

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SUPPORTING FUNDING FOR NIH AND ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to encourage my colleagues to vote to fully fund the National Institutes of Health as we consider appropriations for FY2015.

Restoring the agency to its pre-sequestration spending level is critical to American health and medical innovation. The consequences of insufficient funding for the agency's work are not always immediately apparent but are significant. Serious investments in research are required if we hope to develop new cures, treatments, and vaccines for complex diseases such as cancer and Alzheimer's.

Without this type of significant commitment, the costs of Alzheimer's to Americans in 2050 will be a predicted \$1.2 trillion dollars.

As recent events have demonstrated, global health is also becoming a national security issue. We have seen how research conducted at the National Institutes of Health can be key to protecting American health and playing our part as a global health leader. Restrictions on research based on funding limitations can also hinder our efforts to combat such health crises.

Mr. Speaker, as a world leader in research and innovation we must dedicate the appropriate level of funding to the National Institutes of Health.

CONGRATULATING COLUMBIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY ON THE GRAND OPENING OF THE CENTER FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Columbia Southern University on the grand opening of their new Center for Continuing Education in Orange Beach, Alabama.

Established in 1993 by Dr. Robert Mayes, Columbia Southern University offers individuals with demanding schedules a way to achieve their dreams of higher education through online learning. By 2001, Columbia Southern was granted accreditation through the Distance Education and Training Council. Columbia Southern went on to become one of the first United States universities to offer a degree program in Vietnam. After Dr. Mayes' death in 2005, his son, Robert Mayes, Jr., was appointed President. Robert built on his father's success and continued to expand Columbia Southern's footprint.

Mr. Speaker, the new Columbia Southern Education Group Center for Continuing Edu-

cation will include staff offices, meeting rooms and a large training area that can be partitioned off to accommodate a variety of training needs. The 10,600 square foot facility will also serve as the regional training center for the Alabama Fire College and Personnel Standards Commission.

I am proud of the work Columbia Southern does to promote higher learning, and I take pride in knowing they are located in the heart of the First Congressional District. I know I join with many others in saying congratulations on the new facility, and we look forward to continued growth and success.

HONORING JOHN C. ADAMS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize John C. Adams. John 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 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

John has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years John has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, John has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

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

RECOGNIZING BANDERA, TEXAS AS THE COWBOY CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in 1852, despite the danger posed by Indian raids at the time, a group of entrepreneurs acquired land on a cypress-lined bend in the Medina River. The following year, members of the group surveyed the town of Bandera and opened a sawmill and commissary. The town quickly became a thriving settlement due to the success of the founders' water-powered lumber mill.

In the years that followed, local farmers and ranchers prospered, supplying products to United States Cavalry troops at Camp Verde, growing and ginning cotton, and raising cattle, sheep, and goats.

In the 1870s, as the threat of Indian attacks receded, the county became a staging area

for cattle drives and its population grew markedly. It is estimated that between 1874 and 1894, seven to 10 million longhorns and one million horses were driven by 30,000 cowboys to a staging area near Bandera, a major gathering point connecting with the Western Trail. During this time, Bandera became known as a place where cowboys could relax and buy supplies.

Dude ranching began in 1920 when the Buck Ranch took in paying summer guests, with the Bruce Ranch taking the overflow. In the 1930s, the dude ranching industry continued to expand and over 30 dude ranches were operating near Bandera.

Rodeos began in the 1920s when cowboys who worked on ranches displayed the skills they used at roundups and on cattle drives. The first advertised rodeo near Bandera was held at Mansfield Park in 1924. Bandera cowboys became rodeo world champions and were inducted into the National Cowboy Hall of Fame.

The citizens of Bandera are heirs to a rich western heritage. Today this charming town continues on as a living testament to the courage, talent, and vision of the men and women who shaped the Old West. Since 1920 the community has been a popular tourist destination, each year drawing visitors from around the state and beyond to attractions that include area resorts, dude ranches, rodeos, and hunting and camping areas.

The wild and rugged town of Bandera has long displayed the qualities that earned it the designation, "Cowboy Capital of the World" in 1948.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the rich history of Bandera, Texas and pay tribute to its citizens' many contributions to the Lone Star State.

HONORING DR. JULIAN CROCKER

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and celebrate a dedicated public servant and a dear friend, Dr. Julian Crocker.

Dr. Crocker has honorably served the educational community for 50 years. He began his career as a classroom teacher after earning both his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Vanderbilt University and later earning his doctorate from Harvard University. He has served school districts around the country, primarily serving as the superintendent for multiple school districts over the course of his career including the San Mateo City School District, Palo Alto Unified School District, and the Paso Robles Joint Unified School District.

This year marks 16 years of Dr. Crocker's remarkable career as the County Superintendent of Schools for the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education. Drawing upon his distinguished career in education, Julian's

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leadership has helped generations of students successfully prepare for the future. His passion and tireless efforts have succeeded in closing achievement gaps and improving student achievement.

Beyond his role as Superintendent, Julian has served on numerous committees and task forces dedicated to serving the schools, employees, students, and youth of the Central Coast. As an active member and leader of several educational associations throughout the state of California, he has earned the respect and admiration of so many in the educational field. Julian has also served as an adjunct faculty member of the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education at the University of California, Santa Barbara, as well as in the School of Education at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

As a military veteran, educator, and community leader, Julian's commitment to helping others and strengthening our Central Coast community is truly inspiring. I thank him for his passion, dedication, and friendship and join our community in wishing him the best in retirement and in future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO TEXAS PANHANDLE
HONOR FLIGHT

HON. MAC THORBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. THORBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 33 veterans from Texas who visited Washington, D.C., on October 10, 2014, through the Texas Panhandle Honor Flight. My wife, Sally, and I had the distinct pleasure of welcoming these heroes to the Capitol.

The veterans on this flight were: Brown, Jerry; Chambers, Obra Gerald; Crittenden, Max; Ediger, Walt; Elliott, Glenn; Godowic, Paul; Hartley, Gary; Hickey, D.W.; Howell, Jack; Hunter, Vaughn; Hutson, James; Jones, Dick; Keller, Walt; Kennedy, James; Kinser, David Wayne; Lewis, Carroll; Mantooth, Billy; McManaman, Dennis; Megert, Russell; Merrick, Jim; Morris, Jerry; Pollard, Patrick; Putnam, Julian; Runion, Thomas; Saiz, Jimmy; Schramm, Bert; Smith, Berry; Smith, Benjamin; Stratton, Henry; Swearingen, Gordon; White, Pete; Wilhelm, Tom; Williamson, Norman.

It was an honor to have the opportunity to visit with these veterans and the volunteers who traveled with them and to show them a symbol of their dedication to this country and the democracy for which they fought. The willingness of the men and women in our military to put their lives on the line to protect our country and all of the freedoms we enjoy deserves our utmost gratitude and respect. I hope that their visit to Washington, D.C., and the Capitol was a small token of our appreciation for all they have given us throughout the years.

Colleagues, please join me in thanking these veterans and their families for their exemplary dedication and service to this great nation. I want to extend a significant thank you to the local communities, all of the volunteers, and America Supports You Texas for their extensive work in organizing this Honor Flight. This trip would not have been possible without

all of the financial and emotional support of those people.

THE FUTURE OF ENERGY IN
AFRICA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, in the 21st century, energy has become vital to modern societies. We no longer have to shop for food each day because refrigerators keep food cold and preserved longer—whether in our homes, in restaurants or during the process of trade. Cell phones, computers, televisions and other electronics require electrical power to allow us to lead more productive lives in the modern world. As we have seen in the current Ebola epidemic, it is necessary that medicines and plasma be kept cold so that they do not lose their potency.

It is both unfortunate and unnecessary that more than half a billion Africans, especially in rural areas, live without electricity.

Perhaps, the great irony is that Africa has more than enough energy capacity to join the rest of the world in utilizing modern technologies that require regular energy supplies. Ironically, 30% of global oil and gas discoveries over the past five years have been in sub-Saharan Africa. Yet currently, only 290 million out of 914 million Africans have access to electricity, and the total number lacking such access continues to rise. Bioenergy, mainly fuel wood and charcoal, is still a major source of fuel. Hydropower accounts for about 20% of total power supply in the region, but less than 10% of its estimated potential has been utilized.

A hearing I convened last week examined the current and prospective impact of U.S. government programs such as Power Africa and Electrify Africa, as well as private international energy projects.

Last year, Chairman ROYCE—backed by Ranking Members ELIOT ENGEL and KAREN BASS—and I introduced H.R. 2548—the Electrify Africa Act. This legislation seeks to build the African power sector—from increased production to more effective provision of energy. H.R. 2548 passed the House this past May, but has languished in the Senate ever since. If no Senate action is taken during the remaining days of this session of Congress, this legislation will have to be reintroduced next year.

Days after the Electrify Africa Act was introduced in the House, the Administration announced its Power Africa initiative and has committed up to \$7.81 billion in various types of U.S. technical and credit assistance and other aid to build the capacity of the African power sector.

It seems that every few months, there is yet another discovery of petroleum or natural gas in Africa. Nevertheless, African countries remain net importers of energy, and the distribution of power from the many new sources of energy in Africa remains unfulfilled. This constrains trade and economic progress, social development and overall quality of life in Africa. Even now, one country—South Africa—accounts for two-thirds of Africa's electricity generation. All of Africa produces less than 10% of the energy produced in the United States.

Meanwhile, people across the continent are forced to meet their energy needs by gathering or purchasing charcoal or wood, often putting women in dangerous situations too far from home. Even when such fuels are safely brought back home, their use produces indoor pollution that too often contributes to sickness and early death.

The current situation cannot continue much longer. Even with 13% of the world's population, Africa represents only 4% of the world's energy demand, but this situation is changing. According to a report this year by the International Energy Agency (IEA), since 2000, sub-Saharan Africa has seen rapid economic growth and a rise in energy use by 45%.

We often speak of the rise in African economies, but for that rise to be truly realized, the rates of power generation and supply must match the growing demand for power. Those cell phones that are transforming all forms of commerce in Africa must be charged. The consumer goods the growing African middle class is purchasing need electricity. Africans are increasingly unwilling to accept the blackouts and power surges that have made life so difficult for so long. Africans who have traveled or lived elsewhere know this doesn't have to be their lot in life. In fact, even those who don't travel have seen how others live on their televisions—when power is available for them to operate.

During the colonial period in Africa, countries were limited in their industrialization, but that period is now long past. It must no longer be used as the reason why African countries are behind in the process of industrialization or power generation. Today, this lag in power generation is more due to inadequate or unrealistic regulation, lack of finance for significant power generation projects, underinvestment in power generation even when financing is available, the disconnection of rural populations from national and regional power grids, high costs for electricity and other factors.

These obstacles can be overcome, but they will require international and national collaboration, public-private partnerships and the will of governments and their citizens. We will not get to the point we believe is necessary overnight, but we will not get there at all if we do not take serious measures now and implement them faithfully and completely.

African people, like people everywhere, deserve the benefits that modern technology has produced. Africa has become a prized global consumer market, but that market cannot be fully realized without electricity. Anyone visiting stores in Africa can see the many modern technologies offered to African consumers today; they merely need guaranteed electricity for those goods to be useful.

With regular electricity, young students can not only study under electrical light, but also use computers to advance their studies. Homemakers can keep food fresh longer with refrigerators and can stretch household income farther. And hospitals can preserve blood plasma and medicines that can save lives.

The two panels at the hearing I held last week examined international and national programs to achieve regular, sufficient electrical power in Africa and private projects to add to the supply of energy on the continent. The future of energy in Africa is brighter than it has been in the past, but diligent actions must be taken now to seize the opportunities that lay before us.