Security is not a partisan matter, and it should serve as a priority as it is essential to our security and safety in this country.

Since its inception, the Department of Homeland Security has faced significant management challenges, many of which stem from the very nature of its creation, which was transforming 22 legacy agencies into one cohesive, unified department. To its credit, the Department has come a long way since its inception, but more work remains to be done.

The consideration of this bill comes at a time when Congress is examining cost-saving and revenue-generating measures to reduce our deficit while ensuring the safety and well-being of our citizens. There is no doubt that the Department is making positive strides and has clear plans in place to reduce duplicative efforts in the management area. For example, the Department's Efficiency Review Initiative, which was highlighted by Vice President BIDEN as a model for all Federal agencies, has resulted in more than \$1 billion in DHS cost avoidances, including \$180 million saved by consolidating duplicative software licensing agreements.

I am also pleased that the Secretary has advanced internal measures aimed at eliminating waste and fraud. Unfortunately, this does not change the fact that a number of DHS activities are still shared by other Federal agencies.

In March of 2011 and in February of 2012, the GAO identified six areas across DHS where overlap or potential unnecessary duplication exists. For example, when it comes to personnel background investigations, cybersecurity trainings, and the identification of fraudulent travel documents, the lines between multiple agencies remain blurred. Furthermore, despite its management strides, the Department has yet to fully address deficiencies in component operations that result in the wasting of funds. The Department's Federal Protective Service has received over \$230 million from Federal agencies for risk assessments and security services, yet these agencies have not found the FPS's services adequate or satisfactory, so they perform their own assessments as well.

This bill will determine instances of waste and abuse through an independent advisory panel that will be

charged with two main responsibilities: to comprehensively assess the management structure and capabilities related to the Department and to make recommendations to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the management of the Department. The legislation instructs the panel to examine five broad categories:

the efficiency and effectiveness of management structure and capabilities; whether unnecessary duplication exists; the extent to which management of key homeland security missions is centralized; waste and duplication.

Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan effort will comprise this panel's work through the course of this session, which has been extensive. I want to thank Chairman MCCAUL for his efforts in dealing with these issues. I want to thank him for the bipartisan cooperation that has been there on important issues of national security. I also want to thank the ranking member for yielding his time and for his leadership on the committee.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I am in support of this legislation, and I look forward to its adoption.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5913, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JAIME ZAPATA BORDER ENFORCEMENT SECURITY TASK FORCE ACT

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 915) to establish a Border Enforcement Security Task Force program to enhance border security by fostering coordinated efforts among Federal, State, and local border and law enforcement officials to protect United States border cities and communities from transnational crime, including violence associated with drug trafficking, arms smuggling, illegal alien trafficking and smuggling, violence, and kidnapping along and across the international borders of the United States, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:
Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Jaime Zapata Border Enforcement Security Task Force Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF PURPOSES.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) overriding mission is to lead a unified national effort to protect the United States. United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative agency within DHS and is charged with enforcing a wide array of laws, including laws related to securing the border and combating criminal smuggling.

(2) Mexico's northern border with the United States has experienced a dramatic surge in border crime and violence in recent years due to intense competition between Mexican drug cartels and criminal smuggling organizations that employ predatory tactics to realize their profits.

(3) Law enforcement agencies at the United States northern border also face challenges from transnational smuggling organizations.

(4) In response, DHS has partnered with Federal, State, local, tribal, and foreign law enforcement counterparts to create the Border Enforcement Security Task Force (BEST) initiative as a comprehensive approach to addressing border security threats. These multi-agency teams are designed to increase information-sharing and collaboration among the participating law enforcement agencies.

(5) BEST teams incorporate personnel from ICE, United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATFE), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the United States Coast Guard (USCG), and the U.S. Attorney's Office (USAO), along with other key Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies.

(6) Foreign law enforcement agencies participating in BEST include Mexico's Secretaria de Seguridad Publica (SSP), the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).

SEC. 3. BORDER ENFORCEMENT SECURITY TASK FORCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title IV of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 231 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 432. BORDER ENFORCEMENT SECURITY TASK FORCE.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Department a program to be known as the Border Enforcement Security Task Force (referred to in this section as 'BEST').

"(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of BEST is to establish units to enhance border security by addressing and reducing border security threats and violence by—

"(1) facilitating collaboration among Federal, State, local, tribal, and foreign law enforcement agencies to execute coordinated activities in furtherance of border security, and homeland security; and

"(2) enhancing information-sharing, including the dissemination of homeland security information among such agencies.

"(c) COMPOSITION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF UNITS.—

"(1) COMPOSITION.—BEST units may be comprised of personnel from—

"(A) U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement;

"(B) U.S. Customs and Border Protection;

"(C) the United States Coast Guard;

"(D) other Department personnel, as appropriate

"(E) other Federal agencies, as appropriate;

"(F) appropriate State law enforcement agencies;

"(G) foreign law enforcement agencies, as appropriate;

"(H) local law enforcement agencies from affected border cities and communities; and

"(I) appropriate tribal law enforcement agencies.

"(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF UNITS.—The Secretary is authorized to establish BEST units in jurisdictions in which such units can contribute to

BEST missions, as appropriate. Before establishing a BEST unit, the Secretary shall consider—

"(A) whether the area in which the BEST unit would be established is significantly impacted by cross-border threats;

"(B) the availability of Federal, State, local, tribal, and foreign law enforcement resources to participate in the BEST unit;

"(C) the extent to which border security threats are having a significant harmful impact in the jurisdiction in which the BEST unit is to be established, and other jurisdictions in the country; and

"(D) whether or not an Integrated Border Enforcement Team already exists in the area in which the BEST unit would be established.

"(3) DUPLICATION OF EFFORTS.—In determining whether to establish a new BEST unit or to expand an existing BEST unit in a given jurisdiction, the Secretary shall ensure that the BEST unit under consideration does not duplicate the efforts of other existing interagency task forces or centers within that jurisdiction.

"(d) OPERATION.—After determining the jurisdictions in which to establish BEST units under subsection (c)(2), and in order to provide Federal assistance to such jurisdictions, the Secretary may—

"(1) direct the assignment of Federal personnel to BEST, subject to the approval of the head of the department or agency that employs such personnel; and

"(2) take other actions to assist Federal, State, local, and tribal entities to participate in BEST, including providing financial assistance, as appropriate, for operational, administrative, and technological costs associated with the participation of Federal, State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies in BEST.

"(e) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which BEST is established under this section, and annually thereafter for the following 5 years, the Secretary shall submit a report to Congress that describes the effectiveness of BEST in enhancing border security and reducing the drug trafficking, arms smuggling, illegal alien trafficking and smuggling, violence, and kidnapping along and across the international borders of the United States, as measured by crime statistics, including violent deaths, incidents of violence, and drug-related arrests."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents under section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101(b)) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 431 the following:

"Sec. 432. Border Enforcement Security Task Force."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 915, the Jaime Zapata Border Enforcement Security Task Force Act. This bill, which will codify Border Enforcement

Security Task Force units, was named to honor the memory of slain Immigration and Customs Enforcement Special Agent Jaime Zapata.

In 2011, Special Agent Zapata and his associate, Special Agent Victor Avila, were ambushed on a dangerous stretch of highway in Mexico by the ruthless Zeta drug cartel. The vehicle that the two special agents were traveling in was forced off the road by the heavily armed thugs. Once the vehicle had come to a stop, the cartel members forced the doors open, fired their weapons at point blank range, and tried to drag away Special Agent Zapata, who fought back and was able to re-lock the doors. Special Agent Zapata tried to explain to the men that he and Special Agent Avila were U.S. diplomats. The gunman responded to his plea with bullets. Special Agent Zapata then heroically drove himself and Special Agent Avila away from the scene and to safety.

Investigators later found more than 80 individual bullet casings at the scene of the crime. By nothing short of a miracle, Special Agent Avila survived the ordeal. However, Jaime Zapata did not.

Border Enforcement Security Task Force units are comprised of DHS and other Federal, State, and local law enforcement personnel. They coordinate efforts to enhance border security and they mitigate threats posed by transnational crime, drug trafficking, arms smuggling, illegal alien traffic, violence, and kidnappings. These units will leverage the experience of personnel from the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the United States Customs and Border Protection, the United States Coast Guard, and other DHS components, as well as other Federal agencies, State, local, and tribal and, when appropriate, foreign law enforcement partners. With the increasing violence in Mexico and with the growing resourcefulness of vast criminal networks operating along the border, this type of interagency response is critical.

The men and women who have selflessly dedicated themselves to protecting our borders deserve this protection. Jaime Zapata paid the ultimate price, and I've made it a personal mission, along with my colleague from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR), to help ensure that no more brave men and women are lost to the violence along our southwest border. In addition to drug cartels freely moving across the border with drugs, cash, and weapons, the growing presence of Iran and Hezbollah in Latin America are also a threat. We do not have the luxury of sitting idly by while those looking to do us harm continue to enter the United States illegally.

I would like to thank my friend and colleague Representative CUELLAR for introducing this vitally important piece of bipartisan legislation. I would also like to thank Senators LIEBERMAN and COLLINS for taking action on this bill.

H.R. 915 honors Special Agent Jaime Zapata by making sure that those who serve as he did have the tools they need to secure the border.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Senate amendment to H.R. 915, the Jaime Zapata Border Enforcement Security Task Force Act, and yield myself such time as I may consume.

The bill before the House today would for the first time statutorily authorize an important border security program, the BEST program. Under BEST, ICE partners with Federal, State, local, and foreign law enforcement counterparts to establish targeted, cross-agency teams to identify, disrupt, and dismantle criminal organizations posing significant threats to border security. The program also serves as a model for interagency cooperation, coordination, and information sharing, which is vital in the post 9/11 environment.

I would note that it is appropriate that this bill is named in the memory of Jaime Zapata, an ICE special agent who was killed in the line of duty in Mexico while working as part of a BEST team.

H.R. 915 has enjoyed strong, bipartisan support in the House, passing with overwhelming support earlier this year, as well as in the Senate. Passage today will clear the bill for the President's signature.

I would like to commend the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) for his continued work on this important legislation and for being the sponsor of this legislation. The Committee on Homeland Security and Congress as a whole benefit from his commitment to border security matters.

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

□ 1700

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers and I'm prepared close, so I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the author of the underlying measure being considered, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR).

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member, Mr. THOMPSON, for the leadership that he has provided on this piece of legislation and other legislation that is so important for the security of our Nation. I certainly want to thank also Chairman PETER KING and of course my good friend, MICHAEL MCCAUL, Chairman MCCAUL, for being one of the original cosponsors, along with BLAKE FARENTHOLD. We look forward to working with the folks on the border, including a new Member from the Brownsville area, Mr. Filemon Vela. Mr. MCCAUL and I have always worked in a very bipartisan way.

The Jaime Zapata bill, H.R. 915, has received bipartisan support. In May when it was first passed by the House,

it was overwhelmingly supported by the House, both Democrats and Republicans. It went over to the Senate, and I want to thank also Senator LIEBERMAN and Senator COLLINS for their support of this bill. Senator LIEBERMAN was just outstanding in making sure that we moved this bill over here as quickly as possible.

We now have a bill here that does two things. The first thing, it enhances border security. Number two is to name this particular bill in honor of a brave individual, Jaime Zapata, who has given up his life. Some months ago, both Chairman MCCAUL and I had the opportunity to meet with the family, with the mother and father, of this strong hero that we got to know in the service of the line of duty.

As you know, ICE, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, in partnership with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, as well as other Federal, State, local and foreign law enforcement, has created the BEST initiative. By the way, the first BEST initiative was created in Laredo back in 2005, and it has become a model across the country. It is a comprehensive approach to identify, disrupt, and dismantle transnational criminal organizations that have posed significant threats to the border and maritime security.

Through investigations, seizures of contraband, arrests and prosecutions, the BEST units are building an impressive record of success. Today, there are 34 BEST units throughout the United States. They work not only with their Mexican counterparts, but also on the northern border with their Canadian counterparts. And certainly we want to make sure that Congress provides support to the BEST units in order to enhance border security in the communities that we all represent.

So, again, Members, I would ask that you all work and support this bill today, a very appropriate time as we had the new President-elect of Mexico who came down here and met with Members of Congress and I believe at this particular time he is meeting with the President right now, President Barack Obama, and we look forward to working with our Mexican counterparts. We need to make sure that we keep in mind that a secure, strong, prosperous Mexico is in the best interest of the United States. Mexico is not an enemy; it is a friend of the United States. And I think both BENNIE THOMPSON and MICHAEL MCCAUL have been down to the border. We understand that the Rio Grande does not divide us as two countries, but unites us together.

Also, to the family of Jaime Zapata, losing a son is very, very difficult. And, again, we want to thank the family for providing this strong hero. We can say Jaime Zapata was truly a hero of the United States. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill by voting "aye" on H.R. 915.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Senate amendment to H.R. 915.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, just on a point of personal privilege, Mr. CUELLAR and I will be embarking at the end of this week to head down to Mexico City to the President of Mexico's inauguration. I agree with my colleague that our relationship with Mexico is vitally important and the idea that the BEST teams, Border Enforcement Security Teams, have provided an invaluable service on the border. In terms of confiscating cash and weapons going south into Mexico, they have been extremely successful; and if anything merits additional resources, it's this program. I can't think of a better program to name after Jaime Zapata.

I will also say that on the several occasions that I have met with Agent Avila and his family, it has been very emotional to see someone who has come back almost from an operation of war, if you will, who has been shot at by the Los Zeta cartel members, almost going through a PTSD-type situation, a very, very emotional experience; and I wish Agent Avila and his family the best in their recovery. He is a very brave, brave man and soldier. And also to the family of Jaime Zapata, we honor you today with this bill and please know that you are always in our thoughts and in our prayers.

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

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I am supporting H.R. 915, the Jaime Zapata Border Enforcement Security Task Force Act. This measure would establish Border Enforcement Security Task Force (BEST) teams within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to facilitate "collaboration among federal, state, local, tribal, and foreign law enforcement agencies to execute coordinated activities in furtherance of border security, and homeland security" and enhance information sharing among the agencies.

This mission is a very important one. And I encourage DHS to consult with local and state law enforcement on how these teams could best be used to fill gaps in border security.

I am particularly concerned about a proposal to close several interior border patrol stations. As an example, from 2007 through 2011 Border Patrol agents assigned to the Amarillo station made from 383 to 745 apprehensions per year. Despite this volume, the Border Patrol proposed closing its Amarillo station—along with eight other interior stations, six of them in Texas. The absence of the Amarillo interior Border Patrol station would leave no federal agency for hundreds of miles to take custody of illegal aliens or to assist local law enforcement with investigations.

I do not know whether the BEST teams authorized in this measure could fulfill the responsibilities of the border patrol stations that are proposed for closure. But I strongly recommend that DHS continue to examine ways to ensure that this vital federal responsibility is fulfilled.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Texas (Mr. McCAUL) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 915.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

MEDICAL PREPAREDNESS ALLOWABLE USE ACT

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5997) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to codify authority under existing grant guidance authorizing use of Urban Area Security Initiative and State Homeland Security Grant Program funding for enhancing medical preparedness, medical surge capacity, and mass prophylaxis capabilities, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5997

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act".

SEC. 2. USE OF CERTAIN HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT FUNDS FOR ENHANCING MEDICAL PREPAREDNESS, MEDICAL SURGE CAPACITY, AND MASS PROPHYLAXIS CAPABILITIES.

Section 2008 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 609) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by redesignating paragraphs (10) through (13) as paragraphs (11) through (14), respectively, and by inserting after paragraph (9) the following:

"(10) enhancing medical preparedness, medical surge capacity, and mass prophylaxis capabilities, including the development and maintenance of an initial pharmaceutical stockpile, including medical kits, and diagnostics sufficient to protect first responders, their families, and immediate victims from a chemical or biological event"; and

(2) in subsection (b)(3)(B), by striking "(a)(10)" and inserting "(a)(11)".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 5997, the Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act, a bipartisan bill which amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make it clear that grant funds under the State Homeland Security Grant Program and the Urban Area Security Initiative may be used to enhance medical preparedness and purchase medical countermeasures.

I introduced H.R. 5997 after a series of hearings on medical countermeasures in the Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications. At these hearings, we received testimony from representatives of the emergency response community on the importance of stockpiling medical countermeasures in the event of a WMD attack. This includes pre-deployed medical kits for first responders and their families, similar to those provided to postal workers participating in the national U.S. Postal Medical Countermeasures Dispensing Pilot Program.

The grant guidance for the State Homeland Security Grant Program and the Urban Area Security Initiative currently permits this funding to be used to procure medical countermeasures and for other medical preparedness and medical surge capacity equipment and activities. However, this guidance is developed on an annual basis, and there is no guarantee that these uses will be authorized in the future.

□ 1710

To be clear, this bill does not create a new grant program or authorize new funding. It simply ensures that these activities will remain allowable uses under SHSGP and UASI.

As the WMD Commission noted in its report, Mr. Speaker, "World at Risk," it is more likely than not that there will be a weapon of mass destruction used someplace on Earth by a terrorist group before the end of the year 2013, and it's more likely that this weapon will be biological, rather than nuclear.

The expenditures authorized and codified by the bill we are considering today can make a difference in the protection of the public, including emergency responders, in the event of such an attack, and there should be no doubt that grant funding may be used to support them now and in the future.

As the chairman of the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response and Communications, I consistently find myself in awe of our first responders and the sacrifices that they make on behalf of our public. In the wake of events such as Hurricane Sandy, I am committed to ensuring Congress does all that it can to support those brave men and women, Mr. Speaker.

I am pleased that this legislation is supported by the Emergency Services Coalition on Medical Preparedness, which works to ensure that we protect the protectors.

I reserve the balance of my time.

EMERGENCY SERVICES COALITION
FOR MEDICAL PREPAREDNESS,
Falls Church, VA, November 19, 2012.

Hon. GUS BILIRAKIS,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications,
Committee on Homeland Security, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BILIRAKIS: The Emergency Services Coalition for Medical Preparedness is pleased to support H.R. 5997 and the proposed amendment of the Homeland Security Act of 2002. The need for home and workplaces of medical caches to protect the emergency services providers in the nation remains high. Recent reports for the congressionally-chartered WMD Commission emphasize the continuing threat posed by biological weapons. Ensuring a resilient emergency services sector is an imperative for a superior response, a major part of this planning is the provision of Medkits pre-event to these professionals.

Emergency services professionals have unique roles, and are expected to serve and protect even in dangerous circumstances. Having responsible pre-event protections in place is necessary to ensure they can carry out this role. Individual physician-based prescription efforts have provided protection to hundreds of postal employees and federal employees, but not the millions of protectors and their families. Your bill addresses this gap.

We look forward to working with you and your staff in the passage of the Bill. Thank you for your leadership and continuing support in "protecting the protectors."

Sincerely,

TIM STEPHENS,
Advisor.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5997, the Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act, and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, although I support H.R. 5997, it is not without reservation and concern about the reduced funding this Congress has allocated to important Homeland Security Grant Programs over the past few years. Due to significantly diminished appropriations for the Homeland Security Grant Program, important targeted grant programs such as the Metropolitan Medical Response System were consolidated into larger umbrella grant programs, such as the Urban Area Security Initiative and the State Homeland Security Grant Program in FY 2012.

I'm concerned that Congress' failure to specify a funding allocation for the Metropolitan Medical Response System sends the message that medical preparedness is no longer a priority.

H.R. 5997 authorizes the use of funding awarded under the Urban Area Security Initiative and the State Homeland Security Grant Program to enhance medical preparedness, medical surge capacity, and mass distribution of medical countermeasures. All of these activities would have been eligible under H.R. 1411, the Metropolitan Medical Response Systems Program Act of 2011.

H.R. 1411, which would have authorized the Metropolitan Medical Response System, was introduced by Representative BILIRAKIS and was marked up by the Subcommittee on Emergency

Preparedness, Response and Communications last year. I would rather be standing here today in support of H.R. 1411, which would send a clear message that medical preparedness is a priority for this Congress.

That said, I will support H.R. 5997 because I understand that grant resources are limited and that State and local governments must have the flexibility to utilize the scarce resources available to improve medical preparedness.

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, despite my reservations regarding this measure, I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 5997, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Ranking Member, we'll continue to work on getting that bill passed. I promise you. That's my bill, and we worked very hard. As you said, it was marked up in committee, and we'll continue to advocate on behalf, of course, of the MMRS grant program.

Mr. Speaker, I once again urge Members to support this very important bill that ensures medical preparedness activities remain an allowable use under Homeland Security Grant Programs.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5997, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

CLOTHE A HOMELESS HERO ACT

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6328) to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to transfer unclaimed clothing recovered at airport security checkpoints to local veterans organizations and other local charitable organizations, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6328

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Clothe a Homeless Hero Act".

SEC. 2. DISPOSITION OF UNCLAIMED CLOTHING RECOVERED AT AIRPORT SECURITY CHECKPOINTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 44945 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting "and clothing" after "money";

(2) by inserting before the text the following: "(a) DISPOSITION OF UNCLAIMED MONEY.—"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(b) DISPOSITION OF UNCLAIMED CLOTHING.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—In disposing of unclaimed clothing recovered at any airport security checkpoint, the Assistant Secretary shall make every reasonable effort, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to transfer the clothing to local veterans organizations or other local charitable organizations for distribution to homeless or needy veterans and veteran families.

"(2) AGREEMENTS.—In implementing paragraph (1), the Assistant Secretary may enter into agreements with airport authorities.

"(3) OTHER CHARITABLE ARRANGEMENTS.—Nothing in this subsection shall prevent an airport or the Transportation Security Administration from donating unclaimed clothing to a charitable organization of their choosing.

"(4) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this subsection shall create a cost to the Government."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 449 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to such section and inserting the following:

"44945. Disposition of unclaimed money and clothing."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and the gentleman from New York (Ms. HOCHUL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as vice chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and a senior member of the Committee on Homeland Security, I rise in support of H.R. 6328, again, a bipartisan bill, a bill sponsored by my colleague, Ms. HOCHUL, the Clothe a Homeless Hero Act.

According to estimates from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, in 2011 approximately 14 percent of all homeless adults were veterans, with more than 67,000 veterans homeless on any given night—unacceptable.

We must do all that we can to ensure that the veterans who have courageously served our country are not forgotten and are receiving the care and services they deserve. VA Secretary Eric Shinseki has set a laudable goal of

ending veterans' homelessness by 2015 and has established partnerships with other Federal agencies, such as HUD, to accomplish it.

The bill before us today will forge another important partnership in our efforts to serve homeless veterans, one with the Transportation Security Administration. Each day, as Americans travel through screening checkpoints operated by TSA at our Nation's airports, many articles of clothing are left behind. In fact, TSA reports that they collect between 500 and 1,000 garments per day.

H.R. 6328 directs the TSA Administrator to make every reasonable effort to donate this unclaimed clothing to local organizations that serve homeless or needy veterans.

I urge Members to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6328, the Clothe a Homeless Hero Act, and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I just flew in from the Buffalo airport, and there was a dusting of snow on the ground. I'm sure my colleague from Florida did not have a similar experience, but it bodes poorly for the veterans who are going to be spending the nights on the streets of Buffalo and other cold places. As the weather starts to change, it's something that's very hurtful to see, as an American, and to know that there are veterans who put on their uniform and went overseas to fight and protect all of us, and to know that 20,000 recently returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan will find themselves homeless tonight.

□ 1720

That is a national disgrace. As all of us rush through airports every week along with many thousands of Americans, it's not uncommon for scarves and hats and other articles of clothing to be inadvertently left behind at TSA checkpoints. In fact, I, myself, left a scarf behind, which prompted my thoughts of how we could handle this surplus clothing. It adds up to thousands of pounds of abandoned clothes annually. There can be no better purpose than for this unclaimed clothing to help America's homeless veterans.

Homelessness has gone on the rise among our veterans. This is absolutely an unconscionable, untenable situation. As a country, we have a moral obligation to do so much more to eradicate this untenable situation. And I know that in a bipartisan way this is one step toward that effort. Even if one of our veterans stays warm this winter because of the clothing provided through this legislation, it would have been well worth the effort.

The Clothe a Homeless Hero Act directs the TSA to make every reasonable effort to transfer unclaimed clothing to local veterans organizations or other local charitable organizations for distribution to homeless veterans and

their dependents. Nothing in this bill prevents airports or the TSA from donating these items to charities of their choosing if they already have relationships in place. And most importantly, this legislation would not create a cost to the government.

When I offered this proposal in the Committee on Homeland Security, I was so grateful that it received unanimous, bipartisan support from all my colleagues. I thank the overall committee chairman, Mr. PETER KING, Ranking Member THOMPSON, members of the Committee on Homeland Security, and Subcommittee Chairman Mr. BILIRAKIS for all their support.

I urge all of our colleagues to join us in advancing this simple, deficit-neutral bill to assist the heroes who once wore the uniform and have fallen on hard times and need this clothing.

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. If the gentlewoman from New York has no further speakers, I am prepared to close.

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, as you've heard, H.R. 6328 enjoys bipartisan support of the members of the Committee on Homeland Security and deserves the full support of the House today. I think this is an important step we take, particularly with the holiday season approaching, cold weather approaching, and it's a small step that we can take to help these veterans who were heroes at one time and now need the help of all of us as American citizens.

I yield back the balance of my time.
Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support this legislation and, in turn, support homeless veterans.

I yield back the balance of my time.
Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6328, the "Clothe a Homeless Hero Act."

At the outset, I would like to commend Representative HOCHUL, the author of H.R. 6328, for her tireless work on behalf of her constituents, our veterans and for her service on the Committee on Homeland Security.

Since she joined the Committee, I have watched as Representative HOCHUL worked to identify bipartisan solutions to our Nation's problems.

H.R. 6328 is the byproduct of her collaborative and thoughtful approach.

This measure requires TSA to make every reasonable effort to transfer unclaimed clothing recovered at airport security checkpoints so that it can get to needy veterans and their families.

One of the unfortunate realities we face following times of war is that some of those who fought for our freedoms face challenges in transitioning to civilian life.

We owe it to our veterans to do all that we can to ensure they get the helping hand needed to get back on their feet when they return from the battlefield.

Thanks to Representative HOCHUL's leadership, the House has an opportunity today to take a small, but important, step in support of our veterans by supporting this bill.

Mr. Speaker, as you have heard, H.R. 6328 enjoys the bipartisan support of the Members

of the Committee on Homeland Security and deserves the support of the Full House today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6328.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. BILIRAKIS. I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 21, 2012.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House, The Capitol,
Washington, DC.

MR. SPEAKER: In 1995 when I was first elected to the House of Representatives I came to Washington with a singular purpose—to serve the constituents of the Second District of Illinois. During that time for seventeen years I have traveled on a journey with the citizens of the Second District of Illinois, and with their unwavering support we have worked together to transform what was once an underdeveloped and nearly forgotten South Side of Chicago.

Along this journey we have accomplished much. We have built new train stations, water towers, and emergency rooms. We have brought affordable housing, community centers and healthcare clinics to those who needed it most. In all, nearly a billion dollars worth of infrastructure and community improvement has been made on the South Side of Chicago and thousands of new jobs have been created. We began this journey by promising fresh water for the people of Ford Heights and a new airport that would employ upon completion 300,000 people. Today the people of Ford Heights have fresh water and sitting on the Governor's desk is a \$400,000,000 proposal for an airport that will cost the taxpayers nothing and only awaits the Governor's commitment to build it. And while our journey to strengthen our communities and provide a better future for our children will continue, I know that together we have made the Second District of Illinois a better place.

For seventeen years I have given 100 percent of my time, energy, and life to public service. However, over the past several months, as my health has deteriorated, my ability to serve the constituents of my district has continued to diminish. Against the recommendations of my doctors, I had hoped and tried to return to Washington and continue working on the issues that matter most to the people of the Second District. I know now that will not be possible.

The constituents of the Second District deserve a full-time legislator in Washington, something I cannot be for the foreseeable future. My health issues and treatment regimen have become incompatible with service in the House of Representatives. Therefore, it is with great regret that I hereby resign as a member of the United States House of Representatives, effective today, in order to focus on restoring my health.

During this journey I have made my share of mistakes. I am aware of the ongoing federal investigation into my activities and I am doing my best to address the situation responsibly, cooperate with the investigators, and accept responsibility for my mistakes, for they are my mistakes and mine alone. None of us is immune from our share of shortcomings or human frailties and I pray that I will be remembered for what I did right. It has been a profound honor to serve the constituents of Illinois's Second Congressional District and I thank them for their patience, words of support and prayers during what has been, and what will continue to be a very trying time for me and my family.

I also thank my colleagues and staff for supporting me and the citizens of my district over the past several months. I am proud to have worked alongside each of them over these many years. I know that our work and accomplishments will have a lasting positive impact on our community and our nation.

With optimism and hope I look forward to the day when my treatment is complete and my health improves. I will truly miss serving as a Member of Congress and I will never be able to fully express my gratitude to the people of Chicago, and her Southland for granting me the opportunity to serve them for 17 wonderful years.

Sincerely,

JESSE JACKSON, Jr.,
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 21, 2012.

Governor PAT QUINN,
James A. Thompson Building,
Chicago, IL.

MR. GOVERNOR: In 1995 when I was first elected to the House of Representatives I came to Washington with a singular purpose—to serve the constituents of the Second District of Illinois. During that time for seventeen years I have traveled on a journey with the citizens of the Second District of Illinois, and with their unwavering support we have worked together to transform what was once an underdeveloped and nearly forgotten South Side of Chicago.

Along this journey we have accomplished much. We have built new train stations, water towers, and emergency rooms. We have brought affordable housing, community centers and healthcare clinics to those who needed it most. In all, nearly a billion dollars worth of infrastructure and community improvement has been made on the South Side of Chicago and thousands of new jobs have been created. We began this journey by promising fresh water for the people of Ford Heights and a new airport that would employ upon completion 300,000 people. Today the people of Ford Heights have fresh water and sitting on the Governor's desk is a \$400,000,000 proposal for an airport that will cost the taxpayers nothing and only awaits the Governor's commitment to build it. And while our journey to strengthen our communities and provide a better future for our children will continue, I know that together we have made the Second District of Illinois a better place.

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months, as my health has deteriorated, my ability to serve the constituents of my district has continued to diminish. Against the recommendations of my doctors, I had hoped and tried to return to Washington and continue working on the issues that matter most to the people of the Second District. I know now that will not be possible.

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Sincerely,

JESSE JACKSON, Jr.,
Member of Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON), the whole number of the House is 433.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings

will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 5997, by the yeas and nays; and concurring in the Senate amendment to H.R. 915, by the yeas and nays.

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

MEDICAL PREPAREDNESS ALLOWABLE USE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5997) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to codify authority under existing grant guidance authorizing use of Urban Area Security Initiative and State Homeland Security Grant Program funding for enhancing medical preparedness, medical surge capacity, and mass prophylaxis capabilities, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 397, nays 1, not voting 34, as follows:

[Roll No. 609]

YEAS—397

Ackerman	Canseco	Dent
Adams	Cantor	DesJarlais
Aderholt	Capito	Deutch
Akin	Capps	Diaz-Balart
Alexander	Capuano	Doggett
Altmire	Carnahan	Dold
Amodel	Carney	Donnelly (IN)
Andrews	Carson (IN)	Doyle
Baca	Carter	Dreier
Bachmann	Cassidy	Duffy
Bachus	Castor (FL)	Duncan (SC)
Baldwin	Chabot	Duncan (TN)
Barletta	Chaffetz	Edwards
Barrow	Chandler	Ellison
Barton (TX)	Chu	Ellmers
Bass (CA)	Cicilline	Emerson
Bass (NH)	Clarke (MI)	Engel
Becerra	Clarke (NY)	Eshoo
Benishke	Clay	Farenthold
Berg	Cleaver	Farr
Berkley	Clyburn	Fincher
Berman	Coble	Fitzpatrick
Biggert	Coffman (CO)	Flake
Bilbray	Cohen	Fleischmann
Billirakis	Cole	Fleming
Bishop (GA)	Conaway	Flores
Bishop (UT)	Connolly (VA)	Forbes
Black	Conyers	Fortenberry
Blackburn	Cooper	Foxe
Blumenauer	Costa	Frank (MA)
Bonamici	Costello	Franks (AZ)
Bonner	Courtney	Fudge
Boren	Cravaack	Garamendi
Boswell	Crawford	Gardner
Boustany	Crenshaw	Garrett
Brady (PA)	Critz	Gerlach
Brady (TX)	Crowley	Gibbs
Braley (IA)	Cuellar	Gibson
Brooks	Culberson	Gingrey (GA)
Brown (GA)	Cummings	Gohmert
Buchanan	Curson (MI)	Gonzalez
Bucshon	Davis (CA)	Goodlatte
Buerkle	Davis (IL)	Gowdy
Burgess	DeFazio	Granger
Burton (IN)	DeGette	Graves (GA)
Butterfield	DeLauro	Graves (MO)
Calvert	DelBene	Green, Al
Camp	Denham	Green, Gene

Griffin (AR) Markey
 Griffith (VA) Massie
 Grijalva Matheson
 Grimm Matsui
 Guinta McCarthy (CA)
 Guthrie McCarthy (NY)
 Hahn McClintock
 Hall McCollum
 Hanabusa McDermott
 Hanna McGovern
 Harper McHenry
 Harris McIntyre
 Hartzler McKeon
 Hastings (FL) McKinley
 Hastings (WA) McMorris
 Hayworth Rodgers
 Heck McNERNEY
 Heinrich Meehan
 Hensarling Meeks
 Herger Mica
 Herrera Beutler Michaud
 Higgins Miller (FL)
 Himes Miller (MI)
 Hinchey Miller (NC)
 Hinojosa Miller, Gary
 Hirono Miller, George
 Hochul Moore
 Holt Moran
 Honda Mulvaney
 Hoyer Murphy (PA)
 Huelskamp Myrick
 Huizenga (MI) Nadler
 Hultgren Napolitano
 Hunter Neal
 Hurt Neugebauer
 Israel Noem
 Issa Nugent
 Jackson Lee Nunes
 (TX) Nunnelee
 Jenkins Olson
 Johnson (GA) Olver
 Johnson (OH) Owens
 Johnson, E. B. Palazzo
 Johnson, Sam Pallone
 Jones Pascrell
 Jordan Pastor (AZ)
 Kaptur Paul
 Keating Paulsen
 Kelly Payne
 Kildee Pearce
 Kind Pelosi
 King (IA) Perlmutter
 King (NY) Peters
 Kingston Peterson
 Kinzinger (IL) Petri
 Kissell Pingree (ME)
 Kline Pitts
 Kucinich Platts
 Labrador Poe (TX)
 Lamborn Polis
 Lance Pompeo
 Landry Posey
 Lankford Price (GA)
 Larsen (WA) Price (NC)
 Larson (CT) Quayle
 Latham Quigley
 LaTourette Rahall
 Latta Rangel
 Lee (CA) Reed
 Levin Reichert
 Lewis (CA) Renacci
 Lewis (GA) Reyes
 LoBiondo Ribble
 Loeb sack Richardson
 Lofgren, Zoe Richmond
 Long Rigell
 Lowey Roby
 Lucas Roe (TN)
 Luetkemeyer Rogers (AL)
 Luján Rogers (KY)
 Lummis Rogers (MI)
 Lungren, Daniel Rohrabacher
 E. Rokita
 Lynch Rooney
 Maloney Ros-Lehtinen
 Marchant Roskam

NAYS—1
 Amash
 NOT VOTING—34

Austria Dingell
 Barber Fattah
 Bartlett Filner
 Bishop (NY) Frelinghuysen
 Bono Mack Gallegly
 Brown (FL) Gosar
 Campbell Gutierrez
 Dicks Holden

Ross (FL) Pence
 Rothman (NJ) Penberg
 Royce Rivera
 Runyan Ross (AR)
 Rumpersberger
 Rush
 Ryan (OH)
 Ryan (WI)
 Sánchez, Linda T.
 Sarbanes
 Scalise
 Schakowsky
 Schiff
 Schilling
 Schmidt
 Schock
 Schrader
 Schwartz
 Schweikert
 Scott (SC)
 Scott (VA)
 Scott, Austin
 Scott, David
 Sensenbrenner
 Serrano
 Sessions
 Sewell
 Sherman
 Shimkus
 Shuler
 Shuster
 Simpson
 Neal
 Slaughter
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (TX)
 Smith (WA)
 Southerland
 Speier
 Stearns
 Stivers
 Stutzman
 Sullivan
 Sutton
 Terry
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Thompson (PA)
 Thornberry
 Tiberi
 Tierney
 Tipton
 Tonko
 Tsongas
 Turner (NY)
 Turner (OH)
 Upton
 Van Hollen
 Velázquez
 Visclosky
 Walberg
 Walden
 Walsh (IL)
 Walz (MN)
 Wasserman
 Schultz
 Waters
 Waxman
 Webster
 Welch
 West
 Westmoreland
 Whitfield
 Wilson (FL)
 Wilson (SC)
 Wittman
 Wolf
 Womack
 Woodall
 Woolsey
 Yarmuth
 Yoder
 Young (AK)
 Young (IN)

Roybal-Allard Watt
 Sanchez, Loretta Young (FL)
 Stark
 Towns

□ 1853

Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Messrs. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania and TIBERI changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 609, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 609, H.R. 5997, as amended, I was unavoidably detained and missed the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

JAIME ZAPATA BORDER ENFORCEMENT SECURITY TASK FORCE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 915) to establish a Border Enforcement Security Task Force program to enhance border security by fostering coordinated efforts among Federal, State, and local border and law enforcement officials to protect United States border cities and communities from transnational crime, including violence associated with drug trafficking, arms smuggling, illegal alien trafficking and smuggling, violence, and kidnapping along and across the international borders of the United States, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment.

This is a 5-minute vote.
 The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 397, nays 4, not voting 31, as follows:

[Roll No. 610]
 YEAS—397

Ackerman Berg
 Adams Berkeley
 Aderholt Berman
 Akin Biggert
 Alexander Bilbray
 Altmire Bilirakis
 Amodei Bishop (GA)
 Andrews Bishop (NY)
 Baca Bishop (UT)
 Bachmann Black
 Bachus Blackburn
 Baldwin Blumenauer
 Barletta Bonamici
 Barrow Bonner
 Barton (TX) Mack
 Bass (CA) Boswell
 Bass (NH) Boustany
 Becerra Brady (PA)
 Benishek Brady (TX)

Carter
 Cassidy
 Castor (FL)
 Chabot
 Chaffetz
 Chandler
 Chu
 Cicilline
 Clarke (MI)
 Clarke (NY)
 Clay
 Cleaver
 Clyburn
 Coble
 Coffman (CO)
 Cohen
 Cole
 Conaway
 Connolly (VA)
 Conyers
 Cooper
 Costa
 Costello
 Courtney
 Cravaack
 Crawford
 Crenshaw
 Critz
 Crowley
 Cuellar
 Culberson
 Cummings
 Curson (MI)
 Davis (CA)
 Davis (IL)
 DeFazio
 DeGette
 DeLauro
 DelBene
 Denham
 Dent
 DesJarlais
 Deutch
 Diaz-Balart
 Doggett
 Dold
 Donnelly (IN)
 Doyle
 Dreier
 Duffy
 Duncan (SC)
 Duncan (TN)
 Edwards
 Ellison
 Ellmers
 Emerson
 Engel
 Eshoo
 Farenthold
 Farr
 Fattah
 Fincher
 Fitzpatrick
 Flake
 Fleischmann
 Fleming
 Flores
 Forbes
 Fortenberry
 Foxx
 Frank (MA)
 Franks (AZ)
 Fudge
 Garamendi
 Gardner
 Garrett
 Gerlach
 Gibbs
 Gibson
 Gingrey (GA)
 Gonzalez
 Goodlatte
 Gowdy
 Granger
 Graves (GA)
 Graves (MO)
 Green, Al
 Green, Gene
 Griffin (AR)
 Griffith (VA)
 Grijalva
 Grimm
 Guinta
 Guthrie
 Hahn
 Hall
 Hanabusa
 Hanna
 Harper

Harris
 Hartzler
 Hastings (FL)
 Hastings (WA)
 Hayworth
 Heck
 Heinrich
 Hensarling
 Herger
 Herrera Beutler
 Higgins
 Himes
 Hinchey
 Hinojosa
 Hirono
 Holt
 Honda
 Hoyer
 Huelskamp
 Huizenga (MI)
 Hultgren
 Hunter
 Hurt
 Israel
 Issa
 Jackson Lee
 (TX)
 Jenkins
 Johnson (GA)
 Johnson (OH)
 Johnson, E. B.
 Johnson, Sam
 Jones
 Jordan
 Kaptur
 Keating
 Kelly
 Kildee
 Kind
 King (IA)
 King (NY)
 Kingston
 Kinzinger (IL)
 Kissell
 Kline
 Labrador
 Lamborn
 Lance
 Landry
 Langevin
 Lankford
 Larsen (WA)
 Larson (CT)
 Latham
 LaTourette
 Latta
 Lee (CA)
 Levin
 Lewis (CA)
 Lewis (GA)
 LoBiondo
 Loeb sack
 Lofgren, Zoe
 Long
 Lowey
 Lucas
 Luetkemeyer
 Luján
 Lummis
 Lungren, Daniel
 E.
 Lynch
 Maloney
 Marchant

Miller, Gary
 Miller, George
 Moore
 Moran
 Neal
 Mulvaney
 Murphy (PA)
 Myrick
 Nadler
 Napolitano
 Neal
 Neugebauer
 Noem
 Nugent
 Nunes
 Nunnelee
 Olson
 Olver
 Owens
 Palazzo
 Pallone
 Pascrell
 Pastor (AZ)
 Paulsen
 Payne
 Pearce
 Pelosi
 Perlmutter
 Peters
 Peterson
 Petri
 Pingree (ME)
 Pitts
 Platts
 Poe (TX)
 Polis
 Pompeo
 Posey
 Price (GA)
 Price (NC)
 Quayle
 Quigley
 Rahall
 Rangel
 Reed
 Rehberg
 Reichert
 Renacci
 Reyes
 Ribble
 Richardson
 Richmond
 Roby
 Roe (TN)
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rogers (MI)
 Rohrabacher
 Rokita
 Rooney
 Ros-Lehtinen
 Roskam
 Ross (FL)
 Rothman (NJ)
 Royce
 Runyan
 Rumpersberger
 Rush
 Ryan (OH)
 Ryan (WI)
 Sánchez, Linda T.
 Sarbanes
 Scalise
 Schakowsky
 Schiff
 Schilling
 Schmidt
 Schock
 Schrader
 Schwartz
 Schweikert
 Scott (SC)
 Scott (VA)
 Scott, Austin
 Scott, David
 Sensenbrenner
 Serrano
 Sessions
 Sewell
 Sherman
 Shimkus
 Shuler
 Shuster
 Simpson
 Sires
 Slaughter
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (TX)

Smith (WA)	Tonko	Webster
Southerland	Tsongas	Welch
Speier	Turner (NY)	West
Stearns	Turner (OH)	Westmoreland
Stivers	Upton	Whitfield
Stutzman	Van Hollen	Wilson (FL)
Sullivan	Velázquez	Wilson (SC)
Sutton	Visclosky	Wittman
Terry	Walberg	Wolf
Thompson (CA)	Walden	Womack
Thompson (MS)	Walsh (IL)	Woodall
Thompson (PA)	Walz (MN)	Woolsey
Thornberry	Wasserman	Yarmuth
Tiberi	Schultz	Yoder
Tierney	Waters	Young (AK)
Tipton	Waxman	Young (IN)

NAYS—4

Amash	Kucinich
Gohmert	Paul

NOT VOTING—31

Austria	Gosar	Rigell
Barber	Gutiérrez	Rivera
Bartlett	Hochul	Ross (AR)
Bono Mack	Holden	Roybal-Allard
Brown (FL)	Johnson (IL)	Sanchez, Loretta
Campbell	Lipinski	Stark
Dicks	Mack	Towns
Dingell	Manzullo	Watt
Filner	Marino	Young (FL)
Frelinghuysen	Murphy (CT)	
Gallegly	Pence	

□ 1903

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 610, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

□ 1910

CHAIRMAN HALL

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

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to stand before you today to recognize Chairman HALL and his work as the oldest serving Member of Congress.

Over the last 2 years, I’ve had the honor of serving with Chairman HALL on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee. Chairman HALL has been an inspiration and a mentor to me in those 2 years. He has been a crucial force in keeping NASA on track and for pushing for a strong American space program. We’ve had the opportunity to work on space bills, such as the recent indemnification extension and the NASA artifacts bill that passed unanimously back in September.

Another reason I admire Chairman HALL is that he never forgets those back home whom he represents. He doesn’t want anyone else to forget either. He’s a Texan through and through. Chairman HALL always tells me that he is willing to forgive people who aren’t from Texas. Fortunately, he has been especially good to me, and that’s probably because I married a Texan myself.

Finally, Chairman, I know at your age you don’t like the word “final”;

but in closing, I just want to say the no-nonsense way you’ve led the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, the way you’ve put good policy and people above politics—all without compromising your principles—is the kind of leadership we need. That’s the kind of leader you are, and that’s the kind of leader we should all strive to be.

So, today, I thank you for your many years of service, for your model of leadership, and for being so kind to all of those Members who aren’t from Texas.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WEBSTER). Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

OUR FRIEND, RALPH HALL

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today is a good day. We get to honor a great and magnificent American—my friend, our friend, RALPH HALL.

In the moments and minutes and hour to come, there will be many who will rise to recognize the extraordinary public service, but I want to add, in addition to the extraordinary public service, a man who has seen numbers of Presidents. As an American who has worked, spoken and achieved under all of them, RALPH HALL today reigns as both the oldest Member of Congress and the oldest House Member known to cast a vote on the House floor.

But that is not his only definition, for he is one who has a heart and who recognizes the value of service to the American people.

Oh, he loves his great State of Texas. He is truly a tall Texan. He is a faithful public servant who has dedicated 32 years of service to representing the constituents of the Fourth Congressional District; but he started his life by the service to the United States in the United States military—in the United States Navy. Yes, 1942.

So he has seen this Nation in her ups and her downs, but RALPH HALL has never been down. What a great leader of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee. What an opportunity to serve with him. What a servant as he worked with Presidents like Lyndon Baines Johnson, making difficult and tough decisions—not a partisan but a lover of America.

Yes, I can stand here today and say not only is this great hero and American and Member of the United States Congress—young in age but old in numbers—wise, dedicated, but I can also say that he is a lover of his family: his late wife, his grandchildren, his children. I was able to join him at a time when he had to visit a grandchild. I was glad to be able to have RALPH in our city, not for the cause that he was, but to be able to say, RALPH, you’re a friend, and we stand with you during this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an American hero and also to a friend and a great leader on this floor, someone from whom I wish years and years and years of service. As a fellow Texan, I join my Texans and others to say, Thank you, RALPH HALL, for the friendship, the leadership, the courage—and, yes, you are an American hero.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings, including applause, is in violation of the rules of the House.

RALPH HALL

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend RALPH HALL.

I came to this great House as a result of the election in 2010 and was privileged to be assigned to the Science, Space, and Technology Committee. The chairman was RALPH HALL. Chairman HALL showed me kindness. I went to his office. He showed me the corsairs that he flew in World War II. He told me stories about playing baseball with Ted Williams in the Navy in World War II.

Truly, this is a great man.

He has shown both sides of the aisle fairness and compassion in his service as chairman, and he has mentored me. More importantly, when I asked him to come to my beloved city of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, he came and visited our great national lab there.

I honor Chairman HALL today, and I thank him for his great service to this House as chairman and as my friend.

A TALL TEXAN AMERICAN HERO

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to submit extraneous materials for the RECORD on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of tonight’s Special Order is to celebrate our friend and colleague RALPH HALL’s distinguished service in Congress. If there were a congressional hall of fame, tonight would be Representative HALL’s induction as the

oldest—some would say the most seasoned—voting Member in the House of Representatives.

As Members of Congress, we have the distinct honor of serving the American people. Each day as a Representative can be both challenging and rewarding; and though we sometimes make headlines, we do not always make history.

□ 1920

That is why today is especially important. Today is a day for the history books. After 32 years of service, Congressman RALPH HALL today became the eldest Member of Congress to cast a vote in the House of Representatives. And on Christmas Day of this year, Representative HALL will become the oldest Member of the House to have ever served in our Nation's history.

They say that with age comes wisdom. So Congressman HALL may also be the wisest man to have served in the House of Representatives. They also say that some things get better with age. In Representative HALL's case, his commitment to both his country and his constituents just continues to increase.

Since he was 19 years old, RALPH HALL has led a life of service for which we can all be grateful. As a lieutenant in the Navy during World War II, Chairman HALL served as a pilot, and since then he has never hesitated to accomplish a mission.

In fact, he recently was back up in the air. Following the lead of another great Texan, President George H.W. Bush, RALPH HALL parachuted out of an airplane this past August, proving that he's never afraid to jump right in.

That mentality has made him a distinguished Member of Congress and a very effective chairman of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee. Congressman HALL represents the Fourth District of Texas, which has only elected three Members of Congress in the last 100 years. His constituents back in northeast Texas are accustomed to electing strong leaders and keeping them there.

It was 100 years ago this month that his district elected a young farmer turned State representative named Sam Rayburn, who went on to serve in the House for the next half century. RALPH HALL knew and worked with Sam Rayburn early in his career when RALPH HALL was a county judge. He was elected to that position while he was still in law school.

Earlier today, we had the privilege of unveiling a new portrait memorializing Representative HALL's tenure as chairman of the Science Committee. It was fitting that the ceremony took place in the Rayburn House Office Building.

Throughout his tenure, RALPH HALL has been a consistent advocate for advancement through scientific research and development. He has been an ally of small businesses, and as Science Committee chairman has worked to ensure that business owners are not unnecessarily burdened by excessive EPA regulations.

RALPH HALL has fostered programs to better understand extreme weather and to ensure that citizens are prepared for natural disasters. He also has worked to advance science education and programs that promote medical, energy, and technological breakthroughs to benefit future generations.

Throughout his time in Congress, Chairman HALL has served this institution with style and humor. Back home, you would be hard pressed to find a constituent who hasn't been given an "All for Hall from Rockwall" encased penny that is a fixture of his campaigns going back to his first race.

His constituent service is second to none—which is a large part of why he has had no difficulty in getting re-elected back home no matter how his district lines have changed over the past three decades.

In Washington, to this day, he still gives his constituents more White House tours personally than any other Member of the House.

It is an honor to work with RALPH HALL as both a colleague and a friend. RALPH HALL has always said, "I'd rather be respected at home than liked in Washington." Actually, he has achieved that rare combination of both.

We thank RALPH HALL for his service to the Congress and to our country.

Mr. Speaker, before I recognize other Members of Congress here tonight, I just want to remind us all that this Special Order is only an hour long, and given the number of people from whom we have had requests to speak, we are going to ask each person who does speak to limit themselves to 2 minutes or less so we'll have time not only for the Members who want to speak, but we'll also hear from RALPH HALL at the end of this Special Order.

Having said that, I'm pleased to yield to the gentleman from Texas, Congressman JOE BARTON, who is the second-most-senior Member of the Texas delegation.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. There are many RALPH HALL stories, most of which we can't really tell on the House floor—that's how funny they are—but I want to tell one real, true RALPH HALL story which is the epitome of a Texan.

Several years ago, RALPH told me that he had some property up over in his district and he didn't have time to go visit it. He had been involved in a bank, and apparently the bank had taken control of the property, and somehow RALPH had gotten control of the bank's assets legally, so it was his property, but he never had time to go visit it. He had a caretaker who was taking care of his property. He began to get letters from the Railroad Commission down in Austin. The Railroad Commission is in charge of oil and gas leases and royalties for the State of Texas, and they kept sending these letters asking where to send his royalty checks. And he finally called down and said: I don't have any oil and gas wells, what are you talking about?

Well, he said, on such and such a plat in such and such a county, you're the listed owner of this producing oil well. So RALPH took time one weekend to drive up by himself, and sure enough there was a producing oil well on some property that he did not know about. Obviously, he made a change in who was his caretaker at that property, but that is one true RALPH HALL story that shows the epitome of being the Texan that he is.

I first got to know RALPH back in 1985 when I was a freshman on the Science and Space Committee and RALPH was subcommittee chairman of the Space Subcommittee. Since that time, he and I have become good friends. He is the epitome of a true Texas gentleman. He is the most well-liked person in the congressional delegation, not just from Texas but from the entire Congress, and I am very honored to be one of the very few who gets to speak on what a great man he is. We're so glad that he's still in the Congress.

So, RALPH HALL, we love you. We hope you serve for another 10–20 years and continue to be an inspiration to the Fourth District of Texas.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas, SAM JOHNSON, a true Texas hero.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

You know, RALPH's district adjoins mine. He and I have represented the same area in Collin County for many years. RALPH is just one of a kind. He's one of the nicest guys I've ever known. It's a privilege to recognize my fellow Texan and good friend for his many years of outstanding service to our country and to the great State of Texas.

RALPH is a man of great integrity whose steadfast commitment of service to our Nation is to be commended. RALPH and I have known each other a long time, and I'm lucky to have him as a neighbor and friend. I don't have a better friend or ally in the Congress, and I want to congratulate RALPH on reaching this milestone.

He was in the United States Navy and he fought for our country in World War II. And then when we got back up where we do an event every year in McKinney, Texas, he was kind of mad at me because I jumped out of an airplane five times and he hadn't jumped out of one. And so he decided he was going to jump out of one just so he could come to that meeting and tell us he did it. And he did.

He's still a great patriot. He lives and breathes America. I look forward to many more years with RALPH HALL.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, who is the ranking member of the Science Committee of which RALPH HALL is the chairman.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much. I rise today to

honor Congressman RALPH HALL, who is the dean of our Texas congressional delegation, and a lifelong public servant from the State of Texas.

□ 1930

I don't know that I have a better friend in this body than RALPH HALL, and our relationship goes all the way back to the Texas Legislature.

When I first went to the Texas House back in 1972, he was a part of the senate. And I still have a little penny that is encircled in a little silver band that says, RALPH HALL of Rockwall. And I've always kept it as something special because he is a very special person to me.

When he switched parties in 2004, and I've said this before, I tried to call him several times and I didn't get a response. So I finally said, just, I want to leave this message; tell him I still love him. In 30 seconds, he called me back. And I really meant that. I meant it then; I mean it now, because party has never been anything that separated friendship, and he's a perfect example of that.

His sense of humor has been so useful on the committee that often it's used to make witnesses more comfortable or to break some of the partisan bickering.

But whatever, he's unique in this body. If we had more RALPH HALLS, we wouldn't have the rating that we have today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Congressman RALPH HALL, Dean of the Texas Congressional delegation and a life-long public servant from my State of Texas.

RALPH HALL is often quoted, saying "I'd rather be respected at home than liked in Washington." I do both. I have tremendous respect for him as my Chairman of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology and he is a true friend back home in North Texas. RALPH HALL in many ways has been able to transcend the extreme partisan climate which exists in Washington today with his keen political acumen and candid sense of humor.

Through our shared experiences in the Texas legislature and on the Science Committee, I have learned that RALPH enjoys a good joke and that I should not try to match him in storytelling. RALPH uses humor to diffuse tensions in a room. I have seen him use it to do everything from stopping partisan bickering to easing a witness's nerves. It's a real skill and I have truly appreciated it over the years.

You may recall back in January of 2004 after serving 12 terms as a Democrat, RALPH HALL decided to run as a Republican. I was the first Democrat to call RALPH when he switched parties. As soon as I heard this news I attempted to call him at his office, however I was unable to get in touch. After a few more attempts, I left a message saying, "just tell him that I still love him." He called me right back, and said he was so happy to hear my message because his wife was mad at him. Some said she actually had him sleeping on the couch. He knew several of his Democratic friends would be upset with him.

Our districts are practically right next to each other and we had been friends for years.

I wanted him to know that I certainly didn't agree with the switch, but that we would always be friends, and I meant it.

It has been an honor to be his friend and colleague all of these years. RALPH HALL continues to inspire and encourage us all through his milestone of service to our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize RALPH HALL for his many accomplishments as an exceptional politician, civic leader, businessman and shining example of the American dream.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield to the gentlewoman from Texas, KAY GRANGER.

Ms. GRANGER. Like all the Members that are speaking tonight, I'm very honored to pay tribute to our friend, RALPH HALL. And I thank Congressman LAMAR SMITH for organizing this very well-deserved tribute.

Congressman HALL served his country as an aircraft carrier pilot in World War II, and has continued his commitment to service ever since.

As the oldest Member of Congress to cast a recorded floor vote, the dean of the Texas congressional delegation, and the oldest Member of this House, Congressman HALL has a long, distinguished career behind him.

More important than the longevity of RALPH HALL's service, however, is the incredible dedication and commitment to his constituents that he's shown in his service. Congressman HALL has repeatedly earned the trust and respect of voters of north Texas who elected him to his first political office 62 years ago, and they've been sending him back with overwhelming support for 32 years. All along the way, in every office he's served, Congressman HALL has made Texas proud, and continues to do so as chairman of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Serving with RALPH has been a true honor, and I look forward to continuing to serve with him well into the future.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas, PETE SESSIONS, the next chairman of the Rules Committee.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Chairman, thank you very much.

Tonight we all rise in support of the favorite son of Rockwall, Texas, and perhaps all of Texas, the Honorable RALPH HALL.

And I think of so many wonderful stories about RALPH. Tonight you'll hear many of them, Mr. Speaker, of the Texas delegation, of the life and times of our members, as we not only try and gather together every week, but also work together.

One of my favorite stories about RALPH HALL really took place with the young woman who was just up here, KAY GRANGER. One night KAY GRANGER, then as a Member of my Congress, and myself—this is probably 12, 13, 14 years ago—were with RALPH HALL at the brand-new Reagan airport. And we sat down, waiting for a flight that was going to be in 35 or 40 minutes, that got delayed 35 or 40 minutes

or maybe longer, and about an hour and a half later, the American Airlines people came and said, Just so you know, the flight left about 30 minutes ago. Do y'all want to have dinner with us or what?

And we looked up at each other and we'd missed the flight, and that was because RALPH HALL was telling the funniest stories of taking time with KAY GRANGER and me, sitting around a small table at Reagan airport.

And he was doing more than just telling stories. What RALPH was really trying to do was to mentor KAY GRANGER and PETE SESSIONS on, not the life and times of RALPH HALL, but to talk about citizenship and of service and of benefit to people. And he talked about how he, in his personal life, lived his life for the benefit of other people.

From that day forward, I learned more about RALPH HALL and have continued to want to hear him and tell the stories. Every time it is about how you can better your life, about how you can look at what your service and your time and the things that you do is about other people, not yourself. RALPH HALL, for all the years that I am sure he has served, whether it was as a State senator or a county judge or as a distinguished Member of Congress, RALPH has done so for others.

RALPH comes and goes every single weekend. I've never spent a weekend in 16 years that I've been a Member of Congress, and I'm sure RALPH has not in the time he's been here since the early eighties.

Mr. Speaker, RALPH HALL is an important and distinguished Member of this body, and he has brought distinction, not just to the Texas delegation and not just to the people that he recommends, but I think to all of America, as a statesman, a man who gets his work done, not to put himself forward, but to put others.

I think he's a model of success. He's a model of somebody that I want to become more like. But I will tell you what: If we will take the time tonight, those of my colleagues that have not known him, to watch the way RALPH does it, he even does it today the same way he did it the first day he came here. And that, to me, is a legacy of RALPH HALL, a great Member of Congress and one of my colleagues.

I'm proud and pleased to be here tonight with the Honorable RALPH MOODY HALL, Member of Congress.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas, JOHN CULBERSON.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, the Proverbs tell us that our good name is our most valuable possession on Earth, and by that measure RALPH HALL is truly one of the wealthiest men in America. He's earned the trust of his constituents over and over again, as he has earned the trust of his colleagues, because we know, his constituents know, that RALPH HALL always keeps his word, that RALPH HALL always does what's right for America. He does the

right thing for the right reason on every occasion.

And he understands that his service in Congress is for his fellow man. Just as he served us in uniform in our Armed Forces, RALPH serves here as he served as county judge, as he served as State senator for the benefit of Texas, for the benefit of America.

It's an extraordinary privilege for me to serve with him, to look to RALPH HALL as a mentor, as a friend, as a colleague, as a fellow Texan, to honor him tonight, one of the great Americans, one of the great Texans ever to serve in the United States Congress, RALPH HALL. We honor and thank him for his service to the Nation and to the great State of Texas.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield to the gentleman from Texas, JEB HENSARLING, the next chairman of the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. HENSARLING. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in great honor to recognize my friend and fellow Texan, RALPH HALL, for being the oldest Member of Congress to cast a recorded vote on the House floor. It is not often that I have been given the opportunity to recognize someone with such a long, long, long, very long history of service to our country.

Everyone in this institution knows that RALPH's passion in this institution is science and space and technology. It represents the areas of the committee he now chairs.

When I came here, I asked someone, Why is RALPH such an expert in science? And someone said, Well, you may not know it, but according to some, he was there when Columbus discovered the Earth was round, Newton discovered gravity, and Franklin discovered electricity.

Now, Mr. Speaker, they say that imitation is the greatest form of flattery, and this was a poor attempt on my part to show how RALPH HALL brightens this institution every day with his humor. He is clearly the wittiest Member of Congress in a body that is in desperate need to be brightened up and occasionally benefited by such wit and humor.

But besides his wit and humor, for those who really know him, he is clearly one of the wisest men to ever serve in this body. And I certainly benefit from that wisdom, as do so many others.

□ 1940

Mr. Speaker, we heard earlier that RALPH has said, I'd rather be respected at home than liked in Washington. The truth is, not only is he respected in Rockwall, Texas, he is beloved in Rockwall, Texas. And not only is he liked in Washington, more importantly, he is respected in Washington. And more importantly, he is respected by both Republicans and Democrats alike. And that, Mr. Speaker, is a huge, huge testament.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to recognize a Texas legend, a World War II veteran, a statesman, a role model for all American citizens, including my children. I'm honored to recognize him on this historic occasion. I'm honored to recognize this institution for this historic moment. But most of all, I'm honored to call RALPH HALL my friend.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas, MICHAEL BURGESS.

Mr. BURGESS. I thank the gentleman for the recognition.

I don't want to say that RALPH HALL has been here for a long time, but he was here when the Earth cooled the first time.

RALPH, I just can't tell you what it's meant to serve with you. When I was a freshman Member of Congress, you actually were on the other side of the aisle. You were the ranking Democrat on the Science Committee, and I served with you there. Certainly, your ability to get your way in that committee was something that I've always marveled at, because we had the votes, but you had the way of getting things done. And then I lost the ability to have my bills bipartisan because I always got RALPH to cosponsor whatever crazy little bill I had up there and it became bipartisan, and then RALPH switched sides on me. I wasn't able to utilize that any longer.

I've got to tell you, RALPH, one of the profiles in courage that I will always remember from my service here in the House, I hadn't been here 3 months and it was the first budget vote that I had lived through. It was a pretty wild night. It went on late. The budget was kind of seesawing back and forth with not quite enough votes to pass, and then it had enough and then people switched. Right at the end, RALPH HALL came down this very aisle to this table and cast the deciding vote in favor of the Republican budget. At the time, he was a Democrat, but it was important to him. Our country had just gone to war in Iraq. The President needed the support of the House of Representatives. To RALPH, that was an important vote to cast. Honestly, I'll just never forget that profile in courage that you showed that night and how you put country above party, you put country above self, and you made that sacrifice.

RALPH, it has been an honor to serve with you. You are a near neighbor in north Texas. We ride back and forth on that darned plane every week, and it is a testament to your ability to not just serve here in Washington, but take care of your folks at home in Rockwall.

RALPH, it's been an honor to serve with you.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas, JOHN CARTER.

Mr. CARTER. I thank you for yielding.

I'm really pleased to step up tonight and say a little bit about my friend,

RALPH HALL. Here he is, the oldest Member to cast a vote on this floor.

Texas has sent an awful lot of treasure to this place over the years. We've shared resources. We are a State of resources. We shared our resources, we think, pretty graciously with the rest of the country. And when we shared RALPH HALL with this body, we shared one of Texas's treasures.

We've talked about RALPH, and most of the stories that have been told I have known and thought about sharing. But the truth is that when I think about RALPH HALL, it's amazing. People that don't really know him in Texas think they know him because they know his reputation.

It's been said that a statesman is a person who puts everything above himself and all partisanship aside and tries to do what's right for the country. I've watched RALPH as a Democrat, I've watched him as a Republican, and that's what he does.

A national treasure is something they bury in the ground, so RALPH doesn't like to talk about that, but what he does like to talk about is the fact that we all need to be nice to each other. And RALPH HALL is like what we Texans define as a Texan. And the first definition every Texan will give is a man that'll look you straight in the face, make a deal with you, look him in the eye, he gives you his word, and you can count on it. That's the definition we Texans cherish.

He is the man who originated that definition, because he's the man you can look in the eye, and when he promises you he's going to do something, he's going to do it; but even more importantly, to be a person who has charm and grace and humor and the ability to make your day brighter every time you see him. I don't know of anybody in my life I've ever met that has that talent like RALPH HALL. That makes him a treasure.

God bless you, RALPH.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas, RANDY NEUGEBAUER.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I thank the gentleman.

I rise this evening to talk about my young friend, RALPH HALL. One of the things about RALPH is that he is like the Energizer bunny. He's up just about every morning pretty early and walks. But most of the time you will see him down at the White House about 7:30 letting some constituent in for a White House tour or, in some cases, taking that constituent for a tour.

The thing about RALPH is he's never interested in RALPH; he's always just interested in you. If you walk up to RALPH, during that conversation it's going to come out, What can I do for you? What do you need? How can I help you?

What RALPH has done for all of his life is served. He understands that the roles that he's been allowed to serve in were really roles of servanthood. And he is the ultimate servant. He has the

servant's heart. It's a delight to be around him.

I've enjoyed serving on the House Science Committee with him. Sometimes there will be some adversarial conversations in a committee hearing, but RALPH has, always, a way to bring levity sometimes when levity is needed.

I woke up one morning here just a few months ago and I read in the paper: RALPH HALL Jumps Out of Airplane. Now that would shock some people, but I guarantee it didn't shock anybody in the Texas delegation, because we know when RALPH wants to make a point, he just goes ahead and makes the point.

Now, you've got this guy that gets up at 7 o'clock in the morning, he's down at the White House, he jumps out of airplanes, he goes back and forth to Dallas every weekend, and the question, RALPH, that all of us want to know, is: What kind of vitamins are you taking? Because we all want to be on whatever diet that you're on.

But what I wanted to say about RALPH tonight is RALPH is a Congressman to many people and the people in Rockwall, but to all of us, RALPH HALL is our friend. And we're very proud of our friend, and we're very proud to have the opportunity to serve with a great man like RALPH HALL.

My RALPH HALL story is: We were celebrating one of his birthdays on a Thursday—the Texas Republican delegation has lunch every Thursday—and somebody had brought a birthday cake in, and I think we had a candle there. We just had one of kind of commemorate all of the years. The fire marshal wouldn't let us bring all the rest of them, RALPH, I'm sorry. Anyway, he was making light of his birthday, and he looked at us and he said, The worst thing somebody can say to you on your birthday is, Doesn't he look natural?

What we know is that RALPH HALL is not a natural person. He's a supernatural person.

RALPH, we love you and we appreciate the opportunity to serve with you. God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas, MIKE CONAWAY.

Mr. CONAWAY. Thank you, Mr. SMITH.

I, too, want to add my congratulations and prideful acknowledgement of RALPH HALL's long service. You've heard the long list of his accomplishments and his service. RALPH represents the folks in northeast Texas ably and well, including my alma mater, Texas A&M at Commerce. He is a terrific individual.

I'm in constant awe of his quick wit and his storytelling ability. RALPH is never at a loss for some remark or response to whatever is going on. It just makes you want to laugh out loud. That is a rare talent—one that I would love to have, but don't. I am in awe of his quick wit and his wisdom.

I'm also in awe of his gentle spirit and kindness that he expresses to every

single individual. It is deep-seated and it is heartfelt and it is genuine and real. And those of us that have the honor and the privilege of service with RALPH HALL understand it and bask in it on every single occasion.

So I would simply like to add my congratulations and heartfelt admiration to serve with RALPH HALL and to be able to say that when I write about whatever I did in Congress, one of the lines in there will be that I had the honor and privilege of serving with RALPH HALL at a time when he was at his best.

RALPH, congratulations.

□ 1950

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas, TED POE.

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the chairman for yielding. Thank you for sponsoring this Special Order where we can, as a body, recognize our friend and fellow Texan, Chairman RALPH HALL.

Mr. Speaker, we Texans are proud of our State, we're proud of our heritage, and we're proud of the people that have been in our State. Texans have a long history of remarkable Texans in our history, men and women with, I shall call it, personality, uniqueness, all the way back to General Sam Houston—and there are many others. But on that list will be, and is, Chairman RALPH HALL. He is a person of personality and character—and quite a character.

He has not always been a Republican. At one time he sat over here. He was a Democrat. He switched, got religion, and came over and became a Republican. But his principles have never changed; they have always been the same. Whether he sat over here or whether he sat over here, he has always been a man of remarkable character and always voted his principles.

He is a World War II veteran. We have a special place in this country for veterans like him that served in the great World War II. My dad served in World War II. He was on the other side of the world while RALPH was flying off of aircraft carriers in the Pacific.

There is a special something about World War II veterans. They understand American history. They understand the importance of our military and how it's important for us as a Nation to always do two things—have a strong military, and then support our veterans when they return home, whether they return home as wounded warriors or whether they return home with the scars of war, and some that return home in those caskets. RALPH HALL makes sure that we remember our veterans.

He was a business owner. He ran for office because his wife wanted him to run for office. Mary Ellen was responsible for him spending many years on the campaign trail running for office. As the chairman of the Science Committee, he has been a special fan of NASA. We in Texas, we love NASA. When he learned—rumor has it—that

the space shuttle was going to New York City instead of Houston, Texas, rumor is that he was trying to get a posse to go up to New York and bring that shuttle back to Houston where it belongs. I don't know if that's true or not.

RALPH HALL loves America, he loves this body, he loves Texas, but most of all he loves the American people. It's a great honor to recognize you, a statesman and favorite son of Texas, Chairman RALPH HALL.

And that's just the way it is.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas, LOUIE GOHMERT.

Mr. GOHMERT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for yielding.

It is an honor, privilege and a pleasure—all three—to be here to pay tribute to our friend RALPH HALL. I think I'm the only one that has spoken that was actually represented by RALPH HALL, and so it's not my first testimonial for the gentleman from Rockwall.

In fact, in 2001, it looked like there was a new redistricting map the legislature had come out with, and it was going to put my home town of Tyler in a different district. During my years on the bench, I had been concerned about some of the Federal laws that were luring people into ruts they couldn't get out of without any hope, and that's when I first thought about running. But I knew, and I said publicly, as long as RALPH HALL is my Congressman there's no need for me to run. I know that man, I know his heart, I know his convictions—not criminal convictions, I don't know of any of them—but I know the convictions of his heart, and I know him to be a man of conscience, a moral, upright, decent man who had a wonderful wife, and there was no way there was a need for me to run as long as RALPH HALL was my Representative.

I was told by some Republican leaders, look, he's a Democrat, you ought to run against him anyway, and I said no way. I couldn't do any better than RALPH HALL. I'm well represented. But in 2003, finally the legislature actually did redistricting, and we ended up in a different district, and I ran. But I've been amazed not only by the incredible knowledge of science and technology and the workings of this body, but as others have alluded to, the sense of humor. But now one thing I've noticed, a lot of times around here people get a good joke, they just keep it to themselves, whereas RALPH shares even funny material.

We had a college coach here that was going to speak to a big group of Members of Congress, and somebody told him, just start off with something funny and you'll be fine. He was nervous, and he said, I don't know anything funny. So RALPH said, well, what would you like it on? He said, well, what about education? He said, here's your joke:

A teacher tells her first-grade kids that they've got to come back and tell

some family story that is told around the family. Everybody in the classroom the next day had their story, but little Johnny never raised his hand. Finally, she said, Johnny, everybody's done their family story but you, don't you have one? And he said, well, I do have one, it's even got a moral, but I don't know. The teacher said: Well, is it clean? He said sure. She said, Well, go ahead and tell it. So Johnny got up and said, Well, my Aunt Katie was in the Air Force as a pilot, and she got over hostile territory. My Aunt Katie always was prepared for the worst. She had a bottle of whiskey, an Uzi, a 9mm and a knife in the cockpit with her just in case something happened. Sure enough, she got hit, she's going down. She ejects, drinks the bottle of whiskey real quickly, and then sees all these enemy soldiers coming at her, wipes out a couple dozen of them with the Uzi, takes the 9mm, wipes out 12 more, and then hits the ground. Three more come at her, and she takes them out too.

The teacher said: Good grief, that's a family story and you say it has a moral? He said, Well, I don't know if you'd call it a moral, but it's what everybody in our family knows, and that is, when Aunt Katie's been drinking, you don't mess with her.

So, anyway, I was impressed that he shared that, but more than anything I'm proud to have shared time here and seen a true Representative at work. It's been my honor. Thank you, RALPH, for all you've done.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas, PETE OLSON.

Mr. OLSON. I thank my colleague and fellow Texan for giving me a couple of minutes to talk about RALPH HALL, a man we all know, a man we all love.

My comments are going to focus on some of the amazing events that have occurred during RALPH HALL's life and brought him to this record-setting vote he cast earlier this evening.

God had a plan for RALPH, some might call it fate—fate, which is appropriate, because RALPH's journey to get here started in Fate, Texas, population 299. RALPH was born there on May 3, 1923. Fate ensured that RALPH would have amazing brushes with history.

One amazing brush with history RALPH had occurred as a young teenager pumping gas in Rockwall, Texas. RALPH filled up a car of a young couple, a man and a woman, very well dressed, heading east. RALPH got a great tip—a quarter. In those days that was a lot of money.

□ 2000

He went into the service station to tell the boss what had happened, about the tip. He glanced at the newspaper, and he froze.

He had just filled up a car, the two occupants of which were the pictures of two people on the newspaper, the front page. These two people were Bonnie

and Clyde, the notorious gangsters who met their demise shortly after leaving Rockwall, Texas. RALPH pumped gas for Bonnie and Clyde.

But RALPH has not just had amazing brushes with history, like Bonnie and Clyde. He's made history. As a county judge, a State legislator, a United States Congressman, RALPH made our country stronger and made the world better.

I have had the honor and privilege to work with Chairman HALL for nearly 4 years to ensure America retains its dominance in human space flight.

When the Obama administration's ill-conceived budget of 2010 threatened to lose that dominance, RALPH used every tool in the toolbox of life that he had accumulated in public service to give him the tools to win the battle.

Here are a couple of those tools: Neil Armstrong; General Tom Stafford, who was here earlier today; and Gene Cernan. RALPH built a bipartisan coalition and saved the Orion crew capsule and put the United States on a path to go beyond low Earth orbit.

As a boy who grew up a mile and a half from the Johnson Space Center, I have seen RALPH HALL make history and put our country on a course where my kids, your kids, our grandkids can see an American walking on another celestial body.

RALPH, thank you for the impact you've had on my life and my family's life.

We've all talked about the chairman going parachute jumping earlier this year. I thank you for that, Mr. Chairman. Because you did that, my 15-year-old daughter came up to me and said, Dad, let's jump out of a plane when I turn 18. Thank you. Thank you for that, Mr. Chairman. You've made a difference in my life. You've made a difference in the world. We love you. We thank you.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida, BILL POSEY.

Mr. POSEY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I appreciate the opportunity to join with my colleagues in recognizing Chairman RALPH HALL for his tenure and as chairman of the House Science Committee.

During his service, Congressman HALL has been one to reach across the aisle and forge bipartisan coalitions to support important legislation. And no program, in my view, has benefited more from his bipartisan commitment than the United States space program.

Representative HALL has been an especially strong voice for our Nation's human space flight program, which has benefited not only Texas and Florida, but has propelled our Nation on a path of unprecedented scientific and technological advancements.

We can all learn a lot from our colleague. Congressman HALL leads by example, and he is well known for calling a spade a spade. His word truly is his bond, and you can always take that to the bank.

Advancing our Nation's human space flight program has been a hallmark for Chairman HALL. And as we look out at America's next generation of explorers, space is their destiny. And he'll help ensure that they reach it.

RALPH, there's a lot of work to do, and I'm truly honored by the opportunity to serve with you to get 'er done. I only hope and pray that when I'm 65 years old, I'll be in half as good shape or half as smart as you. God bless you, RALPH.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas, QUICO CANSECO.

Mr. CANSECO. I thank my friend and colleague and fellow Texan, Chairman SMITH, for yielding.

Today, I honor a great man, a great Texan, a great American, RALPH HALL. As he makes history today for being the most experienced Member—in life-long years—of this Chamber to cast a vote, I am proud, as a member of the Texas delegation, to call him a friend and a colleague.

RALPH HALL embodies so many of the virtues we celebrate as Americans. He is a man who is forever devoted to his family. He is a patriot who served his country during World War II. He is a public servant who has dedicated his life to serving the people of Texas and the United States. He is an example to all Americans not just for his service to family and country but in the graceful manner in which he goes about his tasks and the joy that he inspires in all of us.

This Chamber will always be grateful for the service that RALPH HALL has given to the House of Representatives and to the Nation.

We all enjoy his good humor, his dedication, and his love of country that he brings to his job each and every day.

Tonight, as we pay tribute to RALPH HALL and wish him many more years of service to the people of Texas and the United States, I thank him for the privilege of serving by his side as a friend and a colleague in the House of Representatives of the United States Congress.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas, BILL FLORES.

Mr. FLORES. I thank Chairman SMITH for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my Texas colleagues who has just become the oldest known Member of the House of Representatives to cast a recorded vote on the House floor. And I applaud Congressman RALPH HALL for passing this historic milestone.

RALPH was first elected to represent the Fourth District of Texas back in 1980 and is preparing to enter his 17th term when the 113th Congress convenes next year.

Congressman HALL currently serves as chairman of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee. He is the longest-serving Member of the committee and is the first Member to serve as ranking member as both a Republican and as a Democrat.

Now, everybody knows what a comedian RALPH is, and I want to share a funny story with you about him. At his birthday party in May of 2011, I was asked to say a few words about him. So I talked for a few minutes about him and about what it was like to serve with him. And I ended by saying that I hoped to wrap up my time in Congress in just three to four terms and that I would never aspire to serve as long as he has, to which RALPH dryly replied, Well, Bill, we're going to miss you. So that's just the way RALPH is. He adds levity to every situation.

Mr. Speaker, it's an honor to work alongside RALPH. I look forward to serving with him in the future in addressing the many pressing needs of the American people.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas, BLAKE FARENTHOLD.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. I am honored to be here today, as well, to pay my respect in tribute to Congressman RALPH HALL.

As a freshman in Congress, there's a whole lot to learn. When I came in, RALPH HALL was one of those people that was larger than life. And he remains larger than life after I've been here for 2 years.

He is the kind of guy that you aspire to be like in Congress—able to solve problems, able to get things done across party lines, friends with everybody, always a smile on his face, always a joke on his lips. He is a problem-solver, and that's what we need here in Washington is people who solve problems.

A perfect example that you've heard some of my colleagues allude to earlier today, there were some folks saying, RALPH HALL is too old to serve in Congress. Well, he solved that problem by jumping out of an airplane. And I'm going to tell you something. For a Navy pilot—I represent two naval training facilities—I guarantee you naval pilots do not like to jump out of a perfectly good airplane. Getting out of an airplane is a bad sign for a Navy pilot before it's landed.

RALPH HALL epitomizes and is the perfect example of what it is to be a Congressman. He could make friends with a fence post. And as I've told my wife Debbie, When I grow up, I want to be RALPH HALL.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas, KENNY MARCHANT.

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, today we honor our dear friend and colleague RALPH HALL for becoming the oldest Member to cast a vote in the history of the House of Representatives.

I have had the privilege of knowing RALPH for decades. He is a dear friend and a tireless advocate for the people of the Fourth Congressional District of our home State.

□ 2010

RALPH's service to the country did not start with his election to Congress

in 1980, but started long before. He answered the country's call to serve in the service in World War II, serving in the Navy as an aircraft carrier pilot from 1942 to 1945. Later in his life, RALPH served in the Texas Legislature from 1962 to 1972.

RALPH, I did not have the opportunity to serve with you in the Texas Legislature. We were there at different times. But you served with honor, and you served as the Senate pro tempore for 2 years.

Though RALPH's time in the Texas Legislature predated me, he has always been and always will be a legend in Austin, Texas. Today, my friend continues to distinguish himself in Congress serving as the chairman of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

There never has been anyone quite like RALPH before. He is a true Texan, a true Texan hero, and I am proud to call him my friend. Though he qualified for retirement a couple of decades ago, he still serves his country and constituents with honor and distinction.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois, RANDY HULTGREN.

Mr. HULTGREN. Thank you, Chairman SMITH.

I rise today to honor my colleague from Texas, Congressman RALPH HALL, whom I have come to know over the last few years, not only as the chairman of our Science Committee, but also as a personal friend and leader.

As Science Committee chairman, RALPH HALL has been a strong advocate for our Nation's leadership and preeminence in space exploration and launch capabilities. It is self-evident that his personal experience and expertise has carried over into a passion for American preeminence and flight in aviation.

Today, as you have heard, RALPH HALL will become the oldest known House Member to cast a recorded floor vote, and this is a great opportunity to reflect on his record of service to our Nation. We recognize not only his service here in Washington as a Member of the House of Representatives, but also his home State of Texas as a member of their legislature and as a veteran of the Second World War.

While Congressman HALL's wit, humor, and bipartisanship are rare today, they're attributes sorely needed now more than ever. I feel privileged to have served with him during my first term of Congress, to follow his leadership on NASA and human spaceflight policy, to hear his stories and knowledge spanning nine decades, and to count him as friend.

I realize more than ever that someone who is 91 years old can say a lot of things that someone 46 years old would get in a lot of trouble saying. So I'm grateful hearing you speak all the time, and I enjoy your jokes so much. Congressman HALL is not only a fighting ace and a military hero, but the

living embodiment of southern hospitality and good heartedness.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for your service, and congratulations on this wonderful milestone. I know we're going to see you continue to set records for years to come.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the time has come to recognize the man we have been honoring here tonight.

Earlier this evening, Congressman HALL broke the record for the eldest Member of Congress to have ever cast a vote in the United States House of Representatives. Actually, Mr. Speaker, every day RALPH HALL sets a record for his service to our country.

Mr. Speaker, the time of the Special Order is going to appear to expire in about 5 minutes, and I hope the Speaker might consider wielding a gentle gavel.

With that, I look forward to hearing from the gentleman from Texas, the gentleman from Rockwall, Texas, himself, RALPH HALL.

Mr. HALL. Well, I don't really want to make a speech. I've enjoyed these speeches I've listened to here. A lot of it was true. Good people, great guys and gals that I work with. I'm honored to be a part of it.

For the past 32 years, I've been here. I really came up here to stay 4 years, and that's what my wife and I agreed on. I just didn't say which 4 I was talking about. But she was always one to encourage me to run, because I had a son who was a district judge, and I think she felt that me being in Congress helped that son. Mommas always love their little cubs. I think he was really helping me, because he was running on the Republican ticket then and I was running on the Democratic ticket. I soon saw the light, and I came over. But I left good friends over here, and there's good people on both sides of the docket.

There's a lot of talk about the parachute. There are things you have to do in politics sometimes. I had a race that started this last time with 78 percent of the votes it looked like. A gentleman from Houston spent \$450,000 against me. He didn't know me, didn't know the two people running against me, but spent that amount of money to defeat me for some reason because he thought I was too old to be here. He picked five of us, and the other four didn't take him on. I tried to take him on some, but in taking him on I had to assure my people that I wasn't the old goof that he was saying I was, that I was capable of the work.

The only way I could think of doing it—I run a couple of miles every morning, and when I was running, I looked up and there was an airplane up there. I thought, If I could jump up and touch that airplane, they'd think I was agile enough maybe to keep on being their Congressman. If running 2 miles every morning, voting 99-plus percent of the time, if that wasn't enough, I had to do something else. So I decided if I jump 2 miles, maybe that would be it.

We got in an airplane. I got this guy, and he really was great. He trained me and showed me how to get in and out. Of course, I had flown probably a couple or 300 hours or 400 hours during the war, and I had made one jump during the war, but it wasn't a forced jump. I knew what it was, and I knew that it was okay. I also knew that it would tell people I had not had a stroke, and that's what they were putting out. I wanted them to know I was able and capable of representing them. They had to know that, and they were entitled to know that, so I decided to jump out of that airplane.

We got right over the opening there, and I looked down. I had maybe a couple of hundred people on the ground waiting there. He said, As you jump out, reach with your heel and kick me in the rear. I was glad to do that. Right at the last, I almost decided not to jump, but I was too close and I knew I had to. I might have been pushed a little. I don't even know. I did jump, and he held on to me so tight—there were two of us there. He was holding tight, and that kind of struck me. I turned around and asked him, "Do you mean it?" He said, "What do you mean?" I said, "You're holding me so tight. Do you care for me? What's the deal? There's a preacher down there, and the President said men can marry men. Maybe he'll just marry us when we get there." He said, "Shut up. The ground is going to be here in just a few minutes."

It was a pretty thing to see the Earth coming up to us there and seeing good friends down there that waited in hope for me. Even my undertaker was there. My undertaker meets me every time I go home with a tape measure and tells me he has one in store for me. He also tells me not to worry about flyers; if you don't like them, they'll finally grow on you. It's kind of a smart aleck way to do it, but he's my close friend. He was an intern when I was in the Texas Senate and one of the fine leaders of Rockwall.

For the past 32 years, I've had the honor and the privilege of representing the Fourth District of Texas here in Congress, and I think it's just an honor to know that there have been 10,747 men and women elected to serve and that I may be the oldest to ever serve or to ever vote on the floor. There are others that have been here but didn't vote. I think that date comes up sometime around the 21st day of December.

My first impression of the House of Representatives when I got here began with Speaker Sam Rayburn, whose district I represent. Speaker Rayburn and my wife were good friends at Mayo College. That's what the college name was before it was East Texas State Teachers College. When I was in the senate, I changed it to East Texas State University. My wife graduated from there, and I had the privilege of handing her her diploma. Those are good things, and that's a great institution over there.

Mr. Rayburn, was called by my mother, who had known him back in the earlier days and was at Mayo College with him, to give me some kind of a recommendation to be an officer in the Army or the Navy or the Marine Corps or something. He didn't call her back. He didn't write her a letter back. He came to the breakfast table to tell her, "Maude, I can't appoint that boy to anything. There's four reasons." She said, "What on Earth can that be?" He said, "All four of his grades." That was kind of true, because I always thought everything over 70 was wasted.

□ 2020

Not a good student. Not a good football player. We lost our car early in the Depression. One guy in the Depression said he'd eaten so many rabbits he was afraid of his own dog. We didn't have that kind of a problem, but we knew what the Depression was.

I fear for this country right today in that, if we don't get together and maybe forget that we're more Republican than we are Democrat or more Democrat than we are Republican, our children are going to suffer. We need to make a move and think of them. We owe our children an opportunity, and they owe us the effort. It's just that simple. I think, in this next session, we're going to all have some give, that we're all going to get together and try to work something out.

In our leader, we have a good Speaker. He's a guy I admire and respect, a kind Speaker, a guy who means the things that he says. He is a Speaker who cares about us. I don't agree with everything he says, but we need to forget any little pettiness that we have, get behind the leadership here, and try to write some legislation. It's for our children and for our children's children. That's the most important thing I think we can do.

I know my time is about up.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WEST). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, would it be appropriate to ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Texas have an additional 5 minutes, or more?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair cannot entertain that request.

Mr. HALL. I say to the Chair, thank you very much. I appreciate and understand what the rules are, and I thank my folks for being quiet up there when I know they wanted to be heard.

God bless this Speaker. God bless you, LAMAR SMITH. You'll make a good chairman of Science, Space, and Technology.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, over the course of our history, nearly 10,750 individuals have served in the House of Representatives. According to congressional historians, the gentleman from Texas, Mr. HALL, has just become the oldest known House Member to cast a recorded floor vote.

It is yet another extraordinarily milestone for this World War II veteran from Rockwall,

Texas, a small town east of Dallas. This is a proud moment for Mr. HALL's family, constituents, and all of us who have the privilege to serve with him.

Today, the House of Representatives is also accepting a portrait of Mr. HALL in recognition of his tenure as chairman of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. RALPH's record of service to the committee, and to our country, has been a thing of beauty, and John Boyd Martin's work certainly matches that description.

The portrait contains a view of the Capitol and a picture of RALPH and his wife Mary Ellen, who spurred him to get involved and run for his mentor Sam Rayburn's old seat. The House is accepting the portrait in honor of her memory.

Also worth noting in the portrait is the space shuttle on Mr. HALL's lapel. It's a fitting symbol of his long-standing commitment to the space program and America's leadership in discovery and innovation. It also signifies how Chairman HALL has focused on exploring all of our next frontiers—starting with our own energy resources. Chairman HALL not only keeps the shuttle—and all the promise it embodies—on his lapel. He keeps it in his heart too.

Like the casting of a vote, the presentation of portrait is a personal act, but its acceptance is a shared commitment. It is for us, Mr. HALL's peers and admirers, to continue the labors the portrait honors, to sustain the curiosity it celebrates. The House's efforts to commemorate Mr. HALL's voting milestone is a good start. There is much more to do, and we can rest assured that Mr. HALL himself will make a robust contribution to this work.

Mr. BRADY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Congressman RALPH HALL, representing Texans in the 4th District of Texas. A patriotic American, U.S. Navy Veteran of World War II, Texan, and more personally a true friend and mentor. First elected to Congress in 1980, Congressman HALL has committed over thirty years of his adult life ensuring his constituents are heard throughout the halls of Congress, all the way from the Lone Star State.

Congressman HALL's public service didn't just start when he arrived in Washington—RALPH was first elected as County Judge of Rockwall County, served as President of the State Judges and Commissioners Association and devoted ten years serving in the Texas Senate, where he rose to President Pro Tempore.

It is an honor to serve the great State of Texas side-by-side with Congressman RALPH HALL and his track record of success is admired far and wide; pretty good—for a boy born and raised in Fate, Texas.

I commend the family of Congressman HALL, the late Mary Ellen Murphy, and their three sons, Hampton, Brett, and Blakeley along with their five grandchildren for the countless hours they have sacrificed while RALPH represented Texas on the national stage.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to tackling the pressing issues of our current time and getting our country back on a track to fiscal sanity alongside with Representative HALL and as he puts it quite frankly and I agree, "I'd rather be respected at home than liked in Washington."

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor the extraordinary public service commitment of Congressman

RALPH HALL, the Science, Space, and Technology Committee chairman, the dean of the Texas Congressional Delegation, and my long serving colleague.

Today, Congressman HALL reigns as both the oldest Member of Congress and the oldest House Member known to cast a vote on the House Floor. I am pleased to say that Congressman HALL will also become the oldest person ever elected to a new House term, during the 113th Congress.

Congressman HALL, a lifelong native of the great State of Texas, has been a faithful public servant and has dedicated 32 years of service to representing the constituents of the 4th Congressional District of Texas.

In 1942, Congressman HALL became an aircraft pilot for the United States Navy and served our country during World War II. Congressman HALL soared to the top of military rankings, becoming a senior grade lieutenant.

Congressman Hall, thank you for your service in the Armed Forces in efforts to protect our freedoms and to ensure America is the greatest country on the Earth.

Congressman HALL also served the great State of Texas in both State and local government.

In 1950–1962, he served as County Judge of Rockwall County, Texas.

In 1958–1959, he served as President of the State Judges and Commissioners Association.

He served in the Texas Senate from 1962 to 1972, where he served as President pro tempore for a year.

In addition to a successful early political career, Congressman HALL is an accomplished businessman. He served as:

The President and CEO of Texas Aluminum Corporation,

The General Counsel of Texas Extrusion Company, and

He was a founding member of Lakeside National Bank in Rockwall County.

After his service in State government and achievements in the private sector, Congressman HALL decided to run for U.S. Congress. In 1980, he was elected to serve the Fourth Congressional District of Texas and has been re-elected each succeeding Congress.

Some say that his long tenure in Congress is related to his love for the Fourth Congressional District of Texas. I can attest that Congressman HALL loves his District, and he certainly loves the United States of America. Congressman HALL is often quoted, saying, "I'd rather be respected at home than liked in Washington."

Congressman Hall, we need more politicians like you who value the demands of the American people and recognize, we as elected officials, are accountable to those who elect us to office.

While in Congress, Congressman HALL has been the recipient of numerous awards. Among Congressman Hall's many achievements:

He has been credited for helping to advance research and development for new technologies to keep America competitive.

Congressman HALL has worked to utilize abundant domestic energy resources and helped explore alternative energy sources that would lower costs.

He has also played an integral role in ensuring America's preeminence in human space exploration.

I stand proudly before this body of Congress to honor Congressman RALPH HALL. He has contributed so many great things to our country, and he is the epitome of a great leader. I pray that you serve as the oldest Member of Congress for years to come.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, while today we commemorate Chairman HALL becoming the oldest Member to vote in the House of Representatives, we truly honor him, not for his age, but for the leadership, dedication, and commitment he has displayed since he was first elected to Congress in 1980. When I was first elected to the House two years ago, Chairman HALL asked me to join the Science Committee to bring my experience as a practicing surgeon to the Committee. In this way, Chairman HALL has recognized the experience and backgrounds of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle, newcomers and seasoned politicians alike.

Although Chairman HALL has made many friends here in Washington, what I admire most about him is his genuine commitment to the residents of the 4th district of Texas. As he often says he'd rather be respected at home than liked in Washington. With his gentle disposition and strong leadership, I believe he has found a way to do both.

On behalf of the 1st District of Michigan, and my colleagues on the Science Committee, Chairman HALL I thank you for your service to our country and for your leadership on the Committee, and I commend you on this momentous occasion. I look forward to serving with you for many years to come.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chairman RALPH HALL for his leadership on the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology; for his decades of selfless service to our country; and for his dedication to this esteemed body.

Today, Chairman HALL became the oldest Member to ever cast a vote in the House of Representatives. He has served in the House for 32 years, occupying the same seat that was once occupied by Speaker Sam Rayburn. RALPH's energy is legendary, second only to his sharp wit, and I hope to have half as much energy as he has when I reach his age.

His service to America started when, as a 19-year-old from Texas, he joined the United States Navy in 1942. Lieutenant HALL served as a pilot for the duration of World War II, and he has never stopped vigorously fighting for our nation.

I look forward to continuing to work with him in the future, and God-willing, he'll be here for 32 more years, continuing to cast every vote the right way.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and all of the Members of the House join me in honoring Chairman RALPH HALL for his leadership, his service, and his dedication.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the esteemed career of my friend and colleague RALPH HALL.

Today, RALPH became the oldest known House Member to cast a recorded floor vote. Also the oldest serving member of the U.S. House of Representatives and dean of the Texas delegation, RALPH has charmed friend and foe alike with his good humor and demeanor.

A man of incredible integrity and energy, RALPH has served his district with distinction in Congress for over three decades. A lawyer by trade, RALPH's career in public service began

as a County Judge of Rockwall County, Texas, and he went onto serve in the Texas Senate.

I have served with RALPH on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee and have appreciated his careful attention to the priorities of the Committee members and the science community. As an example, RALPH and I have worked closely to educate Committee members on the benefits of clean coal technologies. Like Illinois, Texas relies on coal for energy production, and our districts and the nation will benefit from technologies that can cleanly and efficiently utilize our most abundant source of energy. I am thankful to RALPH for his commitment to ensuring coal remains a part of a diverse energy portfolio.

Further, I was proud to work with RALPH on important Committee measures, such as reauthorization of the America COMPETES Act, which is critical to ensuring America remains a leader in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education.

Finally, proving time and time again that age has no bounds, I believe RALPH's most daring feat was his 10,000 foot drop from an airplane last August, skydiving at the age of 89. I admire RALPH's courage for taking that leap and see regularly how his bravery and nerve benefit those he serves. He fights daily for the interests of his constituents and they have continued to affirm his contributions to their community for the last 16 terms of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in an expression of appreciation to Congressman RALPH HALL for his years of dedicated service to the U.S. House and Texas, and to wish him and his family the very best in the future.

THE UNITED STATES ECONOMY AND JOBS

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from Texas would like to finish his statement, I would be happy to yield him 5 minutes.

Mr. HALL. I thank the gentleman—and you are a gentleman. You are my friend and I appreciate you.

I just think we need to get together and remember the most important part of all of us is our children and our children's futures. That's why we all get together, and that's the reason for us to change some of the positions we've taken in the past—to try to work something out that the American people expect us to.

You're a gentleman to offer me that. Maybe I've used part of that 5 minutes. Thank you very much.

Mr. GARAMENDI. You had a lot of people speaking to your extraordinary career here, and I didn't want to cut it short. Your advice is sound and, hopefully, taken by all of us.

Mr. HALL. My mother always told me to be silent and be thought a fool rather than to open my mouth and remove all doubt. So I don't want to get to talking too much. It's been too good

tonight. All these people have said things, and I care for them. I care for this institution. I care for the people on both sides of this aisle. I'm honored to get to be a part of this.

Thank you. God bless this country.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Thank you, Mr. HALL.

Apparently, a lot of people would agree given your extraordinary career and the work that you've done here in Congress over these many, many years and decades.

Part of what you've spent a good deal of your career working on, Mr. HALL, has been the improvement of the American economy. Tonight, I'd like to join a couple of my colleagues on the Democratic side to talk about the economy and to talk specifically about jobs and the things that we can do here in the waning days of this Congress to create some job opportunities.

We've got some very heavy lifting here in Congress in the next month and a half. Everybody wants to talk about the fiscal cliff. Some talk about an austerity bomb. Others talk about what needs to be done to lift the debt limit. All of these issues are before us—tax increases or not. Underlying all of that, foundational to all of that, is putting Americans back to work, getting Americans back into their jobs. If we do that, we will clearly increase employment. When you increase employment, you also increase tax revenue to the Federal Government, to State governments, and to local governments.

So our principal task, as I see it—and I think I'm joined by many of my colleagues, both Democrat and Republican—is to get the American economy going, to put it back in gear, and there are many reasons beyond just employment and the opportunities that families have to make it.

One of the critical elements in all of this is to protect Americans. We recently saw superstorm Sandy smash into New Jersey and New York. It had devastating results: loss of life, an incredible loss of property—both public and private—and a very, very big cleanup bill. Joining me in a little while will be some of our Representatives from the State of New York, and they'll talk about that in detail. But before Sandy ever hit the coast, there was a need here in America to protect Americans from storms and floods. We know what happens when the protection isn't there—devastating results.

In the news today, in northern California, there was in the headlines a series of storms coming to northern California—into my district, where my home is. The word is to get ready for serious flooding. I mean, this is very early in the season; although, Californians with any memory at all will know that there are a series of infamous Christmas floods in northern California. Now, this is really a Thanksgiving flood potential, but nonetheless, it's there.

I will tell you clearly that the Sacramento region, which is the second

most risky region in the Nation for flooding and flood damage, is right at the center of this storm. So that's the city of Sacramento. Perhaps 100,000 or more people are in serious jeopardy. Should a levee break in that region—and those levees are not up to 200-year standards—people would have less than 20 minutes to find high ground, to get out. It's an impossible situation. So we need serious infrastructure improvement—and that's Sacramento. The rest of my new district goes further north into Marysville and Yuba City, along the Sacramento River further north, and along the Feather and Yuba River—again, communities at high risk. Serious infrastructure needs to be developed. Levees need to be improved, upgraded, enhanced; otherwise, citizens are at risk, just as they were on Staten Island.

This is our responsibility. This is not only a local responsibility and a State responsibility—this is a national responsibility. This is when we become a national community, looking out for each other—in providing the basic infrastructure to protect us. We also have infrastructure that is necessary for commerce: our roads, our highways, our Internet systems, our rail transportation systems. All of these infrastructure items are critical to the economic well-being of America in addition to the human and commerce safety of this Nation. We're going to talk about that tonight.

Joining me is my colleague from New York. He has been working on this issue for some time. He has a project and a program that he is proposing, one that caught my attention. I've asked him to come and join us.

In being from the State of New York, we are talking about something that's very, very real for you. Please tell us what this is all about.

Mr. HIGGINS. I want to thank my colleague from California for his leadership on the infrastructure issue.

I think the problem that we see here in Washington is that the discussion is focused on the wrong thing. When you have a recession—an economic contraction—what your objective needs to be in terms of public policy is growth, growth in the economy. What we are experiencing now is anemic growth. For example, our growth rate is about 2 percent or less. That current rate of growth is not enough to sustain the current level of employment. In other words, if we don't grow this economy, our unemployment rate will necessarily go up.

We talk about debt and deficit in this Chamber, but if we remember, less than 12 years ago, we had a budgetary surplus of \$258 billion, meaning that we were taking in \$258 billion more in each year than we were spending. How was that possible?

□ 2030

It was made possible by having created 22 million private sector jobs in the previous 8 years. What was the pol-

icy then? The policy was to invest in the American economy, to invest in the American people, in education, scientific research and infrastructure. So I think the lessons from our most recent past are very instructive today as to what we should be doing in Washington to promote growth.

The gentleman from California spoke of a plan that I was working on, and that is a \$1.2 trillion investment in rebuilding the roads and bridges of America. That plan, advanced by the New America Foundation, would create 27 million private sector jobs in 5 years. The first year alone, over 5 million jobs which would reduce the current unemployment rate from where it is today to 6.4 percent and in the second year, 5.2 percent.

Now, public infrastructure as we know is a public responsibility. It's never a question as to whether or not we're going to rebuild our roads and bridges. The question is when does it make most sense to undertake that responsibility. And I would submit to you, the time to do it is now. Money is cheaper than it is ever going to be. Equipment is cheaper because it is idling, and labor is cheap because of the high unemployment rate.

We need to do nation-building right here at home. And when you consider we just spent as a nation \$89 billion rebuilding the roads and bridges of Afghanistan, we just spent \$67 billion rebuilding the roads and bridges of Iraq, nations of 30 million and 26 million respectively. And for this Nation, for America, a population of over 300 million people, and the American Society of Civil Engineers puts the quality of our infrastructure at a D, when the World Economic Forum rates us 24th in overall quality when in 2001 we were number two, we are going to spend less than \$53 billion. That's not only weak; it's pathetically weak.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. HIGGINS, thank you so very, very much for bringing this issue in very stark terms to our attention. You caught my attention earlier when we were talking about this; but here on the floor, this is a \$1.2 trillion program that could create 27 million jobs in the next 5 years, and those are economic analyses that have been done by the New America Foundation.

Mr. HIGGINS. That's correct.

Mr. GARAMENDI. How do we pay for this again?

Mr. HIGGINS. Well, you pay for it as you pay for transportation improvements at the local, State, and Federal level. You issue debt to finance the life of the project.

Mr. GARAMENDI. The same way we build and own our homes. We borrow the money to build that personal infrastructure, our home.

Mr. HIGGINS. That's right.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Now, the borrowing rate for the Federal Government on a 10-year note is a little over 1 percent or hovering around 1 percent now?

Mr. HIGGINS. A little over 1 percent for a 5-year Treasury note. It's one-half of 1 percent.

Mr. GARAMENDI. That's virtually free money.

Mr. HIGGINS. It's virtually free money.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Now, it does run up the debt; but we are using that money to create infrastructure, a necessary investment for the economy to grow and to protect ourselves.

Mr. HIGGINS. That's right. And according to Transportation for America, there are 69,000 structurally deficient bridges in the United States. There are over 2,000 structurally deficient bridges in New York State. There are 99 structurally deficient bridges in my community of western New York. Every second of every day, seven cars drive on a bridge in this Nation that is structurally deficient.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Well, we saw what collapse can do with the Minnesota bridge and the loss of life. We saw what inadequate infrastructure protecting New Jersey and New York can do with extraordinary loss of public investment as well as private investment—and lives.

Joining us for this discussion on jobs and creating jobs is part of what we like to call the east coast-west coast team. Congressman PAUL TONKO, you and I are often here on the floor to talk about how we can grow the American economy in a bipartisan way. This infrastructure notion that Mr. HIGGINS has brought to us I think has considerable merit and fits, I think, very easily with what President Obama has recommended in his American Jobs Act, which was an immediate \$50 billion enhancement of the \$60 billion that we would otherwise spend, bringing the total to over \$100 billion in the coming year. Again, enormous infrastructure.

Mr. TONKO, I know you are up on this issue. We have spent time talking about it in the past. Why don't you share with us your thoughts.

Mr. TONKO. Sure. And, Representative GARAMENDI, thank you for bringing us together for an hour of discussion on what is very important: growing jobs, strengthening our economy and strengthening the fabric of our communities by addressing public safety via investment in infrastructure, a very sound investment. It is always a pleasure to join you. It is an honor to serve in the New York delegation with Representative HIGGINS, BRIAN HIGGINS, who served with me, or I with him, perhaps better stated, in the New York State Assembly where I sat on the Transportation Committee. And I was seated on that committee right in 1987, in the shadow of the collapse of a New York State thruway bridge where 10 people perished. We recently commemorated the 25th anniversary of that event. It was very tragic, and it was in the heart of my home county, a small county of 50,000 people, Montgomery County, New York. And the impact economically that that dev-

astating occurrence brought to bear was incalculable.

So when you talk about, and I listened with interest to the exchange that you and Representative HIGGINS had about how do you pay for it, one way you don't want to pay for it is through an impact on the economy of your local region. The commerce hit that was taken was severe. The loss of dollars to the community was just incomprehensible, and of course the loss of lives which surpasses anything in importance. And interestingly, many of the individuals who were on that victims list were not from the region. So we're all impacted by weak infrastructure no matter in which State that might be because you never know when you're traveling over a situation that is unsafe.

So I think it is a wise investment to go forward and put to work tens of millions of skilled laborers who can make a difference in public safety in our communities, making certain that the soundness of investment and improvement, absolutely essential for our quality of life, for our public safety, for the strengthening of our commerce. And we know that infrastructure improvements—you and I have talked in the past about the infrastructure bank bill. We have talked about ways of leveraging dollars to weaken the impact on the public sector, on the taxpayer. There are ways to do that in very strident terms that allow us to go forward with the commitment and with the investment that is required.

But certainly with the aged infrastructure in this country, and to the earlier point made by Representative HIGGINS, if we can build other nations, and thank goodness that we have helped people strengthen their situation for their own people, but, my gosh, we should take advice, our own advice here, and understand that there is a strong bit of economic growth that occurs when you strengthen your infrastructure—from traditional roads and bridges to rail to communications, wiring our communities, and to the grid.

The grid system has had several tests—designed to run in a monopoly situation, and now being used to wield electrons from region to region, State to State, country to country. So there is a huge, vast involvement of infrastructure there that begs our investment. And I think for sound reasons, for public safety reasons, and for economic recovery purposes, it makes sense; and let's put the people to work, and let's build a stronger community.

Mr. GARAMENDI. It is all about jobs. Thank you very much, Mr. TONKO. Your personal experience in the New York Legislature and in your own community brings this issue into focus here on the floor of this House.

□ 2040

As we build this infrastructure, if we add one additional element to the creation of the infrastructure, something that, again, we've talked about here

many times, and that is that we use our money, our taxpayer money, whether it's borrowed or directly paid, that we use that money to buy American-made equipment, so that the steel that goes into the bridges is American-made, the cement made in America, manufactured in America, that we use that American money on American-made equipment.

In other words, make it in America, so we not only are doing the infrastructure and the jobs that come with it, but we also use that to revitalize our manufacturing sector. This is a very powerful way in which we can more rapidly expand the American economy.

I just happen to have two bills that would do that, one for the clean energy industry. If we're going to use our taxpayer money to subsidize the clean energy industry, wonderful. We need to do that for all kinds of reasons, but buy American-made clean energy products, whether it's a solar system or a wind turbine.

And similarly, with regard to transportation, the trains, the buses, the steel, let's buy that in America, American manufacturing.

I noticed a lovely lady joining us from the State of Ohio. It would be MARCY KAPTUR. You've talked about these issues many times. Thank you very much for joining us this evening.

Ms. KAPTUR. Congressman GARAMENDI, I want to say I'm just so privileged to join three such dedicated Members whose States have been wise enough to send them here to Washington. Obviously Congressman GARAMENDI from northern California and Congressman TONKO from the State of New York, the great State of New York, and Congressman BRIAN HIGGINS, also of the State of New York, a little bit upstate.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I thought he was associated with Ohio as much as he is with New York. Isn't he on the border out there somewhere?

Ms. KAPTUR. Well, you know, there's the St. Lawrence Seaway that kind of connects it all as it flows into the Atlantic Ocean.

But I wanted say, you know, many of us, all of us have come through very difficult campaigns in this political year of 2012. But what is wonderful about serving with the three of you is you keep the focus on jobs in this country, and the importance of making goods in America, and where wealth is really created, how we do that as a country, and what it takes to build a great country.

I look at the St. Lawrence Seaway, and I think about Dwight Eisenhower, a great general, led our forces in Europe, and came home and decided that America needed to create the St. Lawrence Seaway so that we would unlock the potential of the Upper Great Lakes and the Lower Great Lakes.

And you say to yourself, today, with some of the limited thinking that some exhibit—of course, no one in this Chamber would ever be accused of that,

right?—but could we do the St. Lawrence Seaway again?

I've had the great privilege of traveling out West—I think I've probably been in every State and almost every congressional district at one point in my career—and to look at the Hoover Dam. And as I admired the dam, I thought to myself, America has it in her to land a man on the moon and to create NASA, but here at home, our public works, do we have the vision?

Do we have a vision big enough today, in the 21st century, to match what those who came before us gave to us that put this continent together?

And as I travel, I see water systems in disrepair. In fact, in my hometown of Toledo, they're trying to find \$45 million to put a roof on the water treatment plant, which really needs \$500 million to fix.

I go to the new parts of the Ninth District, in the city of Cleveland, and I look at the need for infrastructure repair and, in the same city, so many unemployed people who could be put to work fixing the heart and soul of Cleveland.

Or Lorain, Ohio, the number of brownfields that are there where we're waiting to clear property so that we can clean it up, move the sewage treatment plant, move other assets that are there and create a much greater port on Lake Erie. And I say, do we have it in us?

I know I have it in me to want to do this. But I look back at what our heritage really is, the interstate highway system itself, when, again, during the 1950s, if we think about what was done, there was a time when this country, if you moved from—well, you couldn't move from Ohio to California on roads that intersected. People think that just happened, but it didn't. It took real vision to do that.

All the statistics show that when we invest in infrastructure, that is the most job-rich program that this country could ever promote. And to create efficiencies and intermodal connections—Congressman TONKO talked about fiber optics and about telecommunications and all of the new ways of connecting our country.

I've had the privilege in my career of representing many rural areas that are short, not just on doctors, but on telecommunications capabilities. It isn't just in the heart of Ukraine where people can't communicate; it's in rural America as well.

So I just came down here, I heard you speaking, and I thought, I identify with your cause. Thank you for talking about jobs inside the Congress of the United States. Thank you, Congressman GARAMENDI, Congressman HIGGINS, Congressman TONKO.

Now you all come from what is regarded as the coast, right? But I'm from a coast too, the north coast along Lake Erie, and it's actually quite a long coast when you take a look at it, you unwind it in all the various lakes. So we're coastal America too, and I identify with your cause.

And believe me, the people that sent me here identify with the cause of jobs and economic growth and infrastructure investment in our country to push us far beyond where perhaps Roosevelt and Eisenhower and Kennedy dreamed.

Thank you so very much for this Special Order tonight.

Mr. GARAMENDI. How correct you are to look back to those heroes of the past that laid down the infrastructure. You can actually go back a little bit further. George Washington, in his first year as President of the United States, instructed Alexander Hamilton to develop an industrial policy. One part of that industrial policy was the development of the infrastructure for America's commerce. And it was canals and it was ports and it was roads.

Mr. HIGGINS, so, how are we going to make this happen? You've got \$1.2 trillion you want to put out there.

Mr. HIGGINS. Well, I think you made a very good point, particularly with your leadership on the Make It in America initiative. Keep in mind, when you invest in American infrastructure you're buying labor from American businesses. You're buying supplies and material from American businesses. You're buying engineering and design services from American businesses.

And we also forgot a very important element of our economy. It's the thousands of returning veterans who've been serving our country in Iraq and Afghanistan. The unemployment rate today for those returning veterans under the age of 24 is 19 percent.

There was a program started by the Department of Defense, it's now a not-for-profit called Helmets to Hardhats, and what it basically does, it identifies 60,000 American businesses and some of the trade unions. They collaborate to get together to identify veterans who have already had extraordinary training and discipline and leadership and teamwork, and it accelerates their apprenticeship program. So these individuals could be making 60, \$70,000 a year, if there was work to be had here.

So it's an investment in America. It's an investment in American businesses, and it says to our returning veterans in a real sincere and genuine way, thank you for your service.

Mr. GARAMENDI. You said earlier that the American Society of Engineers—I think that was the name—said that we have a D rating for infrastructure, and that we need over \$2 trillion.

I don't know anybody in my district, where we may have a serious flood in the next 3 days, that says the infrastructure is adequate. They're looking at those levees, and they're watching the water rise, and they're going, this isn't sufficient to protect us. So in a very real sense of just safety, infrastructure is needed. But also, it's needed for employment.

You correctly raised the issue of the veterans coming back, \$2 trillion—there's no doubt about the need. America knows there's a need. As the four of us have discussed here, there is a need,

even a crying need, and a human safety need right now, not tomorrow, not 10 years from now, but immediately.

□ 2050

The question is: How do we go about making that happen? And here 435 of us and 100 Senators on the other side of this building have the ability to answer the crying need of Americans to build our infrastructure, to give us the jobs to provide the foundation for economic growth, and to protect us. We have that power.

Let's continue our discussion.

Mr. TONKO.

Mr. TONKO. Representative KAPTUR made an interesting point that there was a sense of vision when they pursued the efforts with the St. Lawrence Seaway. There was a sense of vision in my district as a donor area and in Representative HIGGINS' when Governor DeWitt Clinton perceived this Erie Canal as a way to transport goods and to open up the westward movement to spark an industrial revolution. That gave birth not only to a port called New York City, but birth to a necklace of communities called mill towns that became the epicenters of invention and innovation.

So it's that spark of vision that is the first step. And we're going to denounce any of these creative opportunities to invest in nation-building by denouncing it as socialism? Was President Eisenhower a Socialist? Were all those who preceded him or followed him that came up with these great visions—a space program that gave us an unleashing of technology? No, they were thinkers. They were visionaries. They were leaders. That's the first step. And then we develop policy from that vision. We tether it into real terms, and then we invest in the implementation of that policy. That's America at her finest.

If we look back at the Erie Canal history, when they did that, it wasn't easy times. They were tough times. They were tough economic times. And so they stepped up to the plate and said, We're going to do this. It's not easy to launch, but we're going to do it because it's the way through the tough times.

We have tough times now, chronically high unemployment that, for many, preceded the recession. They need opportunity. Our economy grows when we invest in those workers of whom Representative HIGGINS spoke, in those materials and goods that allow for our Nation's businesses to prosper, add jobs, become part of a recovery. So that is all very critical.

I talked earlier about the bridge collapse that spans the Schoharie Creek in upstate New York that you can walk across in the summertime. It was flowing equal to the efforts, the CFS, of Niagara Falls. So there are some economic impacts coming from Mother Nature that are driven by global warming and climate change. So when we do some of these visionary things, incorporate all of the policies so that environmental concerns as policy formats

with economic recovery terms, with energy terms, with transportation can all be woven together and you solve some of our ills where we're being impacted by Mother Nature with natural disasters that are draining our infrastructure, as we witnessed with Sandy all along the east coast, where now tens of billions of dollars of recovery are required.

Let's add the policy dimensions that allow us to reduce the threats from Mother Nature, build our economy by adding jobs and providing for public safety, and creating a state-of-the-art economy driven by transportation, communication, energy transformation with renewables and the like that will cut down on the emission of particles and dangerous substances that are toxic on the ozone layer. That's America at her finest.

And if we do that simple thing of providing vision, followed with policy, followed with resource advocacy, we will have achieved, and brightest, best days lie ahead, not denouncing that thinking as Socialist.

Mr. GARAMENDI. There's a critical moment now. Right now. That moment is seen in the deliberations that are going on here in this Hall, in the Capitol, about the fiscal cliff, about the deficit. And there are those who would suggest that the only way to deal with it is with an austerity program, reduce government expenditures at every level.

There's some evidence cited by Mr. HIGGINS earlier that there's another way of dealing with this, and that is to put people to work, to use the power of government to put people to work, even if that means borrowing money at 1 percent. Putting it into an infrastructure bank to finance projects that have a cash flow, such as your sanitation facility in Toledo, Ohio, or a toll road or the St. Lawrence Seaway, all of which have a cash flow. You could maybe charge a percent and a half. You borrow at 1 percent, you charge a percent and a half, and we build. We put people to work.

Ms. KAPTUR, why don't you pick this up, and then Mr. HIGGINS, and we'll carry on our conversation.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank you, Congressman GARAMENDI. I am really listening carefully to what Congressman TONKO and Congressman HIGGINS have been saying this evening and thinking about what's going on in Ohio, the northern band of Ohio, from Toledo through Cleveland, and the importance of manufacturing and thinking about how hard our businesses and our workers have to compete in a very unlevel global playing field. And I've seen this directly in the automotive industry, where to this day one of the reasons that our automotive industry had difficulty and why it required the Nation to not let it fail and to pay back what was borrowed was because we are in competition with state-managed economies.

For example, I'm a member of the China Commission. And several econo-

mists testified before our committee a few years ago that what you really have in operation is market Leninism. I said, Describe to me what you're seeing. Because I've had companies in my district that have business deals in China that have lost billions of dollars. They have paid for goods that have never been received. Now, in a transparent legal system like our own, that could never happen. You have a court system. You have a way of getting your money back. But when you're dealing with a state-managed economy under a market Leninist approach, you have powerful political people pulling the strings that isn't truly a free market.

And so whether you have a closed market in Japan that's still largely closed to automotive products or you have a state-managed economy as in China, then you ask our automotive producers or any company to compete in that kind of environment, you end up harming our domestic production. And one of the reasons we are so elated that our automotive industry is recovering, you see it all over our region, the power of industry to lift people into the middle class and beyond. You can see it everywhere: in suppliers, in restaurants, in theaters, and places where people are going. Even grocery stores, frankly, where people are able to buy more because of the recovery of this powerful, powerful industry.

And I just want to end with one image, which is really hard to capture in words, but one of our companies in Cleveland has the only 50,000-ton press in the United States of America—Alcoa. It is seven stories in magnitude. I feel very privileged as a Representative to have been invited into the company to see this literally mammoth, magnificent machine be able to take parts and form them for industry as well as our defense systems. And it's seven stories high. Three layers on three stories at the bottom just dealing with the hydraulics.

The engineering and the brain power it takes to manufacture high-end goods is incredible. We are so proud of that company and other companies that are able to make it in America, despite all of the unfair global playing fields on which they are asked to play. And we see the components going into the automotive industry, into our defense systems. And we thank the corporate leadership and the workers, those who work very, very hard jobs that help us build the strongest country in the world.

So I just had to say that tonight because you get as excited as I do about actually making things and seeing this genius that takes ideas and engineers them into products that affect all of us and allows America to be the strongest Republic in the world. So I wanted to place that on the record. And thank you for giving me the time to do it.

□ 2100

Mr. GARAMENDI. As you were talking so enthusiastically, I was thinking

of some of Carl Sandburg's incredible poetry on the power of America and all that was done there.

Mr. HIGGINS, you brought this to how we can finance our infrastructure, how we can Make It in America, create jobs. Why don't you carry on with that discussion—or take that anywhere that you would like to.

Mr. HIGGINS. Well, I would just say, back to the power of America, you hear in this Chamber a lot of tough talk about China. The best way to respond to China is to stand up to them, to compete with them. They cheat on their currency, they treat their workers poorly, they destroy their environment. But whining about China is not going to resolve this problem; investing in America and the American people will.

You also mentioned the issue of austerity, and I think it's important to bring up. Historically in this Nation, the economy went into recession. We had the Great Depression in the early thirties. The American economy was starting to show signs of anemic growth right after the Great Depression in late 1936. Congress and the President pulled back with austerity measures; the economy went into recession again.

In Japan, in the 1990s, they were experiencing financial problems. They imposed comprehensive austerity measures. That economy remains in a recessionary mode and has been for the last decade. You see what's going on in Europe today; austerity doesn't work. Again, I go back to our recent history. The year 2000, budgetary surplus in this Nation of \$258 billion made possible by having created 22 million private sector jobs by investing in infrastructure, scientific research, and education.

The best tax policy is not right or left; it's bringing lost taxpayers back to productivity. That's the best, quickest way to do it, and you're helping American businesses in the process.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. TONKO.

Mr. TONKO. Representative GARAMENDI, again, thank you for bringing us together again.

You talked about that austerity budget that some would advance. I have to tell you another disaster last year, Irene and Lee, that hit as a hurricane and tropical storm, impacted the several counties I represent, from Schoharie in upstate New York, to Montgomery, Schenectady, Rensselaer, Albany. These counties were severely impacted. To talk to the people directly devastated—I mean devastated, lost their homes, everything for which they ever worked—and to tell them we're going to change the rules in the middle of the game on disaster aid, it took fights galore to win that argument on this floor. That austerity approach didn't cut it with folks who might have believed it before the disaster, but certainly not in the midst of.

So we need to be there for situations, not only disastrous situations, but the investment that occurs so that we can

effectively compete. We know in our heart, we know in our minds that there are ways to do this.

I know, just listening to the unanimous description of the situation in the auto industry that Representative KAPTUR defined for us, on a much smaller scale, but equally significant, I watched some of the businesses in my district retrofit and do that through research in incubator programs and providing for our advanced manufacturing which allows them to add that competitive muscle that enables them to compete in that global marketplace. That made a total difference.

Folks like Kintz Plastics in Schoharie County, New York, where they were engaged in an incubator program with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Some very smart science and tech minds came up with ways to automate what they were doing and trained through the community college their workers to pick up on this new phase of activity within their assembly line process. Today they are successful, but it took investment, investment of capital infrastructure, physical infrastructure, and human structure, training the worker and providing for those relationships to prosper. Everyone wins in that situation.

So we know we have it within us to make this all possible. It talks to investment. It speaks to investment. It speaks to the opportunity that we can provide so that people can have that American Dream tethered in reality, so that it can be within their grasp, so that they can continue to build upon this Nation's significance.

A great nation stays great if it continues to stretch itself. It's about the churning and the turning and becoming more mighty through investment of research, development, retrofitting our manufacturing base. We can win this by doing it smarter. We don't necessarily have to do it cheaper. Do it smarter and you win those contracts that then equate to jobs. Research equals jobs. I see it all the time. It gives birth to new ideas, new product lines, better efficiencies. It drives an economy.

You can't walk away from this tough moment and talk about austere responses. You need creative responses—not just throwing money at a situation, but thinking it through, thoughtful, analytical, economic approaches that then provide for the best policy formats.

The President has offered several ideas that were not taken up in this House. We could grow that economic recovery, which has been slow and steady with 32 consecutive months of private sector job growth. We can expand upon that, and we can create much stronger numbers if we do it wisely.

So I think the American people have spoken. They've spoken to an investment in the middle class, the investment in the American Dream, the investment in ideas and research. We

know—we've all talked about it on this floor—where research occurs, that's where manufacturing will network. It will migrate toward that research element. So we are wise to invest in research and to invest in the human infrastructure, the worker. The important significant part of the equation: having that trained, skilled, educated workforce that can make it all happen.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Earlier today I was asked by a reporter from San Francisco about the effect of sequestration and the austerity budget proposals on research in that area. The San Francisco Bay area is one of the great research centers in the world, with the University of California, the laboratory at Berkeley and Lawrence Livermore, Stanford and other institutions in the area. The austerity program that is being proposed will devastate the research.

Years ago—actually, in the mid-eighties, when I was in the California Legislature, we were talking about how to keep the California economy going, and I developed a plan, a program. There were five pieces to it. We've talked about all of those five today. Every one of those five were critical investments that the economy, the society would make.

The first was the best education system in the world. Now, America has an enormous challenge here and we're not measuring up as we should, and that should be a discussion we should have here on the floor perhaps at another day.

The second was the best research. The austerity budget that's out there, the sequestration and other proposals that have been put forward, slash the research budgets of the United States in health care, in energy, in transportation, in manufacturing, in those areas and in those areas that create opportunity.

The third is manufacturing, making things that come from that research and enhancing the current manufacturing technologies using, as you suggested a moment ago, Mr. TONKO, the advanced manufacturing technologies which come from research, and the engineering that goes with it that Ms. KAPTUR discussed a few moments ago.

The fourth was infrastructure. You have to have the foundation for economic growth. Mr. HIGGINS brought to our attention the potential for 26–27 million jobs within the next 5 years by really going full on into building the American infrastructure, repairing what we have and building for the next generations.

The fifth was change. You have to accept change. That means that we have to learn from past experiences here in Congress. Mr. HIGGINS very correctly pointed out the economic history when a recession was about to recede because of government policies but austerity was implanted and a new recession commenced. We ought to take cognizance of that.

□ 2110

So we have to change and grow and learn. Those are the five things I often talk about.

Let's carry on this discussion. We have about another 10 minutes. And maybe if each one of us takes 2½ or so minutes, we can wrap up in time. I think I started with Mr. HIGGINS and then Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. TONKO, and then I will say good night to all.

Mr. HIGGINS.

Mr. HIGGINS. Again, I want to thank you for your leadership on these issues and for bringing us together tonight to discuss this important issue. Hopefully it will be the first of many or a continuation of this discussion.

But even groups like the United States Chamber of Commerce, they put out a report stating that we will lose \$336 billion over the next 5 years because of bottlenecks, because of inefficiency in our infrastructure. You can't identify the problem without supporting a solution.

My point is that Democrats and Republicans in this Nation should come together to support a robust nation-building program right here in America. It benefits American small businesses; it benefits returning veterans; and it has a measurable influence on improving this economy.

The New America Foundation, as I mentioned previously, has a report, "The Way Forward." It's not a right or a left group. It's a centrist group that is very prestigious and basically says, a \$1.2 trillion investment in infrastructure—roads and bridges, sewer systems, water systems, the electricity grid—will create 27 million jobs in a 5-year period. It will create 5.2 million in the first year alone. That's 433,000 jobs every month for the first year.

Can you imagine what the stock market would do if the jobs report came out next month and said that we created 433,000 jobs? Our economy is consumer confidence. We are all economic actors. When we're confident, we move; when we're not, we don't.

So I just think it's very clear that what's worked in the past is what will work in creating the kind of economy that everybody in this Nation wants very desperately.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Ms. KAPTUR.

Ms. KAPTUR. Thank you.

I wanted to tie together Congressman HIGGINS' ideas on the Helmets to Hardhats, a program that I have supported, and commend him for his leadership on that, and also Congressman TONKO for the efforts that he's made in suggesting to us that we have to be visionary, and we have to promote new research, new research and development.

One area we have not focused on during these discussions tonight as much as I would hope is housing. Every recovery America has had since World War II has been led by housing, and housing has been in the dumpster for several years now. And one of the ways we do that is think about ways in

which programs like Helmets to Hardhats could identify sectors in communities that were depleted by the Wall Street crisis. And think about how to modernize the manner in which energy is provided to them, for example. So we're not just rebuilding to the past but building the future.

In my home community, we have something called Advanced Energy Utility that the Port Authority has established where they can loan funds that are then paid back through the bond offerings they do. And right now it's in its early stages. But one could see where a neighborhood could be identified and new technologies in the building sector brought to bear to create the new neighborhoods of tomorrow.

One company—Owens Corning—in our region has established a new manufacturing plant near Milan, Ohio, building a seven-layer roofing and the most incredible equipment. I defy any Member of Congress to build what they have built there and to bring off these big roles and be able to apply this roofing that I think is going to lead the industry. They could build four new factories depending on sales in the northern environments of the United States and Canada. And I see this and I think, all we have to do is put the parts together to build the residential neighborhoods of a 21st century America.

So I am just proud to join my colleagues tonight. And thank you, Congressman GARAMENDI, for bringing us together, as you so often do, to keep the focus here in the Congress on jobs and economic growth, which is what the American people sent us here to do.

Mr. TONKO. Again, thank you, Representative GARAMENDI. It's great to join with our colleagues here this evening to share thoughts about how we move from a very trying, difficult time into perhaps America's glory days.

I think it's important for us to first acknowledge that every Member elected to serve in this wonderful Chamber of the House of Representatives and those down the road here at the United States Senate, each of us is challenged, required, and responsible to polish that American Dream and make it within the grasp, provide it to be within the grasp of America's working families and those who will grow into the middle class and those who are being further empowered by work, the dignity of work, and stronger outcomes with correct policy formats.

I think that this journey that we've asked to embark upon, by putting our names on the ballot, begins with us: being a people of vision, being a House that provides a vision for America. That tells me we only need to look to our history—recent and some not so recent. But that will instruct us. Our history will instruct us.

We have built a strong Nation. We have provided for growth around the world. We know the secret to the success. We know how we built a Nation.

And it took a vision, a New Deal that provided for housing, for manufacturing, for a strong defense, for the opportunity for us, as a Nation, to respect its labor force and insert a value-added connotation for that workforce. That was us in our glory days. And we're going to be even more gloried because of investments that we can make by sound thinking.

The research that we need to provide will enable us to compete. We will create products not yet on the radar screen. And if we think all the products ever needed by society have been conceived and designed and manufactured, then the story's over. But we know better than that. Product lines are coming up as we speak that allow us to use our resources much more wisely.

We are a Nation of abundance. But that means we can't be wasteful. We need to be resourceful. That challenge is out there to us. And as we become resourceful, we become more efficient, and we become more profitable by sound policy. We can do it. We have ways to invest in our infrastructure, invest in research, invest in workforce development, invest in housing, invest in communities. And that investment will earn lucrative dividends. It's not spending. It's investing with the expectation—the rightful expectation, mind you—that we will get that just return.

And so tonight I feel hope for our Nation, driven by a sense of ideals carved by the richness of our history.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. TONKO, thank you very much. Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. HIGGINS, thank you very much.

As I was listening to the three of you and thinking my own thoughts, I'm excited. I'm excited for the prospect of America. I can see the opportunities that are there. I can see the policies coming together. And each of the three of you described specific policies that we could put in place.

I don't know if we can get 27 million jobs from infrastructure. But I do know that we can get millions of jobs from an infrastructure program and, in so doing, lay the foundation for safety, from floods, fires, from other catastrophes that could occur. I know that in doing so, we can rebuild our manufacturing sector by using American-made products in that infrastructure program. I know that we can provide the jobs that Americans desperately want today—not just cheap jobs but real middle class jobs, as all three of you have described.

I am excited. I am excited about the prospect of building America, coming home from the wars and building America, as happened when my father came back from World War II. America went after building. Ms. KAPTUR, you talked about the St. Lawrence Seaway. You talked about the interstate highway, that system that President Eisenhower talked about.

We are on the cusp of a new building in America. We have the wherewithal. We can finance it with really cheap money now. And we can use these

projects to repay that money. It's a very exciting time. And it's our responsibility, as Representatives of the 300-plus million Americans, to enunciate that vision, to put in place those programs. And when we do, we'll make it in America. And Americans will make it.

Thank you so very, very much for joining us.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2120

A HOUSE OF CIVILITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. LUNGREN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to be able to share some comments here in the last few weeks in which I am privileged to be a Member of this House. I thought I would read into the RECORD a letter that I penned to my constituents upon the conclusion of my election process. I said at the time:

I'm satisfied that enough votes have been counted to determine that I will not be representing the citizens of the Seventh Congressional District during the 113th Congress. It was a tough campaign, and I accept the outcome. I congratulate Dr. BERA in his victory, and I wish him well as he accepts this new challenge. It is my hope that Dr. BERA approaches Congress, as have I, with a humble heart, respect for the institution, and a desire to perform his duties in the best interest of the people he represents and the country.

No one can fulfill the obligations of public service alone. The contributions of my wife Bobbi and our family have been inestimable. I could never thank them enough. My staff has worked tirelessly on behalf of others. There are no better public servants anywhere.

I'm proud of the work that we've accomplished representing Californians both in the California Department of Justice and in the United States Congress. The experience of 18 years serving in the House of Representatives and 8 years as California's Attorney General truly has been an honor and one for which I will be forever grateful.

During my time in the House, we were able to build coalitions across the aisle to advance legislation that not only benefited the people of the district, but all Americans. I'm proud of the meaningful working we have achieved with Folsom Dam, our levees, U.S. port security, chemical facility security, cybersecurity, criminal justice reform, immigration reform, national security, human trafficking, reining in government spending, and the myriad of other issues that came before the Congress.

Bobbi and I wish to thank the multitude of volunteers and supporters who were by our side in this effort. Your support is gratifying and humbling, and for that we are immensely grateful.

God bless you, and God bless this land of ours.

I read that to suggest the feelings that I have at this time when I am approaching the end of my service in this House. One of the thoughts that I have as I do that is the question of civility

in this House, in the Congress, in the political dialogue, and in the country at large.

If one examines the history of the House of Representatives, one understands immediately that we are governed not by Robert's Rules of Order, but by, in fact, Jefferson's Manual, the manual authored in the first instance by Thomas Jefferson. If you analyze the spirit—and I believe the letter—of that manual, you will find that President Jefferson believed that vigorous and robust debate was appropriate, but he also understood the nature of man. He understood that we sometimes did not maintain the type of discourse that would be of honor to us and this House. As a result, he envisioned a place for debate, a place for legislating, reflecting the views, aspirations, and hopes of the American people that would guard against the temptation, the tendency, perhaps, to allow the emotions of the day to govern and cause conflict on this House, indeed, physical altercations or confrontations.

One of the manners in which he believed that we could guard against that was to have Members of the House address the presiding officer rather than directly respond to another Member. Some may think this is arcane. Some may think this is outdated. Some may think this is difficult to understand. Yet it serves a purpose. It reminds us that while we're on the floor, that we are here representing this country. We're elected from different districts, but we are here as Members of the U.S. House of Representatives. We address one another through the Chair as the distinguished gentleman or gentlelady from a particular State. We don't call people by their first name. Frankly, if we do call them by their last name, it is an adjective describing the particular person from the State that they represent.

There are those who find it difficult to understand why it is wrong to traverse the well, why it is inappropriate for someone to walk here in the well because this is a large Chamber. It would seem natural that you would move from Point A to Point B. Yet the idea is as I am addressing this House, I am addressing the presiding officer. For someone to traverse the well is in essence an act of rudeness, an act of incivility, a lack of respect for those who are speaking and the institution. It is as if I were speaking to someone immediately in front of me and someone walks between the two of us while we're having the conversation. One would immediately understand that to be not in keeping with proper conduct. Yet I think sometimes we forget the purpose of the rules that we have here.

I would say I was taught when I was a young attorney that you are to be court-ready. If you're a male Member of this House, you are to wear a coat and tie. You could vote easily without a coat and tie. You could vote easily in shorts here. You could vote easily in a T-shirt here. But what would that do?

That would in a very real sense demean the institution of the House, and it would suggest that perhaps we weren't ready to do business.

I recall several decades ago when a number of school districts believed that in an effort to increase the level of comportment in school, they would have students wear uniforms. It was unheard of at the time, yet they found that when students wore uniforms, in some ways the "gang colors" didn't come into play. People weren't looking at who has the rich clothes versus who has the poor clothes. But more importantly, I remember a comment by someone who was in favor of it and said this reminds the young people that they are there to do work to advance themselves for their future. In other words, it was their "work clothes." That is a similar sort of thing that we do in this institution. Those are just some physical manifestations of the kinds of things that lead to the idea of civility in this House.

The other thing is that we follow the precedents of the House, rulings of the House that guard against us bringing uncivil behavior to this House, that guard against us from violating the spirit of this House. What do I mean by that? One of the rules is you should not do anything that brings the House into disrepute. One of the many precedents in the House is if you engage in a debate in which you question the motivation of your opponent, you question the motivation of a Member of the Senate, you question the motivation of the President, that is considered out of order, and you can be called to account for that.

How do we do it in this place? Again, some would consider it an arcane way. Another Member gets up and asks that the person who has spoken those words have his or her words taken down, and the process is, of course, the reporter transcribes the words, those words are then uttered, they are considered by the presiding officer with the assistance of the Parliamentarian. If, in fact, they're offensive words, unless one is granted unanimous consent to have those words removed from the RECORD, that person is not allowed to speak for the rest of the day.

Some would say what is that? It's like timeout in a schoolyard. No, it really goes to the essence of this place. We are here as representatives of the people of the United States from particular districts and particular States, but part of our purpose in representing our constituents is being able to articulate on their behalf, being able to argue on their behalf, being able to speak on this floor. Therefore, the penalty of not being able to speak on the floor goes not just to the Member, but goes to those he or she represents. They are rendered silent for that day. If you really think about it, that is, in fact, a particularly pernicious punishment because it goes to your ability to represent your constituents.

It seems to me that those who have been privileged to serve in the House,

less than 11,000 in the entire history of this body, have an obligation to understand that this is beyond each and every one of us. It is the institution, the continuing perpetual institution of democracy in our country. We should be very proud to be a part of that. Civility should be a part of that. Tough, vigorous, robust debate should be a part of it. Insulting, demeaning language, calling into question the motivation of another ought to have no place here.

And while we are here—someone suggests in a cocoon—that is, the Chamber of the House, I would rather consider it to be a venerable place. A symbol of the institution with the words of our national motto is above the very rostrum: "In God we trust." As we think about that, we also should understand that we are part of more than just this institution. We are a part of the society in which we play, hopefully, a significant role.

□ 2130

The manner in which Members get to have the opportunity to represent their constituents is through a process that we call "political." It is through an electoral process, and the electoral process reflects our society as well as giving guidance to our society. There, I fear, the level of civility has been diminished. Let me give you an example—and I'm not suggesting in any way that this made the difference in my election, but it is my observation, having been a part of it, that the rules of civility have been tossed aside.

There was an ad run against me and the gentleman from Florida and others, but it was made specific to each of us and our individual races in which they had a girl who was approximately 5 years old, looking into the camera, asking this question, "Why does DAN LUNGREN want me to die?" as did a 19-year-old, who indicated that he had suffered some paralysis from an accident, as did an approximately 40-year-old woman for some disease she had.

Stunning. Stunning.

The only thing I could see on the other side of the philosophical divide would be someone who was an Army vet, having been paralyzed, sitting in a wheelchair, looking at the camera, and saying about a Member who had voted against a defense bill, Why do you want me to die? Why do you want me to be in a wheelchair?

In either case, the civility is out the window. The ability to talk about an issue that is underlying is lost. In the example I gave, the questions would be, was it an appropriate level of funding for defense? Were there certain problems with the defense bill? Not, do you want this veteran to die?

In the case that I cited in which I was the subject of that ad, the issue was embryonic stem cell research, not the question of what is the moral and ethical thing to do in a very difficult circumstance. I remember when President of the United States George W. Bush

had a national address to the country in which he talked about the difficult moral and ethical decision about whether you would have lines of stem cell research allowed that originated from embryos. It was the question of when life begins. Is that an individual? Is it a potential individual? Is it an individual who has any rights?

None of that talked about in the ad. There was the question of umbilical cord blood stem cells, of which I have been privileged to be a leader with CHRIS SMITH from New Jersey and others, and of having a press conference, I remember, with the great basketball star Dr. J, because, in fact, we had found that using blood cord stem cells had actually already been applied to some people with success, including, I believe, to some in this Nation who suffered from sickle-cell anemia.

Forgetting totally about adult stem cells, the ad appeared the very week that the Nobel committee announced its prize for medicine to the two scientists who had unlocked the key in the ability to take adult stem cells and reprogram them back to induced pluripotent cells, meaning that they had the capacity to become different types of cells. Then, in just the 2 weeks before, I believe it was a German experiment in which they successfully cured paralysis in dogs by using cells from the dog's nasal passages.

There can be a legitimate debate about the moral and ethical concerns surrounding stem cell research and embryonic stem cell research, but to have an ad that reduces it to the question of whether a 5-year-old can look in the camera and say, "Why does this Congressman want me to die?"—how does that elevate the debate? How does that in any way enhance our ability to make very difficult decisions?

Does that condemn anybody who happens to have traditional values consistent with the traditional teachings of the Catholic church and other churches to be ridiculed? To be condemned for a lack of concern for fellow human beings? And to have the ad run in the last weeks of the campaign without any ability to respond to it. I ask you, is that civil?

That ad was produced by the pro-majority PAC, by the way, with connections to some Members of the House. They don't have to abide by the rules in terms of advertising, but my question is, where does that leave us as a Nation when we can't talk about difficult, serious issues—issues of morals and issues of ethics and issues of conduct—without reducing it to that level?

Look, I'm, as they say, a big boy. I've been involved in politics and government a long time. I know campaigns can be tough. But is that an excuse for losing any sense of proportionality? Any sense of respect for one another? Any sense of civility?

We hear many in the press decry the level of debate—but yet, not a peep about ads such as that. We hear people

decry the lack of respect for one another—but yet, not a mention made of ads like that, which, I think, eliminate civility.

Some would say the rule of traversing the well while someone is speaking is unnecessary. Why would you complain about that? If you don't understand the basis of civil conduct in the House, you would say that makes no sense at all. If you do understand it, you will understand that it is part and parcel of the entire complex of things we do that either shows respect or disrespect for the institution we serve and for our fellow Members.

I'm not a Pollyanna. I've seen campaigns since I was a very little kid. I think I was 4 or 6 years old when I handed out literature for one of my neighbors who was running for Congress for the first time. I've been blessed to be involved with this. It has been a great ride to be able to represent my fellow constituents here in the House of Representatives in two different tours of service and as the California attorney general. I want tough and vigorous and robust debate, but I do wonder whether the coarseness of the debate, whether the lack of any respect for another's thoughts or another as a person makes us a better or a lesser Nation.

There is something called "appeal to the better angels of human nature." Maybe once in a while we ought to do that here. Maybe once in a while we ought to not only listen to a great speech by Abraham Lincoln or a great speech by Martin Luther King, Jr. or a tremendously written statement by George Washington, but maybe we ought to listen to what they say, and how they say it, and the respect with which they held those who may have disagreed with them.

This is a great institution, representing the greatest country on the face of the Earth. So I don't say this as a loser's lament. Maybe it's a lover's lament. I love this country. I love the State that I represent. I love the people of this country. It is in a real sense an unconditional love, but it is not an uncritical love. We have an obligation to review, to criticize, to constantly guard against the lesser angels of human nature. You can do that with all the vigor in the world, and you can do that with all the respect in the world. If, in fact, we wish to solve the problems of this Nation, recognizing that there has to be some work across the aisle, perhaps the first way in which we do it is to think, how can I be civil in the discussion that I have even though I think my opponent, my counterpart on the other side of the aisle, is dead wrong?

□ 2140

I always thought Ronald Reagan had the best attitude. I would probably sum it up this way. They said that he always saw the glass as half full rather than half empty, but I always thought he had what I called the openness of a

confident and a cheerful conservative. He believed that we ought to conserve essential values of this country; we ought to avoid the fad of the day. And he believed that we ought to be proud in expressing our point of view. But I do believe he also thought that he could sit down with just about anybody and attempt to persuade them, much like my friend and someone who I considered almost a brother, Jack Kemp.

I used to say about Jack: I'm sure there's somebody out there who doesn't like Jack Kemp, but I don't think Jack ever met someone he didn't like. And I don't think Jack Kemp and I don't think Ronald Reagan ever believed they met a man or woman that they couldn't persuade to their side.

And maybe if we kept that in mind, how do we continue to work by putting all of our effort into persuading not only our side but persuading those who disagree with us to the rightness of our position, we might in fact find and they may find that we have far greater commonality of interest and approach than we ever thought.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if you know me at all, you know that I don't give up easily. You know that I don't back down from a fair fight or any fight. And you know that I believe deeply in those principles and values that brought me to this place, and I believe deeply that I have not lost them. But I do respect those who have a different point of view, and I respect their sincerity and I respect their genuineness, but I can question their judgment without calling into question their motivation.

And maybe that's the summation of what I'm trying to say here. I have had the great privilege of serving this House for almost two decades. I've had the great privilege of serving 8 years as California's attorney general, so 26 years in public service as an elected official. I don't give up on this place. I don't give up on this country. I don't give up on its people. We've always had difficult times, and the key to solving those difficult times is to recognize their difficulty, recognize their presence, and recognize that we have no right to say it's not our job. When we are in this place in this time, it is our job.

And I would hope and I would pray that we would approach that, and my colleagues would approach that, and those that come after in this new Congress, that they would approach it with a sense of civility and a sense of love of this country. And if we do that, I have no fear for our future.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on November 16, 2012, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval the following bills.

H.R. 2606. To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to allow the construction and operation of natural gas pipeline facilities in the Gateway National Recreation Area, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4114. To increase, effective as of December 1, 2012, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity

compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 44 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, November 28, 2012, at noon.

EXPENDITURES REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the third quarter of 2012 pursuant to Public Law 95-384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, JENNIFER M. STEWART, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN AUG. 25 AND SEPT. 5, 2012

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Jennifer M. Stewart	8/25	8/28	Turkey		602.00		18,000.00				18,602.00
	8/28	8/30	Jordan		572.00						572.00
	8/30	9/02	Israel		1,494.00						1,494.00
	9/2	9/4	Yeman		484.00						484.00
	9/4	9/5	United Arab Emirates		0.00						0.00
Committee total											21,152.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER, Speaker of the House, Oct. 26, 2012.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2012

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Harold Rogers	7/1	7/4	Czech Republic		1,499.00						1,499.00
	7/3	7/3	Poland								
	7/4	7/8	Italy		1,285.00						1,285.00
	7/6	7/6	Algeria								
Misc. delegation costs								(³)	2,130.15		2,130.15
Hon. Norman Dicks	7/1	7/4	Czech Republic		1,499.00						1,499.00
	7/3	7/3	Poland								
	7/4	7/8	Italy		1,285.00						1,285.00
	7/6	7/6	Algeria								
Misc. delegation costs								(³)	2,130.15		2,130.15
Hon. Ken Calvert	7/1	7/4	Czech Republic		1,499.00						1,499.00
	7/3	7/3	Poland								
	7/4	7/8	Italy		1,285.00						1,285.00
	7/6	7/6	Algeria								
Misc. delegation costs								(³)	2,130.15		2,130.15
Hon. Tom Cole	7/1	7/4	Czech Republic		1,499.00						1,499.00
	7/3	7/3	Poland								
	7/4	7/8	Italy		1,285.00						1,285.00
	7/6	7/6	Algeria								
Misc. delegation costs								(³)	2,130.15		2,130.15
Hon. Ander Crenshaw	7/1	7/4	Czech Republic		1,499.00						1,499.00
	7/3	7/3	Poland								
	7/4	7/8	Italy		1,285.00						1,285.00
	7/6	7/6	Algeria								
Misc. delegation costs								(³)	2,130.15		2,130.15
Hon. Lucille Roybal-Allard	7/1	7/4	Czech Republic		1,499.00						1,499.00
	7/3	7/3	Poland								
	7/4	7/8	Italy		1,285.00						1,285.00
	7/6	7/6	Algeria								
Misc. delegation costs								(³)	2,130.15		2,130.15
Anne Marie Chotvac	7/1	7/4	Czech Republic		1,499.00						1,499.00
	7/3	7/3	Poland								
	7/4	7/8	Italy		1,285.00						1,285.00
	7/6	7/6	Algeria								
Misc. delegation costs								(³)	2,130.15		2,130.15
James Kulikowski	7/4	7/8	Italy		1,285.00						1,285.00
	7/6	7/6	Algeria								
Misc. delegation costs									1,419.89		1,419.89
Part Commercial Airfare											2,351.70
William Inglee	7/1	7/4	Czech Republic		1,499.00						1,499.00
	7/3	7/3	Poland								
	7/4	7/8	Italy		1,285.00						1,285.00
	7/6	7/6	Algeria								
Misc. delegation costs								(³)	2,130.15		2,130.15
Clelia Alvarado	7/1	7/4	Czech Republic		1,499.00						1,499.00
	7/3	7/3	Poland								
	7/4	7/8	Italy		1,285.00						1,285.00
	7/6	7/6	Algeria								
Misc. delegation costs								(³)	2,130.15		2,130.15
Erin Kolodjeski	7/1	7/4	Czech Republic		1,499.00						1,499.00
	7/3	7/3	Poland								
	7/4	7/8	Italy		1,285.00						1,285.00
	7/6	7/6	Algeria								
Misc. delegation costs								(³)	2,130.15		2,130.15
John J. Bartrum	8/6	8/9	Guatemala		649.00						649.00
	8/9	8/14	Brazil		1,926.00						1,926.00
Misc. embassy costs									2,558.00		2,558.00
Commercial airfare											6,422.90
Jennifer Gera	8/19	8/25	Finland		2,433.00						2,433.00
Misc. transportation costs									230.22		230.22
Commercial airfare											1,564.00
Lisa Molyneux	8/19	8/25	Finland		2,433.00						2,433.00
Commercial airfare									9,771.00		9,771.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2012—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Tom Graves	8/3	8/4	Mexico		271.40						271.40
	8/4	8/6	Colombia		692.80						692.80
	8/6	8/7	Paraguay		190.00						190.00
	8/7	8/9	Argentina		681.34		(³)				681.34
Brooke Boyer	8/5	8/8	Colombia		1,091.66						1,091.66
Misc. embassy costs									66.66		66.66
Misc. transportation costs								65.00			65.00
Commercial airfare								1,623.70			1,623.70
BG Wright	8/5	8/8	Colombia		1,091.66						1,091.66
Misc. embassy costs									66.66		66.66
Misc. transportation costs								66.00			66.00
Commercial airfare								1,623.70			1,623.70
Megan Rosenbusch	8/5	8/8	Colombia		1,091.66						1,091.66
Misc. embassy costs									66.66		66.66
Misc. transportation costs								75.00			75.00
Commercial airfare								1,623.70			1,623.70
Hon. Jack Kingston	8/10	8/12	Morocco		496.05						496.05
	8/12	8/15	Kenya		1,050.00						1,050.00
	8/15	8/15	South Sudan								
	8/15	8/18	Tanzania		563.10						563.10
	8/18	8/19	Spain		220.69						220.69
Misc. delegation costs									(⁴)	3,735.00	3,735.00
Hon. Adam Schiff	8/14	8/15	Kenya		350.00						350.00
	8/15	8/15	South Sudan								
	8/15	8/18	Tanzania		563.10						563.10
	8/18	8/19	Spain		220.69						220.69
Misc. delegation costs										2,386.91	2,386.91
Part Commercial Air								⁵ 5,879.40			5,879.40
Hon. Steve Austria	8/10	8/12	Morocco		496.05						496.05
	8/12	8/15	Kenya		1,050.00						1,050.00
	8/15	8/15	South Sudan								
	8/15	8/18	Tanzania		563.10						563.10
	8/18	8/19	Spain		220.69						220.69
Misc. delegation costs									(⁴)	3,735.00	3,735.00
Hon. Kevin Yoder	8/10	8/12	Morocco		496.05						496.05
	8/12	8/15	Kenya		1,050.00						1,050.00
	8/15	8/15	South Sudan								
	8/15	8/18	Tanzania		563.10						563.10
	8/18	8/19	Spain		220.69						220.69
Misc. delegation costs									(⁴)	3,735.00	3,735.00
Elizabeth Bina	8/10	8/12	Morocco		496.05						496.05
	8/12	8/15	Kenya		1,050.00						1,050.00
	8/15	8/15	South Sudan								
	8/15	8/18	Tanzania		563.10						563.10
	8/18	8/19	Spain		220.69						220.69
Misc. delegation costs									(⁴)	3,735.00	3,735.00
Tom O'Brien	8/10	8/12	Morocco		496.05						496.05
	8/12	8/15	Kenya		1,050.00						1,050.00
	8/15	8/15	South Sudan								
	8/15	8/18	Tanzania		563.10						563.10
	8/18	8/19	Spain		220.69						220.69
Misc. delegation costs									(⁴)	3,735.00	3,735.00
Susan Adams	8/10	8/12	Morocco		496.05						496.05
	8/12	8/15	Kenya		1,050.00						1,050.00
	8/15	8/15	South Sudan								
	8/15	8/18	Tanzania		563.10						563.10
	8/18	8/19	Spain		220.69						220.69
Misc. delegation costs									(⁴)	3,735.00	3,735.00
Clelia Alvarado	8/10	8/12	Morocco		496.05						496.05
	8/12	8/15	Kenya		1,050.00						1,050.00
	8/15	8/15	South Sudan								
	8/15	8/18	Tanzania		563.10						563.10
	8/18	8/19	Spain		220.69						220.69
Misc. delegation costs									(⁴)	3,735.00	3,735.00
Erin Kolodjeski	9/5	9/7	Haiti		496.00						496.00
Commercial airfare								1,452.50			1,452.50
Jennifer Miller	8/26	8/28	Turkey		602.00						602.00
	8/28	8/30	Jordan		571.34						571.34
	8/30	9/2	Israel		1,494.00						1,494.00
	9/2	9/4	Yemen		484.00						484.00
Hotel taxes and service charge									58.14		58.14
Misc. transportation costs								155.00			155.00
Commercial airfare								12,496.00			12,496.00
Joseph Levin	9/24	9/26	Switzerland		966.00						966.00
	9/26	9/29	France		1,017.95						1,017.95
Hotel taxes									62.15		62.15
Misc. transportation costs								243.45			243.45
Commercial airfare								2,163.70			2,163.70
Jennifer Hing	9/24	9/26	Switzerland		966.00						966.00
	9/26	9/29	France		1,017.95						1,017.95
Hotel taxes									62.15		62.15
Misc. transportation costs								243.45			243.45
Commercial airfare								2,867.30			2,867.30
Taunja Berquam	9/24	9/26	Switzerland		966.00						966.00
	9/26	9/29	France		1,017.95						1,017.95
Hotel taxes									62.15		62.15
Misc. transportation costs								243.45			243.45
Commercial airfare								2,163.70			2,163.70
Hon. Robert Aderholt	9/24	9/26	Mexico		596.07				(⁴)		596.07
Commercial airfare								1,255.52			1,255.52
Hon. David Price	9/24	9/26	Mexico		535.98				(⁴)		535.98
Commercial airfare								1,233.75			1,233.75
Kathleen Kraininger	9/24	9/26	Mexico		699.71				(⁴)		699.71
Commercial airfare								1,853.00			1,853.00
Stephanie Gupta	9/24	9/26	Mexico		699.71				(⁴)		699.71
Commercial airfare								1,853.00			1,853.00
Committee total					71,239.85			59,520.14		54,255.87	185,015.86

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

⁴ Part military air transportation.

⁵ Part domestic travel to Texas (reported separately).

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2012

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Visit to Slovakia, Georgia, Yemen, Djibouti, Spain, June 29–July 6, 2012:											
Hon. Bill Shuster	6/30	7/2	Slovakia		365.30						365.30
	7/2	7/4	Georgia		396.00						396.00
	7/4	7/4	Yemen								
	7/4	7/5	Djibouti		342.97						342.97
	7/5	7/6	Spain		276.00						276.00
Hon. Duncan Hunter	6/30	7/2	Slovakia		365.30						365.30
	7/2	7/4	Georgia		396.00						396.00
	7/4	7/4	Yemen								
	7/4	7/5	Djibouti		342.97						342.97
	7/5	7/6	Spain		276.00						276.00
John Wason	6/30	7/2	Slovakia		365.30						365.30
	7/2	7/4	Georgia		396.00						396.00
	7/4	7/4	Yemen								
	7/4	7/5	Djibouti		342.97						342.97
	7/5	7/6	Spain		276.00						276.00
Visit to Japan, Guam, Singapore, Australia, July 14–July 22, 2012:											
Ryan Crumpler	7/15	7/16	Japan		157.00						157.00
	7/17	7/19	Guam								
	7/19	7/20	Singapore		145.00						145.00
	7/21	7/22	Australia		302.00						302.00
Commercial transportation							20,053.10				20,053.10
Craig Greene	7/15	7/16	Japan		157.00						157.00
	7/17	7/19	Guam								
	7/19	7/20	Singapore		145.00						145.00
	7/21	7/22	Australia		302.00						302.00
Commercial transportation							20,053.10				20,053.10
Brian Garrett	7/15	7/16	Japan		72.00						72.00
	7/17	7/19	Guam								
	7/19	7/20	Singapore		101.00						101.00
	7/21	7/22	Australia		207.00						207.00
Commercial transportation							20,157.10				20,157.10
Visit to Guam, Viet Nam, August 5–12, 2012:											
Hon. Joe Wilson	8/7	8/9	Guam								
	8/9	8/10	Viet Nam		278.00						278.00
Commercial transportation							6,192.15				6,192.15
Hon. Madeleine Bordallo	8/7	8/9	Guam								
	8/9	8/10	Viet Nam		278.00						278.00
Commercial transportation							6,192.15				6,192.15
Craig Greene	8/7	8/9	Guam								
	8/9	8/10	Viet Nam		278.00						278.00
Commercial transportation							6,358.46				6,358.46
Debra Wada	8/7	8/9	Guam								
	8/9	8/10	Viet Nam		278.00						278.00
Commercial transportation							6,103.68				6,103.68
Visit to Afghanistan, United Arab Emirates, August 13–17, 2012, With STAFFDEL Stewart:											
Robert L. Simmons	8/14	8/15	United Arab Emirates		329.66						329.66
	8/15	8/16	Afghanistan		28.00						28.00
Commercial transportation							9,747.90				9,747.90
Visit to Israel, Lebanon, Turkey, Italy, August 11–19, 2012:											
Catherine McElroy	8/11	8/14	Israel		1,289.13						1,289.13
	8/14	8/15	Lebanon		192.70						192.70
	8/15	8/17	Turkey		457.00						457.00
	8/17	8/19	Italy		700.77						700.77
Commercial transportation							10,763.50				10,763.50
Kimberly Shaw	8/11	8/14	Israel		1,314.13						1,314.13
	8/14	8/15	Lebanon		192.70						192.70
	8/15	8/17	Turkey		432.00						432.00
	8/17	8/19	Italy		750.77						750.77
Commercial transportation							7,868.20				7,868.20
Alexander Gallo	8/11	8/14	Israel		1,289.13						1,289.13
	8/14	8/15	Lebanon		192.70						192.70
	8/15	8/17	Turkey		457.00						457.00
	8/17	8/19	Italy		723.77						723.77
Commercial transportation							10,306.50				10,306.50
Michael Casey	8/11	8/14	Israel		1,489.13						1,489.13
	8/14	8/15	Lebanon		192.70						192.70
	8/15	8/17	Turkey		557.00						557.00
	8/17	8/19	Italy		800.77						800.77
Commercial transportation							10,626.50				10,626.50
Visit to Thailand, Burma, India, Azerbaijan, Austria, September 4–10, 2012, With CODEL Rohrabacher:											
Hon. Doug Lamborn	9/4	9/5	Thailand		103.00						103.00
	9/5	9/5	Burma								
	9/5	9/7	India		577.69						577.69
	9/7	9/8	Azerbaijan		627.65						627.65
	9/8	9/10	Austria		1,105.22						1,105.22
Visit to Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, September 23–30, 2012:											
Catherine Sendak	9/23	9/25	Brazil		215.00						215.00
	9/26	9/26	Argentina		121.00						121.00
	9/26	9/28	Chile		198.00						198.00
	9/28	9/30	Colombia		210.00						210.00
Commercial transportation							10,745.50				10,745.50
Kevin Gates	9/23	9/25	Brazil		215.00						215.00
	9/26	9/26	Argentina		121.00						121.00
	9/26	9/28	Chile		198.00						198.00
	9/28	9/30	Colombia		210.00						210.00
Commercial transportation							10,745.50				10,745.50
Jamie Lynch	9/23	9/25	Brazil		215.00						215.00
	9/26	9/26	Argentina		121.00						121.00
	9/26	9/28	Chile		198.00						198.00
	9/28	9/30	Colombia		210.00						210.00
Commercial transportation							10,745.50				10,745.50
Paul Lewis	9/23	9/25	Brazil		313.00						313.00
	9/26	9/26	Argentina		121.00						121.00
	9/26	9/28	Chile		198.00						198.00
	9/28	9/30	Colombia		210.00						210.00
Commercial transportation							10,745.50				10,745.50
Timothy McClees	9/23	9/25	Brazil		313.00						313.00
	9/26	9/26	Argentina		121.00						121.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2012—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
	9/26	9/28	Chile		198.00						198.00
	9/28	9/30	Colombia		210.00						210.00
Committee total					24,559.43		177,404.34				201,963.77

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON, Chairman Oct. 24, 2012.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2012

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Carolyn Maloney	8/19	8/20	Spain		321.32		(3)				321.32
	8/20	8/23	Germany		1,028.00		(3)				1,028.00
Kristofer Erickson	8/19	8/20	Spain		261.32		(3)				261.32
	8/20	8/23	Germany		943.00		(3)				943.00
	8/23	8/25	England		1,370.00		(3)				1,370.00
William W. Liles	8/19	8/20	Spain		286.43		(3)				286.43
	8/20	8/23	Germany		923.33		(3)				923.33
	8/23	8/25	England		1,455.00		(3)				1,455.00
Christopher Russell	8/19	8/20	Spain		291.32		(3)				291.32
	8/20	8/23	Germany		967.00		(3)				967.00
	8/23	8/25	England		1,420.00		(3)				1,420.00
Hon. Scott Garrett	8/19	8/20	Spain		296.32		(3)	1,199.00			1,495.32
	8/20	8/23	Germany		1,003.00		(3)	4,574.00			5,577.00
	8/23	8/25	England		1,435.00		(3)				1,435.00
Committee totals					12,001.04			5,773.00			17,774.04

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

HON. SPENCER BACHUS, Chairman, Oct. 31, 2012.

(AMENDED) REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2012

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Kristin Jackson	8/20	8/23	Mexico		807.57		1,331.28		427.00		2,565.85
Hubbell Knapp	8/20	8/23	Mexico		812.57		1,331.28				2,143.85
Hon. Karen Bass	8/13	8/15	Kenya		700.00		7,826.10		2,071.17		10,597.27
	8/15	8/15	South Sudan				(3)				
	8/15	8/18	Tanzania		563.10						1,788.26
	8/18	8/19	Spain		220.69		(3)		1,225.16		220.69
Hon. Dennis Cardoza	7/4	7/9	Monaco		2,254.00		1,433.00				3,687.00
Sajit Gandhi	7/4	7/9	Monaco		2,194.00		1,433.00				3,627.00
Hon. Dennis Cardoza	8/4	8/5	Ireland		866.85		(3)				866.85
	8/5	8/7	Greece		860.77		(3)				860.77
	8/7	8/8	Italy		962.00		(3)				962.00
	8/8	8/9	Spain		544.34		(3)				544.34
	8/9	8/10	Portugal		531.06		(3)				531.06
Alan Makovsky	8/30	9/4	Czech Rep.		860.40		1,922.20				2,782.60
Hon. Dan Burton	6/29	6/30	Latvia		252.95		(3)		5,354.45		5,607.40
	7/1	7/3	Kazakhstan		720.00		(3)		4,411.10		5,131.10
	7/3	7/5	Kyrgyz Republic		622.00		(3)				622.00
	7/5	7/6	Tajikistan		372.07		(3)				372.07
	7/6	7/7	Uzbekistan		399.00		(3)				399.00
	7/7	7/8	Spain		364.84		(3)				364.84
Hon. Ted Deutch	6/29	6/30	Latvia		252.95		(3)				252.95
	7/1	7/3	Kazakhstan		720.00		(3)				720.00
	7/3	7/5	Kyrgyz Republic		622.00		(3)				622.00
	7/5	7/6	Tajikistan		372.07		(3)				372.07
	7/6	7/7	Uzbekistan		399.00		(3)				399.00
	7/7	7/8	Spain		364.84		(3)				364.84
J. Brady Howell	6/29	6/30	Latvia		252.95		(3)				252.95
	7/1	7/3	Kazakhstan		720.00		(3)				720.00
	7/3	7/5	Kyrgyz Republic		622.00		(3)				622.00
	7/5	7/6	Tajikistan		372.07		(3)				372.07
	7/6	7/7	Uzbekistan		399.00		(3)				399.00
	7/7	7/8	Spain		364.84		(3)				364.84
Brent Woolfork	6/29	6/30	Latvia		240.76		(3)				240.76
	7/1	7/3	Kazakhstan		706.00		(3)				706.00
	7/3	7/5	Kyrgyz Republic		396.57		(3)				622.00
	7/5	7/6	Tajikistan		307.87		(3)				372.07
	7/6	7/7	Uzbekistan		324.00		(3)				399.00
	7/7	7/8	Spain		353.84		(3)				364.84
Hon. Jean Schmidt	6/29	6/30	Latvia		252.95		(3)				252.95
	7/1	7/3	Kazakhstan		720.00		(3)				720.00
	7/3	7/5	Kyrgyz Republic		614.38		(3)				614.38
	7/5	7/6	Tajikistan		372.12		(3)				372.12
	7/6	7/7	Uzbekistan		299.00		(3)				299.00
	7/7	7/8	Spain		366.03		(3)				366.03
Hon. Greg Meeks	6/29	6/30	Latvia		246.76		(3)				246.76
	7/1	7/3	Kazakhstan		720.00		(3)				720.00
	7/3	7/5	Kyrgyz Republic		622.00		(3)				622.00
	7/5	7/6	Tajikistan		324.87		(3)				324.87
	7/6	7/7	Uzbekistan		423.00		(3)				423.00
	7/7	7/8	Spain		364.84		(3)				364.84
Brian Wanko	6/29	6/30	Latvia		252.95		(3)				252.95
	7/1	7/3	Kazakhstan		720.00		(3)				720.00
	7/3	7/5	Kyrgyz Republic		622.00		3,371.00				3,993.00

(AMENDED) REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2012—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Dan Burton	9/3	9/5	Azerbaijan		857.39		10,033.00				10,890.39
	9/5	9/5	Georgia		767.42						1,769.62
	9/5	9/8	Armenia		767.42				1,002.20		1,769.62
J. Brady Howell	9/3	9/5	Azerbaijan		857.39		10,033.00				10,890.39
	9/5	9/5	Georgia		767.42						767.42
	9/5	9/8	Armenia		767.42						767.42
Hon. Steve Chabot	8/12	8/13	Libya		47.00						47.00
	8/13	8/14	Egypt		245.29		10,212.60				10,259.60
	8/15	8/15	Kenya		477.50				24.43		245.29
Kevin Fitzpatrick	8/12	8/13	Libya		47.00						47.00
	8/13	8/14	Egypt		245.29		10,756.10				10,803.10
	8/15	8/15	Kenya		477.50						245.29
Hon. Elton Gallegly	6/30	7/3	Portugal		807.00		(9)		8,097.00		8,904.00
	7/3	7/4	Spain		345.00		(9)		115.96		460.96
	7/4	7/9	Croatia		1,488.33		(9)		5,820.00		7,308.33
Steven Sutton	6/30	7/3	Portugal		807.00		(9)				807.00
	7/3	7/4	Spain		272.00		(9)				272.00
	7/4	7/9	Croatia		1,462.33						1,462.33
Sarah Leiby	8/26	8/29	Kenya		925.00		10,885.17				11,810.17
	8/29	9/3	South Sudan		1,160.00						1,160.00
Jacquiline Quinones	8/26	8/29	Kenya		925.00		10,885.17				11,810.17
	8/29	9/3	South Sudan		1,160.00						1,160.00
Greg McCarthy	8/6	8/8	Pakistan		371.00		12,741.64				13,112.64
	8/8	8/11	India		1,091.00				2,949.19		4,040.19
	8/11	8/15	Sri Lanka		1,131.00				2,168.00		3,299.00
Sajit Gandhi	8/6	8/8	Pakistan		363.00		12,776.64				13,139.64
	8/8	8/11	India		1,091.00						1,091.00
	8/11	8/15	Sri Lanka		1,122.00						1,122.00
Christina Jenckes	8/6	8/8	Pakistan		357.00		12,776.64				13,133.64
	8/8	8/11	India		1,129.00						1,129.00
	8/11	8/15	Sri Lanka		1,133.00						1,133.00
Diana Ohlbaum	8/6	8/8	Pakistan		357.00		12,776.64				13,133.64
	8/8	8/11	India		1,129.00						1,129.00
	8/11	8/15	Sri Lanka		1,131.00						1,131.00
Greg Simpkins	8/4	8/7	Senegal		568.00		5,288.60				5,856.60
	8/7	8/9	Cote d'Ivoire		613.00				1,306.00		1,919.00
Jacquiline Quinones	8/4	8/7	Senegal		565.00		5,323.60				5,888.60
	8/7	8/9	Cote d'Ivoire		619.00						619.00
Eric Williams	8/7	8/9	Cote d'Ivoire		619.00		4,005.10				4,624.10
Kristal Quarker	8/4	8/7	Senegal		572.00		5,323.60				5,895.60
	8/7	8/9	Cote d'Ivoire		613.00						613.00
Janice Kaguyutan	9/1	9/4	Jordan		1,290.00		(4)				1,290.00
	9/4	9/8	Turkey		1,617.00						1,617.00
Hon. Dana Rohrabacher	9/4	9/5	Thailand		238.32						238.32
	9/5	9/5	Burma								
	9/5	9/7	India		595.36						595.36
	9/7	9/8	Azerbaijan		368.80				3,999.21		4,368.01
Hon. Ted Poe	9/4	9/10	Austria		708.00						708.00
	9/4	9/5	Thailand		238.32		(9)				238.32
	9/5	9/5	Burma				(9)				
	9/5	9/7	India		389.60						389.60
	9/7	9/8	Azerbaijan		254.80		(9)				254.80
Paul Berkowitz	9/8	9/10	Austria		392.00						392.00
	9/4	9/5	Thailand		238.32						238.32
	9/5	9/5	Burma								
	9/5	9/7	India		595.36						595.36
	9/7	9/8	Azerbaijan		368.80						368.80
	9/8	9/10	Austria		708.00						708.00
Committee total					66,337.41		152,465.36		38,970.87		258,149.27

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
³ Military air transportation.
⁴ TBD—figures not submitted.

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, Chairman, Oct. 31, 2012.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2012

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Bonnie Bruce	8/22	8/23	Palau		182.00		5,244.90		127.85		5,372.75
Brian Modeste	8/22	8/23	Palau		182.00		5,306.90		168.74		5,475.64
Committee total					364.00		10,551.80		296.59		10,848.39

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. DOC HASTINGS, Chairman, Sept. 30, 2012.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2012

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Jason Chaffetz	7/13	7/15	China		707.00						707.00
	7/15	7/17	Korea		700.00						700.00
Commercial airfare							10,350.60				10,350.60
Thomas Alexander	7/13	7/15	China		707.00						707.00
	7/15	7/17	Korea		700.00						700.00
Commercial airfare							10,350.60				10,350.60
Hon. Dennis Ross	8/10	8/12	Morocco		496.05						496.05
	8/12	8/15	Kenya		1,050.00						1,050.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2012—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Todd Platts	8/15	8/18	Tanzania		563.10						563.10
	8/18	8/19	Spain		220.69						220.69
	8/10	8/12	Morocco		496.05						496.05
	8/12	8/15	Kenya		1,050.00						1,050.00
	8/15	8/18	Tanzania		563.10						563.10
	8/18	8/19	Spain		220.69						220.69
Committee total					7,473.68		20,701.20				28,174.88

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA, Chairman, Oct. 31, 2012.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2012

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return.

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. RALPH M. HALL, Chairman, Oct. 24, 2012.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2012

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Jason Altmire	6/30	7/2	Bratislava		186.00		(3)				186.00
	7/2	7/4	Georgia		196.00		(3)				196.00
	7/4	7/5	Yemen-Djibouti		115.00		(3)				115.00
Hon. Blake Farenthold	7/5	7/6	Spain		276.00		(3)				276.00
	6/30	7/2	Bratislava		186.00		(3)				186.00
	7/1	7/4	Georgia		196.00		(3)				196.00
Hon. Jason Altmire	7/4	7/5	Yemen-Djibouti		115.00		(3)				115.00
	7/5	7/6	Spain		276.00		(3)				276.00
	7/13	7/15	China		707.00		10,350.60				11,057.60
Hon. Daniel Lipinski	7/15	7/17	South Korea		700.00						700.00
	8/30	9/6	Italy		2,645.27		4,754.00				7,399.27
	9/2	9/4	Germany		241.25		(3)				241.25
Hon. Randy Hultgren	9/4	9/7	Sweden		483.00		(3)				483.00
	9/7	9/9	Norway		352.00		(3)				352.00
Committee total					6,674.52		15,104.60				21,779.12

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

HON. JOHN L. MICA, Chairman, Oct. 31, 2012.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2012

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Kenny Marchant	8/20	8/23	Germany		1,028.00						1,028.00
	8/19	8/20	Spain		321.32						321.32
Neena Shenai	8/23	8/25	England		1,460.00						1,460.00
	9/13	9/18	India		1,469.51		10,770.08		78.00		12,317.59
Committee total					4,278.83		10,770.08		78.00		15,126.91

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. DAVE CAMP, Chairman.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2012

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Devin Nunes	8/4	8/6	Europe		513.67						513.67
	8/6	8/7	Europe		326.00						326.00
	8/7	8/8	Europe		378.00						378.00
	8/8	8/8	Middle East								
	8/8	8/10	Middle East		591.00						591.00
	8/10	8/12	Middle East		474.00						474.00
	8/12	8/13	Europe		392.00						392.00
	8/13	8/15	Europe		569.76						569.76

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2012—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Commercial airfare	8/15	8/18	Europe		1,706.00		15,017.50				
George Pappas	8/4	8/6	Europe		513.67						
	8/6	8/7	Europe		326.00						
	8/7	8/8	Europe		378.00						
	8/8	8/8	Middle East								
	8/8	8/10	Middle East		591.00						
	8/10	8/12	Middle East		474.00						
	8/12	8/13	Europe		392.00						
	8/13	8/15	Europe		569.76						
	8/15	8/18	Europe		1,706.00						
Commercial airfare							12,305.00				
Carly Scott	8/4	8/6	Europe		513.67						
	8/6	8/7	Europe		326.00						
	8/7	8/8	Europe		378.00						
	8/8	8/8	Middle East								
	8/8	8/10	Middle East		591.00						
	8/10	8/12	Middle East		474.00						
	8/12	8/13	Europe		392.00						
	8/13	8/15	Europe		569.76						
	8/15	8/18	Europe		1,706.00						
Commercial airfare							12,481.50				
Hon. Mike Rogers	8/20	8/22	Middle East		319.00						
	8/22	8/23	Middle East		296.32						
	8/23	8/24	Middle East		660.50						
Commercial Airfare							12,556.00				13,831.82
Michael Allen	8/20	8/22	Middle East		319.00						
	8/22	8/23	Middle East		296.32						
	8/23	8/24	Middle East		660.50						
Commercial airfare							11,620.80				12,896.62
Chelsey Campbell	8/20	8/22	Middle East		319.00						
	8/22	8/23	Middle East		296.32						
Commercial airfare							11,620.80				12,236.12
Hon. Mike Thompson	8/23	8/26	South America		783.00						
Commercial airfare							1,283.40				2,066.40
Nate Hauser	8/23	8/26	South America		783.00						
Commercial airfare							1,137.90				1,920.90
Linda Cohen	8/23	8/26	South America		783.00						
Commercial airfare							1,137.90				1,920.90
Jamil Jaffer	9/4	9/5	Africa								
	9/5	9/6	Africa								
	9/6	9/7	Africa		164.31						
	9/7	9/8	Africa		541.00						
Commercial airfare							16,120.50				16,825.81
Khizer Syed	9/4	9/5	Africa								
	9/5	9/6	Africa								
	9/6	9/7	Africa		164.31						
	9/7	9/8	Africa		541.00						
Commercial airfare							16,120.50				16,825.81
Committee total											133,179.67

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. MIKE ROGERS, Chairman, Oct. 31, 2012.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2012

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Robert Aderholt	7/7	7/9	Monaco		278.00		3,466.30				3,744.30
Mark Milosch	7/6	7/9	Monaco		417.00		3,271.10				3,688.10
Robert Hand	7/10	7/14	Austria		998.00		1,885.20				2,883.20
Allison Hollibaugh	7/24	7/28	Austria		457.57		1,602.40		170.87		2,230.84
Shelly Han	9/10	9/15	Czech Republic		1,506.42		1,888.30				3,394.72
Kyle Parker	9/23	9/29	Poland		1,689.65		1,460.50				3,150.15
Alex Johnson	7/1	8/15	Austria		15,642.00						15,642.00
Orest Deychakivsky	9/20	9/25	Belarus		1,690.00		3,154.00				4,844.00
Janice Helwig	8/13	8/21	Uzbekistan		1,717.00		11,848.70				13,565.70
	9/4	9/23	Austria		5,881.15		3,158.40				9,039.55
Committee total					30,276.79		31,734.90		170.87		62,182.56

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, Chairman, Oct. 23, 2012.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

8431. A letter from the Director, Policy Issuances Division, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Requirements for Official Establishments to Notify FSIS of Adulterated or Misbranded Product, Prepare and Maintain Written Recall Procedures, and Document Certain Hazard Analysis and Critical Control

Point System Plan Reassessments [FDMS Docket No.: FSIS-2008-0025] (RIN: 0583-AC34) received November 7, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8432. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Dinotefuran; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0755; FRL-9366-3] received November 8, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8433. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Xylenesulfonic acid, sodium salt; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0951; FRL-9361-3] received November 8, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8434. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation Funding and Fiscal Affairs; Farmer

Mac Investment Management (RIN: 3052-AC56) received November 7, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8435. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Enforcement of Subsidiary and Affiliate Contracts by the FDIC as Receiver of a Covered Financial Company (RIN: 3064-AD94) received November 2, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8436. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Assessments, Large Bank Pricing (RIN: 3064-AD92) received November 2, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8437. A letter from the Acting Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the FY 2011 report on activities to preserve and promote minority ownership of insured financial institutions; to the Committee on Financial Services.

8438. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting written notification of the determination that a public health emergency exists and has existed in the State of New York since October 27, 2012, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 247d(a) Public Law 107-188, section 144(a); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8439. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the South Coast Portion of the California State Implementation Plan, CPV Sentinel Energy Project AB 1318 Tracking System [EPA-R09-OAR-2010-1078; FRL-9751-3] received November 8, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8440. A letter from the Deputy Chief, CGB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Implementation of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012; Establishment of a Public Safety Answering Point Do-Not-Call Registry [CG Docket No.: 12-129] received November 8, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8441. A letter from the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, transmitting the seventeenth quarterly report on the Afghanistan reconstruction; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8442. A letter from the Acting Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting a certification of export to China; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8443. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning methods employed by the Government of Cuba to comply with the United States-Cuba September 1994 "Joint Communique" and the treatment by the Government of Cuba of persons returned to Cuba in accordance with the United States-Cuba May 1995 "Joint Statement", together known as the Migration Accords, pursuant to Public Law 105-277, section 2245; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8444. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period June 1 through July 31, 2012 pursuant to Section 620C(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8445. A letter from the Associate Director for PP&I, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Yemen Sanctions Regulations received No-

vember 7, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8446. A letter from the Associate Director, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Iranian Financial Sanctions Regulations received November 8, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8447. A letter from the Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled, "Audit of the Metropolitan Police Department's Investigations and Preliminary Inquiries Involving First Amendment Activities"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8448. A letter from the Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled, "Fiscal Year 2011 Annual Report on Advisory Neighborhood Commissions"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8449. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Importation, Exportation, and Transportation of Wildlife; User Fee Exemption Program for Low-Risk Importations and Exportations [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-LE-2012-0091] (RIN: 1018-AZ18) received November 2, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8450. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, National Indian Gaming Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Issuance of Investigation Completion Letters (RIN: 3141-AA49) received November 7, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8451. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, National Indian Gaming Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Enforcement Actions received November 7, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8452. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's determination on a petition on behalf of workers employed at the Ventrone Corporation in Beverly, Massachusetts, to be added to the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC), pursuant to the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8453. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Rules of Practice and Procedure; Rules of Practice and Procedure in Adjudicatory Proceedings; Civil Money Penalty Inflation Adjustments [Docket ID: OCC-2012-0011] (RIN: 1557-AD61) November 7, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8454. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Boise, ID [Docket No.: FAA-2011-1181; Airspace Docket No.: 11-ANM-20] received November 5, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8455. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Kerryville, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2011-1399; Airspace Docket No.: 11-ASW-14] received November 5, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8456. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Circle Town, MT [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0539; Airspace Docket No.:

12-ANM-10] received November 5, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8457. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Area Navigation (RNAV) Route Q-62; Northeast United States [Docket No.: FAA-2011-1407; Airspace Docket No.: 11-AGL-25] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 5, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8458. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Fort Garland, CO [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0617; Airspace Docket No.: 12-ANM-18] received November 5, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8459. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Lakehurst, NJ; Correction [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0456; Airspace Docket No.: 12-AEA-9] received November 5, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8460. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's report entitled, "Fundamental Properties of Asphalts and Modified Asphalts — III"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8461. A letter from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Hazardous Materials Safety, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Hazardous Materials: Minor Editorial Corrections and Clarifications (RRR) [Docket No.: PHMSA-2012-0080 (HM-244E)] (RIN: 2137-AE90) received November 5, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8462. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, National Indian Gaming Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Management Contracts — Background Investigations received November 7, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8463. A letter from the Public Affairs Specialist, Disabled American Veterans, transmitting the 2012 National Convention Proceedings Of The Disabled American Veterans, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 90i and 44 U.S.C. 1332; (H. Doc. No. 112—156); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and ordered to be printed.

8464. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Joanne Wandry v. Commissioner [AOD: 2012-05] received November 2, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8465. A letter from the Deputy Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting Annual Report of Payment Recapture Audits in compliance with Section 2(h)(2)(D)(ii) of the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act of 2010; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8466. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting a letter regarding the Savannah River Site Building 235-F Safety; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Armed Services.

8467. A letter from the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, transmitting the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction (SIGIR) October 2012 Quarterly Report; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Appropriations.

8468. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services,

transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicare Program; Home Health Prospective Payment System Rate Update for Calendar year 2013, Hospice Quality Reporting Requirements, and Survey and Enforcement Requirements for Home Health Agencies [CMS-1358-F] (RIN: 0938-AR18) received November 2, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

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. HALL:

H.R. 6603. A bill to authorize research, development, and demonstration activities that increase energy security and affordability by enabling the safe and responsible production of the United States vast domestic unconventional oil and gas resources; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. PELOSI (for herself and Mr. BOEHNER):

H.R. 6604. A bill to designate the federal building currently known as Federal Office Building 8, located at 200 C Street Southwest in the District of Columbia, as the "Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Federal Building"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

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

H.R. 6605. A bill to eliminate an unnecessary reporting requirement for an unfunded DNA Identification grant program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. DEGETTE (for herself, Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado, Mr. PAUL, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. FARR, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. POLIS, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 6606. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide that Federal law shall not preempt State law; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. ELLMERS:

H.R. 6607. A bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 300 Fayetteville Street in Raleigh, North Carolina, as the "Jesse Helms Federal Building and United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York:

H.R. 6608. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with regard to research on asthma, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KISSELL (for himself, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. WATT, Mr. SHULER, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. COOPER, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HARPER, Mr. MICHAUD, and Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas):

H. Res. 818. A resolution expressing support for designating January 8th as Elvis Presley Day; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

293. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the State of Utah, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 201 supporting a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

294. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of California, relative to Assembly Joint Resolution No. 19 urging the Congress to enact H.R. 3729; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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. HALL:

H.R. 6603.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. PELOSI:

H.R. 6604.

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

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the Constitution.

By Mr. CONYERS:

H.R. 6605.

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

U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Ms. DEGETTE:

H.R. 6606.

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

Amendment X to the Constitution of the United States.

By Mrs. ELLMERS:

H.R. 6607.

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

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

By Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York:

H.R. 6608.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the powers granted to the Congress by Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 181: Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 492: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 601: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 718: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H.R. 894: Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 1005: Mr. BARLETTA.

H.R. 1063: Mr. RUSH and Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 1265: Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 1322: Ms. MCCOLLUM and Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 1325: Mr. BARLETTA.

H.R. 1358: Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 1546: Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 1831: Mr. MASSIE.

H.R. 1867: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 2103: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 2104: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. REYES, and Ms. BERKLEY.

H.R. 2479: Mr. MARKEY.

H.R. 2492: Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 2697: Mrs. EMERSON.

H.R. 2823: Mr. LARSEN of Washington and Ms. RICHARDSON.

H.R. 2985: Mr. RANGEL, Ms. HANABUSA, and Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 3102: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, and Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 3126: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 3179: Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 3307: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 3522: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 3618: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 3760: Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.R. 3771: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 3798: Mr. BECERRA.

H.R. 3808: Mr. GINGREY of Georgia.

H.R. 4077: Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CAPUANO, and Ms. WATERS.

H.R. 4137: Ms. BORDALLO and Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 4271: Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 4336: Mr. WOMACK.

H.R. 4342: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 5749: Ms. EDWARDS.

H.R. 5817: Mrs. MALONEY.

H.R. 5873: Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 5943: Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 6021: Mr. CLARKE of Michigan.

H.R. 6087: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 6174: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.

H.R. 6200: Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 6258: Mr. SABLAN.

H.R. 6275: Ms. ZOE LOPGREN of California.

H.R. 6364: Mr. MCINTYRE.

H.R. 6372: Ms. HIRONO.

H.R. 6385: Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. CRITZ, Ms. FUDGE, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 6388: Mr. WALSH of Illinois.

H.R. 6400: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.

H.R. 6402: Ms. FUDGE.

H.R. 6408: Mr. CULBERSON.

H.R. 6429: Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois.

H.R. 6446: Mr. SCHRADER.

H.R. 6463: Mr. COOPER, Mr. CONAWAY, and Mr. WESTMORELAND.

H.R. 6480: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 6482: Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.

H.R. 6490: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. FORBES, Ms. BUERKLE, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. MARINO, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. HARPER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, and Mr. HURT.

H.R. 6578: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.

H.R. 6584: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CLAY, and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 6587: Mr. CALVERT, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. FARR, Mr. HONDA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. ROYCE, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. NUNES.

H.R. 6588: Ms. CHU, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.J. Res. 47: Mr. CONYERS and Mr. HIMES.

H. Res. 549: Mr. MORAN.

H. Res. 798: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H. Res. 809: Mr. CALVERT.

H. Res. 814: Mr. CALVERT, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. STIVERS, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. CULBERSON.