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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 9, 2013.

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

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

PRAYER

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

Gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

The work of the Congress resumes after time spent by millions of Americans celebrating high holy days, and spring comes to our Nation's Capitol. It is a season of hope.

In this Chamber, where the people's House gathers, we pause to offer You gratitude for the gift of this good land on which we live and for this great Nation which You have inspired in developing over so many years. Continue to inspire the American people, that through the difficulties of these days we might keep liberty and justice alive in our Nation and in the world.

Give to us and all people a vivid sense of Your presence, that we may learn to understand each other, to respect each other, to work with each other, to live with each other, and to do good to each other. So shall we make our Nation great in goodness, and good in its greatness.

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.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. BURGESS 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.

PRIME MINISTER MARGARET THATCHER WAS A HEROINE FOR FREEDOM

(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 world lost a true heroine for freedom. Former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher will forever be remembered for her great resolve to achieve victory during the Cold War.

From her humble beginnings as a grocer's daughter to her successful tenure in Parliament, Baroness Thatcher possessed great leadership qualities we can all learn from that contributed to her success. Her determination to promote and protect democracy led to the successful dissolution of the Soviet Union and the liberation of dozens of former Soviet-occupied nations from Communism to free-market democracy.

Prime Minister Thatcher's loyal friendships with President Ronald Reagan, Pope John Paul II, and Polish Solidarity union leader Lech Walesa changed history, standing up for freedom against the threat of Communism.

Thank you, Baroness Margaret Thatcher, for your commitment to democracy. Millions around the world were touched by your unwavering strength in preserving freedom. You will be missed.

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

HONORING MEMPHIS SOUL

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, tonight PBS and the Grammys will continue a series of concerts at the White House, and tonight's concert will feature Memphis soul. Memphis is a city known around the world for music, whether it's Sun Records and Elvis Presley and Sam Phillips or the studios which will be featured tonight, Stax Records and Hi Records. Sam Moore, Justin Timberlake, Mavis Staples, Charlie Musselwhite, Ben Harper, Sam Moore of Sam and Dave, they'll all be there.

Memphis music is part of America's cultural history, a living, breathing

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part of our culture. We're pleased that PBS and the Grammys chose Memphis soul to be featured tonight. The President will be there. Without AL GREEN, he'll have to do ''Let's Stay Together'' by himself. We look forward to that.

We ask all of you to come to Memphis, Tennessee, and visit America's great reservoir of music history.

CITY OF IRVING, TEXAS, AWARDED 2012 MALCOLM BALDRIDGE NATIONAL QUALITY AWARD

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the city of Irving on the receipt of the 2012 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. This award is the Nation's highest Presidential honor for performance excellence through innovation, improvement, and visionary leadership.

Irving, Texas, is not just about lower tax rates and efficient government; the city of Irving prioritizes feedback from its citizens, achieving high levels of citizen satisfaction and producing almost $45 million in cost savings over the past 5 years. Through the implementation of the Lean Six Sigma program, the city of Irving, Texas, has lowered tax rates for its citizens, improved the quality of services, and maintained an efficient workforce.

I congratulate the city of Irving on its receipt of this award, and I hope that the Federal Government in Washington, D.C., can learn from their example.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, today, April 9, is Equal Pay Day, the day on the calendar that marks more than 3 months into 2013 when women's wages finally catch up to what men earned in 2012.

Nearly a half century after the passage of the Equal Pay Act, women continue to face unfairness in the workplace. According to the American Association of University Women, in Rhode Island's First Congressional District, women working full time, year round, still make only 83 cents on the dollar compared to the average man.

For all the progress that we've made in the fight for women's rights, the issue of pay equity continues to persist. That's why I'm proud to voice my strong support for the Paycheck Fairness Act, a commonsense bill that would strengthen the Equal Pay Act by providing effective remedies for women who are not paid equal wages for equal work.

It's time for us to prioritize the long-term well-being of the Nation's hardworking women, many of whom are heads of households, and immediately pass this critical legislation to help ensure equality in the workplace.

□ 1410

HONORING THE SERVICE OF THE 3RD U.S. INFANTRY REGIMENT, THE OLD GUARD

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

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the men and women of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, better known as The Old Guard, who, for 65 years, have faithfully guarded the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery.

Saturday, April 6, was the 65th anniversary of this Honor Guard, which continuously watches over the Tomb of the Unknowns 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, through all kinds of weather.

Many don't know that the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment pulls double duty, also maintaining tactical readiness, prepared to defend Washington in the event of war or other crisis.

The Tomb, of course, holds the remains of select unknown soldiers from World Wars I and II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. While only God knows their names, they represent men and women who died defending our freedoms. We should all be proud to live in a country that continues to honor their sacrifice, a country that doesn't forget that freedom isn't free.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking the soldiers of The Old Guard for their vigilance and dedication.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Equal Pay Day. Today is a day I wish we didn't have to mark. After 99 days of 2013, women have finally caught up with what their male coworkers earned last year.

And while unequal pay clearly hurts women, it also affects their families. The additional $11,000 a woman would make each year if she was fairly compensated would pay for a year and a half of child care, or feed a family of four with money to spare.

As we continue to pull out of the recession, every dollar matters, and that is why hardworking women across this Nation are counting on us to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act and close this gap for good.

We are listening, and we must act. Our sisters, our daughters, and our granddaughters deserve nothing less.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

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

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, today is an important day in women's history and our country's history. It is the 50th anniversary of the Equal Pay Act, a reminder of the progress we have made in the fight for equality, and a reminder that the fight is not over.

Nationally, women earn 77 cents on the dollar compared to their male coworkers. In my State of Nevada, it's 85 cents to the dollar. No matter the degree of disparity, unequal pay for equal work is wrong.

Women head over 125,000 households in Nevada. Closing the wage gap would provide needed and deserved income for these families and all families across the country.

I'm the father of a bright young daughter. I want the best for her and for young women across the country who have great contributions to make to our Nation, and that's why I urge passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

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

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I stand with my colleagues to highlight Equal Pay Day and call on this body to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Equal pay for equal work not only adheres to our country's founding principles of justice and equality, but it makes a huge difference to the families in Wisconsin. In my district, women are paid 81 cents to the dollar that men earn, and across the State of Wisconsin, the number is even lower, 78 cents. That equals $10,324 less in wages a year between a man and a woman.

What does $10,324 mean?

Well, it means almost 2,800 gallons of gas. It means more than a year's worth of groceries and almost a year's worth of rent.

The pay gap has a real effect on the families of Wisconsin. Almost 230,000 households in Wisconsin are headed by women, and almost a third of those fall below the poverty line. Eliminating the wage gap would provide much-needed assistance to women whose families depend on those salaries.

I am proud to cosponsor the Paycheck Fairness Act, which makes important strides towards ensuring that women finally receive equal pay for equal work. This bill improves the lives of Wisconsin women, Wisconsin families, and Wisconsin communities. We have an urgent moral need to pass it.

GENDER GAP IN THE UNITED STATES

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

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, last year almost 58 percent of college graduates were women, and women now account for over half of the college-educated population. In corporate America, women were 53 percent of new

hires last year, and women account for 50 percent of jobs held by college-educated individuals. This is all very good news.

Yet, when you look at advancement, we see another story emerging. It is estimated that when people are promoted to managers in corporations, only 37 percent of them are women. When promotions to vice presidents are made, only 26 percent are women.

This is a talent drain. This is not only a big problem for women, but it's a big problem for our economy. It limits diversity of ideas, which limits productivity.

The gender gap hurts U.S. competitiveness by creating management structures that don't reflect the views of 50 percent of the population. It hurts families because women are economic anchors in the majority of families.

Fifty-three percent of working women are primary breadwinners, and 15 million households are headed by women. We're creating an economic burden. The gender gap and wage gap is not reflective of the kind of society we want to live in. We need to reverse both institutional and individual mindsets that limit the progress of women.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

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

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Equal Pay Day because we are a stronger Nation when our sons and daughters get equal pay for an equal day of work. As the proud father of a teenage daughter, I know that children deserve to have a fair shot at success, regardless of their gender.

When a woman in south Florida is paid 86 cents for every dollar paid to a man for the same job, it creates a yearly gap for women of almost $6,000. That's real money. It's nearly a year of groceries, 5 months of rent, 30 months of gas.

And so, in this new century, with so many women serving as heads of households and women being a critical part of our economic success, it's time we close the gender pay gap once and for all and pass the Paycheck Fairness Act.

SUPPORT WAGE EQUALITY

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address wage equality in our Nation, or the lack thereof.

I was raised by a mother, a schoolteacher. She worked hard. She worked harder than any male that I know of on her job, and then when she came home, she worked hard in the home, harder than any male that I've ever known. And she turned me over to my wife.

My wife works harder than I ever thought about working, both outside the home and in the home. So I believe that it is definitely a great tragedy that either one of those women would make less than a man doing the same thing on the job. I think it's terrible.

Seventy-seven cents for every dollar earned by a man is what women make in my home State of Georgia. I'm particularly alarmed by the wage gap for minority women, who often earn less than 64 cents for every dollar earned by a non-minority man.

Without equal pay, women working twice as hard only go half as far. We must continue to strive for income equality and support women in the workplace.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

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

Ms. DELAURO. It has now been 50 years since Congress passed the Equal Pay Act to confront the ''serious and endemic'' problem of unequal wages in America. At the time, when women were a third of the Nation's workforce, President John F. Kennedy said that this would help to end ''the unconscionable practice of paying female employees less wages than male employees for the same job.''

Today, women are now half of the Nation's workforce, but they are still only being paid 77 cents on the dollar as compared to men. And that is why today we're once again forced to recognize Equal Pay Day, the day in 2013 when a woman's earnings for 2012 catch up to what a man made last year.

Unequal pay affects families all across our country. They're trying to pay their bills, trying to achieve the American Dream, and are getting less take-home pay than they deserve for their hard work. More steps are clearly needed to ensure that women are paid what they deserve.

We need to pass legislation that will end pay secrecy and give women the tools to ensure that they are being compensated fairly. We need to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. Men, women, same job, same pay.

Fifty years after this Congress first acted on the issue, it is time to end unequal pay. Make the dubious milestone of Equal Pay Day a thing of the past.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 9, 2013.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 9, 2013 at 9:43 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 10.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1703

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN) at 5 o'clock and 3 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.

BONNEVILLE UNIT CLEAN HYDROPOWER FACILITATION ACT

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 254) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to facilitate the development of hydroelectric power on the Diamond Fork System of the Central Utah Project.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 254

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 ''Bonneville Unit Clean Hydropower Facilitation Act''.

SEC. 2. DIAMOND FORK SYSTEM DEFINED.

For the purposes of this Act, the term ''Diamond Fork System'' means the facilities described in chapter 4 of the October 2004 Supplement to the 1988 Definite Plan Report for the Bonneville Unit.

SEC. 3. COST ALLOCATIONS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in order to facilitate hydropower development on the Diamond Fork System, the amount of reimbursable costs allocated to project power in Chapter 6 of the Power Appendix in the October 2004 Supplement to the 1988 Bonneville Unit Definite Plan Report, with regard to power development upstream of the Diamond Fork System, shall be considered final costs as well as costs in excess of the total maximum repayment obligation as defined in section 211 of the Central Utah Project Completion Act of 1992 (Public Law 102–575), and shall be subject to the same terms and conditions.

SEC. 4. NO PURCHASE OR MARKET OBLIGATION; NO COSTS ASSIGNED TO POWER.

Nothing in this Act shall obligate the Western Area Power Administration to purchase or market any of the power produced by the Diamond Fork power plant and none of the costs associated with development of transmission facilities to transmit power from the Diamond Fork power plant shall be assigned to power for the purpose of Colorado River Storage Project ratemaking.

SEC. 5. PROHIBITION ON TAX-EXEMPT FINANCING.

No facility for the generation or transmission of hydroelectric power on the Diamond Fork System may be financed or refinanced, in whole or in part, with proceeds of any obligation—

(1) the interest on which is exempt from the tax imposed under chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or

(2) with respect to which credit is allowable under subpart I or J of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of such Code.

SEC. 6. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.

If, 24 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, hydropower production on the Diamond Fork System has not commenced, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit a report to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate stating this fact, the reasons such production has not yet commenced, and a detailed timeline for future hydropower production.

SEC. 7. PAYGO.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled ''Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation'' for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

SEC. 8. LIMITATION ON THE USE OF FUNDS.

The authority under the provisions of section 301 of the Hoover Power Plant Act of 1984 (Public Law 98–381; 42 U.S.C. 16421a) shall not be used to fund any study or construction of transmission facilities developed as a result of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 254, introduced by Congressman JASON CHAFFETZ of Utah, facilitates the development of 50 megawatts of clean and renewable hydroelectric power at existing Interior Department facilities in the Diamond Fork System in Utah. That is enough electricity to power over 50,000 homes.

The bill removes an administrative impediment to make this happen. As part of the Interior Department's current rules, the developer must first pay $106 million even before investing in the capital cost to install hydropower generators. As Water and Power Subcommittee Chairman TOM MCCLINTOCK said, this requirement is akin to a family renting out a room but first requiring the renter to pay off their mortgage. The family is then shocked that nobody wants to rent from them and the family is not further along in paying off its mortgage and has denied itself rental income. The Congressional Budget Office concurred by stating:

> The Federal Government is unlikely, under current law, to develop the hydropower resources of the Diamond Fork project for at least the next 10 years.

Therefore, this bill removes the requirement of paying for the sunk cost and encourages non-Federal entities to pursue hydropower development at Diamond Fork. As a result, this legislation will generate $4 million in revenue over a 10-year period. The House has passed this legislation twice in as many Congresses, and I urge my colleagues to support it again.

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

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

(Mr. HOLT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLT. H.R. 254, introduced by my friend Mr. CHAFFETZ of Utah, would allow for the production of hydropower at existing facilities by deferring the debt associated with hydropower development on the Diamond Fork System, as you have heard.

This would facilitate the development of 50 megawatts of clean hydroelectric power while generating revenue for the government for the use of its water facilities. This is what we should want to see.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support its passage, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ).

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the bipartisan support that we've had in the passage of this legislation and urge its support.

H.R. 254 is a win for Federal taxpayers, the environment, and energy users. This bill allows for the development of 50 megawatts of clean, renewable hydropower on the Diamond Fork System in Utah and will generate $600,000 per year for the Federal Government. In Utah, we are one of the fastest-growing areas in the Nation and we need this power.

Under current law, hydropower will not be developed on the Diamond Fork System due to a requirement that energy developers pay $106 million to recover sunk costs that were incurred several years ago.

This $106 million payment requirement renders the hydropower project economically unfeasible. According to the Congressional Budget Office doing an assessment on H.R. 254:

> Among the reasons that CBO expects the site will probably not be developed over the next 10 years under current law is a requirement that project sponsors pay the Treasury for a portion of the Federal Government's previous investments in the water project.

H.R. 254 would waive the repayment requirement, making the project economically feasible. In addition, the developer would pay the Federal Government a $600,000 per year fee, unrelated to the sunk cost, once the project is completed.

Massive amounts of energy are generated in the Diamond Fork unit as water flows downhill from Strawberry Reservoir to the Utah and Salt Lake Valleys. Energy dissipators are scattered throughout the pipeline to slow the flow and disperse the energy. Under H.R. 254, the operators would be able to replace those dissipators with turbines, allowing the currently wasted energy to be converted into electricity.

With or without this bill, the Federal Government will not recover the $106 million under any realistic scenario, and developers will not create 50 megawatts of renewable hydropower unless the sunk cost repayment requirement is waived. Additionally, the Federal Government will receive $600,000 per year once the project is completed if the repayment requirement is waived.

This has had a number of hearings within the Natural Resources Committee. We appreciate the bipartisan support and spirit of this moving forward. I would urge passage by my colleagues. We need the energy. This is the best, clean way we can do it.

Mr. HOLT. Does the gentleman from Virginia have further speakers?

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers.

Mr. HOLT. With that, I will repeat my advice to my colleagues that we support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1710

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I concur with the gentleman from New Jersey in that this bill should pass, and I appreciate the bipartisan support.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 254.

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. HOLT. 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 motion will be postponed.

AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION PROGRAM AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2013

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1033) to authorize the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 under the American Battlefield Protection Program.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1033

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 ''American Battlefield Protection Program Amendments Act of 2013''.

SEC. 2. REVOLUTIONARY WAR AND WAR OF 1812 AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION.

Section 7301(c) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11) is amended as follows:

(1) In paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(A) BATTLEFIELD REPORT.—The term 'battlefield report' means, collectively—

''(i) the report entitled 'Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields', prepared by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, and dated July 1993; and

''(ii) the report entitled 'Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States', prepared by the National Park Service, and dated September 2007.''; and

(B) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by striking ''Battlefield Report'' and inserting ''battlefield report''.

(2) In paragraph (2), by inserting ''eligible sites or'' after ''acquiring''.

(3) In paragraph (3), by inserting ''an eligible site or'' after ''acquire''.

(4) In paragraph (4), by inserting ''an eligible site or'' after ''acquiring''.

(5) In paragraph (5), by striking ''An'' and inserting ''An eligible site or an''.

(6) By redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (9).

(7) By inserting after paragraph (5) the following new paragraphs:

''(6) WILLING SELLERS.—Acquisition of land or interests in land under this subsection shall be from willing sellers only.

''(7) REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the activities carried out under this subsection, including a description of—

''(A) preservation activities carried out at the battlefields and associated sites identified in the battlefield report during the period between publication of the battlefield report and the report required under this paragraph;

''(B) changes in the condition of the battlefields and associated sites during that period; and

''(C) any other relevant developments relating to the battlefields and associated sites during that period.

''(8) PROHIBITION ON LOBBYING.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds provided pursuant to this section may be used for purposes of lobbying any person or entity regarding the implementation of this section or be granted, awarded, contracted, or otherwise be made available to any person, organization, or entity that participates in such lobbying.

''(B) LOBBYING DEFINED.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'lobbying' means to directly or indirectly pay for any personal service, advertisement, telegram, telephone call, letter, printed or written matter, or other device intended or designed to influence in any manner a Member of Congress, a jurisdiction, or an official of any government to favor, adopt, or oppose by vote or otherwise, any legislation, law, ratification, policy, land use plan (including zoning), or appropriation of funds before or after the introduction of any bill, resolution, or other measure proposing such legislation, law, ratification, policy, or appropriation.''.

(8) In paragraph (9) (as redesignated by paragraph (6)), by striking ''2013'' and inserting ''2018''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

The American Battlefield Protection Act addressed the preservation and protection of Civil War battlefields through conservation easements or through the purchase of land from willing sellers with Federal grants. H.R. 1033 renews this effort which will soon expire and adds Revolutionary War and War of 1812 battlefields to those eligible for protection.

It is important to know that the bill we are considering mirrors the version from the last Congress that passed the House and included improvements made by the Natural Resources Committee. Specifically, the program sunset was moved up from 10 to 5 years, and we retained the existing authorization of appropriations to provide a more realistic funding level in these times of deficit spending.

Additionally, the committee added language to prohibit these funds from being used for lobbying activities or for being distributed to organizations that participate in lobbying. With so many existing needs within the National Park Service, we want to ensure that these funds go specifically for battlefield protection and not outside advocacy.

I would also like to point out that this legislation does not fund advocacy or educational seminars and programs. These grants are strictly available to State and local governments for battlefield protection. There is a separate and distinct Federal authorization for educational programs and partnership that is not part of this bill.

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

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

(Mr. HOLT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLT. I rise in support of the American Battlefield Protection Program Amendments Act that Mr. WITTMAN and I have brought to the committee and now to the floor.

From Lexington, where the shot still reverberates, to Gettysburg, the site of the battle described so brilliantly and concisely by Lincoln, to the stories of the American Revolution and the Civil War, it is at the battlefields that we bring to life the ideals of liberty and democracy fostered by our Nation's Founders.

History is best experienced by those who can touch it, feel it, live it; and the battlefields of the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Civil War provide a unique opportunity for Americans to experience where and how the epic struggle for our Nation's independence and identity took place. Unfortunately, urbanization, suburban sprawl, and unplanned commercial and residential development are constantly encroaching on many of the significant battlefields of the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Civil War. This encroachment poses a severe and growing risk to the preservation of these historically significant sites.

Congress recognized this danger to our shared history and in the late 1990s created the American Battlefield Protection Program, a competitive grant program that matches Federal dollars with private money to preserve Civil War sites. Since Congress first appropriated funding for this program, it has helped to save more than 17,000 acres of hallowed ground in 14 States, again encouraging private funds for acquiring land from willing sellers.

The bill before us today, H.R. 1033, would build on the success of the American Battlefield Protection Program in preserving Civil War battlefield sites and would reauthorize this program and extend the protection and preservation to battlefields from the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812.

H.R. 1033 would allow officials at the American Battlefield Protection Program to collaborate with State and local governments and nonprofit organizations to preserve and protect the most endangered historical sites and provide up to 50 percent of the cost of purchasing the battlefield land threatened by sprawl and commercial development, again from willing sellers encouraging the use of private funds.

Previously, this legislation has been approved three times by this House with overwhelming bipartisan support, mostly unanimous.

In a markup in the House Natural Resources Committee last month, the American Battlefield Protection Program Amendments Act again passed unanimously.

As the Civil War Trust said in their letter supporting this legislation:

The battlefields of the American Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Civil War provide a unique opportunity for Americans to experience the epic battles that helped define our Nation. Preserving these American historic treasures is essential to remember the sacrifices that our ancestors made to secure our freedom and independence and preserve our Republic.

With the ongoing bicentennial commemoration of the War of 1812 and the ongoing sesquicentennial commemoration of the Civil War, this is an opportune time to recommit ourselves to the protection of our Nation's hallowed grounds. Historical sites, once lost, are gone forever. We should act now to preserve these valuable sites.

The National Park Service has done an inventory of sites around the country, and they point to many that need this protection now.

I thank my colleague from Virginia for his enthusiastic support. I point out that there is strong bipartisan support for this legislation as cosponsors and other supporters. And I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this bill.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

As an original cosponsor of H.R. 1033, I would like to express my appreciation to Mr. HOLT for his continued leadership to preserve and protect important historic battlefields throughout the United States, including those in his home State of New Jersey, which is better known as the ''crossroads of the American Revolution.''

As a Virginian, this legislation is also especially notable as it will continue to preserve important hallowed ground from our Nation's independence and the Civil War. The Civil War Battlefield Preservation program has been particularly beneficial to the Commonwealth of Virginia. As a result, hard-fought acres of battleground have been preserved in pivotal sites such as Appomattox, Cedar Creek, Chancellorsville, Fredericksburg, Manassas, Petersburg, and Richmond.

Preserving battlefields does more than just honor those who fought in those battles; it protects important places from development. I want to make sure that we continue those efforts in ensuring that we make the effort to keep these battlefields in their proper place in this Nation's history.

I also would like to emphasize that this program doesn't increase the amount of Federal land. I know there's been some criticism to say this is an effort to increase Federal land within this program. While it does increase and expand those battlefield areas that are eligible under the program, it doesn't increase the amount of Federal land in this particular project.

□ 1720

I want to make sure people understand that because this is really for the protection of battlefields outside of national park boundaries, giving those concerned within those areas the ability to help preserve those lands. There is no additional management burden on the Federal Government, so these lands are not going to become part of a system in which we have to incur more costs to maintain those lands. It's the ability to make sure that we preserve those lands. Especially today, with the encroachment of development in these areas, these critical, historical sites must be preserved, and this gives the folks in those areas the flexibility and the tools—the ability—to preserve these lands.

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

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I thank my good friend from Virginia, and would reiterate what he has said.

In fact, the original legislation, which we are reauthorizing and extending through this bill, grew out of Virginia. It was because of the critical battlefields in Virginia that were at risk of being lost that this battlefield protection legislation was developed, but it will be beneficial across many States.

If you look where the War of 1812 was fought—in the Deep South and around the Great Lakes—and where the Revolutionary War was fought, which was up and down the Thirteen Colonies, this is something that is of great national importance; and because the authorization is about to expire, it is needed; and because so many of these battlefields are at great risk of being overrun by sprawl and development, it is at the greatest need now.

I urge my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WITTMAN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As Mr. HOLT said, preserving battlefields is extraordinarily important, but it does more than just honor those who have fought in the past: it's important that it protects these places that are so important in our Nation's history.

Preserving these battlefields contributes economically to local businesses and to historic communities in these areas across the country. According to a recent study, in just five States, those States including Missouri, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia, 15.8 million visitors went to these Civil War sites and spent nearly $442 million in those local communities and supported 5,150 jobs. We talk all the time up here about jobs and the economy. This is something that we can do to improve and enhance jobs and the economy in these local communities.

We are blessed in Virginia, as Mr. HOLT said, with a rich history. According to the Virginia Tourism Corporation, Civil War site visitors stay longer and spend more than twice as much as the average visitor to the Commonwealth. Preserving battlefields is good for local communities and businesses, and it's good for jobs and the economy.

Mr. HOLT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WITTMAN. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. HOLT. I would like to add to his economic numbers the fiscal fact that this does not appropriate any funds. We are just reauthorizing existing legislation and extending it.

I thank the gentleman.

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, again, the bill continues a modest investment of Federal resources to protect these hallowed grounds where independence was won and our Republic secured.

I do want to reiterate what Mr. HOLT said in that this legislation does not increase authorized spending. Proponents of this program sought to double the annual spending authorization and add Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 sites to those eligible for grants, but the committee made sure that there was no increase in spending and insisted that the proposal be added to keep the authorization flat at these current levels when adding additional war sites. We wanted to make sure we had the opportunity for sites to be included, but in understanding where we are with the Nation's deficit, we wanted to make sure that we could preserve these sites without adding to the deficit. I think this is a very responsible way to do that, to make sure that communities have the ability to do the things they need to do, and also to make sure we keep in mind the times that we face here at the Federal level.

So I believe it's an extraordinarily good bill, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1033.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1033.

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. WITTMAN. 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 motion will be postponed.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 25 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. HULTGREN) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 678, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION SMALL CONDUIT HYDROPOWER DEVELOPMENT AND RURAL JOBS ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113–31) on the resolution (H. Res. 140) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 678) to authorize all Bureau of Reclamation conduit facilities for hydropower development under Federal Reclamation law, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motion to suspend the rules on H.R. 254; motion to suspend the rules on H.R. 1033; and approval of the Journal, in each case by the yeas and nays.

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

BONNEVILLE UNIT CLEAN HYDROPOWER FACILITATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 254) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to facilitate the development of hydroelectric power on the Diamond Fork System of the Central Utah Project, 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 Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 400, nays 4, not voting 27, as follows:

[Roll No. 90]

YEAS—400

Aderholt
Alexander
Amodei
Andrews
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bonner
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Keating
Kelly
Kennedy
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Maffei
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Rush
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NAYS—4

Amash
Garamendi
Kaptur
McDermott

NOT VOTING—27

Bilirakis
Brooks (AL)
Broun (GA)
Butterfield
Castor (FL)
Cohen
Culberson
Cummings
Gohmert
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hastings (FL)
Kildee
Loebsack
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Markey
Michaud
Noem
Poe (TX)
Radel
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Whitfield

□ 1856

Mr. CAPUANO changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE BARONESS MARGARET THATCHER, FORMER PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I send to the desk a resolution and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House, and further ask unanimous consent that it be read in full.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. ROBY). Without objection, the Clerk will report the resolution.

There was no objection.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 141

Resolved, That the House of Representatives has learned with profound sorrow of the death of Baroness Margaret Thatcher, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Resolved, That the House of Representatives tenders its deep sympathies to the members of the family of the late Baroness Margaret Thatcher and her countrymen.

Resolved, That the House of Representatives honors the legacy of Baroness Margaret Thatcher for her life-long commitment to advancing freedom, liberty, and democracy and for her friendship to the United States of America.

Resolved, That the Secretary of State be requested to communicate these expressions of sentiment to the family of the deceased and to the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Resolved, That when the House adjourns today it do so as a mark of respect to the

memory of the late Baroness Margaret Thatcher.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resolution is agreed to, and the motion to reconsider is laid on the table.

There was no objection.

AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION PROGRAM AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2013

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1033) to authorize the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 under the American Battlefield Protection Program, 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 Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 283, nays 122, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 91]

YEAS—283

Aderholt
Alexander
Amodei
Andrews
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bonner
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bustos
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (NY)
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gerlach
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Goodlatte
Granger
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Grimm
Hahn
Hanabusa
Harper
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Huffman
Hurt
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kennedy
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Maffei
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Posey
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reichert
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rooney
Roskam
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Rush
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Yarmuth
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NAYS—122

Amash
Barr
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bishop (UT)
Black
Boustany
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Bucshon
Burgess
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Collins (GA)
Conaway
Cotton
Davis, Rodney
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Franks (AZ)
Gardner
Garrett
Gibbs
Gosar
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith (VA)
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harris
Hartzler
Hensarling
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
King (IA)
Kingston
Labrador
Lamborn
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Luetkemeyer
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McClintock
McHenry
Meadows
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mulvaney
Neugebauer
Nugent
Olson
Palazzo
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Pompeo
Price (GA)
Radel
Reed
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Salmon
Scalise
Schweikert
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thornberry
Tiberi
Wagner
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—26

Bilirakis
Broun (GA)
Butterfield
Castor (FL)
Cohen
Culberson
Cummings
Gohmert
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hastings (FL)
Hinojosa
Hoyer
Kildee
Loebsack
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Markey
Michaud
Noem
Poe (TX)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)

□ 1907

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 91, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN). The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 294, nays 104, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 32, as follows:

[Roll No. 92]

YEAS—294

Aderholt
Alexander
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bentivolio
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bonner
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
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Brown (FL)
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Carson (IN)
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Doyle
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Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
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Hastings (WA)
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Posey
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Roby
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Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
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Westmoreland
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Williams
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Young (AK)

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Poe (TX)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Simpson

□ 1916

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1202

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove Representative JOE WILSON from H.R. 1202.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MEADOWS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

GE TRANSPORTATION RESTRUCTURING OPERATIONS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, GE Transportation, a division of General Electric, is a locomotive manufacturing facility in Lawrence Park, Erie County, which is located in Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District. The plant is one of the largest employers in the county with over 5,500 employees.

Earlier today, GE announced its intent to restructure operations, which could result in over 950 employees being impacted—a tremendous loss for Erie County, especially for the individuals and families directly impacted. Company officials cited ''lower order and production volume within locomotive and mining businesses due to decreased coal demand'' as the justification for the decision.

GE supplies locomotives to the freight-rail industry, which has relied more on coal than any other commodity. The announcement is another reminder of how the administration's regulatory agenda is impacting more and more businesses connected to the coal supply chain. Equally so, it raises questions as to what the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania can do to become more competitive and improve business retention.

While this is a major upset and I am extremely disappointed, in moving forward we must pull together as a community and support those who have been affected by this decision.

EQUAL PAY DAY

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

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, today is Equal Pay Day, and June will mark the 50th anniversary of President Kennedy signing the Equal Pay Act. Despite these markers of recognition and achievement, discrimination through the form of a staggering wage gap still exists.

In San Diego, a woman is paid 84 cents for every dollar a man is paid for the same job with the same experience. That means, together, San Diego women earn nearly $3.2 billion less each year than their male counterparts for performing the same work. For a woman working in San Diego, the wage gap represents 60 weeks of food, 4 weeks of mortgage and utility payments, 7 months of rent, or 2,035 gallons of gasoline.

To me, it's remarkable that this is still an issue, so in my first month in Congress I cosponsored Congresswoman ROSA DELAURO's Paycheck Fairness Act. It addresses the continuing discrepancy in pay and strengthens the Equal Pay Act by providing for greater enforcement of and remedies to gender discrimination in the payment of wages.

For my daughter and her daughters, for the women of San Diego, and for women across the Nation, I encourage every Member in this body to stand up for women and help pass the Paycheck Fairness Act.

□ 1920

EQUAL PAY DAY

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

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, today, the 9th of April, is called Equal Pay Day because it marks the number of days into 2013 women had to work to equal the salary made by their male counterparts in 2012. It is a sad reality that women systemically continue to be paid less than men for doing the same work.

As families increasingly rely on women's wages to make ends meet, equal pay is not simply a women's issue; it is a family issue that impacts our national economy. On average, women receive only 77 cents for every dollar paid to male workers. This disparity results in the loss of nearly $11,000 a year, or the equivalent of 4 months of groceries, 5 months of child care, and over 6 months of rent and utilities.

In my home State of California, the wage gap is even more pronounced for black and Latina women, who receive just 64 cents and 42 cents, respectively, for every dollar paid to white men.

Mr. Speaker, we have the power to correct this injustice that hurts families and the economy. I urge the Republican leadership to allow a vote on the Paycheck Fairness Act.

EQUAL PAY DAY

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

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, America's daughters deserve better. Today, in the United States, women make only 77 cents for every dollar their male peers earn. In my home

State of Illinois, women earn nearly $12,000 a year less than their male counterparts.

During my service in the Army, compared to my male counterparts, I received equal pay for equal work. This policy of fairness has helped make our military the strongest, fiercest in the world.

Pay discrimination doesn't just hurt women; it hurts working families in towns like Itasca and Elgin, Illinois. I know that my neighbors in the Eighth Congressional District believe that their daughters deserve better than this.

Pay equality for women is not only the right thing to do, but it will make our economy stronger; it will make our families stronger; it will make America stronger.

So, on Equal Pay Day, let us recommit ourselves to doing everything in our power to end pay inequality for our country. Congress needs to act now and pass the Paycheck Fairness Act so that women have the opportunity to stand up to this discrimination.

CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Safe Climate Caucus to challenge the Republicans on the Energy and Commerce Committee to a debate on climate change.

In the last Congress, the Republicans in our committee voted that climate change is a hoax. They voted 53 times to block action on climate change. They voted to defund research, to block action by EPA to control pollution, to prevent energy efficiency measures from going into effect, and to stop the administration from encouraging developing countries to do their part.

This year, they have gone silent. They refuse to hear the views of our premier scientific institutions, but they won't justify their inaction. They won't hold hearings. They won't listen to experts. That's why the members of the Safe Climate Caucus are challenging them to come to the floor and debate us.

We are elected to solve problems, not to ignore them. Let's have the debate about how to solve the climate issue.

EQUAL PAY DAY

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

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today, Tuesday, April 9, is Equal Pay Day because it symbolizes how far in 2013 women must work in order to make what their male counterparts earned in 2012. This means that it took more than 3 months in 2013 for women's wages to finally catch up to what men were paid in 2012.

For working mothers who have to put food on the table and the retired women whose income is tied to their former salary, the wage gap means real dollars.

Listen to this. In south Florida, if the wage gap was eliminated, a working woman would have enough money for 51 more weeks of food, 3 months more of mortgage and utility payments, 5 more months of rent, or 1,600 additional gallons of gas.

Equal pay is about fairness and it's about families.

RECOGNITION OF EQUAL PAY DAY

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

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Equal Pay Day. It's the day in 2013 when women finally earn what their male peers did in 2012. Put another way, women work 15½ months to make what a man makes in 12.

Fifty years ago, President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act into law. Yet half a century later, women still earn only 77 cents to the dollar compared to their male peers. These gaps are even wider for women of color. African American women earn just 64 cents and Latinas earn 55 cents for every dollar.

Sadly, not a single State or major metropolitan area has eliminated the wage gap. In Maryland, the National Partnership for Women and Families found that women who are employed full time lose $7.8 billion each year due to this wage gap.

We passed the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act 4 years ago to restore the right of women to challenge unfair pay in court, but here the gap persists. We must pass the Paycheck Fairness Act to strengthen the Equal Pay Act and help gender-based discrimination end once and for all.

We all benefit when women earn equal pay. Closing the wage gap must be an integral part of strengthening America's working families and our economy.

REMEMBERING SERGEANT FIRST CLASS JAMES GRISSOM

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

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, for the many in the world to live free, we must rely upon the sacrifices of the few in our armed services. On March 21, we lost Sergeant First Class James Grissom of Hayward, California, while serving Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

Sergeant Grissom graduated from Mount Eden High School in 1999, and he earned a degree from the Art Institute of San Francisco before enlisting in the Army. He was assigned to the 4th Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group. As a Special Forces soldier, Sergeant Grissom was physically and mentally strong and honored with many medals, including the Bronze Star and the NATO Medal.

His work as a soldier brightly illustrates the heroism of the servicemembers who serve our country and are dedicated to protecting our freedom. I am forever grateful for Sergeant Grissom's sacrifice and service.

Even after Sergeant Grissom passed away, his service to others continued. Years ago, Sergeant Grissom chose to be an organ donor, and his organs were used recently to help others in need across the world.

We shall not forget the sacrifice and honor of Sergeant Grissom. For his country, he gave his life; for the rest of the world, he gives his body.

EQUAL PAY DAY

(Ms. KUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today, as we mark Equal Pay Day, we face the alarming reality that women still earn just 77 cents for every dollar earned by a man. As a Nation, we must do better than this.

Women in my State of New Hampshire who work full time earn over $12,000 less every year than men. That wage gap has real consequences. Smaller paychecks make it harder for families to purchase health care, to send their kids to college, and to save for retirement. That doesn't just hurt women; it hurts our entire community and our economy.

To prevent wage discrimination and to protect its victims, Congress must pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. We must recommit ourselves to being a Nation that rewards the hard work of all Americans, regardless of gender. Mothers, sisters, and daughters across New Hampshire deserve nothing less.

□ 1930

EQUAL PAY DAY

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

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Equal Pay Day and call for passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act.

In my home State of Delaware, a full-time working woman is paid nearly $10,000 less than a man who works full time. That means women in Delaware make 80 cents for every dollar men make; and for women of color, the pay gap is even worse.

If this pay gap were eliminated, women in my State and across the country would have more money to spend on rent, more money for child care, more money for gas, and more money for food.

Above all, a system that pays men more than women for doing the same

job is just not fair; and as Members of Congress, we should do something to fix it. That's why I'm a cosponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act. This bill would make it harder for employers to engage in discrimination against women in the form of unequal pay.

I urge my colleagues to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act so women in Delaware who do the same jobs for the same hours get the same paycheck as their male counterparts.

EQUAL PAY DAY

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, today is Equal Pay Day, a day to remind all Americans and all my colleagues here in Congress that discrimination and paycheck inequality still exists in the general workplace.

Nationally, women earn only 77 cents for every dollar a man earns. That income disparity must end now. And while women in my home State of California are paid 85 cents for every dollar paid to men, we must do more. To live in a country where women do not earn equal pay for equal work is sad and embarrassing.

What does equality look like, Mr. Speaker? Equality looks like the Civil Rights Act of 1964; equality looks like the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and equality needs to look like the Paycheck Fairness Act, which has yet to be passed.

I urge the Speaker to bring this much needed bill to the House floor as soon as possible.

To my constituents, please join me on Facebook tomorrow for a town hall meeting where I will be answering your questions about equality and what steps we should be taking to achieve equality for all. Please visit Facebook.com/RepLowenthal to join the conversation.

EQUAL PAY DAY

(Ms. LEE of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, today we rise in support of Equal Pay Day.

Equal Pay Day symbolizes when more than 3 months into the year women's wages finally catch up with what men were paid in the previous year.

It's unconscionable that women today continue to be blatantly discriminated against in the workforce in terms of their pay and the treatment that they receive.

In 2011, women working full time made only 77 cents to every dollar made by men over the course of a year. The landscape is even worse for women of color. In 2011, African American women earned 64 cents to every dollar earned by white males, and for Latinas it was only 55 cents and 42 cents in my home State of California. On average, the wage gap costs women roughly $11,000 annually, and at this rate the wage gap will not close until 2057. Can you imagine that, 2057?

We must support Congresswoman DELAURO's Paycheck Fairness Act. This addresses the serious economic disparities which women still face.

Women and their families cannot afford to continue paying the cost of our inaction in the face of injustice. I hope the Speaker will bring this bill to the floor right away.

EQUAL PAY DAY

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

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Today on April 9, we recognize Equal Pay Day, symbolizing the more than 3 months into this year that women have to work in order for their wages to finally catch up to what their male colleagues earned last year.

Nearly 50 years ago, President John F. Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act to protect workers from gender-based discrimination.

Despite the hard work of countless folks to make pay equality a reality, women today still earn only 77 cents for every dollar earned by men doing the same kind of work. For women of color, the wage gap is even larger.

Clearly, as a Nation, we have more work to do. That's why I'm a proud cosponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would reenforce the Equal Pay Act by closing loopholes and protecting employees from unfair retaliation.

Twice now Democrats have passed this legislation in the House of Representatives only to have it blocked by Senate Republicans.

Equal pay is not a partisan issue. And it's not only a women's issue. This is about America's founding principles of justice for all.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you to bring this important legislation before the House for a full vote.

EQUAL PAY DAY

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

Mr. BERA of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate Equal Pay Day as we mark the 50th anniversary of the Equal Pay Act.

In the last 50 years, women have gone into space and off to war. They've led Fortune 500 companies and served on the Supreme Court. They've been elected Speaker of the House and run for President; yet women still earn only 77 cents for every dollar a man earns.

In the Sacramento area, women lose approximately $2.2 billion each year because of this pay gap. Now, that's unacceptable and as a father it's personal. I want my daughter to grow up in a country where her gender is not a barrier to her success.

And the wage gap doesn't just hurt women; it hurts families, businesses, and communities. Women are now nearly half of our workforce, and oftentimes it's up to women to put food on the table and provide for their families. That's why I'm a proud cosponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act, one of the very first bills I chose to cosponsor.

It's time for us to finish what President Kennedy started 50 years ago and what women have been working to achieve for more than a century and make equal pay a reality for millions of Americans.

EQUAL PAY DAY

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tuesday, April 9, as Equal Pay Day for women.

The Equal Pay Act, signed into law by President Kennedy in 1963, amended the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to prohibit sex-based wage discrimination between men and women who perform jobs that require substantially equal skill, effort, and responsibility.

In 1963, women were earning an average of 59 cents on the dollar compared to men. I rise because today on average women earn 77 cents for every dollar a man earns.

In 2013, a study by the United States Census Bureau in Columbus, Ohio, demonstrated that women are paid 81 cents for every dollar paid to men. This amounts to a yearly gap of some $9,261 between men and women who work full time.

Equal work? It's simple. It deserves equal pay.

I'm proud that the first piece of legislation that President Obama signed into law during his first term was the Lilly Ledbetter Act. I rise for all the Lilly Ledbetters in hopes that one day the wage of workers in this country will be equal regardless of gender.

□ 1940

GUN LEGISLATION: A PATHWAY TO SAVING LIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, thank you so very much for the opportunity to discuss with my colleagues a

pending action in the United States Congress and a plea for civility and fairness.

As I do that, let me acknowledge Equal Pay Day and my support, as I've done over the years, of Congresswoman DELAURO's continued acknowledgment and recognizing of the need to finally put an end to disparities in pay for women. That's what America is all about, and I'm delighted to join my colleagues who have already spoken to the idea of ensuring that we have equal pay. I hope we can pass that legislation.

I also want to raise an issue and offer my concern and expression, if you will, of comfort to the students at Lone Star College. Part of Lone Star College is in my congressional district, and I share that with one of my colleagues in Texas. I just wanted to say to all of the parents and to my colleagues: I have children who have finished college. We support our children, all of our children, going to a safe place and being safe and having the ability to be educated in a safe place. So I express great sympathy. We are not sure of the status or whether or not there has been any loss of life. We know that there are persons who are critical, and we are wishing and hoping for their safety.

We do want to determine the facts, and our law enforcement was there expeditiously. Allow me to acknowledge the Lone Star Police, the police in the surrounding area, the Harris County Sheriff's Department, and the first responders who were there as well.

Today, however, I want to acknowledge that we have a pending crisis, and that is that we have the need to pass sensible gun legislation. Why do I call it a ''crisis''? It is because we are moving toward a day that has been designated by the leadership in the Senate that we would be able to vote on sensible gun legislation. Remember, I've said ''sensible'' gun legislation. So, today, I rise to the floor of the House because I think it is crucial—I think it is imperative—that we find that common path to save lives. That's what it really is about. It is a pathway to be able to save lives.

I am delighted to have one of my distinguished colleagues on the floor. She is the former speaker of the Ohio House, the distinguished Congresswoman from Columbus, Ohio, who will share her thoughts about the pending vote that is coming up this Thursday.

Let me just cite for you that we have heard the commitments and sermons and passion after each tragedy. I remember Columbine. I was here, Mr. Speaker, for Columbine. In fact, I was appointed to a school safety select committee to talk about school safety at that time. Obviously, a lot of us were here for Aurora. Virginia Tech, I was here for that as well and then, of course, Newtown and then cases in between. Many of us are here for the tragedies that we see when we go home.

Just this past weekend in Sugar Land, Texas, an individual who was mentally challenged was shot dead in his house when he came out of his bedroom, Mr. Speaker, pointing a gun at law enforcement officers. Many of you know the tragedy that we face in Texas, which we are still mourning. Two prosecutors and a prosecutor's wife—district attorneys in Texas—were shot dead. Individuals were shot dead by someone who should not have had a gun. Tragically, the individual was released and should not have been released; but more importantly, they were able to get a gun through what we understand might have been a straw purchase—somebody else purchasing the gun for them. So I believe we are no longer at the point when we can have sermons or we can mourn and yet not do something.

Let me thank—I think ''applaud'' is not the appropriate terminology—those parents who flew in Air Force One from Newtown, Connecticut. You can imagine that they are hurting. Tears came to my eyes as I saw them deplane, come down out of Air Force One, knowing that they are still hurting. I heard a quote that said: For some of us, it's months. For those parents, it's one day at a time.

To imagine little ones—5 and 6 years old—whose bodies were riddled, and they are here in the hallways of Congress to be able to ask us: Can we do the right thing that is for the American people?

And I want to answer today a question that I raised: Can we stop the filibuster? Can we resolve the fact that sensible gun legislation does not violate the Second Amendment?

In fact, we protect the Second Amendment. No one has challenged the Second Amendment, and no one has challenged permits for concealed weapons that are in many States. With the tragedy that occurred in Arizona in which someone was using an automatic weapon and had multiple rounds and for those who say, you see, if the good guys had a gun—and in that instance the good guy had a gun and was probably going to shoot the wrong people if someone had not intervened—what we need to do, in essence, is to ensure that we find common ground and do sensible things.

What do I think are sensible things?

Sensible things include universal background checks. I know there are some discussions about family exchanges and one-to-one exchanges among family members. Let me just say, Mr. Speaker, I'm open to reasonable discussions, but we've got to close the gun show loopholes; we've got to close people opening up their trunks on a highway and giving them to someone who is going to wind up shooting in a robbery; or going into an old man's house just like happened in my community last night—shooting an 83-year-old and taking his car—or the incidence, as I indicated, of this individual with mental health concerns; or the bloody killing of a mother's daughter and her granddaughter by what I would say is a crazed ex-husband, who did not need to have a gun.

So isn't it reasonable to think that universal background checks would weed out those who did not need to have them?

We're not going to knock on your door and take any guns from families, but we do hope that you will secure them. I hope that I'll be able to get a vote on H.R. 65, a bill that was taken after an ordinance that I passed in the city of Houston, as a member of the city council—because we have legislative authority—and, in fact, legislation that's the law of the land in Texas, and that is to hold people responsible for not locking up their guns.

I would be happy to yield for a moment to the distinguished gentlelady from Ohio. I just want to pause on that a moment. Let's think about storing guns. I want to thank her for her legislative prowess. We are so proud that she has already come here ready to go, because anybody who was the minority leader of the Ohio House, if you will, is already ready to go. She is already taking charge on women's issues, and she is taking charge on economic issues. I am very proud to yield to the gentlelady at this time.

Mrs. BEATTY. Thank you to my colleague, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE. It is an honor for me to join you.

As I stand here today on this floor and think that we have the opportunity to pass legislation that makes sense on gun laws, and as I stand here on this floor and realize that the gun debate is heating up and that we are considering that we would filibuster and protect those who don't want us to make a decision, it does not make sense to me. We are asking for sensible gun laws. We are asking for laws that can help save lives. Whether it's in Congresswoman JACKSON LEE's district in Texas, whether it's in Newtown, Connecticut, or in my Third Congressional District in Ohio, it's for us to take this opportunity to stand together and save lives.

We stand on this floor, and we salute so many good things, so many changes. So the question now for me is: Why? Why can't we come together? The things we're asking for: to close the loopholes. The things we're asking for: to make sure that someone doesn't have an assault weapon in his home that can shoot 30 rounds of ammunition in 30 seconds.

□ 1950

I support the Second Amendment, but I don't think that our forefathers meant for us to do what we are doing today. I don't think that they envisioned that innocent children, babies, would be assassinated, if you will, by someone who had one of these assault weapons. I think today as Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle, that we understand that we are about saving lives, that we are here to protect the innocent, that we took an oath to serve.

So as I reflect back on where I was when that incident happened in Newtown, I was sitting with colleagues on both sides of the aisle at Harvard University in training, where we were talking about working together, where we were talking about how we can make this wonderful America better. So now as I reflect today, let's use those same things that we were being trained on to make this America better. Let's make it better by voting an up-or-down vote. Let's make it better in the spirit of saving lives.

So I proudly join you as we ask all of our colleagues to come together and do what's right: sensible gun laws, background checks, closing the loopholes. That's what we are asking for. For me it is quite simple. The answer is: let's vote.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the gentlelady for bringing a sense of passion to this debate. So many of us can remember where we were and how incredulous it was when we heard the news coming, and first we thought this is not real. We couldn't be hearing it accurately. Maybe we were hearing the tragedy of six adults, that already was innocent teachers and principals, but we couldn't imagine you were talking about a classroom, that someone would open the door in a recovery mode and see the carnage that one had to be able to look at. Not to be any more graphic, but so much so that, as I understand it, many could not view the situation.

And so I thought it was imperative to come from Houston today, and before I got on the airplane I stopped at the Konia Learning Center for K–6, and I listened to babes talk about knowing Sandy Hook, raising their hands and about wanting to stop gun violence, and understanding that guns in the hands of teachers would not be the way to go. Having little ones in the fifth and sixth grades explain how fearful they would be to have guns with teachers, not because it was the idea that our teachers are not ones that are loving, but we know what happens with human nature and accidents, guns being taken out of drawers or purses or pockets and what can happen.

Yes, I believe we can have common agreement on increasing school resource officers, however school districts would like to use them. We have very fine police departments for many of the school districts that I represent; and do you know what those chiefs of police told me in an earlier hearing that I had in my district, not one of them, university chiefs of police or school district chiefs of police, wanted to arm school personnel and teachers in the classroom to be able to protect our children. Those were the chiefs of police. I didn't put words in their mouths, and they wanted it to be known that they are the responsible ones for security, not to be able to arm those who in essence would be responsible for shooting a gun, making a decision when to shoot, and then not making a decision right and causing havoc, causing themselves to be shot, or causing someone else to be shot.

As a matter of fact, at a press conference I had on the anniversary Martin Luther King was assassinated on April 4 in my district, because we had been having these gun informational press conferences to raise the understanding, we have been working with a group by the name of Moms Demanding Action, thousands of moms across America, we were with them on Thursday, and then we were at the Lighthouse Church this past Sunday when Moms Demanding Action went to the pulpit, honored and recognized Pastor Henderson to talk about Moms Demanding Action to prevent gun violence.

But this little school that I went to, I said to them that I would come and give their message on the floor of the House, that I would tell the President that I was in this school where these children are so bright, private school that it was, alongside a public school, these children spoke well about their fear of gun violence, the gun violence that they see around them and that they want to be in a place where they are safe, and guns they feel do not make them safe.

So I got motivated, and I thank the Senators for informing me, a letter that I received March 22, 2013, from Senator PAUL, Senator CRUZ, and Senator MIKE LEE, and they have now grown to 13 Senators. I know they have good hearts, but the language that I want to read specifically says:

> We will oppose a motion to proceed to any legislation that will serve as a vehicle for any additional gun restrictions.

You see, that's wrong in and of itself because we're talking about sensible gun legislation. I don't want to restrict anything. I would like to take that word out of the vocabulary of sensible gun legislation, because I will not restrict you from getting a gun if you pass a background check. I will not restrict you from having guns in your home, but I will hold you responsible for guns that are not locked up. I will not restrict you from hunting. I will not restrict you as a sportsperson. I will not restrict you for a legitimate concealed weapons permit, but I will restrict that dastardly person who went to the door of a Colorado corrections chief and shot him dead because he had a gun that he should not have because we don't enforce, which we should, but add to the idea of preventing straw purchases for that individual for getting a gun because someone purchased the gun for him. Mr. Speaker, that can be blocked.

And the idea of storage, my friends, I'm talking about gun locks. Maybe somebody has a gun lock manufacturing company in their district. Just think what would happen if folks have to lock up their guns, at least the ones that are classic, the AR–15s or the assault weapons that you already have. No one is coming to get those. But the guns that the young man had in Newtown, if only they had been locked up. Many people don't speak of it, but I think she deserves to be mentioned, his mother, who I know had to be a loving mother. I know she cared. She recognized the disturbed individual that he was, and maybe it might have gone another way. Maybe there should have been some other response to his situation, but all you can say is that mother was trying. But look at her, dead in her bed. Guns that were open to someone who was challenged.

So, Mr. Speaker, I can't imagine why we would ignore some of the numbers that I'm getting ready to share with you. But before I do that, let me raise again, if I can highlight what simple legislation that we're asking for: require universal background checks to keep guns out of dangerous hands. Let me be very clear: dangerous hands.

Ban military-style assault weapons.

Limit high-capacity magazines. That was the kind of magazine that was used tragically in Arizona. The individual could keep shooting and shooting, and the only way he was stopped was when he had to reload. Just imagine, 15 rounds, 20 rounds, no reloading. And the individual in Newtown, 155 rounds in 5 minutes before he stopped, taking the lives of so many.

Let me share with you these statistics that impact urban loss of life, rural loss of life, just the enormous tragedy. Take the incident of a rogue cop in California that wound up with weapons of war until he was finally caught, how many people he killed and how many more he could have killed. He had assault-type weapons.

If you speak to the law enforcement community, particularly right after Newtown, people became gunned up to the extent that when I spoke to my law enforcement, they indicated to me that they couldn't even find any guns, that people had bought guns so, so much.

Let me share with you some of these numbers about gun violence. First of all, the number of persons killed by guns since Newtown, 440 in the United States. I'm sure that number is down since the time these statistics were presented: 103 in Texas, 21 in Houston, 57 this month alone; 48,000 people killed annually in the United States. If I might remind you, over 1 million persons, Americans, have been killed by guns since John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr., were assassinated.

□ 2000

So let me remind you of that list. John F. Kennedy, assassinated by a gun in 1963; Bobby Kennedy, assassinated by a gun in 1968; Martin Luther King, assassinated by a gun in 1968; and Ronald Reagan, attempted assassination in his first term, and the critical and devastating injury to his press secretary, Mr. Brady, who has committed himself to gun safety, again, not to take your guns away.

I thank you, Mr. Brady. We have had an opportunity to work together. I thank you for what was done, and certainly your legacy of commitment. I thank that legacy.

Then, of course, let me thank Mr. Bloomberg, who is one that has shown his passion, so much so that he has received criticism. Thank you, Mayor Bloomberg. Thank you for standing up and saying that those who would stop gun legislation that is sensible, that they have to have their story told to those around the country and those in their district, for we're not asking for anything. We're just asking for fairness, just an up-or-down vote.

Let me share with you these numbers that I think are devastating. In 1 year, on average, almost 100,000 people in America are shot or killed with a gun. In 1 year, 31,000—and this is from the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence—31,593 people died from gun violence and 66,769 people survived gun injuries; 12,179 people murdered; 44,466 people shot in an attack; 18,223 people who killed themselves; 3,031 people who survived a suicide attempt with a gun.

Let me just stop for a moment. How tragic it is that someone would think that the only way out of their misery is by a gun. And it is well known by these statistics that if a gun is near you, if you are near a gun, if you are near a gun, then that leaves you more open to using that gun for violence against others or violence against yourself.

If you make it easy, rather than giving these people mental health services—which I think should go hand in hand with sensible gun legislation, and that's why I'm supporting a number of initiatives and cosponsored initiatives by CAROLYN MCCARTHY, because it is important to find a balance and to be able to work on issues that would balance the needs of our community and mental health services, but also the needs of our community in being protected from gun violence.

I want to restore the Centers for Disease Control's ability that was taken away a few Congresses ago by people who really don't understand sensible gun legislation. They stopped the Centers for Disease Control from doing the research and gathering the statistics on what violence does to America, what the medical cost is, what the psychological cost is. We want to reinstate that so that we can make important decisions.

When I was with these children, one of the things that comes up in the idea of teen violence or the loss of life is that teens pick up guns 87 percent when they are bullied or when they feel someone has hurt them, said words to them, because the gun is accessible. They bring the gun to school, they have a gun, or they engage in gang violence.

Don't separate gang violence and say it's just a bunch of gangbangers. It's gangbangers who are kids who have guns. And the young man that I brought to the State of the Union was a redeemed gangbanger, was shot at 15. He's here today, at 21, 22, about to get married, and shuns guns. But guns were accessible to him. He was already shot at in a drive-by. And then after he's shot at in a drive-by, then there was a point when they got him.

Don't condemn the gangbangers. They've got guns that are trafficked, that are not enforced, that are straw purchased, and they come into places even that have strong gun laws. Why? Because we don't have sensible gun legislation.

And yes, I'm going to agree with my friends on the other side of the aisle, my Republican friends. Let's enforce the gun laws that we have. Who would run away from that? That's a sensible proposition.

Put a resolution on the floor of the House. Let's enforce the gun laws that we have. But join me in voting for universal gun background checks to close the gun show loopholes.

I mentioned this idea of suicide, and let me just finish on this enormous, terrible number. How many of us have read articles, have seen over the last couple of days tragedies that have occurred that have been publicized nationally?

All I can say is, you have a person who is disturbed, who has given up on life, who doesn't have a connection to faith, cannot find their faith leader, cannot get a hug from their family member, and all they think they can do is commit suicide, and they've got a gun.

I venture to say there's probably very limited numbers of those who take a knife and stab themselves. And yes, there are pills. But they have a gun because nobody was there to stop them, they weren't able to get mental health services and they've got a gun. 592 people were killed unintentionally, and 8,610 were shot unintentionally but survived.

There was one time in Houston where every time school was out, little ones, 2 years old, 3 years old, 4 years old, teenagers, accidentally shooting themselves, playing with a gun, taking the gun from under the mattress. Guns not stored.

That's why we passed that legislation in Texas to hold adults responsible for a child that gets a gun and injures themselves, kills somebody, or kills themselves. That's the least we can do for our children.

Over 1 million have been killed with guns in the United States since 1968 when Dr. Martin Luther King and Robert F. Kennedy were assassinated.

And then U.S. homicide rates are 6.9 times higher than rates in 22 other populous, high-income countries combined, despite similar nonlethal crime and violence rates. The firearm homicide rate in the United States is 19.5 times higher.

Mr. Speaker, we're not gaining anything by being gunned up. Among the 23 populous, high-income countries, 80 percent of all firearm deaths occurred in the United States.

On Thursday, not only should we get a vote, not only should there be no filibuster, but we should win that vote. Win it in the name of somebody in your congressional district that died unfairly because someone who should not have had the gun had it. And I can venture to tell you that background checks will have a sizable impact.

Now, somebody said in 1994, when we passed the assault weapons ban, that it didn't do anything. Oh, there's a big debate. There's a tit for tat. But it is documented that the numbers of killings by assault weapons went down. Of course you can find other ways to kill people, but the utilization of assault weapons went down. That's a victory. That's a victory.

When I had this listening session with my little ones at the Konia Learning Academy, we had pictures of these weapons. Do you know that these little ones that were pre-K could point out that these were machine guns? Little ones. What are we doing to our kids?

They should call it a carrot because they've never seen one. With the violence on TV, we want to talk about that, and violence around them, and the gun talk and the killings on national TV, what do you expect?

Wouldn't it be nice if the headlines came out on Thursday, the Senate makes the first step, sensible gun legislation? Wouldn't that be good? That we came together and we did something that spoke to the anguish and pain?

I was here for 9/11, a memory that none of us will ever forget. And the one thing that I will compare to what is happening with these families is the 9/11 families. The Congress felt compelled, after its own mourning and the loss in the Pentagon and the loss in Pennsylvania, we just felt compelled that we had to do something, that the pain of these families scattered all over America, we had to answer them.

We obviously suffered. I remember standing on the steps singing God Bless America. But we put away any opposition to issues that had to be addressed. We put forward a Patriot Act at that time that was bipartisan. We worked in the Judiciary Committee. We handled the privacy issues, because we felt that this was a time for America to shine.

□ 2010

Well, I believe this is the time for America to shine. Gun violence impacts society in countless ways: medical costs, in the cost of the criminal justice system, and security precautions such as metal detectors and reductions in quality of life because of fear of gun violence. These impacts are estimated to cost U.S. citizens—Mr. Speaker, you've got to get up out of your chair on this one—estimated to cost—with a smile on my face, because you stand up and I need to sit down because it's just knocking me down—a hundred billion dollars. And that was 2000. And so it's soaring in medical costs, in fear, in security.

What are we going to do about the enormity of gun violence? Where there are more guns, there are more deaths. An estimated 41 percent of gun-related

homicides and 94 percent of gun-related suicides would not have occurred in the same circumstances had no guns been present. Higher household gun ownership correlates with higher rates of homicides, suicides, and unintentional shootings.

Mr. Speaker, we have within our power to be able to move forward on sensible gun legislation. I will be asking my colleagues to join me in a letter to send to my friends on the other side of this body to be able to listen to our voices as fellow legislators. And then, as well, Mr. Speaker, I hope the voices of America will ring. I know that my phone will ring for those who are saying, They're snatching our guns away. And I'm going to have a smile on my face because they have a right to express themselves.

But right now we need to put aside our individual political futures, because I believe that when you do the right thing, your future will be bright. And some child will say, Look at America. Look at the red, white, and blue. Look at the country that stands for values that we all are created equal. They didn't come to take away guns. They came to enforce good laws. They came to ensure that guns are not exploited, that loopholes are not walked through and become open caves, and that people are safer in their schools, their homes, their places of worship.

Just think about that. A pulpit. Ministers in my State have been shot dead by guns of disturbed members—because they have guns. And let's make, Mr. Speaker, the mental health system a parallel effort to be able to ensure the safety of us all.

Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that this brief discussion—and if I may, how much time is there remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman has 27 minutes remaining.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Thank you very much.

I'm so glad the Speaker was responding on that hundred billion dollars. It probably got him out of his chair. I think we're allowed to say those kinds of things on the floor.

I will have a few more points that I do want to make. The number of a hundred billion dollars is certainly a lot, but I want to spend some time on this issue of gun trafficking and to speak about how gun trafficking can be something that we can find ways to come together.

Gun trafficking is dastardly because in jurisdictions like Washington, D.C., strong gun laws; New York, strong gun laws; the State of Connecticut, strong gun laws; and now Colorado, strong gun laws. And my heart goes out to them for the loss that they experienced with the shooting of their head of corrections in a terrible manner, being shot on his doorstep. Also, the district attorney and his wife that were so loved and the other district attorney that was so loved that was shot here in Texas. That comes out of criminals with guns that they should not have. And so forcing a review of our gun laws to stop gun trafficking and to pass legislation that stands in the gap and that speaks to straw purchases—using someone else—and holding people very responsible for doing that is a smart way to go.

The Mayors Against Illegal Guns have a very important point, and that is, when you pass the universal background check as a systematic way to stop felons, domestic abusers, and the seriously mentally ill, that's the answer to people that say it doesn't make a difference. Criminals and other prohibited purchasers can avoid background checks by buying firearms from unlicensed private sellers. That's the back of the trunk. That's the gun shows. Often at gun shows are anonymous online transactions.

If my recollection is correct, the shooter at Aurora got his guns online. How tragic. And in the course of those shootings, we know that little ones lost their lives in that theater. What a terrible thing to come out for a joyous occasion, an exciting night, fiction but fun, and you lose your life and you never get home.

I heard something today that I thought was important. Parents who sent their children to school that morning in Newtown were sending their children to school—it was December 14—with the expectation for celebrating holidays like Hanukkah and Christmas. They were looking forward to hugs and toys. They were looking forward to family dinners. They were looking forward to picking those children up at the end of the day. Mr. Speaker, they did not get a chance to do that.

And so when you have background checks, certainly in the instance of Newtown, a different set of circumstances, both dealing with mental illness and the access to guns. But I tell you what it will do with background checks. It will lessen the horror of those involved in criminal activities.

The private sale loophole undermines the background check system by allowing millions of buyers to avoid background checks simply by going to private sellers. We've got to fix that. And we've got to hold the data. We've got to make sure that our law enforcement can check a national data system so that those who would perpetrate violence cannot go from State to State.

I know that I wanted to pass similar legislation on DNA data for child predators so that a person cannot go from State to State. Now we have the technology and we have the ability to protect rights. But if you are involved in criminal activity and you're in the database on guns, your rights are lessened because we have to save lives.

The Internet has created a vast marketplace for guns, where millions of buyers and sellers can easily identify one another and conduct firearms transactions with no supervision whatsoever. Nearly 12 years ago, the U.S. Department of Justice estimated that there were 80 online auction sites and approximately 4,000 other sites of gun sales. No control whatsoever. The private sellers are literally involved in—maybe not to their own choosing—those guns getting out into the arena and being utilized by others to do harm.

So this is a time when we don't need a filibuster. What we need is a debate on the pros and cons of sensible gun legislation and, finally, a vote that would move us to respond to the pain of so many Americans.

Why shouldn't this be a Democratic and Republican effort? Once the Senate votes on something that has substance to it, why shouldn't our Speaker, Mr. BOEHNER, also put it on the floor and not block it? The reason is because there was regular order on the Senate side. It went through committee.

But in the instance of Republicans, listen to a 2010 survey by Republican pollster Frank Luntz, who found that 82 percent of U.S. gun owners, including 74 percent of NRA members, support criminal background checks for all gun sales. What more do we want? What are we saying here? That we can't come together on a nonwatered-down gun background check?

Let me speak to why I think that's so important. We have officers around here. This is like a little city. We have our Capitol Police. They wear the uniform. They're here to protect. Law enforcement officers all over America—school law enforcement officers, county and city, villages, departments of public safety, highway patrol, drug enforcement, ATF, FBI, men and women in the United States military—are here to protect. My friends from the Texas Air National Guard, my friends from the National Guard, they're here to protect.

□ 2020

What happens when they lose their lives through some untoward violence that's not on a battlefield somewhere, but right here in their own hometown? What happens when an officer has fallen because someone who shouldn't have a gun illegally has a gun, and we've done nothing about it?

Close the gun show loopholes, stop the gun trafficking, and, most of all, get us universal access to gun checks and background checks. Everybody should be required.

I know that we can't see these clearly, but there is a whole load of guns, and it says handguns offered by a private seller in Tennessee, handguns licensed by a licensed dealer—not checking anybody, though. You got the money, you can just show up. I remember walking into a gun show and seeing children walking around unaccompanied. I believe they should not be able to walk around at a gun show unaccompanied. Long guns being sold by a private seller in Columbus, Ohio. This is what's happening all over America. Probably right, as I'm standing on the floor of the House, that is

what's happening. That's why I support Mayor Bloomberg and his commitment to this whole idea of sensible gun legislation. There are currently 18 million assault weapons in circulation, and I don't think most of them are in the hands of the United States military.

I am just going to add these points and come to a close, Mr. Speaker, because this is what pushes the wrong direction; this parts us away from each other. We can't be friends. We can't talk about sensible legislation. And I hate to say it, I don't know how much carnage we have to see. I don't know how much we have to see, how many sirens we have to hear for those of us who live in urban areas, police cars running after ambulances because there's been someone that's been shot.

What I would say to you is listen to the voice of a victim that I met just a couple of days ago. I just want to put this myth out. She was a teacher coming home late at night and somebody came up and said, get out of the car. She didn't know what to do. She didn't get out of the car. She bent down, and that person shot her in the legs. I asked the question, if she had a gun, does she think that she would be able to do better. She said, no, I was too scared; I wouldn't know what to do.

My friends, don't fool yourself that having a gun is going to make it better for you. We've got to lessen criminals having guns; we've got to have background checks; we've got to close the gun show loopholes and people selling guns out of the back of their trunks on a highway somewhere outside of a gun show.

More guns don't lead to more murders. This is myth number one. A survey by researchers at the Harvard University School of Public Health found strong statistical support for the idea that even if you control for poverty levels, more people die from gun homicides in areas of higher rates of gun ownership. You've got a gun, you may be in jeopardy.

The Second Amendment prohibits strict gun control. We all know that that is not supported by the Supreme Court and that we're not talking about taking guns away. We're talking about regulating guns. As many people have said, we regulate insurance. We ask you to have a registration and a driver's license for a car—that can be a deadly weapon—and we have you register it. And we have you have, if you will, a license.

State-level gun controls haven't worked. Scholars Richard Florida and Charlotta Mellander recently studied State-to-State variations in gun homicides. They found that firearm deaths are significantly lower in States with stricter gun control legislation.

Myth number four: we only need better enforcement of the law; we don't need new laws. We passed several laws. Yes, we need enforcement; but it is well known that you need to keep guns out of the hands of those who would do harm, and you need to have universal background checks in order to stop the criminals from getting guns, and you need to work on the mental health services so that those individuals cannot have guns. In some States they have that. We're not blanketing everyone; but in certain instances we need to be able to protect those individuals, protect their families from the crazed person, the violent abuser, the domestic abuser who goes and violates a restraining order and has a gun—because they just bought the gun because there's no background check. And you can't check if they have a restraining order.

Sensible gun regulation is prohibitively unpopular. We've already heard of the large percentages from Republican pollster, Mr. Luntz, about the percentage of individuals—Republicans, all Americans, NRA members—who believe in universal background checks, not arming parents and arming, if you will, the teachers who are there to have a pencil and a pen and a chart and to talk about reading, writing, and arithmetic.

So I am humbled today to have the opportunity to speak to my colleagues, but I am humbled by the fact that we live in a democracy. There is something called a ''filibuster''; it's a procedure that's used—not in this body—simply we've got a bunch of Members on the floor that talk, talk, talk, one after another. But we don't have the procedure; the Senate does. As I indicated, initially three of our friends, and now 13, I would ask them—and I would ask the minority leader—I would ask them not to engage.

I would ask the other body to work with us. I would ask the other body to hear our cry. I would ask the other body to think of those who as we speak are being shot by a gun in America by someone who shouldn't have it. I'm asking them to think of the little children from one end of America to the other who were shot with a gun.

For us Washingtonians—and I say that because I am in Washington a lot of the time here in the United States Congress—remember the sniper of a few years ago, the frightening atmosphere of a sniper, a young man and his father; guns they should not have had; killing innocent people along the highways and byways of this region. The sniper.

That's what my message is today, that we have no time—no time—for a filibuster. We may have time for prayers. We may have time for encouragement. We have time for common sense. We still have time for a vote that will pass. And we have time for the House to take up sensible gun legislation.

We still have time to save the lives of little babies. We still have time to save an innocent woman who may be subject to domestic violence. We still have time. We still have time to stop the gang-banger. We still have time to stop the criminal that may have come into your house or come into a bank or accost you on the street. We still have time to keep the guns out of their hands. We still have time.

Who is going to answer the cry to stop the filibuster and stop the foolishness? I ask my colleagues: If it is not us, then who? If it is not now, then when? In the memory of John F. Kennedy, President of the United States of America; in the memory of his brother, Bobby Kennedy, former Attorney General of the United States of America; Martin Luther King, in his memory, a man of peace and nonviolence; and President Ronald Reagan, who lived, if it is not in the common sense of those leaders of our Nation and the needs of the children and families across America, then whose voices will we heed?

There is still time for commonsense legislation, and I might say that we should demand, stand up for a vote on this Thursday. I hope our voices—not mine, but our voices—are heard.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing this time to debate on the floor of the House, and I yield back the balance of my time.

U.S SENATE,
Washington, DC, March 22,2013.

DEAR SENATE MAJORITY LEADER HARRY REID, We, the undersigned, intend to oppose any legislation that would infringe on the American people's constitutional right to bear arms, or on their ability to exercise this right without being subjected to government surveillance.

The Second Amendment to the Constitution protects citizens' right to self-defense. It speaks to history's lesson that government cannot be in all places at all times, and history's warning about the oppression of a government that tries.

We will oppose the motion to proceed to any legislation that will serve as a vehicle for any additional gun restrictions.

RAND PAUL, M.D.,
TED CRUZ,
MIKE LEE.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. CASTOR of Florida (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of a death in the family.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week.

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of illness.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REFERRED

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

S. Con. Res. 10. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha; to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on March 22, 2013, she

presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 933. Making consolidated appropriations and further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.), under its previous order and pursuant to House Resolution 141, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, April 10, 2013, at 10 a.m., for morning-hour debate, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Baroness Margaret Thatcher.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

979. A letter from the President Of The United States, transmitting a letter regarding the designation of Overseas and Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism funding; (H. Doc. No. 113—18); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

980. A letter from the Attorney, Legal Division, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Bureau's final rule—Disclosures at Automated Teller Machines (Regulation E) [Docket No.: CFPB–2013–0006] (RIN: 3170–AA36) received April 2, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

981. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Suspension of Community Eligibility (Monroe County, PA, et al.) [Docket ID: FEMA–2013–0002] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA–8277] received April 2, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

982. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Geologic Sequestration of Carbon Dioxide; Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program Class VI Well Testing and Monitoring Guidance received April 2, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

983. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: MAGNASTOR System [NRC–2012–0308] (RIN: 3150–AJ22) received April 2, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

984. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Temporary Scope Expansion of the Post-Investigation Alternative Dispute Resolution Program [NRC–2013–0046] received April 2, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

985. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Final Safety Evaluation For Nuclear Energy Institute Topical Report NEI 09–10, Revision 1a ''Guidelines For Effective Prevention and Management of System Gas Accumulation'' Project No. 689 received April 2, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

986. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Event Report Guidelines 10 CFR 50.72 and 50.73 received April 2, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

987. A letter from the Assistant Secretary For Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to the Export Administration Regulations: List of Items Classified Under Export Control Classification OY521 Series—Biosensor Systems [Docket No.: 121025585–3248–01] (RIN: 0694–AF73) received April 2, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

988. A letter from the Secretary For Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule—Addition of Certain Persons to the Entity List; Removal of Person From the Entity List Based on Removal Request; Implementation of Entity List Annual Review Changes [Docket No.: 130222155–3155–01] (RIN: 0694–AF89) received April 2, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

989. A letter from the President Of The United States, transmitting notification that the national emergency with respect to Somalia originally declared on April 12, 2010, by Executive Order 13536, is to continue in effect beyond April 12, 2013; (H. Doc. No. 113—19); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

990. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 20–29, ''Medical Marijuana Cultivation Center and Dispensary Location Restriction Temporary Amendment Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

991. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 20–30, ''Board of Ethics and Government Accountability Temporary Amendment Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

992. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 20–31, ''Prohibition on Government Employee Engagement in Political Activity Temporary Amendment Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

993. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19–40, ''Tax Revision Commission Report Exension and Procurement Streaming Temporary Amendment Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

994. A letter from the Chief Administrative Officer, transmitting the quarterly report of receipts and expenditures of appropriations and other funds for the period January 1, 2013 through March 31, 2013 as complied by the Chief Administrative Officer, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 104a Public Law 88–454; (H. Doc. No. 113—17); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

995. A letter from the Federal Liaison Officer, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule—Changes to Implement the Technical Corrections to the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act as to Inter Partes Review [Docket No.: PTO-P–2013–0003] (RIN: 0651–AC83) received April 2, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

996. A letter from the Federal Liaison Officer, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revisions to Patent Term Adjustment [Docket No.: PTO-P–2013–0006] (RIN: 0651–AC84) received April 2, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

997. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Nonconventional Source Fuel Credit, 2012 Section 45K Inflation Adjustment Factor and Section 45K Reference Price [Notice 2013–25) received April 2, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

998. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Announcement and Report Concerning Advance Pricing Agreements [Announcement 2013–17] received March 27, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 254. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to facilitate the development of hydroelectric power on the Diamond Fork System of the Central Utah Project (Rept. 113–25, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 291. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain cemeteries that are located on National Forest System land in Black Hills National Forest, South Dakota (Rept. 113–26). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 507. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain land inholdings owned by the United States to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona, and for other purposes (Rept. 113–27). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 588. A bill to provide for donor contribution acknowledgements to be displayed at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center, and for other purposes (Rept. 113–28). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1033. A bill to authorize the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 under the American Battlefield Protection Program (Rept. 113–29). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. KLINE: Committee on Education and the Workforce. H.R. 1120. A bill to prohibit the National Labor Relations Board from taking any action that requires a quorum of the members of the Board until such time as Board constituting a quorum shall have been confirmed by the Senate, the Supreme Court issues a decision on the constitutionality of the appointments to the Board made in January 2012, or the adjournment sine die of the first session of the 113th Congress; with an amendment (Rept. 113–30). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 140. Resolution providing

for consideration of the bill (H.R. 678) to authorize all Bureau of Reclamation conduit facilities for hydropower development under Federal Reclamation law, and for other purposes (Rept. 113–31). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on the Budget discharged from further consideration. H.R. 254 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mrs. ROBY (for herself, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. KLINE, and Mr. WALBERG):

H.R. 1406. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide compensatory time for employees in the private sector; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SHIMKUS (for himself, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. UPTON, Mr. PITTS, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. GUTHRIE, and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois):

H.R. 1407. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reauthorize user fee programs relating to new animal drugs; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. UPTON, Mr. PITTS, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. GUTHRIE, and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois):

H.R. 1408. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reauthorize user fee programs relating to generic new animal drugs; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ENGEL:

H.R. 1409. A bill to amend the Export Enhancement Act of 1988 to further enhance the promotion of exports of United States goods and services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona (for himself, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. SALMON, and Mr. KILDEE):

H.R. 1410. A bill to prohibit gaming activities on certain Indian lands in Arizona until the expiration of certain gaming compacts; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 1411. A bill to include the Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands in the California Coastal National Monument as a part of the National Landscape Conservation System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. COFFMAN:

H.R. 1412. A bill to improve and increase the availability of on-job training and apprenticeship programs carried out by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 1413. A bill to authorize appropriations for the SelectUSA Initiative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. PINGREE of Maine (for herself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. HOLT, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. WALZ, Mr. WELCH, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. MOORE, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. ENYART, and Ms. TSONGAS):

H.R. 1414. A bill to promote local and regional farm and food systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. POLIS):

H.R. 1415. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit for equity investments in high technology and biotechnology small business concerns developing innovative technologies that stimulate private sector job growth; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. ELLMERS:

H.R. 1416. A bill to terminate application of sequestration to payment for certain physician-administered drugs under part B of the Medicare program; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCCAUL (for himself, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi):

H.R. 1417. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a comprehensive strategy to gain and maintain operational control of the international borders of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. MURPHY of Florida (for himself, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Ms. BROWN of Florida):

H.R. 1418. A bill to reauthorize the competitive grant program under section 25(f) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k(f)); to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. HAHN:

H.R. 1419. A bill to provide funds to each State to cover all the costs to repair or reconstruct a bridge determined by the Federal Highway Administration to be structurally deficient; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GALLEGO (for himself and Mr. CÁRDENAS):

H.R. 1420. A bill to authorize appropriations to the Secretary of Commerce to establish public-private partnerships under the Market Development Cooperator Program of the International Trade Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio):

H.R. 1421. A bill to accelerate research, development, and innovation in advanced manufacturing, to improve the competitiveness of American manufacturers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. STEWART (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. HALL, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. HARRIS, and Mr. BENISHEK):

H.R. 1422. A bill to amend the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 to provide for Scientific Advisory Board member qualifications, public participation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mr. COOPER):

H.R. 1423. A bill to provide taxpayers with an annual report disclosing the cost and performance of Government programs and areas of duplication among them, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. CHU, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. DOYLE, and Mr. CICILLINE):

H.R. 1424. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the qualifying advanced energy project credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. CHU, Mr. HONDA, Mr. FARR, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. KILMER, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. HECK of Washington, and Ms. DELBENE):

H.R. 1425. A bill to amend the Marine Debris Act to better address severe marine debris events, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BISHOP of New York:

H.R. 1426. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to disallow the deduction for income attributable to domestic production activities with respect to oil and gas activities of major integrated oil companies; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BUCSHON (for himself and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia):

H.R. 1427. A bill to ensure that patients receive accurate health care information by prohibiting misleading and deceptive advertising or representation in the provision of health care services, and to require the identification of the license of health care professionals; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BURGESS (for himself, Mr. KIND, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MARINO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. WOLF, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. COOPER, Mr. HIMES, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HOLT, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia):

H.R. 1428. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare entitlement to immunosuppressive drugs for kidney transplant recipients; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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. CAPPS (for herself and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 1429. A bill to expand the research and awareness activities of the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and

Skin Diseases and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with respect to scleroderma, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

H.R. 1430. A bill to extend the seaward boundaries of certain States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

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

H.R. 1431. A bill to extend the right of appeal to the Merit Systems Protection Board to certain employees of the United States Postal Service; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. HUDSON, and Mr. BRALEY of Iowa):

H.R. 1432. A bill to amend the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013, to modify the amounts appropriated for the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. COURTNEY (for himself, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. DOYLE, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. ESTY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HOLT, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. KILMER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MOORE, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. POLIS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. TONKO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VELA, Mr. WALZ, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. TIERNEY, and Mr. LYNCH):

H.R. 1433. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend the reduced interest rate for Federal Direct Stafford Loans; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. DAINES:

H.R. 1434. A bill to prohibit the further extension or establishment of national monuments in Montana, except by express authorization of Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California:

H.R. 1435. A bill to amend titles 28 and 10, United States Code, to allow for certiorari review of certain cases denied relief or review by the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ENYART (for himself and Mr. HOYER):

H.R. 1436. A bill to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to establish a pilot program to facilitate education and training programs in the field of advanced manufacturing; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. FUDGE (for herself, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. CLAY, and Ms. BROWN of Florida):

H.R. 1437. A bill to establish the Honorable Stephanie Tubbs Jones Fire Suppression Demonstration Incentive Program within the Department of Education to promote installation of fire sprinkler systems, or other fire suppression or prevention technologies, in qualified student housing and dormitories, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (for himself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MICA, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. BASS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. GRAYSON, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. GARCIA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. GABBARD, and Ms. BROWN of Florida):

H.R. 1438. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to exempt reimbursements of certain medical expenses and other payments related to accident, theft, loss, or casualty loss from determinations of annual income with respect to pensions for veterans and surviving spouses and children of veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LABRADOR:

H.R. 1439. A bill to prohibit the further extension or establishment of national monuments in Idaho, except by express authorization of Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LONG (for himself, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. JONES, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. BACHUS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. COOPER, Mr. ENYART, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. TURNER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. VISCLOSKY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mr. LOWENTHAL):

H.R. 1440. A bill to prevent the evasion of antidumping and countervailing duty orders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER (for himself and Mr. MICHAUD):

H.R. 1441. A bill to provide for background checks of persons working in the electronic life safety and security systems industry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARKEY:

H.R. 1442. A bill to amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to improve the response to insect infestations and related diseases and to change the funding source for the Healthy Forests Reserve Program, to codify the stewardship end result contracting and good neighbor authorities, and to amend the emergency watershed protection program to improve post fire rehabilitation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MICHAUD:

H.R. 1443. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to recognize tinnitus as a mandatory condition for research and treatment by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. OWENS (for himself, Mr. HANNA, and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 1444. A bill to improve the H-2A agricultural worker program for use by dairy workers, sheepherders, and goat herders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. RUNYAN, Mr. GRIMM, and Mr. LOBIONDO):

H.R. 1445. A bill making supplemental appropriations for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for fisheries disasters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POSEY (for himself, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. WOLF, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. OLSON, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. POE of Texas):

H.R. 1446. A bill to direct the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to plan to return to the Moon and develop a sustained human presence on the Moon; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia (for himself and Mr. CONYERS):

H.R. 1447. A bill to encourage States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding the deaths of individuals in the custody of law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia (for himself, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. YOHO, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. KINGSTON, and Mr. CRAWFORD):

H.R. 1448. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the aggregate reduction in the fair market value of farm, etc., real property under section 2032A to $2,000,000, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself and Ms. FUDGE):

H.R. 1449. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for collegiate housing and infrastructure grants; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SHERMAN:

H.R. 1450. A bill to address the concept of ''Too Big To Fail'' with respect to certain financial entities; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. SLAUGHTER:

H.R. 1451. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Main Street in Brockport, New York, as the ''Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Reid Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Ms. BASS, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. CHU, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CONYERS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. FARR, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. HONDA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY,

Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WATERS, Mr. COSTA, Mr. NADLER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, and Ms. GABBARD):

H.R. 1452. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to deem certain service in the organized military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines and the Philippine Scouts to have been active service for purposes of benefits under programs administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. TAKANO (for himself, Mr. HUNTER, and Mr. FLORES):

H.R. 1453. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the authority to provide work-study allowance for certain activities by individuals receiving educational assistance by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. FRANKEL of Florida (for herself, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. CHU, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. MOORE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HOLT, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. NOLAN, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. WATERS, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. HAHN, Ms. TITUS, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. POCAN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. DELANEY, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. WATT, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. MORAN, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. MENG, Mr. TONKO, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. WELCH, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. HIMES, Ms. ESTY, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Mr. CLAY):

H. Con. Res. 28. Concurrent resolution recognizing the significance of Equal Pay Day to illustrate the disparity between wages paid to men and women; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CANTOR:

H. Res. 141. A resolution expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of the Baroness Margaret Thatcher, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. MILLER of Michigan (for herself and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania):

H. Res. 142. A resolution electing Members to the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library and the Joint Committee on Printing; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. MOORE:

H. Res. 143. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the school breakfast program; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. ROBY (for herself and Mr. HOLDING):

H. Res. 144. A resolution expressing support for designation of April 2013 as ''National Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Month''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

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

By Mrs. ROBY:

H.R. 1406.

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

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. SHIMKUS:

H.R. 1407.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. GARDNER:

H.R. 1408.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ENGEL:

H.R. 1409.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona:

H.R. 1410.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 1411.

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

The Congress shall have Power To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. COFFMAN:

H.R. 1412.

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

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 1413.

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

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Ms. PINGREE of Maine:

H.R. 1414.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1—The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3—To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18—To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all the other powers vested by this Constitution and the Government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN:

H.R. 1415.

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

''This legislation is consistent with Sections 7 and 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and the Sixteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.''

By Mrs. ELLMERS:

H.R. 1416.

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

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution states the Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

The Cancer Patient Protection Act of 2013 terminates the application of sequestration for certain drugs under Part B of the Medicare program. Sequestration prohibits some agencies from spending a portion of their appropriated monies. This legislation gives direction on the implementation of that prohibition. Therefore, the Cancer Patient Protection Act of 2013 is Constitutionally justified under Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. McCAUL:

H.R. 1417.

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

Article I, section 8, clause 1; and Article I, section 8, clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. MURPHY of Florida:

H.R. 1418.

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

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article 1, Section 8, which states that Congress shall have the power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Ms. HAHN:

H.R. 1419.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GALLEGO:

H.R. 1420.

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

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION ARTICLE I, SECTION 8:

POWERS OF CONGRESS CLAUSE 18

The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 1421.

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

Article 1, section 8, of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. STEWART:

H.R. 1422.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. LANKFORD:

H.R. 1423.

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

Article 1, Section 9—No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

By Ms. SINEMA:

H.R. 1424.

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

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the general welfare of the United States; as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 1425.

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

Article 1, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. BISHOP of New York:

H.R. 1426.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. BUCSHON:

H.R. 1427.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: ''The Congress shall have power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes.''

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 1428.

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

The attached bill is constitutional under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: ''To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes'' as well as Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1: ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.''

By Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 1429.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

H.R. 1430.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 1431.

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

Article 1, Section 8, of the United States Constitution

By Mr. COTTON:

H.R. 1432.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. COURTNEY:

H.R. 1433.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power * * * To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. DAINES:

H.R. 1434.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article 1 Section 8 Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mrs. DAVIS of California:

H.R. 1435.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. ENYART:

H.R. 1436.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 1437.

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

Article I, §8, clause 3, the Commerce Clause.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida:

H.R. 1438.

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

Including but not limited to;

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

Article I, Section 8, Clause 14

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

Fourteenth Amendment, Section 5

Section 1: No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Section 5: The Congress shall have power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

By Mr. LABRADOR:

H.R. 1439.

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

Clause 2 of Section 3 of Article IV of the Constitution:

''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.''

The specific Constitutional Authority cited here is not intended and should not be construed to be exclusive of any other general or specific Constitutional Authority that is otherwise applicable.

By Mr. LONG:

H.R. 1440.

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

Article I Section 8 Clause 1

Article I Section 8 Clause 3

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 1441.

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

The Constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to provide for the common Defense and general welfare of the United States through passage of Laws that are necessary and proper, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and Clause 18.

By Mr. MARKEY:

H.R. 1442.

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

Article I, section 8

By Mr. MICHAUD:

H.R. 1443.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. OWENS:

H.R. 1444.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 1445.

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

Article 1, section 9, clause 7

Article I, section 8, clause 1

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 1446.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 8

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 1447.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia:

H.R. 1448.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. SESSIONS:

H.R. 1449.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. SHERMAN:

H.R. 1450.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

Specifically the power, ''to regulate Commerce . . . among the several states.''

By Ms. SLAUGHTER:

H.R. 1451.

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

Clause 7 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 1452.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 1453.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 3: Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mrs. WAGNER, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. NUNNELEE, and Mr. HALL.

H.R. 22: Mr. FARENTHOLD.
H.R. 32: Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. RIGELL.
H.R. 39: Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 50: Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. HORSFORD, and Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.
H.R. 75: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H.R. 93: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 102: Ms. BASS.
H.R. 129: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. HAHN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. DOYLE.
H.R. 148: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 164: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. RIGELL, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. MASSIE, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. BACHUS.
H.R. 207: Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. COFFMAN and Mr. BENISHEK.
H.R. 232: Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 236: Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 241: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.
H.R. 275: Mr. LOEBSACK and Mrs. BUSTOS.
H.R. 288: Mr. RAHALL.
H.R. 292: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 312: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 321: Mrs. DAVIS of California and Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 322: Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin.
H.R. 324: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. COLLINS of New York, and Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 329: Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 334: Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. WESTMORELAND, and Mr. FORBES.
H.R. 335: Ms. HAHN, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. BARLETTA.
H.R. 337: Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 344: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 351: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. KLINE, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. MAFFEI.
H.R. 352: Mr. HUNTER and Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 354: Mr. TAKANO and Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.
H.R. 357: Mr. STIVERS, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. KUSTER, and Mr. BENISHEK.
H.R. 358: Ms. SCHWARTZ.
H.R. 360: Mr. BARR, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. HARTZLER, and Mr. LANKFORD.
H.R. 362: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 363: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 366: Mr. RUIZ, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. WALZ, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. SESSIONS, and Ms. CLARKE.
H.R. 401: Mr. O'ROURKE, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Mrs. WALORSKI.
H.R. 411: Mr. WATT and Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 435: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 454: Mr. PERRY , Mr. SHUSTER, and Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 460: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 478: Mr. BARLETTA.
H.R. 482: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 484: Mr. COLLINS of New York.
H.R. 487: Mr. AMODEI, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mr. TIBERI.
H.R. 490: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 493: Mr. DAINES.
H.R. 503: Mr. ENYART and Mr. PERRY.
H.R. 506: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York and Mr. LEWIS.
H.R. 515: Ms. CLARKE.
H.R. 523: Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. SHUSTER, and Mr. NUNES.
H.R. 530: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 532: Mr. TIERNEY and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 536: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 537: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 539: Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 543: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. ANDREWS, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
H.R. 544: Mr. CHABOT and Mr. HUELSKAMP.
H.R. 556: Mr. HARRIS, Mr. NUGENT, and Mrs. HARTZLER.
H.R. 565: Mr. BARROW of Georgia, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 574: Ms. MATSUI, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Ms. CHU.
H.R. 580: Mr. MEADOWS and Mr. MEEKS.
H.R. 581: Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 582: Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. KLINE, and Mr. KINGSTON.
H.R. 584: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 594: Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 596: Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. SALMON, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. HORSFORD, and Mrs. LUMMIS.
H.R. 600: Ms. FUDGE.
H.R. 612: Mr. GUTHRIE.
H.R. 618: Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 621: Mr. KINGSTON.
H.R. 627: Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. SIMPSON, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. CRAWFORD, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. KEATING, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. ROSS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Mr. BARROW of Georgia.
H.R. 630: Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. VELA, Ms. CLARKE, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. ENYART, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. BERA of California, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. BARBER, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. KILMER, Mr. HONDA, and Ms. HAHN.
H.R. 631: Mr. O'ROURKE.
H.R. 637: Mr. CAPUANO, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. GOHMERT, and Mr. CRAWFORD.
H.R. 641: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Ms. CHU.
H.R. 664: Ms. CHU, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CONYERS and Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 666: Mr. KILMER, Mr. RAHALL, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 671: Mr. DEFAZIO, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 673: Mr. HANNA.
H.R. 683: Mr. ELLISON, Mr. HIGGINS, and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 686: Ms. KUSTER and Mr. HANNA.
H.R. 688: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California and Ms. CHU.
H.R. 717: Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. JACKSON LEE and Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 718: Mr. FORTENBERRY and Mr. FORBES.
H.R. 719: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
H.R. 721: Mr. GARDNER, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. TONKO, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. LUMMIS, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 736: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 741: Ms. TITUS, Mr. ENYART, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska and Mr. STOCKMAN.
H.R. 744: Mr. MURPHY of Florida and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 755: Mr. COHEN, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. NUNES, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. BENISHEK.
H.R. 763: Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. CARTER, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. NUNES, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. LANCE, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. RADEL, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia and Mr. MICA.
H.R. 764: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 792: Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. RADEL, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. ROKITA, Ms. TITUS, Mr. BARR, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 800: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.
H.R. 805: Mr. HALL and Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 807: Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. MESSER, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. HUDSON and Mr. HOLDING.
H.R. 809: Mr. LOEBSACK and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 811: Mr. HIGGINS, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York and Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 813: Mr. CARSON of Indiana and Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 826: Mrs. BLACK.
H.R. 830: Mr. BARLETTA.
H.R. 833: Mr. COTTON, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. NEAL, Mr. KILMER, Ms. ESTY and Mrs. LUMMIS.
H.R. 846: MR. GARDNER, MR. ISRAEL, MR. TONKO, MR. REICHERT, MS. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM OF NEW MEXICO, MR. STIVERS, AND MR. BARR.
H.R. 847: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. HONDA and Mrs. LOWEY.
H.R. 850: Mr. CARTER, Mr. BERA of California, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. BARROW of Georgia, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. ENYART, Mr. GUTIERREZ, and Mrs. BUSTOS.
H.R. 855: Ms. BASS, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mrs. CAPPS and Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 861: Mr. COLLINS of New York.
H.R. 875: Mr. POSEY.
H.R. 888: Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. FARENTHOLD and Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 894: Mr. BENISHEK.
H.R. 896: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. HOLT, and Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 897: Mr. ELLISON, Ms. NORTON, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 900: Mr. HIGGINS and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 903: Mr. KINGSTON and Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 904: Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. REED, Mr. KINGSTON and Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 915: Mr. LYNCH, Mr. POCAN, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 920: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Ms. BASS.
H.R. 922: Mr. HANNA.
H.R. 924: Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. ELLISON and Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 938: Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. BERA of California, Mr. ENYART, Mr. SALMON, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. HONDA, Mr. KILMER, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. BARR, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mr. HOLDING.
H.R. 940: Mr. GARDNER, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 949: Ms. MOORE, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 954: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 958: Mr. LEWIS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 961: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. VELA, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. HANNA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. RUNYAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. VISCLOSKY.
H.R. 962: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 963: Ms. MOORE, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, and Mr. COFFMAN.
H.R. 969: Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. HALL, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, and Mr. DESJARLAIS.
H.R. 972: Mrs. HARTZLER and Mr. BENISHEK.
H.R. 980: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 984: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. JONES, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 986: Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 1000: Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. HOLT, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 1002: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 1005: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H.R. 1012: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. FARR, and Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 1015: Mr. HOLT, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. MOORE, Mr. COOPER, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 1020: Ms. BASS and Mr. BUCSHON.
H.R. 1024: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. HOLT, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. COLLINS of New York.
H.R. 1032: Mr. HECK of Nevada and Mr. BARR.
H.R. 1033: Mr. LEWIS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. FORTENBERRY, and Mrs. BEATTY.
H.R. 1038: Mr. JONES, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. HANNA, and Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 1072: Mr. BARR and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 1074: Mr. RANGEL, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MARCHANT, and Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 1077: Mr. HURT, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. WOMACK, and Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 1078: Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. BENISHEK.
H.R. 1082: Mr. FLORES.
H.R. 1091: Mr. OLSON and Mr. DAINES.
H.R. 1094: Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MARINO, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. TITUS, Mr. HIMES, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. ROSS, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 1096: Ms. BASS.
H.R. 1099: Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. KINGSTON, and Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 1106: Mr. SCHRADER and Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H.R. 1120: Mr. HUDSON, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. MESSER, and Mr. SCALISE.
H.R. 1125: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
R. 1130: Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. MEADOWS and Mr. HULTGREN.
R. 1141: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. MORAN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Mr. CUELLAR.
H.R. 1146: Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. ROE of Tennessee and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 1148: Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. JONES, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 1149: Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. SHIMKUS, and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
H.R. 1151: Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. MARINO, Mr. COOK, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CARTER, Mr. MORAN, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. COTTON.
H.R. 1171: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 1181: Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. BARR, and Mr. ENYART.
H.R. 1182: Mr. GIBBS.
H.R. 1186: Mr. MARKEY, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. CAPUANO.
H.R. 1188: Mr. JONES and Mrs. ROBY.
H.R. 1201: Ms. FUDGE and Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 1209: Mr. BENISHEK, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CARTER, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. COOPER, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. MORAN, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. WALZ, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. WILLIAMS.
H.R. 1227: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.
H.R. 1240: Mr. TAKANO, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 1242: Mr. PETRI, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. LATHAM, and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H.R. 1248: Mr. RENACCI, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. ROKITA, and Mr. PETRI.
H.R. 1249: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RUSH, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. BARR, and Mr. MULVANEY.
H.R. 1270: Mr. SOUTHERLAND.
H.R. 1271: Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 1278: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN, Ms. GABBARD, Ms. LEE of California, and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 1286: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H.R. 1287: Mr. COTTON, Mr. MEADOWS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MCHENRY, and Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 1288: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. NUNES, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 1290: Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 1294: Mr. DAINES.
H.R. 1295: Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 1298: Ms. SLAUGHTER and Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 1301: Ms. CASTOR of Florida and Mr. MARKEY.
H.R. 1303: Mr. RENACCI, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. PETRI, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. CHU, and Mr. SCHOCK.
H.R. 1310: Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 1317: Mrs. BACHMANN and Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 1318: Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 1319: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 1329: Mrs. CAPPS and Mr. VELA.
H.R. 1330: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. LYNCH, and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.
H.R. 1331: Mr. ROSKAM and Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 1334: Mr. TAKANO and Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 1335: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 1337: Mr. SALMON and Mr. WESTMORELAND.
H.R. 1338: Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 1339: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. RUSH, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 1340: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 1344: Ms. SINEMA.
H.R. 1349: Mr. BARBER.
H.R. 1351: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 1354: Mr. TONKO, Mr. WELCH, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. HANNA, Mr. KEATING, Mr. HONDA, Mr. RENACCI, Ms. TITUS, Mr. COBLE, Mr. BUCSHON, and Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 1355: Mr. JORDAN.
H.R. 1365: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 1366: Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 1373: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. RANGEL, and Ms. DELAUTO.
H.R. 1379: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 1381: Mr. GOWDY.
H.R. 1386: Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MARCHANT, and Mr. GERLACH.
H.R. 1387: Mr. HASTINGS of Washington.
H.R. 1396: Mr. GARAMENDI, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, and Mr. FARR.
H.R. 1397: Mr. CLAY, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RUSH, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H. Con. Res. 4: Mr. GRIMM, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. SWALWELL of California, and Mr. RAHALL.
H. Con. Res. 16: Mr. BARBER, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. NUNES, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. PITTS, Mr. RIBBLE, and Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin.
H. Con. Res. 23: Mr. HUDSON.
H. Con. Res. 24: Mr. JOYCE, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. YOHO, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. STUTZMAN.
H. Con. Res. 26: Mr. SALMON.
H. Res. 30: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. BARBER, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. HIMES, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
H. Res. 36: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. BONNER, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. ROSS, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. HURT, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. BENTIVOLIO, and Mrs. BACHMANN.
H. Res. 71: Mr. HOLT and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H. Res. 72: Mrs. BUSTOS and Mr. CRENSHAW.
H. Res. 75: Mr. WHITFIELD and Mr. PALAZZO.
H. Res. 104: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. JONES, and Mr. RAHALL.
H. Res. 108: Mr. RANGEL, Ms. CHU, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H. Res. 112: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. KILMER, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. BERA of California, Ms. LEE of California, and Mr. FOSTER.
H. Res. 121: Ms. CASTOR of Florida and Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H. Res. 126: Mr. CARSON of Indiana and Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H. Res. 129: Mrs. WAGNER and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H. Res. 133: Ms. ESHOO, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H. Res. 134: Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. OWENS, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. MICHAUD, and Mr. COTTON.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

H.R. 1202: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 678

OFFERED BY: MRS. NAPOLITANO

AMENDMENT NO. 1: Page 4, strike lines 14 through 18 (and redesignate subsequent provisions accordingly).

Page 7, line 13, strike ''5'' and insert ''15''.

H.R. 678

OFFERED BY: MR. TIPTON

AMENDMENT NO. 2: Page 4, line 4, insert ''(A)'' after ''(2)''.

Page 4, lines 8 and 10, strike ''work'' and insert ''conduit''.

Page 4, line 13, after ''offer'' insert ''for a small conduit hydropower project''.

Page 4, after line 13, insert the following:

''(B) If the irrigation district or water users association elects not accept a lease of power privilege offer under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall offer the lease of power privilege to other parties in accordance with this subsection.''.

Page 4, line 21, after ''hydropower'' insert ''policy and procedure-setting''.

Page 5, line 18 strike ''involved, and'' and all that follows though line 25 and insert the following ''involved. The Secretary shall notify and consult with the irrigation district or water users association operating the transferred conduit before offering the lease of power privilege and shall prescribe terms and conditions that will adequately protect the planning, design, construction, operation, maintenance, and other interests of the United States and the project or division involved.''.

Page 6, after line 4, insert the following:

''(8) Nothing in this subsection shall alter or affect any existing preliminary permit, license, or exemption issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission under Part I of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 792, et seq.) or any project for which an application has been filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as of the date of the enactment of the Bureau of Reclamation Small Conduit Hydropower Development and Rural Jobs Act.''.

Page 6, line 5, strike ''(8)'' and insert ''(9)''.

Page 6, strike lines 14 through 20, and insert the following:

(B) IRRIGATION DISTRICT.—The term ''irrigation district'' means any irrigation, water conservation or conservancy, multicounty water conservation or conservancy district, or any separate public entity composed of two or more such districts and jointly exercising powers of its member districts.

Page 6, line 21, strike ''WORK'' and insert ''CONDUIT''.

Page 6, line 22, strike ''work'' and insert ''conduit''.

Page 7, line 3, strike ''WORK'' and insert ''CONDUIT''.

Page 7, line 4, strike ''work'' and insert ''conduit''.

H.R. 678

OFFERED BY: MR. TIPTON

AMENDMENT NO. 3: Page 4, strike lines 14 through 18, and insert the following:

''(3) The Bureau of Reclamation shall apply its categorical exclusion process under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) to small conduit hydropower development under this subsection, excluding siting of associated transmission facilities on Federal lands.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 159 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2013 No. 46

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord of all, thank You for being America's strong defense across the seasons of its existence. Thank You also for Your forgiving grace that restores us in spite of our mistakes and failures.

Today, give our Senators a renewed sense of Your purpose so that they will stay within the circle of Your will. May they discharge their duties with the joyful focus of living worthy of Your great Name. Lord, help them to trust You to care for our Nation, to look to You for guidance, and to remember that nothing can separate us from Your love.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SAFE COMMUNITIES, SAFE SCHOOLS ACT OF 2013—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to Calendar No. 32, S. 649.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 32, S. 649, a bill to ensure that all individuals who should be prohibited from buying a firearm are listed in the national instant criminal background check system and require a background check for every firearm sale, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the time until 11:30 today will be equally divided between the majority and the minority. The Democrats will control the first 30 minutes and the Republicans the final 30 minutes. At 11:30 the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Patty Shwartz to be a circuit judge for the Third Circuit. At noon there will be a rollcall vote on her nomination. The Senate will then recess from 12:30 until 2:15 to allow for our weekly caucus meetings.

CONGRATULATING THE LOUISVILLE CARDINALS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I first wish to extend my congratulations to Senator MCCONNELL and the Louisville Cardinals for their successful NCAA championship. It was remarkable how they were always coming from behind to wind up winning. They did it not with offense but with defense. I was very impressed with the team but most of all impressed with their coach Rick Pitino. Rick Pitino on yesterday was also selected, with Jerry Tarkanian, to be a member of the Basketball Hall of Fame, and certainly they deserve that—both of them.

In addition to congratulating my friend Senator MCCONNELL, it is also important to recognize my deputy chief of staff Dave McCallum, who is a rabid Louisville fan. When I went down to participate in a program Senator MCCONNELL set up, I took David McCallum with me. He loves those Louisville Cardinals, and today he has more reason to like them and tonight even more reason because in the championship game tonight we have the University of Connecticut playing the Louisville Cardinals for the women's championship. So I am very mindful of how strongly Senator MCCONNELL feels about his Louisville Cardinals.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Would my friend yield for an observation?

Mr. REID. Yes. I just wanted to say I won't get into the politics of sports in Kentucky because I don't understand them, but I know how much Senator MCCONNELL cares about the Louisville Cardinals.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I would say to my good friend from Nevada that one of the things we enjoy talking about is sports, and he is a big UNLV fan as well. I would like to report to my friend through the Chair that it was a fun evening. It was absolutely exciting to be there. I was also grateful to the majority leader for coming down to the University of Louisville a few years ago. I was glad I had a chance to be there and to see it in person.

Basketball in a football facility is a little odd. There were 75,000 people there. I am not sure many people up at the top even saw the players. But we were a little closer to the floor, and it was a wonderful experience.

I thank the majority leader for his comments.

JERRY TARKANIAN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I mentioned the Basketball Hall of Fame. Jerry Tarkanian made it into the hall of fame—20 years too late, but he made it. Why didn't he get in earlier? Because this courageous man took on the NCAA, which has absolute control over college athletes. I hope that as the years go by, we as a Congress will take a look at that more closely.

But I don't want to move away from the important day it is in Jerry Tarkanian's life. Jerry is now over 80. He doesn't get around like he used to, and he doesn't chew on the towels like he is famous for. Here is a man who was held out of the hall of fame for far too long. This man won 990 games as a coach. He had more than an 80-percent winning record. He is a very fine man with a good family. His wife is a member of the Las Vegas City Council. He

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

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brought such excitement to Las Vegas. He coached the Runnin' Rebels into four final fours, won the championship once, and but for some politics within the university system, he would probably still be coaching there. Some things came up so that he no longer was able to coach at UNLV. But I admire him as a person and certainly send my congratulations to all of those Runnin' Rebel fans today because we have something to celebrate.

Finally, he took on the NCAA and won. He won a large money judgment against them as a result of how they treated him—it was so unfair—him and his players. People throughout the State of Nevada who played for him and who are now successful businesspeople—they are teaching professionals around the State, they are doing all kinds of good things in the State and around the country because of Jerry Tarkanian and the team he had and mainly his wife. She was so good with those young men who came to UNLV. She was, among other things, a speech therapist. She understood these young men, and they cared about her as much as they did about Jerry.

GUN CONTROL

Mr. President, as do most Americans, I believe the second amendment guarantees the right to bear arms. As a young boy—12 years old—on my birthday I got a gun, but it wasn't some little pea shooter, it was a blunderbuss, a 12 gauge shotgun, bolt action. Boy, that is a big gun. I still have it. I have had it reblued. I had the stock reworked. It is a beautiful gun. My parents sent away through the Sears catalog for that present for me. That gun was a real extravagance for them. It cost $28, but, oh, did I have fun with that great big gun that was bigger than I, and it kicked so much then, but I could handle it. I didn't get to shoot it a lot because shotgun shells were expensive.

So, like most Americans, I also believe the right to bear arms must be balanced with the rights of all little boys and girls in this country, whether they live in inner-city Chicago or sleepy Newtown, CT, to grow up safe from the threat of gun violence. Most gun owners are good. The vast majority of gun owners are good, responsible people who love target shooting and hunting and want to protect their homes and their families. But we have a responsibility to do everything in our power to keep guns out of the hands of convicted criminals and those who suffer from mental illnesses that make them a danger to themselves and to others. We understand that now more than ever with the terrible slaughters in Aurora, CO, and Newtown, CT. We have a responsibility as a body to safeguard the most vulnerable and our most precious resource—the kids, our children, our babies.

The terrible tragedy at Newtown was a wake-up call. We are really failing, and we need to do more. Newtown will always remember those little boys and girls, some of them shot multiple times, little children—5-year-old kids, 6-year-old children.

These are just names to us, but to the people of Newtown, Olivia isn't just a name; Olivia is a little girl who had a family who loved her. Newtown is a little town, relatively speaking. They know Jack. We have a responsibility to safeguard these little kids, and unless we do something, more than what is the law today, we have failed.

It is long past time for a thoughtful examination of the lax laws and culture of violence that put Newtown and Aurora, Oak Creek and Carson City, NV, on the map for such a devastating reason. I only hope my Republican colleagues will allow us to have that conversation. I hope Republicans will stop trying to shut down debate and start engaging on the tough issues we were sent to Washington to tackle.

There has been a huge cry in this body—for 2 years plus the months of this Congress—of people saying: Let's have regular order. Let's have amendments. So I was relatively kind of stunned when I got a letter during our break from 13 Republican Senators. They are the same Senators who yell and scream the most about regular order and amendments, but in this letter to me—short, direct, and to the point—they say: You are going to have no ability to go to the gun legislation because we are going to stop it. We don't think there should be a discussion or debate on guns.

Now, how would I describe these 13 Senators who sent me this letter? I want to do this respectfully because they have a right to their opinions even if they are illogical and even if they are speaking out of both sides of their mouths. What does that mean, speaking out of both sides of their mouths? It is very succinct what it means. It means—and it is described as a verb, looking it up on the Internet—to say different things to different people about the same subject. That is what they have done. They have been yelling and screaming: We want regular order.

The other night when we were doing the budget that went on until 5 o'clock in the morning, one of the Senators who signed this letter stood and said: We want to offer all the amendments we want to offer. No one has the right to stop us from offering amendments. So that is what we did. But today he feels differently. Today he is speaking out of both sides of his mouth, saying different things to different people on the same subject.

A former Republican Congressman from Florida is now a talk show host, and he is very popular. He has a program called ''Morning Joe.'' Here is what ''Morning Joe'' is reported as having said: Scarborough tears into GOP filibuster on gun bill and says, ''Is anybody awake in my party?'' Here is what he said:

With 92 percent of Americans supporting background checks, Scarborough noted, it is really hard to figure out what the political calculation is. It is a 90–10 issue that involves the massacre of 20 children. Is anybody awake in my party on the Hill?

That is what former Congressman Joe Scarborough said.

As President Obama has said, it is impossible to prevent every senseless tragedy, but we owe it to our children to at least try.

It is only common sense that felons who couldn't pass a background check in a gun store should not be able to walk into a gun show and buy a deadly weapon.

This is not hyperbole. Forty percent of the guns sold in the United States each year—including many used to commit crimes—are sold legally at gun shows or through private sales without even the most basic background check.

Three years ago, one of those guns—a shotgun purchased legally without a background check during a 2008 gun show in Kingman, AZ; about 90 miles from Las Vegas—was used to devastate the largest courthouse we have in Nevada, the brandnew Lloyd D. George Federal Courthouse in Las Vegas. It happened just as prospective jurors were arriving for the day.

This man walked in and started shooting. He blasted at every place that only a gunshot can do. He killed Stanley Cooper of Sandy Valley, who was a security guard. He was killed instantly in this hail of buckshot going around the courthouse. He ran after his gun became empty to reload, and he was eventually killed; that is, the man who caused all this carnage.

But Stanley Cooper, this good man who was there, left behind a brother, four sons, a daughter, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. He loved to spend time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He loved horses and spending time outdoors. That is why he lived in Sandy Valley.

He was no stranger to guns. He spent 26 years serving his community as a Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department officer. The man who shot him, on the other hand, was a convicted felon with no right to carry a firearm. He certainly could not have passed a criminal background check. But the shooter never had to get one. He just went to one of these gun shows and bought this shotgun—the same basic shotgun I got when I was a 12-year-old.

Requiring a simple background check every time a gun is sold is common sense.

As a brandnew member of the Nevada State legislature, I was a kid, but Sheriff Lamb, who was the sheriff of Clark County at the time—and now they have a TV program running; Dennis Quaid is playing Ralph Lamb—he came to me and said: I need to do something because we need people to wait a little while before they purchase a handgun.

I went to the legislature not understanding the process totally, but I introduced legislation that passed and became the law, that in Nevada if

someone purchases a handgun, they have to wait 3 days to pick it up. It is believed that alone has saved the lives of many people. Sometimes people, in a fit of passion, will purchase a handgun to do bad things with it—even as my dad did—kill themselves. Waiting a few days helps.

Requiring a simple background check every time a gun is sold is common sense. We are not asking for a 3-day waiting period. We have technology now. That does not take that long. But it is common sense. That is why more than 90 percent of Americans—including the vast majority of gun owners, the majority of people who belong to the NRA—support our proposal to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and those with mental illnesses. That is what a universal background check is all about.

This legislation would also crack down on anyone who buys a gun as part of a scheme to funnel it to criminals—reducing violent crime and protecting police officers. The three things that are in the bill that is now before this body all were reported out of the Judiciary Committee, led by PAT LEAHY. If anyone thinks that PAT LEAHY is a wimp on guns, they have another thought coming. He is from the State of Vermont. He boasts about a gun he has. He has a .50 caliber gun. I do not know why he wants one, but he has one. He is a man who loves to shoot his guns. So this bill is reported out of the Judiciary Committee, led by one of the people who knows as much about guns as many people in this body—and more, I should say.

This bill that came out of that committee gives schools across the country the resources to improve security and keep kids safe. It is called school safety. It has Federal trafficking in it.

This legislation will not prevent every crime, especially those awful crimes, and background checks will not keep guns out of the hands of every violent madman, and we all know that. But we owe it to the American people to act as if there is a chance to save even one life—whether that life belongs to a great-grandfather such as Stanley Cooper or these babies who barely began to live in Newtown, CT.

They deserve a vote.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COWAN). The Republican leader is recognized.

CONGRATULATING THE LOUISVILLE CARDINALS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I am going to take another opportunity to congratulate the Louisville Cardinals for an incredible championship win last night. It was a truly exciting game. I know my colleagues from Michigan take great pride in the fact that not just one but two of their schools were in the Sweet 16.

But you know we Americans love a story about somebody getting knocked down and picking themselves up again. That is why it was such a great moment to see Kevin Ware cut the net last night. They had to lower the rim a bit, as I am sure it is difficult to climb a ladder with a cast on your right leg, but let me just say to him and to the entire University of Louisville, my undergraduate alma mater: Well done. You have truly made our State proud.

REMEMBERING MARGARET THATCHER

Today, Mr. President, I plan to talk about the President's budget, but first I also wish to say a word about Margaret Thatcher.

Margaret Thatcher was one of the most transformative political figures of the 20th century. She was a revolutionary, a tireless tribune for what she called ''popular capitalism''—her ''crusade to enfranchise the many.'' Thatcher's methods were razor-sharp wit and the force of her will, which had toughened through decades of literally plowing through obstacles.

A woman of humble beginnings, she charged headfirst against a cross-partisan ruling class that had become calcified in office, an elite clique that had grown impotent in the face of the sort of postwar economic challenges that have long since drained the vitality from Western democracies that never had a leader like her.

The starched dukes and faceless union men who traditionally alternated the reins of British power sneered at ''that woman,'' as they called her—the ''grocer's daughter'' who knew nothing of their ways, whose middle-class instincts were unsuited to the business of governing. Yet she outmaneuvered them all.

When Margaret Thatcher finally wrested the keys of office from those who had made peace with Britain's decline in a way she never could and never would, she set in motion a whirlwind of reforms.

None of those were easy. The vested interests opposed her every move. But in the teeth of fierce opposition, she ignited what could best be described as a political and economic earthquake—one with a tide of global reverberations.

The kind of policies and ideas she inspired saw dictatorships and entrenched bureaucracies come crashing down, grinding poverty lose its grip, and the fossils of socialism recede into the surf. In the wake of this wave of reform stood freer people with a greater say over their own lives and a greater hope for the future.

That is Margaret Thatcher's legacy. In some ways, the parallels to our own day are hard to escape.

When Margaret Thatcher took office, Britain was gripped by wrenching economic turmoil—turmoil of a somewhat different kind than, but not entirely dissimilar to, our own. But through unbending confidence in the power of free markets and in the power of free people to order their lives more intelligently than centralized elites, she literally turned the tide.

So we mourn her passing, but we still have much to learn from her courage and example. Because in the years ahead, we will need to draw from it as conservatives look to turn the tide in the United States and to set about a renewal of our own.

THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

Tomorrow the President is set to unveil his budget—the details of his plan for America's future. Is it going to be a visionary blueprint that focuses on growing the economy instead of the government, a budget that can help, rather than continue to hurt, job creation? Is it going to be a budget that balances 10 years from now, 20 years from now, ever? Is it going to be a reformist document that makes bold choices? Will he finally drop the tax hike fanaticism that is, frankly, starting to enter the realm of the absurd?

From what we have heard so far, the prospects do not look all that great. We hear that, just like the Senate Democratic budget, it will never balance—ever. We hear it contains only about $600 billion or less in deficit savings over 10 years, which is roughly the level of the deficit in the first 6 months of this fiscal year. We hear it contains new spending proposals and does little to address the drivers of our debt. We hear it contains tax hike upon tax hike upon tax hike—and, in fact, all the deficit reduction I just mentioned would be derived from myriad tax increases rather than spending reductions.

So apart from reports of a modest entitlement change—and we will need to see the details on that—it sounds as if the White House just tossed last year's budget in the microwave.

Look, this budget is already 2 months late, so I sincerely hope it is not the case that it is just a warmed-over version of last year. Because if it is, what a colossal waste of time and what a disappointment. The American people deserve a lot better than that.

In a statement released yesterday, President Obama said Margaret Thatcher taught us that ''we are not simply carried along by the currents of history . . . [that] we can shape them with moral conviction, unyielding courage and iron will.''

What I am saying this morning is that this is your moment to do just that, Mr. President—your moment.

Lady Thatcher did not save her country from the abyss by taking half-measures or tiptoeing around special interest groups. She pushed through groundbreaking reform after groundbreaking reform, usually under heavy fire from all sides, and often over the objections of powerful leaders in her own party and Cabinet.

Had she governed by opinion poll, I am sure she would have been a lot more popular while in office, and Britain would have never recovered from the abysmal state in which she found it.

So, Mr. President, if you are ready to embrace bold reform, to take the steps that are needed to make our entitlement programs permanently solvent

and grow the economy, then Republicans are ready to work with you because the time for pretending America's challenges can be solved with more of the same is over—over. The time has come to summon the political courage to move beyond the status quo, to put the tax hikes and the poll-tested gimmicks aside, and to do finally what must be done.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

Under the previous order, the time until 11:30 a.m. will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the majority controlling the first 30 minutes and the Republicans controlling the second 30 minutes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF PATTY SHWARTZ TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Patty Shwartz, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 30 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, last month Senate Republicans filibustered the nomination of Caitlin Halligan to fill a vacancy on the D.C. Circuit that arose when Chief Justice Roberts left the D.C. Circuit to join the Supreme Court 8 years ago. Caitlin Halligan is a woman who is extraordinarily well-qualified and amongst the most qualified judicial nominees I have seen from any administration. It is a shame that narrow special interests hold such influence that Senate Republicans blocked an up-or-down vote on her confirmation with multiple filibusters of her nomination and procedural objections that required her to be nominated five times over the last 3 years.

Had she received an up-or-down vote, I am certain she would have been confirmed and been an outstanding judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. Instead, all Senate Republicans but one supported the filibuster and refused to vote up or down on this highly-qualified woman to fill a needed judgeship on the D.C. Circuit. Senate Republicans attacked her for legal advocacy on behalf of her client, the State of New York. It is wrong to attribute the legal positions a lawyer takes when advocating for a client with what that person would do as an impartial judge. That is not the American tradition. That is not what Republicans insisted was the standard for nominees of Republican Presidents but that is what they did to derail the nomination of Caitlin Halligan.

Also disconcerting were the comments by Republicans after their filibuster in which they gloated about payback. That, too, is wrong. It does our Nation and our Federal judiciary no good when they place their desire to engage in partisan tit-for-tat over the needs of the American people. I rejected that approach while moving to confirm 100 of President Bush's judicial nominees in just 17 months in 2001 and 2002.

The filibuster of the nomination of Miguel Estrada was different. It was to obtain access to information about his work and whether he acted ideologically as his supervisor at the Office of Solicitor General had alleged. Had we gotten access to those materials, there would have been a vote on the Estrada nomination. Republican Senators now demand access to all sorts of materials while filibustering for the first time in our history the Secretary of Defense and the Deputy Attorney General of the United States, as well as the nominee to head the CIA and judicial nominees. They cannot do that and still complain about the Estrada nomination.

Now that Senate Republicans have during the last 4 years filibustered more of President Obama's moderate judicial nominees than were filibustered during President Bush's entire 8 years—67 percent more, in fact—I urge them to abandon their misjudged efforts that sacrifice outstanding judges for purposes of partisan payback.

Today the Senate will finally consider another circuit court nomination that has been delayed for no good reason. The nomination of Judge Patty Shwartz of New Jersey to the Third Circuit has been needlessly stalled for 13 months since being favorably reported by the Judiciary Committee. This is another of the many judicial nominees who could have been confirmed last year. She is another qualified nominee who is supported by her home state Senators and by the Republican Governor of New Jersey. After this prolonged and unnecessary delay, I am pleased that she will finally be allowed to join the Third Circuit to serve the people of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and the Virgin Islands.

In 10 years as a United States Magistrate Judge in the District of New Jersey, Judge Shwartz has handled more than 4,000 civil and criminal cases and presided over 14 cases that have gone to verdict or final judgment, including 11 jury trials. Before becoming a judge, Judge Shwartz spent 14 years as an assistant U.S. attorney in the District of New Jersey, where she ultimately rose to become chief of the Criminal Division. During her time as an assistant U.S. attorney, Judge Shwartz tried more than 15 jury cases to verdict, all as sole or chief counsel. It was while serving in the U.S. attorneys Office that Chris Cristie, then U.S. attorney and current Governor of New Jersey, became acquainted with her and her work.

Governor Christie has written to the committee in support of Judge Shwartz's nomination. He said that she ''was an impressive Criminal Chief; hard working, bright, articulate, great with people and conversant with the law.'' He added: ''As a Magistrate Judge, she also performed admirably and garnered the respect of the entire legal community. Again, her hard work, amiable personality, patience, intelligence, and knowledge of the law were lauded by all who appeared before her.'' I ask unanimous consent that his full letter be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my statement.

The American Bar Association Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary has rated Judge Shwartz unanimously well qualified, the highest possible rating from its nonpartisan peer review. She has the support of Senator LAUTENBERG and Senator MENENDEZ.

By any objective measure, Judge Shwartz is a nominee with solid legal credentials and qualifications. Rather than evaluating her on her record, some have tried to claim there is an issue because Senator MENENDEZ met with her before supporting her. They infer, despite denials by the nominee and Senator MENENDEZ, that she must have made him some untoward commitment on how she would rule on some matter. There is no basis for that claim.

It is past time for the Senate to consider her nomination on the merits of her record and to confirm her. Her nomination has been stalled on the Senate floor for 13 months. This is just one example of the unnecessary delays that prompted a New York Times editorial about the delays in filling judicial vacancies. I ask unanimous consent that a copy of that editorial be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my statement.

Judged on her qualifications and her record, Judge Patty Shwartz should be confirmed by an overwhelming bipartisan vote. She should not have been delayed for more than a year. Sadly, this is not an isolated case but one in a steady pattern of obstruction. This is especially harmful at a time when judicial vacancies remain above 80. Filibusters and delays based on fictions do not help Americans seeking justice in our

Federal courts. Instead, they cause delays, overcrowded dockets, overburdened courts and have gone on too long.

When confirmed, Judge Shwartz will be one of just three women serving as active judges on the Third Circuit. It is time to move forward in a bipartisan fashion to vote to confirm this qualified nominee so that she may better serve the American people as a member of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
Trenton, NJ, February 11, 2013.

Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY,
Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.
Senator Patrick Leahy,
Russell Senate Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS: I write in support of Magistrate Judge Patty Shwartz' nomination to be a Judge on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. When I became the United States Attorney in the District of New Jersey in 2001, Judge Shwartz was the Chief of the Criminal Division, a very important and taxing job in a large prosecuting office. Judge Shwartz was an impressive Criminal Chief; hard working, bright, articulate, great with people and conversant with the law. She remained my Criminal Chief until she became a Magistrate Judge.

As a Magistrate Judge, she also performed admirably and garnered the respect of the entire legal community. Again, her hard work, amiable personality, patience, intelligence and knowledge of the law were lauded by all who appeared before her. I am sure that if she were elevated to sit on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals she would prove an excellent judge for all of the same reasons she was an excellent prosecutor and Magistrate Judge. She has my full support for the position for which I believe she is well suited.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,

CHRIS CHRISTIE,
Governor.

[From the New York Times]

COURTS WITHOUT JUDGES

(By the Editorial Board)

The number of vacancies on the nation's federal courts has reached an astonishingly high level, creating a serious shortage of judges and undermining the ability of the nation's court system to bestow justice.

Of 856 federal district and circuit court seats, 85 are unfilled—a 10 percent vacancy rate and nearly double the rate at this point in the presidency of George W. Bush. More than a third of the vacancies have been declared ''judicial emergencies'' based on court workloads and the length of time the seats have been empty. By far the most important cause of this unfortunate state of affairs is the determination of Senate Republicans, for reasons of politics, ideology and spite, to confirm as few of President Obama's judicial choices as possible.

Numbers compiled by the Senate Judiciary Committee tell the story. Mr. Obama's nominees for seats on federal courts of appeal, the system's top tier below the Supreme Court, have waited an average of 148 days for their confirmation vote following the committee's approval, more than four times longer than Mr. Bush's nominees. For Mr. Obama's nominees to federal district courts, the average wait time has been 102 days, compared with 35 days for Mr. Bush's district court choices.

The prestigious and important United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit offers a particularly striking example of Republican obstructionism. The 11–seat court rules on most appeals from federal regulatory agencies and has exclusive jurisdiction over national security matters. It has four vacancies; the last time the Senate confirmed someone to the court was 2006.

Mr. Bush appointed four judges to the court, a feeder to the Supreme Court, but whether the Senate will allow Mr. Obama to appoint any remains to be seen. Mr. Obama's first nominee for the court, Caitlin Halligan, withdrew from consideration last month after Senate Republicans filibustered for a second time. Those critics echoed the National Rifle Association's ridiculous portrayal of her as a legal activist outside the mainstream because she had filed a brief in opposition to the gun industry when she was New York State's solicitor general.

The real reason, as everyone knows, was to prevent Mr. Obama from adding balance to a generally conservative court. He may fare better with his latest nominee, Sri Srinivasan, a lawyer whose background working in the United States solicitor general's office under both President Bush and President Obama should help his chances.

Nominees for other important government posts have also been held up for partisan reasons. Some Republicans say this is simply payback for the Democrats' filibustering of Bush nominees. But while neither party should be in the business of obstructing judicial nominees, unless they are unqualified or unacceptably extreme, a retaliatory response based on politics hurts all who rely on courts to protect their rights and uphold the law.

It is also worth noting that Mr. Obama has not been putting forth candidates with strong ideological profiles. His nominees are decidedly moderate, which was not always true of the Bush judicial choices that the Democrats felt compelled to filibuster.

Mr. Obama could help reduce the problem by speeding up his nominations. The White House appears to have sharpened its focus since the election, but currently, 62 district and circuit court vacancies have no nominees.

The Halligan filibuster got some Democratic senators talking about a bolder strategy, including revisiting filibuster reform and making it harder for senators to torpedo or delay nominations to judicial vacancies in their home states. Another proposal is to have Mr. Obama make simultaneous nominations to fill the four vacancies on the District of Columbia Circuit, which would force Republicans to come up with plausible reasons to oppose each of them. In the face of political paralysis, these ideas are worth embracing.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I see the distinguished Senator from Iowa, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today the Senate will consider the 10th judicial nomination this year. With today's expected action, we will have confirmed four circuit and six district nominees. At this point in 2005—and that was the beginning of President Bush's second term, comparable to what we are talking about for President Obama—the Senate had confirmed zero judicial nominees. Let me repeat that. At this point in 2005, the Senate had confirmed not 10, not 4, not even 1 judicial nominee, so that comes out to be zero.

The quick pace of this year comes on top of a very productive 112th Congress in which 111 judges were confirmed. In the last Congress, we confirmed more judges than any other Congress—going back 20 years to the 103rd Congress.

Despite this progress and our continued cooperation with the President and Senate Democrats, we continue to hear unfounded criticism.

For example, last week the White House spokesperson criticized the Senate for what he characterized as arbitrary and unique delays in getting nominees confirmed. In a previous post on its website, the White House complained about unprecedented delays in the Senate confirmation process.

While acknowledging the Senate had confirmed nine judicial nominees this year, the White House noted that ''these nine judges waited 144 days for a floor vote, compared to President Bush's nominees who waited an average of 34 days for a vote at this point in President Bush's presidency.''

As I stated, at the same point in 2005, none of President Bush's nominees had been confirmed—not one.

The purported statistic of the ''average of 34 days'' is without foundation. It took until June for President Bush to reach 10 judicial confirmations. President Bush wouldn't have another lower court nomination until October of that year.

But that delay in confirmations wasn't because there weren't nominees. By the beginning of April 2005, 21 judicial nominations had been submitted to the Senate.

President Bush's first four confirmations came in April 2005. The first two of those nominees were nominated in September 2004 and confirmed about 6 months later.

The other two nominees waited much longer. Robert Conrad was first nominated April 28, 2003 to the Western District of North Carolina.

He was confirmed a full 2 years later on April 28, 2005—not 34 days, as the White House implies.

His colleague, James C. Dever III, nominated for the Eastern District of North Carolina, waited even longer. He was first nominated in May 2002 and waited nearly 3 years before being confirmed on April 28, 2005.

So this notion of unprecedented, unique and arbitrary delays simply ignores the facts and, in the process, distorts history.

In addition to the White House, we hear Senate Democrats grumbling about nominations and calls for changing the rules of the Senate. Of course, the majority would have to break the rules to change the rules.

Such intemperate comments utterly fail to recognize the work the Senate has already accomplished in approving judges.

The purported justification is the number of judges on the calendar—

presently at 15. Where was their similar concern in April 2004, when the number of nominees on the Executive Calendar was nearly double what it is today?

A second prong of this debate concerns the vacancy rate in the Federal judiciary. Blaming judicial vacancies on the Senate confirmation process is unfounded and a distortion of the process. The vacancy rate is due to the failure in the White House to send nominations to the Senate.

Presently, 62 of the 87 vacancies—71 percent—have no nominee. For the 35 vacancies categorized as ''judicial emergencies,'' only 9 have a nominee—74 percent have no nominee.

I would like to say a few words about today's nominee. I do have concerns about this nomination which have not been satisfied.

Unfortunately, I am unable to support the nomination, although I expect Judge Shwartz will be approved as a United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit. I congratulate her on her confirmation and hope that she performs her duties in a skilled manner, demonstrating judicial temperament, with respect for the law and Constitution.

This nomination started out troubled. Not because of Republican opposition, but because of concerns expressed by her home State Democratic Senator.

Originally, Judge Shwartz's home State Senator questioned her intellectual fitness for the court stating she ''did not adequately demonstrate the breadth of knowledge of constitutional law and pivotal Supreme Court decisions.''

Concerns were also expressed that she ''misapplied the application of strict scrutiny versus rational basis review'' and ''did not express substantive knowledge as to the scope of the rights of corporations under the Constitution or jurisprudence on the constitutional limits of Executive Branch powers.'' According to press reports, she specifically misapplied the law after speaking about Citizens United.

These are pretty serious issues. So, Judge Shwartz was asked about them during her hearing, specifically the discussion on Citizens United. But she denied it happened, testifying instead that she did not discuss any specific cases, only general principles.

However, in follow-up written questions for the record, Judge Shwartz changed her story and said that she and her home State Senator had discussed two specific cases: Citizens United and Roe v. Wade.

I find this after-the-fact disclosure troubling. Not only was it inconsistent with her hearing testimony, but it prevented me and other Senators from following up regarding what discussions she apparently had regarding Citizens United and Roe v. Wade.

Because of the ambiguity surrounding these interviews and Judge Shwartz's inconsistent testimony, questions remain as to what understandings were reached or what assurances Judge Shwartz may have given to gain support from her home State Senators.

Unfortunately, her Committee hearing failed to remove the doubts that were initially raised. Again, these were raised by her home State Senator.

Furthermore, because of her lack of candor at her hearing, I was unable to come to a determination that she is prepared to be a Circuit Judge. I share the doubts raised regarding her limited knowledge of constitutional law; misapplication of standards of review; and inadequate understanding of substantive areas of laws.

Accordingly, I cannot support this nomination. I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD her biographical information.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Patty Shwartz is nominated to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit. Judge Shwartz received a B.A from Rutgers in 1983 and a J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1986. Upon graduation, Judge Shwartz worked for a year as an associate with the law firm of Pepper, Hamilton & Scheetz. In 1987, Judge Shwartz began a two-year clerkship with Judge Harold A. Ackerman of the U.S. District Court of the District of New Jersey.

Immediately after her clerkship, she began a fourteen-year career as a criminal prosecutor with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey. During her time as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, she prosecuted individuals for violent crime, drug trafficking, and white collar cases. After several years, she was assigned to the Special Prosecutions Division, handling public corruption cases. A short time later, Judge Shwartz was promoted to Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division where she supervised dozens of line prosecutors. In February of 1999, she was promoted to Chief of the Criminal Division, which she held until 2001.

In 2001, she began a brief stint as Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney, supervising the Criminal, Civil, and Fraud Divisions. In 2002, she returned to serve as Chief of the Criminal Division, overseeing the expansion and reorganization of the division. According to her questionnaire, Judge Shwartz has tried more than fifteen criminal cases to verdict.

In 2003, Judge Shwartz was appointed to be U.S. Magistrate Judge for the District of New Jersey. As Magistrate Judge, she has managed all aspects of the pre-trial process in over 4,000 cases. She is responsible for convening scheduling conferences, resolving discovery disputes, ruling on nondispositive motions, holding settlement conferences, and presiding over final pretrial conferences.

As Magistrate, Judge Shwartz has presided over ''in whole or in part'' more than 70 civil cases by consent of the parties. She has presided over eleven jury trials (ten civil cases and one criminal case) and twenty-two bench trials (three civil cases and nineteen criminal cases) from start to finish.

The American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary gave her a unanimous ''Well Qualified'' rating.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I yield the floor.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 6 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection. The Senator from New Jersey is recognized.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I am pleased to rise in support of the confirmation of Judge Patty Shwartz to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, a nomination which has finally come to the floor, and the time has come to confirm Judge Shwartz. I express my full support and urge my colleagues to do the same. I am happy we were able to work out the vote on this nominee without a cloture vote, which is incredibly important.

I want to refer to my distinguished colleague, the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, who mentioned a home State Senator—who happens to be me—and to clarify some issues.

I have always taken the role of advice and consent for judicial nominations very seriously, as I am sure we all do. Appointments to the Federal bench are lifetime appointments, and the circuit court is often the last stop before the U.S. Supreme Court. That makes that responsibility even greater. Very few Americans, if they appeal, get past the circuit court to Supreme Court consideration.

We know the process can be long and difficult; sometimes overly partisan on both sides based on legitimate concerns and personal beliefs. In the end we always look to confirm the best and most qualified individuals. We conduct a thorough review of the nominees, their understanding of the law, their intellect, their analytical thinking and reasoning, and we make our decisions—and I have made mine—about the nominee.

I had the opportunity on more than one occasion to discuss with the judge issues that I believe reflect the high standards to which a nominee should always be held. There is no understanding between this nominee and me as to how she would rule in any given set of circumstances. There was a suggestion about what the law is today in both those instances. I am sure the judge simply did not recall the specifics of that at the time of the hearing but was forthright in coming back and saying: Yes, there were two cases. The simple discussion of what is a Supreme Court decision is, in my mind, not only appropriate, but at a circuit court level is more than desirable.

In the totality of our discussions Judge Shwartz indicated to me the type of intellectual rigor, the knowledge that in fact guarantees to me that she deserves the lifetime appointment to which I expect the Senate will confirm her. The fact that I come to the floor today in full support of her confirmation speaks not only to her qualifications but to her character and to her judicial temperament and suitability to serve on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

Aristotle said: ''Character may be called the most effective means of persuasion.''

I can say that, having spent time meeting with Judge Shwartz, I am absolutely persuaded that she is a person of character and meets the highest standards for any nominee.

I urge my colleagues to unanimously confirm this highly qualified woman who, I know, will serve honorably and serve well.

Judge Patty Shwartz is a proud New Jerseyan. She has been a magistrate judge for the District of New Jersey since 2003.

Originally from Paterson, she graduated from Rutgers as a Henry Rutgers Scholar with the highest honors.

After college, Judge Shwartz went to the University of Pennsylvania Law School, edited the law review, and was named Outstanding Woman Law Graduate.

She has been an associate in Philadelphia at Pepper, Hamilton & Scheetz, clerked for the Honorable Harold A. Ackerman of the District Court for the District of New Jersey, and, in 1989 joined the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey.

She rose to the position of deputy chief of the criminal division and then to chief of the criminal division serving as the Executive Assistant United States Attorney.

She has handled over 4,000 civil and criminal cases, and, since 2009, she has been an adjunct professor at Fordham University School of Law.

She is on the advisory board for the Association of the Federal Bar of the State of New Jersey, the Board of Advisors for the Historical Society of the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey, and the Board of Directors of the Federal Magistrate Judges Association, where she represents the Third Circuit.

She is clearly highly qualified—a woman of distinction who deserves confirmation.

If experience, character, and temperament are the most persuasive weapons in a judicial nominee's arsenal, then Judge Shwartz comes before this chamber very well-armed.

Let me say to my colleagues who may not have had the opportunity to look as closely at this nominee's record as I have, in making my judgment I have had the benefit of invaluable advice and counsel from many members of the Federal bar whose opinions I sought. They are both Democrats and Republicans, and they affirmed what I subsequently discovered for myself in discussions with her; that there is not a single reason to vote no on this nomination.

I urge my colleagues to send a message that although the process can be long and fraught with conflicting opinions, in the end it bends toward the best and brightest, and Judge Patty Shwartz is proof of it.

She has strong bipartisan support not only from both the Senators from New Jersey but also our Governor Chris Christie. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting to confirm Judge Patty Shwartz to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, it is my great honor to once again express my strong support for the Senate confirmation of Magistrate Judge Patty Shwartz to the United States Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

It has been a long road, but it's great to finally reach this day. I began the process of recommending Judge Shwartz to President Obama almost 2 years ago, and since her first nomination by the President 18 months ago I have had the privilege of shepherding her candidacy through the Senate. During that time, I have worked with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to ensure she has bipartisan support. And earlier this year, I personally communicated with a number of my Republicans colleagues to assure them of her qualifications for the position and sterling reputation in the legal community.

It hasn't been an easy or quick process by any means, but because her candidacy is so strong, and because so many people believe in her, we have reached this proud moment where we can confirm her, and without a filibuster.

Her confirmation is well-deserved, because putting Judge Patty Shwartz on the Federal bench will be a great service to our nation and our justice system. She brings 25 years of public service to the bench—years she spent as a teacher, an attorney, and a judge.

Judge Shwartz graduated from Rutgers University with the highest honors and received her law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where she was an editor of the Law Review and was named her class's Outstanding Woman Law Graduate.

Since 2003, Judge Shwartz has served as a U.S. Magistrate Judge in the District of New Jersey, where she has handled more than 4,000 civil and criminal cases. And within the New Jersey legal community, she has earned a solid reputation for dispensing justice fairly and wisely.

She will make an excellent addition to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

The opportunity to nominate Federal judges is a sacred duty. I have felt lucky to recommend many eminently qualified, impressive, and accomplished individuals.

Yet rarely have I seen such an outpouring of support for a single judicial candidate as I have with Judge Shwartz.

John Lacey, past President of the Association of the New Jersey Federal Bar, said Judge Shwartz is, ''thoughtful, intelligent, and has an extraordinarily high level of common sense.''

Thomas Curtin, the chairman of the lawyers' advisory committee for the U.S. District Court of New Jersey, said, ''Every lawyer in the world will tell you that she's extraordinarily qualified, a decent person, and an excellent judge.''

And seldom has someone had such a distinguished career working for—and earning the respect of—people on both sides of the aisle.

From 1989 to 2003, Judge Shwartz served in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey. In this role, she supervised hundreds of criminal cases, including cases concerning civil rights, violent crimes, drug trafficking, and fraud.

And in the U.S. Attorney's Office, she served under three Republican U.S. Attorneys: current Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito; former Secretary of Homeland Security under George W. Bush, Michael Chertoff; and New Jersey's current Governor, Chris Christie.

Governor Christie has been especially outspoken in his praise of Judge Shwartz. He has said, ''Judge Patty Shwartz has committed her entire professional life to public service, and New Jersey is the better for it.''

That is his statement. Now, if Governor Christie and I agree on something so adamantly, you know it's right.

Judge Shwartz's roots in New Jersey run deep. Like me, she is a native of Paterson, NJ, where she learned the value of hard work from her parents, who owned and operated a store for more than 50 years.

And as anyone who has met or worked with Judge Shwartz can attest, she inherited every ounce of her parents' strong work ethic—and then some.

After years of hard work, today is a great and triumphant day. I look forward now to seeing Judge Patty Shwartz take her place on the Federal bench. I can say with certainty that our justice system—and the country—will be better for it.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Patty Shwartz, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit?

The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) is necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 64, nays 34, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 93 Ex.]

YEAS—64

Alexander	Bennet	Cardin
Ayotte	Blumenthal	Carper
Baldwin	Boxer	Casey
Baucus	Brown	Collins
Begich	Cantwell	Coons

Cowan
Donnelly
Durbin
Feinstein
Fischer
Franken
Gillibrand
Graham
Hagan
Harkin
Heinrich
Heitkamp
Hirono
Isakson
Johanns
Johnson (SD)
Kaine
King
Klobuchar
Landrieu
Leahy
Levin
Manchin
McCain
McCaskill
Menendez
Merkley
Mikulski
Murkowski
Murphy
Murray
Nelson
Portman
Pryor
Reed
Reid
Rockefeller
Sanders
Schatz
Schumer
Shaheen
Stabenow
Tester
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Warner
Warren
Whitehouse
Wyden

NAYS—34

Barrasso
Blunt
Boozman
Burr
Chambliss
Coats
Coburn
Cochran
Corker
Cornyn
Crapo
Cruz
Enzi
Flake
Grassley
Hatch
Heller
Hoeven
Inhofe
Johnson (WI)
Kirk
Lee
McConnell
Moran
Paul
Risch
Roberts
Scott
Sessions
Shelby
Thune
Toomey
Vitter
Wicker

NOT VOTING—2

Lautenberg
Rubio

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:33 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. BALDWIN).

SAFE COMMUNITIES, SAFE SCHOOLS ACT OF 2013—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ROBERTS. I ask unanimous consent to proceed as in morning business for 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Kansas is recognized.

(The remarks of Mr. ROBERTS pertaining to the introduction of S. 677 are located in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

Mr. ROBERTS. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

STABBING AT LONE STAR COLLEGE

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I have a couple matters I wish to discuss, but before I get to that, we have been advised—through the news media—that there have been multiple victims who have been injured during a stabbing attack at the Lone Star College CyFair campus in Texas. One person has been taken into custody.

Unfortunately, this is the second time, in a short period of time, that the Lone Star College campus has been struck with acts of senseless violence, and I think it is appropriate to say here and now that our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families. We hope law enforcement does its typically good job and finds those responsible to make sure those who are responsible are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

BORDER SECURITY

Madam President, I wish to remind my colleagues that if they don't know where they are going, then they will probably never know when they get there. Stated another way: If you don't measure the size of a problem, you will never know how close or how far you are away from solving it. It seems like common sense. But since 2010, the Department of Homeland Security has used the metric or the measuring stick of operational control to determine how successful it is about detaining those who cross our southwestern border illegally. This is a matter of basic public safety since we know drug cartels, human traffickers, and other criminals regularly exploit this porous southwestern border in order to do their dastardly deeds.

For some reason, the Department of Homeland Security has dropped this metric or measuring stick of operational control altogether, and so far they have yet to replace it with some other measuring stick or some other way to determine how successful or unsuccessful they have been. It has literally been 3 years since the Department of Homeland Security has had a functional measurement of border security.

Again, this is about public safety. This is about deterring and stopping criminals and others who come across the border to deal in drugs or in human lives. During this same time period, the Government Accountability Office has reported that the Department of Homeland Security had achieved operational control—this was about 3 years ago—of less than 45 percent of the southwestern border.

The Los Angeles Times wrote a story recently that showed between October 2012 and January of 2013, the Department of Homeland Security failed to apprehend at least 50 percent of the people who attempted to cross the border without proper paperwork; in other words, illegal border crossers.

I think, by any measure, whether one is a Democrat or Republican, Independent, no matter what your political stripes, this is unacceptable, and we need to do better.

Earlier today, I introduced legislation that would require the Department of Homeland Security officials to verify how much operational security we actually have along our borders. The Border Security Results Act of 2013 would also require the Department of Homeland Security to develop a comprehensive strategy—something we have been missing for a long time—for achieving operational control of every single border sector.

My State has 1,200 miles of common border with Mexico. We know that much of the illegal activity does not even start in Mexico but comes up through Central America. People around the world know that if they can get to Central America and pay the human smugglers enough, they can make their way into the United States. Even though we have beefed up the Border Patrol, the Department of Homeland Security, and applied new detection techniques so our border is more secure than it was, last year alone 360,000 people were detained by coming across the southern border. If we believe the Los Angeles Times story, which I think rings true, at least twice that many people actually tried—half were detained, half made it across.

This bill would define operational control as a threshold in which U.S. authorities in a given sector are apprehending at least 90 percent of the people who are coming across, and it would require the Department of Homeland Security to gain full situational awareness through technology, boots on the ground, and results-based metrics.

Metrics is just a fancy word. It is a measuring stick. It is a yardstick. Not only do we need to talk about the numbers, we need to talk about the very human tragedy associated with these numbers and inadequate border security.

As I said, a porous United States-Mexican border also encourages drug and sex traffickers, including all sorts of criminals who prey on children, the weak, and the vulnerable. By gaining operational control of our borders, we can save lives and protect innocent human life.

We can also safeguard the basic property rights and civil rights of people who live along the border while we respect those who play by the rules and who are now trying to pursue their American dream as legal immigrants to the United States. This is not designed to deter people who want to play by the rules and who want to enter this country to work and provide for their family according to the law of the land and seek to achieve their American dream.

This is also not an alternative to fixing our broken immigration system, but it is complementary of the work being done of the so-called Gang of 8—four Republicans and four Democratic Senators—as well as House negotiators who are trying to work out just exactly what border security actually means, how to measure it, and how to know if the Department of Homeland Security is doing the job. Even as we debate the larger issue of Homeland Security, everyone, Democrat and Republican alike, believes this is an essential component of a comprehensive bill.

In short, we should be doing everything possible to encourage the type of legal immigration that benefits our economy and our broader society while discouraging and deterring illegal entry into the country, which unfortunately, is being exploited by drug cartels, human traffickers, and other criminals.

The United States-Mexico relationship is about far more than just immigration security. This is not limited to just Mexico. This is very important. Mexico is our third largest trading partner. There are 6 million jobs in America that depend on cross-border traffic and trade with the country of Mexico. By the way, their economy is growing at a much faster rate than ours. It is something we can look at and be envious of and hopefully we can ultimately emulate.

The health and success of Mexico's economy is important to the economy of the United States for the reason I just mentioned. There are now millions of jobs which depend on trade with our southern neighbor, including hundreds of thousands of jobs in my State of Texas alone. Unfortunately, our land ports of entry along the United States-Mexican border have not kept pace with the rapid expansion of bilateral economic ties, and they are suffering from both inadequate infrastructure and inadequate staffing. Wait times at the border for people who are playing by the rules and trying to enter the country legally have grown unacceptably long.

The Border Security Results Act would help mitigate this problem by requiring the Department of Homeland Security to devise a plan to reduce the wait times by at least 50 percent. I might add, when we think about security and the economy, these go hand in glove because the very same people who are working to provide security from illegal entry are the very same ones often facilitating legitimate trade and commerce. By reducing wait times at the United States-Mexican border, we would facilitate greater bilateral trade and faster job creation on both sides of the Rio Grande River. That is just one additional reason that the Border Security Results Act deserves to become law as soon as possible.

Again, on this point, this is entirely complementary of the work and negotiations that are taking place now in the Senate among the Gang of 8, who will report to us any day now on their framework and how they think we ought to move forward on the immigration issue. But until we regain the public's confidence that the Federal Government is doing its job at this international border in terms of legitimate trade, deterring common criminals, and drug and human traffickers, then I doubt our chances for success on the larger issue are very good.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S BUDGET

Before I conclude, I wish to say a few words about President Obama's budget request. As we all know, the due date for the President's budget was February 4. One might say: February 4 has long passed. That is correct. It was the day after the Super Bowl. But here we are 2 months later, and the President has defied the requirements of the law which says the President must submit his proposed budget the first Monday of February.

Unfortunately, he is the first President in modern history not only to have failed that deadline but to see the Senate and the House actually move forward with our respective budgets before the White House releases its own.

If the President, who is obviously the leader of the free world and Commander in Chief of the United States military, wants to be relevant to the largest, most important domestic issue facing this country, which is how to get control of our debt and deficit and how to get the American Government to live within its means, I cannot think of anything more likely calculated to lead to his irrelevancy than to wait until the House and the Senate have already dealt with our budgets and submit his budget. That is what has happened.

Tomorrow is the big day when we finally get to see the President's budget proposal. According to some press reports, we already have an idea of what is in it. For one thing, the President's budget will not balance. It is not a balanced budget. The President likes to talk about balance when discussing economic matters. Well, the President's budget doesn't balance in 10 years or in 20 years or ever. What it will do, we are told, is increase spending by hundreds of billions of dollars—money we simply don't have. Right now the Federal Government is spending roughly 25 cents out of every dollar, of money we have to borrow from China or other creditors, just to pay to keep the government operating at its current level.

We are also told the President's budget would impose hundreds of billions of dollars in new taxes—this is after, on January 1, the President signed into law a $600 billion tax increase as a result of the fiscal cliff negotiations. Meanwhile, the President's budget would make it harder for Americans to save for their own retirement. I find that bewildering. Why in the world would the President want to discourage the American people from saving for their own retirement, particularly at a time when he has done nothing to shore up Social Security or Medicare, which seniors rely upon. So if the Federal Government is not going to do that—in other words, not going to do its job of shoring up Social Security and Medicare—why in the world would we further discourage people from saving on their own?

Indeed, from what we have heard, this budget is filled with the same sorts of tax and spend policies the President has been promoting since day one. I will give him credit—the President has been consistent throughout. Our country can't afford that kind of policy, not when we are suffering from the longest period of high unemployment since the Great Depression and not when millions of Americans have been jobless for more than 6 months.

I would remind colleagues that President Obama has presided over an economy where half a million Americans left the workforce last month, bringing our labor force participation rate down to a 34-month low. What does that mean? Well, it means people have given up. People have been out of work so long—even though the unemployment rate has hovered around 8 percent, then 7.7, 7.6, the only reason it has come down is because hundreds of thousands of Americans have given up looking for work, so they have taken them out of that calculation, which actually gives a false impression of the unemployment rate decreasing. But we all know the economy is growing very slowly—.6 percent the last quarter. It needs to grow 3 and 4 percent for our economy to take off and create the private sector jobs that are important to get Americans back to work.

The President of the United States may truly believe his proposed budget represents a compromise, but in the real world it does absolutely nothing to address our biggest long-term fiscal problems, including Medicare, which, for every dollar a typical Medicare beneficiary has put into the system, they draw down $3. That is unsustainable. The President's proposed budget contains, again, another massive tax increase even though President Obama has already presided over a Federal Government that has raised taxes on the American people by $1.7 trillion.

Last week White House Press Secretary Jay Carney said the President's budget ''is not what he would do if he were king.'' Well, we haven't had a king in a long time—never in this country—and I can only assume Carney meant President Obama would like to raise taxes even more if he could and increase spending even more if he could and do even less if he could to reform our vital programs, such as Social Security and Medicare.

In so many ways this budget sounds more like a PR stunt than actually being designed to address the Nation's biggest challenges. It may help the

President secure favorable media coverage, but it fails to offer serious solutions to America's biggest long-term challenges.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I know that pending is the firearms legislation, which America is watching very closely, and which we will speak to at length as we proceed to this measure. I, of course, will come to the floor at that time to address some of the issues which were brought up in the Senate Judiciary Committee. One of the bills that is being brought forward under this firearms act is one related to straw purchases—purchases by an individual who can legally purchase a gun so that firearm can be given to someone who could not because of a felony conviction, for example, or perhaps mental instability.

Those third-party purchases—straw purchases—have become the scourge of many communities. One of them is the city of Chicago, IL, which I represent. We found that about 9 percent of the crime guns confiscated in Chicago over the last 10 years came from the State of Mississippi—Mississippi. So how did those guns get from Mississippi to the mean streets and alleys and backways in Chicago? Well, some people decided they could make some money by filling up the trunk of a car with easily purchased guns in Mississippi, driving up to Chicago, and selling them to gangbangers and thugs and drug kingpins in some dark alley late at night. That is a profitable business for some, but it has proliferated firearms and weapons in the city of Chicago to a level that many people find incredible.

Our superintendent of police, Garry McCarthy, came to Chicago from the New York City area. He learned that the per capita possession of firearms in the city of Chicago—per capita—is roughly six times what it is in the city of New York—six times more firearms. We are awash, flooded with these firearms, and most of them, virtually all of them, are coming in from outside the city—9 percent from Mississippi, 20 percent from one firearms dealer in the suburbs of Chicago.

Well, I can tell you these guns are not being purchased by end users in most instances. They are being purchased by girlfriends, by partners, those who could clear a background check and buy a gun and hand it over to someone else who commits a crime.

One of the provisions in the firearms bill that I authored with Senator KIRK, Senator COLLINS, GILLIBRAND, and, of course, our chairman, PATRICK LEAHY, relates to whether we are going to throw the book at those who purchase guns with the knowledge or reasonable belief that they are going to prohibited purchasers or to be used in the commission of a crime; and we do. The penalty starts at 15 years of hard time. In Chicago at a press conference we said: Girlfriend, think twice. Is he worth it? Is he worth 15 years behind bars for you to go buy that gun in the suburbs, hand it over to that gangbanger who kills somebody that night?

That is what folks have to put into their calculation of whether they are going to take that risk. That is one of the provisions in this firearms bill. I would like to think everybody would agree with this provision. Unless one happens to be in that rare group of Americans who believe selling firearms in volume, no matter whom they are sold to, is the best thing for our country, then they have to agree that clamping down with Federal hard time for those who make straw purchases is a good idea. I think it is. It is the lead measure in this firearms bill that will come before us.

There are other measures in there that have been somewhat more controversial, and we will come to them during the course of the debate. But I have asked for this time as in morning business to speak to two unrelated issues, not to diminish the importance of the firearms bill, which I have spoken to already, but to speak to two other issues which I hope will be taken up seriously by the Senate soon.

(The remarks of Mr. DURBIN pertaining to the introduction of S. 673 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

FOR-PROFIT COLLEGES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I have come to the floor many times to talk about for-profit schools. It is another consumer issue. It is a very serious one. I come to the floor to describe to my colleagues and put on the record of the Senate some of the things that are taking place across America today that I think are nothing short of outrageous, things that we can stop—we have the power to stop in the Senate.

Let me tell the story of Sharon LoMonaco. Sharon is a 65-year-old woman who is on Social Security and in debt because of her student loans. Sharon attended the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, a for-profit college owned by Education Management Corporation. Sharon saw a commercial and was attracted to the school and called them. Then the recruiter at the school kept calling and calling her until she finally agreed to sign up. Sharon says the recruiter acted as if he were her best friend, told her everything would be great, and then practically filled out her financial aid forms for her. She ended signing up for $55,000 in loans, to the Art Institute of Pittsburgh.

She started the program and started to question almost immediately the quality of the education she was receiving. But she stayed in school—that is, she stayed until her money ran out. Sharon received a Pell grant, which is a grant given to low-income individuals in America to go to college, but she had also exhausted her Federal student aid eligibility. She was borrowing money even while she was putting the Pell grant into the cost of her education. She could not get any more Federal loans and could not qualify for private student loans. She had no choice—she had to drop out of the Art Institute of Pittsburgh. She now attends a community college and is trying to finish her degree there. For now her loans are deferred, but every day, she wakes up and worries about what will happen when the day comes and she will have to start to pay them back.

Unfortunately, Sharon is not alone. Every week, former for-profit college students who attended one of the schools like the Art Institute of Pittsburgh that are run by the EDMC corporation find they are drowning in debt and contact our office. We have invited them to tell us their stories.

Let me talk a little bit more about the type of business EDMC runs—that stands for the Education Management Corporation. It received over 77 percent of its total revenue from Federal student aid programs. However, according to a 2012 HELP Committee report Senator TOM HARKIN filed, if all Federal aid is included—that means counting GI Bill funds, Department of Defense tuition assistance money—EDMC receives 80 percent of its total revenue from the Federal Government. This is not a business, this is an outlet for Federal taxpayers' dollars to subsidize a private company. Eighty percent of its revenue comes in the form of a check from the Federal Government.

It is only 20 percent away from being a total Federal agency, but, believe me, the salaries that are paid and the profits that are taken by this so-called private sector company would not even be considered at the Federal level.

For-profit colleges received $32 billion in Federal student aid funds in the 2010–2011 academic year. This might seem like a good investment for the Federal Government to make—that is, if students were actually learning, graduating, and getting jobs in their chosen fields and paying off their loans. They are not. Over 23 percent of the students who attended the Art Institute of Pittsburgh are going to default on their student loans within 3 years.

Sharon LoMonaco is not alone. More and more older Americans are in debt either because they went to school later in life or, in a gesture of kindness, cosigned costly private student loans for their children or grandchildren. According to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, outstanding student loan debt now tops $1

trillion in America. These are people who were retired and planning to live a life of comfort. They cannot anymore. A grandmother cosigns a granddaughter's student loan for her, the granddaughter defaults, and they are now collecting and garnishing grandma's Social Security check. In Sharon's case, she worries her Social Security check will be garnished in the future.

While other types of household debt continue to decline, there is one that does not: student loan debt. Between 2004 and 2012, there was a 70-percent increase in the average amount being borrowed for college. Borrowers like Sharon, clearly over the age of 30, make up 67 percent of the total outstanding student loan debt.

There are some for-profit colleges that are doing the right thing—educating students to succeed in the workforce—but there are other bad actors, such as EDMC, that continue to spend a large portion of their revenue on marketing rather than educating. This committee report from the HELP Committee in the Senate found last year that for-profit colleges spent an average of 22 percent of their revenue on marketing and recruiting. One particular school we looked at today is trying to hold out that it is educating and training members of the military. It turns out they have hundreds of recruiters trying to get military families to sign up and 1 job placement counselor. You know what their priorities are: Sign them up and get their money.

Congress needs to raise the standards for for-profit colleges and stop this unrestricted flow of funds to these schools that are failing their students.

I have been giving these speeches on the floor for some time now. Senator HARKIN of Iowa, who is the chairman of the HELP Committee, has had extensive investigations of these for-profit schools. Some of them are struggling. Their share value has gone down. They are not making money the way they used to. But they are still very much in business.

What we should remember is what I have told folks are the three most important numbers:

Twelve. Twelve percent of all college students go to for-profit schools. University of Phoenix, Kaplan, DeVry, EDMC—12 percent go to these for-profit schools. These for-profit schools take out over $30 billion a year in Federal aid to education. Twelve percent of the students, and they take 25 percent of all of the Federal aid to education. They know where the money is. They are grabbing it as fast as they can. Forty-seven is the third number you ought to remember. Forty-seven percent of the student loan defaults are students and their families from for-profit schools.

Many of these schools are just plain worthless. Some of the students could never tell.

They say: Well, Senator, wait a minute, if you are giving Federal Pell grants to these schools, then isn't the Federal Government acknowledging the school is a good school?

Sadly, that is an in escapable conclusion, a wrong one. They are not good schools. Yet we continue to allow them to tap into Federal funds. Oh, there are exceptions. Some of them do train people for good jobs. But too many of them are worthless.

These poor students, high school students are inundated with all of this advertising and marketing to go to those for-profit schools. They are lured into it. There was a commercial that used to run on television here in Washington. I think they finally pulled it off the air. It showed this lovely young girl. She was in her pajamas in her bedroom with her computer on the bed. She said: I am going to college in my pajamas. It was an advertisement for a for-profit school.

I do not want to suggest that online education is a bad thing. I think it can be a good thing. But this notion that you can go to school so easily and come up with a valuable degree is one that people ought to stop and think about. What we know now is that many students who do not know which way to turn coming out of high school would be well advised to go first to a community college. It is local. It is affordable. It offers a lot of options. You can learn a lot about yourself and what you might want to be when you grow up and do it without going deeply in debt.

What we are discovering is more and more students are signing up for debt they do not comprehend well. What does it say when a student has to borrow $20,000 a year to get an undergraduate degree, or $80,000 in debt for 4 years? Is it worth it? Many students are starting to ask this question.

When I grew up college was a given. Go to college; it is the only way to succeed.

Now students are asking the hard questions. Is it worth that much debt? Will it really help me that much? There are questions which need to be asked and answered. Sometimes these questions are being answered by young people who have had no experience in the world. They have not yet borrowed money for anything. Perhaps their parents never attended a college or any institution of higher education. They are excited about going to college and sign on the paper because they don't want to miss a class. The next thing they realize is they are stuck in these schools.

After a period of time, possibly 4 or 5 years later, some may actually finish in these for-profit schools only to discover their diplomas are worthless and cannot help them secure a job.

A young lady went to Westwood College, one of the most notorious for-profit schools in the Chicagoland area, for 5 years. She completed a law enforcement degree from Westwood. There wasn't a single employer who would recognize her degree when she went out into the real world.

Where is she now? She is living in her parents' basement. This is the only place she may reside because she is $85,000 in debt to Westwood College for a worthless diploma. This isn't fair.

We need to do a better job at the Federal level in accreditation to ensure these schools are worth their tuition. Secondly, we need to demand full disclosure in terms of how much their education costs. What kind of debt obligation is the student incurring? What is the likelihood they will get a job? How many of these students are dropping out and defaulting on their loans long before graduation?

These are important questions which need to be asked and answered. It is tough. This is an industry which is politically well connected and put themselves in a favored position in the bankruptcy court—through friends in the U.S. Congress. They wish to protect their profitmaking, even at the expense of a lot of these students and their families.

We can do better. We need to establish standards which restore the confidence of American families and these future students in the institutions they attend.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask unanimous consent to speak as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

OBAMACARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor as someone who has just traveled around my home State of Wyoming for the last couple weeks, talking to people, listening to what they have to say. I do it as a doctor as well as a Senator, but people there know me as a doctor because I practiced medicine in Wyoming for 25 years, taking care of families from all around the State. So it is not surprising that in every town I visit, people ask me what is happening with regard to the President's health care law.

People around Wyoming continue to be very worried—worried that there is going to be a new layer of Washington between them and their doctor. People don't want anyone between them and their doctor, not an insurance company bureaucrat, not a Washington bureaucrat. So families are worried they are not going to be able to keep the insurance they have now and maybe insurance that works pretty well for them—insurance they like, they want, and they can afford. But they are concerned they are not going to be able to keep what they have.

Employers are also worried. They are worried they are not going to be able to afford the health care mandates under the President's health care law.

That is what I heard as I traveled around the State. I will be back in Wyoming again this weekend, traveling to a number of communities, and I expect I will hear the same thing this weekend. I am sure Members of the Senate have heard concerns similar to this from people all around their home State, as they visited around and listened to the voters over the last couple weeks.

While we were out hearing from folks and families back home, there has actually been a lot in the national news the last couple weeks making the very same points I was hearing in Wyoming, and that is what I wish to talk about today.

We have had one headline after another about the dangerous side effects of the health care law. For one thing, employers in Wyoming aren't the only ones who are worried about how much the law is going to cost, how it is going to have an impact on them and their businesses and their ability to hire more people.

According to a news survey by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the health care law's expensive new mandates are now the No. 1 concern of small businesses across the country. Seventy-one percent of small businesses say the law makes it harder for them to hire new workers. One-third say they plan to actually reduce hiring or cut back hours because of the employer insurance mandate. Twenty-two million Americans are out of work or are working less than they would like, and that is what we saw in the dismal jobs report just this last Friday.

You say, why is that? The Federal Reserve's Beige Book came out last month, and companies all around the country are saying: We are not going to hire because of the uncertainties and mandates in the President's health care law.

The recession ended 4 years ago, but the only way our economy is going to get back on track is if we free the private sector to start hiring in far greater numbers than they are willing to do right now. But the President's No. 1 signature accomplishment, his law, makes it actually harder for businesses to hire more people. One would expect the President would want to make laws that would make it easier for employers to hire more people.

There was another headline on how the President's health care law is hurting small businesses. Here is what the New York Times says: ''Small Firms' Offer of Plan Choices Under Health Law Delayed.''

What they are talking about is the promise the President made that his health care law would help small businesses find affordable health care plans. Of course, that is a desirable goal. The problem is the law doesn't bring out what the goals may have been. The law was supposed to create a new insurance market for small employers. That is what they are promised. Their workers would then have a variety of choices so they could pick the plan that worked best for them.

The New York Times article says:

> The promise of affordable health insurance for small businesses was portrayed as a major advantage of the new health care law, mentioned often by White House officials and Democratic leaders in Congress. . . .

That is what the New York Times says that the President of the United States was telling the American people:

> The promise of affordable health insurance for small businesses was portrayed as a major advantage of the new health care law, mentioned often by White House officials and Democratic leaders in Congress. . . .

So what is going on? The administration admits things haven't worked out the way they had promised.

They can't meet the law's deadline, so it is going to delay the entire program for a full year to 2015. Of course, the Obama administration says it will not delay the mandate until 2015. So you have to provide the health insurance now, in 2014, but: Sorry. We made some promises, but they are not going to happen until 2015. You still have to pay right now and do this.

So small businesses are going to get hit with the higher costs of providing the insurance, but they don't get the program that was supposed to help them in the first place—the program promised by the Democrats in this body who voted for it and promised by the President of the United States who in many ways went on to deliberately deceive and mislead the American people as a result of what we are now finding is in the health care law. I am happy to see the national press reporting it because we are sure hearing it from people around the country.

What we see now is that if a business wants to offer its workers insurance through an exchange, it has to pick one plan for all the people. The workers are going to get none of the choices they were promised. According to Washington and this administration and this President, now one size has to fit all.

Even in a business where the employees now currently have several choices, they are going to lose their options. They are not going to be able to pick the insurance plan that is right for them and for their families. That is what is happening to Zachary Davis.

Zachary Davis owns a couple ice cream shops and a restaurant in Santa Cruz, CA. He has 20 full-time workers and today he offers them health insurance.

Isn't that the goal? Workers—offer them health insurance. These workers range in age from college students to seniors, so they have different needs at different ages, different fears, different concerns, different needs. What the younger ones prefer are lower premiums and then higher out-of-pocket costs if they happen to get sick. That is because they are healthy and they do not really go to see a doctor very often. The older workers who work in the same company visit doctors more frequently, as would be expected, so they are more interested in a position where their policies maybe have higher premiums but lower deductibles. People want to make choices.

Right now the employees who work for Zachary have actually three different plans that fit their needs. They get to choose. But what Zachary Davis has told CNN is that limiting his workers to a single plan would be a deal breaker and it would keep him out of the exchanges. He said:

> That would not be a good fit for us. For a business like ours—and a lot of businesses I deal with on a regular basis—I can't see that making sense.

He is right. It doesn't make a lot of sense. But that is what President Obama's health care law has given the American people—something that doesn't make sense and another broken promise, another hurdle to get in the way of job creators, another failure of the Washington bureaucracy, and another burden on workers who like the insurance they had before and now are not going to be able to keep it.

During the 2 weeks we have been traveling our States and traveling the country, there has been headline after headline. Here is one more headline from an Associated Press story. This headline says: ''Health Overhaul to Raise Claim Cost 32 percent.'' That is a 32-percent average increase in claim costs. This is a new report by the Society of Actuaries.

The Wyoming Tribune Eagle in Cheyenne—this is Wednesday, 27, 2013: ''Health Overhaul Bumps Up Claim Cost 32 Percent. And If Insurance Companies Have To Pay More, You Can Bet We Will, Too.''

''And If Insurance Companies Have To Pay More, You Can Bet We Will, Too.''

On average, insurance companies will have to pay out 32 percent more for medical claims on individual health policies because of the health care law, so that is going to drive up premiums for all of us. It drives up how much hard-working Americans have to pay to get medical care and to buy insurance. Why? The President's health care law.

Here is how the Associated Press summarized it. It said:

> Obama has promised that the new law will bring down costs. That seems a stretch now.

This is not me, this is the Associated Press: ''That seems a stretch now.'' I would say it is actually an understatement. Costs will not go down because of the health care law because the law does nothing to help costs go down or make them go down. In fact, it does many things that actually cause costs to go up. All of the mandates, all of the new expenses, all of the new taxes—that is all going to add to the average increase of 32 percent. But that is just

the average. When we look at the increases in some States, we really start to see how much worse off a lot of people are going to be. In Ohio, we see an increase of 81 percent; in Wisconsin, up 80 percent; Indiana, up 68 percent; right next door to us in Maryland, up 67 percent; Idaho, up 62 percent. In my own State of Wyoming, people are facing a 32-percent increase. It is right at the national average.

This article in the newspaper, when you go to it, it says, ''Overhaul increases could top 50 percent for certain States.'' Here we see in many States that is the case. They have a list, State by State, of each of the State's claims—change in claims cost in health overhaul. That is what the American people are facing. These are terrible numbers, but they are absolutely predictable. In fact, some of us did predict that is what would actually happen. The American people cannot afford for health care costs to go up by 81 percent, as we are seeing in Ohio, or even by 32 percent, which is the national average. That is not what the President promised.

Finally, I want to point out just one more headline, one more broken promise the President made. We all remember when the President said that if you like your insurance plan, you can keep it. He said, ''No one will be able to take that away from you.'' The President of the United States said, ''No one will be able to take that away from you.''

Now we have another story from CNN. It says, ''Most Individual Health Insurance Isn't Good Enough For ObamaCare.'' This article talks about a University of Chicago study—talking about Chicago, the President's hometown. The study reported—from CNN—the University of Chicago reported that more than half of the individual insurance plans currently on the market will not be allowed to exist under the President's health care law—more than half. Fifteen million Americans buy individual plans, and half of those plans are going away. Even if these people like their coverage, the President says: Too bad. His health care law is taking it away from them.

Not only will the law eliminate more than half of the plans, most of the ones that remain are going to cost more next year. Why? It is because of what the administration calls the essential health benefits. These are specific individual mandates that require insurance plans to cover a wide range of services. For most consumers, it is going to mean a more extensive and a longer list of benefits. These higher benefits, of course, mean higher costs.

So people cannot just get the insurance that they and their family want, the insurance that is right for them as a family and the insurance that they can afford. No. They have to buy Obama administration-approved health insurance. That is insurance that is going to be much more expensive than what they might want, they might need, or they can afford. It may not even do them any good. So despite what the President has promised to the American people, they are not going to be able to keep the insurance they have. The options that are left to them are going to cost more.

These are just a few of the headlines—a few of the headlines we have seen just since we went out a couple of weeks ago and traveled the States. These are all fresh, new headlines from the last 2 weeks, but every day we get more and more information about the bad side effects of this terrible health care law. The President's health care law is unraveling before our eyes.

The American people knew what they wanted from health care reform. They wanted the care they need from a doctor they choose, at lower cost. That is what the President promised the American people they would get from his health care law, but all the people of the country have seen are rising costs, less choice, and a larger Washington bureaucracy.

It is time for President Obama to finally admit that his health care law is dragging down the American economy. It is time for Congress to repeal this terrible law and replace it with the kind of reform that works.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE BUDGET

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I come to the floor to discuss the President's budget, which we understand will be released tomorrow. The budget comes out at a time when there is a lot of economic news floating around. The jobs report came out last week and indicated that job growth had been much slower than expected. There were about 190,000 jobs that were expected to be created, but there were only 88,000 jobs created, according to that report.

Although the unemployment dropped a little to 7.6 percent—if we factor in the number of people who had quit looking for jobs, which was half a million people—we had a labor participation rate which is literally the lowest since 1979. We have to go back to Jimmy Carter's Presidency to find a time when the labor participation rate hit that low number where 63.3 percent of the people who are eligible to work are actually out looking for work. There a lot of people who have completely quit looking.

We also looked at the U–6 number, which measures employment in a different way. It adds in the number of people who are no longer looking for work or who are working part time but would like to work full time. The unemployment rate for that is about 13.8 percent. This is a very sluggish, weak economy, where there are a large number of people across this country who continue to be unemployed, who continue to try and make their way without the advantage of having a job out there to pay their bills.

It strikes me that as the President releases his budget, the fundamental question which should be asked in the context of the economic data I have just mentioned is what will his budget do to create jobs, grow the economy, and increase the take-home pay for middle-class Americans. To me, that seems to be the question we ought to use as we evaluate not only the President's budget but other budget proposals that have been made here in the last few weeks.

When I say other budget proposals, of course, the House and Senate have both adopted budgets. The House passed their budget. They have passed their budget every year on time. The Senate, for the first time in 4 years, actually adopted a budget a couple weeks ago, and tomorrow we will finally have the President's budget, which, interestingly enough, was due on February 4. We were supposed to get the President's budget February 4. Typically, his budget would kick off the debate on the budget. It would be the starting point on which the two Houses of Congress—the House and Senate—base their budgets and gives them a little information as they move forward, but this is completely in reverse.

In fact, I think this is the latest the President has released his budget since about 1920. We have to go back almost 100 years to find a time when the President has released his budget at a later date than he did this year. So his budget comes after the fact. That being said, I hope when it does become public and we begin to dig into it a little bit and look at what is in it, we will have a more definitive answer to the questions: What are we going to do to create jobs? What are we going to do to grow the economy? What are we going to do to increase the take-home pay of working Americans? To me, that is fundamentally what we ought to be focused on in light of the very abysmal jobs report from last week.

What we are hearing about it—and again we will not know the final details until we see this tomorrow—is it is going to consist of a huge new tax increase. It will be another $1 trillion tax increase on top of the $1.7 trillion in tax increases that the President has already signed into law. If we go back to ObamaCare—the health care bill that passed a few years ago—it included $1 trillion in new taxes. We had the fiscal cliff deal, reached on January 1 of this year, which had $620 billion in new taxes. If we take ObamaCare, the fiscal cliff deal, and then add in some other taxes that have been imposed since the President took office, we are now over $1.7 trillion in new taxes and new revenue.

So when the word came out that the President's budget was going to include another $1 trillion in new taxes on top of the $1.7 trillion already mentioned, we need to ask the questions: At what point does this do serious harm to the economy? At what point do we get to that juncture where we have so much burden, so many new taxes and new regulations imposed upon our economy, that it becomes increasingly difficult, if not impossible, to create jobs and get the economy growing at a faster rate. In fact, what we are hearing, at least at this point, is that we have $1 trillion in new taxes, which means overall we would have a $600 billion number in terms of deficit reduction.

We have been told the President's budget replaces the sequester, which had $1.2 trillion in spending cuts. If there is just $600 billion in deficit reduction, what that essentially means is that all the deficit reduction is in the form of higher taxes. We have $1 trillion in new taxes, $600 billion in deficit reduction, and we are completely replacing the $1.2 trillion in spending cuts that is currently in effect, unless, of course, as is proposed in the President's budget, at least we are told is proposed in the President's budget is going to be replaced.

My point simply is this: In this country, we have a sluggish economy, chronic high unemployment, massive amounts of debt, all of which can be, if not entirely, at least partially cured and fixed by a more robust, more expansive and growing economy, growing at a more historic rate. The economic growth we have seen since this President took office, the average is .8 percent—eight-tenths of 1 percent is the average economic growth in 4 years since the President has been in office.

The historic average over the past 60 years is about 3.3 percent, and that includes 11 recessions. We have been through 11 recessions in the last 60 years, and still we have an average growth rate of 3.3 percent. It is not terribly robust, but on average at least it is good enough to keep the economy chugging along, to keep throwing enough jobs out there to keep a majority—or at least keep the unemployment rate at a reasonable level and keep Americans employed. Yet in the last 4 years the average is .8 percent.

Last year, we looked at 1.5 percent to 2 percent, in that neighborhood, but the fact is, until we start growing at a faster rate, we will be plagued by chronic high unemployment and we will continue to have these massive deficits year over year. As we all know, when we have a growing and expanding economy, people are working, investing, making money, and paying taxes. When the economy is growing, we get more tax revenue, and that makes the fiscal imbalances look smaller by comparison as well.

The real objective we ought to have in front of us if we want to deal with the fiscal imbalance and if we want to deal with the sluggish economy out there is policies that will promote economic growth, policies that make it less expensive and less difficult for people in this country to create jobs. We should not add more taxes, not add more costs in the form of new regulations, not impose more burdens on the economy but unleash the economy and allow it to grow and allow people in the economy to create jobs.

There are a number of reasons why that cannot happen. As I said, we have $1.7 trillion in new taxes that have been put on the economy since the President took office. His budget, as we are told, is going to include another $1 trillion in new taxes. We have new health care mandates that businesses—small businesses, large businesses, businesses of all sizes—are reacting to. It is something I hear more about now when I travel my State than almost anything else.

When we talk to people who create the jobs, there is uncertainty about how this is going to be implemented. There are lots of delays in terms of its implementation. We are looking at significant increases in premiums across many different age groups.

We heard the Senator from Wyoming, who was down here earlier, talking about the impacts of health care and what it will mean to the economy, what it will mean to people who buy their health insurance in the individual marketplace, people who acquire it through their employer. Obviously, there are people who might be forced into exchanges. There is just a tremendous cloud of uncertainty which hangs over our economy right now. Much of it is due to government policy generated in Washington, DC. Many of those policies come back to the budget. What is the vision we have for the future of this country?

The budget is a vision statement, as has been stated by Vice President BIDEN in the past. It sort of lays out a policy framework for the two parties and their respective ideas about how to grow the American economy, how to get people back to work, how to improve the standard of living and the quality of life and the take-home pay for middle-class Americans. Again, that is what I would argue the budget discussion we have should be focused on.

It strikes me as somewhat unusual and ironic that the President, after getting $1.7 trillion in new taxes since he took office, would submit a budget that is several months late, filled with new tax increases, and would put even more burdens on an already fragile economy. Yet that is what we are hearing is going to be in his budget.

There are some other things which I would hope he will include in that budget. We are told he is going to propose a modest and what I think is a bipartisan entitlement reform known as chained CPI that would change the calculation in some ways and would be more reflective of cost and the economy when it comes to calculating benefits for certain programs. But it is a small change in terms of what the dimensions of the problem are.

In fact, if we are going to do anything serious and meaningful to deal with the runaway spending and debt, we have to—in a structural way—reform these programs on the mandatory side of the budget that are growing at two to three times the rate of inflation and are unsustainable.

If we look at what drives Federal spending today, it is mandatory spending, Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid—programs that are sort of on autopilot, if you will, in the Federal budget that today represent somewhere on the order of about three-fifths of all Federal spending. But according to the Congressional Budget Office, 10 years from now it will represent 91 percent of Federal spending if we continue on the path we are on today. That is completely unsustainable. That means we have 9 percent of all Federal revenue available to fund national security, fund nondefense discretionary spending, and to pay interest on the debt. That is a future we cannot comprehend.

I think what it points out is we need to deal with these programs in a way that reforms them, that saves them, that protects them not only for generations of Americans today who depend upon them but also for future generations of Americans. On the current trajectory, on the current path, we simply cannot do that, and we have to make changes and reform these programs.

So it would seem the President, in his budget, would contemplate what he might do, proposals he might make to address that. Again, we will not know for sure until we see it tomorrow, but my understanding is there will be very little in terms of consequential, meaningful change, meaningful reforms and restructuring of programs that will actually get us on a more sustainable fiscal path.

I have to say the connection when we talk about policies—and I could go into a lot of different policy areas that I think drive up the cost of doing business in this country, one of which I already mentioned; that is, the new health care entitlement program that imposes lots of new requirements and mandates on employers as well as on individuals and is filled with $1 trillion in new taxes. But there are other areas of our economy as well.

If we look at the power of energy in this country and what it could do to unleash jobs to help get our economy growing at a faster rate, we see we have enormous opportunity out there in that sector of our economy.

We obviously have enormous opportunity if we are willing to take on our Tax Code. Our Tax Code is enormously complicated, complex beyond the comprehension of most Americans, which is why in many cases they have to turn it over to a professional tax preparer. But I believe it is fair to say if we could reform our Tax Code in a way

that broadens that base and does away with a lot of the loopholes and the special interest provisions—the exclusions, deductions, et cetera, in the Tax Code today—broadens that tax base, lowers the rates—we could unleash a period of economic growth unlike anything we have seen in a long period of time.

If we go back to the last time this was done in 1986, we know we saw a long period of economic growth because people—there was a lot of pent-up uncertainty and there is today, I might add, as well—and there is a lot of capital sitting on the sidelines that could be deployed and a lot of jobs, frankly, and opportunities we are losing to global competitors because our tax rates are, frankly, just not competitive in the global marketplace.

So I would argue that reforming our Tax Code would be enormously helpful if we are serious about growing the economy and creating jobs. That too is an area where I hope the President will engage. So far we have not heard from him on that except to say in terms of the corporate tax rate he would be willing to work with us on tax reform that would be deficit neutral. But if we look at what is coming out of his administration, these proposals, and the budget we will see tomorrow, most of it involves raising taxes—closing loopholes, perhaps, but doing it to generate new revenue to fund new Federal spending, not to reduce rates and to generate economic growth. Economic growth ought to be the goal in tax reform. It ought to be progrowth tax reform, and it would take us a long way toward that goal of getting this economy back on track and unleashing the economic growth we all want to see.

But I have to say it is also important, if we are going to get the economy growing again, that we get Federal spending under control. There is a lot of research out there, a lot of study that has been done that has looked at the relationship between high levels of debt as a percentage of our economy, GDP, and high levels of spending as a percentage of our GDP and how that impacts or translates into economic growth and jobs. The studies suggest that when our debt to GDP reaches a certain level—and ours exceeds that by 90 percent according to one of the studies—that it costs 1 point to 1.5 points of economic growth every single year. In this country that is about 1 million jobs. So as long as we continue to have a debt to GDP that exceeds 90 percent—ours is now about 104, 105 percent of GDP—we are in dangerous territory when it comes to the fragile nature of our economy and what it means to our ability to grow in the long term as we project out into the future.

If we look at many of the European nations that are strangled with high debtloads right now, a tremendous amount of leverage, we can see what is happening in their economies. How have they tried to cure that in most cases? They try to raise taxes, which makes the problem even worse because that slows economic growth.

So what we need to be looking at in terms of a budget is one that takes on what is driving Federal spending over the long term—the mandatory part of the budget—reforms and restructures programs in a way that saves and protects them; that doesn't in any way impact people who are drawing benefits today but makes those programs more sustainable for future generations of Americans. We need a budget that brings the debt-to-GDP and the spending-to-GDP levels down to a more historic norm that are consistent with what we have seen over our Nation's history as opposed to what we are looking at today, which are extraordinarily high levels of debt and extraordinarily high levels of spending as a percentage of GDP.

We ought to think about what we can be doing in terms of reforming the Tax Code and streamlining regulations to lessen the burden and the tremendous weight we put on our small businesses and our job creators.

Those are the types of things we ought to be looking at in terms of policy. That is what the budget ought to be focused on, getting spending under control, getting it back down to a more reasonable level and a more historic norm. But until we do that, my fear is we are going to continue to see chronic unemployment, a lot of people leaving the workforce, and labor participation rates that are at historic lows. We are going to continue to see a sluggish economy that continues to stumble along at 1.5, 2 percent annual growth. We are going to continue to see take-home pay levels go down for ordinary, working-class, middle-class Americans who are out there trying to pay their bills, trying to take care of their everyday expenses and perhaps put a little bit aside for their retirement or for their children's education. Those are hard decisions that Americans are making at their kitchen tables every single day. These are kitchen table issues; they are pocketbook issues. They are the kinds of decisions that American families have to contend with. They don't have the luxury the Federal Government has of being able to go out and borrow.

Of course, today, of every dollar we spend in Washington, DC, 40 cents is borrowed. So we continue to borrow like there is no tomorrow. We continue to pile up massive amounts of debt, put it on the backs of our children and grandchildren, hand them the bill or the credit card overcharges we are making today. That is wrong. It is inconsistent with everything that has made this Nation great. Part of our Nation's heritage is we have been a country that has understood the idea that one generation sacrifices so the next generation can have a higher standard of living and a better quality of life. That is something that is very true in my part of the country in the Midwest, in South Dakota.

My grandfather and great uncle are among those who came in 1906, didn't speak English, learned the language, worked hard building a railroad, and later were able to save enough money to buy a small merchandising store and continued in their pursuit of the American dream.

That is what I think has characterized generations of Americans like them since, up until today. Today we are at a point in American history where if we don't get our fiscal house in order, if we don't deal with these imbalances that have gone on now for decades, we are going to relegate, if you will, future generations of Americans—our kids and grandkids—to a lower standard of living and a lower quality of life than what we have enjoyed.

That is why the President's budget, as much as it is late, is so important, because it really does set that tone. It really does tell us what that vision for the future of this country is. If we don't have a leader in the White House who can lay out in a systematic way what he wants to do to address the economic data—the statistics I mentioned earlier, the high unemployment, the underemployment—we consistently see these economic numbers come out from one month to the next. When there is a little improvement, we get all excited about that, and the next month it takes another tumble.

We find more and more people who are just leaving the workforce, and the labor participation rate is at a historically low level since 1979, and we haven't seen it down 63.3 percent, which is what it was for the month of March. If we are going to do something about that, we are going to have to have people who are going to demonstrate the political courage that is necessary to confront these big challenges and big decisions, and that means people in the Senate and in the House of Representatives. But awfully important to all of this is the President of the United States.

There is only one person in this country, among 307 billion Americans, who can sign a bill into law. There is only one person in this country who has the bully pulpit and the capability to rally people in the Congress and people around the country as well as around great causes. I can't think of a greater cause today than doing something to deal with runaway spending and a debt that is hurting our economy, that is enslaving future generations of Americans to a lower standard of living and a lower quality of life.

Those are issues that need to be addressed. The President's budget tomorrow could go a long way toward addressing that. I am afraid it is going to be a missed opportunity if what we hear about it is actually true. We hear it doesn't address the long-term drivers of spending and debt, it raises taxes $1 trillion, and it does $600 billion of deficit reduction but all in the form of higher taxes. That is not going to solve

our problem. We cannot raise taxes enough to deal with what plagues our country in terms of our fiscal imbalances. What plagues us is the fact that we spend too much, not that we tax too little; that we have a slow rate of growth in our economy, so slow we are not generating the number of jobs and the amount of investment that will get the economy growing and taking off again, but also improve the fiscal picture for our country's future.

So I hope I am wrong about this. We will see tomorrow if everybody will be pleasantly surprised and the President will take on the big issues and do away with more taxes and more spending and more regulations and more costs for businesses that are trying to create jobs. But I think that would be the triumph of hope over experience. So far what we have seen out of this administration is that very formula: more spending, more taxes, more cost to small businesses to create jobs, and higher cost from regulations. They have been consistent on that. That is not the way to get the economy growing and expanding again.

We believe we ought to be not growing the government but growing the economy. Frankly, if all of us in the Senate looked at every bill that comes before us in terms of what will it do to create jobs, what will it do to grow the economy, what will it do to increase the take-home pay for middle-class Americans, we would probably get a lot higher quality legislation, legislation that produces solutions for the American people, which is something we are not doing today.

Madam President, I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, earlier today I met with families from Newtown, CT, to discuss the legislation we are currently debating. It is obviously very emotional and not an easy meeting to have, but it is a very necessary meeting to have. When there are parents of children who were murdered, or from the families of teachers who were murdered, it is difficult for everybody.

I wish to thank them for sharing their stories of loved ones and their concerns with me. I hope many of my colleagues would consider meeting with these families as well. We are debating legislation they are supporting.

In my State of Iowa, there is a great difference of opinion on the particular legislation we might be considering. I think it is something very worthwhile to sense firsthand the emotion of these discussions. At the meeting, they called for debate on the legislation. Currently we are in the process of debate.

We most likely will move forward on this legislation. Under new procedures available under Senate Resolution 15, the majority leader may move to proceed on a measure and to vote on some amendments.

A vote against the motion to proceed does not cut off debate or votes on amendments under the new procedures in the United States Senate.

Nonetheless, we are in the unusual position of being asked to take a leap into the unknown.

We are being asked to vote to proceed to an uncertain bill.

That bill is not even the bill that we would likely consider if the motion to proceed were successful. The language on background checks would change. Remarkably, if the language changed, it would be replaced with language that does not now exist.

The world's greatest deliberative body should not operate in this fashion.

In the Judiciary Committee, four bills were considered separately. There was no consensus. Three of them have now been combined. But they are not ready for consideration. At the time, the sponsor of the background check bill said it was not ready. There are numerous problems with that bill.

Movement of firearms from one law-abiding citizen to another would be legal or illegal based on arbitrary distinctions that citizens could not be expected to know. This is true even though when this language was the subject of a hearing in a previous Congress, a witness pointed out the problems. But no changes have been made to address those issues.

Even an official with the ACLU says that criminal laws should give more guidance to citizens.

The bill operates in a way that would make gun safety efforts more difficult. That does not make any sense.

The bill requires recordkeeping for private sales. That is a step toward gun registration. Indeed, we heard testimony in the Judiciary Committee that ''universal'' background checks cannot be effective without gun registration. And the ACLU official is right to be concerned about the threat to privacy that the background check language presents. He notes that the government would possess information concerning gun owners that it would not be required to destroy within 24 hours, as it must for current background checks.

He also points out that the bill contains none of the restrictions in current law that prevent other parts of the government from using the database for purposes beyond why the information was supposedly obtained.

The background check provision is also not ready for consideration because of the new Federal felony that it creates.

If a law-abiding gun owner's gun is lost or stolen, he or she would be required to report that to both the attorney general and appropriate local officials within 24 hours.

At the markup, I asked a number of questions of the bill's sponsor about how the offense would work. For instance, who would pay for the additional law enforcement personnel who would take those calls? What would a citizen's legal obligation be if the gun were misplaced rather than lost? What would determine when the loss occurred that started the 24-hour period?

The sponsor said that these issues would be clarified. So far, however, they have not been. So law-abiding citizens will not know whether they are acting in compliance with the law or face a 5-year jail sentence.

The issues have not been clarified, but we are being asked to proceed to the bill anyway.

This new offense criminalizes inaction. That is a grave threat to freedom.

Except for filing tax returns or registering for the draft, we punish bad actions. We do not punish inaction. This new crime punishes failure to act. And it only applies to those who lawfully own their guns. A criminal whose gun is stolen is not required to report that fact. With this offense, law-abiding citizens can be turned into felons, but felons cannot commit a crime.

Under this new offense, law-abiding citizens might be looking at 5 years in jail for doing nothing. And all that is necessary for the gun to be subject to the reporting requirement is that the gun once moved in interstate commerce.

The Supreme Court has outlined three categories of situations in which Congress can rely on the Commerce Clause. This is not one of them. If Congress can do this, it can make people take all sorts of action simply because they owned a product that once moved in interstate commerce—Like bread or soap.

And they can face jail time if they do not do what Congress demands that they do. Even the individual mandate from Obamacare only established a penalty, not a prison sentence. I do not think 90% of Americans would support this universal background check bill if they read it.

The motion to proceed also goes to a bill that contains language on straw purchasing and gun trafficking. I voted to report that bill to the Senate floor.

Many changes were made to that bill at my behest. An amendment of mine was adopted. At the time I expressed concerns. I spoke of my desire to have those concerns worked out before the bill went to the floor. I said I would not necessarily support that bill on the floor if those concerns were not responded to. They have not been addressed so far. And those provisions were tied to the ever-changing background check provisions.

The whole process makes me wonder whether the efforts to pass a bill on this subject really are serious. It seems that if a half-baked bill is brought up, the majority can be sure that they can force Republicans not to agree to proceed to it. It seems like that may be

just what they want to happen. If so, that is a very cynical way to treat a very serious issue.

How can we responsibly proceed to a bill that contains language that even its sponsor admits is not ready for consideration?

Madam President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I am back again to speak about carbon and climate and to remind my colleagues that it is long past time for us to wake up and to address the causes and consequences of global climate change. Carbon pollution is changing our world, and it is time that our national policies reflect the reality of that changing climate. We cannot pretend the change is not going to happen when it is actually already happening all around us.

Air and ocean temperatures are increasing, the sea level is rising, oceans are growing more acidic, seasons are shifting, and extreme events such as heat waves or powerful storms are becoming both more frequent and more intense. Well-established science tells us these changes are caused by carbon pollution in our atmosphere, mostly from burning fossil fuels. These changes to our planet will continue and likely accelerate, and the consequences will be dire. We had better be aware and prepared. Sometimes even little changes can have big effects.

For example, take the winter flounder in the waters of Narragansett Bay in my home State of Rhode Island. I am sure the Presiding Officer's home State has winter flounder as well. Many of our colleagues will not give a hoot about the winter flounder, but Congress always tends to care a lot about money, and the winter flounder has historically been a very popular and lucrative catch for Rhode Island fishermen.

In the 1980s, commercial landings of winter flounder averaged more than 2,500 metric tons per year, and as recently as 1989 it was still over 1,000 metric tons. Trawlers were a common sight on the bay in the winter and fishermen prospered. The most recent data from 2009 for the commercial landing of winter flounder is down to about 150 metric tons. It went from 2,500 metric tons down to 150, and today trawlers in the bay are a rare sight.

Narragansett Bay waters are getting warmer—4 degrees Fahrenheit warmer in the winter since the 1960s. Spring is coming earlier, and that is not good for the winter flounder. NOAA scientists working in Rhode Island found that winter flounder that incubated in warmer water are smaller when they hatch than those that incubated in colder water. Smaller juveniles are easier prey when predators return with the warmer spring water.

The juvenile winter flounder used to have time to settle to the bottom of the bay and grow larger before the abundant bottom feeders, such as the sand shrimp, were present. Now warmer water brings the shrimp in earlier while the flounder is still small enough to eat. So warmer waters load the dice against winter flounder in the Narragansett Bay, and the fishermen who relied upon them pay the price. They pay a real price.

These changes to Rhode Island are not unique to Rhode Island. We can find examples all over the country. The Pacific Coast has ocean acidification—driven by the higher levels of carbon dioxide in the water—which is killing off baby oysters as they try to form their shells in the acidified water. Again, I don't know how many colleagues care about baby oysters, but oyster farming is a serious cash crop on the Pacific Coast. An oyster hatchery in Oregon has seen 70- to 80-percent losses of its oyster larvae due to the acidic waters washing in from the sea.

It is not just the oceans and coasts that are affected. In our Heartland, rivers and forests are facing the changes coming with the warming climate. The water hyacinth is an invasive species spreading rapidly across the Southern United States, blocking waterways and choking native species.

The water hyacinth has been called the world's worst aquatic weed. The pest renders a body of water unsuitable for most other plants and animals, drains water from the drinking and irrigation supply, and can clog pumping stations and hydropower infrastructures, costing local economies millions of dollars. Water hyacinths cannot survive a winter freezing, but as the average temperature warms, this species spreads further and further.

In the Rockies, pine beetles are devastating native forests. The pine beetle larvae are killed by hard frosts, and so this kept them in lower latitudes and in lower altitudes where the temperature was warmer. With global warming and winters that are not so cold, the beetle is spreading northward and upward to higher elevations.

Fly over Idaho or Montana and look down. What was once miles and miles of green pine forest is now standing dead on the mountainsides. These forests provided timber, hunting, clear streams, and an entire forest environment for birds and animals. It doesn't look like they are ever coming back.

Winter flounder, baby oysters, water hyacinth, pine beetles, these species pinpoint just a few of the many changes scientists are observing in nearly every corner of our country. Thankfully, we now have the beginnings of a blueprint for adapting to these changes.

Last month, the Obama administration—in partnership with State and tribal industries—released its first National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy. It is an attempt to understand and head off—or at least prepare for—the changes carbon pollution is beginning to wreak on our country's wildlife, plants, coasts, and rivers.

Jamie Rappaport Clark, president and CEO of Defenders of Wildlife, called the adaptation plan a ''science-based . . . commonsense, 'look-before-you-leap' strategy [that] emphasizes long term planning and management for climate change on a fundamental level.''

The adaptation strategy stresses that we need research to understand the specific effects of climate change on local fish, wildlife, plants, and habitat. The faster you are driving, the better your headlights need to be, and it is scientific research that provides the headlights for us to see what is now coming at us.

We are past the point of avoiding what is coming at us. The big polluters have seen to that. With their lobbyists, their money, and their lies, they have prevented us from doing what we should have. Of course, Congress shares the blame. This institution prefers listening to self-interested polluters than listening to science or the signals of nature.

There is no avoiding it now. The National Wildlife Federation now recommends ''managing for change, rather than maintaining status quo conditions,'' and urges that ''[f]ederal land and water management agencies should explicitly incorporate climate change projections into their resource management planning.''

A coalition of 21 groups—including American Rivers, National Audubon Society, Physicians for Social Responsibility, the Wilderness Society, and the World Wildlife Fund—have urged the Federal Government to account for climate change in all relevant programs and activities. They called this adaptation strategy ''a landmark . . . strategy for making wildlife and ecosystems more resilient to climate impacts.'' Clearly, they recognize that climate impacts are inevitable. Indeed, they are happening. The question is: How bad are they going to be? How much damage will we let the polluters do before we bring them to heel and ourselves to our senses?

The Natural Resources Defense Council echoed a recent Government Accountability Office finding that our current adaptation planning is inadequate and that this—for those who only care about money—increases the Federal Government's fiscal exposure to climate change.

A group of 10 outdoor enthusiasts and sportsmen's groups, led by the Wildlife Management Institute, recently urged President Obama ''to stand firm on his commitment to develop and implement climate change adaptation strategies'' because they know we have to adapt.

The alarm has long been sounded by the scientific community which overwhelmingly warns about the effects of our carbon dioxide emissions on our atmosphere and oceans. Our defense and intelligence communities warn of the threats posed by climate change to national security and international stability. Economists recognize the market distortion of overlooking the costs of carbon pollution.

Let me say a word of appreciation to former Secretary George Schultz, who wrote an excellent piece in the Wall Street Journal pointing out that this is, indeed, a market distortion that favors polluting fossil fuels and gives them an unfair advantage against other forms of energy that would do less damage to our planet.

Of course, government accountants list climate change as a threat to our fiscal stability. Even faith leaders appeal to our moral responsibility to shield communities—and particularly the poorest communities here at home and around the globe—from the devastating effects of carbon pollution on God's Earth.

Now the alarm is sounded by those dedicated to the conservation of America's wild spaces and living creatures. They are warning that thanks to Congress's neglect, change is coming to our planet locality by locality. They are warning that we had better understand and prepare for those changes and do what we can to minimize the eventual havoc.

The American people are not sitting idly by on this. They are demanding action. Three-quarters of those recently surveyed by Stanford University think the Federal Government should do something to reduce the effects of rising sea levels.

My Newport tidal gauge in my home State in the famous sailing port of Newport is up 10 inches since the famous hurricane of 1938. When the next big one comes, that 10 inches is going to mean a lot of additional damage. Americans believe national preparations for the climate change that is around us will more likely help the economy than hurt it, and they are right. These changes will help the economy.

Sixty percent of Americans believe that taking steps now to adapt would actually create more jobs while only 13 percent thought it would create fewer jobs. Sixty percent as opposed to 13 percent of Americans recognize that the real economic strength we will get is by addressing this problem, not by ducking it because of the pressure from the carbon polluters.

Americans clearly see the benefits of adapting for climate change. Again, for those who only care about money, Americans see the economic benefits of addressing climate change.

I will say once again it is time for us in Congress to wake up. We are sleepwalking through history. We are asleep to the urgent demands of our time. It is time to wake up and prepare our national strategy to protect our Nation's precious resources, protect our coasts and forests and plains, protect our animal and plant life, protect our people and our communities against the inexorable change that looms.

I thank the President and yield the floor. I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Madam President, I have a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to calendar No. 32, S. 649, a bill to ensure that all individuals who should be prohibited from buying a firearm are listed in the national instant criminal background check for every firearm sale, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Robert Menendez, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jeff Merkley, Christopher A. Coons, Benjamin L. Cardin, Barbara Boxer, Debbie Stabenow, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Richard J. Durbin, Patty Murray, Jack Reed, Dianne Feinstein, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher Murphy, Elizabeth Warren.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum required under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, 4 months after the horrific day in Newtown where 20 children and 6 educators were senselessly murdered, the Senate is posed to make further progress toward the goal of reducing gun violence. It is a goal that all Americans, regardless of political party or philosophy, should share. I don't know how any parent, any grandparent, or any relative ever gets over the horrific disaster of Newtown.

I thank our ranking Republican on the Judiciary Committee, Senator GRASSLEY. He worked with us, and he favorably supported two of the measures reported by the Judiciary Committee last month. Senator GRASSLEY helped make sure we had hearings that were substantive and that we had a schedule so we could vote.

I commend Senator COLLINS, who has been my partner as we have moved forward with legislation to combat illegal gun trafficking and straw purchasers who obtain firearms legally but then provide them to criminals and gangs. We have been joined in that bipartisan effort by Senators DURBIN, GILLIBRAND, KIRK, KLOBUCHAR, FRANKEN, BLUMENTHAL, SHAHEEN, and KING.

Our bill is intended to give law enforcement better and more effective tools. A bipartisan majority of the Judiciary Committee voted for the Stop Illegal Trafficking in Firearms Act, S. 54. It has provisions that are included in the Safe Communities, Safe Schools Act, S. 649, which Majority Leader REID placed on the Senate calendar just before the last recess and on which he has now moved to proceed.

Straw purchasers get around the purpose of the background check system. Straw purchasing of firearms is undertaken for just one reason: to get a gun into the hands of someone who is legally prohibited from having one.

We know that many guns used in criminal activities are acquired through straw purchases. It was a straw purchaser who enabled the brutal murders of two brave firefighters in Webster, NY, this past Christmas Eve, and it was a straw purchaser who provided firearms to an individual who murdered a police officer in Plymouth Township, PA, last September. Is it any wonder that law enforcement across this country says: Stop the straw purchasing. We are losing too many brave men and women in law enforcement, to say nothing about all the others who have been killed by drug and criminal cartels.

We need a meaningful solution to this serious problem. We have included suggestions from Senator GILLIBRAND to go after those who traffic in firearms by wrongfully obtaining two or more firearms. We worked hard to develop effective, targeted legislation to help combat a serious problem. We are doing it in a way that protects the second amendment rights of law-abiding Americans.

It was an ATF whistleblower who testified in the last Congress that the existing firearm laws are ''toothless.'' We can create better law enforcement tools, and that is what we are doing with the Stop Illegal Trafficking in Firearms Act. I urge all Senators to join with us and close this dangerous loophole in the law that Mexican drug cartels, gangs, and other criminals throughout our country have exploited for too long.

I wish to recognize the dedication and leadership of Senator COLLINS of Maine to confront the issue of gun violence. She is not a member of the Judiciary Committee, but she has been

committed to finding commonsense solutions to the problems of gun violence. She has been dedicated in working with me to address the concerns of other Senators. She and I share a deep respect for the second amendment. We also agree our laws can be improved to give law enforcement officials the tools they need, and she has been a steadfast partner.

Our bill protects second amendment rights of lawful gun owners, but at the same time it cracks down on criminals. It also cracks down on the people who assist criminals. It doesn't create a national firearms registry, it doesn't place additional burdens on law-abiding gun owners or purchasers, but it does send a very clear message that those who buy a gun on behalf of a criminal or member of a drug cartel or domestic abuser will be held accountable. That is why law enforcement says: Pass this bill. Give those of us in law enforcement who are on the frontlines the tools we need.

Some have expressed frustration about the level of prosecution under existing gun laws. Some have suggested that instead of making sensible changes to our public safety laws to prevent gun violence, Federal law enforcement officials should focus exclusively on existing laws. I share some of that frustration, but it is not a valid excuse to do nothing. Improvements in the enforcement of existing laws and efforts to give law enforcement officials better tools to do their jobs are not mutually exclusive. Those are efforts that complement each other.

A recent article in the Washington Times documented that gun prosecutions were in decline beginning in the Bush administration and suggests that having a Senate-confirmed Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives would significantly help law enforcement.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the article be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my statement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

[From the Washington Times, Apr. 4, 2013]

DROP-OFF IN GUN PROSECUTIONS BEGAN BEFORE OBAMA

(By David Sherfinski)

Gun rights groups have singled out President Obama for failing to prosecute gun crimes, but the drop in cases filed actually began a decade ago under the Bush administration.

Analysts said the decade long drop underscores the key ingredient in gun prosecutions—a willingness to make them a priority.

Prosecutions dipped at the beginning of the Clinton administration but by 1998 had begun to rise again, tripling between then and 2004, when the federal government filed more than 11,000 cases. Since then, however, prosecutions have steadily fallen again, dipping below 8,000 prosecutions a year over the last three years.

Now, in the wake of last year's shooting spree that claimed the lives of 20 schoolchildren and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary, all sides in the gun debate say they want to see the laws on the books enforced. But the experience of the last 10 years suggests that's easier said than done.

''Presidents and administrations—their priorities are based partly in their ideology and their policy interests, and to a certain extent by the issues of the day,'' said John Hudak, a fellow at the Brookings Institution who studies gun policy.

Looking at trends over the last quarter century, two emerge: First, there were two annual peaks in gun prosecutions, both of them under Republican presidents, in 1992 and 2004. Second, even though prosecutions have dropped in recent years, the yearly number of gun cases is still much higher now than in the pre-9/11 era, according to the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) at Syracuse University, which tracks the numbers.

What's tougher to explain is exactly why prosecutions had a several-year spike at the end of the Clinton administration and the beginning of President George W. Bush's tenure.

Mr. Hudak said the 1999 Columbine school shooting may have spurred an increase in prosecutions, and so could the spate of terrorist attacks in 1998, 2000 and, finally, the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington.

And David Chipman, a former agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), said some of the increase may have been due to a Justice Department program that started in 2001 and targeted gun crimes in localities across the country.

''That kind of commitment put a lot of numbers on the board,'' said Mr. Chipman, who works with the gun-control group Mayors Against Illegal Guns. ''I think it worked as designed, which is to create a deterrent.''

The ATF, perhaps unfairly, began to receive criticism after the increase that some of their efforts were duplicative, and officials had to re-prioritize, Mr. Chipman said.

''You can't just prosecute 20,000 cases in one year—there just isn't that infrastructure,'' he said.

''Any kind of looking at the numbers and drawing some sort of conclusion that people are doing more or less—you've got to get beyond that. Because you could be comparing apples and oranges.''

Gun prosecutions require both cases to be developed by investigators, and charges to be filed by prosecutors.

The TRAC study's numbers said prosecutors turned down 38 percent of referrals in 2002, while last year they declined 32 percent of referrals.

That puts much of the focus on ATF, the lead agency for developing the cases.

Mr. Hudak said one factor in recent decline could be the fact that ATF has been without a permanent director for six years. In January, Mr. Obama nominated acting agency director B. Todd Jones to become its permanent head, but Mr. Jones is still awaiting Senate confirmation.

''The lack of leadership has its effects on priorities,'' Mr. Hudak said. ''And the ATF has such a diverse area of law enforcement that they have to make choices about what they prosecute.''

In the wake of last year's shooting rampage at Sandy Hook Elementary School, gun-rights groups have argued the solution is more prosecutions of gun crimes, not more restrictions on law-abiding firearms owners.

''Prosecuting criminals who misuse firearms works,'' NRA CEO Wayne LaPierre testified to Congress earlier this year. ''Unfortunately, we've seen a dramatic collapse in federal gun prosecutions in recent years. That means violent felons, gang members and the mentally ill who possess firearms are not being prosecuted. And that's unacceptable.''

Attorney General Eric. H. Holder, Jr. told the Senate Judiciary Committee earlier this year that prosecuting gun crimes is part of the answer and can serve as a deterrent, but that preventing people who acquire guns to commit crimes from getting them in the first place is crucial as well.

''We have limited resources and we have to try to figure out where we want to use those limited resources, and one has to look at why the gun was denied, and then make a determination whether or not we should use those limited resources to bring a prosecution against that person,'' Mr. Holder said, referring to people who have been denied firearms because of the FBI's National Instant Criminal Check System (NICS).

Mr. Chipman acknowledged that with different administrations, ideologies, result in different priorities, which could affect the numbers, but he cautioned that drawing conclusions about causes and effects can be risky.

''You can't possibly know what those numbers mean until you layer the political environments at the time and the cases being pursued,'' he said.

Both Mr. Hudak and Mr. Chipman discounted one potential reason for the spike in prosecutions—the 1994 enactment of a ban on military-style semiautomatic rifles. That ban ran from 1994 until its expiration in 2004, and those latter years coincide with the recent peak, which started in 1998.

But the analysts said that was likely unrelated.

''The assault weapons ban was a shell of what the original writers intended it to be,'' Mr. Hudak said. ''I can't imagine there would be a four-year lag in the effect of the assault weapons ban on prosecutions.''

Mr. LEAHY. As I said in January, America is looking to us for solutions, for action, not sloganeering, demagoguery, or partisanship. That is why it is disappointing to hear that some Senators pledge to prevent Senate consideration of these proposals by a filibuster. It is especially disappointing that some who claim to support regular order and a transparent legislative process accord that process no deference.

Mr. President, there are only 100 of us who have the privilege to serve at any given time in this wonderful body. We represent 325 million Americans. How can we talk to those Americans and say: We won't even vote. We won't even let it come to a vote. We don't have the guts to stand up and vote yes or no.

Tell that to the families in Newtown, CT. Tell that to the families in Aurora, CO. Tell that to the people of the United States, that the Senate is not willing to stand up and vote either yes or no; they want to vote maybe.

I am a gun owner. I live in a State with a lot of gun owners. I have the courage to stand here and vote. I want to vote. Some will agree with my votes, some will disagree, but this Senator feels it is part of his sworn duty to vote—vote yes, vote no, but vote.

In the Judiciary Committee, we held three public hearings and four public markups on this legislation. We gave them full and fair consideration. We debated and considered amendments—

Democratic and Republican amendments. The distinguished Presiding Officer is a member of that committee. He knows the debate we had and the votes we held. What a filibuster would do now is obstruct the open process of the Senate consideration of gun violence prevention legislation, and it is wrong. It is absolutely wrong. It demeans the Senate, and it turns our backs on 325 million Americans who expect better.

I have worked with Senator COLLINS and others to provide a real-world and commonsense solution to the problem of gun trafficking and straw purchasing. That is the course I urge the Senate to take. Let's go forward and vote. Vote yes, vote no, but vote. Have the courage to vote. Don't turn our backs on the families who have suffered so much.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my full statement be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, four months after that horrific day in Newtown, where 20 children and 6 educators were senselessly murdered, the Senate is poised to make further progress toward the goal of reducing gun violence. It is a goal that all Americans, regardless of political party, should share.

I want to thank our ranking Republican on the Judiciary Committee, Senator GRASSLEY, for working with us and supporting two of the measures favorably reported by the Judiciary Committee last month. I commend Senator COLLINS, who has been my partner, as we have moved forward with legislation to combat illegal gun trafficking and straw purchasers who obtain firearms to provide them to criminals and gangs. We have been joined in that bipartisan effort by Senators DURBIN, GILLIBRAND, KIRK, KLOBUCHAR, FRANKEN, BLUMENTHAL, SHAHEEN, and KING.

Our bill is intended to give law enforcement better and more effective tools. A bipartisan majority of the Judiciary Committee voted for the Stop Illegal Trafficking in Firearms Act, S. 54, and its provisions are included in the Safe Communities, Safe Schools Act, S. 649, that Majority Leader REID placed on the Senate calendar just before the last recess and on which he has now moved to proceed.

Straw purchasers circumvent the purposes of the background check system. Straw purchasing firearms is undertaken for one reason—to get a gun into the hands of someone who is legally prohibited from having one. We know that many guns used in criminal activities are acquired through straw purchases. It was a straw purchaser who enabled the brutal murders of two brave firefighters in Webster, NY this past Christmas Eve, and it was a straw purchaser who provided firearms to an individual who murdered a police officer in Plymouth Township, PA, last September.

We need a meaningful solution to this serious problem. We also include suggestions from Senator GILLIBRAND to go after those who traffic in firearms by wrongfully obtaining two or more firearms. We worked hard to develop effective, targeted legislation that will help combat a serious problem and that will do no harm to the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding Americans.

It was an ATF whistleblower who testified last Congress that the existing firearms laws are ''toothless''. We can create better law enforcement tools and that is what we are doing with the Stop Illegal Trafficking in Firearms Act. I urge all Senators to join with us to close this dangerous loophole in the law that Mexican drug cartels, gangs, and other criminals have exploited for too long.

I especially want to recognize the dedication and leadership of Senator COLLINS to confront the issue of gun violence. Although not a member of the Judiciary Committee, she has been committed to finding commonsense solutions to the problem of gun violence. Senator COLLINS has been dedicated in working with me to address the concerns of other Senators. She and I share a deep respect for the Second Amendment, but we also agree that our laws can be improved to give law enforcement officials the tools they need to help curtail gun violence. She has been a steadfast partner.

Our bill protects Second Amendment rights of lawful gun owners, while cracking down on criminals and those who would assist them. The bill does not create a national firearms registry, nor does it place any additional burdens on law-abiding gun owners or purchasers. It sends a clear message that those who would buy a gun on behalf of a criminal, a member of a drug cartel, or a domestic abuser will be held accountable. That is why our bill is strongly supported by law enforcement.

Some have expressed frustration about the level of prosecutions under existing gun laws. And some have suggested that instead of making sensible changes to our public safety laws to prevent gun violence, Federal law enforcement officials should focus exclusively on existing laws. I share some of that frustration, but I do not agree it is a valid excuse for us to do nothing. Improvements in the enforcement of existing laws and efforts to give law enforcement officials better tools to do their jobs are not mutually exclusive, those efforts complement each other.

A recent article in The Washington Times documented that gun prosecutions were in decline beginning in the Bush administration, and suggests that having a Senate-confirmed director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives would significantly help law enforcement.

As I said in January, Americans are looking to us for solutions and for action, not sloganeering, demagoguery, or partisanship. That is why it is particularly disappointing to hear that some Senators are pledging to prevent Senate consideration of these legislative proposals by filibustering. It is especially disappointing that some who claim to support regular order and a transparent legislative process accord that process no deference. The Judiciary Committee held three public hearings and four public markups on this legislation. It gave them full and fair consideration. We debated and considered amendments. What a filibuster would do now is obstruct the open process of Senate consideration of gun violence prevention legislation. That is wrong.

I have worked with Senator COLLINS and others to provide a real world, common sense solution to the problem of gun trafficking and straw purchasing. That is the course I urge the Senate to take. We need to proceed to the bill and do what is best for the American people.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL STEVE STROBRIDGE

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to Colonel Steve Strobridge, USAF, Retired, in recognition of his distinguished service to his country.

For nearly 44 years, first for 24 years in the Air Force, and concluding with 19 years with the Military Officers Association of America, Colonel Strobridge has worked tirelessly for the men and women of the military, their families, veterans and their survivors.

Raised in Vergennes, VT, Colonel Strobridge entered the United States Air Force in 1969 as a second lieutenant following graduation from ROTC at Syracuse University.

After several assignments as a personnel officer and commander in Texas, Thailand, and North Carolina, he was assigned to the Pentagon from 1977 to 1981 as a compensation and legislation analyst at Headquarters USAF. Following assignments as Chief, Officer Assignments and Assistant for Senior Officer Management at HQ, U.S. Air Forces in Europe, he was selected to attend the National War College at Fort McNair in 1985.

Colonel Strobridge served as Deputy Director and then as Director, Officer and Enlisted Personnel Management in the Office of the Secretary of Defense from 1986–1989. In this position, he was responsible for establishing Department of Defense policy on military personnel promotions, utilization, retention, separation, and retirement. In June 1989, he returned to Headquarters USAF as Chief of the Entitlements Division, assuming responsibility for Air Force policy on all matters involving pay and entitlements, including military retirement system and survivor benefits, and all legislative matters affecting active and retired military members and their families.

Following his retirement from the Air Force in January 1994, Colonel Strobridge joined the Retired Officers Association of America and served as Deputy Director and since 2001 he has served as Director of Government Relations for the Military Officers Association of America, MOAA.

Under Colonel Strobridge's professional stewardship, MOAA has played a vital role as a principal advocate of legislative initiatives to improve readiness and the quality of life for all members of the uniformed service community—active, reserve, and retired, as well as their families.

Defense News noted recently that ''no major [military] personnel-related legislation has been enacted since 1994 without Colonel Strobridge's imprint.''

Colonel Strobridge has worked closely with, and has been a valuable resource for, the U.S. Senate and the Senate Armed Services Committee in particular as we enacted a wide range of benefit improvements for our military personnel. He provided input or support for legislative proposals on a wide range of issues, including TRICARE for Life; the elimination of VA disability pay offsets to military retired pay for many retirees; restoration of full cost of living adjustments to retired pay; elimination of the offset to survivor annuities by Social Security payments; TRICARE benefits for reserve families; and many other initiatives that have been invaluable in improving the long-term retention in our Armed Forces.

Colonel Strobridge's long and distinguished career of leadership and personal dedication to fostering readiness by protecting every servicemember's welfare is an inspiration and a continuing lesson to all who care about the men and women of our military. My best wishes go with him and his family.

Colonel Strobridge, on the occasion of your retirement as Director of Government Relations for the Military Officers Association of America, I salute you on behalf of all the men and women, past and present, who wear the uniform.

THANKING STAFF

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, on Saturday, March 23, 2013, the Senate passed the budget, S. Con. Res. 8. In my statement, I thanked a few members of my staff and I would like to acknowledge the rest of my dedicated staff who worked tirelessly to pass the Senate budget:

Jeannie Biniek, Sarah Bolton, Michael Branson, Alex Brosseau, Dave Brown, Paula Burg, Josh Caplan, Stephanie Cherkezian, Ally Coll, Brendon Dorgan, Amy Edwards, Robert Etter, Jennifer Hanson, Helen Hare, Robyn Hiestand, Mike Jones, Amaia Kirtland, Tyler Kruzich, Zach Moller, Michael Oleyar, Farouk Ophaso, Jason Park, Miles Patrie, Ryan Pettit, John Righter, Josh Ryan, Evan Schatz, Brian Scholl, Emily Sharp, Eli Zupnick.

Steven Bergsbaken, Shawn Bills, Scott Cheney, Beth Chrusciel, Sean Coit, Jake Cornett, Carole Cory, Katherine Dapper, Ariel Evans, John Fogarty, Megan Foster, Emma Fulkerson, Adam Goodwin, Dabney Hegg, Alex Keenan, Zach Mallove, Matt McAlvanah, Megahan McCarthy, Ben Merkel, Rachel Milberg, Silke Mounts, James O'Brien, Molly O'Rourke, Lauren Overman, David Prestwood, Stacy Rich, Kathryn Robertson, Meghan Roh, Alexa Seidl, Mike Spahn, Anna Sperling, Michael Waske.

POLITICAL IMPRISONMENT IN UKRAINE

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President. I would like to address the current situation in Ukraine, an important country in the heart of Europe, a bellweather for democratic development in the region, and the current Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE.

Let me first welcome the release from prison Sunday of former Ukrainian Minister of Internal Affairs and leading opposition figure Yuri Lutsenko. Mr. Lutsenko had been convicted on politically motivated charges and incarcerated since December 2010. President Yanukovych's pardon of Mr. Lutsenko is an encouraging step in the right direction. I also welcome the pardon of former Environment Minister Heorhiy Filipchuk, who also served as a member of Ms. Tymoshenko's Cabinet and had been released last year after his sentence was suspended. By pardoning Mr. Lutsenko and Mr. Filipchuk, President Yanukovych is indicating not only a willingness to resolve what has been a major irritant in Ukraine's relations with the United States and the EU, but also a stain on Ukraine's democratic credentials.

At the same time, I remain deeply concerned about the politically motivated imprisonment of Ukrainian opposition figure and former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, who has been incarcerated since August 2011.

Mrs. Tymoshenko's case stands out as a significant illustration of Ukraine's backsliding with respect to human rights, democracy, and the rule of law since she was defeated by President Yanukovych in February 2010. The United States, EU, and Canada have repeatedly expressed concerns about the application of selective justice against political opponents, their flawed trials, conditions of detention, and the denial of their ability to participate in last October's parliamentary elections.

As Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, which has long been committed to Ukraine's independence and democratic development, I am especially mindful of Ukraine's 2013 OSCE chairmanship. Like any Chair-in-Office, Ukraine faces formidable tasks in leading a multilateral organization that operates on the basis of consensus, which includes 57 countries ranging from mature democracies to oppressive dictatorships. The United States wants Ukraine to succeed, but the reality is that the politically motivated imprisonment of Ms. Tymoshenko casts a cloud over its chairmanship. A Chair-in-Office must itself have strong democratic credentials if it is to succeed in encouraging reform in other countries.

Furthermore, democratic regression in Ukraine has harmed U.S.-Ukrainian bilateral relations, preventing a traditionally strong partnership from realizing its full potential. It has also slowed down the process of Ukraine's drawing closer to the EU, which is that country's stated foreign policy priority, manifested in the still-delayed signing of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement. More than half a year has gone by since the unanimous adoption of S. Res. 466, calling for the release of Yulia Tymoshenko.

The Ukrainian authorities now need to follow up on the important step they have taken in freeing Yuri Lutsenko. They need to free Ms. Tymoshenko and restore her civil and political rights. By demonstrating commitment to the rule of law and human rights principles embodied by the OSCE, Ukraine will strengthen the credibility of its chairmanship and show it is serious about being a full-fledged member of the democratic community of nations.

I strongly urge the Ukrainian government to resolve the case of Ms. Tymoshenko.

HONOR FLIGHT 2013

Mr. BEGICH. Madam President, in April, the participants in the 2013 Honor Flight will be traveling to Washington, DC, to visit memorials of World War II, Vietnam war and the Korean war, as well as the Lincoln Memorial on The National Mall.

I would like to record the names of the World War II veterans selected for this trip: Ms. Hallie Odessa Dixon from Anchorage, who served in the Navy as a telegrapher 2nd Class and also worked as a cryptographic aide. Mr. Chelton S. Feeny from Anchorage, who served in the Army as a private first class, participated in the Army Specialized Training Program at Princeton University, and also worked as a medic on hospital trains. Mr. Dietrich L. Strohmaier from Fairbanks, who served in the Army as a private first class, 25th Division, 35th Regiment and also served briefly in Hollandia, New Guinea, and the Philippines as part of a seven-man recon squad, and later in Japan as part of the Occupation Forces. Mr. Dale Joseph Trombley from Soldotna, who served in the Army Air Corps as a major and B–17 pilot in the 452nd Bomb Group, 730th Air Mobility Squadron, and Mr. John Walker from Soldotna who served in the Army as a sergeant, 2nd Division and 1st Army at Omaha Beach, Belgium and in Germany.

I would also like to make special mention of a Korean war veteran, Mr. William Ladd McBride, from Fairbanks, who has been selected for the trip as well. His vision is failing and it is his fervent wish to see 'his' memorial while he still can with his own eyes. Mr. McBride joined the Army in

1952 and served during the Korean conflict as a photographer for intelligence. He continued his service in the Army Reserves for a total of 12 years, with a final rank of staff sergeant. In 1961 he joined the Navy Reserves, leaving after 6 years with a final rank of intelligence specialist senior chief.

Each of these veterans has my thanks for their service and I very much appreciate the staff, volunteers, and supporters of the Honor Flight program who make these trips happen.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DARRELL MUELLER

• Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam President, today I offer my heartfelt thanks to an educator who has been committed to the wellbeing of the children of my State.

At the close of this school year, Darrell Mueller will retire as superintendent of the Andes Central School District, concluding a career in education of over 30 years. After earning his bachelor's degree in elementary school education in 1979, Darrell began teaching elementary school in Nebraska in 1980. In 1982 he moved to Yankton, SD where he served as a teacher and principal at Sacred Heart School. While serving as a principal and teacher, he completed a master's degree in elementary administration at the University of South Dakota in 1984. From 1988 to 2006, Darrell was the principal of Platte Elementary School. He was chosen as a 2004 Milken Educator for his dedication to teaching and his leadership in the field. In 2006, Darrell accepted the position of superintendent of the Andes Central School District.

As superintendent of the Andes Central School District, Darrell has been a strong advocate for the integration of technology in the classroom. The use of technology has enriched and broadened the educational opportunities for students within the school district. Under Darrell's leadership, the district now enjoys a child to laptop ratio of 2 to 1 in grades kindergarten through 6 and 1 to 1 in grades 7 to 12. Darrell has also sought to expand access to quality early childhood education during his tenure as superintendent. Through working with the local Head Start, Andes Central was able to combine services to create a more comprehensive preschool program for its students.

While serving as superintendent of Andes Central, Darrell implemented a system to monitor student progress using curriculum-based measurement. When the South Dakota Department of Education began developing a new statewide accountability model for measuring student achievement, it sought Darrell's expertise. He has made valuable contributions to this effort as a member of the Next Generation Accountability Council.

Darrell is currently serving as the president of the Impacted Schools of South Dakota. As a leader within our State's Impact Aid community, Darrell and I have met on many occasions, and I have appreciated his insights related to public policy and funding for the Impact Aid program.

Darrell's passion for his community extends far beyond the classroom. He serves as the vice president of the Charles Mix County Lake Restoration Organization, a nonprofit group formed to restore the condition of Lake Andes. Through the work of concerned local citizens like Darrell, they hope to improve and preserve the beauty of Lake Andes for many generations to come. The local economy, the area's environment and wildlife, and the recreational opportunities for the surrounding community have been improved by these efforts.

Darrell is regularly known to say, ''It's all about what's right for the kids.'' This motto represents one of Darrell's guiding principles and has served as words of advice for the many educators, administrators, and school personnel who Darrell has mentored over the years. Darrell will leave a lasting legacy within the Andes Central School District and in the lives of countless young people. On the occasion of his retirement, I congratulate and thank Darrell for his service to his community and selfless dedication to students in South Dakota. I wish him, his wife Diane, and their family a happy and healthy retirement.•

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

S. 680. A bill to rescind amounts appropriated for fiscal year 2013 for the Department of Defense for the Medium Extended Air Defense System, and for other purposes.

S. 691. A bill to regulate large capacity ammunition feeding devices.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–944. A joint communication from the Acting Principal Secretary of the Navy (Energy, Installations and Environment) and the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Land Interchange of Federal Jurisdiction Between USDA Forest Service and the Department of the Navy''; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–945. A communication from the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, transmitting pursuant to law, the 2012 Packers and Stockyards Program Annual Report; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–946. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Importation of Live Birds and Poultry, Poultry Meat, and Poultry Products From a Region in the European Union'' ((RIN0579–AD45) (Docket No. APHIS–2009–0094)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–947. A communication from the Director of the Policy Issuances Division, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Food Ingredients and Sources of Radiation Listed and Approved for Use in the Production of Meat and Poultry Products'' (RIN0583–AD05) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–948. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Abamectin; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 9379–1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–949. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Banda de Lupinus albus doce (BLAD); Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance'' (FRL No. 9380–6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–950. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Emamectin Benzoate; Pesticide Tolerance'' (FRL No. 9381–4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–951. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Thiamethoxam; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 937–3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–952. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Clothianidin; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 9378–6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–953. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Castor Oil, Polymer with Adipic

Acid, Linoleic Acid, Oleic Acid and Ricinoleic Acid Tolerance Exemption'' (FRL No. 9381–2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–954. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Flumioxazin; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 9381–7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 4, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–955. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement'' ((RIN0750–AH69) (DFARS Case 2012–D025)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2013; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–956. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Proposal Adequacy Checklist'' ((RIN0750–AH47) (DFARS Case 2011–D042)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2013; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–957. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Specialty Metals-Definition of 'Produce' '' ((RIN0750–AH78) (DFARS Case 2012–D041)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2013; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–958. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; New Free Trade Agreement with Colombia'' ((RIN0750–AH72) (DFARS Case 2012–D032)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2013; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–959. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of General John R. Allen, United States Marine Corps, and his advancement to the grade of general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–960. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of two (2) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of major general and brigadier general, respectively, in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–961. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General William J. Rew, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–962. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Daniel P. Bolger, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–963. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of four (4) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of real admiral or rear admiral (lower half), as indicated, in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–964. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, the National Defense Stockpile (NDS) Annual Materials Plan for fiscal year 2014 and the succeeding 4 years, fiscal years 2015–2018; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–965. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Secretary's personnel management demonstration project authorities for Department of Defense Science and Technology Reinvention Laboratories; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–966. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Global Strategic Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the utilization of a contribution to the Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–967. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Foreign Language Skill Proficiency Bonus program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–968. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Global Strategic Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Report on Cooperative Threat Reduction Programs in Russia''; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–969. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2012 annual report relative to the STARBASE Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–970. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''The Department of Defense Evaluation of the TRICARE Program: Access, Cost and Quality Fiscal Year (FY) 2013''; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–971. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice of the continuation of the national emergency with respect to Somalia that was declared in Executive Order 13536 of April 12, 2010; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–972. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001, with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–973. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, (4) reports relative to vacancies within the Department of the Treasury, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–974. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Council's 2012 Annual Report to Congress; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–975. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports to the United Arab Emirates (UAE); to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–976. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment to Rule Filing Requirements for Dually-Registered Clearing Agencies'' received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 5, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–977. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Chartering and Field of Membership Manual for Federal Credit Unions'' (RIN3133–AE02) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 28, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–978. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Addition of Certain Persons to the Entity List; Removal of Person From the Entity List Based on Removal Request; Implementation of Entity List Annual Review Changes'' (RIN0694–AF89) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–979. A communication from the Attorney, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Disclosures at Automated Teller Machines (Regulation E)'' ((RIN3170–AA36) (Docket No. CFPB–2013–0006)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–980. A communication from the Attorney, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Truth in Lending (Regulation Z)'' ((RIN3170–AA21) (Docket No. CFPB–2012–0015)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–981. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Suspension of Community Eligibility'' ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA–2012–0003)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–982. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Suspension of Community Eligibility'' ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA–2012–0003)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–983. A communication from the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Bank's 2012 Management Report; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–984. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standards for Business Practices and Communication Protocols for Public Utilities'' (RIN1902–AE50) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 3, 2013; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–985. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Land and Minerals Management, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Oil and Gas and Sulphur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf—Revisions to Safety and Environmental Management Systems'' (RIN1014–AA04) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 4, 2012; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–986. A communication from the Director of the Sustainability Performance Office, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Department's Fleet Alternative Fuel Vehicle Acquisition Report for fiscal year 2009 and fiscal year 2010; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–987. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances; Technical Amendment'' (FRL No. 9382–2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–988. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Disapproval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Colorado; Revision to Definitions; Common Provisions Regulation'' (FRL No. 9284–4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–989. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Ohio; Particulate Matter Standards'' (FRL No. 9783–5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–990. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Reasonably Available Control Technology for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard'' (FRL No. 9795–3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–991. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Arkansas; Prevention of Significant Deterioration; Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule Revisions'' (FRL No. 9795–4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–992. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Transportation Conformity Regulations'' (FRL No. 9795–6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–993. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Operating Permits Program; State of Missouri'' (FRL No. 9795–2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–994. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Santa Barbara and San Diego County Air Pollution Control Districts'' (FRL No. 9794–4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 4, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–995. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Mississippi; 110(a)(2)(e)(ii) Infrastructure Requirements for the 1997 and 2006 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards'' (FRL No. 9798–6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 4, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–996. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Region 4 States; Prong 3 of Section 110(a)(2)(D)(i) Infrastructure Requirement for the 1997 and 2006 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards'' (FRL No. 9799–8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 4, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–997. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Butte County Air Quality Management District and Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District'' (FRL No. 9776–8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 4, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–998. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Georgia: New Source Review-Prevention of Significant Deterioration'' (FRL No. 9798–5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 4, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–999. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District and South Coast Air Quality Management District'' (FRL No. 9776–6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 4, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1000. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District and Monterey Bay Unified and Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control Districts'' (FRL No. 9778–4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 4, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1001. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Disapproval of Implementation Plan Revisions; State of California; South Coast VMT Emissions Offset Demonstrations'' (FRL No. 9794–5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1002. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, South Coast Air Quality Management District'' (FRL No. 9785–6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1003. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Consideration of Certain New Source Issues. . . .'' (FRL No. 9789–5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1004. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Delegation of National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for the States of Kentucky and Louisiana, Correcting Amendments'' (FRL No. 9796–8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1005. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Adequacy of Oregon Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Permit Program'' (FRL No. 9796–6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1006. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Adjustments to the Allowance System for

Controlling HCFC Production, Import, and Export'' (FRL No. 9797–5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1007. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Idaho: Sandpoint PM10 Nonattainment Area Limited Maintenance Plan and Redesignation Request'' (FRL No. 9796–5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1008. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; South Carolina: New Source Review-Prevention of Significant Deterioration'' (FRL No. 9797–1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1009. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Water Quality Standards; Withdrawal of Certain Federal Water Quality Criteria Applicable to California, New Jersey and Puerto Rico'' (FRL No. 9795–8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1010. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Determinations of Attainment of the 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standard for the Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley Moderate Nonattainment Area'' (FRL No. 9797–8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1011. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets for the Pennsylvania Counties in the Philadelphia-Wilmington, PA–NJ-DE 1997 Fine Particulate Matter Nonattainment Area'' (FRL No. 9796–3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1012. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Florida; Prong 3 of Section 110(a)(2)(D)(i) Infrastructure Requirement for the 1997 and 2006 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards'' (FRL No. 9797–4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1013. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Ohio; Ohio Ambient Air Quality Standards; Correction'' (FRL No. 9783–6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1014. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule: Revision to Best Available Monitoring Method Request Submission Deadline for Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems Source Category (Withdrawal of Direct Final Rule)'' (FRL No. 9796–9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1015. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for a report entitled ''Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program: Class VI Well Testing and Monitoring Guidance''; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1016. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Cakes: MAGNASTOR System'' (RIN3150–AJ22) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1017. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Temporary Scope Expansion of the Post-Investigation Alternative Dispute Resolution Program'' (NRC–2013–0046) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1018. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Event Report Guidelines 10 CFR 50.72 and 50.73'' (NUREG–1022) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1019. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Guidelines for Effective Prevention and Management of System Gas Accumulation'' (Final Safety Evaluation for Nuclear Energy Institute Topical Report NEI 09–10, Revision 1a) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1020. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicaid Program; Increased Federal Medical Assistance Percentage Changes under the Affordable Care Act of 2010'' (RIN0938–AR38) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1021. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulations and Report Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revised Medical Criteria for Evaluating Visual Disorders'' (RIN0960–AH28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1022. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Ninety-Day Waiting Period Limitation and Technical Amendments to Certain Health Coverage Requirements Under the Affordable Care Act'' (RIN0938–AR77) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1023. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Announcement and Report Concerning Advance Pricing Agreements'' (Announcement 2013–17) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1024. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''2012 Section 45K Inflation Adjustment Factor'' (Notice 2013–25) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1025. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Opinion and Advisory Letters for 403(b) Pre-approved Plans'' (Revenue Procedure 2013–22) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1026. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revised Exhibit: Acknowledgement Letter Voluntary Correction Program (VCP) Submissions'' (Notice 2013–21) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 3, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1027. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13–038); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1028. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13–009); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1029. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13–041); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1030. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13–004); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1031. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13–016); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1032. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the

Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13–040); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1033. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13–045); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1034. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13–031); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1035. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13–005); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1036. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13–002); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1037. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13–036); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1038. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13–022); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1039. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to sections 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13–003); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1040. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to sections 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13–032); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1041. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the extension of waiver authority for Azerbaijan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1042. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the activities of the Millennium Challenge Corporation during fiscal year 2012; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1043. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2013–0033—2013–0048); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1044. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for the Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Wage Methodology for the Temporary Non-Agricultural Employment H–2B Program; Delay of Effective Date'' (RIN1205–AB61) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1045. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''World Trade Center Health Program Eligibility Requirements for Shanksville, Pennsylvania and Pentagon Responders'' (RIN0920–AA48) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1046. A communication from the Program Manager, Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Practitioner Data Bank'' (RIN0906–AA87) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 4, 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1047. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Change of Address; Biologics License Applications; Technical Amendment'' (Docket No. FDA–2013–N–0011) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 5, 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1048. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Listing of Color Additives Exempt From Certification; Reactive Blue 246 and Reactive Blue 247 Copolymers'' (Docket Nos. FDA–2011–C–0344 and C–0463) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 5, 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1049. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medical Devices; Technical Amendment'' (Docket No. FDA–2013–N–0011) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 28, 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1050. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Service of Process on Manufacturers; Manufacturers Importing Electronic Products into the United States; Agent Designation; Change of Address'' (Docket No. FDA–2007–N–0091) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 28, 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1051. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Public Hearing Before a Public Advisory Committee; Technical Amendments'' (Docket No. FDA–2013–N–0011) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1052. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Family Violence Prevention and Services Program for fiscal years 2009–2010; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1053. A communication from the Acting Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts and a Member of the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the Arts and Artifacts Indemnity Program for fiscal year 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1054. A communication from the Chairman of the National Health Care Workforce Commission, transmitting, a report relative to the status of the Commission; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1055. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Program Integrity Issues'' (RIN1840–AD02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1056. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to Food and Drug Administration Advisory Committee Vacancies and Public Disclosures; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1057. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the designation of funding for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC–1058. A communication from the Chairman, Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the memorial construction; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC–1059. A communication from the Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office of the General Counsel, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Removal of 30-Day Residency Requirement for Per Diem Payments'' (RIN2900–AO36) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2013; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. PRYOR (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 669. A bill to make permanent the Internal Revenue Service Free File program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 670. A bill to improve Federal dairy programs; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 671. A bill for the relief of Deniss Nikanorov; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 672. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage, as supplies associated with the injection of insulin, of containment, removal, decontamination and disposal of home-generated needles, syringes, and other sharps through a sharps container, decontamination/destruction device, or sharps-by-mail program or similar program under part D of the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 673. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish a national usury rate for consumer credit transactions; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HELLER:

S. 674. A bill to require prompt responses from the heads of covered Federal agencies when the Secretary of Veterans Affairs requests information necessary to adjudicate claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. AYOTTE (for herself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 675. A bill to prohibit contracting with the enemy; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. NELSON (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 676. A bill to prevent tax-related identity theft and tax fraud; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROBERTS:

S. 677. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to extend and improve the crop insurance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 678. A bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to establish a program to provide loans for local farms, ranches, and market gardens to improve public health and nutrition, reduce energy consumption, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COWAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. TESTER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 679. A bill to promote local and regional farm and food systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. AYOTTE (for herself and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 680. A bill to rescind amounts appropriated for fiscal year 2013 for the Department of Defense for the Medium Extended Air Defense System, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 681. A bill to extend the seaward boundaries of certain States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. COBURN (for himself, Mr. BURR, and Mr. ALEXANDER):

S. 682. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to reset interest rates for new student loans; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 683. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a comprehensive strategy to gain and maintain operational control of the international borders of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

S. 684. A bill to amend the Mni Wiconi Project Act of 1988 to facilitate completion of the Mni Wiconi Rural Water Supply System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 685. A bill to address the concept of ''Too Big To Fail'' with respect to certain financial entities; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. PRYOR:

S. 686. A bill to extend the right of appeal to the Merit Systems Protection Board to certain employees of the United States Postal Service; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. FRANKEN, and Mr. NELSON):

S. 687. A bill to prohibit the closing of air traffic control towers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 688. A bill to permanently extend the private mortgage insurance tax deduction; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BENNET, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mrs. HAGAN, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 689. A bill to reauthorize and improve programs related to mental health and substance use disorders; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 690. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to deem certain service in the organized military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines and the Philippine Scouts to have been active service for purposes of benefits under programs administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. COWAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER)):

S. 691. A bill to regulate large capacity ammunition feeding devices; read the first time.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. KING):

S. Res. 94. A resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the sinking of the U.S.S. Thresher (SSN 593); considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 138

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 138, a bill to prohibit discrimination against the unborn on the basis of sex or gender, and for other purposes.

S. 169

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 169, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to authorize additional visas for well-educated aliens to live and work in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 189

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 189, a bill to establish an employment-based immigrant visa for alien entrepreneurs who have received significant capital from investors to establish a business in the United States.

S. 309

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNS), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) were added as cosponsors of S. 309, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the Civil Air Patrol.

S. 316

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. COWAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 316, a bill to recalculate and restore retirement annuity obligations of the United States Postal Service, to eliminate the requirement that the United States Postal Service prefund the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund, to place restrictions on the closure of postal facilities, to create incentives for innovation for the United States Postal Service, to maintain levels of postal service, and for other purposes.

S. 323

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 323, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for extended months of Medicare coverage of immunosuppressive drugs for kidney transplant patients and other renal dialysis provisions.

S. 336

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 336, a bill to restore States' sovereign rights to enforce State and local sales and use tax laws, and for other purposes.

S. 367

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 367, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 380

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 380, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and update the National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative for grants to address the problems of individuals who experience trauma and violence related stress.

S. 393

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 393, a bill to designate additional segments and tributaries of White Clay Creek, in the States of Delaware and Pennsylvania, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

S. 407

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 407, a bill to provide funding for construction and major rehabilitation for projects located on inland and intracoastal waterways of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 423

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 423, a bill to amend title V of the Social Security Act to extend funding for family-to-family health information centers to help families of children with disabilities or special health care needs make informed choices about health care for their children.

S. 462

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 462, a bill to enhance the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel.

S. 463

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 463, a bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to modify the definition of the term ''biobased product''.

S. 502

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 502, a bill to assist States in providing voluntary high-quality universal prekindergarten programs and programs to support infants and toddlers.

S. 526

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 526, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions, and for other purposes.

S. 541

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 541, a bill to prevent human health threats posed by the consumption of equines raised in the United States.

S. 548

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 548, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve and enhance the capabilities of the Armed Forces to prevent and respond to sexual assault and sexual harassment in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 554

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 554, a bill to provide for a biennial budget process and a biennial appropriations process and to enhance oversight and the performance of the Federal Government.

S. 557

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 557, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to medication therapy management under part D of the Medicare program.

S. 562

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 562, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 572

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 572, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the conditions under which certain persons may be treated as adjudicated mentally incompetent for certain purposes.

S. 579

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) were added as cosponsors of S. 579, a bill to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to obtain observer status for Taiwan at the triennial International Civil Aviation Organization Assembly, and for other purposes.

S. 603

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 603, a bill to repeal the annual fee on health insurance providers enacted by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 617

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 617, a bill to provide humanitarian assistance and support a democratic transition in Syria, and for other purposes.

S. 641

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 641, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, and other programs, to promote education in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

S. 642

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 642, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act and title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make the provision of technical services for medical imaging examinations and radiation therapy treatments safer, more accurate, and less costly.

S. RES. 65

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. COWAN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 65, a resolution strongly supporting the full implementation of United States and international sanctions on Iran and urging the President to continue to strengthen enforcement of sanctions legislation.

S. RES. 70

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 70, a resolution designating the last full week of July 2013 as ''National Moth Week'', recognizing the importance of moths in the United States, and recognizing the value of National Moth Week for promoting the conservation of moths and increasing the awareness, study, and appreciation of moths, their incredible biodiversity, and their importance to ecosystem health.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 673. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish a national usury rate for consumer credit transactions; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, after the financial crisis of 2008 we learned that predatory lending hurts more than just families who lost money. Predatory

lending can affect entire communities and often targets the most vulnerable in our society—low-income families and seniors.

Under Wall Street reform we addressed predatory mortgage practices and granted the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau the authority to supervise nonbank lenders, including payday lenders. We know who these payday folks are. I know them because their businesses are located a few blocks from where I live in Springfield, IL, on Macarthur Boulevard—title loans, payday loans. However, we failed to cap once and for all the annual interest rate that predatory payday lenders can charge for a loan.

In 2012 payday loan volume reached an estimated $45 billion for storefront and online loans. This does not include deposit advance loans that banks make to consumers every day.

If we look a bit deeper, we find that nearly 76 percent of payday loans are made to pay off a previous payday loan. It is a vicious cycle. Someone borrows some money, then they cannot pay it back with high interest rates, and they borrow more—deeper and deeper in debt. Fifty percent of payday borrowers ultimately default on their loans.

With numbers like these, we can only assume payday lenders' profit depends on families rolling their payday loan over eight to nine times—racking up new fees every single time.

Predatory lenders should not be allowed to pad their pockets with the hard-earned money of families that are barely getting by. These are families who are not even able to survive paycheck to paycheck.

That is why I am introducing the Protecting Consumers from Unreasonable Credit Rates Act. I wish to thank my colleagues—Senators BLUMENTHAL, BOXER, MERKLEY, and WHITEHOUSE—for their cosponsorship of this bill and their commitment to protect consumers from predatory lending practices.

This bill would establish a 36-percent annual interest rate cap for all types of consumer credit—a cap that is supported by 100 years of history according to a new report released by the National Consumer Law Center.

That is the same Federal cap that is currently in place for loans marketed to military servicemembers and their families.

Why would we protect military service families from predatory lending and no one else? I will tell you why. We found out that many of them in the military ran into financial difficulties from time to time, and the payday lenders—the title loans and the rest of them—were camping out outside of military facilities anxious to loan members of the military the money they needed to get by until the next payday. Many of our soldiers got so deeply in debt to payday loans they had to leave military service. They just could not keep up with it. So we passed a law that said we are going to protect military families from this exploitation. Our soldiers and sailors, airmen and marines are worth that much more to us that we are going to protect them.

Well, there is an obvious question: Why are we not protecting everybody? If this kind of exploitation is wrong when it comes to military families, why is it not wrong for the rest of America? It surely is. We should expand the law that curbed payday, car title, and tax refund lending around military bases to include all types of credit for all borrowers. If a lender cannot make money on a 36-percent APR, maybe the loan should not have been made in the first place.

Fifteen States and the District of Columbia have already enacted laws that protect homeowners from high-cost loans, and 34 States and the District of Colombia have limited annual interest rates to 36 percent or less for one or more types of consumer credit. But there is a problem with the State-by-State approach: Many of these State laws are riddled with loopholes. Out-of-State lenders evade these State caps. Cash-strapped customers are then subjected to 400 percent annual interest rates for payday loans, on average, and 300 percent for car title loans, on average—400 percent interest? Our bill would require all lending to conform to the 36-percent APR limit, thereby eliminating the loopholes that have allowed predatory practices to flourish in many States around the country.

Let me be clear. I understand that sometimes families fall on hard times. They need a loan to make ends meet. They are desperate. Most of us have been there at one time or another in our lives. That is why I have included in this bill the flexibility for responsible lenders to replace payday loans with reasonably priced, small-dollar loan alternatives. The bill allows lenders to exceed the 36-percent cap for one-time application fees that cover the cost of setting up a new customer account and a processing cost, such as late charges and insufficient funds fees. I urge more institutions to offer small-dollar loans with consumer protections, including rates below 36 percent.

We know it can be done because banks and credit unions—many of them—are offering those loans.

I would also like to talk about a new type of payday lending—the online payday loan. Senator MERKLEY of Oregon and Senator TOM UDALL of New Mexico are leading the effort to crack down on these types of lenders who use the Internet to evade State law. Their bill, called the Safe Lending Act, would address online payday lending, such as hiding behind layers of anonymously registered Web sites and so-called lead generators. The bill would allow consumers to cancel a debit and prohibit payday lenders from circumventing State usury laws. We need more effective enforcement on online payday lenders. The Safe Lending Act would do it.

Another type of payday lending that I am afraid is on the rise is bank payday lending. Several banks offer deposit advance loans, which closely resemble the structure of payday loans, with up to 365 percent interest rates and short-term balloon payments.

Earlier this year, Senators BLUMENTHAL and I wrote a letter to the Federal Reserve, OCC, and the FDIC urging them to prohibit banks from offering predatory payday loans. Today, a petition signed by 157,000 Americans will be delivered to the same regulators calling on then to ban banks from offering payday loan products. I hope they do.

My first mentor in politics was the late Senator Paul Douglas of Illinois. He was a Ph.D. in economics who served here from 1948 to 1966. I met him at the end of his career when I was a college student. He wrote:

> Compound the camouflaging of credit by loading on all sorts of extraneous fees, such as exorbitant fees for credit life insurance, excessive fees for credit investigation, and all sorts of loan processing fees which rightfully should be included in the percentage rate statement so that any percentage rate quoted is meaningless and deceptive.

Senator Douglas said that 50 years ago. The name of the fees may have changed over time, but the goal of nickel-and-diming families out of their hard-earned money, unfortunately, has not changed.

By instituting a 36-percent cap on annual interest rates, the Protecting Consumers from Unreasonable Credit Rates Act would eliminate products that are predatory by their nature. The bill is supported by more than 40 consumer groups. They include Americans for Financial Reform, the Center for Responsible Lending, the Consumer Federation of America, and the National Consumer Law Center.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter from these organizations in support of this legislation.

APRIL 9, 2013.

Re Protecting Consumers from Unreasonable Credit Rates

Hon. RICHARD J. DURBIN,
Hart Senate Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR DURBIN: Thank you for introducing the ''Protecting Consumers from Unreasonable Credit Rates Act of 2013,'' which would extend the 36 percent usury APR cap for military families enacted in the Military Lending Act of 2006 to all consumers. A fair rate cap will protect consumers and curb abuses in the high-cost small dollar loan market. The 36 percent rate cap set by your legislation would permit responsible lending to consumers with less-than-perfect credit while restraining harmful terms.

Currently, consumers pay triple-digit rates for car title and payday loans (including those offered at traditional storefronts, online, and by banks). A large body of research has demonstrated that these products are structured to create a long-term debt trap that drains consumers' bank accounts. Indeed, the lack of underwriting, high fees, short loan terms, single balloon payment, and access to a borrower's checking account

as collateral ensure that most borrowers have no choice but to take out additional loans to pay off the initial payday or car title loan. A properly structured federal usury cap puts all creditors on a level playing field without undermining any additional consumer protections in the states.

Although many states cap rates for some forms of credit, banks can undermine these protections by exporting their weak home-state limits on credit costs to other states across the country. It is vitally important for Congress to set the outside limit on the cost-of-credit to curb abusive lending.

We enthusiastically support the Protecting Consumers from Unreasonable Credit Rates Act of 2013. For more information, please contact Tom Feltner, director of financial services, Consumer Federation of America at (202) 618–0310 or tfeltner@consumerfed.org.

Sincerely,

Alabama Appleseed, Alabama Arise, Americans for Financial Reform, Arkansans Against Abusive Payday Lending, Arkansas Community Organizations, California Reinvestment Coalition, Southwest Center for Economic Integrity (AZ), Center for Responsible Lending, Citizen Action Illinois, Coalition of Religious Communities (Utah), Consumer Action, Consumer Assistance Council, Inc. (MA).

Consumer Federation of America, Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety (CA), Consumers Union, Economic Fairness Oregon, Dēmos, Green America, Florida Consumer Action Network, Jesuit Social Research Institute, Loyola University, New Orleans Kentucky Coalition for Responsible Lending, Mississippi Center for Justice, Monsignor John Egan Campaign for Payday Loan Reform (IL), NAACP.

National Association of Consumer Advocates, National Community Reinvestment Coalition, National Consumer Law Center, on behalf of its low income clients, National People's Action, Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project (NY), New Jersey Citizen Action, Maryland CASH Campaign, Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition, Project IRENE (IL), RAISE Kentucky, Reinvestment Partners (NC), Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law (IL), South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center, Southern Poverty Law Center, Virginia Citizens Consumer Council, Virginia Poverty Law Center, Woodstock Institute (IL).

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, we can allow American consumers today to keep more of their hard-earned money by establishing a reasonable fee and an annual interest rate cap, combating abuses by Internet payday lenders, and eliminating bank payday loans. Families and their communities are sure to benefit by saving more and putting more of their earnings back into the economy.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 673

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 ''Protecting Consumers from Unreasonable Credit Rates Act of 2013''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) attempts have been made to prohibit usurious interest rates in America since colonial times;

(2) at the Federal level, in 2006, Congress enacted a Federal 36 percent annualized usury cap for service members and their families for covered credit products, as defined by the Department of Defense, which curbed payday, car title, and tax refund lending around military bases;

(3) notwithstanding such attempts to curb predatory lending, high-cost lending persists in all 50 States due to loopholes in State laws, safe harbor laws for specific forms of credit, and the exportation of unregulated interest rates permitted by preemption;

(4) due to the lack of a comprehensive Federal usury cap, consumers annually pay approximately $23,700,000,000 for high-cost overdraft loans, as much as $8,100,000,000 for storefront and online payday loans, and additional amounts in unreported revenues from bank direct deposit advance loans and high-cost online installment loans;

(5) cash-strapped consumers pay on average 400 percent annual interest for payday loans, 300 percent annual interest for car title loans, up to 3,500 percent for bank overdraft loans, and triple-digit rates for online installment loans;

(6) a national maximum interest rate that includes all forms of fees and closes all loopholes is necessary to eliminate such predatory lending; and

(7) alternatives to predatory lending that encourage small dollar loans with minimal or no fees, installment payment schedules, and affordable repayment periods should be encouraged.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL MAXIMUM INTEREST RATE.

Chapter 2 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1631 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 140B. MAXIMUM RATES OF INTEREST.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no creditor may make an extension of credit to a consumer with respect to which the fee and interest rate, as defined in subsection (b), exceeds 36 percent.

''(b) FEE AND INTEREST RATE DEFINED.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, the fee and interest rate includes all charges payable, directly or indirectly, incident to, ancillary to, or as a condition of the extension of credit, including—

''(A) any payment compensating a creditor or prospective creditor for—

''(i) an extension of credit or making available a line of credit, such as fees connected with credit extension or availability such as numerical periodic rates, annual fees, cash advance fees, and membership fees; or

''(ii) any fees for default or breach by a borrower of a condition upon which credit was extended, such as late fees, creditor-imposed not sufficient funds fees charged when a borrower tenders payment on a debt with a check drawn on insufficient funds, overdraft fees, and over limit fees;

''(B) all fees which constitute a finance charge, as defined by rules of the Bureau in accordance with this title;

''(C) credit insurance premiums, whether optional or required; and

''(D) all charges and costs for ancillary products sold in connection with or incidental to the credit transaction.

''(2) TOLERANCES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a credit obligation that is payable in at least 3 fully amortizing installments over at least 90 days, the term 'fee and interest rate' does not include—

''(i) application or participation fees that in total do not exceed the greater of $30 or, if there is a limit to the credit line, 5 percent of the credit limit, up to $120, if—

''(I) such fees are excludable from the finance charge pursuant to section 106 and regulations issued thereunder;

''(II) such fees cover all credit extended or renewed by the creditor for 12 months; and

''(III) the minimum amount of credit extended or available on a credit line is equal to $300 or more;

''(ii) a late fee charged as authorized by State law and by the agreement that does not exceed either $20 per late payment or $20 per month; or

''(iii) a creditor-imposed not sufficient funds fee charged when a borrower tenders payment on a debt with a check drawn on insufficient funds that does not exceed $15.

''(B) ADJUSTMENTS FOR INFLATION.—The Bureau may adjust the amounts of the tolerances established under this paragraph for inflation over time, consistent with the primary goals of protecting consumers and ensuring that the 36 percent fee and interest rate limitation is not circumvented.

''(c) CALCULATIONS.—

''(1) OPEN END CREDIT PLANS.—For an open end credit plan—

''(A) the fee and interest rate shall be calculated each month, based upon the sum of all fees and finance charges described in subsection (b) charged by the creditor during the preceding 1-year period, divided by the average daily balance; and

''(B) if the credit account has been open less than 1 year, the fee and interest rate shall be calculated based upon the total of all fees and finance charges described in subsection (b)(1) charged by the creditor since the plan was opened, divided by the average daily balance, and multiplied by the quotient of 12 divided by the number of full months that the credit plan has been in existence.

''(2) OTHER CREDIT PLANS.—For purposes of this section, in calculating the fee and interest rate, the Bureau shall require the method of calculation of annual percentage rate specified in section 107(a)(1), except that the amount referred to in that section 107(a)(1) as the 'finance charge' shall include all fees, charges, and payments described in subsection (b)(1) of this section.

''(3) ADJUSTMENTS AUTHORIZED.—The Bureau may make adjustments to the calculations in paragraphs (1) and (2), but the primary goals of such adjustment shall be to protect consumers and to ensure that the 36 percent fee and interest rate limitation is not circumvented.

''(d) DEFINITION OF CREDITOR.—As used in this section, the term 'creditor' has the same meaning as in section 702(e) of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691a(e)).

''(e) NO EXEMPTIONS PERMITTED.—The exemption authority of the Bureau under section 105 shall not apply to the rates established under this section or the disclosure requirements under section 127(b)(6).

''(f) DISCLOSURE OF FEE AND INTEREST RATE FOR CREDIT OTHER THAN OPEN END CREDIT PLANS.—In addition to the disclosure requirements under section 127(b)(6), the Bureau may prescribe regulations requiring disclosure of the fee and interest rate established under this section.

''(g) RELATION TO STATE LAW.—Nothing in this section may be construed to preempt any provision of State law that provides greater protection to consumers than is provided in this section.

''(h) CIVIL LIABILITY AND ENFORCEMENT.—In addition to remedies available to the consumer under section 130(a), any payment compensating a creditor or prospective creditor, to the extent that such payment is a transaction made in violation of this section, shall be null and void, and not enforceable by any party in any court or alternative dispute resolution forum, and the creditor or any subsequent holder of the obligation shall

promptly return to the consumer any principal, interest, charges, and fees, and any security interest associated with such transaction. Notwithstanding any statute of limitations or repose, a violation of this section may be raised as a matter of defense by recoupment or setoff to an action to collect such debt or repossess related security at any time.

''(i) VIOLATIONS.—Any person that violates this section, or seeks to enforce an agreement made in violation of this section, shall be subject to, for each such violation, 1 year in prison and a fine in an amount equal to the greater of—

''(1) 3 times the amount of the total accrued debt associated with the subject transaction; or

''(2) $50,000.

''(j) STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL.—An action to enforce this section may be brought by the appropriate State attorney general in any United States district court or any other court of competent jurisdiction within 3 years from the date of the violation, and such attorney general may obtain injunctive relief.''.

SEC. 4. DISCLOSURE OF FEE AND INTEREST RATE FOR OPEN END CREDIT PLANS.

Section 127(b)(6) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1637(b)(6)) is amended by striking ''the total finance charge expressed'' and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting ''the fee and interest rate, displayed as 'FAIR', established under section 141.''.

By Mr. ROBERTS:

S. 677. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to extend and improve the crop insurance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, today I have just introduced legislation in regards to our efforts to, once again, try to address a farm bill on behalf of our Nation's farmers, ranchers, and dairy producers. We passed a farm bill in the last session. It was one of the first bills where we achieved regular order, i.e., where every Senator had an opportunity to have an amendment. Many did. We had over 300, as I recall—''we'' meaning the distinguished chairperson of the committee, Senator STABENOW, and myself as the ranking member at that particular time. Thank goodness not all 300 demanded a vote, but I think we voted 73 times, and we passed the bill by a good bipartisan margin. I hope we can get back to that. The chairperson, Senator STABENOW, is working very diligently to produce another farm bill.

I see the distinguished majority leader coming to the floor. He was very helpful in our pleas to bring a farm bill to the floor. Senator REID actually asked me whether we could do it in 3 days as I promised, and we did it in 2½, so with cooperation we got that done. It was, as I say, the first bill we took up in the last session where we did have regular order. I hope we can keep that record. I thank the majority leader for his efforts in that regard.

Why am I bringing this up now, even before we mark up in regards to the bill I have introduced? Basically because farmers are now planting their crops despite 3 years of drought and all sorts of hardship and all sorts of uncertainty about a farm bill. We have extended the 2008 act. It is not what we wanted to do in the Senate, but that is what happened. So we hope that does not happen again.

We hope we can work again in a bipartisan way to produce a product that not only helps the farmer and rancher—we have, what, 6 billion people in the world today? We are going to go to 9 billion people in the next several decades. Everybody in the Senate should be aware of that. It is an overriding issue. We are going to have to double our agricultural production if we are going to continue our efforts to feed this country in a troubled and hungry world.

That even has national security implications. Show me a country that does not have a stable food supply, and I will show you a country that is in a lot of trouble. Just read about the Mideast and what is happening there.

What do farmers want? I mean what was the No. 1 issue we heard—''we'' meaning, again, Senator STABENOW and I—when we held farm hearings both in Michigan, specialty crops, and Kansas, program crops: wheat, corn, beans et cetera? Over and over the No. 1 issue was crop insurance.

We were trying to get out of the business or stay out of the business of farmers planting for the government. And ''farm subsidies,'' that always makes the headlines in the Washington Post for people who for the most part have never been west of the Missouri River.

Despite all the criticisms of the farm program, I think we consolidated and reformed 100 different programs. We saved roughly $23 or $24 billion—the first authorizing committee to do so. We also strengthened and improved crop insurance. That was the No. 1 issue for farm lenders, the No. 1 issue for farmers and ranchers, and the No. 1 issue for everybody involved in the miracle of agriculture that allows us to do this so Americans have the safest, most abundant, and cheapest food in the history of the world.

I hear time and time again from our producers and their lenders that crop insurance is the cornerstone of the farm safety net. I hear it at home in Kansas. We hear it in the Agriculture Committee. I hear it every time I speak to producers in Washington. I know the chairperson of the committee, Senator STABENOW, has heard the same. All members of the committee know the value of crop insurance. I mean all members of the distinguished Committee on Agriculture.

As we head into another round of farm bill debates, and I know the chairperson would like to get it done, would like to mark up a bill in the next 3 weeks—I don't know if that is possible; we will see. We did that in 2½ days in the last session of Congress. Whether we can do that again I am not sure—I am constantly asked for my priorities, and my priorities reflect what I have heard from farmers and ranchers at home and their bankers and their lenders and everybody who wants consistency. The No. 1 priority for the farm bill is crop insurance. If you doubt the importance of crop insurance, just look what it has provided the past 2 years. It is rather unbelievable.

Since 2011 we have faced the worst drought since the Dust Bowl in Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas—and in Nebraska now. In so many cases Nebraska is worse than any other place.

Then we had the massive flooding along the Mississippi and the Missouri Rivers, and hurricanes that simply devastated the Northeast as well. I don't know what we have done to Mother Nature, but she sure has not been very kind to us. In 2012 the drought worsened and spread across the Midwest to States such as Missouri, Iowa, and Illinois. Now that we are into the Midwest, now we have headlines about the drought. When we burn up almost every year out in our country, on the high plains, nobody gets any attention. But they get it in the Midwest, they get a lot of attention.

Just months after all of this, why are producers still now tuning up their equipment and preparing their fields to put seed in the ground once again? A farmer never puts any seed in the ground without hope for a crop. Hope springs eternal with regard to agriculture, and here we are, once again, having that capability. It is not because of some agriculture ad hoc disaster program that seems to appear every even-numbered year in this body or any package for farmers, through a disaster program, that would represent some kind of help. Farmers are back on their feet and producing the food that feeds a troubled and hungry world because of crop insurance. They are able to put the seed in the ground again because they managed their risk and protected their operations from Mother Nature's destruction through the purchase of crop insurance.

This is the one component of the farm safety net that requires a producer to have skin in the game. We could apply that to a lot of other things that we debate on the floor of the Senate. Don't forget, crop insurance only provides coverage if a producer actually has a loss. So a Kansas farmer might pay into the crop insurance system for years or a farmer or a producer from Wisconsin or, for that matter, anyplace that values agriculture. But if they never experience a severe loss or a natural disaster, they will never receive a penny. Simply, crop insurance allows producers a way to manage risk so they can continue to provide a stable and secure food supply and pass their operations on to their children.

If that is not a success story in the partnership between government and private industry and America's farmers, I don't know what is. But just because a program is successful doesn't

mean there is not room for improvement. That is what the bill is that I just laid at the desk.

Crop insurance is a big tent with plenty of room under it. The program already protects more than 250 million acres of cropland in the United States, more than two-thirds of the eligible acres that we farm. But there are still acres that are not protected and producers who cannot afford to purchase this kind of protection they need. The more producers under that crop insurance tent, and the more that are protected from disaster, the more stable our food supply and our rural economies will be.

We made great progress, as I said, last year in the Agriculture Committee and on the Senate floor improving crop insurance to bring even more people under the tent. Today, I am here again to continue our work to preserve and protect and strengthen our crop insurance. My legislation enhances the Crop Insurance Program by including something called a Supplemental Coverage Option. The acronym for that is SCO. It allows producers to purchase additional crop insurance coverage on an area yield and loss basis. It also amends the Federal Crop Insurance Act to make available separate enterprise units for irrigated and nonirrigated acreages of crops in counties. That is especially helpful in regard to what we are going through with another year of drought.

The bill also addresses the declining Actual Production History, that is a yield problem, by increasing the county transitional yield. So if someone did not have a yield in their farm, but they could then go to the county yield average, they would be in a lot better shape. They would be helped out in one area and not another area. This would help in that respect.

The legislation also sets budget limitations. Yes, we set budget limitations on future renegotiation of what is called the Standard Reinsurance Agreement by requiring any savings realized in the SRA renegotiations to return to the Crop Insurance Program, to return to the RMA programs. Let's not use the Crop Insurance Program where we have savings and then use it as a bank for other programs. That has happened far too often—in the Senate and in the House.

The legislation also continues the Stacked Income Protection Plan—that is known as STAX—for the producers who plant upland cotton. That means all or most all of the products that we produce in the organizations that represent those commodities and represent those farmers who grow the commodities are in agreement—and cotton was very helpful in the last farm bill.

Meanwhile, in order to help pay down the debt and reduce the deficit, the legislation is fully paid for by the elimination of direct payments which saves taxpayers $5 billion over 10 years. Overall, the legislation will strengthen the farm safety net while at the same time saving taxpayers billions of dollars and preventing costly ad hoc agriculture disaster programs.

There are those who don't believe in a good Crop Insurance Program. When Mother Nature doesn't behave and they get into these terribly destructive forces of nature—and it always happens. As I have said, it usually happens on an even-numbered year. If they are going to get into a disaster program and take part in it, they better darn well make sure to say: OK. I am going to help you out, but don't put your name on it. Because when it comes out to the Farm Service Agency and all the people who are supposed to implement it at the Department of Agriculture and in almost every county in the United States, it is a disaster to implement and the farmer doesn't get the kind of help he or she needs. That is not the way to do business. The cost annually is far greater than the Crop Insurance Program.

Overall, the legislation will strengthen the farm safety net while at the same time saving the taxpayers billions of dollars. It prevents ad hoc agriculture disaster programs. That is what the farmer wants. The farmer wants certainty. If he takes part in a Crop Insurance Program, he has certainty and he has protection.

There was a time in the not-so-distant past when the farm programs greatly distorted planning decisions. As chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, back in the day, along with others in the Senate, we did everything we could to eliminate those distortions. Why? Because with the World Trade Organization, we could get in a lot of trouble.

I am confident this proposal is the responsible path forward for agriculture, and it will not drive planting decisions or leave farmers to plant for the government program rather than the marketplace. With this crop insurance legislation, we have the opportunity to improve on an enormously successful program and continue good farm program policies.

We have a lot of work ahead of us to pass and sign a farm bill into law. A lot of farmers and a lot of ranchers are depending on it, and there are a lot of people who benefit from it. As I said, we have the lowest cost and safest food in the history of the world, and it allows us to use our wherewithal in a humanitarian way to be of help to those in need who undergo some very difficult circumstances. As I have indicated, agriculture involves our national security.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Agriculture Committee, farmers across the country, and industry partners to enact this legislation as part of the farm bill.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

S. 684. A bill to amend the Mni Wiconi Project Act of 1988 to facilitate completion of the Mni Wiconi Rural Water Supply System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Mni Wiconi Project Act Amendments of 2013 to facilitate completion of a rural water supply system that was first authorized in the 100th Congress. As a freshman Member of the House of Representatives, I introduced legislation authorizing construction of the Mni Wiconi Project to bring quality, treated Missouri River water to several Indian reservations and a large, rural area of my State. Prior to Mni Wiconi, these areas faced insufficient and, too often, unsafe drinking water.

In the authorizing statute, Congress found that the United States has a trust responsibility to ensure that adequate and safe water supplies are available to meet the economic, environmental, water supply, and public health needs of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, Rosebud Indian Reservation, and Lower Brule Indian Reservation. Treated drinking water from the Missouri River now reaches most areas on these three reservations, as well as the 7 county area of the West River/Lyman-Jones Rural Water System.

Nearly 25 years after it was first authorized, this critically important project is very close to completion. Because appropriations failed to keep pace with projected timelines, however, additional administrative costs have cut into construction funding. As a result, the project needs an increase in the cost ceiling and extension of its authorization in order to be completed. Without these adjustments, some portions of the Oglala Sioux Rural Water Supply System and Rosebud Sioux Rural Water System will remain incomplete. The legislation I have introduced today addresses this shortfall and also directs other Federal agencies that support rural water development to assist the Bureau of Reclamation in improving and repairing existing community water systems that are important components of the project.

Our Federal responsibility to address the need for adequate and safe drinking water supplies on the Pine Ridge, Rosebud and Lower Brule Indian Reservations remains as important as ever. I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance this legislation.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 690. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to deem certain service in the organized military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines and the Philippine Scouts to have been active service for purposes of benefits under programs administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 690

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 ''Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2013''.

SEC. 2. CERTAIN SERVICE IN THE ORGANIZED MILITARY FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE PHILIPPINE SCOUTS DEEMED TO BE ACTIVE SERVICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 107 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking ''not'' after ''Army of the United States, shall''; and

(B) by striking '', except benefits under—'' and all that follows in that subsection and inserting a period;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking ''not'' after ''Armed Forces Voluntary Recruitment Act of 1945 shall''; and

(B) by striking ''except—'' and all that follows in that subsection and inserting a period;

(3) by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

''(c) DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In determining the eligibility of the service of an individual under this section, the Secretary shall take into account any alternative documentation regarding such service, including documentation other than the Missouri List, that the Secretary determines relevant.

''(2) REPORT.—Not later than March 1 of each year, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

''(A) the number of individuals applying for benefits pursuant to this section during the previous year; and

''(B) the number of such individuals that the Secretary approved for benefits.''; and

(4) by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

''(d) RELATION TO FILIPINO VETERANS EQUITY COMPENSATION FUND.—Section 1002(h) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (title X of division A of Public Law 111–5; 123 Stat. 200; 38 U.S.C. 107 note) shall not apply to an individual described in subsection (a) or (b) of this section.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—(1) The heading of such section is amended to read as follows:

''§ 107. Certain service deemed to be active service: service in organized military forces of the Philippines and in the Philippine Scouts''.

(2) The item relating to such section in the table of sections at the beginning of chapter 1 of such title is amended to read as follows:

''107. Certain service deemed to be active service: service in organized military forces of the Philippines and in the Philippine Scouts.''.

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—No benefits shall accrue to any person for any period before the effective date of this Act by reason of the amendments made by this Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 94—RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SINKING OF THE U.S.S. ''THRESHER'' (SSN 593)

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 94

Whereas U.S.S. *Thresher* was first launched at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard on July 9, 1960;

Whereas U.S.S. *Thresher* departed Portsmouth Naval Shipyard for her final voyage on April 9, 1963, with a crew of 16 officers, 96 sailors, and 17 civilians;

Whereas the mix of that crew reflects the unity of the naval submarine service, military and civilian, in the protection of the United States;

Whereas at approximately 7:47 a.m. on April 10, 1963, while in communication with the surface ship U.S.S. *Skylark*, and approximately 220 miles off the coast of New England, U.S.S. *Thresher* began her final descent;

Whereas U.S.S. *Thresher* was declared lost with all hands on April 10, 1963;

Whereas in response to the loss of U.S.S. *Thresher*, the United States Navy instituted new regulations to ensure the health of the submariners and the safety of the submarines of the United States;

Whereas those regulations led to the establishment of the Submarine Safety and Quality Assurance program (SUBSAFE), now 1 of the most comprehensive military safety programs in the world;

Whereas SUBSAFE has kept the submariners of the United States safe at sea ever since as the strongest, safest submarine force in history;

Whereas, since the establishment of SUBSAFE, no SUBSAFE-certified submarine has been lost at sea, which is a legacy owed to the brave individuals who perished aboard U.S.S. *Thresher*;

Whereas from the loss of U.S.S. *Thresher*, there arose in the institutions of higher education in the United States the ocean engineering curricula that enables the preeminence of the United States in submarine warfare; and

Whereas the crew of U.S.S. *Thresher* demonstrated the ''last full measure of devotion'' in service to the United States, and this devotion characterizes the sacrifices of all submariners, past and present: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 50th anniversary of the sinking of U.S.S. *Thresher*;

(2) remembers with profound sorrow the loss of U.S.S. *Thresher* and her gallant crew of sailors and civilians on April 10, 1963; and

(3) expresses its deepest gratitude to all submariners on ''eternal patrol'', who are forever bound together by dedicated and honorable service to the United States of America.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before Subcommittee on National Parks. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 23, 2013, at 2:30 p.m. in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on the following bills:

S. 59, to designate a Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial at the March Field Air Museum in Riverside, California;

S. 155, to designate a mountain in the State of Alaska as Denali;

S. 156, to allow for the harvest of gull eggs by the Huna Tlingit people within Glacier Bay National Park in the State of Alaska;

S. 219, to establish the Susquehanna Gateway National Heritage Area in the State of Pennsylvania, and for other purposes;

S. 225, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of alternatives for commemorating and interpreting the role of the Buffalo Soldiers in the early years of the National Parks, and for other purposes;

S. 228, to establish the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area, California;

S. 285, to designate the Valles Caldera National Preserve as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes;

S. 305, to authorize the acquisition of core battlefield land at Champion Hill, Port Gibson, and Raymond for addition to Vicksburg National Military Park;

S. 349, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of the Beaver, Chipuxet, Queen, Wood, and Pawcatuck Rivers in the States of Connecticut and Rhode Island for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes;

S. 371, to establish the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park, to dedicate the Park to John H. Chafee, and for other purposes;

S. 476, to amend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act to extend to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission;

S. 486, to authorize pedestrian and motorized vehicular access in Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area, and for other purposes;

S. 507, to establish the Manhattan Project National Historical Park in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Los Alamos, New Mexico, and Hanford, Washington, and for other purposes, and;

S. 615, to establish Coltsville National Historical Park in the State of Connecticut, and for other purposes.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510–6150, or by email to John_Assini@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact please contact David Brooks (202) 224–9863 or John Assini (202) 224–9313.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 23, 2013, at 10 a.m., in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on the following legislation:

S. 306, the Bureau of Reclamation Small Conduit Hydropower Development and Rural Jobs Act;

S. 545, the Hydropower Improvement Act of 2013 and H.R. 267, the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2013; and,

A bill to promote energy savings in residential and commercial buildings and industry, and for other purposes.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record may do so by sending it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510–6150, or by e-mail to lauren_goldschmidt@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Sara Tucker at (202) 224–6224, Dan Adamson at (202) 224–2871, or Lauren Goldschmidt at (202) 224–5488.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 9, 2013, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 9, 2013, at 2:15 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 9, 2013, at 10 a.m., in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 9, 2013, at 10 a.m., in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 9, 2013, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 9, 2013, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS, TECHNOLOGY, AND THE INTERNET

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate April 9, 2013, at 10:30 a.m. in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The committee will hold a hearing entitled, ''State of Rural Communications.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME AND TERRORISM

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate April 9, 2013, at 10:00 a.m., in room SD–226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Current Issues in Campaign Finance Law Enforcement.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that two interns from Senator HIRONO's office, Chelsea Rabago and Ryan Mandado, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOTICE: REGISTRATION OF MASS MAILINGS

The filing date for the 2013 first quarter Mass Mailing report is Thursday, April 25, 2013. If your office did no mass mailings during this period, please submit a form that states ''none.''

Mass mailing registrations, or negative reports, should be submitted to the Senate Office of Public Records, 232 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510–7116.

The Senate Office of Public Records will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the filing date to accept these filings. For further information, please contact the Senate Office of Public Records at (202) 224–0322.

180TH ANNIVERSARY OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 77 and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 77) expressing the sense of Congress relating to the commemoration of the 180th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Kingdom of Thailand.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 77) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 18, 2013, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SINKING OF U.S.S. THRESHER

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 94.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 94) recognizing the 50th anniversary of the sinking of U.S.S. Thresher (SSN 593).

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 94) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 680 AND S. 691

Mr. REID. Madam President, there are two bills at the desk and I ask for their first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the titles of the bills for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 680) to rescind amounts appropriated for fiscal year 2013 for the Department of Defense for the Medium Extended Air Defense System, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 691) to regulate large capacity ammunition feeding devices.

Mr. REID. I now ask for their second reading, but I object to my own request for both of these measures.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2013

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 10, 2013; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 649, the gun safety legislation; that the next hour be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the first half controlled by the Republicans and the second half controlled by the majority.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Madam President, this evening, a few minutes ago, cloture was filed on the gun safety legislation. Unless there is some agreement reached tomorrow, we will vote on this Thursday morning sometime.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, April 10, 2013, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

HARRY I. JOHNSON III, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING AUGUST 27, 2015, VICE TERENCE FRANCIS FLYNN, RESIGNED.

PHILIP ANDREW MISCIMARRA, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING DECEMBER 16, 2017, VICE BRIAN HAYES, TERM EXPIRED.

MARK GASTON PEARCE, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING AUGUST 27, 2018. (REAPPOINTMENT)

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. MARK O. SCHISSLER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. ROBERT P. OTTO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. SCOTT W. JANSSON

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

LT. GEN. DANIEL B. ALLYN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. JAMES L. TERRY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. PERRY L. WIGGINS

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) PAULA C. BROWN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) THOMAS E. BEEMAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) KELVIN N. DIXON
REAR ADM. (LH) BRIAN L. LAROCHE
REAR ADM. (LH) JOHN C. SADLER

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS COMMANDER, MARINE FORCES RESERVE, AND APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 5144:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. RICHARD P. MILLS

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

ERIC W. ADAMS
IMELDA UDUI ANTONIO
ALISON LEE BEACH
REAGAN HOWARD BEATON
BENJAMIN A. BELILES
CHARLES M. BENNETT
ADAM DANIEL BENTZ
JERROLD ROBERT BLACK
YVONNE SUZETTE BRAKEL
WESLEY ALLEN BRAUN
GARRETT JONATHAN BRUENING
MATTHEW RICHARD BUSH
NICHOLAS DANIEL CARTER
CANDICE DEE CLEERE
PATRICK O. COLAW
JEFFREY ALAN COLEMAN
JASON SPIRO DESON
DOUGLAS EVANS DEVORE II
REBECCA E. DICKINSON
TERENCE S. DOUGHERTY
JANET CHRISTINE EBERLE
COLIN P. EICHENBERGER
THOMAS AARON FINLEY
ERIC CHRISTOPHER FRANCUM
SATURA MCPHERSON GABRIEL
GREGORY JAMES GARDNER
VELMA CHERI GAY
JEREMY DAVID GEHMAN
KURT T. GERLACH
PAUL M. GESL
BRIAN KEITH HARRIS
RYAN V. HASLAM
JEFFREY TODD HAWKINS
AARON L. JACKSON
JAY C. JACKSON
CHRISTOPHER DALE JAMES
MATTHEW SCOTT JAMES
SARA CATHERINE JOBE
BRENT NELSON JONES
KAREN MICHELLE JORDAN
MATTHEW G. KARAS
SHAD RAYMOND KIDD
MARCUS E. KIMSEY
ISRAEL DAVID KING
ADAM JOSEF KOUDELKA
JANE MARIE MALE
VICKI L. MARCUS
BENJAMIN FARLEY MARTIN
SHANE ALLEN MCCAMMON
IAN SHANNON MCCREA
KEITH RICHARD MEISTER
SAMUEL THOMAS MILLER
JOHN HERRING MONTGOMERY
ANDREW REMY NORTON
FREDERICK M. OMARA
MARK RUSSELL ONEILL
WINDEL LEON PATTERSON III
MARY ELLEN PAYNE
THOMAS BRIAN PAYNE
DAVID M. REDMOND, JR.
AARON PAUL ROBERTS
ALEX JAY ROSE
MARK F. ROSENOW
ELVIS SANTIAGO
WENDI MARIE SAZAMA
TODD MICHAEL SWENSEN
JUSTIN J. SWICK
WILLIAM DUNCAN TORONTO
SUSAN JUSTYNA TREPCZYNSKI
KHELA M. VON LINSOWE
JORDAN NEIL WALKER
TIMOTHY R. WARD
JOHN WAYNE WELCH, JR.
CONSTANCE STANSELL WILKES
CHRISTOPHER M. WU
CORTNEY LYNN ZUERCHER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

WENDY J. BEAL
STEPHANIE J. BUFFETT
TONIA J. DAWSON
VIVIAN P. DENNIS
KELLY M. DUFFEK
GRETCHEN J. ENGLAND
RAMONA L. FIELDS
VIRGINIA M. JOHNSON
MARGRET M. JONES
MARLENE M. KERCHENSKI
BRENDA J. KOIRO
REBECCA L. LEHR
KATHERINE M. LOWRY
IRIS A. REEDOM
WILLIAM A. REYNOLDS
MICHAEL H. ROSS
ELIZABETH C. SHAW
CHERRI L. SHIREMAN
PAIRIN SKAGGS
BRIAN G. TODD
BRENDA I. WATERS
TAMBRA L. YATES

To be lieutenant colonel

RICHARD C. ALES
KATHERINE J. ALGUIRE
ANDREW W. AYCOCK
GEORGE A. BARAJAZ
KERRY A. BARSHINGER
COLBY J. BENEDICT
MARY J. BERNHEIM
JACQUELINE E. BERRY
KIMBERLY BOSWELL YARBROUGH
KATHLEEN M. BRINKER
JEFFREY C. BURGESS
DEBORAH J. COCHRAN
KEVIN J. CREEDON
JOHN CURRY, JR.
MARK A. DAMMEN
RENEE S. DAYE
ROSHELL L. DEAN
DOUGLAS E. DILLON
BETH R. DION
TERRI A. FISHER
RAUL G. FLORES
DENISE A. FOGH
INGRID D. FORD
JANE M. FREE
NICHOLE A. FRITEL
DALIA GARCIA
KRISTINE M. HACKETT
RACHELLE J. HARTZE
KAREN T. HINES
JUDITH P. HOUK
SHELLEY L. JAY
ROBERT W. KING
AMY S. KINNON
BRIAN C. KRAFT
PETER N. KULIS
COLLIS H. LANG
MARGARET A. LEAVITT
STEVEN W. LEHR
LAURA C. LIEN
TONEKA B. MACHADO
BEVERLY ADAMS MAROON
DEBORAH K. MCCALL
REBECCA A. MCCULLERS
LANCE J. P. MCGINNIS
RICHARD M. MERRILL
JOHN J. MODRA, JR.
MICHELLE L. MONTGOMERY
MARY A. PARKER
AMY L. ROBERSON
REBECCA L. ROSA
GARY D. RUESCH
KIMBERLEE M. RUSSELL
ELIS M. SALAMONE
STEPHEN E. SAPIERA
PAUL DAVID SCHROTH
JON A. SINCLAIR
KRISANDRA K. SMITH
ROBERT D. SMITH
BONNIE E. STEVENSON
BETH N. SUMNER
MARILYN E. THOMAS
ANDREA S. TROUT
BEATRICE TURLINGTONWYNN
STACEY A. VANDYKE

KIRSTEN M. VERKAMP
THERESA A. VERNOSKI
GARY A. WELLS II
CONNIE L. WINIK
KIMBERLY A. WOOLLEY

To be major

ANN M. ADAMS
JIM B. APPEL
ELENA E. ARUSHANYAN
ROBERT J. AUSTIN III
VICKI R. AUTMON
DONNA A. BAKER
STACEY L. BALICKI
ERICA I. BANKS
CHERYL L. BARNES
CLARA A. BATISTE
BECKY M. BAUTCH
KATHY A. BOOTHE
TONI L. BOUDREAU
DAVID F. BRADLEY, JR.
REBECCA G. BUSH
JOYCE A. BUSSARD
JACQUELINE A. CAASI
JULIO A. CANO
STEPHANIE D. CARRILLO
JASON D. CARTER
LORI D. CARVER
BRIAN S. CORTELLESSA
JENNIFER N. COWIE
BRANDY L. DALES
SHARON M. DAY
KARLA M. DENNARD
TANYA IVONNE DIAZ
CLEMENTINE DUKE
JOEL E. ELLIOTT
KIMBERLY R. EVANS
ANGELA FOSUBROOKMAN
MARY M. GAINES
CUBBY L. GARDNER
RYAN T. GILKEY
LISA E. GONZALES
ERIKA L. HARRINGTON
IESIAH M. HARRIS
MARK J. HAYDELL
ANDREW D. HOEFFLER
ELIZABETH ANNE L. HOETTELS
WENDI G. HOLMES
CHRISTINA N. HOWLETT
SHANTI P. JONES
APRIL D. KELLY
ADRIANNE M. KETELSEN
TROY T. KINION
VICKIE R. KNIGHT
MARIANA BUNTICHAI LACUZONG
RACHEL J. A. LEDESMA
AMBER R. LEONE
VICTORIA M. LYNCH
SILKE A. MAHAN
EDWIN MALDONADO
DARLA J. MAYO
REBECCA L. MEADOWSCLARK
SHELLEY L. METCALF
SAMUEL D. MILLAR
LISA R. MURCHISON
CURTIS S. MURRAY
ELIZABETH A. NORRIS
ALISA K. PAIGE
ANGELA P. PETTIS
JOANN M. POOLE
NICOLE L. PORTER
JODI A. POTTERTON
CRAIG PRYOR
ANNMARIE PUTTBRESE
ERIC K. RAUSCH
TINA L. RAVENKINGSON
LORRAINE RIVERAEMMANUELL
NIKKI D. ROBINSON
STEPHEN C. SAUNDERS
KEITH A. SCHULTZ
BRIAN L. SCOTT
TERESA R. SELLERS
REBECCA R. SHABEL
DOUGLAS M. SHAVER
STEVEN J. SHEA
ROBERT J. SHERMAN, JR.
ANDRIA D. SHIVERS
BRIAN C. SMITH
JENNIFER F. SMITH
KEITH A. SMITH
JENNIFER L. SOPER
DONALD N. SPADUZZI
SONNIE L. STEVENS
LINDA A. TOMASZEWSKI
NIKKI M. TUCKER
ERIK S. VACARELLI
WILLIAM C. VAN BEVEREN
BRYCE J. VANDERZWAAG
LORI D. WALKER
COURTNEY E. WALLACE
GREGORY M. WIERZBICKI
CARLA ANN WIESE
KELLY P. WILHITE
KAREN L. WILLIAMS
PATRICIA E. WILLIAMS
NICOLE M. WILSON
MARSHALL S. WITT
JARED K. YOUNG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be major

LOU ROSE MALAMUG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be major

KELLY A. HALLIGAN

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SPECIALIST CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be major

ANDREW W. BEACH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR ARMY AS A CHAPLAIN UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be major

DONALD V. WOOD

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

JOHN P. NEWTON, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

DANIEL W. TESTA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

RICHARD J. WITT

IN THE COAST GUARD

PURSUANT TO SECTION 211(A)(2), TITLE 14, U.S. CODE, THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD:

To be lieutenant commander

LORING A. SMALL

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate April 9, 2013:

THE JUDICIARY

PATTY SHWARTZ, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 25) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2014 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2015 through 2023:

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the Democratic budget alternative offered by Ranking Member VAN HOLLEN, and I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be heard on this important issue. Today I am supporting the Van Hollen Budget and opposing the budget blueprint laid out by Budget Committee Chairman RYAN. The Van Hollen budget acknowledges the concerns that have been expressed to us loudly and clearly by constituents since sequestration took effect March 1st; the Ryan budget exacerbates the problems caused by across-the-board cuts and attempts to recycle ideas that the American people have repeatedly rejected.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, half of our current budget deficit is attributable to high unemployment and lagging economic growth. The approach taken by Chairman RYAN's budget would make the problem worse by cutting investments in education, research, and infrastructure. Implementing this kind of harmful austerity approach will handicap our fledgling economic recovery. The budget I voted for makes strategic cuts, closes tax loopholes, and lays a foundation for economic growth going forward. And perhaps most importantly, the Van Hollen budget ends the damaging sequester and puts our country on a sustainable fiscal path without ending the guarantee of Medicare.

In the months preceding our self-imposed March 1st deadline, sequestration was a central theme in almost every conversation I had with constituents. I spoke with researchers at universities across Oregon who expressed concern about the impact cuts would have on scientific advancement, business leaders who told me they had not hired new workers because of the uncertainty caused by sequestration, and teachers who worried about cuts to vital special education programs. Oregonians, like most Americans, do not support this detrimental approach to policymaking.

In the weeks following the implementation of the sequester, my offices in Oregon and here in Washington, DC continue to hear numerous additional stories of the hardships brought about by budget uncertainty. For those who rightly raise concern, the budget proposed by Chairman RYAN is another example of DC putting politics over solutions. My constituents want fiscal responsibility from their elected officials; not a budget balanced on the back of the working class and the elderly.

Congress has reduced projected deficits by about $2.7 trillion since August 2010 by cutting discretionary spending, increasing tax rates for families with taxable income over $450,000 a year, and eliminating related debt servicing. The combination of deficit reduction included in Ranking Member VAN HOLLEN's budget and the total deficit reduction achieved to date meets the $4 trillion goal set forth by the bipartisan Simpson-Bowles Commission. Further, the Van Hollen alternative I am supporting today achieves this deficit reduction without implementing the Ryan budget's Medicare voucher plan, while also preserving the Affordable Care Act reforms that currently provide seniors with reduced prescription drug costs and free preventive health care.

Our constituents sent us here to solve the problems created by our predecessors, not to make them worse. The Van Hollen budget alternative puts us on the road to economic recovery while preserving the social safety net. For this reason I am proud to support it.

TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUT BRYON KOSTER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bryon Koster of Van Meter, Iowa for achieving the rank of an Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained over the past century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. For his project, Bryon designed and constructed a prayer labyrinth at the St. Boniface Church in Waukee, Iowa. The work ethic Bryon has shown in his Eagle Project and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Bryon and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him on obtaining the Eagle Scout ranking, and I wish him continued success in his future education and career.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE RIVERS COUNCIL

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the New Hampshire Rivers Council as it celebrates its 20th Anniversary. The Rivers Council grew out of the New Hampshire Rivers Campaign, a group of concerned citizens and conservation organizations that united in 1985 to create a voice for New Hampshire rivers. Thanks to the Campaign and the Council, the Rivers Program is celebrating its 20th anniversary with 1000 miles of rivers designated into the state program since 1988. Recognizing the need for a permanent and active voice for river protection in the state, the participants in the campaign formed the New Hampshire Rivers Council.

Over the last 20 years, the New Hampshire Rivers Council has made many significant contributions to river and watershed conservation in the Granite State. For example, the Rivers Council worked with grassroots organizations to implement minimum water levels on protected rivers, worked with the Governor's Commission on Land and Community Heritage to recommend a new, permanent and adequately funded program for land conservation, and joined other New Hampshire organizations to negotiate a creative license agreement for the 15-Mile Falls Dam on the Connecticut River that provides better protection to the river ecosystem and preserved nearly 12,000 acres of land on the river and surrounding the Connecticut Lakes.

The history and character of New Hampshire is largely defined by its rivers and the directors and growing membership of the Rivers Council continue to make significant contributions to river and watershed conservation and restoration, ensuring New Hampshire's natural resources will be enjoyed for generations to come.

Today, the New Hampshire Rivers Council is the only statewide organization dedicated to the protection and conservation of New Hampshire's river resources and whose leadership was instrumental in the establishment of the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program. I ask the House of Representatives to join me to acknowledge and thank those individuals who had the vision to create the Rivers Campaign nearly thirty years ago and to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the New Hampshire Rivers Council today.

RECOGNIZING THE WHITE OAK ROUGHNECKS FOR WINNING THE TEXAS CLASS 2A BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is with enormous pride that I recognize and congratulate the White Oak Roughnecks on an outstanding basketball season in which they captured the Texas State Class 2A Basketball Championship for the second year in a row.

The entire east Texas community of White Oak and all Roughneck fans have a vast storehouse of exciting memories as a result of the Roughnecks' dominating two year stretch of championship basketball. The team went undefeated in district and compiled an impressive 74–2 record over the past two seasons. Going into the championship game with an impressive 37–1 record this year as they also had in 2012, there was no doubt the White Oak Roughnecks were a powerful force in Texas and a basketball team with which to be reckoned.

The all important game of 2013 saw White Oak ultimately defeat the Brock Eagles just as they had in 2012 to claim the Class 2A State crown for the second straight year. White Oak led most of the game, but Brock rallied in the second half turning up the heat and bringing the fans to their feet in a heart stopping final ten seconds through which White Oak emerged the victor, 56–54.

Clearly a team does not get to the ultimate and lofty plateau of excellence without a coaching staff that knows its players. There is no doubt that each of the individual players, coaches, and supporting personnel involved with the success of the Roughnecks will benefit from having participated and witnessed the level of success that is achieved when each individual gives all they have while working together with such dedication and passion.

This tribute goes out to all of the athletic staff including Superintendent Mike Gilbert, Athletic Director Gerry Stanford, High School Principal Dan Noll, and Coaches Ron Boyett, Billy Terry and Brett Cloud.

The team members achieving this memorable accomplishment included Slade Sutton, Skylar Sutton, Dylan Gale, Kris Anderson, Josh Benson, Cass Carr, Tanner Sharp, Hayden Nichols, Gabe Michael, and Levi Yancy.

No athletic team ever becomes a champion without unwavering support, and that is exactly what the Roughnecks experienced from the entire community of White Oak, Texas. That is why congratulations go to all who contributed in any way to the success of the Roughnecks during this championship season.

May God continue to bless all of their efforts both in school and as they one day finish high school and use that same drive and determination to make this country even stronger. Congratulations to the State Basketball Champions, the White Oak Roughnecks, as their legacy is now recorded in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that will endure as long as there is a United States of America.

IN RECOGNITION OF RITA WILLIAMS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Rita Williams, an exceptional journalist whose image and voice have been beamed into Bay Area living rooms for four decades. She is retiring from KTVU after 35 years at the station.

Rita is a top-notch reporter and superb story teller. I know from first-hand experience that she is fair, professional and that she won't give any elected official a pass. Rita has earned the adoration and admiration from her colleagues, her interviewees and her viewers.

But don't just take my word for it; this is what other people are saying: Greg Suhr, the San Francisco Police Chief says, "If there was a "how to" book on how to be the most gracious fair objective "cool under fire" reporter in the world, Rita Williams' picture would be on the cover." Ed Chapuis, her news director for over 10 years says, "Her stories were always the hardest for her editors to edit, because each word was placed with such purpose and precision." Bill Drummond, journalist and husband of the late Faith Fancher, Rita's longtime friend and colleague, says, "With Rita the reporting came first, and because of that commitment, her stories transcended the usual limitations of the television news medium."

Rita grew up in Lubbock, Texas. She was the first in her family to earn a college degree. After she graduated from Texas Tech University with a B.A. in journalism, she worked as the press secretary for the late Texas Congressman George Mahon, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. She then earned her Master's degree in political science/international affairs from George Washington University. Rita worked as a news reporter at KSAT–TV in Texas from 1975–1978 and then moved to California. She was a reporter for KQED–TV before she joined KTVU in 1980. From 1985–86, she was also a Knight Fellow and taught broadcast news writing at Stanford.

When Rita entered the broadcast world, it was dominated by men. Surviving and even thriving in this testosterone-driven environment was no small accomplishment, but Rita did it with grace and tenacity. She calls herself the "first broadcast broad." She opened KTVU's San Francisco bureau in the Hall of Justice.

Rita has reported thousands of social, economic and political stories, treating each one as the most important story at the time. Her work has earned her several Emmies, Tellies, a PASS award from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, a public service award from the Society of Professional Journalists and many other awards. She was one of the lead investigative reporters in the Oakland BART shooting stories that contributed to a prestigious Peabody award and Edward R. Murrow award to KTVU.

While Rita takes utmost pride in her profession and work, she views her family as her biggest accomplishment. Rita and her husband of 37 years, Lindsey, are the proud parents of Brad who is now a law student in San Francisco. Brad and my children grew up around the same time, so Rita and I often compared notes and shared school referral options.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor one of the finest journalists and human beings I know. On her last day on the air at KTVU, Rita humbly thanked her viewers and said, "You have entrusted me with one of the biggest responsibilities anybody could ever have, to be a reporter and to be your eyes and ears.

I hope that I have used that trust well and that you have learned something in return." The answer to that hope is a resounding yes!

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF TOM FILLIPPO

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues, Congressman PAT MEEHAN and Congressman JOE PITTS, I rise today to congratulate Tom Fillippo of Malvern, Pennsylvania on receiving the Chester County Economic Development Council's Hall of Fame Award for his outstanding accomplishments within the Chester County business community and the entire area community. The litany of his accomplishments and contributions is amazing.

In addition to his role as President and Chief Executive Officer of Devault Foods, Tom served as Chairman of the Board of the Chester County Chamber of Business and Industry from 2002 to 2006. Tom also serves as Chairman of the West Chester University's Council of Trustees, a Board Member of the West Chester University Foundation and Sturzebecker Foundation, and a Board Member of the Paoli Hospital Foundation. Additionally, he serves on the Central and Western Chester County Industrial Development Authority and the Chester County Industrial Development Board of Directors.

Tom is a member of the West Chester University Football Hall of Fame and has received numerous awards for his service to the business community and community at large including the Chester County Boy Scouts' Community Service Award, the Great Valley Chamber's Business Leader of the Year Award, the West Chester University Distinguished Alumni Award, the American Meat Institute's Community Service Award, and the Order of the Purple Heart's Outstanding Citizen Award.

Mr. Speaker, in light of his outstanding professional accomplishments and exemplary record of service to the Chester County community, we ask that our colleagues join us today in recognizing Tom Fillippo of Malvern, Pennsylvania on receiving the Chester County Economic Development Council's Hall of Fame Award and, on behalf of our constituents, thank him for his tireless and unceasing efforts to make the County a wonderful place to raise a family and succeed in business.

DON MACDONALD TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Don MacDonald of Colorado. Don

MacDonald recently retired as Manager of Energy Service from Molson Coors after a 42 year long career. After serving in Vietnam, Mr. MacDonald and his wife settled in Colorado in 1970, where he began his career with Coors in the Purchasing Department.

Mr. MacDonald acquired his undergraduate degree from Cornell College in Eastern Iowa, where he studied geology. This degree gave him the expertise to support Coors' vertical integration efforts in energy exploration and production. Mr. MacDonald worked tirelessly for several decades on the energy side of Coors business and played a major role in the company's involvement with oil and gas operations, coal exploration and production and the promotion of energy efficiency.

Most recently, Mr. MacDonald spearheaded the reclamation of one of Coors' coal properties. As he moves into retirement, Mr. MacDonald keeps busy with his involvement in the Evergreen Rodeo and his passion for the theater arts.

Although, Mr. MacDonald's professional accomplishments alone are memorable, it is his personality and friendship that will be missed most by his colleagues. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. MacDonald for all the incredible work he did for Molson Coors of Colorado.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–EAU CLAIRE MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM NCAA DIVISION III NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire men's hockey team, the Blugolds, on winning the NCAA Division III National Championship. Their 5–3 victory over Oswego State on March 16, 2013 was an exceptional display of teamwork.

In winning the team's first National Championship, the Blugolds capped off their best season in program history. Their 14–3–1 record in conference play not only placed them at the top of the standings for the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association Conference, but it also earned them their first conference championship. The Blugolds also finished the season with an overall record of 24–5–2, the best in school history. Their success during the season earned them a spot in the NCAA Championship Tournament for the second time in program history.

The success of the UW–Eau Claire Blugolds did not go unnoticed. Senior forward and captain, Jordan Singer, was named to the All-NCHA team. Head coach Matt Loen received the Edward Jeremiah Award, honoring him as the NCAA Division III coach of the year. Additionally, at the conclusion of the NCAA Division III Tournament, Kurt Weston, Jordan Singer, Drew Darwitz, and Brandon Stephenson were named to the all-tournament team, with Singer named as the Most Outstanding Player of the tournament.

The Blugolds rode the momentum of their season's success by winning their first three games of the tournament, earning an opportunity to compete in the National Championship game. Nonetheless, heading into the championship off an incredible season, the team found themselves down by two goals in the first period. The Blugolds banded together and rose to the challenge with four unanswered goals.

They tied the game by the end of the first period, with one goal from Jordan Singer during a power-play, and another goal from Andrew Wilcox with less than a minute remaining in the first period. Then, with six minutes remaining in the second period, Daniel Olszewski gave UW–Eau Claire their first lead of the game. Devin Mantha's goal in the final period increased UW–Eau Claire's lead, and although Oswego scored a goal with ten minutes left in the game, Kurt Weston's final goal clinched the title for the Blugolds. Brandon Stephenson, the goalie of the Blugolds, finished the game with 27 saves. When the final buzzer rang through Herb Brooks Arena in Lake Placid, New York, the Blugolds won their first National Championship by defeating Oswego State 5–3.

This momentous win at the end of a very successful season exemplifies the dedication, teamwork, and sportsmanship of each and every member of the UW–Eau Claire men's hockey team. Furthermore, this victory is a source of great pride for the entire Eau Claire community. Once again, I want to congratulate the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire men's hockey team on their incredible season and hard-earned title as NCAA Division III National Champions.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT ''BOB'' C. REILING

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute a remarkable Hoosier, Robert ''Bob'' C. Reiling, whom retired as Tippecanoe Election Board Chairman after 28 years of service. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for his leadership and service to his county and the State of Indiana.

Mr. Reiling began his service to the voters of Tippecanoe County in 1984. Almost two decades later, I began working with him and the rest of the Tippecanoe County Election Board to help implement the Help America Vote Act. Under his leadership, the county actually began replacing outdated voting systems with new technologies prior to the federal and state mandate to do so. Throughout the past decade, local and state officials with both leading worked in concert to improve election administration and the election experience for voters.

I am most proud of the partnership and friendship we grew as Tippecanoe County became one of three pilot counties to implement the Vote Centers model that is now almost common in Indiana. By introducing this model to the voters of Tippecanoe County, turnout increased, voting wait times decreased, and fewer voters were disenfranchised because there is no wrong place to vote. Tippecanoe County, under the leadership of Bob and the county election board, helped develop a working model that so many other Indiana counties are now emulating.

Mr. Reiling is a family man and remains a good friend even though I am no longer Indiana's Secretary of State. I am honored to have worked with him over the years, and look forward to our continued friendship. While no longer serving on the county election board, I know he will continue to be a leader and serve the people of Tippecanoe County in other ways.

This is Mr. Robert Reiling: a man truly committed to his family, his community, and his country. I value his friendship, counsel, and most of all, his good example. Thank you for your many years of service, Mr. Reiling.

IN RECOGNITION OF FIRE CHIEF DON DORNELL

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Fire Chief Don Dornell, who is retiring after nearly four decades of service to the people of Burlingame and San Mateo County. His dedication to public service is a credit to his community and to his character as a leader.

Don Dornell is a Peninsula native, born in San Francisco in 1951 and raised in Millbrae as the second of five children, and one of a pair of twins. He attended Capuchino High School in San Bruno, then earned his associate degree in Political Science at the College of San Mateo in 1971.

It was then that Chief Dornell's career in public service began. He served in the Army National Guard for six years, until 1977. During that time, Chief Dornell trained as a plumber, and he began working for the San Carlos Parks Department. But from his first day, he knew that the Parks Department was not for him—his real goal was serving as a firefighter.

After a brief stint in Piedmont, Chief Dornell was hired as a firefighter for the City of Burlingame in March 1977, a community he has served diligently ever since. He has risen swiftly through the ranks, earning a promotion to Fire Captain in 1985, and serving as the B-Shift Training Officer from 1985 to 1997 and co-director of the San Mateo County Fire Recruit Academy from 1996 to 1997. In January 1997, he became Assistant Chief, and he took over responsibility for training and overseeing line personnel.

More recently, Chief Dornell has worked tirelessly to ensure successful transitions as local agencies consolidate fire protection to strengthen the cohesiveness of service and promote administrative efficiency. When the City of Burlingame and the Town of Hillsborough merged fire services in 2004, becoming the Central County Fire Department, he became the first Deputy Fire Chief of the new agency. This is a role he has embraced, as he became the agency's second Fire Chief in December 2006. Last year he took over responsibility for fire departments in Millbrae and San Bruno as well.

Chief Dornell's service to the community has taken other forms as well. He is a longstanding Fire Technology Instructor at College of San Mateo, administrator of the San Mateo County Fire Recruit Academy from 1997 to 2006, and a Member of the San Mateo County

Fire Chiefs Association, where he serves as liaison to a number of adjunct groups. Chief Dornell is also the first inaugural chairman of the Burlingame Adopt-a-Unit program, which since 2004 has supported hundreds of U.S. soldiers through their deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

In his retirement, Chief Dornell will be relocating to Calaveras County to enjoy hiking and outdoors activities in the Central Sierra, to continue work on the home he has been rebuilding, and to spend some time travelling around the country with his wife Debra. He will also continue his work as a volunteer for the Calaveras County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating Fire Chief Don Dornell on a remarkable career. His contributions to our community are an example of the best in public service, and his leadership and dedication will be missed. We wish him the best in his retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF RONALD LABAR FOR 40 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE WITH THE BANGOR, PENNSYLVANIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank Ronald Labar, who was recognized on Saturday, April 6, 2013 by his fellow firefighters for 40 years of courageous service and leadership with the Second Ward Fire Company of the Fire Department of Bangor, Pennsylvania.

As part of his four decades with the Second Ward, Mr. Labar served as the Captain of the company. Ronald was also Assistant Chief for 12 years, and then Chief of the fire department. His dedication to the job always created a lasting impression on both his colleagues and the members of the public who relied on his skills.

Firefighters must remain physically and mentally fit for the job and possess the highest levels of honesty and dependability. For administrators in this field, there is also a great need to be a coordinator, budgeter, educator, reviewer, communicator, engineer and counselor—and to be good at all of these roles. Over the last few decades, firefighting has changed, and some practices once considered safe have been replaced by new methods and technologies. Public officers like Ronald Labar, who serve through many such changes, are needed to bring cohesion to our critical civic institutions.

I thank Ronald for his efforts over 40 years on behalf of my constituents, and I salute his distinguished service to his community.

RECOGNIZING DR. ANITA B. ENRIQUEZ ON RECEIVING THE 2013 U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S WOMEN IN BUSINESS CHAMPION AWARD FOR GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Dr. Anita Borja Enriquez on being awarded the 2013 U.S. Small Business Administration's Women in Business Champion Award for Guam. Dr. Anita Borja Enriquez is Dean of the School of Business and Public Administration at the University of Guam.

Dr. Enriquez periodically serves as Acting Senior Vice President, Academic and Student Affairs at the University of Guam. In addition to this role, she is the Executive Director of the Pacific Center for Economic Initiatives and the principal owner of Strategic Organizational Solutions, a project consulting company, which provides research and strategic planning facilitation.

Dr. Enriquez grew up in a large and modest family in the southern village of Agat. She helped support her family by assisting at her mother's small grocery store. Early in her life, she gained independence and worked hard to achieve success. At the young age of 19, Dr. Enriquez established her own bookkeeping business, providing services to businesses on Guam; this was the first business she would establish on her own.

A strong proponent of economic development, Dr. Enriquez established the UOG Pacific Center for Economic Initiatives in 2006, and has secured over $1 million in technical assistance grants from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration. These funds helped to establish the Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center and the new Guam Veterans Business Outreach Center. In addition, funds from the Department of the Interior Office of Insular Affairs helped to support a community and economic development forum in 2009 and to launch the "Buy Local Guam" marketing educational campaign in 2011.

Dr. Enriquez is also an active and passionate member in our island community. She believes that education is the key to sustainable economic success for Guam. She oversees the Women in Business program at the Guam SBDC, mentors the SIGMA Society Soroptimist college club that focuses on "best for women" and counsels up-and-coming female entrepreneurs. She is also a member of the International Economic Development Council, the California Association for Local Economic Development, the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce, the Guam Procurement Advisory Council, the Career and Technical Education Task Force Committee, and the Guampedia Board of Directors. She previously served as an appointed member of the Guam Education Board, is a founding member of the Guam Museum Foundation Board, and member of the Guam Chamber of Commerce Small Business Focus and Development Committee, Rotary Club of Tumon Bay Board of Directors (RI District 2750), the Economic Development Subcommittee of the Guam Civilian and Military Task Force, and the Junior Achievement Board of Directors. She was also founding Vice President of the Guam Marketing Association in 1997.

In 2011, Dr. Enriquez won the "2011 GCC Alumna of the Year Award," and the Academy of Economics and Economic Education "Distinguished Research Award" for her co-authored work on "The Making of the Pacific Tiger: Lessons from the Celtic Tiger." In 2012, she was awarded the "UOG Administrator of the Year Award" and "UOG Unit of the Year Award."

Ms. Enriquez is married to Noel Enriquez and she has one daughter, Vanessa and two stepsons, Nathan and Nicolas. She earned a B.S. in Management from University of Maryland, a certificate from the Institute for Management and Leadership in Education at Harvard Graduate School of Education, an M.B.A. from the University of Guam, and a Doctor of Business Administration degree in International Business and Marketing from Alliant International University.

I congratulate Dr. Anita Borja Enriquez on receiving the 2013 U.S. Small Business Administration's Women in Business Champion Award for Guam. I join the people of Guam in commending her for her award and thanking her for her many contributions to our island community.

RECOGNIZING NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to congratulate the city of Naperville, Illinois on its "Sunny Award" for local government transparency. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis once said, "Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants," and I believe this statement applies to all forms of government.

The "Sunny Award," awarded by the Sunshine Review, honors the most transparent government websites in the nation. The organization found that the Naperville website contained comprehensive information on meetings, elected and administrative officials, audits, lobbying, public records, contracts, taxes, and the budget.

This honor was received by only 247 of the 7,000 government websites that were ranked during "Sunshine Week," a period of national recognition among civic organizations and the media for achievements in open government. The Naperville government earned an A+ rating.

I would also like to acknowledge the city's continued efforts to establish transparency. A portion of their website is now dedicated solely to updating citizens about how their tax dollars are being spent.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the City of Naperville, not only on this honor, but also on its ongoing effort to govern transparently and provide its constituents with unfettered access to information.

HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE MID-MAINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipients of the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce's Annual Awards Dinner.

Each year, the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce recognizes local businesses, business leaders, community service projects and individuals who promote and advance a vital and healthy business environment. These individuals and businesses are committed to strengthening opportunity and increasing prosperity in Maine.

This year's award recipients include: Megan Williams, recipient of the Rising Star Award; Bert Languet, recipient of the Outstanding Professional Award; Michelle LePage, recipient of the Customer Service Stardom Award; the Waterville Opera House, recipient of the Community Service Project of the Year Award; Peter Schutte, recipient of the Business Person of the Year Award; Delta Ambulance, recipient of the Business of the Year Award; Shawn Michaud, recipient of the Elias A. Joseph Award; and Scott Bullock, recipient of the Distinguished Community Service Award.

These recipients are among the best that Maine has to offer. Through their leadership and incredible commitment to their communities and the region, Maine is a better place in which to live and do business.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce and these individuals and businesses on their outstanding service and achievement.

RECOGNIZING MR. MICHAEL P. DOUGLASS FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to commemorate and acknowledge a long-time curator from western Wisconsin, Mr. Michael P. Douglass. Michael is a knowledgeable, hard working man from Grant County who is retiring after 30 years of service to the Wisconsin Historical Society as site director at the Villa Louis historic site in Prairie du Chien.

I'm very proud of the extraordinary dedication and positive contributions that Michael has made during his time at Villa Louis—a National Historic Landmark that was the estate of the prominent H. Louis Dousman family in the 19th century. Thanks to the stewardship of Michael, since his very first day at the site on August 4, 1983, the Villa Louis mansion has been restored and renovated to what it once was, making it one of the most well-tended historic sites in Wisconsin. Michael discovered distant Dousman relations and brought back many of the mansion's original furnishings; throughout this process, he helped to preserve and share accurate accounts of Wisconsin's history.

The Wisconsin Historical Society and people of Wisconsin have greatly benefited from his extensive knowledge of the Dousman family and dedication to Villa Louis. Michael excelled in the mission of the Society—to preserve and share stories of Wisconsin history. Good narratives bring past events back to life, and Michael has undoubtedly and successfully championed these efforts in the expansion and enhancement of the collections of Villa Louis. I commend Michael Douglass for his extraordinary efforts in bringing history to life.

Mr. Michael P. Douglass's hard work and 30 years of dedicated service to the people of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Historical Society, and Villa Louis is truly deserving of recognition. It is with great pride that I rise today and congratulate Michael on a job well done, and I wish him all the best in his retirement.

HONORING THE DEDICATION OF THE FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rev. Roderick McClanahan, and the dedication of the First Missionary Baptist Church's newest house of worship. For over 20 years the Reverend has served as Pastor of the First Missionary Baptist Church, and has lead this congregation in the Building project which resulted in this church.

Rev. McClanahan was born in Louisiana where he received a calling from God at a young age, preaching his first sermon on September 4, 1984, and eventually becoming ordained at the New Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of Rev. Willie Minor, on September 21, 1985. He was brought to Maryland shortly thereafter, and has officially served as pastor of the First Missionary Baptist Church since March of 1990.

The First Missionary Baptist Church has a rich history in Maryland. The church was started as a Prayer Band in October of 1945 by Martha Hickenbotom, as a way of giving the African Americans of Lexington Park a place of worship. Service was initially held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Colson, but as the congregation grew, so did their need for space. For a brief time the Prayer Band made their home in the then USO Building, until on April 19, 1947, at the suggestion of Brother Ivory Moore, then the prayer leader for the Prayer Band, they purchased the first acre of land the church calls home today. Since then, through segregation and beyond, the church has continued to grow and faithfully serve the African American community of Southern Maryland.

It is truly my honor to pay tribute today to Rev. Roderick McClanahan, and the First Missionary Baptist Church, a shining beacon for all of Southern Maryland.

IN RECOGNITION OF MERLIN REPSHER FOR 50 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE WITH THE BANGOR, PENNSYLVANIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank Merlin Repsher, who was recognized on Saturday, April 6, 2013 by his fellow firefighters for 50 years of brave service and leadership with Rescue Fire Company No. 1 of the Fire Department of Bangor, Pennsylvania.

Within those five decades, Mr. Repsher served as the chief engineer of the company. He also served as Fire Chief for five years. Merlin additionally always served as a mentor and trainer to new recruits, passing on his extensive knowledge to the next generation of firefighters. In that capacity, he worked as a teacher in the Northampton County Fire School.

Firefighters are often known for their dramatic acts of courage and quick-thinking in the field, but I understand that what a small community sometimes needs most is dogged dedication to the basic public-serving roles, including the civic administrative roles, on which everyone in town depends. Being there for one's neighbors—and always being there—is a quality to which we should all aspire. Fifty years in a demanding position, assisting those in need week in and week out, is quite an impressive record.

I ask everyone in Bangor and northern Northampton County to join me in congratulating Merlin Repsher for his decorated service to his community.

TRIBUTE HONORING GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 192nd anniversary of Greece's independence, which we celebrated on Monday, March 25. This event commemorates the day in 1821 when the people of Greece reclaimed their heritage as democratic citizens and restored democracy to their nation.

The ancient Greeks established the world's first democratic government, and contributed to our own understanding of the world in diverse fields such as mathematics, philosophy and medicine. The democratic principles set forth by the ancient Greeks were the archetype for Americans to establish a democracy in 1776 and have guided our nation ever since. These classical ideals inspired our own founding fathers and shaped the United States Constitution which we are sworn to uphold as Members of Congress.

America's relationship with the people of Greece runs deep. Since the birth of our nations, the ties of democracy between Greece and America have been unwavering. The strong partnership between our two countries

has served as vital tool in peacekeeping efforts around the world. Our long, shared history of democracy and peace is an ideal that should be cherished and honored.

Just as my grandparents ventured to the United States from Italy, the first Greek Americans came here to find a better life for themselves and their families. Their descendants have risen to the highest levels of American culture, government and society. Greek Independence Day is a day to honor the contributions, traditions, and successes of our fellow Greek Americans and our Greek friends abroad.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, and I am truly proud to recognize and commemorate Greek Independence Day alongside the vibrant Greek community in Northern New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Greek Americans, and all of our Greek friends around the world, in recognizing the 192nd Greek Independence Day.

HONORING SANJEEV ''SONNY'' BHAGOWALIA

HON. TULSI GABBARD

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sonny Bhagowalia, Hawaii's State Chief Information Officer. Sonny recently received the prestigious ''Federal 100 Award'' from Federal Computer Week magazine.

This award honors the top leaders in industry, academia and government who have had a significant impact on the government information systems community. This year, Hawaii is the only state government to be recognized for its proactive efforts to maximize the use of technology.

Since 2011, Sonny has served as Hawaii's first CIO, planning and implementing the state's IT transformation, and overseeing its new Office of Information Management and Technology. He has repeatedly been honored for his contributions to IT advancement in Hawaii, including two previous Federal 100 Awards.

Sonny's efforts to modernize and invest in Hawaii's technology infrastructure have laid the groundwork for more effective government service and business processes.

I extend my congratulations to Sonny, his very talented team, and the State of Hawaii for this much-deserved honor.

EAU CLAIRE MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL WISCONSIN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the Eau Claire Memorial High School boy's hockey team, the Old Abes, on winning the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association State Championship. Their 6–1 victory over Verona on March 2, 2013 was a true display of sportsmanship and teamwork.

After starting 0–2–1 and finishing second to Hudson in the Big Rivers Conference, the team faced a seemingly impossible road to the State Championship. But the Old Abes did not let those set–backs deter them from their dream of being the second team in history to bring home the State Championship for Eau Claire Memorial High School.

With the loss of two key players before the season started, Coach Mike Schwengler and senior team captain Brady Bollinger worked hard to build the young team into a strong, cohesive unit. After reassigning some key players to new positions, the puzzle pieces started to fit together, and the Old Abes won 20 of their last 23 games.

Nonetheless, heading into the championship off of an incredible winning streak, the team still found themselves down 1–0 late in the first period. The team banded together and rose to the challenge. Bollinger answered Verona's goal less than a minute later to tie the score, and the rest of the team stepped up to follow his lead. Jacob Bresser scored two goals, Charley Graaskamp added a goal and two assists, and Dylan Ross added a goal and an assist. Finally, Austin Phippen had the sixth and final goal, while Alex Geving, the goalie, finished the game with a phenomenal 26 saves.

This momentous win at the end of a difficult season exemplifies the dedication, teamwork, and sportsmanship of each and every member of the Eau Claire Memorial High School boy's hockey team. Furthermore, this victory shines as a proud achievement for the Eau Claire community. Once again, I want to congratulate the Eau Claire Memorial High School boy's hockey team on their incredible season and hard–earned title as Wisconsin State Champions.

RECOGNIZING ELIE WIESEL

HON. E. SCOTT RIGELL

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter a statement into the RECORD on behalf of my constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman. Rabbi Zoberman is the Founding Rabbi of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He is also the president of the Hampton Roads Board of Rabbis and Cantors. Rabbi Zoberman asked me to enter the following remarks into the RECORD recognizing Elie Wiesel on the occasion of Yom Hashoah, the 65th Anniversary of the State of Israel, and the 20th anniversary of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Rabbi Zoberman's statement follows:

Elie Wiesel, the most distinguished representative of the Holocaust survivors' generation, has risen from Auschwitz's hell which he entered at age fifteen, to become the world's witness to the human condition and humanity's prophetic voice of both sacred remembrance and chastising warning. He even admits to making enemies because of his steadfast stance against trivializing Auschwitz, protectively defining the Holocaust as ''the Event.''

The 1986 Nobel Peace Laureate—he deserves the literature prize too—and Founding Chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, who as earned our nation's greatest honors along with foreign high ones, enjoys a special relationship with President Obama and is presently collaborating on a joint literary project. In the latest book of this prolific author, Open Heart, Wiesel opens his aching and grateful heart to us following the watershed impact of his open heart surgery on June 16, 2011, at age 82. He utilizes this trying medical and life–changing ordeal to teach us about life's demanding trials and transitions, courageously facing his own mortality at his ''greatest pain and darkest anguish.''

This master teacher who is the Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities at Boston University is asking challenging questions: How well has he fulfilled his obligation as a survivor with a consecrated mission to tell a tale of woes without despairing of the Creator nor of a blemished creation, wrestling with a God who deprived him of so much but also blessed him beyond measure? Having contributed immeasurably toward a sane and sacred world, ever standing guard, Wiesel nonetheless doubts if he has done all he could and should have in his struggle against evil. He and fellow survivors believed that the world would change for the better, never allowing for genocides again, and how painful it must be for heart–broken Wiesel to conclude, ''The fact is, the world has learned nothing.''

May Wiesel fulfill his heart's fondest desire to live to witness the B'nai Mitzvah celebrations of his beloved grandchildren Elijah and Shira, the children of son Elisha who is named for Wiesel's father Shlomo who perished so close to liberation. May he do so along with his wife Marion, faithful soulmate and professional helpmate, herself a survivor from Vienna, Austria. Her brainchild is Beit Tzipora in Israel, the centers to enrich Ethiopian children, named for Wiesel's precious little sister whom he saw with their mother for the last time upon the arrival in Auschwitz. Reading Wiesel's transforming account a few days following the multiple tragedies at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., the following line resonates with painfully heartfelt relevance, ''We must choose between the violence of adults and the smiles of children, between the ugliness of hate and the will to oppose it.''

The 20th Anniversary of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, with which Wiesel has been so intimately connected, is testimony to his vision to ensure in the face of Holocaust deniers and the ravages of time's forgetfulness that the indispensable facts and essential lessons of the holocaust will endure for the sake of humanity. The museum has already exposed millions of Americans and other visitors in our nation's capital to its sacred work, shedding light on history's darkest chapter. I'm ever grateful to this U.S. sponsored museum as a son and grandson of Polish Holocaust survivors with heavy family losses in Zamosc, Poland, and Sarny, Ukraine. I was born in Kazakhstan on November 12, 1945 and spent my early childhood in Germany's American zone of the Wetzlar Displaced Persons Camp, before finding refuge and home with my family and most of the survivors in the reborn State of Israel now celebrating its 65th proud anniversary. Wiesel reportedly was invited in the past to be Israel's president.

Israel's accomplishments in all fields of endeavor are astonishing given its humble beginnings and ever trying circumstances. This vibrant democratic oasis and America's trusted ally in a mutually beneficial bond more significant than ever, is surrounded by a wide wilderness and exposed to substantial threats following the ''Arab Spring'' with its, so far, destabilizing islamist victory. It is truly an inspiring expression of the Jewish

spirit and the human saga. The vast human tragedy in Syria continues unabated with the international community failing to stop it, while Iran's menacing shadow looms large. May the Middle East and the entire world where the Jewish people first proclaimed an enlightened agenda for all, yet be transformed, with the United States' critical role, in the spirit of eternal Shalom.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S BELOVED REPRESENTATIVE, CLAY FORD, JR.

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Northwest Florida's beloved Representative Clay Ford, Jr., who passed away on March 18, 2013 after a courageous battle with cancer. Throughout his long and distinguished career in the United States Army and public service, Representative Ford served as a mentor and an inspiration to countless individuals. All those who have been blessed by his presence mourn the loss of a great man and unparalleled public servant.

Representative Ford, an Arkansas native, studied at the University of Arkansas, where he received his Bachelor's in Finance as well as his Juris Doctorate. He continued his education at Shippensburg University, where obtained his Master's in Public Administration. He married Carol Ann DeBusk Ford, of Little Rock Arkansas, and together they raised three sons, David, Doug, and Clay.

Representative Ford served proudly for more than 30 years in the United States Army as an infantry officer rising from the rank of Private to retire as Colonel in 1988. During his faithful years of service to our nation's Armed Forces, he filled important roles in both active, reserve, and the National Guard components of the Army. He served our country with honor and distinction, and he helped to protect the freedoms we all enjoy today. His many accomplishments during service include a NRA national record for the high power rifle competition.

In addition to his dedicated service to the Armed Forces, Representative Ford will be remembered for his leadership and contributions as a dedicated public servant. Before settling in Northwest Florida, he served his native state of Arkansas as a Representative of the Arkansas State Legislature from 1975–1976. In 1990 he was elected to the Gulf Breeze City Council in Florida, where he served until his election to the Florida House of Representatives in 2007. Representative Ford was widely respected by those who knew him. He was a man of conviction and compassion.

Aside from his leadership in the Florida House of Representatives, he was involved in a myriad of civic and veterans service organizations, including the Gulf Breeze Methodist Church, Gulf Breeze Rotary Club, Pensacola Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, Gulf Breeze City Council, Florida League of Cities—where he served as president from 2004–2005, National Rifle Association, American Legion, and Military Officers Association of America.

Throughout his life, Representative Ford served his nation and community with the utmost integrity and humility. To some, he will be remembered as a dedicated public official with an unwavering commitment to serving his community. To others, he will be remembered as a patriot who served our nation with honor and distinction. To his family and friends, he will most fondly be remembered as a man of faith and a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great–grandfather. His contributions to Northwest Florida, Arkansas, and our nation were truly exceptional and his legacy will not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor the life of Clay Ford, Jr. My wife Vicki joins me in extending our sincerest condolences and our prayers go out to his wife, Carol; sons, David, Doug, and Clay; eight grandchildren; one great–grandchild; and the entire Ford family. He will truly be missed by all.

HONORING OFFICER PIERCE'S RETIREMENT

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to honor Detective Bob Pierce for his long and distinguished career in law enforcement.

On March 28th, Detective Pierce will celebrate his retirement from Cobb County Police Department after over 40–years of dutiful service to Georgians.

While he currently works for the Cobb County Police Department's Internal Affairs Division selecting new officers, he's served Georgia communities in many capacities. Since March of 1972, Pierce has worked in uniformed patrol, narcotics, intelligence, burglary, homicide, and corrections.

In 2012, the Cobb Chamber of Commerce awarded him the Distinguished Achievement Award in recognition of service and performance that have exceeded the call of duty. Detective Pierce has played an invaluable leadership role in the community and among his peers for decades. His service will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Cobb County, my deepest thanks to Detective Pierce for devoting his life to upholding the law and to the protection of Georgia citizens. I wish him a happy—and well-deserved—retirement from public service.

S. WILLIAM CLARK, III, MD—OUTSTANDING ADVOCATE AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and pride that I ask all members of the House to recognize a fellow physician and Georgian, S. William Clark, III, M.D., who has received the American Academy of Ophthalmology's 2012 Outstanding Advocate Award. This honor is bestowed upon Academy members who participate in advocacy-related efforts at the state or federal level. Recipients perorm advocacy functions in their capacity as ophthalmologists and demonstrate a pattern of supporting and improving the profession of medicine over a period of years.

Dr. Bill Clark, whom I have had the privilege of knowing for nearly 30 years, is a fitting recipient of this honor. As a general ophthalmologist in Waycross, Georgia, Dr. Clark has long been a committed advocate for ophthalmology, and medicine in general, since before completing his fellowship in 1984. A second-generation ophthalmologist, he learned the importance of being an effective proponent for quality health care from his revered father. With great concern for patients and respect for the principles of the healing arts, he has shared his passion with generations of new physicians.

Dr. Clark is a Past President and Board member of the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) and has served as Vice President and Academy Councilor representing the Georgia Society of Opthalmology (GSO). Since 1988, he has served in the American Medical Association (AMA) House of Delegates, representing the AMA Young Physicians Section, the American Academy of Ophthalmology, and Medical Association of Georgia. He currently serves as the Vice-Chair of the Georgia AMA Delegation.

For his commitment and devotion to physicians and patients on the state and federal level, I am so very pleased to take this opportunity to recognize my friend, Dr. Bill Clark, and congratulate him on the occasion of his receiving the American Academy of Ophthalmology's 2012 Outstanding Advocate Award.

JAIR SALAZAR

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jair Salazar for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jair Salazar is an 11th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jair Salazar is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jair Salazar for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING EDUARDO ILAO ON RECEIVING THE 2013 U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S FAMILY-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS AWARD FOR GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mr. Eduardo Ilao on being awarded the 2013 U.S. Small Business Administration's Family-Owned Small Business Award for Guam. Mr. Ilao is the president of Johndel International, Inc. dba JMI-Edison E.R. Ilao & Associates, Inc.

Johndel International, Inc. dba JMI-Edison was founded in 1978 by Mr. Ilao's father Mr. John M. Ilao. Today, Johndel International, Inc. dba JMI-Edison is led by Mr. John Ilao's children: Eduardo, John Jr., and Beth. Johndel Incorporated dba JMI Edison comprises four separate companies offering products and services to the industrial, commercial, and medical industries serving Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, the Federated States of Micronesia, the republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Philippines.

At the young age of 16, Eduardo and his brother John worked at their family's motor rewinding business. Their introduction to their father's business began by sweeping the floor, cutting paper, and performing other necessary tasks associated with and necessary to the motor rewinding business. His father's work ethic and tireless commitment to satisfying his customers became the foundation for Edward's education in successful business practices. He was inspired by his father's work ethic and tireless commitment to satisfying his customers. Edward knew that his father was the ultimate perfectionist and that his business motto was, "whatever you decide to do, do it right the first time."

Because of their hard work, the Ilao family's modest motor rewinding business grew into one of Guam's successful family corporations, and, in 1987, when his father retired, Eduardo seamlessly stepped up to the plate. He now leads the JMI Edison group companies with the assistance of his younger siblings, John and Beth, and a dedicated team of loyal, longtime employees.

Eduardo is a 1983 graduate of the Illinois Institute of Technology where he earned a B.S. in electrical engineering. In 1986, the Illinois Institute of Technology awarded Eduardo a Master of Science degree in electrical engineering. Returning to Guam and his family business, Eduardo passed the Professional Engineer examination and was issued his license as a professional electrical engineer in Guam, the CNMI, and California. Eduardo and his wife Genilie Ilao have been married for over 24 years and they have five children: Geneveive, George, Gerilyn, John Edward, and Gemilie.

Like his father, Eduardo is an active member in our island community, participating in philanthropic organizations, government service, business associations, and professional societies. He previously served as the Chairman of the American Red Cross from 2004 to 2007. He has been a board member of the American Red Cross since 2002 and served as its Chairman from 2004 to 2007. He is the President of the Batangas and Southern Tagalog Association (BASTA), a board member of the Guam Girl Scouts, a member of the Filipino Community of Guam, and helped in fundraising efforts for the Ajuda Foundation. He is also active in numerous government service agencies. He was previously the Vice Chairman of the Board of the Guam Power Authority, he was on the Board of Trustee for the Guam Community College (GCC), he is a board member of the GCC Endowment Foundation and he is a board member of the Port Authority of Guam. Eduardo is also a member of Guam's business associations, specifically, the Guam Chamber of Commerce, the Guam Contractors Association, and the Guam Hotel and Restaurant Association. His participation in professional societies include: National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE), Guam Society of Professional Engineers (GSPE), Association of Energy Engineers (AEE), American Solar Energy Society (ASES), National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and the American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists.

Eduardo has extensive experience in the design, construction, management, financing, operation, maintenance, troubleshooting, and repairs of a wide array of Electrical Engineering projects and systems. He has expertise in Power, Computer Engineering, Control Systems, and most especially, Electro-Mechanical Machines. He is a Professional Electrical Engineer, a Certified Energy Manager, a Certified Energy Auditor, and a Licensed General and Specialty Contractor.

I congratulate Eduardo Ilao on receiving the 2013 U.S. Small Business Administration's Family-Owned Small Business Award for Guam. I join the people of Guam in commending him for his award and thanking him for his contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING MARY STEPHANY

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary Stephany, a former teacher and current registrar at Guerin College Preparatory High School in River Grove, IL. Guerin College Preparatory High School is a Catholic learning community committed to the education and faith development of young men and women, and these goals are reflected in the work of Ms. Stephany.

Ms. Stephany began her career at Mother Theodore Guerin High School in 1965, and during her tenure she has taught numerous courses in the social science field and was Academic Coordinator for the school. Courses she taught were: Law, Humanities, AP Government, Citizen Politics, U.S. History, AP U.S. History, Interdisciplinary (Theology, English, Social Science), World History, AP European History, Economics, Geographic Concepts, Introduction to the Social Sciences, American Studies, and Sociology. She also coached the volleyball team and developed and moderated Educating Women for Leadership and Life, as well as the Mentor Program.

Ms. Stephany has earned professional honors including The Cardinal's Award for Distinguished Service in Education, recognition in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for work in Education, and selection for the three year program with the National Endowment for the Humanities. She was also chosen as an Ambassador to Chicago's Field Museum for 2003–2004. In this role, Ms. Stephany served on education advisory committees to the museum and mentored other teachers.

Ms. Stephany earned a BA from Marian University in Fond du Lac, WI, with further programs of study at the University of Chicago, University of Illinois, University Colorado (Boulder), Northwestern University, University of New Hampshire, St. Mary's College (Walnut Creek, CA.), Trinity University (San Antonio, TX), Bradley University, Northeastern University, University of Wisconsin (Madison), Kansas University, The Art Institute of Chicago, and Loyola University Chicago.

Since 1999, Mary has served on the Illinois 5th Congressional District Academy Review Board. She has evaluated many nominees on their qualifications for a Congressional Nomination to our U.S. Service Academies. These qualifications include character, leadership, academic preparation, community service, and extracurricular participation.

Thanks to Ms. Stephany's dedication, many young men and women in the 5th Congressional District have received "Offers of Appointment" to the U.S. Service Academies and are in leadership positions serving our Nation today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the years of dedication Mary Stephany has shown in education and service. Ms. Stephany has helped change the lives of many young women and men by providing them with the tools they need to succeed in their future endeavors. She is truly an inspiring figure in our community and I thank her for her years of service.

CONGRATULATING THE BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate an extraordinary team of young men from Maryland's Fifth Congressional District. The Bowie State University Bulldogs won the CIAA Men's Basketball Championship on March 2, 2013. This is their second conference championship in team history and second NCAA Tournament berth in three seasons. This incredible achievement was made all the more significant given the caliber of their competition.

Once in tournament play, the Bulldogs emerged victorious over Chowan University, Lincoln University, and Winston Salem State University to ultimately meet Livingston College in the conference championship game at Time Warner Cable Arena in Charlotte, North Carolina. The Bulldogs prevailed, overcoming the Livingston Blue Bears with a final score of 85–74.

This victory demonstrates that with determination, willpower, and discipline we can work to overcome any obstacle in the path of achieving success. After entering the tournament as a fourth seed, the Bowie State

Men's Basketball team has gone above and beyond expectations. The Bulldogs end their 2013 season not only with a conference championship, but also a berth into the NCAA Division II Tournament.

Fifteen student-athletes contributed to this triumphant season, remaining focused and determined to continue the success of Bowie State Men's Basketball.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my heartiest congratulations to the members of the championship team—Julian Williams, Ray Gatling, Trawn Rogers, Cameron Knox, Dameatric Scott, Najee White, Tyrone Lawson, Jr., Carlos Smith, Byron Westmorland, Justin Beck, Bryan Wilson, Julian Harrell, David Golladay, Joel Clemmons, and Branden Doughty—on their victory. And, I also want to applaud Head Coach Darrell Brooks and his coaching staff—Larry Stewart, Sedric Baker, Darius Wilson, and Delmar Carey—for their dedication and commitment while guiding these talented student-athletes.

Like all Marylanders, I am very proud of these young men and I congratulate all of those involved in bringing home a conference title. I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding this great accomplishment.

HONORING THE DEPAUW UNIVERSITY LADY TIGERS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the DePauw University Lady Tigers basketball team, who defeated Wisconsin-Whitewater 69–51 on March 16 to win the Division III National Championship, their second national title in seven years.

DePauw became one of only seven Division III teams to complete an undefeated season, and the only team in Division III history to win 34 games in a single season. DePauw's other recent accomplishments include 14 NCAA appearances in 18 years, including 4 quarterfinals, 14 conference championships in 17 years, and 20 or more wins in 16 of the last 17 years.

Seniors Ellie Pearson, Kate Walker and Kathleen Molloy completed their college careers with a combined record of 112 wins and just 15 losses at DePauw. The rest of the roster includes Ann Sarkisian, Jenna Stoner, Emma Ondik, Lauren Abendroth, Chelsea Francis, Morgan Skordos, Savannah Trees, Colleen McDonagh, Angela Hacker, Alex Gasaway, Hannah Lukemeyer, Ali Ross, Alison Stephens, Erin McGinnis, Abby Keller, and Colleen Frost.

Head coach Kris Huffman is a selfless leader who always redirects any credit for the team's success back to her players. Her .820 career winning percentage is the highest winning percentage ever for a DePauw women's basketball head coach, and she has been named National Coach of the Year 3 times and Conference Coach of the Year 11 times. In addition to Coach Huffman, the coaching staff includes Assistant Coach Mary Smith, volunteer coaches Donna Ferguson and Doug Miller, and Team Trainer Kara Campbell.

Located in Greencastle, Indiana, DePauw is well known for a deep tradition of social engagement by its students and faculty alike, and its women's basketball team has earned much attention for their success on the basketball court as well. Incidentally, DePauw University is a friendly rival to my alma mater 30 miles to the north, Wabash College. This rivalry notwithstanding, I join basketball fans from across the Hoosier State in congratulating the 2013 DePauw women's basketball team on their remarkable accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSMAN JOHN R. LEWIS AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE NATIONAL PEACE MEDAL AND THE GLOBAL AND INTERNATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS AWARD

HON. JON RUNYAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to recognize Congressman JOHN R. LEWIS as the recipient of the National Peace Medal and the Global and International Civil Rights Award. I thank him for his service and invaluable contributions to making our country a better place for all Americans.

I am pleased that National Stop the Violence Alliance, Inc. is presenting Congressman LEWIS with these two coveted awards at a ceremony in my home district.

Congressman LEWIS has dedicated his life to the principles of non-violence as a means of social change. He believes in non-violence, but unlike so many, has actually lived accordingly, putting his own life at risk to show his commitment.

Congressman LEWIS is known as one of the most courageous leaders of the Civil Rights Movement and played a pivotal role in the struggle to end segregation and legalized racial discrimination. He knew from a very young age that the America he was living in was not the best that our country had to offer. Inspired by Rosa Parks and the non-violent message of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Congressman LEWIS would later recall, ''It seemed like he was saying to me, John Lewis, you too can make a contribution.''

Mr. Speaker, Congressman LEWIS' contributions are invaluable. Because of his courage and steadfast commitment to ensuring freedom and equality for all Americans, our country is closer than ever before to living up to the ideals of our founders.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in offering our sincere thanks and appreciation to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia, the Honorable JOHN R. LEWIS.

JACQUELINE DELGADO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jacqueline Delgado for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jacqueline Delgado is a 10th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jacqueline Delgado is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jacqueline Delgado for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING VPP STATUS AT L.L. BEAN WORKPLACES

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a corporation based in my district, L.L. Bean, for achieving the highest standards of workplace safety through OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) at its Desert Road Service Center in Freeport, Maine.

VPP is OSHA's official recognition of the outstanding efforts of employers and employees who have achieved exemplary occupational safety and health. Achieving the status requires a rigorous onsite evaluation to ensure that a workplace meets high performance-based standards of preventing occupational safety and health hazards. With missed workdays well below their industries' averages, VPP worksites are some of the safest places to work in the country.

L.L. Bean has shown an incredible commitment to the program and its employees. Since 2007, the company has achieved VPP status at it Brunswick, Maine, manufacturing facility, its call centers, Freeport outlet store, and now Star Status at the Desert Road Service Center, which employs 200 people and handles returns for its vast global business. The company continues to work toward VPP status at all its facilities.

I am not only proud of L.L. Bean for these accomplishments, but also for the way it has involved its employees in achieving them. By fully engaging them in the process, the company has made employees feel safer at work, as well as more appreciated, prized, and respected.

My congratulations and appreciation go to all of the company's owners, managers, and staff for their incredible leadership in workplace safety.

A TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE ASIAN AMERICAN PROSECUTORS ASSOCIATION

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Asian American Prosecutors Association, AAPA, for their dedication

to promoting justice and advancing the interests of Asian American prosecutors in California's 15th Congressional District and throughout the state of California. Their willingness to advocate for victims' rights within the Asian American community, while advocating for fairness, equality, and justice for the public at large, is a testament to their workmanship, leadership, and unwavering dedication to the community they serve.

The Asian American Prosecutors Association seeks to empower its members and all prosecutors through education and training about the needs of the Asian American community. AAPA's acting board members are a wealth of knowledge, each having many years of experience working with the Asian American community, and they are all eager to strengthen and support the roles of Asian Americans in all aspects of law and the criminal justice system. Those who serve on the board include, Annie Saadi as President, Sharon Carney as Vice President, Huy Luong as Treasurer, Michael Carney as Secretary, David Lim as Executive Board Member, Amy Deng in Public Relations & Marketing, Lauren Hashimoto in Membership & Recruitment, Mas Morimoto in Community Affairs and Glenn Kim in Information Technology.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the entire House of Representatives join me in honoring the Asian American Prosecutors Association. AAPA's dedication to the community is an inspiration to us all and it is a high privilege to represent them, and I am glad to take this opportunity to pay tribute to their inaugural reception.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MAYOR BETSY PRICE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform you and my fellow colleagues of Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price's recent accomplishment of being recognized by the Zonta Club of Fort Worth as the distinguished 2013 Professional Woman of the Year.

The Zonta Club of Fort Worth was chartered in 1927 with the objective of improving the status of women through promoting goodwill, human rights, and justice throughout the community, country, and world. Each year since 1971, the Zonta Club of Fort Worth has honored an outstanding professional woman in the Fort Worth community. This celebration recognizes the honoree's achievement while thanking her for being a shining example for other women.

Mayor Betsy Price was elected as the 44th Mayor to her native City of Fort Worth. Throughout her early tenure, Mayor Price has focused on fiscal responsibility, creating a stronger economy through public-private partnerships, and strengthening neighborhoods through her faith-based and citywide health engagement initiatives.

As a proponent of civically active young adults, Mayor Price created the SteerFW program to organize young professionals into task forces focused on resolving local issues. The program has four areas of focus—education, public transportation, employment, and urban development. There are currently over 300 young citizens participating in the program where they learn about current challenges and work to find creative solutions.

Prior to her life in public service, Mayor Price owned and managed Price Cornelius Title Service for 17 years. In 2000, she was elected as the Tarrant County Tax Assessor, where she used her business experience to make her department one of the most efficient in Texas and saved taxpayers millions of dollars.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Mayor Betsy Price on her accomplishment as the 2013 Fort Worth Zonta Club Professional Woman of the Year.

RECOGNIZING CAMBODIAN DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, as this April marks the 38th anniversary of the brutal Khmer Rouge regime's rise to power in Cambodia, I join Cambodian Americans to commemorate this tragedy in the community's past. Yet even as we solemnly recognize this moment, we can also look at the hopeful future that lies ahead for the Cambodian American community.

The Khmer Rouge regime seized power in Cambodia on April 17, 1975, and began a reign of terror and systematic genocide. Upwards of 3.4 million innocent men, women and children lost their lives at mass grave sites now known as the Killing Fields. Thousands of refugees escaped these atrocities and were given sanctuary in the United States; many came to the state of Illinois.

Thanks to the Cambodian Association of Illinois and our strong Cambodian-American community here in the United States, we are aware of the Cambodian genocide and its devastating effects. Organizations such as the Cambodian American Heritage Museum and the Killing Field Memorial carry out the vital mission of ensuring that we do not forget the atrocities of this period. The Cambodian community is committed to remembering and paying tribute to those lost in the Killing Fields while enhancing the public's awareness of these atrocities and healing the survivors and their families.

As Illinois and other states recognize April 17th as the Cambodian Day of Remembrance, I rise today to join my Cambodian American friends to commemorate the atrocities of the Killing Fields and to provide comfort and hope to the victims' families. Let us take this moment to recognize that group-targeted violence and bigotry still exist in nations across the world, and we cannot ignore its presence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in solidarity with the Cambodian-American community in remembering those who were lost to the Khmer Rouge regime and in recognizing our hope for a more peaceful future.

ISSA GRIMES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Issa Grimes for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Issa Grimes is an 8th grader at Oberon Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Issa Grimes is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Issa Grimes for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

CELEBRATING CESAR CHAVEZ'S BIRTHDAY

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest appreciation for the life, legacy, and actions of Mr. Cesar Estrada Chavez.

The changes that Cesar Chavez fought for throughout his life have dramatically changed the way that farm workers are treated in our country. Cesar Chavez was one of the Nation's greatest civil rights activists and the tireless champion of migrant farm workers fighting for humane working conditions.

As a young man Cesar Chavez worked in the fields where he saw firsthand the dangerous conditions which farm workers were forced to endure. In 1952 he became an organizer for the Community Service Organization (CSO), a Latino civil rights group, and eventually became the national director of the organization.

In 1965, Chavez co-founded the National Farm Workers Association with Dolores Huerta which evolved into the United Farm Workers union. The National Farm Workers Association was successful in securing fair wages and safe working conditions for farm workers. The UFW also led a worldwide grape boycott that helped ensure farm workers had a voice in contract negotiations.

Cesar Chavez is also known for his fasts which he used as a nonviolent method of promoting his beliefs. In 1972 Chavez fasted in response to Arizona's passage of legislation that prohibited boycotts and strikes by farm workers during the harvest season.

On April 23, 1993 Cesar Chavez died, bringing great sadness to the farm workers community that he spent his life fighting for. With his death also came a great sense of pride for all the progress that Chavez brought as a direct result of his unwavering commitment to farm workers' rights.

I urge my colleagues in joining me in celebrating Cesar Estrada Chavez's life and legacy. America is a better place because of Cesar Chavez.

GABRIELLE BOND

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Gabrielle Bond for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Gabrielle Bond is a 7th grader at Oberon Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Gabrielle Bond is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Gabrielle Bond for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

THE BRIDGE TO JOBS ACT

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, as every American knows, we have a jobs crisis in this country. While unemployment has improved within the past year, it is still strangling our economy. Approximately 40 percent of jobless Americans—who lost their jobs through no fault of their own—have been out of work for six months or longer, and the longer they wait, the harder it is for them to find jobs. The fact of the matter is that we will not see robust economic growth again until we put Americans back to work.

We also have an infrastructure crisis. According to Transportation for America, there are 69,223 bridges that have been classified as "structurally deficient" by the Federal Highway Administration. Leaving these bridges in their current state of disrepair poses a grave threat not only to our safety, but also to our economy. As the President noted last year, "Our aging transportation infrastructure costs American businesses and families about $130 billion a year . . . and if we don't act now, it could cost America hundreds of billions of dollars and hundreds of thousands of jobs by the end of the decade." Additionally, studies have shown that our crumbling infrastructure threatens our competitive edge in the world economy. As the Washington Post reported last summer, if nothing is done to improve our infrastructure, "U.S. businesses would pay an added $430 billion in transportation costs, household incomes would fall by more than $7,000, and U.S. exports will fall by $28 billion." Mr. Speaker, we can't afford to wait until the end of the decade; we need action now.

Alleviating both of these crises is not a mutually exclusive endeavor. That's why I've introduced the "Bridge to Jobs Act," a much-needed "win-win" for the American economy and public safety. The act provides states with grants to put Americans back to work by repairing crumbling bridges. Not only will this legislation put Americans back to work and bolster our ailing economy, it will also ensure the safety of the millions who use these bridges each and every day. I urge my colleagues to support this crucial investment in our workforce, our economy, and our safety.

HONORING GREENSBURG HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishment of the Greensburg Community High School boys basketball team in Greensburg, Indiana. As a 1987 graduate of GCHS, my Pirate Pride beams proud.

The Greensburg boys varsity basketball team recently made school history by securing the school's first team state championship. The Pirates came back from a 10-point deficit at halftime to force overtime and won the Indiana Class 3A State Basketball Championship 73–70 over Fort Wayne Concordia Lutheran.

Greensburg started with five underclassmen, and was led in scoring in the title game by junior Bryant McIntosh with 25 points and in rebounds by junior Sean Sellers with 12. In addition, Sean set an Individual IHSAA Record for Highest Title Game Free Throw Percentage, making 11 of 11 in the game. The team finished the season 26–1 with the best winning percentage in the State.

I want to congratulate this team for showing great resolve and teamwork throughout the state tournament and in the title game. I also want to commend the team for representing yourselves with class throughout the season, the tournament, and the remainder of the year.

Congratulations go to starters Macy Holdsworth, Bryant McIntosh, Colin Rigney, Sean Sellers, and Ryan Welage, along with teammates Riley Billieu, Tyler Burcham, Tye Fleetwood, Shane Ploeger, Drew Foster, Tom Lawrence, and Brad Wilson. For the leadership of this championship team, congratulations and accolades go to the 7th-year head coach, Stacy Meyer, and assistant coaches, Scott Holdsworth, Jason Simpson, Scott McIntosh, Scott Ferguson, and Dave Lawrence.

I am thrilled to see a championship banner raised at my alma mater, and I ask the entire 6th Congressional District to join me in congratulating the Greensburg Community High School boys varsity basketball team for their dedication, execution, and excellence this season.

FRANKIE OLIVAREZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Frankie Olivarez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Frankie Olivarez is an 11th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Frankie Olivarez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Frankie Olivarez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING FREDERICK J. HORECKY ON RECEIVING THE 2013 U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S MINORITY SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPION AWARD FOR GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mr. Frederick J. Horecky on being awarded the 2013 U.S. Small Business Administration's Minority Small Business Champion Award for Guam. Mr. Horecky is the proprietor and managing attorney of his law firm, the Law Offices of Horecky & Associates. Fred has been practicing law in Guam almost immediately after earning his juris doctor degree from the University of Virginia School of Law.

Quick to learn the dynamics of a successful legal practice, Fred opened Horecky & Associates in 1983, a general practice law firm. Horecky & Associates quickly grew from sole practitioner to six attorneys specializing in a several areas of jurisprudence.

Currently, Fred practices law as a sole practitioner specializing in corporate law and the incorporation of Guam Business Corporations and Limited Liability Companies. He provides legal advice to numerous minority-owned, women-owned, and veteran-owned businesses on corporate issues. Additionally, he serves as Legal Counsel to the Guam Public Utilities Commission and Administrative Law Judge for power, telecommunications, and solid waste matters. He is the owner and Chief Executive Officer of two businesses, Buena Vista Realty LLC and Buena Vista Environmental LLC.

Fred was born in Washington D.C. and spent the majority of his formative years in Alexandria, Virginia. He was the only child born to parents who both were career employees at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C.

He attended Groveton High School south of Alexandria, Virginia graduating in 1970. In 1974 he graduated from Grinnell College, Iowa where he obtained a bachelors of arts in American History and Political Science. From 1974 to 1975 he attended one year of graduate study in Public Administration at the University of Virginia Graduate Department of Government just before pursuing a degree in law. In 1978, he became a juris doctor from the University of Virginia School of Law. Ten years later he married his wife Mary Louise Wheeler.

Fred is also an active member in our island community. He previously served as a member of the Guam Election Commission from 1996–2000 and Chairman of the Election Commission from 2002 to 2007. He also served as the Chairman of the Legislative and Government Relations Committee. Since 1980, he has been a member in Hafa Adai Kiwanis Club of Guam as well as member of Toastmasters Club of Guam from 1983 to 1987. His corporate legal service expertise was instrumental in renaming and reorganizing the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Guam (CCCG) enabling the CCCG to become a prominent organization on Guam. Fred also provided volunteer legal services to the Guam Association of Realtors from 2008–2010 and he currently serves as a director of the Board of Committee Chair of the Legislative Committee. He is also a licensed real estate broker and the Director of the Guam Association of Realtors.

I congratulate Frederick J. Horecky on receiving the 2013 U.S. Small Business Administration's Minority Small Business Champion Award for Guam. I join the people of Guam in commending him for his award and thanking him for his contributions to our community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ESTHER PADILLA

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the life of Esther Padilla who passed away at the age of 69. Her character exemplified the very best of what our nation has to offer—she was honest, generous, and possessed a strong work ethic.

Esther grew up in Fresno, California and was the youngest of 12 children. She attended Washington Union High School and then went on to California State University, Fresno where she earned her undergraduate and graduate degrees in social work. As a young woman, Esther knew she wanted to help others and serve in her community.

Esther truly loved social work, and she served at a few different organizations. She worked for Fresno County's Department of Social Services, Fresno County Head Start, and Centro La Familia. Esther met her husband, Gilbert Padilla, while she was at a meeting for Head Start. They were married for 43 years and have one daughter, Adele.

After years of dedicating her life to social work, Esther decided to go work with Gilbert at the United Farm Workers (UFW). Her position at the UFW allowed her to become heavily involved with politics. Esther organized boycotts, negotiated union contracts, and lobbied at our Nation's Capital.

The experiences she had and the knowledge she gained prepared Esther to serve on the Fresno City Council. Esther was the first and only Hispanic woman to ever be elected to the City Council. During her time on the council, Esther was passionate about improving the lives of her constituents. Making Fresno a better place was a priority of hers, and she played an integral part in getting Highways 180 and 168 built.

Beyond her service for the community, Esther will also be remembered for her advocacy of organ and tissue donation. Seventeen years ago, Adele donated a kidney to her mother. Esther understood that importance of organ donations because she was able to live almost two more decades due to the kindness of her daughter.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the life and service of Esther Padilla. She was a shining example of a true public servant and proud American.

INTRODUCING THE VETERANS PENSIONS PROTECTION ACT OF 2013

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Veterans Pensions Protection Act of 2013, which will help protect our nation's veterans from unfairly losing their pensions benefits because they received payments to cover expenses incurred after an accident, theft, loss or casualty loss.

When assessing a veteran's eligibility for a pension, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) considers a variety of sources of revenue to determine a veteran's annual income. If such income exceeds the income limit set by the VA, the veteran does not qualify for a pension or loses their benefits. Currently, the VA considers any reimbursement that compensates a veteran for his/or her expenses due to accidents, theft or loss as income. Only reimbursements of expenses related to casualty loss are currently exempted from determination of income.

Under current law, if a veteran is seriously injured in an accident or the victim of a theft and receives insurance compensation to cover his/or her medical expenses, or the cost for pain and suffering, he or she will likely lose their pension. This means that the law effectively punishes veterans when they are involved in an accident or theft.

Such a tragedy happened to one of my constituents, a Navy veteran with muscular dystrophy who was hit by a truck when crossing the street in his wheelchair. His pension was abruptly cut-off after he received an insurance settlement payment to cover medical expenses for himself and his service dog, as well as material expenses to replace his wheelchair. As a result, he could not cover his daily expenses and mortgage payments and almost lost his home.

There is clearly something wrong with a law that cancels veterans' pensions following the award of an insurance payment, which was only intended to cover exceptional medical expenses. I am distraught that the VA can cancel the pensions of unemployed and disabled veterans without further notice. The VA has a moral responsibility to care for our veterans and ensure that they live decent lives.

This happens, because the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) considers a variety of sources of revenue to determine a veteran's annual income, when assessing a veteran's eligibility for a pension, including medical expenses reimbursements/pain and suffering reimbursements. If a veteran's income exceeds the limit set by the VA, then the veteran does not qualify for a pension or loses his/or her benefits.

For this reason, the bill is being reintroduced to include language from the original bill that addresses the issue of medical expense/pain and suffering reimbursements.

The majority of the original bill, H.R. 923, was passed into legislation in the form of PL 112–154. However, while the law addresses veterans' eligibility for pensions (and surviving spouse/children) in regard to their reimbursements (for any accident, theft or loss, or casualty loss), it does not specify medical expenses or pain and suffering reimbursements.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will ensure that pensions are issued to veterans who legitimately meet the income criteria and rely on such benefits to survive. We must enact regulations that help veterans live better lives, not hurt them. At a time when our nation's servicemen and women are fighting two wars abroad, we have a duty to our past, present, and future veterans to provide them with the very best services and benefits. We owe our veterans an enormous debt, and cannot thank them enough for their service. On behalf of the unfortunate veterans who have slipped through the cracks due his punitive law, such as my aforementioned constituent, I ask for your support of this important legislation.

FRANK CURIEL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Frank Curiel for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Frank Curiel is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Frank Curiel is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Frank Curiel for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. as they celebrate a century of sisterhood and service. Over the past one-hundred years, the members of Delta Sigma Theta have guided many young women through the transition to adulthood, instilling values that have allowed them to reach their potential as publicly active members in their communities.

This enduring fellowship began on January 13, 1913, when twenty-two young women at Howard University in Washington, D.C. founded the sorority. Brought together in their shared life experiences, these young students envisioned an organization of women brought together in pursuit of promoting academic excellence, providing support to the underserved, and cultivating an interest and active involvement in public policy debates, with the goal of creating solutions to issues affecting their communities. As a testament to their dedication and leadership, Delta Sigma Theta continues its mission, serving communities and individuals all over the world.

As a central tenant of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, a deep passion for fighting for equity and equality is an ideal shared by its members. In keeping with this commitment, the sorority's first public act was to organize and march in support women's suffrage in Washington, DC. Many prominent community leaders have been proud to call themselves Deltas, includingCongresswoman Shirley Chisholm, a pioneer for women and African Americans in elected office. Following in Chisholm's success, Delta Sigma Theta member Congresswoman Barbara Jordan became the first women to represent Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives. Both of these Deltas, in keeping to their ideals and beliefs, used their public office to give a voice to those who were unable to be heard.

As a Member of Congress from the Greater Detroit region, I have the pleasure to represent so many Delta Sigma Theta members in the Detroit Alumnae, Southfield Alumnae and Pontiac Alumnae chapters. Each of these chapters has a long and distinguished history of members doing their part to nurture future generations, shape the leaders of tomorrow and engage their communities in renewal and reaffirmation of citizenship.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent the members of three dedicated chapters of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and I wish them another hundred years of success in fulfillment of their mission to create a more just world that allows our youth to realize their full potential.

SUPPORT OF EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, today is Equal Pay Day, the day in April recognized annually to signify the point into a year that a woman must work to earn what a man made the previous year.

This means that on average, a woman needed to work from January 1, 2012 until April 9, 2013 to earn the same salary that a comparable man earned in 2012 alone.

More than 50 years after Congress made it illegal for employers to discriminate on the basis of sex, it is shameful that hard working American women are paid so much less than their male counterparts for the same work.

Today, women make up nearly half the workforce, but their paychecks still lag far behind men's. Today the typical American woman who works full time, year round is paid only 77 cents for every dollar paid to her male counterpart.

The wage gap occurs at all education levels, after work experience is taken into account, and it gets worse as women's careers progress.

Women are paid less than men in nearly every occupation. One study examining wage gaps within occupations found that out of 265 major occupations, men's median salary exceeded women's in all but a few lower paid service sector jobs.

The six jobs with the largest gender gap in pay and at least 10,000 men and 10,000 women were in the Wall Street-heavy financial sector: insurance agents, managers, clerks, securities sales agents, personal advisers, and other specialists.

Advanced-degree professions proved no better predictors of equality. Female doctors made 63 cents for every $1 earned by male physicians and surgeons. Female chief executives earned 74 cents for every $1 made by male counterparts.

Women only constitute 3.7 percent of Fortune 500 chief executives and 18.3 percent of corporate-board directors.

The wage gap impacts women as soon as they enter the labor force, expands over time, and leaves older women with a gap in retirement income.

The wage gap is smaller for younger women than older women, but it begins right when women enter the labor force. The typical 15–24 year old woman working full time, year round, earns 92.2 percent of what her male counterpart is paid.

Among older women, the gap is even larger. The typical 45–64 year old woman working full time, year round is paid just 72.8 percent of what her male counterpart is paid. For women still working at age 65 and older the figure is 72.1 percent.

A typical woman who worked full time, year round would lose$443,360 over the course of a 40-year working life due to the wage gap. This woman would have to work almost twelve years longer to make up this gap. A typical woman working full time, year round who starts, but who does not finish high school would lose $372,400 over a 40-year period, an enormous amount of money for women who are typically paid $21,113 a year. This woman would have to work over seventeen years longer to make up this gap.

As a result of lower lifetime earnings and different work patterns, the average Social Security benefit for women 65 and older was about $12,700 per year, compared to $16,700 for men of the same age in 2011.

In 2010, women 50 and older received only 56 cents for every dollar received by men in income from pensions and annuities. One study found that the typical woman worker near retirement with a defined contribution plan or individual retirement account had accumulated $34,000 in savings, while her male counterpart held $70,00—more than twice as much. Reasons for the Wage Gap

REASONS FOR THE WAGE GAP

Several important factors contribute to the wage gap. Among them are discrimination, racial disparities, occupational segregation, which involve structural factors which operate to concentrate women in low-wage jobs and limit their access to higher paying jobs in nontraditional occupations. Also playing a part is the devaluation of women's work and women's greater responsibility for care giving.

A study by labor economists Francine Blau and Lawrence Kahn found that even controlling for the combined effects of occupation, industry, work experience, union status, race and educational attainment, 41% of the wage gap remains unexplained. This indicates that discrimination plays a sizable role in the gender wage gap.

Some of this discrimination seems to be directed against mothers. A study by sociologists Shelley Correll, Stephan Benard, and Ian Paik found that, when comparing equally qualified women job candidates, women who were mothers were recommended for significantly lower starting salaries, perceived as less competent, and less likely to be recommended for hire than non-mothers.

The effects for fathers in the study were the opposite: fathers were actually recommended for significantly higher pay and were perceived as more committed to their jobs than non-fathers.

But it is not only mothers who are discriminated against in the workplace. Study after study shows that when companies are reviewing resumes, they are more likely to hire men, and more likely to offer those men a higher salary. These studies are done by submitting identical resumes, but changing the name of the applicant. This means that even with the exact same resume and qualifications, Roberta is offered a lower salary than Robert. Joanna is offered a lower salary than Joe. Women are offered a lower salary than men just because they are women.

THE WAGE GAP IS EVEN GREATER FOR WOMEN OF COLOR

Women of color experience a far greater wage gap than their white, non-Hispanic counterparts.

The typical African-American woman who works full time, year round makes only 64 cents, and the typical Hispanic woman who works full time, year round only 55 cents, for every dollar paid to their white, non-Hispanic male counterparts. For the typical white, non-Hispanic woman, this figure is 77 cents.

The wage gap for African-American and Hispanic women working full time, year round persists when the effect of race is examined alone. The typical African-American woman working full-time year round is paid

roughly 80 cents for every dollar paid to her white, non-Hispanic female counterpart. The gap is larger for the typical Hispanic woman working full time, year round, who is paid just 70 cents for every dollar paid to her white, non-Hispanic female counterpart.

The wage gap for African-American and Hispanic women working full time, year round also persists when the effect of sex is considered alone. The typical African-American woman working full-time year round is paid roughly 85 cents for every dollar paid to her African-American male counterpart. The typical Hispanic woman working full time, year round is paid 91 cents for every dollar paid to her Hispanic male counterpart.

In my home state of Texas, the statistics are even worse for women of color. African American women in Texas make 59.6 cents compared to white non-Hispanic men, and Hispanic women make 45.2 cents for every dollar earned by a white, non-Hispanic man.

OCCUPATIONAL SEGREGATION LEADS TO UNEQUAL PAY PERSISTENT OCCUPATIONAL SEGREGATION

Almost two-thirds of workers earning the lowest wages—those who make the federal minimum wage or less—are women. The federal minimum wage is just $7.25 per hour. The federal minimum cash wage for tipped employees is $2.13 per hour, less than one-third of the current federal minimum wage and unchanged in more than 20 years. Women make up almost two-thirds (65 percent) of workers in tipped occupations.

Even in occupations that pay slightly above the federal minimum wage, women predominate. Women are the majority of workers in each of the ten largest occupations that typically pay less than $10.10 per hour, and two-thirds or more of the workers in seven of these occupations.

Studies have shown that occupational segregation leads to lower wages for women. In fact, wages in occupations that are made up predominantly of women—''pink collar'' occupations such as child care workers, family caregivers or servers pay low wages—precisely because women are the majority of workers in the occupation. One study that used the share of women in an occupation to predict wages in that job a decade later found that ''women's occupations''—those that were two-thirds or more female—had wages that were 6 percent to 10 percent lower a decade later than ''mixed occupations.''

UNEQUAL PAY HURTS FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

Whenever a woman receives unequal pay for equal work, their families suffer.

Lower earnings have a serious impact on the economic security of the over 7.5 million families headed by working single mothers.

Working single mothers with children struggle to make ends meet. In 2011, over a quarter, almost 2.2 million, of all such families were poor. Almost an additional 2.5 million working single mother families were on the edge of poverty, falling between 100 and 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, meaning that 62% of working single mother families subsisted under 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. In 2011, the Federal Poverty Level for a single mother with two children was just $18,123.

Most two-parent families depend on women's wages, and so also suffer when women receive unfair pay.

Nearly 1.6 million married couples with children relied exclusively on women's earnings at some point in 2011, representing 6.6 percent of all married couples with children.

In 2011, more than 13.9 million married couples with children relied on both parents' earnings, representing 58.7 percent of all married couples with children.

Fair pay impacts married women with no children who are more likely to be solely supporting their family than married women with children.

Nearly 4.1 million married couples with no children relied exclusively on women's earnings at some point in 2011, representing 11.5 percent of all married couples with no children.

In 2011, almost 13.9 million married couples with no children relied on both partners' earnings, representing 39.4 percent of all married couples with no children.

LILLY LEDBETTER'S STORY

While looking at these shocking statistics, I wanted to remind you all of the story of a woman who received unequal pay for equal work: Lilly Ledbetter. She has become a household name for her courage to fight for an equal paycheck. Thanks to the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 women in Ms. Ledbetter's situation can now seek remedies in federal court more easily. These statistics show that women all around the country experience the kind of discrimination that Lilly Ledbetter faced.

Lilly Ledbetter was born in a house with no running water or electricity in the small town of Possum Trot, Alabama.

She worked hard, and became a supervisor at Goodyear Tire and Rubber's plant in Gadsden, Alabama, from 1979 until her retirement in 1998.

For most of those years, she worked as an area manager, a position largely occupied by men. Initially, Ledbetter's salary was in line with the salaries of men performing substantially similar work. Over time, however, her pay slipped in comparison to the pay of male area managers with equal or less seniority.

By the end of 1997, Ledbetter was the only woman working as an area manager and the pay discrepancy between Ledbetter and her 15 male counterparts was stark: Ledbetter was paid $3,727 per month; the lowest paid male area manager received $4,286 per month, the highest paid, $5,236.

In short, despite her outstanding performance, every month Lilly Ledbetter took home a smaller paycheck than men doing the same job. She may have never found out about this discrimination had a co-worker not slipped her an anonymous note telling her she was being paid hundreds of dollars less per month.

At first, the Supreme Court said that Lilly Ledbetter couldn't even sue her employer since the first time they began paying her unequally was 19 years ago, leaving Lilly Ledbetter with no remedy for the 19 years of unequal, discriminatory paychecks she received. Fortunately, Congress stepped up and passed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which allows women to bring a lawsuit within a reasonable amount of time uncovering the discrimination.

Our goal here in Congress needs to be to eliminate unequal pay at its root. Every day, women like Lilly Ledbetter are less able to pay their bills, save for retirement, and enjoy the fruits of their labor because they are paid less than their male counterparts.

CONCLUSION

We need to act to close this wage gap. More than 50 years after Congress made it illegal for employers to discriminate on the basis of sex, it is shameful that hard working American women are paid 77 cents for every dollar earned by a man. 77 cents for working the same job, the same number of hours.

Equal Pay Day reminds us how much further we need to go to achieve equality in the workplace. We need to come together to work to put an end to unequal pay for equal work.

FRANCISCO AGUILAR

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Francisco Aguilar for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Francisco Aguilar is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Francisco Aguilar is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Francisco Aguilar for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MIKE PEREZ

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Mike Perez, who passed away on March 24, 2013, at the age of 91. Family was Mike's highest priority, but he was also a successful businessman and community leader. His legacy will live on through his many contributions to Central California.

Born in California's agriculturally rich San Joaquin Valley to Juan and Maria Perez, Mike had a deep appreciation and understanding of the importance agriculture carries in our Valley. Mike grew up in a large family with two sisters Amelia and Tabor, and three brothers Daniel, Tom, and Earl. Together, the family established and ran a successful business which served as a reminder that the American Dream can be achieved through hard work and family bonds.

In 1941, Mike's father founded J.M. Perez and Sons, a visionary family-run farming operation in Stanislaus County, California. Eight years later, Juan turned the family business over to his sons and it was renamed Perez Brothers. After the brothers took over, the farming operation expanded from Stanislaus County to Firebaugh, California. Mike was instrumental in the growth of the business, and was responsible for diversifying and growing new crops. In 2003, Mike and his brothers were recognized for their contributions to the agriculture community when they were inducted into the Stanislaus County Agriculture Hall of Fame. Today, the farm is run by the third generation of the Perez family and it continues to thrive.

Beyond Mike's work at Perez Brothers, he was also very active in the community. He served as President and Director of the Broadview Water District. In addition, Mike

served as director for other organizations, including: Broadview Co-op Gin, Cal-Cot Ltd., Land Preservation Association, San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Association, Silver Creek Drainage Association, and Valley Seed Growers. Mike has also held office at Cal-West Seeds.

His work and community service were essential aspects of Mike's life; however, family was most important to him. Words cannot adequately describe how much he loved his wife, Ann; his children, Michael, and Marvin, and his beloved grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the life of Mike Perez. He will be remembered as a man who never took anything for granted and had a full appreciation and love for life.

RECOGNIZING PATRICIA B. SALAS ON RECEIVING THE 2013 U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S FINANCIAL SERVICES CHAMPION FOR GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Ms. Patricia B. Salas on being awarded the 2013 U.S. Small Business Administration's Financial Services Champion Award for Guam. Ms. Patricia B. Salas is the Vice President, Business Development Manager for Bank of Guam.

Ms. Salas started her banking career in 1989 as a Personal Banking Officer with the Wells Fargo Bank in San Diego, California. She was later promoted to the San Francisco branch on Market Street as the Business Banking Officer of Wells Fargo's Business Banking Group, where she managed a commercial portfolio with more than $150 million on deposit.

Ms. Salas was born and raised on Guam and is the daughter of Ricardo P. Benito and Carmen Martinez Benito. She graduated from Academy of Our Lady of Guam in May 1983.

In 1998, Patricia moved back home to Guam and worked in a commercial loan officer position with a community bank on Guam. Within a year Patricia was promoted to Assistant Vice President and Relationship Manager responsible for developing strategies and managing a $30 million commercial loan portfolio. In 2010, she joined Bank of Guam as a Vice President and Business Development Manager.

In addition to her professional career, Ms. Salas is an active member of our local community. She is involved in community outreach and financial literacy programs and is a member of the Rotary Club of Tumon Bay, where she has served in various leadership positions. Additionally, she is a board member and treasurer of the Guam Business Partners for Recycling.

Ms. Salas is married to Edwin "Bob" Salas and they have two daughters, Taylor and Chloe. She earned a bachelor's in Business Administration from the University of San Diego in May of 1987.

I congratulate Ms. Patricia B. Salas on receiving the 2013 U.S. Small Business Administration's Financial Services Champion Award for Guam. I join the people of Guam in commending her for her award and thanking her for her many contributions to our island and people.

HONORING MT. VERNON HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishment of the Mount Vernon High School girls basketball team in Fortville, Indiana.

The Mt. Vernon girls varsity basketball team recently made school history by capturing the team's first state championship in their third title game appearance. The Marauders won the Indiana Class 3A State Basketball Championship 61–47 over Hamilton Heights.

Mt. Vernon was led in scoring in the title game by freshman Sydney Shelton with 29 points and in rebounds by junior Erica Moore with 15, setting a Class 3A record for title game rebounds. In addition, senior Rachel Houck was named the winner of the Patricia L. Roy Mental Attitude Award for Class 3A Girls Basketball for her demonstrated excellence in mental attitude, scholarship, leadership, and athletic ability. The team finished the championship season with a record of 23–4.

I want to congratulate this team for showing great resolve and teamwork throughout the state tournament and in the title game. I also want to commend the team for representing themselves with class throughout the season, the tournament, and the remainder of the year.

Congratulations go to starters Sydney Shelton, Shaely Duff, Rachel Houck, Erica Moore, and Ellie Balbach, along with teammates Taylor Riggs, Morgan Stricker, Jessica Grubb, Ariana Sandefur, Sadie Baugh, Maddie Walrod, Krista Shockley, Hannah Jones, and Olivia Coleman. For the leadership of this championship team, congratulations and accolades go to the head coach, Julie Shelton, and assistant coaches, Tom Kirby, Ashley Greulich, and Jeff Phares.

I ask the entire 6th Congressional District to join me in congratulating the Mount Vernon High School girls varsity basketball team for their dedication, execution, and excellence this season.

ERICA SIMPSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Erica Simpson for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Erica Simpson is an 11th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Erica Simpson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Erica Simpson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PARK TOOL

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Park Tool in Oakdale, Minnesota, on the occasion of the company's 50th anniversary. Park Tool is a Minnesota success story, growing from a small family owned company to the world's leading manufacturer of bicycle tools exporting American made products around the globe.

Necessity breeds invention, and the need for good and reliable bicycle repair tools forged the beginnings of Park Tool. In 1963, two bike shop owners, Howard Hawkins and Art Engstrom, lacked adequate equipment to make repairs in their shop so they started inventing their own tools. Their creativity and innovation produced the tools that helped to transform the bicycle repair industry. One of their first inventions was a stand to allow easier access to complete repairs, which was awarded a patent in 1976. Park Tool quickly expanded, and many patents later, began building wheel truing stands, repair stands and consumer tools. By the early 1980's the retail shops that started the company were sold to concentrate on manufacturing tools. Park Tool continues to help define the industry and its success has led to the opening of its new factory and headquarters, which is opening this month in Oakdale, Minnesota.

It is fitting that Minnesota is home of Park Tool, because it is one of the most bike friendly states in the nation. The American Trails organization named Minnesota the "Best Trails State," because of our state's leadership in development of a major system of bike trails, paths and commuter routes on roads—not to mention our abundance of beautiful lakes, rivers and parks. As more Minnesotans and more Americans rely on bikes for transportation to work and for enjoyment, many in our community and across our state and country depend on Park Tool to produce the high quality tools that keep their bikes in top shape.

Park Tool is a company that shares its success by giving back to people and communities. The company has supported "Ride 2 Recovery" which helps veterans with cycling based rehabilitation programs, as well as with programs that promote safe and fun cycling around the United States. The "Earn-A-Bike" program and "Bike Shop at School" teaches students the mechanical fundamentals of bicycle assembly and repair while fostering environmental stewardship and healthy living. The company has also partnered with "Trips for Kids" which helps at-risk youth by organizing mountain bike rides in their 80 chapter communities around the United States, Canada, and Israel.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to in honor the dedicated employees of Park Tool in celebration of 50 years of commitment to providing high quality tools and equipment for cyclists around the world.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was $10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is $16,802,515,751,907.61. We've added $6,175,638,702,994.53 to our debt in 4 years. This is $6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

ON SONJA NESBIT MOVING TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize one of the finest committee staff members to have worked for me, the Ways and Means Committee and the U.S. House of Representatives. Sonja Nesbit joined the House staff over 11 years ago and has made an enormous difference for millions of Americans since the day she arrived. Now she is moving on to the Department of Health and Human Services to continue her work on behalf of the nation's poor, and I want to thank her for her accomplishments, her ongoing dedication to this institution, and for her service to the American people.

In Congress Sonja was at the center of our efforts to restructure the national foster care system, a reform that has helped innumerable young people get a better shot at finding a good family and personal and professional success. Sonja also worked tirelessly on the creation of the home visitation program in the Affordable Care Act that promotes home visits for at-risk children.

Sonja is a leading expert in her field and is, really, the ideal public servant. She gave thoughtful advice and counsel, helping myself and other members do the right thing for the poor and needy in this country. She was patient, helpful, and always looking for policy that would reflect the values of justice and equality. This is what the American people need in a public servant and in congressional staff.

Now Sonja is moving on to work in the Department of Health and Human Services where she'll continue her work on making the country's social safety net just and strong.

We will all miss her. I congratulate Sonja on her new position, thank her for her good work, and wish her the best of luck at HHS.

EMMA BLOSENCO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Emma Blosenco for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Emma Blosenco is an 8th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Emma Blosenco is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Emma Blosenco for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, during the week of March 18th, I missed roll Nos. 76 through 89 due to cataract surgery. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on roll Nos. 76, 79, 80, 81, 82, 88, and 89. I would have voted "yea" on roll Nos. 77, 78, 83, 84, 85, and 87. I would have voted "present" on roll No. 86.

FEAR THE RAVEN, SOMETHING TO RAVE ABOUT!

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit this poem on behalf of a constituent in my district honoring the Baltimore Ravens for their Super Bowl XLVII win.

FEAR THE RAVEN, SOMETHING TO RAVE ABOUT!

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

The . . . The Fire . . . The Unforgettable Fire!
When, hearts and souls, and bodies and minds, so meet for but one desire!
But, for one goal to so take them all higher!
For no other team sport, has such passion and such fire!
Or so depends upon their Band of Brothers, to so fashion victory from within themselves to be so inspired!
Well, maybe when a great leader says he's going to retire!
Feel The Fire!
As a child a time ago, stepping out upon those fields of green as so . . .
As a dream few of us will know!
To play in The Super Bowl!
And to stand on that National stage, as all around you this war is waged!
Is but Something To Rave About!
For it was in those long hot days of summer, that this great bond was so formed as they encumbered!
As against all odds they fought on, young and old, the rookies and Pros . . .
As all around them, the smell of fear in the air stood close!
For only a few on opening day, in that uniform shall so be clothed!
As its competition at its very height, that which so makes their great hearts shine so bright!
And now as it all so comes down to this, 60 minutes, either heartache or bliss!
To wear that Super Bowl ring, and hold that Lombardi Trophy up high and sing!
"And shine bright like a diamond, shine bright like a diamond in the sky," with but tears in your eyes . . .
And to be one of football's aluminate, one of its highest of all society!
Is But Something To Rave About, as down upon you the confetti flies . . .
As you want to "scream and shout,"and "let it all out," singing "oh we oh" we are Super Bowl Champs, now That's Something To Rave About!
For this is HARBAUGH, and this is WAR!
As it's Brother VS Brother as so for sure!
Going Coastal, East meets West!
Who Will Be The Best?
As it was but only a year ago, when in that end zone our dreams died so!
But, The Ravens took that memory . . .and built upon it and would not let go!
Something like "remember The Alamo"!
UNFINISHED BUSINESS, YO . . . HUNT IT . . . HUNT IT!!!
But, the word on the street, was that Baltimore could not so compete!
Surely, Peyton would have his way . . .and Brady in the Super Bowl was meant to play!
And how could Baltimore stake a claim, and beat the 'Niners on this day?
But, this is a team of destiny and faith, whether it's Ray Ray or General Brigance leading the way!
Or a guy up in Heaven named Art who was with them on every play . . .
And the Big "B" Bisciotti, because excellence is his way!
FEAR THE RAVENS . . .
IT'S JUDGEMENT DAY!
And now they were ready to make the 'Niners pay, and show em how the west was lost this day!
Prospecting for more Super Bowl gold,
The Forty-Niners came into town looking for number 6 to hold, but the Steelers said woeeeee!
Armed with a Pistol O so profound, making even Dirty Harry say WOW!
And the Ravens, These Mighty Birds of Prey, with their Beastie Boys on defense leading the way!
That would even make Edgar Allen Poe, so shuttle and whence in his grave!
Led by their leader T4 Ray Ray with his Tell Tale Heart, instilling such fire and faith his work of art!
As Mr. Bisciotti said,
"'Niners you're going to Fear The Raven today!"
Just look at what my coaches, and front office put together, THEY!
The Wizard of Ozzie Neusome, he's real who's whosome!
Because, he knows how to choose 'em!
And Pollard who will put the collar on you every play!
And Suggs who likes you to mugs, and sizzles any one in his way!
And Ayanbadejo, who acts so crazed so!

And Ellerbe, watch out for me I'll sting U on D!
And the Kruger . . . rants, who is worth his weight in gold!
And Corey Upshaw, who will turn you into cole slaw!
And Kemoeatu who will give you,
The Kemo Treatment to ALL!
And Corey who will Graham cracker YOU! And Haloti,
You No Gota a chance to stoppa me!
And then these two young guns, were ready to put a clinic on, one by one!
And show how a Super Bowl is won!
That Baltimore Bomber, Joe ''Cool'' Flacco!
In the high archy of deep spirals, he owns the show, as he heaves rainbows!
In fact NASA in the off season wants him, to launch a few satellites . . . THOSE!
And if you're a D back, well you better be wearing a flacco jacket, against Big Joe!
He's shades of Johnny U, you know . . .
With a chip on his shoulder, he's looking bolder, making them spell elite, making them eat crow!
Then, the new gun . . .just a babe starting his 10th game, how did he learn so quickly how to behave?
That's why on the West Coast he's called Special K!
Shades of The Young Man so!
He can beat you in the air or on the ground, and gun you down!
His Pythons are so huge now!
Now it's JUDGEMENT DAY, down on the bayou it's time to play!
Dis Dat Fat Sunday Super Bowl today!
Someone's going to crawl daddy, and someone with Dat Da Saints Are Going To Do Dat Come Marching In Hooray!
''BRING THE ACTION''!
When, the Ravens got the ball,
Joe Cool made the call, driving down the field as he would not so yield!
With his flock of Ravens, as it was touchdowns he and they were craving!
A real true tour de force, with the likes of Torrey Smith with all his gifts . . .
Proudly in heaven your brother watching this!
And Ray Rice, he can beat you twice . . .in the air or on the ground!
So many weapons like Boldin and Jones, who leave the D backs standing all alone . . .
As Anquan so Em-Boldined his Ravens, with a 13yd TD he soon owned!
As Joe Cool began to rule, taking them all to school!
As Baltimore's D hung tough, after the 1st quarter only one Aker they'd give up!
And Reed em and Weep, when on a catch he smashed mouth Big Vernon D!
Sent him to the sidelines in pain and misery!
And he said, ''you better keep an eye on me'' . . .
Fear The Turtle, but also Fear The Reed!
In the 2nd quarter, the 49ers were looking to be slaughtered!
Pondering weak and weary upon a midnight dreary,
Baltimore's D made it look scary ''casting their monte ago's'' all over these!
As the strategy of Control and Contain, was working on their hearts and brains . . .
As helmets they were cracking, as there came this rapping, a rapping at the 49ers door!
Tis the Ravens D ''never more'', as they pondered so weak and weary, over some lost to be forgotten turnovers for sure!
As Mr. Jones recovered a fumble, and Joe Cool said boys let's rumble!
With a drive and a TD pass, to I PITTA the fool who ever tries to cover me last!
While, Dickson gave the defense a bath!
As Reed intercepted Kaepernick, as you could feel the 49ers starting to bleed!
Two thirds of the world is covered by water, and the rest by Reed!
Then John played Harbaugh, faking a field goal, a gutsy call and gave Tucker the ball!
It's better to stand for something, then fall for nothing at all!
As The D . . . those birds of prey, on a feeding frenzy once again so had their way!
Control and Contain, not worrying about who hears their name!
Then, Joe the Coolest of Cool . . .as him and MR. Jones had a thing going on too!
Throwing a 56 TD, as he got up off of that turf with a burst, and made the DB look like Papa Smurf!
And right at the half,1 more Aker through the uprights would so pass!
Should the 49ers have stayed home and watched the game on TV?
Maybe they were using the wrong caliber of Pistol, you see?
As they put a Kap on nick, and it was all looking pretty sick!
As The Ravens' D was reacting so quickly, control and contain while inflicting such pain!
By halftime it looked like the Ravens, were ready to tell the 'Niners to board their plane!
And to the families of Sandy Hook, all of our hearts so shook as were heard your children singing!
Our prayers to you we are bringing!
Then, Beyonce and Destiny's Child, oh what a half time show as they went wild!
Then, at the opening kick off it was lights out . . .as Mr. Jones sped by at light speed as the coverage he ran out!
A 108yd TD, Super Bowl history!
And then as ''Be'' . . . ''Yonce'' would say,''ut oh, ut oh, ut oh, . . . got me going crazy like this!''
''Got me feeling crazy like this'' As the lights went out!
Was it Beyounce and Destiny's Child style, or the speed at which Mr. Jones flew by all the while?
Don't worry Commissioner Goodell is on it like a crocodile!
28 to 6, as the 'Niners pondered so weak and weary, so deep upon a Super Bowl dreary!
But, when the lights went out . . . in the dark,
The Ravens mo was all sucked out!
Black magic no doubt!
Turning on the switch,
''BRING THE ACTION''! This!
As soon the '49ers struck gold, a 31 yd TD to Crabtree he'd hold.
The only kind of crabs in Baltimore we will serve cold!
And the Gorey details, as Frank another TD he soon nailed.
And the 3rd Acker of the day, with the 'Niners on their way!
As it was 28 to 23, as things were looking scary, as the Ravens lost the very heart of their D . . .
A mountain of a man,
Super Samoan Haloti Ngata he stands . . .
As the Heart of Texas,
Tucker's field goal gave us a chance, a chance to so breathe!
As the 'Niners got back, as Kaepernick ran it for a 105 yd TD, the longest in Super Bowl history!
Again, the Bomber of Baltimore led his men burning out the clock, leaving them so little time to victory unlock!
As the eyes of Baltimore were upon him, as Just in Time Tucker tucked em in!
With a field goal then!
As it was now do or die, as the 'Niners started to drive . . .
As Gore and Moss looked like they would not be denied!
As there they stood at the goal line, it was first and goal and it was crunch time!
As the 'Niners could now so take command, but Ray Ray's and his birds of prey had other plans!
Control and contain, with Super Bowl gold only 4 plays away!
As these men of might would not so break, as history they were so ready to make!
Kaptalizing on Colin as his last pass, floated out of the end zone as you could hear him hollering!
As the Ravens got it back and we watched Koch safety dance, don't worry Ray Ray he can't compete with you, no chance!
And then one last play, as all the way from Baltimore you could hear the fans say . . .
''WE WANT TO SCREAM AND SHOUT''
''AND LET IT ALL OUT''
singing ''OH WE OH, OH WE OH''
ARE SUPER BOWL CHAMPS NO DOUBT!
As the Greatest Ali in Phoenix also cried out,
''Now, We've Got Something To Rave About!''
Because, what that incredible D did was so unreal!
As the D backs and LBs put the wood on em, and with stealth technology their receivers were concealed!
Control and contain, as somehow they so shrunk the field!
And that aerial show, that was put on so, by Big Joe brought them to their knees!
As the offensive line really shined, giving Joe the time to glow!
I guess you could say they Blind Sided the D!
As it was one heck of a game, and one heck of a fight!
As they served Rice to the 'Niners, all night!
And Piece was looking fierce, as Leach began to teach, how to open up holes and knock the man down!
But, we knew sadly . . . one brother would win, and one brother would lose!
Like Father Like Sons, they all turned out to be such great ones!
But, only one team would Destiny's Child so choose, and hold that trophy way up high and be a Who's Who!
''AND SCREAM AND SHOUT''
''AND LET IT ALL OUT''
singing ''OH WE OH . . .
OH WE OH'' ARE SUPER BOWLS CHAMPS! NOW THAT'S SOMETHING TO RAVE ABOUT!
And in Baltimore, one more thing is true!
Ravens, Johnny U would be so proud of U!
And Chuck Thompson would have said,''ain't the beer cold, from the beginning we've led''!
AND BEING WORLD CHAMPIONS,
WELL THAT'S SOMETHING TO RAVE ABOUT!

EMMA EAKER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Emma Eaker for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Emma Eaker is a 10th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Emma Eaker is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Emma Eaker for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF SHARON WILLIAMS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the remarkable Sharon Williams, the long-time director of Menlo Park-based JobTrain. Sharon is retiring after forty years of instilling optimism in each JobTrain client and building life skills amongst an entire community. I have watched with amazement over these many years as Sharon has guided the JobTrain organization.

Sharon earned her BA in English from the University of the Pacific in 1965 and her teaching credential from San Francisco State University in 1968. She joined JobTrain in 1973 as a GED teacher. She became Director of Development in 1978 and a short time later took over as Executive Director. Conducting job training classes and connecting people with jobs was very difficult in the late 1970s. Sharon guided JobTrain and its clients through difficult financial times and built a stunningly successful career and job education center.

With Sharon's outstanding leadership, JobTrain has offered cutting-edge and traditional job training, everything from solar panel installation classes to computer repair to culinary arts to laboratory technician training for biotechnology facilities. Knowing that life skills are a large component of the training done by JobTrain, Sharon and her staff insist that clients learn how to show up on time to work, become team members in the modern work environment, and learn how to balance work and the demands of a family.

Mr. Speaker, Sharon Williams has infused JobTrain with the same ''can do'' attitude that she insists from her clients. I've visited JobTrain on several occasions, most recently in the last few months. It's a very busy place. JobTrain helps 8,000 persons per year, and 600 of them receive full-time vocational training. At least 85% of those who enroll complete their training. 75% of those persons are placed in jobs, and 12 months after placement, 84% are still working. JobTrain's success is spelled out in these numbers.

Sharon's contributions to the Peninsula are not limited to JobTrain. She currently serves on numerous boards, including the Center for Excellence in Nonprofits, and East Palo Alto Digital Village. She has also previously served on the boards of the East Palo Alto Senior Center, the Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula, Leadership Mid-Peninsula, and the San Mateo County Workforce Investment Board.

After forty years at the helm of JobTrain, it is time for Sharon Williams to bid her beloved nonprofit goodbye and to head off in new directions. The only thing missing from JobTrain's smorgasbord of classes at the moment is a class on how to make eyeglasses. That's not surprising. Sharon sees quite clearly the need for human dignity through productive work. Why would she believe that anyone else in the community needs glasses when her own sight is both perfect and prescient? Let us give Sharon the highest compliment that any employer can offer an employee. Let us say, ''Job well done.''

RECOGNIZING RONALD M. YOUNG ON RECEIVING THE 2013 U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S ENTREPRENEURIAL SUCCESS AWARD FOR GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mr. Ronald M. Young on being awarded the 2013 U.S. Small Business Administration's Entrepreneurial Success Award for Guam. Ron is the Co-founder and Secretary/Treasurer of Security Title, Inc.

Ron owns Security Title Inc. along with his wife Kim Anderson Young. Together they started the company in 1999. Security Title Inc. provided professional title and escrow services of the highest quality to Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Security Title Inc. is the general agent for Stewart Title Insurance Company, one of the world's largest title insurance underwriters. Because of Security Title Inc.'s expert regional knowledge it has developed into the dominant title company in the Mariana Islands as it provides services that are crucial to any real estate transaction.

Ron was raised in northern California by his parents, George and Winnie. His father owned his own dental lab, which taught Ron at an early age the value of owning his own business. Ron earned a bachelor of arts degree in sociology from San Jose State University. He later earned a master of arts from Goddard College in sociology and education. Ron and his wife have five children together: Ryan, Jason, Carter, Lars, and Erika.

Ron is also an active member of our island community. He serves as the current liaison between the Guam Chamber of Commerce and the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, which are two of Guam's largest business organizations. He is an ongoing supporter of many non-profits and organizations such as the Guam Association of Realtors, International Council of Shopping Centers, American Management Association, NAIOP, Guam Economic Development Authority, Guam Tourist Attraction Fund, and the Guam Beautification Task Force.

I congratulate Ronald Young on receiving the 2013 U.S. Small Business Administration's Entrepreneurial Success Award for Guam. I join the people of Guam in commending him for his award and thanking him for his contributions to our community.

TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUT CHAD FORD

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Chad Ford of Boy Scout Troop 188 of Ankeny, Iowa for achieving the rank of an Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained over the past century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. For his project, Chad assisted in refurbishing Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt Park in Polk County by removing a large section of unwanted fencing. The work ethic Chad has shown in his Eagle Project and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Chad and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him on obtaining the Eagle Scout ranking, and I wish him continued success in his future education and career.

COMMENDING CAMPOLINDO HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC DECATHLON CLUB UPON WINNING THE 2013 CONTRA COSTA COUNTY ACADEMIC DECATHLON

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Campolindo High School's Academic Decathlon Club for its recent success in the Contra Costa County Academic Decathlon, at which Campolindo's two teams won first and second place.

The Campolindo High School Academic Decathlon Club provides students the chance to go above and beyond academically. Through fun competition, the Academic Decathlon Club members foster enthusiasm for education not only in themselves, but also in their peers.

Participation in the academic decathlon has promoted and developed a range of skills, including team work, discipline, creativity and critical thinking. The Decathlon Club is training California's future leaders by helping ensure that our students will be qualified to join the workforce and grow our economy. It's clear that Campolindo High does an outstanding job of preparing these future leaders for a lifetime of success.

I would like to submit for the record a recent article in the Contra Costa Times recognizing Campolindo's impressive achievement.

'GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND': ACADEMIC DECATHLON OFFERS ANOTHER KIND OF COMPETITION

(By Lou Fancher)

MORAGA.—It was a repeat of last year's finish, as the top three teams at Contra Costa County's 2013 High School Academic Decathlon on Feb. 4 mirrored the winners of 2012's competition.

The ''Red Team'' from Campolindo High School in Moraga took first place and will advance to the state competition March 14 to 17 in Sacramento.

This year, as last, Campolindo's ''Blue Team'' placed second, and Acalanes High School of Lafayette placed third for the second straight year. Other teams competing in the county decathlon were Antioch High, California (San Ramon), Freedom (Brentwood), Las Lomas (Walnut Creek), Miramonte (Orinda), Pittsburg and Dublin.

California's Academic Decathlon pits nine-member teams drawn from about 500 schools statewide in a frenzy of tests, essays, speeches and interviews. Scrimmaging over art, economics, music, language and literature, mathematics, science and social science might sound like torture to many high schoolers, but not to students like Campolindo's Zach Scherer, this year's Top Overall Academic Decathlon Individual Award winner.

''I like decathlon (club) because it's not a regular class, with a teacher lecturing for 50 minutes,'' the 16-year-old said. ''It's students, all interested in learning.''

Paul Verbanszky, an advanced-placement psychology and government economics teacher at Campolindo since 2004, leads the school's decathlon club.

''I used to be able to barely field a team. Because we're winning, more students have signed up. Now I have 40 students at the start of a year,'' he said.

The club's increasing popularity has little to do with students aiming to shine on college applications, Verbanszky said. Rather, the biggest motivators are the chance to excel at something other than sports and ''going above and beyond'' academically.

Team co-captain Evelyn Steefel, 17, said it's just fun.

''The meetings are entertaining,'' she said, ''and there's nothing like learning new, interesting facts.''

Campolindo's two teams (schools with more than nine students participating can form multiple teams) met three times a week, beginning in September.

This year's theme was Russia. With a mix of newbies and veteran decathlon members, the students divvied up the study guides democratically.

''We just put it up for whatever each person wanted to do and made sure each section got done,'' Steefel said.

A dizzying array of approaches, from PowerPoint presentations to ''Jeopardy''-style games to pop quizzes, staved off drudgery. Winning the decathlon is more than facts; it's analysis and skillful test-taking, Scherer and Steefel said.

Scherer remembers the interview section of the competition beginning with simple questions about his interests.

''I discussed the clubs I'm in, model United Nations and math club, and how they have shaped who I am now,'' he said. ''Then they asked, 'How has being in U.N. shaped your interest in diplomacy?'''

Steefel used the decathlon's speech portion to talk about hypocrisy in America.

''It's a country that promotes freedom and equality, but it goes against those principles in its actions. The major thing I talked about was slavery, but also affirmative action and discrimination against women. I talked about the current generation needing to stop hating, because we're not moving together as a country.''

The Super Quiz—during which teams work together, and a roaring crowd of supportive family and friends is allowed—tested their knowledge of Sputnik 2. Another question challenged them to compare and contrast two Russian composers.

''First, you have to know about the specific facts,'' Scherer said. ''Then, you have to know about the controversies involved, the worldwide movements, the complexities.''

Verbanszky said it's not the two Campolindo teams' high scores or crafty mental gymnastics he's most proud of.

''They care about the program, but also each other,'' he said. ''Freshmen to senior—they help each other with homework and talk about their problems. They've become friends.''

RECOGNIZING JEFFERSON COLLEGE AS IT CELEBRATES ITS FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jefferson College located in Jefferson County in Missouri, as the community celebrates its fiftieth anniversary this year.

The Community College District of Jefferson County was approved by voters on April 2, 1963. Senator Earl Blackwell of Hillsboro sponsored Senate Bill Number Seven, which made possible the formation and financing of public junior colleges in Missouri. Jefferson became the second junior college district in Missouri to be approved.

Seventeen months later the first courses are offered at Hillsboro High School with 14 faculty members and 303 students. Jefferson College moved into its first permanent building on the Hillsboro campus in September of 1965, and held its first commencement in June of 1966, where 31 graduates received associate degrees.

In 1967, Jefferson College became the first community college in Missouri to be designated as an area vocational school. Today, in addition to the Hillsboro campus, the college has expanded to sites in Arnold, Cedar Hill and Imperial, which offers programs in Certified Nurse Assistant, EMT-Paramedic and a Law Enforcement Academy, as well as a fifth campus which offers online instruction.

As a testament to their vision to make higher education more accessible to their community, Jefferson College has successfully now grown to over 5,500 full and part-time college credit students and 4,300 plus students in continuing education classes.

In closing, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing the community of Jefferson College congratulations on their fiftieth anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF CLARK E. GUINAN

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Clark E. Guinan, better known as Gus, who is retiring after a remarkable legal and public service career that spanned over three decades. Gus was the City Attorney of the City of Burlingame for the last four years. His devotion to justice and the Bay Area are reflected in his work and passion for life.

Gus, a native San Franciscan and third generation Californian, was raised in Los Altos. He enrolled in the seminary in Menlo Park at the young age of 13 and studied there through high school and college until he was 24 years old. He received his B.A. in Philosophy from St. Patrick's College.

After eleven years in the seminary, Gus realized that he had a different calling. He wanted to follow in the footsteps of his grandfather who was his hero and a prominent attorney in the California Attorney General's office. Gus started law school and earned his J.D. from the University of Santa Clara.

Upon earning his degree, Gus became a deputy public defender in San Joaquin County from 1974–1984. Then he accepted the position of Senior Assistant City Attorney in Palo Alto where he served for five years.

In 1989, he faced a difficult decision. He and his wife Signe Harnett had adopted infant twin girls. They still lived in Stockton and the daily commute to Palo Alto would prevent Gus from seeing his two babies grow up. He left public service and became a litigation attorney with the law offices of Rishwain, Kakim and Ellis in Stockton from 1989–1991. Gus' love for San Francisco drew the family back to the Bay Area and in 1991 they moved to Berkeley and he joined the law office of Barry Balamuth in Orinda.

In 1993, Gus returned to public service and accepted the position of Assistant City Attorney for the City of San Rafael where he stayed until 2008 when he was appointed to his most recent position of City Attorney of Burlingame.

Gus is a member of the Public Law Section of the California State Bar Association, the Bay Area City Attorneys Association, the Marin Public Agency Attorneys and an alternate board member of the California Joint Powers Risk Management Authority. In the past, he served as a delegate at the State Bar Convention in Sacramento, as a section editor of the Municipal Law Handbook of the League of California Cities and as a member of the board of governors of the San Joaquin County Bar Association. Gus has also lectured at the Delta Community College in Stockton and in the "Bridging the Gap" program. Last but not least, he has been a proud member of the San Rafael Elks Club since 2006.

In his well deserved retirement, Gus is looking forward to spending more time with his wife of 25 years, their now 24-year-old twin daughters Kate and Lindsey and their stepson Chris. He will finally have more time to lose himself in his passion for California history, hiking, travel, photography, reading and swimming.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representative to rise with me to honor Clark E. Guinan, a man with a brilliant legal mind and a big heart who has protected the rights and safety of the residents of Burlingame and other Bay Area communities.

IN APPRECIATION FOR RON GOLDWYN'S SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer words of appreciation for a departing member of my staff, Ron Goldwyn. Ron will be retiring after 7 years in my Philadelphia office as Press Secretary to enjoy the Philadelphia Mummers, baseball, the Southwest and lots of quality time with his family. I have no doubt that Ron will also continue to follow the workings of this body from a more distant place. His connection to the House began long before joining my team. In fact, when his wife Carol first came to Washington to meet his family, he brought her to sit in the House gallery!

Ron came to my office as a second career following years of success as a journalist. His stellar career began as editor of the ''Family News'' at age 10. It then took him to Woodrow Wilson High School's Beacon, the Washington Daily News Scholastic Sports Association, Fort Dix, the Dayton Journal Herald, Philadelphia Bulletin and the Philadelphia Daily News. In my office he has served as a drafter of press releases and proclamations, a photographer around town and resident comedian.

Ron is a proud (retired) member of Local 10 of the Newspaper Guild (now part of Communications Workers of America). He is former president of the Pen and Pencil Club, the journalists' after hours club. He is a founding member of Mishkan Shalom synagogue in Roxborough, Pennsylvania where he has held several lay leadership positions. Ron still plays on the Pen and Pencil softball team and for several years was the commissioner of the Center City softball league. He is currently the President of the Blue Bell Hill Civic Association.

From the first time he saw the parade in January, 1975, Ron has adored Philadelphia's Mummers Parade, even though many of the Mummers are a notoriously prickly and feuding bunch. For a few years, he and his wife were only spectators. Then, in 1980 or so, Ron began providing the Mummers research ''book'' to Larry Kane who anchored the Parade broadcast. From 1984 to 1994, a motley crew of family and friends dressed up as kazoos and marched as a group in the Comic Division of the parade. Known as the King Kazoo New Year Association—Ron was ''King Kazoo,'' of course—the group finished as high as fourth in the division several times. About 17 years ago, Ron took on a new role, becoming the color commentator for the comic division part of Parade broadcast until this year, which was his first as a ''marshall'' with the Pennsport String Band.

Ron's absence will be deeply felt in my office. My staff and I have come to rely on his strong writing, attention to detail, knowledge of Philadelphia history and commitment to public engagement. While we celebrate his transition into retirement, we look forward to his visits and updates from The Land of Enchantment. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Ron for his service here and wish him well in his next adventure.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT AND SERVICE OF MAYOR ADDISON LARRY HARTWIG

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dedicated public servant from the Sixth Congressional District of Illinois, Mayor Larry Hartwig of Addison. In May, he will conclude his loyal service as Mayor after four terms.

As a resident of the Village of Addison for over 40 years, Mr. Hartwig has served as a model citizen. He first entered public office in 1987 as Village Trustee, and in 1995, he was appointed Interim Mayor of Addison where he was elected thereafter.

During his tenure as Mayor, Mr. Hartwig has been an exemplary leader and public servant. After retiring as Principal of Wood Dale Junior High School, he devoted more time to other areas of service, including the DuPage Water Commission and the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus. His noble leadership led him to serve as President of the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference and as Chairman of the Conference's Legislative Committee.

Mayor Hartwig has represented his community well and has been a strong voice for the Village of Addison throughout his time in office. His long service to the people of Addison and to DuPage County is truly commendable. Although retiring as Mayor, Addison will continue to benefit from his involvement as a member of the community.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in congratulating Mayor Hartwig on 26 years of public service and in wishing him all the best for the days ahead.

IN HONOR OF COMMANDER KIRK H. JOHNSON

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Commander Kirk H. Johnson for his tireless advocacy efforts and leadership supporting veterans.

Kirk H. Johnson was born September 28, 1956 in Chestertown, Maryland. He enlisted in the Army in 1978 at Fort McClellan, Alabama as a Helicopter Repairman. Kirk was promoted to Sergeant in 1980 and in 1981, was appointed as Crew Chief for Army Chiefs of Staff.

Mr. Johnson was awarded the Humanitarian Service Award in 1982 for his role in a life saving rescue mission after a commercial jet crashed into the 14th Street Bridge in Washington DC and plunged into the Potomac River. In 1983, Kirk entered the Warrant Officer Program to receive further flight training and graduated as an Aero Scout Pilot in 1984. Mr. Johnson was then stationed at Ft. Ord, California and upon arriving served as a Line Pilot as well as a Survival Training Officer for the Aviator Brigade. In his time at Ft. Ord, Kirk carried out a multitude of different duties, from Pilot in Command to Income Tax Officer, before being involved in an accident that separated him from his two passions: aviating and being a soldier.

Kirk has been the Commander of the Department of California American Veterans since 2012 (DAV). He represents 101,133 members and 68 chapters throughout the state of California. This service organization provides free support to Veterans, their spouses, family members, and orphans. Services provided include filing claims to provide medical, educational, and compensation benefits to our wounded warriors.

Kirk coordinates volunteer hours and transportation activities as a representative for the Veterans Administration Volunteer Services (VAVS) DAV at Palo Alto Veterans Hospital and the Monterey VA clinic since 2006. In 2012, the volunteer programs logged over 700,000 hours of coordinated volunteer services and thousands of travel miles from this transportation network. Mr. Johnson further supports VAVs by serving as Executive Committee President since 2010.

Prior to assuming his current Commander role, Kirk was the Senior Vice Commander for Department of California DAV from 2011 to 2012 and Junior Vice Commander from 2010 to 2012. Kirk also acts as an Advisor to the Veterans Club at Monterey Peninsula Community College, which gives younger veterans an opportunity to help themselves and their community. Previously, Kirk served as the Club's President from 2009–2011.

Kirk's advocacy further includes his membership in the Veterans Focus Council from Palo Alto Health Care System and as the Judge Advocate and member of the Executive Committee from DAV Chapter 85, Seaside, California where he held previous positions. Kirk was the chaplain for DAV Chapter 85 from 2004 through 2007.

Mr. Speaker, I once again want to thank Mr. Johnson for his continual dedication to helping our veterans and for his service to our country.

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE CITY OF TUALATIN, OREGON

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the City of Tualatin, Oregon, on the occasion of its centennial anniversary.

This remarkable city, located just south of the State's largest metropolitan area, serves as a gateway to the fertile farmland of the Willamette Valley, which was formed by a series of cataclysmic floods some 12,000–17,000 years ago.

The Tualatin River Basin has provided sanctuary and sustenance for a litany of ancestral occupants. This wide range of early and distinguished inhabitants included the Atfalati Tribe and the historic Tualatin Mastadon, which was unearthed in 1962 after 13,000 years and subsequently displayed at the Tualatin Public Library for public edification.

In 1850 the U.S. Congress passed the Donation Land Claim Act, which granted title to American settlers committed to productive cultivation of the land. Shortly after, from 1850–1853, 30 families took up permanent residence in the area. Initially known as

Galbreath, then Bridgeport, the settlement was named Tualatin in 1887 and subsequently incorporated, by a vote of the townspeople, on August 18, 1913.

In the one hundred years since, Tualatin, Oregon has demonstrated a balanced approach to development—combining economic vitality and safe and beautiful neighborhoods with environmental stewardship to ensure a preeminent quality of life. Over 300 acres of award-winning parks and natural spaces delight residents and offer an abundance of recreational opportunities for hikers, bikers, and outdoor enthusiasts. The community is very proud to have recently celebrated 25 years as a designated Tree City USA.

The City of Tualatin harbors a first-rate educational system, visionary leadership, and public administrators of the highest caliber. An engaged and informed citizenry—critical to the success of every governmental body—actively participates in governance, supports a thriving business community, and sustains a range of cultural and artistic activities.

Mr. Speaker, one hundred years have passed since the incorporation of Tualatin, Oregon. It is a deep honor to represent this exceptional city in the U.S. Congress. I offer my sincerest congratulations during this centennial celebration and look forward to many more years of growth and prosperity.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHER BEJADO ON RECEIVING THE 2013 U.S. SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mr. Christopher Bejado on being awarded the 2013 U.S. Small Business Administration's Person of the Year Award for Guam. Mr. Bejado is the president and director of hospitality of Marianas Slingstone, Inc. dba Proa.

PROA is true to the philosophy of ''garden to table,'' meaning PROA hires its employees from Guam and sources its ingredients from local farmers. The restaurant remains committed to the Hafa Adai spirit and to being locally sustainable.

Chris was pursuing a master's degree in education from the University of Guam when he and his childhood friend, Geoffrey D. Perez, opened PROA Restaurant in Tumon. In 2007, the restaurant opened a complementary business, Sweet Relief Pastry Shop, featuring unique local flavors in delectable sweets. PROA opened a second location in November 2012, in the heart of Hagatna, to cater to the island's southern patrons.

Born and raised on Guam in the village of Tamuning, Chris is the son of Catalino Marilag Bejado, a Filipino migrant from the province of Bicol in the Philippines, and Maria Martinez Flores, a Chamorro islander. He is the youngest of six siblings.

Chris is a 1988 graduate of John F. Kennedy High School and earned a bachelor's degree in travel industry management from Hawaii Pacific University. He is married to Cora Yanger Bejado and has three daughters: Natalie, Camille, and Kathleen.

At age 23, after graduating from college Chris returned home to Guam and opened his first restaurant called De Niro's Pasta Kitchen in the village of Dededo which remained open for just 2 years. Chris has also held positions with the Hyatt Regency Guam as Assistant Manager for the Al Dente Restaurant, as well as Stewarding Manager. He also held the position of Concessions Manager for LSG Lufthansa Sky Chefs, opening 12 food and beverage outlets in the New Guam International Airport in 1995.

Chris had a passion for sharing his work experience with Guam's young students, this led him to accept a position at the University of Guam (UOG) as Outreach Coordinator for the International Tourism and Hospitality Industry. He later worked as Marketing Specialist for the Office of University and Community Engagement, spending nearly ten years at UOG.

Chris is also an active member in our island community. Chris has always believed that giving back to the community is his civic duty. He has years of experience and commitment to community organizations, serving as Chairman for the Hagatna Foundation, Chairman and Board Member for the Guam Humanities Council, and the Guam Educational Radio Foundation, KPRG 89.3. He has also contributed much time and resources to the American Cancer Society.

I congratulate Christopher Bejado on receiving the 2013 U.S. Small Business Administration's Person of the Year Award for Guam. I join the people of Guam in commending him for his award and thanking him for his contributions to our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Equal Pay Day. Equal Pay Day brings awareness to the issue of disparate pay for women and families, and promotes the fair principles of equal pay for equal work.

As a Member of Congress, I am proud to say that I am an original cosponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act, an important piece of legislation that hopes to limit sex discrimination in the payment of wages. Nationally, women earn roughly 77 cents for every dollar earned by their male counterparts. This wage gap varies widely throughout various states across the country. For single parents and other heads of households, wage inequality can have lasting ramifications on quality of life and economic prosperity. Earning less money for the same time investment is not only unfair, it undermines a robust labor force and eats away at the foundation of a strong and prosperous economy. It is an issue that afflicts every community across our Nation.

In the Dallas Metroplex, women are paid 85 cents for every dollar paid to men, or $7,163 less per year for a typical full-time job. According to the National Partnership for Women and Families, women in the Dallas area lose more than $7 billion each year due to these blatant disparities in pay.

Mr. Speaker, we owe it to the American people to ensure that all workers are being paid fair and equitable wages for their labor. The Equal Pay and Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Acts were steps taken in the right direction. Now, we must pass the Paycheck Fairness Act to continue our assault on pay inequality, and ensure that women across the country have access to fair wages.

THE PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, today is Equal Pay Day—the day that symbolizes when, more than three months into the year, the average woman's yearly income finally catches up to what a man was paid in a previous year. Getting paid fairly for the work you do is tough for almost everyone, but, for women, it's particularly difficult.

Women earn an average of 77 cents for every dollar earned by men, costing women and their families up to $2 million over a woman's working lifetime. With a record number of women in the workforce, wage discrimination is hurting the majority of American families, both in terms of their economic security today and their retirement security tomorrow. Families have fewer resources to pay the mortgage, send kids to college, or have a decent retirement.

If the United States had an adopted policy of equal pay, it would put $200 billion more into the economy every year. This comes out to about $137 for every white woman per pay check, and approximately $300 for every woman of color, who are doubly discriminated against.

Today, there are an unprecedented number of women who are the breadwinners of their families. This makes pay equity even more critical, not simply to family economic security, but also to our nation's economy.

As we look for ways to create more jobs and grow the economy, it's astounding to me that Congress has not yet passed legislation ensuring equal pay for equal work. It's a powerful policy which would produce enormously positive economic outcomes.

The Paycheck Fairness Act ensures that employers who try to justify paying a man more than a woman for the same job must demonstrate that the disparity is not sex-based, but job-related and necessary. It prohibits employers from retaliating against employees who discuss or disclose their own salary information with their co-workers, and it strengthens the remedies available to wronged employees.

Pay inequity due to gender discrimination is real, it should not be tolerated, and we need to take action against it.

NATIONAL SPRING CLEANING WEEK, MARCH 18–24, 2013

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the Association of Residential Cleaning

Services International, or ARCSI, of Ohio's 3rd Congressional District, as I rise to acknowledge National Spring Cleaning Week which took place March 18–24, 2013.

As many people around our country prepare for spring cleaning, on behalf of the organization, I want to remind those who will begin going ''out with the old and in with the new'' to recycle.

Recycling what you have stored in your basement, closet and garage and instead learning to reduce, reuse and recycle those items is efficient, sustainable and time-saving.

With advice from our cleaning industry professionals at ARCSI, they are helping everyday American families live healthy, clean and green lives.

So let us remember to re-use, re-purpose and whenever possible recycle items we already have in our households as we begin our spring cleaning.

HONORING DAVID CURSON

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend, David Curson, on the occasion of his retirement.

Many of you know David from his seven weeks of service in the House during the 112th Congress representing Michigan's 11th district. He was elected with the help of community activists, including his beloved United Auto Workers, to fill a vacancy for the shortest term in recent memory. While he was here, David unflinchingly stood up for working American families, always remembering his roots back in Michigan and Ohio. His time in the House was not wasted: His was a key vote in avoiding the fiscal cliff this past January. It was a tough one to take, but David did so with the greater good in mind, as he has always done. His service here was nothing short of honorable, and the Michigan Delegation is better off for his having a part of it.

David's service to his fellowman far predated his time in Congress. He proudly served his country as a Marine in Vietnam. When he returned to the United States, David started a life-long career at Ford and with the United Auto Workers, particularly Local 898 in Rawsonville, Michigan. David has held nearly every imaginable position in the Union, from chairman of the Local UAW/Ford Joint Apprenticeship Committee to Director of Special Projects and Economic Analysis to Executive Assistant to the UAW's President, Vice President, and Secretary Treasurer. He led contract negotiations that saved thousands of American jobs and helped set the standard for job security agreements in North America. In short, David has devoted his life to his fellow working men and women and done a magnificent job for them.

Mr. Speaker, I am humbled and grateful to call David my friend. His dedication to social justice and public service are example to us all, and one which I hope we will all heed. I know David's entire family—from his wonderful wife Sharon, to his children David Jr., Lisa, David II, and Kathryn, to his grandsons Peyton and Parker—all appreciate David's extraordinary life of service and are thrilled to be able to spend more time with him as he retires. To my good friend, David, and his family, I wish health, happiness, and long life.

CONGRATULATING THE DUNCANVILLE HIGH SCHOOL PANTHERETTES

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Duncanville High School Pantherettes varsity basketball team for winning the 2013 5A state championship for the second consecutive year. The Pantherettes beat Cibolo Steele Lady Knights 59–36, ending their season with a record of 42–0, the first 5A school to achieve this record in a single season.

I also want to commend the coaching staff for their hard work and dedication to their team. In the past 13 seasons, head coach Cathy Self-Morgan has led the Pantherettes to three state championships with a record of 957 wins. Coach Self-Morgan received a number of prestigious honors this season, including the Dallas Morning News SportsDay's Girls Basketball Coach of the Year.

This year, the Pantherettes were ranked the number one high school girls basketball team in the Nation by the USA Today Super 25 Poll and the Max Preps Freeman Poll. The ESPN Power Rankings ranked the Pantherettes second among all U.S. girls teams. The Pantherettes were also crowned 7–5A district champions, 62nd Annual 2012 Sandra Meadows Tournament champions, and the 2012 McDonald's Pasadena Tournament champions.

I applaud the team's outstanding efforts and commitment to a flawless return to the state championship. The Pantherettes legacy includes eight state championships, 22 tournament appearances, and 33 regional tournament appearances. Congratulations again, Pantherettes, on a incredible season.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, yesterday morning the State of Israel came to a standstill as a siren signaling one minute of silence pierced through the daily lives of Israelis. For one minute, highways came to a stand-still and phone conversations fell silent. This moment of silent reflection occurs every year on Yom Hashoa, Holocaust Remembrance Day, in order to honor the memory of the six million Jews systematically murdered at the hands of the Nazis.

Yom Hashoa serves as more than just a day of remembrance, though. Each passing year the remaining number of survivors becomes fewer and fewer. South Florida has seen this first hand. Just last month, Holocaust Survivors of South Florida—once one of the nation's largest survivor groups with a peak membership at over 1,400 survivors—was forced to close its doors due to a rapidly dwindling number of members.

At its final board meeting, the group gave $15,000 to the Holocaust Documentation and Education Center, highlighting the importance of teaching the lessons of the Holocaust to our future generations. The organization's president expressed her hope ''that through education, history would not repeat.''

So today, I commit myself to learning the lessons of the past. I join my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives by honoring the living memory of the victims of the Holocaust. Together, we will stand against any resurgence of anti-Semitism, and against all forms of hatred and prejudice.

CELEBRATING THE MEXICAN AMERICAN OPPORTUNITY FOUNDATION'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation on celebrating their 50th anniversary. For 50 years MAOF has worked to improve the quality of life for millions of Latinos in the Los Angeles area. From education and daycare services for children, to job training and English-language classes for adults, to medical and social services to seniors, MAOF has provided poor or disenfranchised Latinos with opportunities for social and economic advancement.

In 1963, a little known community and labor leader named Dionicio Morales had the idea to create a foundation dedicated to Mexican-American community development. He started at the top, with a call to President John F. Kennedy. Morales did not get to speak to the President, but through his perseverance, he was able to speak with Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson. Together they secured the funding for what would become the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation.

Today MAOF is the largest Latino human services provider in the nation and the Los Angeles Times has credited Morales with being one of the original leaders of the East Los Angeles Latino civil rights movement, along with United Farm Workers leader Cesar Chavez, journalist Ruben Salazar, and my father, Congressman Edward R. Roybal.

Although Dionicio Morales passed away in 2008, his legacy lives on within the work of MAOF which provides essential services to over 100,000 people, 8,000 of whom are children.

Once again I congratulate MAOF President and CEO Martin Castro, members of the board of directors, and all MAOF employees. I thank them for 50 years of dedicated service to the Latino community, and I wish them well as they continue their great work in the years to come.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF PETER SCOTT CARTER

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Peter Scott Carter, an extraordinary man who died of a tragic accident at his home on March 7, 2013, at the age of 70. He was a proud Los Gatan, a loving husband, a devoted father and grandfather, a bon vivant, a lover of cooking, wine, music, and politics, but most of all he loved people. He was witty, worldly, a successful advertising executive, an accomplished photographer and a mentor to many.

Peter was born in San Diego on February 20, 1943. His family moved to Santa Clara in 1957, and he graduated from Bellarmine College Preparatory School and Georgetown University. He was an active member of the Los Gatos Music and Arts Committee and a member of the San Jose Rotary Club. Known as a pillar of the community, he was the founder and mainstay of the Los Gatos Social Club, a group that meets on Wednesdays for cocktails and dinner.

I was honored last year to be the beneficiary of Peter's invitation to his home to meet the Los Gatos Social Club, where I met a cross section of the community. Scott Carter wrote fondly about that meeting . . . one I shall cherish all the days of my life.

The words written by Peter's son Scott and published online in the Los Gatos Patch paint a vivid picture of this vibrant, dynamic man:

> My Father enjoyed politics, and while he wasn't shy about blasting the Democratic Party for this or that, it never stopped him from supporting the candidate that he thought was going to do the most good for the community.
>
> When Los Gatos was redistricted from Mike Honda to Anna Eshoo, he was able to get both Members to spend the evening with the Los Gatos Social Club for a Passing of the Torch party. He told me that he and Representative Eshoo closed Chicago Steak and Fish that night, talking long past everyone else's departure.
>
> He cared deeply about his family. His grandchildren were the apple of his eye. Grandpa's house was filled with candy, all of it bowls that can be reached by any child old enough to walk. While he was always a happy person, the joy on his face as he was spoiling the girls was unmatched. As much as he loved throwing a party, I know that he loved taking them to Powell's and giving them presents even more.
>
> His love for Dennise was obvious to us all. A woman who shares his passion for giving to others and caring for the community, she has dedicated most of her life to starting and growing nonprofits. She is probably the only person on the planet willing and capable of being the hostess as often as he wanted to be the host. She brought tremendous joy to my father's life, and words will never express the feelings of gratitude and love that I feel for her.

Peter Carter leaves his wife Dennise McNulty Carter, his sons Scott and Shawn, and four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life lived well by Peter Carter, and for his great contributions to his community and our country. He will be remembered and missed by all who had the good fortune to know him, and I count myself among that privileged group. Today, the entire House of Representatives extends our most sincere condolences to Dennise Carter, to Peter's sons, his grandchildren and his entire family.

A TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO SUFFERED THE ATROCITIES OF THE BOSNIAN WAR

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to those who suffered the atrocities of the Bosnian War. In April of 1992, a war of aggression was waged against the newly independent and sovereign Bosnia by Serb forces aiming to destroy its multi-ethnic and multi-religious character. The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), a body of the United Nations, was established to prosecute serious crimes committed during the wars in the former Yugoslavia. Due to the efforts of the ICTY, 161 fugitives have been indicted, including Ratko Mladic, the person responsible for the Srebrenica Genocide. April 16th of this year will mark twenty years since the United Nations declared the Srebrenica enclave a "safe zone." Sadly, the failure of the United Nations to protect this safe zone ultimately led to genocide and the death of more than 8,000 men and boys.

I would like to call for the United Nations to properly recognize the Srebrenica Genocide declaring July 11th to be Srebrenica Remembrance Day. In the 109th Congress, I proudly co-sponsored H.R. 199, which affirmed that in Srebrenica, "the policies of aggression and ethnic cleansing as implemented by Serb forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995 meet the terms defining the crime of genocide."

Tomorrow, President Tomislav Nikolic of Serbia will take the floor during a United Nations debate on the ICTY. As we mark another anniversary of the beginning of genocidal violence in Bosnia, let us remember that our work is not yet done. As President Obama has stated, "The United States rejects efforts to distort the scope of this atrocity, rationalize the motivations behind it, blame the victims, and deny the indisputable fact that it was genocide." In solidarity with April Genocide Prevention Month, let us remember the victims and the heroic perseverance of the Bosnian people.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2475–S2510

Measures Introduced: Twenty-three bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 669–691, and S. Res. 94. **Pages S2500–01**

Measures Passed:

United States and the Kingdom of Thailand Diplomatic Relations: Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 77, expressing the sense of Congress relating to the commemoration of the 180th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Kingdom of Thailand, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S2508**

Sinking of the U.S.S. Thresher: Senate agreed to S. Res. 94, recognizing the 50th anniversary of the sinking of the U.S.S. *Thresher* (SSN 593). **Page S2508**

Measures Considered:

Safe Communities, Safe Schools Act—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 649, to ensure that all individuals who should be prohibited from buying a firearm are listed in the national instant criminal background check system and require a background check for every firearm sale. **Pages S2475–78, S2482–92**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Thursday, April 11, 2013. **Page S2492**

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, April 10, 2013, and the next hour be equally divided and controlled between the two Leaders, or their designees, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the first half controlled by the Republicans and the second half controlled by the Majority. **Page S2509**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 64 yeas to 34 nays (Vote No. EX. 93), Patty Shwartz, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit. **Pages S2478–82, S2510**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Harry I. Johnson III, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring August 27, 2015.

Philip Andrew Miscimarra, of Illinois, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring December 16, 2017.

Mark Gaston Pearce, of New York, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring August 27, 2018.

3 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

3 Army nominations in the rank of general.

1 Marine Corps nomination in the rank of general.

5 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, and Navy. **Pages S2509–10**

Measures Read the First Time: **Pages S2496, S2508**

Executive Communications: **Pages S2496–S2500**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2501–02**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S2502–07**

Additional Statements: **Page S2496**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Pages S2507–08**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S2508**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S2508**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—93) **Pages S2481–82**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 10, 2013. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2509.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine United States Pacific Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2014 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Admiral Samuel J. Locklear III, USN, Commander, United States Pacific Command, Department of Defense.

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities concluded open and closed hearings to examine the Department of Defense programs and policies with respect to emerging counterterrorism threats in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2014 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Derek H. Chollet, Assistant Secretary for International Security Affairs, Michael A. Sheehan, Assistant Secretary for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict and Interdependent Capabilities, and Admiral William H. McRaven, USN, Commander, United States Special Operations Command, all of the Department of Defense.

STATE OF RURAL COMMUNICATIONS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet concluded a hearing to examine the state of rural communications, after receiving testimony from John Strode, Ritter Communications, Jonesboro, Arkansas, on behalf of NTCA—The Rural Broadcast Association; Steve Davis, CenturyLink, Denver, Colorado; Patricia Jo Boyers, BOYCOM Cablevision, Inc., Poplar Bluff, Missouri, on behalf of the American Cable Association; and LeRoy T. Carlson, Jr., United States Cellular Corporation, Chicago, Illinois.

NOMINATION

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Ernest J. Moniz, of Massachusetts, to be Secretary of Energy, after the nominee, who was introduced by former Senator Jeff Bingaman, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

NOMINATION

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Marilyn B. Tavenner, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senators Warner and Kaine, and Representative Cantor, testified and answered questions in her own behalf.

NOMINATION

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Sylvia Mathews Burwell, of West Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Rockefeller, testified and answered questions in her own behalf.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAW ENFORCEMENT

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism concluded a hearing to examine current issues in campaign finance law enforcement, after receiving testimony from Mythili Raman, Acting Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Department of Justice; Patricia Haynes, Deputy Chief, Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, Department of the Treasury; Lawrence M. Noble, Americans for Campaign Reform, Washington, DC; Gregory L. Colvin, Adler and Colvin, San Francisco, California; and Bradley A. Smith, Center for Competitive Politics, Columbus, Ohio.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 48 public bills, H.R. 1406–1453; and 5 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 28; and H. Res. 141–144 were introduced. **Pages H1856–58**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H1859–62**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 254, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to facilitate the development of hydroelectric

power on the Diamond Fork System of the Central Utah Project (H. Rept. 113–25, Pt. 1);

H.R. 291, to provide for the conveyance of certain cemeteries that are located on National Forest System land in Black Hills National Forest, South Dakota (H. Rept. 113–26);

H.R. 507, to provide for the conveyance of certain land inholdings owned by the United States to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 113–27);

H.R. 588, to provide for donor contribution acknowledgments to be displayed at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 113–28);

H.R. 1033, to authorize the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 under the American Battlefield Protection Program (H. Rept. 113–29);

H.R. 1120, to prohibit the National Labor Relations Board from taking any action that requires a quorum of the members of the Board until such time as Board constituting a quorum shall have been confirmed by the Senate, the Supreme Court issues a decision on the constitutionality of the appointments to the Board made in January 2012, or the adjournment sine die of the first session of the 113th Congress, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–30); and

H. Res. 140, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 678) to authorize all Bureau of Reclamation conduit facilities for hydropower development under Federal Reclamation law, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 113–31). **Pages H1855–56**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Harris to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H1839**

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by a yea-and-nay vote of 294 yeas to 104 nays with 1 answering ''present'', Roll No. 92. **Pages H1839, H1846–47**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:20 p.m. and reconvened at 5:03 p.m. **Page H1841**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Bonneville Unit Clean Hydropower Facilitation Act: H.R. 254, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to facilitate the development of hydroelectric power on the Diamond Fork System of the Central Utah Project, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 400 yeas to 4 nays, Roll No. 90 and **Pages H1841–42, H1845**

American Battlefield Protection Program Amendments Act of 2013: H.R. 1033, to authorize the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 under the American Battlefield Protection Program, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 283 yeas to 122 nays, Roll No. 91. **Pages H1843–44, H1846**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:25 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H1844**

Privileged Resolution: The House agreed to H. Res. 141, expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of the Baroness Margaret Thatcher, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. **Pages H1845–46**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H1841.

Senate Referral: S. Con. Res. 10 was referred to the Committee on House Administration. **Page H1854**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1845, H1846, H1846–47. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 2 p.m. and at 8:30 p.m., pursuant to H. Res. 141, it stands adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Baroness Margaret Thatcher.

Committee Meetings

APPROPRIATIONS—INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE OVERSIGHT

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government held a hearing on Internal Revenue Service Oversight. Testimony was heard from Steven Miller, Acting Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service.

REAUTHORIZATION OF ANIMAL DRUG USER FEES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled ''Reauthorization of Animal Drug User Fees: ADUFA and AGDUFA''. Testimony was heard from Bernadette Dunham, Director, Center for Veterinary Medicine, Food and Drug Administration; and public witnesses.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHINA

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a hearing entitled ''Chen Guangcheng and Gao Zhisheng: Human Rights in China''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ADDRESSING GAO'S 2013 REPORT ON DUPLICATIVE FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Reducing Waste in Government: Addressing GAO's 2013 Report on Duplicative Federal Programs''. Testimony was heard from Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability Office.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION SMALL CONDUIT HYDROPOWER DEVELOPMENT AND RURAL JOBS ACT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 678, the ''Bureau of Reclamation Small Conduit Hydropower Development and Rural Jobs Act''. The Committee granted, by voice vote, a modified open rule for H.R. 678. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. The rule makes in order only those amendments that are submitted for printing in the Congressional Record dated at least one day before the day of consideration of the amendment and pro forma amendments for the purpose of debate. Each amendment submitted for printing may be offered only by the Member who submitted it for printing or the Member's designee and shall be considered as read if printed. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Representatives McClintock and Napolitano.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2013

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on the Budget: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Sylvia Mathews Burwell, of West Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget, 10:30 a.m., SD–608.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine expanding the Panama Canal, focusing on what it means for American freight and infrastructure, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to receive a closed briefing on an intelligence update on Syria, 11 a.m., SVC–217.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: business meeting to consider S. 689, Mental Health Awareness and Improvement Act of 2013, and the nomination of Jenny R. Yang, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine border security, focusing on frontline perspectives on progress and remaining challenges, 9:30 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: to hold an oversight hearing to examine identifying barriers to Indian housing development and finding solutions, 2:15 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Srikanth Srinivasan, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

Special Committee on Aging: to hold hearings to examine tax-related identity theft, focusing on an epidemic facing seniors and taxpayers, 2 p.m., SD–562.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Defense, hearing on U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Forces Korea, 10 a.m., H–140 Capitol. This is a closed hearing.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, hearing on U.S. Capitol Police, 10 a.m., HT–2 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, hearing on Small Business Administration Oversight, 10 a.m., H–309 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, hearing entitled ''Regulatory Approaches to Foster Economic Growth'', 10 a.m., 2358–C Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing on mental health research, 3:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education, hearing entitled ''Raising the Bar: Reviewing STEM Education in America'', 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, hearing on H.R. 3, the ''Northern Route Approval Act'', 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade, hearing entitled ''Our Nation of Builders: Powering U.S. Automobile Manufacturing Forward'', 10:15 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, markup on legislation to affirm the policy of the United States regarding Internet governance, 4 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance, hearing entitled ''Sustainable Housing Finance: Perspectives on Reforming the FHA'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Financial Institutions, hearing entitled ''Examining Credit Union Regulatory Burdens'', 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Luxury Jets and Empty Prisons: Wasteful and

Duplicative Spending at the Department of Justice'', 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee On Oversight And Government Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''U.S. Foreign Assistance: What Oversight Mechanisms are in Place to Ensure Accountability?'', 9:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, U.S. Postal Service, and the Census, hearing entitled ''Ahead of Postal Reform: Hearing from USPS Business Partners'', 1:30 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 1120, the ''Preventing Greater Uncertainty in Labor-Management Relations Act'', 3 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Threats from Space, Part II: A Review of Private Sector Efforts to Track and Mitigate Asteroids and Meteors'', 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Small Business Tax Reform: Growth Through Simplicity'', 1 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime, hearing on the efforts to combat piracy, 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing on H.R. 357, the ''GI Bill Tuition Fairness Act of 2013''; H.R. 562, the ''VRAP Extension Act of 2013''; H.R. 631, the ''Servicemembers' Choice in Transition Act of 2013''; H.R. 844, the ''VetSuccess Enhancement Act''; H.R. 1305, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide clarification regarding eligibility for services under the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program; H.R. 1316, to amend title 38, United States Code, to specify the responsibilities of the Directors and Assistant Directors of Veterans' Employment and Training; H.R. 1402, the ''Veterans Paralympic Act of 2013''; H.R. 1412, the ''Improving Job Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2013''; and a draft bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority to provide work-study allowance for certain activities by individuals receiving educational assistance by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Subcommittee on Disability and Memorial Affairs, hearing entitled ''Sustaining the Sacred Trust: An Update on our National Cemeteries'', 2:30 p.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Oversight, hearing on examining the government's ability to prioritize its obligations and continue operations should the U.S. Treasury reach its statutory debt limit, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 624, the ''Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act'', 2 p.m., HVC–304. Open, in restricted spaces.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 10

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 649, Safe Communities, Safe Schools Act.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, April 10

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of H.R. 678—Bureau of Reclamation Small Conduit Hydropower Development and Rural Jobs Act (Subject to a Rule).

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