

and Pentagon officials. The VA should have a direct partnership with Vets4Warriors and I will certainly continue to press for that, and am very happy to have the committee's support for that effort.

Madam Chair, while I will support this bill I do not support the process that brought it to the floor today. This bill came up under a rule that enshrines sequester, cutting another \$90 billion in overall funding for the government at a time when it has become clear to all but the most obtuse among us that the sequester has caused real harm to real people. The self-executing rule under which this bill is being considered will cause still more harm—not directly to our veterans, but to millions of other Americans from the additional draconian cuts the majority is seeking to impose. That's why this bill and the Homeland Security bill are under a veto threat from the President, and rightly so. I urge my Republican colleagues to abandon the budget gamesmanship, drop Sequester 2.0, and work with us and the President to implement a budget that is fair to all Americans.

RAISING THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHINA

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 5, 2013*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding President Obama's upcoming meeting with President Xi Jinping of China.

Tuesday marked the 24th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre in Beijing, an event that reminds us of the importance of human rights, democracy and freedom across China and the world. I encourage the president to remember the tragic events of June 4, 1989, and to bear in mind the important issue of human rights when meeting with President Xi.

I also believe it is important that, as he prepares for his weekend meeting with President Xi, President Obama continues to recognize the important relationship between the United States and Taiwan. We have built an important alliance, one that has positive implications for both our economy and national security and, most importantly, helps with the spread of democracy and freedom throughout Asia and the world.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in encouraging President Obama to be mindful of the many intricacies of our relationship with China and advocate for stronger human rights standards in China and for improved coordination and partnership with Taiwan.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF BARDSTOWN POLICE OFFICER JASON SCOTT ELLIS

**HON. BRETT GUTHRIE**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 5, 2013*

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Bardstown Police Officer Jason Scott

Ellis. Officer Ellis was shot and killed while on patrol in the early morning hours of Saturday, May 25. Believed to be an ambush, this senseless act has left Bardstown and its surrounding communities mourning the loss of a husband, father and police officer.

A seven-year veteran of the force, Officer Ellis also served as Bardstown's canine officer and training officer. He is the first police officer in the history of the Bardstown Police Department to be shot and killed in the line of duty.

Bardstown Police Chief Rick McCubbin was quoted as saying Officer Ellis "paid the ultimate sacrifice doing what he loved: being a police officer." Mayor Bill Sheckles said, "The city and community of Bardstown lost a class act officer of the law in Jason Ellis, and his shoes will be hard to fill." I could not agree more.

I join with the Bardstown community and all of Kentucky's Second District in sending my thoughts and prayers to the family of Officer Ellis, especially his wife Amy and their sons, Hunter and Parker.

HONORING CHRISTOPHER BRIZENDINE

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 5, 2013*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher Brizendine. Christopher is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 214, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Christopher has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Christopher has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned 34 merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Christopher has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Christopher researched and reconstructed sheep feeders at Watkins Mill State Park in Lawson, Missouri, to be used during historical reenactments at the historic site.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Christopher Brizendine for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

VA BACKLOG

**HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 5, 2013*

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, America's veterans deserve better.

Right now there are more than 865,000 claims pending before the Veterans Administration, and, of these, more than 575,000 have remained unresolved for 125 days or more.

It is completely unacceptable that the brave men and women who have served our nation

in uniform should have to wait months, or even years, before they receive the benefits they have earned.

That's why I'm proud to join my colleagues in supporting a package of ten bills that would help clear the existing backlog and fix the flaws in the current system.

The VA Claims, Operations and Records Efficiency Act, H.R. 1729, would help to reduce the amount of time spent waiting for the Department of Defense to provide information in a more timely manner.

The Claims Adjudication Centers of Excellence, H.R. 2088, would establish a pilot program to help expedite the adjudication of the most difficult medical conditions afflicting American veterans.

There are eight other bills that would help remedy a range of problems and enable policymakers to get more definitive information to solve this problem. I encourage my colleagues to join us in this important effort.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF EQUAL PAY ACT

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 5, 2013*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, 119 years ago, in 1894, a study by the AAUW and the Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics of Labor found that men were making more than twice as much as women for jobs like bookkeeping.

Forty-eight years later, as millions of women like my mother entered the factories to help fight World War II, the War Labor Board issued General Order 16, declaring that men and women working the same job in the same factory should be paid the same wage.

In 1945, the first Equal Pay Bill was introduced in the House by Chase Going Woodhouse, the second woman and first Democratic woman to be elected to the House from Connecticut. It was reintroduced every year for 18 years. President Dwight Eisenhower called it "a matter of simple justice" in his State of the Union.

And 50 years ago this week—on June 10th, 1963—President John F. Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act into law.

The Equal Pay Act was supposed to end, and I quote, "the unconscionable practice of paying female employees less wages than male employees for the same job." But fifty years later, women are still paid only 77 cents on the dollar compared to men.

It has been 50 years since the Equal Pay Act, and 120 years since we first studied pay inequity. Haven't America's women waited long enough? It is time to come together, give the Equal Pay Act real teeth. It is time to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act so that men and women in the same job—get the same pay. It is that simple.