United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 160 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2014 No. 146

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 3, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DOUG COLLINS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

NATIONAL OZONE POLLUTION STANDARDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, since the Clean Air Act was enacted into law more than 40 years ago, we have seen tremendous progress in cleaning up our air and in protecting thousands of communities around the country.

Unfortunately, many Americans are still living in communities where poor air quality puts them and their loved ones' health at risk. That is why I am proud to support the EPA's new standard for ground level ozone pollution.

Whether we work outdoors or simply want our children to be able to play outside, the EPA's recent national ozone pollution standards bring us one step closer to cleaner, healthier communities for everyone to enjoy. This proposal would lower the current standard of 75 parts per billion to a standard in the range of 65 to 70 parts per billion, while taking public comments on a level as low as 60.

Despite what many of my colleagues seem to believe, successful public health protection depends on the latest scientific data, and as many Members have been so eager to point out, we are not scientists. All we can do is rely on the best data out there from experts in the field, and in this case the data is quite clear.

A significantly expanded body of scientific evidence, including more than 1,000 new studies since the last review of the standards, show that ozone can cause harmful effects to health and the environment. Health experts, epidemiologists, and numerous medical organizations have clearly stated that the existing EPA smog standard of 75 parts per billion is not adequate to protect public health, particularly for vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly, outdoor workers, and those with chronic medical conditions like asthma. In all, 147 million people in the U.S., almost half of the country, are breathing unhealthy air.

Earlier this year the American Lung Association's State of the Air 2014 ranked Chicago as the 14th most polluted city in the Nation for short-term particle pollution. The city also ranked 20th for most ozone-polluted and for year-round particle pollution. In fact, nearly half of all Americans live in counties where ozone or particle pollution levels make the air unhealthy to breathe.

Studies have linked breathing ozone to an increased risk of premature deaths and difficulty breathing, as well as other serious illnesses. In the U.S. today, one child in 10 already suffers from asthma, and ozone pollution only makes things worse.

When asked what steps need to be taken to reduce the air pollution, the American Lung Association said that Federal action, including the EPA setting strong, health-based standards to limit ozone pollution, is one of the most important action steps we can take.

When we update our national ozone pollution standards, we are not only cleaning up our air but also protecting those most at risk. These changes would have a lasting and positive impact on my home State of Illinois, where 1.2 million adults and 13 percent of children suffer from smog-related asthma, well above the national average.

President Theodore Roosevelt once said, ''In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing. The worst thing you can do is nothing.'' Knowing the tremendous impact ozone pollution has on our environment and community health, the decision to do nothing is not a viable option.

Per usual, there are those here attacking this new proposal with claims of job loss and economic harm. According to science deniers and special interests, this proposal will cause the sky to fall. The facts, however, state otherwise.

Since 1970 we have cut harmful air pollution by almost 70 percent while the U.S. economy has more than tripled. An ozone standard in the proposed range of 65 to 70 parts per billion has public health benefits worth billions of dollars. Reducing ozone and particle pollution nationwide will avoid countless premature deaths and thousands of asthma-related emergency room visits, not to mention fewer missed school and work days.

The impact of ozone on agricultural workers is also important in its own

Printed on recycled paper.

right. A reduction in the ozone standard would translate into an annual cost savings of approximately $1 billion in labor expenditure.

We have countless scientific studies that clearly display the negative health risks associated with unregulated ozone pollution. Nevertheless, critics continue to play a dangerous role in denouncing the science and the law EPA has used for more than 40 years.

The science cannot be ignored. Now is the time to protect the most vulnerable among us. Now is the time to fight for better air quality across the country. Now is the time for action to protect American health and the environment.

We cannot afford to wait. Clean air is essential to a healthy community and a strong economy.

GENIUS OF THE CONSTITUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, the genius of our Constitution can be found in the separation of powers that has preserved our freedom for 225 years.

The American Founders recognized that what had gone so terribly wrong in Europe was that the same organ of government that made the law also enforced that law and adjudicated it. All the powers were in the same hands. They wanted to protect their new Nation from such a fate.

So they divided the powers of government. Congress, and Congress alone, makes the law. ''All legislative power herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States.''

You want many voices in that decisionmaking process. You want a great, big, messy debate. That is the Congress.

Once that decision is made, it needs to be carried out by a single will, a single branch, headed by one individual whom the Constitution commands to ''take care that the laws be faithfully executed.'' One person does not get to make the law in this Republic. The President is called upon to enforce the law.

Fundamentally, that means he does not get to pick and choose which laws he will enforce and which laws he will ignore. He does not get to pick and choose who must obey the law and who gets to live above the law. And he does not get to change laws or make laws by decree.

That is the difference between the American Republic that prides itself on being a nation of laws and not of men and the European despots of old who boasted that the law was in their mouths.

Mr. Speaker, last week the President asserted an entirely unconstitutional power to nullify existing immigration law by ordering the executive branch to simply ignore it. Further, he has ordered 34 million green cards to allow businesses to hire illegal immigrants, despite Federal law that explicitly forbids their employment.

Throughout our Nation's history, executives have tested the limits of their power, but this act crosses a very bright line. Fortunately, the American Founders anticipated that some day a President might attempt to subvert the Constitution in this manner, and they provided a variety of defenses available to both the legislative and the judicial branches.

The legislative branch has the power of the purse, but that power is temporarily constrained by the partisan division between the House and the Senate. Fortunately, the American people have acted to end that division in January.

But I fear that any confrontation between the executive and the legislative branches could ultimately end in stalemate. The third branch of government, the judiciary, must be brought into this process.

Since our earliest days, the Supreme Court has guarded our Nation from unconstitutional acts by both the legislative and executive branches, and that role is desperately needed now. I believe there is no substitute for Congress doing everything within its power to invoke judicial intervention.

I cannot believe that even the most devoted liberals on the bench can be comfortable with this brazen act of usurpation. Assuming the Court stands with the Constitution, the President would have no choice but to back down or face a catastrophic public and congressional backlash.

Whether we choose to recognize it, this is a full-fledged constitutional crisis. If allowed to stand, this precedent renders meaningless the separation of powers and the checks and balances that comprise the fundamental architecture of our Constitution. If it stands, every future President, Republican and Democrat, will cite it as justification for lawmaking by decree.

The seizure of legislative authority by the executive is fatal to a republic such as ours. Indeed, it was Julius Caesar's usurpation of the Roman senate's legislative prerogatives that brought down the Roman republic and began four centuries of dictatorship. Once the rule of one man is established over the rule of law, it is a very difficult thing to stop.

Unlike every law that is passed under our Constitution, the Constitution itself has no penalties for those who break it. The reason is that the Constitution was written to be self-enforcing, but that only happens if the powers of government are evenly balanced. The Founders relied on each branch acting to keep those powers in balance. Now, in our time, that responsibility is ours.

ASSESSMENTS IN EDUCATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I am here this morning to discuss an important issue that we hear about when we talk with teachers, parents, students, and school administrators. In conversation after conversation, they have expressed concern about what seems like an endless stream of tests that, in many cases, do little, if anything, to improve learning or classroom instruction.

Of course, assessments play an important role in education, and high-quality assessments are valuable for informing meaningful instruction. Nonetheless, too much time is devoted to redundant, low-quality, or unnecessary tests.

In many cases, teachers administer tests, but the results aren't made available for months, and hardworking educators have little opportunity to design individualized support based on the results of those tests.

Furthermore, some of the tests are redundant. They take up time that could be used on meaningful instruction, use resources best spent elsewhere, and cause students undue stress. In other schools, too much time is dedicated to preparing for tests that are not well-aligned with State standards. Simply put, unnecessary assessments have hindered our progress as a global leader in education.

We know that the Federal Government mandates several tests each year, and States and school districts often require even more tests. Does this all make sense? Do all of these tests improve instruction, improve public education?

Today, I rise to discuss legislation that I am working on to help States and local districts implement good, reliable assessments aligned to standards, and importantly, eliminate redundant, poor-quality assessments that take valuable time from teachers and students, time that could be used on meaningful instruction.

We don't need more tests. We need better tests. My bill will use an existing grant to provide States with funding to develop assessment systems that ensure the best use of students' test results and that align assessments with college and career-ready standards.

The transition to rigorous content standards is hard work, and my bill will support States as they implement high-quality assessments linked to those standards.

Working with local educational agencies, States will create assessment plans outlining how they will improve the quality of their tests, how they will use the assessment data, and how they will make the data more accessible to educators, students, and parents.

This legislation will also support States and local districts that want to lead the way on developing more sensible assessment systems. States will be able to volunteer to audit their assessment systems and use the results to design plans to eliminate unnecessary and redundant testing.

Many State school chiefs and district superintendents have recently made a commitment to this effort. My legislation will make available much-needed Federal support.

□ 1015

The focus in the classroom should be on the student. This bill will help States improve their assessments and make better use of the results, so they can draw valuable conclusions about students and give educators the data they need, so they can do what they do best: teach.

Ultimately, we must address the culture of testing that has created stress for students, parents, and teachers. This bill is a strong first step. It keeps control in the hands of the States and school districts, and it provides the funding to streamline assessment systems and make sure that the remaining assessments are high quality and useful.

My bill offers this support through an existing funding stream, and it will help put the focus back on our students. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

OPPOSITION TO UNESCO FUNDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak against a push by the administration and its allies here in Congress to ignore U.S. law—this time, to ignore the legal prohibition on using U.S. taxpayer dollars to fund UNESCO.

Frankly, it is an indictment against the administration and some of our colleagues that we have to go through this song and dance every year or whenever a funding measure is set to come to the floor; yet here we are again, as some in Congress want to help President Obama circumvent and undermine U.S. law and restore at least partial funding for UNESCO, so that that body can continue to push its anti-U.S./anti-Israel agenda.

Time and again, the President has taken unilateral action meant to get around congressional opposition and has openly stated that he will continue to do so.

Since 1990, U.S. law has prohibited any funding to the U.N. or to any U.N. agency that gives the PLO membership status and recognizes the nonexistent State of Palestine.

UNESCO was well aware of our laws when its members voted to include this so-called Palestine among its ranks, triggering the U.S. funding prohibition. President Obama knew this when we cut off UNESCO's funding in response because it is the law; however, since then, he has sought ways to undermine and circumvent this law to not only restore funding to UNESCO, but to also pay dues in arrears which now would amount to over $300 million in U.S. taxpayer dollars.

This is the very same body that allows the likes of Cuba—the antithesis of freedom and the respect for human rights and the rule of law—on its executive board. When UNESCO admitted a nonexistent Palestine, it undermined the peace process and only emboldened Abu Mazen even further to move forward with his unilateral push for statehood at the U.N.

There cannot be a legitimate Palestinian state unless it comes about as the result of direct negotiations between the Israelis and the Palestinians. This unilateral scheme by Abu Mazen is a way for him to use that U.N. body to gain de facto statehood without having to first come to an agreement with Israel.

If President Obama and his enablers in Congress have their way and U.S. funding for UNESCO is restored, it will signal that the U.S. supports this unilateral push for statehood, and we will have sold out our closest friend and ally: the democratic Jewish State of Israel.

We must make it clear to the administration in no uncertain terms that Congress will not allow it to continue to circumvent and undermine congressional authority or the law and that we will not allow it once again to fund UNESCO.

Giving the administration the authority it seeks to fund UNESCO would not only set a dangerous precedent by showing those with an anti-Israel agenda at the U.N. that the U.S. does not have the courage of its convictions or the fortitude to enforce our own laws, but it would also give the green light to the rest of the bodies at the U.N. to follow UNESCO's lead and also admit Palestine.

Abu Mazen has already signaled that he will seek further recognition at the U.N., and unless we make it absolutely certain to the entire U.N. system that admitting Palestine has very real and tangible negative consequences, the bodies at the U.N. will fall in line with this dangerous scheme, and that would cause irreparable harm to the peace process.

Instead of President Obama's looking for ways to spend hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars at an anti-U.S./anti-Israel body at the U.N., which is in violation of U.S. law, the President should perhaps instead focus on institutions at the U.N. that do work and that are effective.

This month, for example, the World Food Programme, WFP, was forced to suspend its assistance to millions of refugees who fled the crisis in Syria and went to Jordan, to Lebanon, to Iraq, to Turkey; as a result, millions could go hungry as they are set to face the harsh winter.

Our money would be better spent helping an institution we know works because it relies on voluntary contributions only, and we should be doing more to ensure that the WFP, the World Food Programme, can continue its good work to assist these millions of refugees around the world.

THIS CONGRESS MUST VOTE TO AUTHORIZE THE WARS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my great frustration and anger that this Congress—the 113th Congress—continues to ignore its constitutional responsibilities to debate and vote on whether to authorize the U.S. war against Islamic State forces in Iraq and Syria.

On July 25, this House voted 370–40 that, if the United States engages in sustained combat operations in Iraq, then the House would need to authorize such actions. Let me read exactly what this House approved by such an overwhelming, bipartisan majority:

> The President shall not deploy or maintain United States Armed Forces in a sustained combat role in Iraq without specific statutory authorization for such use enacted after the date of the adoption of this concurrent resolution.

That vote, supported by 180 Republicans and 190 Democrats, was taken nearly 4.5 months ago.

What has happened since then? On August 8, just 2 weeks after the House vote, the U.S. began bombing Islamic State forces in Iraq. We are now bombing Iraq to protect infrastructure, as part of coordinated military operations with Kurdish and Iraqi military forces, and to take back or to hold cities, towns, and other territory. We are flying dozens of bombing sorties nearly every day in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, we have also escalated the number of U.S. troops in Iraq, ostensibly as trainers and advisers. On November 7, the President announced yet another escalation in the number of U.S. troops deployed to Iraq, sending roughly an additional 1,500 troops to the region for a ''comprehensive training effort'' for Iraq's army.

When they arrive, this will put the number of American troops in Iraq at around 3,000. The U.S. Central Command is also working on setting up new ''expeditionary advise-and-assist operation centers'' far outside the cities of Baghdad and Erbil.

What else has happened since July? We expanded the war to Syria. On September 17, this House voted to include in the short-term continuing resolution authority to arm and train certain Syrian rebel forces, ostensibly to provide ground troops inside Syria to fight Islamic State forces.

Five days later, the U.S. began bombing inside Syria. We have flown scores of bombing missions inside Syrian territory against the Islamic State and—and this should come as no surprise—other radical groups like the Khorasan Group.

This week, we are in military negotiations with Turkey to establish a safe zone—a no-fly zone—along the northern border of Syria that will cover territory inside of Syria and inside Turkey.

The President has asked for an additional $5.6 billion from Congress to augment the Pentagon's overseas contingency operations account, the OCO. About $3.4 billion of that would go to the operations against the Islamic State, and another $1.6 billion would directly support the Iraqi training and equipping mission. I have no doubt that all or most of those funds will be included in the omnibus appropriations bill next week.

Mr. Speaker, if this doesn't add up to our forces being engaged in sustained military combat operations, then what in the world does? Many Members keep talking about prohibiting U.S. troops from having boots on the ground.

Mr. Speaker, we already have nearly 3,000 pairs of boots on the ground in Iraq, and I don't know how many people we have supporting and carrying out bombing missions because the Pentagon and the White House haven't told us.

Enough is enough. This House needs to draft, debate, and vote on whether to authorize this vast array of military operations known as Operation Inherent Resolve before we adjourn this year.

This war began under this Congress, the 113th Congress. It has escalated under the 113th Congress. It has expanded from Iraq to Syria and now to Turkey under the 113th Congress. It is the responsibility of the 113th Congress to authorize it or not. We need to take care of our business—real, serious, life-and-death business—before we walk out the door next week. We need to do our jobs.

No more excuses, no more whining about how the White House should send Congress a request. It is the institutional and constitutional duty of the Congress of the United States to decide matters of war and peace. It is time for the leadership of this House to step up to the plate and bring an authorization to the floor to be debated and voted on before we adjourn.

If not, then shame on this House and shame on the leadership for failing to carry out our most sacred duty to our uniformed men and women, their families, and the American people.

IN HONOR OF THE BRAVERY OF PRIVATE JOHN SIPE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I call attention to the bravery exhibited during the Civil War by Private John Sipe during the Battle of Fort Stedman.

In addition, I recognize and commend the tireless efforts by his great-grandson, Mr. Reuben Troutman, a constituent of Pennsylvania's Fourth District, who has advocated for over a decade for the consideration of his great-grandfather to receive the Medal of Honor.

On March 25, 1865, Private Sipe's selfless actions in the face of grave danger exhibited unparalleled bravery while fighting at the Battle of Fort Stedman with the 205th Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers.

After Confederate forces succeeded in capturing Fort Stedman, the 205th Regiment made a gallant charge to counter the rebel attack. Although still considered to be in training status at that time, these brave Pennsylvanians managed to force the opposition back into Fort Stedman, halting the Confederate onslaught.

During the intense hand-to-hand combat that occurred in retaking the fort, Private Sipe displayed extreme heroism when, without concern for his own safety, he fearlessly charged the rebel lines and captured the Confederate flag.

The commander of the IX Army Corps, Major General John G. Parke, recommended to Army headquarters that Private Sipe be awarded the Medal of Honor for his valor and selflessness in capturing the enemy flag.

Mr. Speaker, I must explain that capturing this flag at the time was not like this game that you might have heard about of capturing the flag. At the time of the Civil War, just imagine the fire and the sound of cannonade, muskets, the screams of compatriots on either side of the line in trying to manage the battle.

It was the flag, it was the guidon, it was the standard, that showed the soldiers what action their unit was taking, and without it, it would render them impotent because there was no communication. There were no radios during the Civil War, so capturing the flag meant everything; not only was it symbolic, but it had a huge purpose in determining what that unit could, would, or would not do.

Although recommended to receive the award by the commanding general, according to the National Archives and Records Administration, Private Sipe, however, never received the Medal of Honor.

In a process that has spanned more than a decade, Private Sipe's only living relative—his great-grandson Reuben Troutman of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania—has worked with our office and the office of my predecessors to ensure that Private Sipe was given fair consideration for the Medal of Honor for which he was recommended.

Unfortunately, the Department of Defense determined this year that a lack of existing evidence precludes the award of the Medal of Honor for Private Sipe's bravery and service. Private Sipe's heroism warrants recognition, nonetheless.

Additionally, Reuben Troutman has dedicated an extensive amount of time over many years in researching his great-grandfather's contribution at the Battle of Fort Stedman, and he has worked diligently and tirelessly to bring to light historical facts of Private Sipe's military record.

I commend Reuben for his attention to detail, persistence, tenacity, and zeal in seeking to honor his family heritage and for a valiant attempt at obtaining recognition for his great-grandfather's honorable and courageous service during the Civil War.

As a proud servicemember myself and as a combat veteran and on behalf of the millions of other uniformed personnel who have served after him, I thank not only Private Sipe, but also Mr. Troutman, for their selfless service and dedication to our Nation.

□ 1030

HUMAN DIGNITY FOR ALL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, in this season of reflection for many across the Nation, I will take a moment, first of all, to speak to my constituent Zeph to remind him that I have always supported the human dignity of all persons, and I will never fail to do so. I thank him for his warm embrace of those values and our commitment that we will continue to work together, which brings me to my concern of an ailing American who has continuously been held in Cuba.

I ask today on the floor of the House for the leadership of this government to continue to work diligently in the efforts to return Alan Gross to his family. I hope that we will join together, Republicans and Democrats, to work for his release and his return. I would note, Mr. Speaker, that I do not speak of the conditions of such, the reasons for such; just an American who is in failing health whom we need to work to bring home.

I think that is the kind of spirit of mercy that I would like to continue to speak of as we try to work our way through the understanding of the President's action on the executive order regarding immigration. It follows the directive of the Speaker of the House, who said:

> A comprehensive approach to immigration reform is long overdue; and I am confident that the President, myself, and others can find the common ground to take care of this issue once and for all.

Spoken by Speaker BOEHNER in 2012.

Now, as we approach the new year, 2015, 3 years later, there has not been one vote on the floor of the House to bring mercy or relief to those who have been languishing in the shadows—not opening the borders, Mr. Speaker, but to really provide a framework for those who are here in the United States, almost as if there was a temporary pardon.

This is not, as the Judiciary Committee pounded over and over again yesterday, a change in the law. This is a work within the confines of the law under article II executive powers of the President and the language to take care. It is actually a recognition to frame, if you will, the interpretation that is given to laws of the land—

might I say, civil laws as well. Because in a civil law, there is punishment; under immigration laws, you can be deported, a civil penalty.

So the President has said, in an executive order narrowly confined and reviewed by legal counsel and constitutional experts, supported by 136 scholars, that said that the President is within his rights to stop deportation of store owners and childcare workers and high-tech workers, and particularly the parents of children who are, in fact, citizen children of legal permanent residents.

It is important for the American people to understand, there is no illegality here. There is no runaway Presidency here. There is an understanding that those who have status—not immigration status, not pathway to citizenship, but a temporary reprieve—almost like a pardon, yet it is more temporary, those children who have been deferred, all he did was to say that it should be 3 years and not 2 years. He has asked that the ICE officers be made, if you will, equal to other Federal law enforcement officers. I celebrate that. That is exciting.

Let me quickly say this, Mr. Speaker. I want to travel in the pathway of Reverend Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea about immigration reform. Her words are, as I paraphrase them: We should choose our values for people over politics, community safety over partisan strategies, family unity and welcome over fear of foreigners, and humanitarian compassion for children and families above rhetoric and rancor.

Let me finally, Mr. Speaker, say that I want to, again, as I move to another topic, thank and compliment the protesters that were peaceful regarding the issue of Ferguson. I ask for people to understand these young people. I went out in Houston in the march and applauded them for the peacefulness of their protests. Now they are asking for us as legislators and policymakers to make a difference in their lives. I publicly say on the floor of the House they will not be forgotten.

I want AJ to know, who is an intern in my office from St. Louis, shot in gang fights, that he will not be forgotten. The work that he is doing will be remembered.

I ask the National Association of Chiefs of Police to join us in a discussion on how we best walk through these concerns. There are many legislative initiatives, but it has to be a combination of law enforcement, policymakers, civil rights leaders.

And to our police unions, let me say there are none of us that have not worked and stood alongside of you.

I want to say in closing, Mr. Speaker, on H.R. 5550, that I hope my colleagues will join me in making sure that funding is not used by local communities through their various traffic stops to fund their communities.

Let's make a difference on Ferguson, Mr. Speaker.

IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, the issue is no longer whether Congress and the President can agree on immigration policy. The question is: Does a President have the power to alter our Nation's laws without passing new statutes?

Throughout the history of this great country, since the time of our Founding Fathers, the answer to this question has been ''no.'' Yet President Obama struck a blow to the system of checks and balances that has been at the heart of our government and our Constitution for over 200 years.

The constitutionality of the President's actions are in question as the President has said time and time again that he does not have the constitutional authority to change our Nation's immigration laws on his own. From 2008 up to this August, at least 22 times the President has said that he couldn't ignore the laws on the books or create his own immigration laws.

In 2011, the President said: ''America is a nation of laws, which means I, as the President, am obligated to enforce the law. I don't have a choice about that. That's part of my job.

''We've got three branches of government. Congress passes the law. The executive branch's job is to enforce and implement those laws. And then the judiciary has to interpret the laws. There are enough laws on the books by Congress that are very clear in terms of how we have to enforce our immigration system that for me to simply, through executive order, ignore those congressional mandates would not conform with my appropriate role as President.''

Very well spoken, President Obama, the constitutional scholar that he is.

Mr. Speaker, this is the framework of our Nation's system of checks and balances. The Constitution is clear. It is clear that it is Congress' duty to write the laws, and it is the President's responsibility to enforce them.

While law enforcement agencies do have the inherent power to exercise prosecutorial discretion, the authority as to whether to enforce or not enforce the law against particular individuals, this power must be used judiciously and isn't an invitation to violate or ignore a law in its entirety. By granting amnesty to 5 million illegal immigrants, this administration has crossed the line from any justifiable use of its executive authority to a failure to faithfully execute the laws.

Mr. Speaker, whether you are a Democrat or a Republican, whether you agree or disagree with the President's policy on illegal immigrants and immigration, you cannot agree with the President's actions. No one is vested with the power to be both President and legislator.

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS A THREAT TO JUSTICE EVERYWHERE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say thank you to the many persons who serve in law enforcement. They have difficult jobs, and they do their jobs well. I salute them.

I also salute the many persons who have been engaged in peaceful protests. What they have been attempting to do, I support. A peaceful protest is the best protest. Peaceful protests can make a difference in the lives of people. I know, because I stand here today because of peaceful protests.

I would like to continue what I started on yesterday, when I indicated that I would give a response today to a query that was made on Morning Joe. And I want my colleagues to know that I don't believe the query was made with malice aforethought. I think it was a genuine expression of concern. While intonations and expressions may connote otherwise to some, I believe that this is a question that should have been asked and that needs to be answered.

The question was: What is wrong with these people?—meaning three Members of Congress. What is wrong with these people that they would come to the well of the House of Representatives and they would hold their hands up? What is wrong with them?

Here is the answer, my dear brother: the same thing that was wrong with the Pilgrims and caused them to come to Plymouth Rock; the same thing that caused persons to throw tea into the Boston Harbor; the same thing that caused farmers to traverse the country on tractors and come to the United States Capitol to protest; the same thing that caused Rosa Parks to take a seat on a bus against the law; the same thing that caused Dr. King to march from Selma to Montgomery; the same thing that caused them to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge on what is known as Bloody Sunday.

What is wrong with these people? They refuse to accept injustice. I refuse to accept injustice. What happened in Ferguson was an injustice. I refuse to accept injustice. Injustice anywhere is still a threat to justice everywhere. Dr. King was right. Injustice in Ferguson is a threat to justice in Houston, a threat to justice in Boston. Injustice anywhere is still a threat to justice everywhere.

And so I will continue to hold my hands up. I will continue to support those who engage in peaceful protest. Because holding one's hands up is an indication that you don't have anything that will be harmful, an indication that you are willing to move freely and give an opinion about something that you believe to be important. I think that this will symbolize a movement that will metamorphose far beyond the initial reason for it being developed. I am absolutely convinced

that this will not eviscerate, this will not evaporate, that it is not going to go away. It is going to become part of the protest movement.

I also want to note that what happened with the Rams players was a seminal moment, and I want to legitimize what they did. I have already said that I will have flags flown over the Capitol of the United States of America in each person's name.

Somebody is going to say, well, what about the people who may have committed a crime? Washington wasn't perfect, but we honored him. Jefferson wasn't perfect; we honor him. I am going to honor them for what they did at that seminal moment, just as I believe John Carlos and Tommie Smith should be honored for what they did when they held their hands up, indicating that they were protesting at the Olympics in '68.

So I, Mr. Speaker, am honored to have this opportunity today to indicate to the world, finally, that Dr. King was right when he said the truest measure of the person is not where the person stands in times of comfort and convenience, when everybody is patting you on the back, when everybody loves you, all your bills are paid, when things couldn't be better. The truest measure of the person is not where you stand in times of comfort and convenience. The truest measure of the person is where do you stand in times of challenge and controversy, when people are throwing the slings and arrows of life at you because you took a simple stand against injustice.

And it was injustice. I can explain it. I regret that I wasn't invited on the program to give my point of view. So I had to take to the floor of the House of Representatives to give what I would have given, if given the opportunity.

God bless you, Mr. Speaker.

THE 2015 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act this House will consider later this week.

I am very proud to represent Fort Hood, the largest military base in the world. On November 5, 2009, 5 years ago, our community suffered an unthinkable tragedy when a radicalized Islamic extremist named Nidal Hassan opened fire on Fort Hood and fatally shot 15 men and women and 1 unborn child.

□ 1045

More than 30 others were wounded that day. Hasan's radicalization was well known to the FBI and the DOD as early as 2005. Hasan plotted with the known terrorist Anwar al-Awlaki, and he expressed his radical views to his classmates. This administration dismissed these concerns in the name of political correctness.

Five years ago the President promised to take care of the victims of this shooting, but shortly thereafter, he turned his back on them and declared the attack to be workplace violence. These victims and their families are still waiting for justice. Our communities have suffered long enough in the name of political correctness.

I am very proud that my colleagues in the House and Senator CORNYN and Senator CRUZ have not dropped the ball. We have stood for the Fort Hood community and the victims of this terrorist act even as the President failed to act. The House and Senate have agreed on this legislation that will allow these heroes to receive Purple Hearts and make them eligible for the benefits they deserve. The victims and their families will soon receive justice and closure. I am proud to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield to the gentleman from Texas, ROGER WILLIAMS, my strong partner in this effort.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, Congressman JOHN CARTER, for his words, but, more importantly, for the many years of hard work he has put forth to care for the soldiers at Fort Hood.

Mr. Speaker, the 2009 terrorist attack at Fort Hood was an unthinkable tragedy. At that time it was the only story the news reported for days. Who was this murderer? Why did he do it? Could there be more like him? Are our other military installations at increased risk of this type of attack too? How did we not see this coming?

After the attacks on September 11 we asked these same questions. That is the difference between workplace violence and a terrorist attack. The Fort Hood shooter was not a disgruntled employee who took his anger out on his colleagues. He was a hate-filled, vengeful Islamic extremist who intentionally planned the horrendous terrorist attack and carried it out with no remorse.

Islamic extremists like him want us to fear them every single day. They want to hit us where it hurts—by taking innocent American lives and waging war on our military members. They have zero regard for human life—not even their own. That is why our response to terrorist attacks on American soil must be consistently tough, precise, and without hesitation.

At the memorial service honoring the lives of 13 Americans and one unborn, President Obama pledged to take care of those who were injured and the families of those killed. Yet 5 years later he has completely neglected them. Because President Obama designated the attack workplace violence, these men and women are not eligible to receive the benefits, treatment, and compensation that combat troops killed and injured in combat zones receive.

This negligence has caused many injured victims to have to pay their own out-of-pocket expenses for treatment, costing some hundreds of thousands of dollars. One victim was pulled off Active Duty. Her paycheck went from $1,400 a month to $200 a month, and she lost her military health insurance. Others scrape by on disability payments but still have to pay the remainder of their medical bills from their own pocket. My friend Sergeant Alonso Lunsford was shot seven times but was turned away when he tried to check into an Army PTSD clinic due to the fact that he was not injured in combat.

This is not my definition of taking care of our Nation's heroes. However, the National Defense Authorization Act gives the Obama administration yet another opportunity to honor his pledge to provide for these men and women who were victims of terrorism.

This bicameral, bipartisan bill provides authorization for awarding the Purple Heart to members of the Armed Forces killed or wounded in a domestic attack inspired by a foreign terrorist organization. This is a commonsense solution that should have happened immediately following the attack at Fort Hood.

I want to thank Chairman MCKEON and again Congressman CARTER for their tireless work on behalf of their troops, and the many of my Texas colleagues who have joined the fight to restore justice. Just as we united as a country after these senseless attacks, let's once again unite as Americans to fight for the truth and honor of our fallen and demand justice for the victims of terrorism. In God we trust.

WAR POWERS OF CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by associating myself with the remarks of my colleague, Mr. MCGOVERN.

It is difficult to fathom the daunting array of foreign policy challenges President Obama has had to weather since the start of his administration, challenges which are not the result of any misjudgment on his part.

Few modern leaders have had to contend with such an assortment of diverse global challenges, and the President deserves immense credit, which he rarely receives, for confronting them judiciously.

At nearly every turn, the 44th President has boldly promoted a global vision of peace and security defined by negotiation with allies and adversaries alike. The President's tenacious pursuit of a diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear program is the hallmark of that doctrine. Moreover, he has held fast to these principles in the face of Republican and even some Democrat charges of weakness, arrogance, and treachery.

I admire the President and appreciate what an unenviable position he is faced with in Iraq. However, like Mr.

MCGOVERN, I am alarmed by the recent developments in what is becoming, in my mind, a full-fledged military campaign in Iraq. The situation in Iraq may be difficult, but that excuse does not merit the President's overreliance on war powers and the two outdated authorizations for use of force. When it comes to war and peace, the authority remains firmly with this body, the United States Congress.

Last month we heard that the White House planned to double the number of troops in Iraq, bringing the total to 3,000, despite the President's own promise not to put U.S. troops on the ground. On Monday another 250 paratroopers were called up from the 82nd Airborne for service in Iraq, and Congress is poised to give the President his $5.6 billion request to combat ISIS with virtually no debate scheduled on this House floor.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to implore the President to come to Congress and explain his strategy for this new campaign in Iraq. Even the last President, who was far less sensible, sought congressional authority. It is in President Obama's best interest to address not just those relevant committees apt to grant him the legal leeway the White House weakly asserts but all 435 Members who have congressional authority and constitutional authority to send our Nation's sons and daughters to war.

The President must tread carefully going forward, and not just because our recent military history in Iraq is poor but also because he now faces a Republican Congress. Those recklessly clamoring for greater military involvement against ISIS would like nothing more than to blame what could easily become a wider conflict, likely doomed to fail, squarely on the President's head. I trust this President, and I have faith that he will make the decisions in the best interest of the American people, as he understands them.

Let me be clear: it is in the American people's best interest for the President to ask the people's representatives—us in the House of Representatives—for a proper authorization for the use of military force. Then JOHN BOEHNER should lead the debate on such an authorization—a debate at great length and with complete transparency, not behind closed doors, not in committees, not somewhere in conference reports, but out here on the floor in front of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, we have wandered down this road in Iraq before with a far less thoughtful President. What our goal was in Iraq is long since lost. Whatever President Bush said it was, it never turned out to be what we were there about. And here we are doing the same thing again, unfortunately. It is time we learned from our mistakes and that we, as Members of Congress, take responsibility for sending our people over there to die. There will be deaths, make no mistake about it. Generals have already said if we go over there a little bit, we are going to be there for the next 2 years. It is time for us to vote on this issue after a lengthy debate.

NANNY STATE LUNCHES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Federal food police are whipping up their latest batch of distasteful government regulations. With a government fist around an iron spatula, the Federal Government has become the new Mr. Bumble from the book ''Oliver Twist.''

The food police have placed unhealthy and illogical regulations on menus for government school lunches across the fruited plain. This is just more unneeded, unnecessary, and unwarranted Federal Government invasion of what school kids eat. The Federal Government now is trying to raise America's children.

In an effort to control, dictate, and give children a nanny state society, school lunches have gotten watered down to a skimpy new low. After strict portion control and outlandish so-called nutrition standards, school lunches have become as exciting as detention. The food is unappealing and lacking in nutrition.

So what have students done? They have taken their frustrations to Twitter, taking photos of government-dictated school lunches. An Oklahoma school student tweeted a picture of a few chicken nuggets, a half an apple, and a piece of bread, complaining, ''Thanks for the fulfilling lunch.'' More and more students are catching on, saying sarcastically, ''I will be full for days,'' and ''Thanks for the delicious lunch, sure was filling.''

A parent eating lunch with their child at school was stunned after seeing the lunch portions. And here she took a photograph of the lunch. Here it is. And she said correctly, ''This is sad.'' Here you have a little condiment package. Here you have a bun with a something in between, and then you have a half a fruit over on the other side. Isn't this a lovely lunch? If a parent had anything to do with this, the Federal Government would probably accuse them of child neglect.

There is a 350-calorie limit in place for entrees. So that means taking two packets of ketchup or mayonnaise would put the student over the allowed limit. Kids find themselves in an ''Oliver Twist'' situation with the workhouse headmaster, Mr. Bumble, and having to fearfully ask, ''More please, sir?'' And of course just like in the book, the answer is a loud ''No.''

Kids need the energy to learn, to pay attention, and to focus. That energy comes from food. The cafeteria takeover by the Federal Government is leaving students—believe it or not—hungry.

How can we expect children operating on a lunch of no more than 350 calories to make it through the day? What about athletes and afterschool programs? Whether the student plays football or plays an instrument in the marching band, a dinky lunch just won't cut it.

Meghan Hellrood, a student at D.C. Everest High School in Wisconsin, is protesting the required ''healthy'' lunches by promising other students unlimited condiments that she herself will bring to school. Now, I wonder if the Federal Government will charge her with smuggling the forbidden condiments. Who knows?

Students all over the United States have started to speak out. Pictures of a lunch with two pieces of cauliflower, some ham, and a piece of cheese have surfaced, or three cherry tomatoes, skim milk, and some cheesy bread. This sounds more like the tasteless gruel Oliver Twist was served in the book ''Oliver Twist.''

Kids who buy their lunch but opt out of the side of fruits or vegetables are still charged for the whole meal, resulting in wasted food. There has been an 84 percent increase in wasted school lunches that are just thrown in the trash.

These regulations just aren't working. So what is next? Is the government going to force-feed kids who don't eat the government food lunches? The level of Federal Government intrusion is foolish, and it seems to be arrogant.

The time is now to protect schools from Mr. Bumble bureaucrats. Interestingly enough, some of the bureaucrats in Washington making the rules for government schools send their kids to private schools, which are not under the same absurd food regulations.

Mere calorie counting is not a viable healthy option. More physical activities in schools may be needed. In any event, it is the duty and responsibility of parents and local schools to decide what their kids eat in school, not the nanny, Mr. Bumble, and the bureaucrats in Washington.

Parents should raise their kids, not the Federal Government. Federal food police don't belong in a local school cafeteria.

And that is just the way it is.

□ 1100

THE GAS TAX

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago today, I introduced the first gas tax increase in over 20 years. I was joined by a broad coalition in announcing the bill, supported by the AFL–CIO, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, building and construction industries and their unions, local governments, AAA and the truckers, environmentalists, transit, and cyclists. It was gratifying to have that broad base of support. One year later, the only thing that has

changed is that the need, if anything, is greater and the path forward is even easier.

I just completed a press conference with my good friend TOM PETRI and with President Ronald Reagan. President Reagan, in 1982, in his Thanksgiving Day radio address, explained why we needed to raise the gas tax.

He said: ''One of our greatest material blessings is the outstanding network of roads and highways that spreads across this great continent. Freedom of travel and the romance of the road are vital parts of our heritage, and they help make America great.

''We simply cannot allow this magnificent system to deteriorate beyond repair. The time has come to preserve what Americans spent so much time and effort to create, and that means a nationwide conservation effort in the best sense of the word.

''So I am asking Congress when it reconvenes next week to approve a new highway program that will enable us to complete construction of the interstate system and at the same time get on with the job of renovating existing highways. The program will not increase the Federal deficit or add to the taxes that you and I pay on April 15. It will be paid for by those of us who use the system, and it will cost the average car owner only about $30 a year. That is less than the cost of a couple of shock absorbers.

''So what we are proposing is to add the equivalent of 5 cents a gallon to the existing highway user fee, the gas tax, which hasn't been increased in the last 23 years. The cost to the average motorist will be small, but the benefit to our transportation system will be immense. The program will stimulate 170,000 jobs, not make-work projects, but in real, worthwhile work in hard-hit construction industries, and an additional 150,000 jobs in related industries.

''Perhaps most important, we will be preserving for future generations of Americans a highway system that has long been the envy of the world and has truly made the average American driver king of the road.

''Thanks for listening, and until next time, God bless you.''

That is a speech that could be given by any of us or by President Obama—and should be. Congress did return after that holiday, and President Reagan and Tip O'Neill more than doubled the gas tax. What has not changed is that we haven't raised the gas tax in 22 years. It costs the average family $377 per year in damage to their cars.

If we increase the gas tax according to my proposal, H.R. 3636, it won't create 300,000 jobs; it will create 1.5 million family-wage jobs across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I understand people don't like the gas tax. I don't like the gas tax. I want to raise it, index it, and then abolish it and replace it with something that is sustainable. But in the meantime, raising the gas tax is the only viable approach, as verified by two Presidential commissions that reported to President Bush.

We have been asleep at the switch. It is time for us to step up. At a time of dramatically falling gas prices—23 cents on average in the last month, and they are projected to continue going down—now is the perfect time to step up, to raise the gas tax slowly over the next 3 years, rebuild and renew America, put family-wage jobs across the spectrum, and make our communities more livable, our families safer, healthier, and more economically secure.

All it takes is a little leadership and courage. Like Ronald Reagan and Tip O'Neill did 32 years ago, I think we can do that now, and we should.

RANGER CHAPLAIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on something very dear to my heart. The duty of a military chaplain is to help guide the hearts and minds of the soldiers that he serves with or she serves with, and that comes from a perspective of a background of their own faith, but also the respect of the faiths of others that they serve with, making sure that all feel a responsibility to not only do their job, their mission, but also to themselves, that they are being all that they can be in their own careers, in their own missions.

But just again, here we go again, as the old saying goes. Recently, in my district, an Army chaplain gave a suicide awareness and prevention brief as required by the Army and received a letter of concern in his official record. A letter of concern is a means to admonish a soldier's actions.

The chaplain did not infringe upon anyone's rights, did not receive any complaints from anyone being briefed that day; but after the chaplain's actions were reviewed, he was considered to have not violated any Army regulation or policy, yet his negative counseling remains, simply because at a time in which our society is dealing with soldiers and airmen who are struggling with depression and struggling with suicide rates, he had the audacity to share his own experience with depression and how his faith helped him.

What is a chaplain supposed to do except to share from his own heart in a way that is encouraging to others whether they have faith or no faith? I hope—no, I pray—this counseling record will reflect soon his innocence.

The Military Association of Atheists & Freethinkers decided to characterize the chaplain's briefing as evangelism in mental health training. The MAAF goes on to say that receiving Christian doctrine as a way to combat depression and suicidal thoughts would increase the amount of suicides in the military. This statement belittles the belief of soldiers who feel their faith may help them through difficult and troubling times.

Apparently, the MAAF feel only their systems of beliefs are worth propagating and any others are irrelevant, if not damaging, to a soldier's emotional health.

As a military chaplain, all I have to say to the MAAF is that if it protects and helps someone value life, keep their own life, then what they need to do is be reminded that they have an opinion, and so does everyone else.

It is time that they lived up to their own thoughts, that thoughts matter, and that what this chaplain did should be reversed. It should not reflect on his record. When you have someone actually in the game trying to help, it is not the time for little people on the outside to criticize. They need to get a new direction and a new focus, and this chaplain needs to be restored and this letter removed.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

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

H.R. 4924. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Water Rights Settlement Agreement and the Hualapai Tribe Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Agreement, to provide for the lease of certain land located within Planet Ranch on the Bill Williams River in the State of Arizona to benefit the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, and to provide for the settlement of specific water rights claims in the Bill Williams River watershed in the State of Arizona.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2917. An act to expand the program of priority review to encourage treatments for tropical diseases.

SUPPORTING THE ABLE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, my intention this morning was to get up and try to be eloquent when talking about the ABLE Act, Achieving a Better Life Experience, which we will vote on later today, but since yesterday, I have received four emails from parents in North Dakota whose words are far more eloquent than mine could ever be.

I will submit all of their words into the RECORD, but I want to share a few of the highlights from these important emails from my constituents.

Roxane Romanick writes:

How exciting that we are at this point where the dreams of the act passing may come true in the next days.

After writing a bit about the legislation itself, she writes this about her 15-year-old daughter, Elizabeth:

Due to her diagnosis of Down syndrome, she has the support of an individual education plan at school. The school will start working on a transition plan for her within a few months. Passage of the ABLE Act will mean that we can start a savings account for her in much the same way that we did for her brother.

Jamie Christensen writes:

Every parent of a child with special needs has a unique journey, but one thing is universal. We try to do the best we can to ensure a life well-lived for our child. Our unique journeys have another similarity—many of us agonize about the future.

She talks about their journey with their 7-year-old son, Grady, who has crystal blue eyes and a full head of hair. She writes:

Like many families, we want to care for our children equally, doing what we can to give them tools to help them reach their full potential. Shortly after Grady was born, I opened a 529 College SAVE account for Grady's big sister. It was then that I realized I had no idea how to plan for Grady's future. The ABLE Act is a huge step forward in easing this anxiety.

Aaron and Rachel Schuler from Bismarck, who I know very well, have a 4-year-old daughter, Ella. Actually, Ella will turn 4 years old on Christmas Eve. Ella has two siblings, Isaac and Clara. They talk about Ella with great hope. They write:

She will be a crazy teenager, graduate and go to college, work a full-time job and have a real, meaningful relationship. We believe this for her. That is what makes the ABLE Act so important to Ella and to people all over our great country. It will help her reach and fulfill the goals she desires.

How awesome.

And just while I have been sitting here in the Chamber, Marijo Schwengler of Fargo writes about their journey, about their 2-year-old son, David, one of four sons, who is diagnosed with Down syndrome. She writes:

I pray that seven weekly therapy appointments with an early intervention teacher, physical therapist, occupational therapist, and speech therapist will help him be the best that he can be. We dream big for David. Why shouldn't we?

Indeed, why shouldn't they? But she cites this fact:

David must remain ''poor'' in order to receive the services he needs. The ABLE Act would mean that we could start saving for David's future today.

What an awesome promise that is.

My words would be inadequate, Mr. Speaker, but I submit these and the extended comments in these emails that I received in the last two days on behalf of Elizabeth and Grady and Ella and David and their peers, the thousands and thousands of families around our country who, in many respects, have a bias against them because they are disabled or have disabled children.

The ABLE Act that we will vote on this afternoon, Achieving a Better Life Experience Act, will go a long ways toward leveling that playing field, improving their lives, and improving the lives of our entire country.

DESIGNER GENES,
A DOWN SYNDROME SUPPORT NETWORK,
December 2, 2014.

Hon. KEVIN CRAMER,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REP. CRAMER: Many thanks to you and everyone in your office for all of the work that you've done on the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act. How exciting that we are at this point where the dreams of the act passing may come true in the next days.

As you know, Designer Genes of North Dakota has been actively following the progress of the ABLE Act with many of our other Down syndrome association partners across the country. We believe that the opportunities that the ABLE Act affords to our individuals with Down syndrome will make a world of difference to their futures.

Last spring, my own daughter, Elizabeth, turned 15. Due to her diagnosis of Down syndrome, she has the support of an Individual Education Plan at school. Required by law, the school will start working on a transition plan for her within a few short months. Passage of the ABLE Act will mean that we can start a savings account for her in much the same way that we did for her brother. For too long we've treated individuals with significant disabilities with an institutional bias meaning that their need for support and care is based on old history of requiring institutionalization which included extreme poverty. Since birth, Elizabeth has had the opportunities afforded to her by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act and has been fully included in her community. These two laws establish support without impoverishment and help to equal the playing field for persons with disabilities. The ABLE Act will now do the same because it recognizes that needing support is inherent to persons with disabilities but does not require that they should live a life without realizing their hope and dreams.

Elizabeth is a go-getter. Every day she has a new dream and just yesterday she was googling recording equipment on the internet because she's decided she wants to own a recording studio. I have no idea where this dream has come from but it's very real. She's convinced she's moving out of the house when she's 18 and heading to college. I wish with all my might that the dream will come true for her (well maybe not the moving out of the house part). These dreams come because every day she walks, learns, and belongs beside her peers at Century High School, because someone fought for her right to do so.

Thank you for your work on this effort, Rep. Cramer!

ROXANE ROMANICK.

Every parent of a child with special needs has a unique journey, but one thing is universal. We try to do the best we can to ensure a life well-lived for our child. Our unique journeys have another similarity—many of us agonize about the future.

Our journey includes being blessed seven years ago with a beautiful baby boy with crystal blue eyes and a massive amount of blonde hair. His name is Grady and he has Down syndrome. Like many families, we want to care for our children equally, doing what we can to give them tools to help them reach their full potential. Shortly after Grady was born, I opened a 529 College SAVE account for Grady's big sister. It was then that I realized I had no idea how to plan for Grady's future.

After attending informational sessions, agonizing over it and meeting with a lawyer, we learned that we really had little to no options to help ensure a life well-lived for Grady. A few years later I lost my dad who was just 56, and my anxiety heightened. Just what would Grady's future look like if my husband and I died?

The ABLE Act is a huge step forward in easing this anxiety. It comes down to simple things, like making sure there is enough money for things like his over-the-counter allergy medicine and expensive lotion that are not covered by insurance, and assistive technology if communication continues to be a struggle for him into adulthood. And it means really big things, too, such as allowing us to dream about a future that could include college, work and independence. This dream just became more real because we now have a vehicle to save for supports such as education, housing, a job coach and transportation.

And specifically for Grady, it allows him some of the same rights and opportunities to work and save for his own future, just like the rest of his peers. Doing so will help him to reach his full potential, ensuring a life well-lived that all parents want for their children.

JAMIE CHRISTENSEN.

Our daughter Ella was born on Christmas Eve just about 4 years ago. Her birth was both shocking and confusing as she was born with Down Syndrome. Quickly we began to realize what a blessing she is through her smile, laugh, and genuine love for others. While we understand that Ella's life will carry certain hardships, we know that she is an absolute gift and bright light to this entire world. Our lives have been fully enriched by Ella and we plan to give her every opportunity to grow and chase her dreams. She will be a crazy teenager, graduate and go to college, work a full-time job, and have real meaningful relationship. We believe this for her.

That is what makes the Able act so important to Ella and to people all over our great country. Our goal from the beginning is to provide every opportunity for Ella. The Able Act will help her to reach and fulfill the goals she desires to do. We must do everything we can to protect the benefits Ella and others with Down Syndrome will receive, while giving them every opportunity in life.

AARON SCHULER.

Last night at supper table, I told my family of 6, I am going to write a letter of support for the ABLE Act. They asked why so I told them. Without even considering that David's disability may limit his workability, my 8 and 10 year olds replied, ''Well mom, if David can't save his own money when he is older [he is 2 years old now], can't he just give us his money and then we can save it for him. And when he needs his money we can give it back to him?'' Hmmmm. . . .

My name is Marijo Schwengler and I am mom of 4 wonderful boys ages 10, 8, 5, and 2. My youngest son David has Down syndrome. My husband and I were not expecting this diagnosis and we were not prepared. At first, we cried and mourned the loss of the dreams we had had for him. We did not understand what it means to have Down syndrome. We worried about how we would tell his older brothers. I worried about my older sons hating me because we have now burdened them with a 'special needs' brother. As scared as we were we promised to love David and give him the best of everything just like his older brothers.

In the days, weeks, months, following David's birth, we've learned he was just like our other boys he just does things on his schedule. He plays, he wrestles, he cries, he knows what he likes and doesn't like. He

loves books, balls, and super heroes. He knows over 30 sign language words. And just like my other children at his age, I do not know where his cognitive ability will be when he grows up. What I do know is all individuals with Down syndrome experience some kind of cognitive delay. I pray that 7 weekly therapy appointments with an early intervention teacher, physical therapist, occupational therapist and speech therapist will help him be the best that he can be. We dream BIG for David! Why shouldn't we?

My son is young and only time will tell what services and programs he may or may not need when he is an adult But one message is clear: David must remain 'poor' in order receive the services. Even if the services may not provide for all his needs adequately. We can't save for David in the same way we can for his brothers. We can't teach David to save his money. As child, I grew up in family that lived paycheck to paycheck, I promised myself to change that for my kids. lam in a position to do that but David's little extra chromosome prevents me from saving in a 529 for him or letting him have his own little savings account at the local bank

The ABLE Act would mean that we could start saving for David's future today. We could teach David the importance of saving We could make sure that David's brothers do not have to feel financially burdened by the cost of taking care of their littlest brother The fear of my son's hating me because of David's Down syndrome was silly, his brothers love him to pieces and they would do anything for him. David and everyone with Down syndrome or any other special need deserves the right to save money for their future. Even my 8 and 10 year old boys get it! Please pass the ABLE Act.

MARIJO, JASON, JACOB,
ANDREW, SIMON AND
DAVID SCHWENGLER,
Fargo, ND.

CONGRATULATING ROBERT CASHELL ON HIS RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. AMODEI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AMODEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the retirement of a member of Nevada's public service varsity team, Reno mayor Bob Cashell. Bob was not a native of Nevada, but like most people in Nevada, he got there as quick as he could.

He has been there for a long time and has had various titles during his public service career: chairman of the board of regents of the university system, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Nevada, and finally—maybe finally—as the mayor of the city of Reno.

Bob is one of those folks who is blessed with vision that does not have many shades of gray. It is pretty black and white with the mayor when you talk to him, whether formally, informally, or whatever.

Words like ''gosh'' and ''gee whiz'' are not used in his vocabulary much. He possesses an incredible volume to his voice, uses it often, and is happy to share with you his thoughts.

Bob also has the support of an outstanding family: his wife and partner in life, Nancy, and his sons. His family has been key in terms of the fabric of the community of Truckee Meadows in northern Nevada for half a century or more.

In the resort hospitality industry, Bob was involved with properties, ownership-management—whatever—in Reno, Winnemucca, Carson City, and that little town where they do a little bit of the gaming business in the south known as Las Vegas. He was an outstanding participant in all of those.

A native of the Lone Star State, we were lucky to have Mayor Cashell come and make Nevada his home for all of his adult life and raise his family. Mr. Speaker, I thank Bob Cashell very much for his public service.

We appreciate it, and I look forward to hopefully being able to speak about him not here on the floor of the House of Representatives, but in a roast in the Truckee Meadows some time where I can pay him back for when he spoke at my roast upon my retirement from the legislature.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Eung Yul David Ryoo, Korean Central Presbyterian Church, Centreville, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Merciful God, we give our thanksgiving and praise to You, the triune God and the Creator of the universe, for offering salvation through Jesus Christ and guidance through the Holy Spirit.

We pray that humankind would be united in mutual brotherhood under Your love. We pray for Your blessing upon the United States of America, so that it would live according to Your Word as one Nation under God.

Bless the Members of the House of Representatives who have gathered here today. Etch within their hearts a fierce calling towards their motherland, within their heads the wisdom to complete their tasks with integrity, and within their lives the courage to sacrifice for the people of our country.

We pray that all here would experience the glorious joy of serving this country and its people with all that You have bestowed upon them.

We pray in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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.

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

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PAYNE 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND EUNG YUL DAVID RYOO

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join you in welcoming our pastor, Pastor Ryoo, from the Korean Central Presbyterian Church, located in Centreville, Virginia, and the 11th Congressional District, for today's invocation.

This church has been active in our community since it was founded 41 years ago in Vienna. Prior to my election to Congress, I served as chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, where I had the opportunity to collaborate with the congregation on the construction of its new sanctuary and on many of its activities throughout our community.

Within its many outreach ministries, the church founded a senior center 20 years ago, offering meals, recreation, skills training, and computerization for our senior population.

Under the direction of Heisung Lee, the center is now independently run and has been recognized by the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Republic of Korea as an outstanding volunteer organization.

This and the many other activities of the congregation exemplify the tremendous contributions the Korean American community are making throughout the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent one of the most vibrant Korean American communities in the United States and to continue our partnership here in Congress as cochair of the Korea Caucus.

I thank you, again, for joining us in welcoming Pastor Ryoo who, I think, really is emblematic of the success of the immigrant population in the United States. He represents our future.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KINGSTON). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

ISRAEL

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to acknowledge the special relationship between the United States and Israel.

This year, we have witnessed yet another ugly chapter in the history of Israel's enduring fight to defend her sovereign borders and protect her people from terrorist attacks.

On August 1, Congress approved a measure to deliver an additional $225 million in aid to Israel, with the aim of replenishing funds for the Iron Dome antimissile defense system in the midst of the conflict between Israel and Hamas.

It was absolutely the right thing to do because America's national security interests are directly tied to developments in the Middle East and specifically to Israel's own security. Strategic cooperation between the U.S. and Israel is vital to the well-being of both countries.

The simple truth is, throughout history, Israel has made numerous concessions in the pursuit of peace while seeking only the right to exist. The country is a beacon of democracy in a sea of violence and hostility, and its ability to function and defend itself against terrorism is in no small part due to the support from the United States.

GAS TAX PRESS CONFERENCE

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago today, I introduced the first gas tax increase in 21 years. The only thing that has changed in that year is that the need is greater and the path forward is even easier. Everyone knows that America is falling apart and falling behind while gas prices have dropped dramatically.

I am joined this afternoon by Ronald Reagan who 32 years ago, on Thanksgiving, made a powerful radio address, explaining why he more than doubled the gas tax—actually, a user fee, he pointed out. The same speech could and should be made by President Obama tomorrow.

I urge you, my colleagues, to join me and Ronald Reagan in fixing the bankrupt highway trust fund, increasing the gas tax so we can rebuild and renew America and put hundreds of thousands of people to work at family-wage jobs all across this great land.

With the need getting worse and gas prices falling, there will never be a better time. All it takes is a little leadership and courage from the President and Congress.

THE ABLE ACT

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

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the ABLE Act.

I am a cosponsor of this bill because I believe that we need to make it easier for families with individuals with disabilities to save money for their care and to not be penalized for doing so. This legislation also makes an important improvement to 529 plans that will give parents more control over their children's savings.

It is rare for a bill to gain as much bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate as the ABLE Act has. This is because advocates for the ABLE Act have worked tirelessly over the past several years to ensure that it crosses the finish line.

I am pleased that many of them are here today, and I congratulate them on their hard work.

HONORING ENI FALEOMAVAEGA

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

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor my colleague and friend, Congressman ENI FALEOMAVAEGA of American Samoa.

ENI has served on Capitol Hill for nearly four decades, starting as a congressional staff member and eventually being elected to Congress for 13 straight terms.

Throughout his distinguished career, ENI has broken many barriers. He is the first Asian Pacific American ever to chair the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, and he is the longest-serving Samoan Member of Congress. He is also a Vietnam war veteran; an author; a musician; and a devoted husband, father, and grandfather.

Over the years, I have had the privilege to work with ENI through the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, and I have witnessed firsthand his unwavering commitment to the well-being of his constituents and to the broader Asian Pacific American community.

Thank you, ENI, for your lifetime of leadership and service. I wish you all the best.

IN TRIBUTE TO MARION RAMSEY

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

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the retirement of Marion Ramsey of Rogers, Arkansas, and the closing of her business, Marion's Donuts, that became part of my daily routine 35 years ago.

The ''doughnut shop,'' as I affectionately called it, was my favorite place to catch up on the latest city news—oftentimes, just plain ole gossip—and hear about the aches and pains and the latest trials and tribulations of those who frequented the establishment over time.

I have taken my boys there since birth, and it was nostalgic for all three of them to join me last Sunday, her last day of business, for old times' sake.

The Bible tells us there is a season for everything. I am sad that the ''season'' has come and gone for Marion's Donuts because, while I will find another place for my morning coffee, I am not sure how I will fill the void on the friendships forged down through the years.

Enjoy your retirement, Marion. Your customers are grateful for our time together.

PEARL HARBOR DAY

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday, December 7, is the 73rd anniversary of the attack on the American naval base at Pearl Harbor. That day, over 2,000 American soldiers and sailors lost their lives, and another 1,000 were wounded.

South Buffalo native, Army Corporal Earl Wickett, witnessed the horrors of that day; fought bravely for this Nation; and was fortunate to make it back, raise a family, and serve his community as a Buffalo firefighter. Sadly, Earl passed away this year, but his stories and the bravery of all of those who served that day must always be remembered.

On Sunday, West Seneca American Legion Post 735 will be among those recognizing Pearl Harbor Day and honoring the promise to never forget the sacrifices and service of those who were there on that day.

Today, I join them and others in paying tribute to all of those who faced the unthinkable at Pearl Harbor, to survivors, like Earl Wickett, and to the many who never made it back.

THE ABLE ACT

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the ABLE Act, with over 380 cosponsors.

It is a wonderful piece of legislation that is going to help American families, and there is a key provision of this act which is going to fix a broken problem. I came to Congress to fix broken problems with commonsense solutions.

Earlier this year, this body, the Senate, and the President passed the water resources bill, which fundamentally fixed the problem of the inland waterway trust fund, but it was still underfunded.

I want to thank colleagues on both sides of this House for working with me—for working hard—to get an industry-supported user fee of 9 cents. What that will mean is that locks like the Chickamauga Lock in Chattanooga, which is near and dear to our district, and locks all over this country will now be able to be properly funded in the way in which they were intended.

Together, we can work hard to fix these problems. I urge the support of the ABLE Act, and I thank my colleagues for working hard to support this industry-supported user fee.

□ 1215

IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, more than 18 months ago, the Senate passed a comprehensive and bipartisan immigration bill that would strengthen neighborhoods across the country, further secure our borders, inject certainty into our economy, boost our STEM and tech community, create jobs, protect employers, keep families together, our deficit would be reduced by nearly $1 trillion, and fix our Nation's broken immigration system. That was 18 months ago.

More than a year ago, we introduced H.R. 15, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act, which would have moved comprehensive immigration reform forward, a debate so far that has been dominated by partisan politics and obstruction.

All we are asking for is the chance to vote on the bill in this body, a simple up-or-down vote. That is all we ask. We are running out of time to act on immigration reform and pass legislation that an overwhelming majority of Americans have asked the House to approve for more than a year.

Again, I ask this body to put the interests of the country above those of party politics and give H.R. 15 the up-or-down vote it truly deserves.

McKINNEY, NUMBER 1 SMALL CITY IN AMERICA

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Money magazine recently ranked America's best small cities. 781 cities were evaluated. The 35 top-scoring cities were visited by reporters. And wouldn't you know it, McKinney, Texas, was ranked number one as the best place in the United States to live.

It is worth noting that McKinney joined the list in 2008 and has steadily climbed each year. As Money magazine stated: ''Underlying McKinney's homey southern charm is a thoroughly modern city. The area is a hotbed for growth-industry jobs.''

McKinney certainly embodies its motto, ''Unique by Nature.'' It is both a business-friendly and family-friendly place. And perhaps most significant, it places emphasis on both preserving history and ensuring a vibrant future.

I am proud to represent McKinney and the Third District of Texas. McKinney deserves this honor. It is my privilege to recognize their outstanding service to the community.

POLICE BODY CAMERAS

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, hands up; don't shoot.

The recent events in Ferguson have brought to light many of the problems that still exist in our Nation: racial divides, mistrust of law enforcement, a judicial system that disproportionately incarcerates black men, and the unfortunate way that we view one another—not as Americans, but as us versus them.

I am encouraged by President Obama's initiative that will help purchase body cameras for police departments. This will increase accountability of law enforcement, and it will protect our officers by deterring wrongdoing.

I am proud that the two cities in my district, Newark and Jersey City, are taking the lead to acquire cameras for their police officers, because members of the community deserve to feel law enforcement is protecting them and not out to get them; and, in turn, our protectors deserve to be protected as well. This will be a step in the right direction.

TRIBUTE TO AIR FORCE CAPTAIN WILLIAM H. DuBOIS

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

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Air Force Captain William H. DuBois, whose life was tragically lost in support of Operation Inherent Resolve on December 1, 2014. Captain DuBois grew up in New Castle, Colorado.

On Monday, December 1, 2014, Captain DuBois took off from a U.S. coalition air base for a combat mission in Operation Inherent Resolve, when the F–16 he was flying began to experience mechanical problems. Captain DuBois attempted to return to the air base and was unable to eject before his plane crashed.

Captain DuBois was only 30 years old and was recently married to his wife, Ashley. The number of lives touched by this courageous young man are innumerable, and the love and memories he shared with his friends and family still linger today.

The death of Captain DuBois is an unfortunate reminder of the dangers our servicemen and -women face every day as they defend our country, as well as many sacrifices made to protect freedoms and our way of life.

Captain DuBois served his country with great distinction and honor, something that he always had dreamed of. He will be greatly missed by his family, friends, and his squadron.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Captain William H. DuBois. His dedication to our country and the way he selflessly lived his life serve as an inspiration to a grateful Nation as well as the State of Colorado.

PORT NEGOTIATIONS

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the hardworking men and women employed at our west coast ports who are responsible for two-thirds of our Nation's international trade. Their hard work supports 5 million jobs nationwide and is the lifeblood of our economy.

But they have been working for months without a contract and without knowing what the future holds for them. Contract negotiations are ongoing, and I encourage both sides to stay at the table. Failure to resolve their differences could be traumatic for our economy, and I sincerely hope that it will not come to that.

Many people are aware that we still have congestion issues at our ports. There are clearly underlying problems that must be addressed, but it is important to keep in mind that these issues will still exist even if a contract agreement is reached today.

Our ports drive our Nation's economy, and it is critical that we find solutions to the congestion issues at our ports and in our overall freight network.

NATIONAL MINERS DAY

(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, I rise today as the proud grandson of Oscar Thompson, a surface miner, to recognize National Miners Day, which is celebrated on December 6. On this day, we recognize the important role our Nation's miners continue to play across the Nation.

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, my home State, the mining industry—the coal industry, in particular—is a vital contributor to the State's economy, with direct, indirect, and induced impacts that are responsible for family-sustaining jobs and billions in economic output. In 2011, Pennsylvania produced more than 67 million tons of coal from close to 500 mines, making it the fourth-largest producer of coal and the second-largest producer of electricity among all the States.

Today, coal is used to generate more electricity than any other resource in Pennsylvania, being responsible for 44 percent of the State's electricity generation.

On National Miners Day, we commemorate the work and sacrifice of miners, past and present, and recognize the contributions they make to our economy, the Nation's energy security, and our shared prosperity.

THE AMOS HOUSE

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute the work of Amos House and its mission to end hunger and homelessness in my home State of Rhode Island. Having just celebrated Thanksgiving, it is a good reminder of how important it is to remember those who are less fortunate and to give back to the communities we live in.

Led by Eileen Hayes, Amos House and its dedicated staff give back to Rhode Island every single day and provide life-giving services to those most in need. Since its founding in 1976, Amos House has grown from a small soup kitchen to a vibrant and essential multiservice center. This week I was proud to help break ground on a new project that will give Amos House a new home and help this wonderful organization further its important work.

Amos House serves hundreds of meals daily to the hungry, provides shelter for homeless men and women, substance abuse counseling, job training, and money management classes. I salute Amos House, Eileen, and her hardworking staff for the important contributions they make to those most in need in my home State of Rhode Island.

CELEBRATING FORMER REPRESENTATIVE RALPH REGULA'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 90th birthday of former Representative Ralph Regula.

Ralph Straus Regula was born in Beach City, Ohio, on December 3, 1924. Prior to his election to Congress, Mr. Regula served in the United States Navy; worked as a schoolteacher and a principal in Stark County schools; and served in the Ohio State House, Senate, and on the Ohio State Board of Education. In 1973, Mr. Regula was elected to Congress and served 18 consecutive terms, until his retirement in 2009.

During his tenure in Congress, Mr. Regula served as chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee for Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, where he worked across party lines to improve educational opportunities, workforce training programs, and health care. He was a passionate advocate for research and the advancement of science.

Congressman Regula billed himself a ''regular'' guy. He was the son of a dairy farmer and part of a high school graduating class of only 25, where he developed a strong work ethic and love of community. Ralph loved serving here because he cared about people and helping improve the quality of their lives. In this House, he was a pragmatic leader willing to find solutions to tough problems.

I have personally known Ralph for over three decades and have many fond memories meeting with him both here and back in Ohio as my Congressman. Like many others, I have learned so much from Congressman Ralph Regula over the years. To that, I say thank you.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the great life and career of Mr. Ralph Regula, wishing him a very happy 90th birthday.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Affordable Care Act. One year after implementing the health care exchanges, the number of uninsured in this country has decreased dramatically. North Carolina had one of the top five highest enrollments; and in my congressional district alone, the number of uninsured has declined by 14 percent, not to mention the incredible impact this legislation has had on the lives of working families.

Through the Affordable Care Act, 208,000 individuals in my congressional district now have access to health insurance. Young adults and college students can now stay on their parents' plans until age 26, which resulted in nearly 10,000 young adults retaining health insurance in my congressional district. Additionally, seniors in my district have received Medicare part D prescription drug discounts worth $11.1 million, and being a woman is no longer considered a preexisting condition.

The Affordable Care Act has had a dramatic effect on unemployment, creating 9.6 million private sector jobs. My congressional district's unemployment rate is 13.9 percent. So, for me, this is not only about health, but jobs and our economy.

These tangible benefits cannot be ignored. I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to end talks of repeal and, instead, work with Democrats to strengthen the law to provide even greater access to health insurance. States like North Carolina must reconsider their decision to reject the Medicaid expansion. This purely political decision has had real effects, leaving half a million North Carolinians uninsured. As legislators, we should make the lives of our constituents better; and, Mr. Speaker, the Affordable Care Act is making the lives of our citizens better.

So I urge folks in my congressional district and around the country to take advantage of the open enrollment period and get insured. There are 77 new insurers offering coverage in 2015, and the deadline to sign up is February 15, 2015. Let's continue the progress that the Affordable Care Act has made and get more people covered.

AIR REFUELING GROUP RAINCROSS AWARD

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

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the 931st Air Refueling Group—McConnell Air Force Base's reserve unit—on receiving the Raincross Trophy, which recognizes it as the best unit in the 4th Air Force.

I have spent a lot of time with the fantastic airmen out of McConnell, and I am not surprised, but I am extremely pleased to see that they have been granted this outstanding award. It is only fitting that the 931st has been selected as the first reserve unit in the Air Force to fly and maintain America's new KC–46 tankers. McConnell-based tankers flew nearly half of all missions of Air Mobility Command's total KC–135 flying hours over the past year, and many of this unit's soldiers and airmen were deployed in support of operations all around the world.

This award is a wonderful recognition of the hard work of Colonel Mark Larson, Chief Master Sergeant Kathleen E. Lowman, and all the men and women of the 931st Air Refueling Group.

I know I speak for all Kansans in saying we are proud of the 931st and the entire McConnell family. November Kilo Alpha Whiskey Tango Golf.

NATIONAL 3–D PRINTING DAY

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

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support my resolution to establish December 3 as National 3–D Printing Day. As an entrepreneur, myself, who built a manufacturing company from the ground

up, I know firsthand how invaluable this technology is. Advances in 3–D printing are creating unprecedented opportunities for entrepreneurs and manufacturers to develop new products and bring their ideas to life.

When I think of the long hours that my brother and I spent in the machine shop building parts for our first prototype, parts that could now be built quickly and easily with 3–D printing, it makes me envious of today's startups.

From biotechnology to food production to advanced manufacturing, 3–D printing is creating endless opportunities for innovation. Additionally, 3–D printing technology is a great teaching tool for students. There is nothing like the look of awe on students' faces as they watch a 3–D printer build something that they designed, something that started out as their idea that they can now hold in their hand. It is also a great way of teaching them the value of coordinate geometry.

So it is critical that we continue to develop this technology and recognize the importance in the modern economy and in inspiring the next generation to pursue careers in STEM and advanced manufacturing.

Again, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing December 3 as National 3–D Printing Day.

□ 1230

RECOGNIZING TOM BERTRAND AS THE 2015 ILLINOIS SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tom Bertrand as the 2015 Illinois Superintendent of the Year. For the last 13 years, Mr. Bertrand has served as superintendent of the Rochester Community Unit District in Rochester, Illinois. In his time with Rochester, he has served the school district as a teacher, coach, principal, and assistant superintendent before taking on his current role.

His dedication to the students and his many accomplishments in his time with the Rochester district make him a deserving recipient of this award. He has developed a nationally recognized anti-bullying program and has worked to improve the use of technology in the school district by both students and faculty.

I am proud to represent Mr. Bertrand and the Rochester school district. His commitment to his students is something to be recognized. I thank him for his service to the district and his dedication to public education.

Mr. Bertrand, congratulations on being named the 2015 Illinois Superintendent of the Year.

EXPANDING EDUCATION SUPPORT FOR VETERANS

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, as a country, we have a responsibility to help our veterans transition back from active military duty by giving them the tools they need to succeed in civilian life.

Sadly, far too many of the men and women who have sacrificed so much on our behalf return home to find they must struggle to get housing, secure employment, and provide for themselves and their families. We can and must do better. That is why I am proud to partner with my Republican colleague, DAVID MCKINLEY, to introduce legislation that honors our commitment by providing resources to help veterans pursue higher education and gain the skills and training they need to succeed in STEM careers.

The ability to analyze, communicate, and motivate—honed during their military training—makes veterans ideal candidates in the fields related to science, technology, math, and engineering. With growth in the STEM fields for jobs that are expected to outpace other professions in the next two decades, this legislation will help to meet the demands for the high-skilled workforce that we need to be competitive in the global economy.

So I would urge my colleagues to join Mr. MCKINLEY and me in upholding our promise to our Nation's heroes and support the GI Bill STEM Extension Act of 2014.

SUPPORTING ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, like many Americans, I am all too familiar with Alzheimer's, having lost my mom to complications from this dreadful disease nearly 4 years ago.

The Alzheimer's Association reports that over 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's, including nearly half a million in my home State of Florida.

Alzheimer's not only impacts seniors and their families, it is costing our Nation billions of dollars every year, with only a fraction of 1 percent of these costs spent on research toward better treatment options and potential cures. Our seniors, their loved ones, and their caregivers deserve better. American taxpayers deserve better.

Mr. Speaker, I urge everyone to go to alz.org and learn more about Alzheimer's and how new research can help make a big difference in improving the lives of patients, their families, and America's budget.

ISRAEL

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today about my concern for the safety and security of Israel, the Middle East, and the U.S.

Negotiations for Iran to end its pursuit of a nuclear weapon were recently extended without assurances that Iran would slow or abandon this program. This delay tactic also allows Iran to escape many economic sanctions. This should be of grave concern to Americans who care about the regional security of the Middle East.

Mr. Speaker, I respect the administration's goals and intent during these negotiations, but I urge that we continue to utilize all methods of influence throughout negotiations. We must fully use diplomacy, legal sanctions, and economic pressure to move toward a peaceful and secure situation in this critically important region to the world and our country.

THE THREAT OF A NUCLEAR IRAN

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

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express concern over the state of our negotiations with Iran and the threat of Iranian nuclear capability.

I am disappointed and extremely concerned with the extension of negotiations over Iran's nuclear program and the continued relaxing of economic sanctions against Tehran. Every day that we ease sanctions or fail to apply new ones is another day Iran races toward a nuclear weapons capability.

Iran currently has 10,000 operational centrifuges, each working hard toward a nuclear Iran. As the administration continues to cede ground in this area of negotiations, we must remember that Iran has threatened America and called for the total annihilation of our ally, Israel. The instability and unrest in this region would only be compounded should Iran achieve its goals.

Sanctions brought Iran to the negotiating table in the first place, and these sanctions must be strengthened to convince them to stop their treacherous quest for nuclear weapons. I believe Congress must put renewed pressure on Iran. The Senate needs to pass the Nuclear Weapon Free Iran Act before going home. We cannot allow Iran to hold the world hostage with nuclear weapons. Now is the time to act.

NAHASDA

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, this body reauthorized the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, a true

bipartisan effort and, more importantly, the right thing to do for all our Native people.

In it we reauthorized title 8, which addressed the Native people of my State, the Native Hawaiians. NAHASDA had expired for Native Hawaiians in 2005, and it has taken almost 10 years to make this right. Now they are authorized to the year 2019.

Home, land, or ''Aina,'' as it is called in Hawaiian, is critical to all people, especially our Native people. This Congress in 1921 passed the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, and this reauthorization will bring us closer to meeting the dreams of those who are 50 percent blood quantum or more.

I thank my colleagues for the voice vote and ask them to join me in asking the Senate to pass this reauthorization for housing assistance for all Native people.

ISIL THREATENS AMERICAN MILITARY FAMILIES

(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, on Sunday both the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security issued warnings to American military personnel regarding possible attacks by ISIL here at home. Sadly, this comes after Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson incorrectly announced in New York on September 14, ''At present we have no credible information that ISIS is planning to attack the homeland of the United States.'' The Secretary was wrong on the attacks, and equally, he has been wrong on the unconstitutional review of illegal aliens, which destroys jobs.

I appreciate yesterday national radio talk show host Kim Komando, the Digital Pro, who restated the FBI and DHS warnings of ISIS threats here in America to military families. She is a dedicated friend of the military.

The President should identify and stop the grotesque threats to conduct mass murder of American military families on U.S. soil.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and the President should take action to never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Our sympathy to the family of Captain William H. DuBois of Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina.

LONG-TERM TAX POLICIES

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

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, over the Thanksgiving holiday, I was able to spend time not only with my extended family but with the families of my district. And it struck me—not for the first time—how disconnected much of the conversation in Washington is from the concerns of typical families.

At the beginning of this week, we had an opportunity for a bipartisan agreement on making tax credits for working families permanent. But that has been derailed by cynical posturing.

In 2012, the earned income tax credit and the child tax credit helped lift 10.1 million people out of poverty. These programs work for working families. But instead of voting on a broader bill today to help working families and businesses alike, we are kicking the can down the road once again. This is a process that benefits the status quo and holds the needs of working families hostage to another time when it is politically convenient—and it is no way to govern.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to continue working towards long-term tax policies that will help families who cannot afford to wait any longer for Congress to do right by them.

FISCAL INSANITY

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

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I am discouraged to stand here and to announce a milestone that we reached recently, a very discouraging milestone, and that was in the last few days we have now surpassed $18 trillion in debt. If you want to know how much money that is, take every American taxpayer, from the young man who just got his first job to every mother and father who are struggling to take care of their families, and give them a bill for $150,000. It is simply unsustainable.

If we continue down this current path, we will commit fiscal national suicide by our spending and our debt. Remember, a nation that is bankrupt cannot provide for the security of its people, a nation that is bankrupt cannot provide for the needy among them, and a nation that is bankrupt cannot provide for the children in the next generation.

Now is the time to restore fiscal sanity. We must have the courage to reclaim the American Dream. Tax reform, entitlement reform, and a balanced budget—we must have the courage to make these a reality. But we can fix this. We must fix this. I hope we will have the courage to do this, even if it is hard.

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.

HOWARD COBLE COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5769) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5769

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 ''Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is the following:

Sec. 1. Short title.
Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION

Sec. 101. Authorization of appropriations.
Sec. 102. Authorized levels of military strength and training.

TITLE II—COAST GUARD

Sec. 201. Commissioned officers.
Sec. 202. Commandant; appointment.
Sec. 203. Prevention and response workforces.
Sec. 204. Centers of expertise.
Sec. 205. Penalties.
Sec. 206. Agreements.
Sec. 207. Tuition assistance program coverage of textbooks and other educational materials.
Sec. 208. Coast Guard housing.
Sec. 209. Lease authority.
Sec. 210. Notification of certain determinations.
Sec. 211. Annual Board of Visitors.
Sec. 212. Flag officers.
Sec. 213. Repeal of limitation on medals of honor.
Sec. 214. Coast Guard family support and child care.
Sec. 215. Mission need statement.
Sec. 216. Transmission of annual Coast Guard authorization request.
Sec. 217. Inventory of real property.
Sec. 218. Retired service members and dependents serving on advisory committees.
Sec. 219. Active duty for emergency augmentation of regular forces.
Sec. 220. Acquisition workforce expedited hiring authority.
Sec. 221. Coast Guard administrative savings.
Sec. 222. Technical corrections to title 14.
Sec. 223. Multiyear procurement authority for Offshore Patrol Cutters.
Sec. 224. Maintaining Medium Endurance Cutter mission capability.
Sec. 225. Aviation capability in the Great Lakes region.
Sec. 226. Gaps in writings on Coast Guard history.
Sec. 227. Officer evaluation reports.
Sec. 228. Improved safety information for vessels.
Sec. 229. E–LORAN.
Sec. 230. Analysis of resource deficiencies with respect to maritime border security.
Sec. 231. Modernization of National Distress and Response System.
Sec. 232. Report reconciling maintenance and operational priorities on the Missouri River.
Sec. 233. Maritime Search and Rescue Assistance Policy assessment.

TITLE III—SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION
Sec. 301. Repeal.
Sec. 302. Donation of historical property.
Sec. 303. Small shipyards.
Sec. 304. Drug testing reporting.
Sec. 305. Opportunities for sea service veterans.
Sec. 306. Clarification of high-risk waters.
Sec. 307. Technical corrections.
Sec. 308. Report.
Sec. 309. Fishing safety grant programs.
Sec. 310. Establishment of Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee.
Sec. 311. Travel and subsistence costs for prevention services.
Sec. 312. Prompt intergovernmental notice of marine casualties.
Sec. 313. Area Contingency Plans.
Sec. 314. International ice patrol reform.
Sec. 315. Offshore supply vessel third-party inspection.
Sec. 316. Watches.
Sec. 317. Coast Guard response plan requirements.
Sec. 318. Regional Citizens' Advisory Council.
Sec. 319. Uninspected passenger vessels in the United States Virgin Islands.
Sec. 320. Treatment of abandoned seafarers.
Sec. 321. Enforcement.
Sec. 322. Coast Guard regulations.
Sec. 323. Website.
TITLE IV—FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION
Sec. 401. Authorization of appropriations.
Sec. 402. Award of reparations.
Sec. 403. Terms of Commissioners.
TITLE V—ARCTIC MARITIME TRANSPORTATION
Sec. 501. Arctic maritime transportation.
Sec. 502. Arctic maritime domain awareness.
Sec. 503. IMO Polar Code negotiations.
Sec. 504. Forward operating facilities.
Sec. 505. Icebreakers.
Sec. 506. Icebreaking in polar regions.
TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS
Sec. 601. Distant water tuna fleet.
Sec. 602. Extension of moratorium.
Sec. 603. National maritime strategy.
Sec. 604. Waivers.
Sec. 605. Competition by United States flag vessels.
Sec. 606. Vessel requirements for notices of arrival and departure and automatic identification system.
Sec. 607. Conveyance of Coast Guard property in Rochester, New York.
Sec. 608. Conveyance of certain property in Gig Harbor, Washington.
Sec. 609. Vessel determination.
Sec. 610. Safe vessel operation in Thunder Bay.
Sec. 611. Parking facilities.

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION

SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Funds are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2015 for necessary expenses of the Coast Guard as follows:

(1) For the operation and maintenance of the Coast Guard, $6,981,036,000.

(2) For the acquisition, construction, rebuilding, and improvement of aids to navigation, shore and offshore facilities, vessels, and aircraft, including equipment related thereto, $1,546,448,000, to remain available until expended.

(3) For the Coast Guard Reserve program, including personnel and training costs, equipment, and services, $140,016,000.

(4) For environmental compliance and restoration of Coast Guard vessels, aircraft, and facilities (other than parts and equipment associated with operation and maintenance), $16,701,000, to remain available until expended.

(5) To the Commandant of the Coast Guard for research, development, test, and evaluation of technologies, materials, and human factors directly related to improving the performance of the Coast Guard's mission with respect to search and rescue, aids to navigation, marine safety, marine environmental protection, enforcement of laws and treaties, ice operations, oceanographic research, and defense readiness, $19,890,000.

(6) For alteration or removal of bridges over navigable waters of the United States constituting obstructions to navigation, and for personnel and administrative costs associated with the Alteration of Bridges Program, $16,000,000.

SEC. 102. AUTHORIZED LEVELS OF MILITARY STRENGTH AND TRAINING.

(a) ACTIVE DUTY STRENGTH.—The Coast Guard is authorized an end-of-year strength for active duty personnel of 43,000 for fiscal year 2015.

(b) MILITARY TRAINING STUDENT LOADS.—The Coast Guard is authorized average military training student loads for fiscal year 2015 as follows:

(1) For recruit and special training, 2,500 student years.

(2) For flight training, 165 student years.

(3) For professional training in military and civilian institutions, 350 student years.

(4) For officer acquisition, 1,200 student years.

TITLE II—COAST GUARD

SEC. 201. COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

Section 42(a) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''7,200'' and inserting ''6,900''.

SEC. 202. COMMANDANT; APPOINTMENT.

Section 44 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the first sentence the following: ''The term of an appointment, and any reappointment, shall begin on June 1 of the appropriate year and end on May 31 of the appropriate year, except that, in the event of death, retirement, resignation, or reassignment, or when the needs of the Service demand, the Secretary may alter the date on which a term begins or ends if the alteration does not result in the term exceeding a period of 4 years.''.

SEC. 203. PREVENTION AND RESPONSE WORKFORCES.

Section 57 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2) by striking ''or'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (3) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) waterways operations manager shall have knowledge, skill, and practical experience with respect to marine transportation system management; or

''(5) port and facility safety and security specialist shall have knowledge, skill, and practical experience with respect to the safety, security, and environmental protection responsibilities associated with maritime ports and facilities.'';

(2) in subsection (c) by striking ''or marine safety engineer'' and inserting ''marine safety engineer, waterways operations manager, or port and facility safety and security specialist''; and

(3) in subsection (f)(2) by striking ''investigator or marine safety engineer.'' and inserting ''investigator, marine safety engineer, waterways operations manager, or port and facility safety and security specialist.''.

SEC. 204. CENTERS OF EXPERTISE.

Section 58(b) of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(b) MISSIONS.—Any center established under subsection (a) shall—

''(1) promote, facilitate, and conduct—

''(A) education;

''(B) training; and

''(C) activities authorized under section 93(a)(4);

''(2) be a repository of information on operations, practices, and resources related to the mission for which the center was established; and

''(3) perform and support the mission for which the center was established.''.

SEC. 205. PENALTIES.

(a) AIDS TO NAVIGATION AND FALSE DISTRESS MESSAGES.—Chapter 5 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 83 by striking ''$100'' and inserting ''$1,500'';

(2) in section 84 by striking ''$500'' and inserting ''$1,500'';

(3) in section 85 by striking ''$100'' and inserting ''$1,500''; and

(4) in section 88(c)(2) by striking ''$5,000'' and inserting ''$10,000''.

(b) UNAUTHORIZED USE OF WORDS ''COAST GUARD''.—Section 639 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''$1,000'' and inserting ''$10,000''.

SEC. 206. AGREEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 93(a)(4) of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking '', investigate'' and inserting ''and investigate''; and

(2) by striking '', and cooperate and coordinate such activities with other Government agencies and with private agencies''.

(b) AUTHORITY.—Chapter 5 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 102. Agreements

''(a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out section 93(a)(4), the Commandant may—

''(1) enter into cooperative agreements, contracts, and other agreements with—

''(A) Federal entities;

''(B) other public or private entities in the United States, including academic entities; and

''(C) foreign governments with the concurrence of the Secretary of State; and

''(2) impose on and collect from an entity subject to an agreement or contract under paragraph (1) a fee to assist with expenses incurred in carrying out such section.

''(b) DEPOSIT AND USE OF FEES.—Fees collected under this section shall be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury as offsetting receipts. The fees may be used, to the extent provided in advance in an appropriation law, only to carry out activities under section 93(a)(4).''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

''102. Agreements.''.

SEC. 207. TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COVERAGE OF TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS.

Section 93(a)(7) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''and the textbooks, manuals, and other materials required as part of such training or course of instruction'' after ''correspondence courses''.

SEC. 208. COAST GUARD HOUSING.

(a) COMMANDANT; GENERAL POWERS.—Section 93(a)(13) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''the Treasury'' and inserting ''the fund established under section 687''.

(b) LIGHTHOUSE PROPERTY.—Section 672a(b) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''the Treasury'' and inserting ''the fund established under section 687''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 687(b) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) Monies received under section 93(a)(13).

''(5) Amounts received under section 672a(b).''.

SEC. 209. LEASE AUTHORITY.

Section 93 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) LEASING OF TIDELANDS AND SUBMERGED LANDS.—

''(1) AUTHORITY.—The Commandant may lease under subsection (a)(13) submerged lands and tidelands under the control of the Coast Guard without regard to the limitation under that subsection with respect to lease duration.

''(2) LIMITATION.—The Commandant may lease submerged lands and tidelands under paragraph (1) only if—

''(A) lease payments are—

''(i) received exclusively in the form of cash;

''(ii) equal to the fair market value of the use of the leased submerged lands or tidelands for the period during which such lands are leased, as determined by the Commandant; and

''(iii) deposited in the fund established under section 687; and

''(B) the lease does not provide authority to or commit the Coast Guard to use or support any improvements to such submerged lands or tidelands, or obtain goods or services from the lessee.''.

SEC. 210. NOTIFICATION OF CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 5 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 103. Notification of certain determinations

''(a) IN GENERAL.—At least 90 days prior to making a final determination that a waterway, or a portion thereof, is navigable for purposes of the jurisdiction of the Coast Guard, the Commandant shall provide notification regarding the proposed determination to—

''(1) the Governor of each State in which such waterway, or portion thereof, is located;

''(2) the public; and

''(3) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

''(b) CONTENT REQUIREMENT.—Each notification provided under subsection (a) to an entity specified in paragraph (3) of that subsection shall include—

''(1) an analysis of whether vessels operating on the waterway, or portion thereof, subject to the proposed determination are subject to inspection or similar regulation by State or local officials;

''(2) an analysis of whether operators of commercial vessels on such waterway, or portion thereof, are subject to licensing or similar regulation by State or local officials; and

''(3) an estimate of the annual costs that the Coast Guard may incur in conducting operations on such waterway, or portion thereof.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''103. Notification of certain determinations.''.

SEC. 211. ANNUAL BOARD OF VISITORS.

Section 194 of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 194. Annual Board of Visitors

''(a) IN GENERAL.—A Board of Visitors to the Coast Guard Academy is established to review and make recommendations on the operation of the Academy.

''(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The membership of the Board shall consist of the following:

''(A) The chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, or the chairman's designee.

''(B) The chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, or the chairman's designee.

''(C) 3 Members of the Senate designated by the Vice President.

''(D) 4 Members of the House of Representatives designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

''(E) 6 individuals designated by the President.

''(2) LENGTH OF SERVICE.—

''(A) MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.—A Member of Congress designated under subparagraph (C) or (D) of paragraph (1) as a member of the Board shall be designated as a member in the First Session of a Congress and serve for the duration of that Congress.

''(B) INDIVIDUALS DESIGNATED BY THE PRESIDENT.—Each individual designated by the President under subparagraph (E) of paragraph (1) shall serve as a member of the Board for 3 years, except that any such member whose term of office has expired shall continue to serve until a successor is appointed.

''(3) DEATH OR RESIGNATION OF A MEMBER.—If a member of the Board dies or resigns, a successor shall be designated for any unexpired portion of the term of the member by the official who designated the member.

''(c) ACADEMY VISITS.—

''(1) ANNUAL VISIT.—The Board shall visit the Academy annually to review the operation of the Academy.

''(2) ADDITIONAL VISITS.—With the approval of the Secretary, the Board or individual members of the Board may make other visits to the Academy in connection with the duties of the Board or to consult with the Superintendent of the Academy.

''(d) SCOPE OF REVIEW.—The Board shall review, with respect to the Academy—

''(1) the state of morale and discipline;

''(2) the curriculum;

''(3) instruction;

''(4) physical equipment;

''(5) fiscal affairs; and

''(6) other matters relating to the Academy that the Board determines appropriate.

''(e) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of an annual visit of the Board under subsection (c)(1), the Board shall submit to the Secretary, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the actions of the Board during such visit and the recommendations of the Board pertaining to the Academy.

''(f) ADVISORS.—If approved by the Secretary, the Board may consult with advisors in carrying out this section.

''(g) REIMBURSEMENT.—Each member of the Board and each adviser consulted by the Board under subsection (f) shall be reimbursed, to the extent permitted by law, by the Coast Guard for actual expenses incurred while engaged in duties as a member or adviser.''.

SEC. 212. FLAG OFFICERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 295 the following:

''§ 296. Flag officers

''During any period in which the Coast Guard is not operating as a service in the Navy, section 1216(d) of title 10 does not apply with respect to flag officers of the Coast Guard.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 11 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 295 the following:

''296. Flag officers.''.

SEC. 213. REPEAL OF LIMITATION ON MEDALS OF HONOR.

Section 494 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''medal of honor,'' each place it appears.

SEC. 214. COAST GUARD FAMILY SUPPORT AND CHILD CARE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by inserting after chapter 13 the following:

''CHAPTER 14—COAST GUARD FAMILY SUPPORT AND CHILD CARE

''SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

''Sec.

''531. Work-life policies and programs.

''532. Surveys of Coast Guard families.

''SUBCHAPTER II—COAST GUARD FAMILY SUPPORT

''542. Education and training opportunities for Coast Guard spouses.

''543. Youth sponsorship initiatives.

''SUBCHAPTER III—COAST GUARD CHILD CARE

''551. Definitions.

''553. Child development center standards and inspections.

''554. Child development center employees.

''555. Parent partnerships with child development centers.

''SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

''§ 531. Work-life policies and programs

''The Commandant is authorized—

''(1) to establish an office for the purpose of developing, promulgating, and coordinating policies, programs, and activities related to the families of Coast Guard members;

''(2) to implement and oversee policies, programs, and activities described in paragraph (1) as the Commandant considers necessary; and

''(3) to perform such other duties as the Commandant considers necessary.

''§ 532. Surveys of Coast Guard families

''(a) AUTHORITY.—The Commandant, in order to determine the effectiveness of Federal policies, programs, and activities related to the families of Coast Guard members, may survey—

''(1) any Coast Guard member;

''(2) any retired Coast Guard member;

''(3) the immediate family of any Coast Guard member or retired Coast Guard member; and

''(4) any survivor of a deceased Coast Guard member.

''(b) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—Participation in any survey conducted under subsection (a) shall be voluntary.

''(c) FEDERAL RECORDKEEPING.—Each person surveyed under subsection (a) shall be considered an employee of the United States for purposes of section 3502(3)(A)(i) of title 44.

''SUBCHAPTER II—COAST GUARD FAMILY SUPPORT

''§ 542. Education and training opportunities for Coast Guard spouses

''(a) TUITION ASSISTANCE.—The Commandant may provide, subject to the availability of appropriations, tuition assistance to an eligible spouse to facilitate the acquisition of—

''(1) education and training required for a degree or credential at an accredited college, university, or technical school in the United States that expands employment and portable career opportunities for the spouse; or

''(2) education prerequisites and a professional license or credential required, by a government or government-sanctioned licensing body, for an occupation that expands employment and portable career opportunities for the spouse.

''(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

''(1) ELIGIBLE SPOUSE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'eligible spouse' means the spouse of a member of the Coast Guard who is serving on active duty and includes a spouse who receives transitional compensation under section 1059 of title 10.

''(B) EXCLUSION.—The term 'eligible spouse' does not include a person who—

''(i) is married to, but legally separated from, a member of the Coast Guard under a court order or statute of any State or territorial possession of the United States; or

''(ii) is eligible for tuition assistance as a member of the Armed Forces.

''(2) PORTABLE CAREER.—The term 'portable career' includes an occupation that requires education, training, or both that results in a credential that is recognized by an industry, profession, or specific type of business.

''§ 543. Youth sponsorship initiatives

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant is authorized to establish, within any Coast Guard unit, an initiative to help integrate into new surroundings the dependent children of members of the Coast Guard who received permanent change of station orders.

''(b) DESCRIPTION OF INITIATIVE.—An initiative established under subsection (a) shall—

''(1) provide for the involvement of a dependent child of a member of the Coast Guard in the dependent child's new Coast Guard community; and

''(2) primarily focus on preteen and teenaged children.

''(c) AUTHORITY.—In carrying out an initiative under subsection (a), the Commandant may—

''(1) provide to a dependent child of a member of the Coast Guard information on youth programs and activities available in the dependent child's new Coast Guard community; and

''(2) enter into agreements with nonprofit entities to provide youth programs and activities to such child.

''SUBCHAPTER III—COAST GUARD CHILD CARE

''§ 551. Definitions

''In this subchapter, the following definitions apply:

''(1) CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.—The term 'child abuse and neglect' has the meaning given that term in section 3 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 note).

''(2) CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER EMPLOYEE.—The term 'child development center employee' means a civilian employee of the Coast Guard who is employed to work in a Coast Guard child development center without regard to whether the employee is paid from appropriated or nonappropriated funds.

''(3) COAST GUARD CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER.—The term 'Coast Guard child development center' means a facility on Coast Guard property or on property under the jurisdiction of the commander of a Coast Guard unit at which child care services are provided for members of the Coast Guard.

''(4) COMPETITIVE SERVICE POSITION.—The term 'competitive service position' means a position in the competitive service (as defined in section 2102 of title 5).

''(5) FAMILY HOME DAYCARE.—The term 'family home daycare' means home-based child care services provided for a member of the Coast Guard by an individual who—

''(A) is certified by the Commandant as qualified to provide home-based child care services; and

''(B) provides home-based child care services on a regular basis in exchange for monetary compensation.

''§ 553. Child development center standards and inspections

''(a) STANDARDS.—The Commandant shall require each Coast Guard child development center to meet standards that the Commandant considers appropriate to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the children and employees at the center.

''(b) INSPECTIONS.—The Commandant shall provide for regular and unannounced inspections of each Coast Guard child development center to ensure compliance with this section.

''(c) NATIONAL REPORTING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall maintain and publicize a means by which an individual can report, with respect to a Coast Guard child development center or a family home daycare—

''(A) any suspected violation of—

''(i) standards established under subsection (a); or

''(ii) any other applicable law or standard;

''(B) suspected child abuse or neglect; or

''(C) any other deficiency.

''(2) ANONYMOUS REPORTING.—The Commandant shall ensure that an individual making a report pursuant to paragraph (1) may do so anonymously if so desired by the individual.

''(3) PROCEDURES.—The Commandant shall establish procedures for investigating reports made pursuant to paragraph (1).

''§ 554. Child development center employees

''(a) TRAINING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall establish a training program for Coast Guard child development center employees and satisfactory completion of the training program shall be a condition of employment for each employee of a Coast Guard child development center.

''(2) TIMING FOR NEW HIRES.—The Commandant shall require each employee of a Coast Guard child development center to complete the training program established under paragraph (1) not later than 6 months after the date on which the employee is hired.

''(3) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.—The training program established under paragraph (1) shall include, at a minimum, instruction with respect to—

''(A) early childhood development;

''(B) activities and disciplinary techniques appropriate to children of different ages;

''(C) child abuse and neglect prevention and detection; and

''(D) cardiopulmonary resuscitation and other emergency medical procedures.

''(4) USE OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS.—The Commandant may use Department of Defense training programs, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, for purposes of this subsection.

''(b) TRAINING AND CURRICULUM SPECIALISTS.—

''(1) SPECIALIST REQUIRED.—The Commandant shall require that at least 1 employee at each Coast Guard child development center be a specialist in training and curriculum development with appropriate credentials and experience.

''(2) DUTIES.—The duties of the specialist described in paragraph (1) shall include—

''(A) special teaching activities;

''(B) daily oversight and instruction of other child care employees;

''(C) daily assistance in the preparation of lesson plans;

''(D) assisting with child abuse and neglect prevention and detection; and

''(E) advising the director of the center on the performance of the other child care employees.

''(3) COMPETITIVE SERVICE.—Each specialist described in paragraph (1) shall be an employee in a competitive service position.

''§ 555. Parent partnerships with child development centers

''(a) PARENT BOARDS.—

''(1) FORMATION.—The Commandant shall require that there be formed at each Coast Guard child development center a board of parents, to be composed of parents of children attending the center.

''(2) FUNCTIONS.—Each board of parents formed under paragraph (1) shall—

''(A) meet periodically with the staff of the center at which the board is formed and the commander of the unit served by the center, for the purpose of discussing problems and concerns; and

''(B) be responsible, together with the staff of the center, for coordinating any parent participation initiative established under subsection (b).

''(3) FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) does not apply to a board of parents formed under paragraph (1).

''(b) PARENT PARTICIPATION INITIATIVE.—The Commandant is authorized to establish a parent participation initiative at each Coast Guard child development center to encourage and facilitate parent participation in educational and related activities at the center.''.

(b) TRANSFER OF PROVISIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) REIMBURSEMENT FOR ADOPTION EXPENSES.—Section 514 of title 14, United States Code, is redesignated as section 541 and transferred to appear before section 542 of such title, as added by subsection (a) of this section.

(B) CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES.—Section 515 of title 14, United States Code—

(i) is redesignated as section 552 and transferred to appear after section 551 of such title, as added by subsection (a) of this section; and

(ii) is amended—

(I) in subsection (b)(2)(B) by inserting ''and whether a family is participating in an initiative established under section 555(b)'' after ''family income'';

(II) by striking subsections (c) and (e); and

(III) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

(C) DEPENDENT SCHOOL CHILDREN.—Section 657 of title 14, United States Code—

(i) is redesignated as section 544 and transferred to appear after section 543 of such title, as added by subsection (a) of this section; and

(ii) is amended in subsection (a) by striking ''Except as otherwise'' and all that follows through ''the Secretary may'' and inserting ''The Secretary may''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) PART I.—The analysis for part I of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 13 the following:

''14. Coast Guard Family Support and Child Care ..... 531''.

(B) CHAPTER 13.—The analysis for chapter 13 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(i) by striking the item relating to section 514; and

(ii) by striking the item relating to section 515.

(C) CHAPTER 14.—The analysis for chapter 14 of title 14, United States Code, as added by subsection (a) of this section, is amended by inserting—

(i) before the item relating to section 542 the following:

''541. Reimbursement for adoption expenses.'';

(ii) after the item relating to section 551 the following:

''552. Child development services.''; and

(iii) after the item relating to section 543 the following:

''544. Dependent school children.''.

(D) CHAPTER 17.—The analysis for chapter 17 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 657.

(c) COMMANDANT; GENERAL POWERS.—Section 93(a)(7) of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by inserting '', and to eligible spouses as defined under section 542,'' after ''Coast Guard''.

(d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—It is the sense of Congress that the amount of funds appropriated for a fiscal year for operating expenses related to Coast Guard child development services should not be less than the amount of the child development center fee receipts estimated to be collected by the Coast Guard during that fiscal year.

(2) CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER FEE RECEIPTS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''child development center fee receipts'' means fees paid by members of the Coast Guard for child care services provided at Coast Guard child development centers.

SEC. 215. MISSION NEED STATEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 569 of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 569. Mission need statement

''(a) IN GENERAL.—On the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget for fiscal year 2016 under section 1105 of title 31, on the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget for fiscal year 2019 under such section, and every 4 years thereafter, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate an integrated major acquisition mission need statement.

''(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

''(1) INTEGRATED MAJOR ACQUISITION MISSION NEED STATEMENT.—The term 'integrated major acquisition mission need statement' means a document that—

''(A) identifies current and projected gaps in Coast Guard mission capabilities using mission hour targets;

''(B) explains how each major acquisition program addresses gaps identified under subparagraph (A) if funded at the levels provided for such program in the most recently submitted capital investment plan; and

''(C) describes the missions the Coast Guard will not be able to achieve, by fiscal year, for each gap identified under subparagraph (A).

''(2) MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAM.—The term 'major acquisition program' has the meaning given that term in section 569a(e).

''(3) CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN.—The term 'capital investment plan' means the plan required under section 663(a)(1).''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 15 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 569 and inserting the following:

''569. Mission need statement.''.

SEC. 216. TRANSMISSION OF ANNUAL COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION REQUEST.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by inserting after section 662 the following:

''§ 662a. Transmission of annual Coast Guard authorization request

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget for a fiscal year pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a Coast Guard authorization request with respect to such fiscal year.

''(b) COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION REQUEST DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'Coast Guard authorization request' means a proposal for legislation that, with respect to the Coast Guard for the relevant fiscal year—

''(1) recommends end strengths for personnel for that fiscal year, as described in section 661;

''(2) recommends authorizations of appropriations for that fiscal year, including with respect to matters described in section 662; and

''(3) addresses any other matter that the Secretary determines is appropriate for inclusion in a Coast Guard authorization bill.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 17 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 662 the following:

''662a. Transmission of annual Coast Guard authorization request.''.

SEC. 217. INVENTORY OF REAL PROPERTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 17 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 679. Inventory of real property

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30, 2015, the Commandant shall establish an inventory of all real property, including submerged lands, under the control of the Coast Guard, which shall include—

''(1) the size, the location, and any other appropriate description of each unit of such property;

''(2) an assessment of the physical condition of each unit of such property, excluding lands;

''(3) a determination of whether each unit of such property should be—

''(A) retained to fulfill a current or projected Coast Guard mission requirement; or

''(B) subject to divestiture; and

''(4) other information the Commandant considers appropriate.

''(b) INVENTORY MAINTENANCE.—The Commandant shall—

''(1) maintain the inventory required under subsection (a) on an ongoing basis; and

''(2) update information on each unit of real property included in such inventory not later than 30 days after any change relating to the control of such property.

''(c) RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than March 30, 2016, and every 5 years thereafter, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that includes—

''(1) a list of all real property under the control of the Coast Guard and the location of such property by property type;

''(2) recommendations for divestiture with respect to any units of such property; and

''(3) recommendations for consolidating any units of such property, including—

''(A) an estimate of the costs or savings associated with each recommended consolidation; and

''(B) a discussion of the impact that such consolidation would have on Coast Guard mission effectiveness.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''679. Inventory of real property.''.

SEC. 218. RETIRED SERVICE MEMBERS AND DEPENDENTS SERVING ON ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 17 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 680. Retired service members and dependents serving on advisory committees

''A committee that—

''(1) advises or assists the Coast Guard with respect to a function that affects a member of the Coast Guard or a dependent of such a member; and

''(2) includes in its membership a retired Coast Guard member or a dependent of such a retired member;

shall not be considered an advisory committee under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) solely because of such membership.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter, as amended by this Act, is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 679 the following:

''680. Retired service members and dependents serving on advisory committees.''.

SEC. 219. ACTIVE DUTY FOR EMERGENCY AUGMENTATION OF REGULAR FORCES.

Section 712(a) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''not more than 60 days in any 4-month period and''.

SEC. 220. ACQUISITION WORKFORCE EXPEDITED HIRING AUTHORITY.

Section 404(b) of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–281; 124 Stat. 2951) is amended by striking ''2015'' and inserting ''2017''.

SEC. 221. COAST GUARD ADMINISTRATIVE SAVINGS.

(a) ELIMINATION OF OUTDATED AND DUPLICATIVE REPORTS.—

(1) MARINE INDUSTRY TRAINING.—Section 59 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking ''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant'' and inserting ''The Commandant''; and

(B) by striking subsection (b).

(2) OPERATIONS AND EXPENDITURES.—Section 651 of title 14, United States Code, and the item relating to such section in the analysis for chapter 17 of such title, are repealed.

(3) DRUG INTERDICTION.—Section 103 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1996 (14 U.S.C. 89 note), and the item relating to that section in the table of contents in section 2 of that Act, are repealed.

(4) NATIONAL DEFENSE.—Section 426 of the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 (14 U.S.C. 2 note), and the item relating to that section in the table of contents in section 1(b) of that Act, are repealed.

(5) LIVING MARINE RESOURCES.—Section 4(b) of the Cruise Vessel Security and Safety Act of 2010 (16 U.S.C. 1828 note) is amended by adding at the end the following: ''No report shall be required under this subsection, including that no report shall be required under section 224 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2004 or section 804 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006, for fiscal years beginning after fiscal year 2014.''.

(b) CONSOLIDATION AND REFORM OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) MARINE SAFETY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 2116(d)(2)(B) of title 46, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(B) on the program's mission performance in achieving numerical measurable goals established under subsection (b), including—

''(i) the number of civilian and military Coast Guard personnel assigned to marine safety positions; and

''(ii) an identification of marine safety positions that are understaffed to meet the workload required to accomplish each activity included in the strategy and plans under subsection (a); and''.

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 57 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended—

(i) by striking subsection (e); and

(ii) by redesignating subsections (f), (g), and (h) as subsections (e), (f), and (g) respectively.

(2) MINOR CONSTRUCTION.—Section 656(d)(2) of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(2) REPORT.—Not later than the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget under section 1105 of title 31 each year, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describing each project carried out under paragraph (1), in the most recently concluded fiscal year, for which the amount expended under such paragraph for such project was more than $1,000,000. If no such project was carried out during a fiscal year, no report under this paragraph shall be required with respect to that fiscal year.''.

SEC. 222. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO TITLE 14.

Title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended—

(1) in section 93(b)(1) by striking ''Notwithstanding subsection (a)(14)'' and inserting ''Notwithstanding subsection (a)(13)''; and

(2) in section 197(b) by striking ''of Homeland Security''.

SEC. 223. MULTIYEAR PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY FOR OFFSHORE PATROL CUTTERS.

In fiscal year 2015 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may enter into, in accordance with section 2306b of title 10, United States Code, multiyear contracts for the procurement of Offshore Patrol Cutters and associated equipment.

SEC. 224. MAINTAINING MEDIUM ENDURANCE CUTTER MISSION CAPABILITY.

Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that includes—

(1) a schedule and plan for decommissioning, not later than September 30, 2029, each of the 210-foot, Reliance-Class Cutters operated by the Coast Guard on the date of enactment of this Act;

(2) a schedule and plan for enhancing the maintenance or extending the service life of each of the 270-foot, Famous-Class Cutters operated by the Coast Guard on the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) to maintain the capability of the Coast Guard to carry out sea-going missions with respect to such Cutters at the level of capability existing on September 30, 2013; and

(B) for the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the date on which the final Offshore Patrol Cutter is scheduled to be commissioned under paragraph (4);

(3) an identification of the number of Offshore Patrol Cutters capable of sea state 5 operations that, if 8 National Security Cutters are commissioned, are necessary to return the sea state 5 operating capability of the Coast Guard to the level of capability that existed prior to the decommissioning of the first High Endurance Cutter in fiscal year 2011;

(4) a schedule and plan for commissioning the number of Offshore Patrol Cutters identified under paragraph (3); and

(5) a schedule and plan for commissioning, not later than September 30, 2034, a number of Offshore Patrol Cutters not capable of sea state 5 operations that is equal to—

(A) 25; less

(B) the number of Offshore Patrol Cutters identified under paragraph (3).

SEC. 225. AVIATION CAPABILITY IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION.

The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may—

(1) request and accept through a direct military-to-military transfer under section 2571 of title 10, United States Code, such H–60 helicopters as may be necessary to establish a year-round operational capability in the Coast Guard's Ninth District; and

(2) use funds provided under section 101 of this Act to convert such helicopters to Coast Guard MH–60T configuration.

SEC. 226. GAPS IN WRITINGS ON COAST GUARD HISTORY.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on any gaps that exist in writings on the history of the Coast Guard. The report shall address, at a minimum, operations, broad topics, and biographies with respect to the Coast Guard.

SEC. 227. OFFICER EVALUATION REPORTS.

(a) ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall provide to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a written assessment of the Coast Guard's officer evaluation reporting system.

(b) CONTENTS OF ASSESSMENT.—The assessment required under subsection (a) shall include, at a minimum, an analysis of—

(1) the extent to which the Coast Guard's officer evaluation reports differ in length, form, and content from the officer fitness reports used by the Navy and other branches of the Armed Forces;

(2) the extent to which differences determined pursuant to paragraph (1) are the result of inherent differences between—

(A) the Coast Guard and the Navy; and

(B) the Coast Guard and other branches of the Armed Forces;

(3) the feasibility of more closely aligning and conforming the Coast Guard's officer evaluation reports with the officer fitness reports of the Navy and other branches of the Armed Forces; and

(4) the costs and benefits of the alignment and conformity described in paragraph (3), including with respect to—

(A) Coast Guard administrative efficiency;

(B) fairness and equity for Coast Guard officers; and

(C) carrying out the Coast Guard's statutory mission of defense readiness, including when operating as a service in the Navy.

SEC. 228. IMPROVED SAFETY INFORMATION FOR VESSELS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall establish a process that allows an operator of a marine exchange or other non-Federal vessel traffic information service to use the automatic identification system to transmit weather, ice, and other important navigation safety information to vessels.

SEC. 229. E–LORAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may not carry out activities related to the dismantling or disposal of infrastructure that supported the former LORAN system until the later of—

(1) the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act; or

(2) the date on which the Secretary provides to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate notice of a determination by the Secretary that such infrastructure is not required to provide a positioning, navigation, and timing system to provide redundant capability in the event GPS signals are disrupted.

(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) does not apply to activities necessary for the safety of human life.

(c) AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements, contracts, and other agreements with Federal entities and other public or private entities, including academic entities, to develop a positioning, navigation, and timing system, including an enhanced LORAN system, to provide redundant capability in the event GPS signals are disrupted.

SEC. 230. ANALYSIS OF RESOURCE DEFICIENCIES WITH RESPECT TO MARITIME BORDER SECURITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall provide to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report describing any Coast Guard resource deficiencies related to—

(1) securing maritime borders with respect to the Great Lakes and the coastal areas of the Southeastern and Southwestern United States, including with respect to Florida, California, Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands;

(2) patrolling and monitoring maritime approaches to the areas described in paragraph (1); and

(3) patrolling and monitoring relevant portions of the Western Hemisphere Drug Transit Zone.

(b) SCOPE.—In preparing the report under subsection (a), the Commandant shall consider, at a minimum—

(1) the Coast Guard's statutory missions with respect to migrant interdiction, drug interdiction, defense readiness, living marine resources, and ports, waterways, and coastal security;

(2) whether Coast Guard missions are being executed to meet national performance targets set under the National Drug Control Strategy;

(3) the number and types of cutters and other vessels required to effectively execute Coast Guard missions;

(4) the number and types of aircraft, including unmanned aircraft, required to effectively execute Coast Guard missions;

(5) the number of assets that require upgraded sensor and communications systems to effectively execute Coast Guard missions;

(6) the Deployable Specialized Forces required to effectively execute Coast Guard missions; and

(7) whether additional shoreside facilities are required to accommodate Coast Guard personnel and assets in support of Coast Guard missions.

SEC. 231. MODERNIZATION OF NATIONAL DISTRESS AND RESPONSE SYSTEM.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the implementation of the Rescue 21 project in Alaska and in Coast Guard sectors Upper Mississippi River, Lower Mississippi River, and Ohio River Valley.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) describe what improvements are being made to the distress response system in the areas specified in subsection (a), including information on which areas will receive digital selective calling and direction finding capability;

(2) describe the impediments to installing digital selective calling and direction finding capability in areas where such technology will not be installed;

(3) identify locations in the areas specified in subsection (a) where communication gaps will continue to present a risk to mariners after completion of the Rescue 21 project;

(4) include a list of all reported marine accidents, casualties, and fatalities occurring in the locations identified under paragraph (3) since 1990; and

(5) provide an estimate of the costs associated with installing the technology necessary to close communication gaps in the locations identified under paragraph (3).

SEC. 232. REPORT RECONCILING MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES ON THE MISSOURI RIVER.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that outlines a course of action to reconcile general maintenance priorities for cutters with operational priorities on the Missouri River.

SEC. 233. MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE ASSISTANCE POLICY ASSESSMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard shall assess the Maritime Search and Rescue Assistance Policy as it relates to State and local responders.

(b) SCOPE.—The assessment under subsection (a) shall consider, at a minimum—

(1) the extent to which Coast Guard search and rescue coordinators have entered into domestic search and rescue agreements with State and local responders under the National Search and Rescue Plan;

(2) whether the domestic search and rescue agreements include the Maritime Search and Rescue Assistance Policy; and

(3) the extent to which Coast Guard sectors coordinate with 911 emergency centers, including ensuring the dissemination of appropriate maritime distress check-sheets.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit a report on the assessment under subsection (a) to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

TITLE III—SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION

SEC. 301. REPEAL.

Chapter 555 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by repealing section 55501;

(2) by redesignating section 55502 as section 55501; and

(3) in the analysis by striking the items relating to sections 55501 and 55502 and inserting the following:

''55501. United States Committee on the Marine Transportation System.''.

SEC. 302. DONATION OF HISTORICAL PROPERTY.

Section 51103 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) DONATION FOR HISTORICAL PURPOSES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may convey the right, title, and interest of the United States Government in any property administered by the Maritime Administration, except real estate or vessels, if—

''(A) the Secretary determines that such property is not needed by the Maritime Administration; and

''(B) the recipient—

''(i) is a nonprofit organization, a State, or a political subdivision of a State;

''(ii) agrees to hold the Government harmless for any claims arising from exposure to hazardous materials, including asbestos, polychlorinated biphenyls, or lead paint, after conveyance of the property;

''(iii) provides a description and explanation of the intended use of the property to the Secretary for approval;

''(iv) has provided to the Secretary proof, as determined by the Secretary, of resources sufficient to accomplish the intended use provided under clause (iii) and to maintain the property;

''(v) agrees that when the recipient no longer requires the property, the recipient shall—

''(I) return the property to the Secretary, at the recipient's expense and in the same condition as received except for ordinary wear and tear; or

''(II) subject to the approval of the Secretary, retain, sell, or otherwise dispose of the property in a manner consistent with applicable law; and

''(vi) agrees to any additional terms the Secretary considers appropriate.

''(2) REVERSION.—The Secretary shall include in any conveyance under this subsection terms under which all right, title, and interest conveyed by the Secretary shall revert to the Government if the Secretary determines the property has been used other than as approved by the Secretary under paragraph (1)(B)(iii).''.

SEC. 303. SMALL SHIPYARDS.

Section 54101(i) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking ''2009 through 2013'' and inserting ''2015 through 2017''.

SEC. 304. DRUG TESTING REPORTING.

Section 7706 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting ''an applicant for employment by a Federal agency,'' after ''Federal agency,''; and

(2) in subsection (c), by—

(A) inserting ''or an applicant for employment by a Federal agency'' after ''an employee''; and

(B) striking ''the employee.'' and inserting ''the employee or the applicant.''.

SEC. 305. OPPORTUNITIES FOR SEA SERVICE VETERANS.

(a) ENDORSEMENTS FOR VETERANS.—Section 7101 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(j) The Secretary may issue a license under this section in a class under subsection (c) to an applicant that—

''(1) has at least 3 months of qualifying service on vessels of the uniformed services (as that term is defined in section 101(a) of title 10) of appropriate tonnage or horsepower within the 7-year period immediately preceding the date of application; and

''(2) satisfies all other requirements for such a license.''.

(b) SEA SERVICE LETTERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 427 the following:

''§ 428. Sea service letters

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide a sea service letter to a member or former member of the Coast Guard who—

''(1) accumulated sea service on a vessel of the armed forces (as such term is defined in section 101(a) of title 10); and

''(2) requests such letter.

''(b) DEADLINE.—Not later than 30 days after receiving a request for a sea service letter from a member or former member of the Coast Guard under subsection (a), the Secretary shall provide such letter to such member or former member if such member or former member satisfies the requirement under subsection (a)(1).''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 11 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 427 the following:

''428. Sea service letters.''.

(c) CREDITING OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES SERVICE, TRAINING, AND QUALIFICATIONS.—

(1) MAXIMIZING CREDITABILITY.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, in implementing United States merchant mariner license, certification, and document laws and the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, shall maximize the extent to which United States Armed Forces service, training, and qualifications are creditable toward meeting the requirements of such laws and such Convention.

(2) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall notify the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the steps taken to implement this subsection.

(d) MERCHANT MARINE POST-SERVICE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall take steps to promote better awareness, on an ongoing basis, among Coast Guard personnel regarding post-service use of Coast Guard training, education, and practical experience in satisfaction of requirements for merchant mariner credentials under section 11.213 of title 46, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 306. CLARIFICATION OF HIGH-RISK WATERS.

Section 55305(e) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''provide armed personnel aboard'' and inserting ''reimburse, subject to the availability of appropriations, the owners or operators of''; and

(B) by inserting ''for the cost of providing armed personnel aboard such vessels'' before ''if''; and

(2) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and inserting the following:

''(2) In this subsection, the term 'high-risk waters' means waters so designated by the Commandant of the Coast Guard in the maritime security directive issued by the Commandant and in effect on the date on which an applicable voyage begins, if the Secretary of Transportation—

''(A) determines that an act of piracy occurred in the 12-month period preceding the date the voyage begins; or

''(B) in such period, issued an advisory warning that an act of piracy is possible in such waters.''.

SEC. 307. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

(a) TITLE 46.—Section 2116(b)(1)(D) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking ''section 93(c)'' and inserting ''section 93(c) of title 14''.

(b) COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2006.—Section 304(a) of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–241; 33 U.S.C. 1503 note) is amended by inserting ''and from'' before ''the United States''.

(c) DEEPWATER PORT ACT OF 1974.—Section 4(i) of the Deepwater Port Act of 1974 (33 U.S.C. 1503(i)) is amended by inserting ''or that will supply'' after ''be supplied with''.

SEC. 308. REPORT.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the number of jobs, including vessel construction and vessel operating jobs, that would be created in the United States maritime industry each year in 2015 through 2025 if liquified natural gas exported from the United States were required to be carried—

(1) before December 31, 2018, on vessels documented under the laws of the United States; and

(2) on and after such date, on vessels documented under the laws of the United States and constructed in the United States.

SEC. 309. FISHING SAFETY GRANT PROGRAMS.

(a) FISHING SAFETY TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 4502(i)(4) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking ''2010 through 2014'' and inserting ''2015 through 2017''.

(b) FISHING SAFETY RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 4502(j)(4) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking ''2010 through 2014'' and inserting ''2015 through 2017''.

SEC. 310. ESTABLISHMENT OF MERCHANT MARINE PERSONNEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Chapter 81 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 8108. Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (in this section referred to as 'the Committee'). The Committee—

''(1) shall act solely in an advisory capacity to the Secretary through the Commandant of the Coast Guard on matters relating to personnel in the United States merchant marine, including training, qualifications, certification, documentation, and fitness standards, and other matters as assigned by the Commandant;

''(2) shall review and comment on proposed Coast Guard regulations and policies relating to personnel in the United States merchant marine, including training, qualifications, certification, documentation, and fitness standards;

''(3) may be given special assignments by the Secretary and may conduct studies, inquiries, workshops, and fact finding in consultation with individuals and groups in the private sector and with State or local governments;

''(4) shall advise, consult with, and make recommendations reflecting its independent judgment to the Secretary;

''(5) shall meet not less than twice each year; and

''(6) may make available to Congress recommendations that the Committee makes to the Secretary.

''(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall consist of not more than 19 members who are appointed by and serve terms of a duration determined by the Secretary. Before filling a position on the Committee, the Secretary shall publish a notice in the Federal Register soliciting nominations for membership on the Committee.

''(2) REQUIRED MEMBERS.—Subject to paragraph (3), the Secretary shall appoint as members of the Committee—

''(A) 9 United States citizens with active licenses or certificates issued under chapter 71 or merchant mariner documents issued under chapter 73, including—

''(i) 3 deck officers who represent the viewpoint of merchant marine deck officers, of whom—

''(I) 2 shall be licensed for oceans any gross tons;

''(II) 1 shall be licensed for inland river route with a limited or unlimited tonnage;

''(III) 2 shall have a master's license or a master of towing vessels license;

''(IV) 1 shall have significant tanker experience; and

''(V) to the extent practicable—

''(aa) 1 shall represent the viewpoint of labor; and

''(bb) another shall represent a management perspective;

''(ii) 3 engineering officers who represent the viewpoint of merchant marine engineering officers, of whom—

''(I) 2 shall be licensed as chief engineer any horsepower;

''(II) 1 shall be licensed as either a limited chief engineer or a designated duty engineer; and

''(III) to the extent practicable—

''(aa) 1 shall represent a labor viewpoint; and

''(bb) another shall represent a management perspective;

''(iii) 2 unlicensed seamen, of whom—

''(I) 1 shall represent the viewpoint of able-bodied seamen; and

''(II) another shall represent the viewpoint of qualified members of the engine department; and

''(iv) 1 pilot who represents the viewpoint of merchant marine pilots;

''(B) 6 marine educators, including—

''(i) 3 marine educators who represent the viewpoint of maritime academies, including—

''(I) 2 who represent the viewpoint of State maritime academies and are jointly recommended by such State maritime academies; and

''(II) 1 who represents either the viewpoint of the State maritime academies or the United States Merchant Marine Academy; and

''(ii) 3 marine educators who represent the viewpoint of other maritime training institutions, 1 of whom shall represent the viewpoint of the small vessel industry;

''(C) 2 individuals who represent the viewpoint of shipping companies employed in ship operation management; and

''(D) 2 members who are appointed from the general public.

''(3) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Transportation in making an appointment under paragraph (2)(B)(i)(II).

''(c) CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN.—The Secretary shall designate one member of the Committee as the Chairman and one member of the Committee as the Vice Chairman. The Vice Chairman shall act as Chairman in the absence or incapacity of the Chairman, or in the event of a vacancy in the office of the Chairman.

''(d) SUBCOMMITTEES.—The Committee may establish and disestablish subcommittees and working groups for any purpose consistent with this section, subject to conditions imposed by the Committee. Members of the Committee and additional persons drawn from the general public may be assigned to such subcommittees and working groups. Only Committee members may chair subcommittee or working groups.

''(e) TERMINATION.—The Committee shall terminate on September 30, 2020.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

''8108. Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee.''.

SEC. 311. TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE COSTS FOR PREVENTION SERVICES.

(a) TITLE 46, UNITED STATES CODE.—Section 2110 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

''(b)(1) In addition to the collection of fees and charges established under subsection (a), in providing a service or thing of value under this subtitle the Secretary may accept in-kind transportation, travel, and subsistence.

''(2) The value of in-kind transportation, travel, and subsistence accepted under this paragraph may not exceed applicable per diem rates set forth in regulations prescribed under section 464 of title 37.''; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking ''subsections (a) and (b),'' and inserting ''subsection (a),''.

(b) TITLE 14, UNITED STATES CODE.—Section 664 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by redesignating subsections (e) though (g) as subsections (f) through (h), respectively, and by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e)(1) In addition to the collection of fees and charges established under this section, in the provision of a service or thing of value by the Coast Guard the Secretary may accept in-kind transportation, travel, and subsistence.

''(2) The value of in-kind transportation, travel, and subsistence accepted under this paragraph may not exceed applicable per diem rates set forth in regulations prescribed under section 464 of title 37.''.

(c) LIMITATION.—The Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating may not accept in-kind transportation, travel, or subsistence under section 664(e) of title 14, United States Code, or section 2110(d)(4) of title 46, United States Code, as amended by this section, until the Commandant of the Coast Guard—

(1) amends the Standards of Ethical Conduct for members and employees of the Coast Guard to include regulations governing the acceptance of in-kind reimbursements; and

(2) notifies the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives of the amendments made under paragraph (1).

SEC. 312. PROMPT INTERGOVERNMENTAL NOTICE OF MARINE CASUALTIES.

Section 6101 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

''(c) NOTICE TO STATE AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS.—Not later than 24 hours after receiving a notice of a major marine casualty under this section, the Secretary shall notify each State or federally recognized Indian tribe that is, or may reasonably be expected to be, affected by such marine casualty.'';

(2) in subsection (h)—

(A) by striking ''(1)''; and

(B) by redesignating subsection (h)(2) as subsection (i) of section 6101, and in such subsection—

(i) by striking ''paragraph,'' and inserting ''section,''; and

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (D) as paragraphs (1) through (4); and

(3) by redesignating the last subsection as subsection (j).

SEC. 313. AREA CONTINGENCY PLANS.

Section 311(j)(4) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321(j)(4)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''qualified personnel of Federal, State, and local agencies.'' and inserting ''qualified—

''(i) personnel of Federal, State, and local agencies; and

''(ii) members of federally recognized Indian tribes, where applicable.'';

(2) in subparagraph (B)(ii)—

(A) by striking ''and local'' and inserting '', local, and tribal''; and

(B) by striking ''wildlife;'' and inserting ''wildlife, including advance planning with respect to the closing and reopening of fishing areas following a discharge;'';

(3) in subparagraph (B)(iii), by striking ''and local'' and inserting '', local, and tribal''; and

(4) in subparagraph (C)—

(A) in clause (iv), by striking ''and Federal, State, and local agencies'' and inserting '', Federal, State, and local agencies, and tribal governments'';

(B) by redesignating clauses (vii) and (viii) as clauses (viii) and (ix), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after clause (vi) the following:

''(vii) include a framework for advance planning and decisionmaking with respect to the closing and reopening of fishing areas following a discharge, including protocols and standards for the closing and reopening of fishing areas;''.

SEC. 314. INTERNATIONAL ICE PATROL REFORM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 803 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 80301, by adding at the end the following:

''(c) PAYMENTS.—Payments received pursuant to subsection (b)(1) shall be credited to the appropriation for operating expenses of the Coast Guard.'';

(2) in section 80302—

(A) in subsection (b), by striking ''An ice patrol vessel'' and inserting ''The ice patrol'';

(B) in subsection (c)(1), by striking ''An ice patrol vessel'' and inserting ''The ice patrol''; and

(C) in the first sentence of subsection (d), by striking ''vessels'' and inserting ''aircraft''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''§ 80304. Limitation on ice patrol data

''Notwithstanding sections 80301 and 80302, data collected by an ice patrol conducted by the Coast Guard under this chapter may not be disseminated to a vessel unless such vessel is—

''(1) documented under the laws of the United States; or

''(2) documented under the laws of a foreign country that made the payment or contribution required under section 80301(b) for the year preceding the year in which the data is collected.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

''80304. Limitation on ice patrol data.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on January 1, 2017.

SEC. 315. OFFSHORE SUPPLY VESSEL THIRD-PARTY INSPECTION.

Section 3316 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g), and by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

''(f)(1) Upon request of an owner or operator of an offshore supply vessel, the Secretary shall delegate the authorities set forth in paragraph (1) of subsection (b) with respect to such vessel to a classification society to which a delegation is authorized under that paragraph. A delegation by the Secretary under this subsection shall be used for any vessel inspection and examination function carried out by the Secretary, including the issuance of certificates of inspection and all other related documents.

''(2) If the Secretary determines that a certificate of inspection or related document issued under authority delegated under paragraph (1) of this subsection with respect to a vessel has reduced the operational safety of that vessel, the Secretary may terminate the certificate or document, respectively.

''(3) Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of the Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014, and for each year of the subsequent 2-year period, the Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describing—

''(A) the number of vessels for which a delegation was made under paragraph (1);

''(B) any savings in personnel and operational costs incurred by the Coast Guard that resulted from the delegations; and

''(C) based on measurable marine casualty and other data, any impacts of the delegations on the operational safety of vessels for which the delegations were made, and on the crew on those vessels.''.

SEC. 316. WATCHES.

Section 8104 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (d), by striking ''coal passers, firemen, oilers, and water tenders'' and inserting ''and oilers''; and

(2) in subsection (g)(1), by striking ''(except the coal passers, firemen, oilers, and water tenders)''.

SEC. 317. COAST GUARD RESPONSE PLAN REQUIREMENTS.

(a) VESSEL RESPONSE PLAN CONTENTS.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall require that each vessel response plan prepared for a mobile offshore drilling unit includes information from the facility response plan prepared for the mobile offshore drilling unit regarding the planned response to a worst case discharge, and to a threat of such a discharge.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) MOBILE OFFSHORE DRILLING UNIT.—The term ''mobile offshore drilling unit'' has the meaning given that term in section 1001 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2701).

(2) RESPONSE PLAN.—The term ''response plan'' means a response plan prepared under section 311(j) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321(j)).

(3) WORST CASE DISCHARGE.—The term ''worst case discharge'' has the meaning given that term under section 311(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321(a)).

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the Coast Guard to review or approve a facility response plan for a mobile offshore drilling unit.

SEC. 318. REGIONAL CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL.

Section 5002(k)(3) of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2732(k)(3)) is amended by striking ''not more than $1,000,000'' and inserting ''not less than $1,400,000''.

SEC. 319. UNINSPECTED PASSENGER VESSELS IN THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4105 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

''(b)(1) In applying this title with respect to an uninspected vessel of less than 24 meters overall in length that carries passengers to or from a port in the United States Virgin Islands, the Secretary shall substitute '12 passengers' for '6 passengers' each place it appears in section 2101(42) if the Secretary determines that the vessel complies with, as applicable to the vessel—

''(A) the Code of Practice for the Safety of Small Commercial Motor Vessels (commonly referred to as the 'Yellow Code'), as published by the U.K. Maritime and Coastguard Agency and in effect on January 1, 2014; or

''(B) the Code of Practice for the Safety of Small Commercial Sailing Vessels (commonly referred to as the 'Blue Code'), as published by such agency and in effect on such date.

''(2) If the Secretary establishes standards to carry out this subsection—

''(A) such standards shall be identical to those established in the Codes of Practice referred to in paragraph (1); and

''(B) on any dates before the date on which such standards are in effect, the Codes of Practice referred to in paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to the vessels referred to in paragraph (1).''.

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 4105(c) of title 46, United States Code, as redesignated by subsection (a)(1) of this section, is amended by striking ''Within twenty-four months of the date of enactment of this subsection, the'' and inserting ''The''.

SEC. 320. TREATMENT OF ABANDONED SEAFARERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 111 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 11113. Treatment of abandoned seafarers

''(a) ABANDONED SEAFARERS FUND.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury a separate account to be known as the Abandoned Seafarers Fund.

''(2) AUTHORIZED USES.—Amounts in the Fund may be appropriated to the Secretary for use—

''(A) to pay necessary support of a seafarer—

''(i) who—

''(I) was paroled into the United States under section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)), or for whom the Secretary has requested parole under such section; and

''(II) is involved in an investigation, reporting, documentation, or adjudication of any matter that is related to the administration or enforcement of law by the Coast Guard; or

''(ii) who—

''(I) is physically present in the United States;

''(II) the Secretary determines was abandoned in the United States; and

''(III) has not applied for asylum under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.); and

''(B) to reimburse a vessel owner or operator for the costs of necessary support of a seafarer who has been paroled into the United States to facilitate an investigation, reporting, documentation, or adjudication of any matter that is related to the administration or enforcement of law by the Coast Guard, if—

''(i) the vessel owner or operator is not convicted of a criminal offense related to such matter; or

''(ii) the Secretary determines that reimbursement is appropriate.

''(3) CREDITING OF AMOUNTS TO FUND.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), there shall be credited to the Fund the following:

''(i) Penalties deposited in the Fund under section 9 of the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (33 U.S.C. 1908).

''(ii) Amounts reimbursed or recovered under subsection (c).

''(B) LIMITATION.—Amounts may be credited to the Fund under subparagraph (A) only if the unobligated balance of the Fund is less than $5,000,000.

''(4) REPORT REQUIRED.—On the date on which the President submits each budget for a fiscal year pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that describes—

''(A) the amounts credited to the Fund under paragraph (2) for the preceding fiscal year; and

''(B) amounts in the Fund that were expended for the preceding fiscal year.

''(b) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed—

''(1) to create a private right of action or any other right, benefit, or entitlement to necessary support for any person; or

''(2) to compel the Secretary to pay or reimburse the cost of necessary support.

''(c) REIMBURSEMENT; RECOVERY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A vessel owner or operator shall reimburse the Fund an amount equal to the total amount paid from the Fund for necessary support of a seafarer, if—

''(A) the vessel owner or operator—

''(i) during the course of an investigation, reporting, documentation, or adjudication of any matter under this Act that the Coast Guard referred to a United States attorney or the Attorney General, fails to provide necessary support of a seafarer who was paroled into the United States to facilitate the investigation, reporting, documentation, or adjudication; and

''(ii) subsequently is—

''(I) convicted of a criminal offense related to such matter; or

''(II) required to reimburse the Fund pursuant to a court order or negotiated settlement related to such matter; or

''(B) the vessel owner or operator abandons a seafarer in the United States, as determined by the Secretary based on substantial evidence.

''(2) ENFORCEMENT.—If a vessel owner or operator fails to reimburse the Fund under paragraph (1) within 60 days after receiving a written, itemized description of reimbursable expenses and a demand for payment, the Secretary may—

''(A) proceed in rem against the vessel on which the seafarer served in the Federal district court for the district in which the vessel is found; and

''(B) withhold or revoke the clearance required under section 60105 for the vessel and any other vessel operated by the same operator (as that term is defined in section 2(9)(a) of the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (33 U.S.C. 1901(9)(a)) as the vessel on which the seafarer served.

''(3) OBTAINING CLEARANCE.—A vessel may obtain clearance from the Secretary after it is withheld or revoked under paragraph (2)(B) if the vessel owner or operator—

''(A) reimburses the Fund the amount required under paragraph (1); or

''(B) provides a bond, or other evidence of financial responsibility, sufficient to meet the amount required to be reimbursed under paragraph (1).

''(4) NOTIFICATION REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall notify the vessel at least 72 hours before taking any action under paragraph (2)(B).

''(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ABANDONS; ABANDONED.—Each of the terms 'abandons' and 'abandoned' means—

''(A) a vessel owner's or operator's unilateral severance of ties with a seafarer; or

''(B) a vessel owner's or operator's failure to provide necessary support of a seafarer.

''(2) FUND.—The term 'Fund' means the Abandoned Seafarers Fund established under this section.

''(3) NECESSARY SUPPORT.—The term 'necessary support' means normal wages and expenses the Secretary considers reasonable for lodging, subsistence, clothing, medical care (including hospitalization), repatriation, and any other support the Secretary considers to be appropriate.

''(4) SEAFARER.—The term 'seafarer' means an alien crew member who is employed or engaged in any capacity on board a vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

''(5) VESSEL SUBJECT TO THE JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED STATES.—The term 'vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States' has the meaning given that term in section 70502(c), except that it does not include a vessel that is—

''(A) owned, or operated under a bareboat charter, by the United States, a State or political subdivision thereof, or a foreign nation; and

''(B) not engaged in commerce.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

''11113. Treatment of abandoned seafarers.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 9 of the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (33 U.S.C. 1908) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) Any penalty collected under subsection (a) or (b) that is not paid under that subsection to the person giving information leading to the conviction or assessment of such penalties shall be deposited in the Abandoned Seafarers Fund established under section 11113 of title 46, United States Code.''.

SEC. 321. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 55305(d) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

''(1) Each department or agency that has responsibility for a program under this section shall administer that program consistent with this section and any regulations and guidance issued by the Secretary of Transportation concerning this section.'';

(2) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3), and by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2)(A) The Secretary shall have exclusive authority for determining the applicability of this section to a program of a Federal department or agency.

''(B) The head of a Federal department or agency shall request the Secretary to determine the applicability of this section to a program of such department or agency if the department or agency is uncertain of such applicability. Not later than 30 days after receiving such a request, the Secretary shall make such determination.

''(C) Subparagraph (B) shall not be construed to limit the authority of the Secretary to make a determination regarding the applicability of this section to a program administered by a Federal department or agency.

''(D) A determination made by the Secretary under this paragraph regarding a program shall remain in effect until the Secretary determines that this section no longer applies to such program.'';

(3) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated, by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

''(A) shall conduct an annual review of the administration of programs subject to the requirements of this section to determine compliance with the requirements of this section;''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) On the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, the Secretary shall make available on the Internet website of the Department of Transportation a report that—

''(A) lists the programs that were subject to determinations made by the Secretary under paragraph (2) in the preceding year; and

''(B) describes the results of the most recent annual review required by paragraph (3)(A), including identification of the departments and agencies that transported cargo in violation of this section and any action the Secretary took under paragraph (3) with respect to each violation.''.

(b) DEADLINE FOR FIRST REVIEW.—The Secretary of Transportation shall complete the first review required under the amendment made by subsection (a)(1)(C) by not later than December 31, 2015.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3511(c) of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (46 U.S.C. 55305 note) is repealed.

SEC. 322. COAST GUARD REGULATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives an analysis of the Coast Guard's proposed promulgation of safety and environmental management system requirements for vessels engaged in Outer Continental Shelf activities. The analysis shall include—

(1) a discussion of any new operational, management, design and construction, financial, and other mandates that would be imposed on vessel owners and operators;

(2) an estimate of all associated direct and indirect operational, management, personnel, training, vessel design and construction, record keeping, and other costs;

(3) an identification and justification of any of such proposed requirements that exceed those in international conventions applicable to the design, construction, operation, and management of vessels engaging in United States Outer Continental Shelf activities; and

(4) an identification of exemptions to the proposed requirements, that are based upon vessel classification, tonnage, offshore activity or function, alternative certifications, or any other appropriate criteria.

(b) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not issue proposed regulations relating to safety and environmental management system requirements for vessels on the United States Outer Continental Shelf for which noticed was published on September 10, 2013 (78 Fed. Reg. 55230) earlier than 6 months after the submittal of the analysis required by subsection (a).

SEC. 323. WEBSITE.

(a) REPORTS TO SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION; INCIDENTS AND DETAILS.—Section 3507(g)(3)(A) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in clause (ii) by striking ''the incident to an Internet based portal maintained by the Secretary'' and inserting ''each incident specified in clause (i) to the Internet website maintained by the Secretary of Transportation under paragraph (4)(A)''; and

(2) in clause (iii) by striking ''based portal maintained by the Secretary'' and inserting

''website maintained by the Secretary of Transportation under paragraph (4)(A)''.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF INCIDENT DATA ON INTERNET.—Section 3507(g)(4) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

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

''(A) WEBSITE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation shall maintain a statistical compilation of all incidents on board a cruise vessel specified in paragraph (3)(A)(i) on an Internet website that provides a numerical accounting of the missing persons and alleged crimes reported under that paragraph without regard to the investigative status of the incident.

''(ii) UPDATES AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—The compilation under clause (i) shall—

''(I) be updated not less frequently than quarterly;

''(II) be able to be sorted by cruise line;

''(III) identify each cruise line by name;

''(IV) identify each crime or alleged crime committed or allegedly committed by a passenger or crewmember; and

''(V) identify the number of individuals alleged overboard.

''(iii) USER-FRIENDLY FORMAT.—The Secretary of Transportation shall ensure that the compilation, data, and any other information provided on the Internet website maintained under this subparagraph are in a user-friendly format.''; and

(2) in subparagraph (B) by striking ''Secretary'' and inserting ''Secretary of Transportation''.

TITLE IV—FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

SEC. 401. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Federal Maritime Commission $24,700,000 for fiscal year 2015.

SEC. 402. AWARD OF REPARATIONS.

Section 41305 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking '', plus reasonable attorney fees''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(e) ATTORNEY FEES.—In any action brought under section 41301, the prevailing party may be awarded reasonable attorney fees.''.

SEC. 403. TERMS OF COMMISSIONERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 301(b) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

''(2) TERMS.—The term of each Commissioner is 5 years. When the term of a Commissioner ends, the Commissioner may continue to serve until a successor is appointed and qualified, but for a period not to exceed one year. Except as provided in paragraph (3), no individual may serve more than 2 terms.''; and

(2) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (5), and inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

''(3) VACANCIES.—A vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. An individual appointed to fill a vacancy is appointed only for the unexpired term of the individual being succeeded. An individual appointed to fill a vacancy may serve 2 terms in addition to the remainder of the term for which the predecessor of that individual was appointed.

''(4) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—

''(A) LIMITATION ON RELATIONSHIPS WITH REGULATED ENTITIES.—A Commissioner may not have a pecuniary interest in, hold an official relation to, or own stocks or bonds of any entity the Commission regulates under chapter 401 of this title.

''(B) LIMITATION ON OTHER ACTIVITIES.—A Commissioner may not engage in another business, vocation, or employment.''.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by subsection (a)(1) does not apply with respect to a Commissioner of the Federal Maritime Commission appointed and confirmed by the Senate before the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE V—ARCTIC MARITIME TRANSPORTATION

SEC. 501. ARCTIC MARITIME TRANSPORTATION.

(a) ARCTIC MARITIME TRANSPORTATION.—Chapter 5 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 89 the following:

''§ 90. Arctic maritime transportation

''(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to ensure safe and secure maritime shipping in the Arctic including the availability of aids to navigation, vessel escorts, spill response capability, and maritime search and rescue in the Arctic.

''(b) INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION AGREEMENTS.—To carry out the purpose of this section, the Secretary is encouraged to enter into negotiations through the International Maritime Organization to conclude and execute agreements to promote coordinated action among the United States, Russia, Canada, Iceland, Norway, and Denmark and other seafaring and Arctic nations to ensure, in the Arctic—

''(1) placement and maintenance of aids to navigation;

''(2) appropriate marine safety, tug, and salvage capabilities;

''(3) oil spill prevention and response capability;

''(4) maritime domain awareness, including long-range vessel tracking; and

''(5) search and rescue.

''(c) COORDINATION BY COMMITTEE ON THE MARITIME TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM.—The Committee on the Maritime Transportation System established under section 55501 of title 46, United States Code, shall coordinate the establishment of domestic transportation policies in the Arctic necessary to carry out the purpose of this section.

''(d) AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTS.—The Secretary may, subject to the availability of appropriations, enter into cooperative agreements, contracts, or other agreements with, or make grants to, individuals and governments to carry out the purpose of this section or any agreements established under subsection (b).

''(e) ICEBREAKING.—The Secretary shall promote safe maritime navigation by means of icebreaking where necessary, feasible, and effective to carry out the purposes of this section.

''(f) ARCTIC DEFINITION.—In this section, the term 'Arctic' has the meaning given such term in section 112 of the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4111).''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 89 the following:

''90. Arctic maritime transportation''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 307 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–281; 14 U.S.C. 92 note) is repealed.

SEC. 502. ARCTIC MARITIME DOMAIN AWARENESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 7 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 154. Arctic maritime domain awareness

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall improve maritime domain awareness in the Arctic—

''(1) by promoting interagency cooperation and coordination;

''(2) by employing joint, interagency, and international capabilities; and

''(3) by facilitating the sharing of information, intelligence, and data related to the Arctic maritime domain between the Coast Guard and departments and agencies listed in subsection (b).

''(b) COORDINATION.—The Commandant shall seek to coordinate the collection, sharing, and use of information, intelligence, and data related to the Arctic maritime domain between the Coast Guard and the following:

''(1) The Department of Homeland Security.

''(2) The Department of Defense.

''(3) The Department of Transportation.

''(4) The Department of State.

''(5) The Department of the Interior.

''(6) The National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

''(7) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

''(8) The Environmental Protection Agency.

''(9) The National Science Foundation.

''(10) The Arctic Research Commission.

''(11) Any Federal agency or commission or State the Commandant determines is appropriate.

''(c) COOPERATION.—The Commandant and the head of a department or agency listed in subsection (b) may by agreement, on a reimbursable basis or otherwise, share personnel, services, equipment, and facilities to carry out the requirements of this section.

''(d) 5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN.—Not later than January 1, 2016 and every 5 years thereafter, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a 5-year strategic plan to guide interagency and international intergovernmental cooperation and coordination for the purpose of improving maritime domain awareness in the Arctic

''(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section the term 'Arctic' has the meaning given that term in section 112 of the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4111).''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 153 the following:

''154. Arctic maritime domain awareness.''.

SEC. 503. IMO POLAR CODE NEGOTIATIONS.

Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and thereafter with the submission of the budget proposal submitted for each of fiscal years 2016, 2017, and 2018 under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, a report on—

(1) the status of the negotiations at the International Maritime Organization regarding the establishment of a draft international code of safety for ships operating in polar waters, popularly known as the Polar Code, and any amendments proposed by such a code to be made to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships;

(2) the coming into effect of such a code and such amendments for nations that are parties to those conventions;

(3) impacts, for coastal communities located in the Arctic (as that term is defined in the section 112 of the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4111)) of such a code or such amendments, on—

(A) the costs of delivering fuel and freight; and

(B) the safety of maritime transportation; and

(4) actions the Secretary must take to implement the requirements of such a code and such amendments.

SEC. 504. FORWARD OPERATING FACILITIES.

The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may construct facilities in the Arctic (as that term is defined in section 112 of the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4111). The facilities shall—

(1) support aircraft maintenance, including exhaust ventilation, heat, an engine wash system, fuel, ground support services, and electrical power;

(2) provide shelter for both current helicopter assets and those projected to be located at Air Station Kodiak, Alaska, for at least 20 years; and

(3) include accommodations for personnel.

SEC. 505. ICEBREAKERS.

(a) COAST GUARD POLAR ICEBREAKERS.—Section 222 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–213; 126 Stat. 1560) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(2)—

(A) in the paragraph heading by striking ''; BRIDGING STRATEGY''; and

(B) by striking ''Commandant of the Coast Guard'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''Commandant of the Coast Guard may decommission the Polar Sea.'';

(2) by adding at the end of subsection (d) the following:

''(3) RESULT OF NO DETERMINATION.—If in the analysis submitted under this section the Secretary does not make a determination under subsection (a)(5) regarding whether it is cost effective to reactivate the Polar Sea, then—

''(A) the Commandant of the Coast Guard may decommission the Polar Sea; or

''(B) the Secretary may make such determination, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014, and take actions in accordance with this subsection as though such determination was made in the analysis previously submitted.'';

(3) by redesignating subsections (e), (f), and (g) as subsections (f), (g), and (h), respectively; and

(4) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e) STRATEGIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the analysis required under subsection (a) is submitted, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate—

''(A) unless the Secretary makes a determination under this section that it is cost effective to reactivate the Polar Sea, a bridging strategy for maintaining the Coast Guard's polar icebreaking services until at least September 30, 2024;

''(B) a strategy to meet the Coast Guard's Arctic ice operations needs through September 30, 2050; and

''(C) a strategy to meet the Coast Guard's Antarctic ice operations needs through September 30, 2050.

''(2) REQUIREMENT.—The strategies required under paragraph (1) shall include a business case analysis comparing the leasing and purchasing of icebreakers to maintain the needs and services described in that paragraph.''.

(b) CUTTER ''POLAR SEA''.—Upon the submission of a service life extension plan in accordance with section 222(d)(1)(C) of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–213; 126 Stat. 1560), the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may use funds authorized under section 101 of this Act to conduct a service life extension of 7 to 10 years for the Coast Guard Cutter Polar Sea (WAGB 11) in accordance with such plan.

(c) LIMITATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may not expend amounts appropriated for the Coast Guard for any of fiscal years 2015 through 2024, for—

(A) design activities related to a capability of a Polar-Class Icebreaker that is based solely on an operational requirement of another Federal department or agency, except for amounts appropriated for design activities for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2016; or

(B) long-lead-time materials, production, or post-delivery activities related to such a capability.

(2) OTHER AMOUNTS.—Amounts made available to the Secretary under an agreement with another Federal department or agency and expended on a capability of a Polar-Class Icebreaker that is based solely on an operational requirement of that or another Federal department or agency shall not be treated as amounts expended by the Secretary for purposes of the limitation established under paragraph (1).

SEC. 506. ICEBREAKING IN POLAR REGIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 5 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 86 the following:

''§ 87. Icebreaking in polar regions

''The President shall facilitate planning for the design, procurement, maintenance, deployment, and operation of icebreakers as needed to support the statutory missions of the Coast Guard in the polar regions by allocating all funds to support icebreaking operations in such regions, except for recurring incremental costs associated with specific projects, to the Coast Guard.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 86 the following:

''87. Icebreaking in polar regions.''.

TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 601. DISTANT WATER TUNA FLEET.

Section 421 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (46 U.S.C. 8103 note) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (c) and (e); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (d) and (f) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively.

SEC. 602. EXTENSION OF MORATORIUM.

Section 2(a) of Public Law 110–299 (33 U.S.C. 1342 note) is amended by striking ''2014'' and inserting ''2015''.

SEC. 603. NATIONAL MARITIME STRATEGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a national maritime strategy.

(b) CONTENTS.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) identify—

(A) Federal regulations and policies that reduce the competitiveness of United States flag vessels in international transportation markets; and

(B) the impact of reduced cargo flow due to reductions in the number of members of the United States Armed Forces stationed or deployed outside of the United States; and

(2) include recommendations to—

(A) make United States flag vessels more competitive in shipping routes between United States and foreign ports;

(B) increase the use of United States flag vessels to carry cargo imported to and exported from the United States;

(C) ensure compliance by Federal agencies with chapter 553 of title 46, United States Code;

(D) increase the use of third-party inspection and certification authorities to inspect and certify vessels;

(E) increase the use of short sea transportation routes, including routes designated under section 55601(c) of title 46, United States Code, to enhance intermodal freight movements; and

(F) enhance United States shipbuilding capability.

SEC. 604. WAIVERS.

(a) ''JOHN CRAIG''.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 8902 of title 46, United States Code, shall not apply to the vessel John Craig (United States official number D1110613) when such vessel is operating on the portion of the Kentucky River, Kentucky, located at approximately mile point 158, in Pool Number 9, between Lock and Dam Number 9 and Lock and Dam Number 10.

(2) APPLICATION.—Paragraph (1) shall apply on and after the date on which the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating determines that a licensing requirement has been established under Kentucky State law that applies to an operator of the vessel John Craig.

(b) ''F/V WESTERN CHALLENGER''.—Notwithstanding section 12132 of title 46, United States Code, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may issue a certificate of documentation with a coastwise endorsement for the F/V Western Challenger (IMO number 5388108).

SEC. 605. COMPETITION BY UNITED STATES FLAG VESSELS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct an assessment of authorities under subtitle II of title 46, United States Code, that have been delegated to the Coast Guard and that impact the ability of vessels documented under the laws of the United States to effectively compete in international transportation markets.

(b) REVIEW OF DIFFERENCES WITH IMO STANDARDS.—The assessment under subsection (a) shall include a review of differences between United States laws, policies, regulations, and guidance governing the inspection of vessels documented under the laws of the United States and standards set by the International Maritime Organization governing the inspection of vessels.

(c) DEADLINE.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Commandant enters into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences under subsection (a), the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate the assessment required under such subsection.

SEC. 606. VESSEL REQUIREMENTS FOR NOTICES OF ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE AND AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM.

Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall notify the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the

Senate of the status of the final rule that relates to the notice of proposed rulemaking titled ''Vessel Requirements for Notices of Arrival and Departure, and Automatic Identification System'' and published in the Federal Register on December 16, 2008 (73 Fed. Reg. 76295).

SEC. 607. CONVEYANCE OF COAST GUARD PROPERTY IN ROCHESTER, NEW YORK.

(a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard is authorized to convey, at fair market value, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property, consisting of approximately 0.2 acres, that is under the administrative control of the Coast Guard and located at 527 River Street in Rochester, New York.

(b) RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL.—The City of Rochester, New York, shall have the right of first refusal with respect to the purchase, at fair market value, of the real property described in subsection (a).

(c) SURVEY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the property described in subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Commandant.

(d) FAIR MARKET VALUE.—The fair market value of the property described in subsection (a) shall—

(1) be determined by appraisal; and

(2) be subject to the approval of the Commandant.

(e) COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—The responsibility for all reasonable and necessary costs, including real estate transaction and environmental documentation costs, associated with a conveyance under subsection (a) shall be determined by the Commandant and the purchaser.

(f) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Commandant may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with a conveyance under subsection (a) as the Commandant considers appropriate and reasonable to protect the interests of the United States.

(g) DEPOSIT OF PROCEEDS.—Any proceeds from a conveyance under subsection (a) shall be deposited in the fund established under section 687 of title 14, United States Code.

SEC. 608. CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY IN GIG HARBOR, WASHINGTON.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) CITY.—The term ''City'' means the city of Gig Harbor, Washington.

(2) PROPERTY.—The term ''Property'' means the parcel of real property, together with any improvements thereon, consisting of approximately 0.86 acres of fast lands commonly identified as tract 65 of lot 1 of section 8, township 21 north, range 2 east, Willamette Meridian, on the north side of the entrance of Gig Harbor, narrows of Puget Sound, Washington.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) CONVEYANCE.—

(1) AUTHORITY TO CONVEY.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating relinquishes the reservation of the Property for lighthouse purposes, at the request of the City and subject to the requirements of this section, the Secretary shall convey to the City all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Property, notwithstanding the land use planning requirements of sections 202 and 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712, 1713).

(2) TERMS OF CONVEYANCE.—A conveyance made under paragraph (1) shall be made—

(A) subject to valid existing rights;

(B) at the fair market value as described in subsection (c); and

(C) subject to any other condition that the Secretary may consider appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(3) COSTS.—The City shall pay any transaction or administrative costs associated with a conveyance under paragraph (1), including the costs of the appraisal, title searches, maps, and boundary and cadastral surveys.

(4) CONVEYANCE IS NOT A MAJOR FEDERAL ACTION.—A conveyance under paragraph (1) shall not be considered a major Federal action for purposes of section 102(2) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)).

(c) FAIR MARKET VALUE.—

(1) DETERMINATION.—The fair market value of the Property shall be—

(A) determined by an appraisal conducted by an independent appraiser selected by the Secretary; and

(B) approved by the Secretary in accordance with paragraph (3).

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—An appraisal conducted under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) be conducted in accordance with nationally recognized appraisal standards, including—

(i) the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions; and

(ii) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice; and

(B) shall reflect the equitable considerations described in paragraph (3).

(3) EQUITABLE CONSIDERATIONS.—In approving the fair market value of the Property under this subsection, the Secretary shall take into consideration matters of equity and fairness, including the City's past and current lease of the Property, any maintenance or improvements by the City to the Property, and such other factors as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(d) REVOCATION; REVERSION.—Effective on and after the date on which a conveyance of the Property is made under subsection (b)(1)—

(1) Executive Order 3528, dated August 9, 1921, is revoked; and

(2) the use of the tide and shore lands belonging to the State of Washington and adjoining and bordering the Property, that were granted to the Government of the United States pursuant to the Act of the Legislature, State of Washington, approved March 13, 1909, the same being chapter 110 of the Session Laws of 1909, shall revert to the State of Washington.

SEC. 609. VESSEL DETERMINATION.

The vessel assigned United States official number 1205366 is deemed a new vessel effective on the date of delivery of the vessel after January 1, 2012, from a privately owned United States shipyard, if no encumbrances are on record with the Coast Guard at the time of the issuance of the new certificate of documentation for the vessel.

SEC. 610. SAFE VESSEL OPERATION IN THUNDER BAY.

The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may not prohibit a vessel operating within the existing boundaries and any future expanded boundaries of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve from taking up or discharging ballast water to allow for safe and efficient vessel operation if the uptake or discharge meets all Federal and State ballast water management requirements that would apply if the area were not a marine sanctuary.

SEC. 611. PARKING FACILITIES.

(a) ALLOCATION AND ASSIGNMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the requirements of this section, the Administrator of General Services, in coordination with the Commandant of the Coast Guard, shall allocate and assign the spaces in parking facilities at the Department of Homeland Security St. Elizabeths Campus to allow any member or employee of the Coast Guard, who is assigned to the Campus, to use such spaces.

(2) TIMING.—In carrying out paragraph (1), and in addition to the parking spaces allocated and assigned to Coast Guard members and employees in fiscal year 2014, the Administrator shall allocate and assign not less than—

(A) 300 parking spaces not later than September 30, 2015;

(B) 700 parking spaces not later than September 30, 2016; and

(C) 1,042 parking spaces not later than September 30, 2017.

(b) TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and each fiscal year thereafter in which spaces are allocated and assigned under subsection (a)(2), the Administrator shall provide to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on—

(1) the impact of assigning and allocating parking spaces under subsection (a) on the congestion of roads connecting the St. Elizabeths Campus to the portions of Suitland Parkway and I–295 located in the Anacostia section of the District of Columbia; and

(2) progress made toward completion of essential transportation improvements identified in the Transportation Management Program for the St. Elizabeths Campus.

(c) REALLOCATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Administrator may revise the allocation and assignment of spaces to members and employees of the Coast Guard made under subsection (a) as necessary to accommodate employees of the Department of Homeland Security, other than the Coast Guard, when such employees are assigned to the St. Elizabeths Campus.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5769.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5769, the Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014, reauthorizes funding for the Coast Guard through fiscal year 2015 at levels that are fiscally responsible and that will reverse the misguided cuts proposed by the current administration.

The President proposed to slash the service's acquisition budget by over 20 percent, reduce the number of servicemembers by over 1,300, undermine readiness by cutting program hours for aircraft, and jeopardize the success of the

search-and-rescue mission by taking fixed-wing air aircraft crews off alert status. The President's budget request will only worsen the Coast Guard's growing gaps in mission performance, increase acquisition delays, drive up the cost of new assets, and deny our servicemembers the critical resources needed to perform their duties.

□ 1245

H.R. 5769 authorizes sufficient funding to ensure these cuts do not happen and the service has what it needs to successfully conduct its missions. The bill also makes several reforms to the Coast Guard authorities, as well as laws governing shipping and navigation.

Specifically, H.R. 5769 supports Coast Guard servicemembers by ensuring the members of the Coast Guard are offered the same benefits available to members of the other armed services. It improves Coast Guard mission effectiveness by replacing and modernizing Coast Guard assets in a cost-effective manner.

It enhances oversight of the Coast Guard, reduces inefficient operations, and saves taxpayer dollars by making commonsense reforms to Coast Guard missions and administration. It helps veterans make the transition from service in the military to good-paying jobs in the maritime industry.

It includes an Arctic maritime transportation title, which provides the Coast Guard the authorities it needs to successfully carry out missions in the Arctic, as well as prepare for the safe operation of commercial vessels and increased human activity in the region.

It encourages job growth in the maritime sector by conducting regulatory burdens on job creators, and lastly, it reauthorizes and reforms the structure and operations of the FMC.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to section 323 of the bill, it is the committee's intent that the Department of Transportation use the Web site currently operated by the Coast Guard to the greatest extent possible. The data presented on the Web site should be limited only to that required by statute and shown in a simple, easily used format.

The committee does not intend to use anything other than commercial off-the-shelf technology to establish the Web site or independently develop new software or acquire new hardware in operating the site.

H.R. 5769 presents a strong bipartisan and bicameral agreement. I want to thank Senators ROCKEFELLER, THUNE, BEGICH, and RUBIO for working with us on this important legislation. I also want to thank Ranking Member RAHALL and the subcommittee ranking member, Representative GARAMENDI, for their efforts, and Chairman SHUSTER for his leadership.

Finally, I want to take a minute to point out that this will be the last Coast Guard authorization bill that will benefit from the advice and support of the only Member of Congress with service in the Coast Guard, our colleague and friend, HOWARD COBLE.

HOWARD is a Korean war veteran with 5 years of active duty in the Coast Guard and another 18 years in the Coast Guard Reserve. He is the founder of the Congressional Coast Guard Caucus, as well as an active member and former chairman of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation.

Throughout his career in Congress, HOWARD has been a tireless advocate for the men and women of the Coast Guard. I thank and commend him for this service to our Nation and for his contributions to this and past Coast Guard authorizations.

I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, December 3, 2014.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SHUSTER: I write to you regarding the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Homeland Security in H.R. 5769, the "Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014." The bill contains certain provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee.

In the interest of permitting the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to proceed expeditiously to the House floor, I will not seek a sequential referral of H.R. 5769. However, I do so only with the mutual understanding that the jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security over matters concerning the United States Coast Guard in this or similar legislation is in no way diminished. I further request that you urge the Speaker to name Members of this Committee to any conference committee that is named to consider such provisions.

Finally, I request you include this letter and your response into the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 5769 on the House floor. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington, DC, December 3, 2014.

Hon. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL: Thank you for your letter regarding the Committee on Homeland Security's jurisdictional interest in H.R. 5769, the Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014.

I look forward to working with you concerning provisions in H.R. 5769, or similar legislation, that are within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security. Finally, I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will include our letters in the Congressional Record during House floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation, and I look forward to working with the Committee on Homeland Security as the bill moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

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

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

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5769, the Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014. This legislation was developed, as Mr. HUNTER has said, through very cooperative, bipartisan, and bicameral negotiations over the past 2 months.

That we are here today considering this legislation on the suspension calendar demonstrates again that, when we put aside partisan differences, we can find agreement on substantive legislation that serves the greater interests of the American public.

I commend full committee Chairman SHUSTER for his leadership in reaching out to the other body to initiate the process that has culminated in producing the outstanding bill that is before the House today.

I also want to thank and acknowledge the chairman of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee, DUNCAN HUNTER, and the ranking Democratic member of our Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee, Mr. JOHN GARAMENDI, for their tireless efforts to advance this important legislation.

As well, to our colleague HOWARD COBLE, whom I have served with on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee since he was first elected to the House in 1984.

It is truly fitting that the pending bill will be named after HOWARD. He is a true gentleman in every sense of the word, a gentleman of this House, and a superb friend to myself, as well as to many of our colleagues.

The U.S. Coast Guard, one of our Nation's five military services, remains an agency that is as indispensable today as it was 100 years ago. Whether maintaining the safety of maritime commerce on the high seas, securing our ports, harbors, and inland waterways, or when protecting life at sea, the Coast Guard stands ready and able to serve whenever called.

I am pleased that this legislation will provide sufficient authorized funding to ensure that the Coast Guard has the resources and the personnel that it needs to accomplish its many missions, and most importantly, this legislation provides adequate funding to allow the Coast Guard to maintain progress in recapitalizing its offshore fleet of cutters, which is a very high priority.

I am also pleased that this legislation will advance several policies to support our merchant marine, especially a provision that will strengthen the enforcement of cargo preference requirements and ensure that the transport of U.S. Government cargoes continue to provide jobs for U.S. seafarers.

In general, this legislation will do much to advance our maritime industries and ensure that our maritime economy remains a vibrant contributor

and source of jobs for millions of Americans.

This legislation is noncontroversial. It does have solid bipartisan and bicameral support, and I urge Members to support this worthy bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, there are a few people I want to thank, too. I want to thank John and Jeff, who are here in this room, for the work that they have put into this. I want to thank Victoria Middleton, who is my chief of staff. This will be her last year. This is her first Coast Guard bill that we are getting done here. They have put in so much work and so much time.

For myself, this is my first piece of legislation that I am going to be passing in this Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee with Mr. GARAMENDI. It has been a great time working with everybody.

I want to thank, lastly, the men and women of the Coast Guard. They have been fantastic. They have really opened up their arms to us. We have been able to see what they do, how they do it, and what they have to do, day in and day out, for the people of this country and, frankly, people of every country.

If you are on the open seas and something bad happens to you, it is going to be the U.S. Coast Guard that comes and saves you. If you are a bad guy running drugs from South America up to Florida, it is going to be a U.S. Coast Guard vessel that interdicts.

I just want to thank the U.S. Coast Guard for what they do for this Nation because they are kind of the redheaded stepchild. They are a military service, but they are also a law enforcement entity. They get to do both things, and that is one of the things that makes them such a great organization.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE).

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California, and I will be very brief. I thank the ranking member, Mr. RAHALL, and the chairman of the subcommittee for your generous words. I am not sure that I am deserving, but I am appreciative. I appreciate the diligence which the Coast Guard men and women display daily in the discharge of their duties.

There is an old adage that is as old as the Coast Guard, and that is when distress calls are received, the Coast Guard must go out. It says nothing about them coming back. Most of them do come back, but on occasion, they don't. We should always remember that very clearly.

Again, I thank you for this honor.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I rise in strong support of H.R. 5769, the Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act.

As explained by previous speakers, this bill is bipartisan, bicameral, and is noncontroversial. It reauthorizes the Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Reserve and the Federal Maritime Commission. The legislation includes many important provisions that were contained in H.R. 4005, the Coast Guard authorization legislation that was passed and reported by voice vote from the committee, as well as overwhelming support here on the floor on April 1 of this year.

Maintaining a safe, reliable, and efficient maritime commerce that enables our foreign and domestic trade to fuel the U.S. economy remains as important today as it was in 1790, when former Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton established the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service, the predecessor to the U.S. Coast Guard.

This new legislation will provide our Coast Guard with the resources and policy tools they need to meet the challenges presented by an ever-evolving economy and security demands of our Nation.

First, let me explain. A sincere gratitude to my colleague, DUNCAN HUNTER, the chair of the subcommittee, for the work that he and his extraordinary staff have done in putting together this bill. Working together, I think we have accomplished something useful.

Mr. RAHALL's leadership on our side was exemplary. He gave us the resources, the time, and the encouragement to get this job done, and that was repeated by Mr. SHUSTER on the other side. We have a great team, and I am proud to be part of it.

This is a compromise to be sure, but it is a good one. First and foremost, the bill includes several noncontroversial administrative and management directives to better align the Coast Guard missions and needs with the long-term capital planning and annual budget requests.

Additionally, the bill would grant the Coast Guard with greater flexibility to augment Active Duty forces and provide explicit cooperative agreement authority to enhance the Coast Guard's ability to develop beneficial partnerships with other maritime stakeholders. The bill provides new guidance to the Coast Guard as it continues to rebuild its fleet of offshore cutters.

I am particularly pleased this legislation would advance several positive initiatives to reinvigorate the U.S. merchant marine and improve maritime transportation. Most noteworthy, this legislation would advance several positive policy initiatives, among them the enforcement of cargo preference laws and regulations, a move that is long overdue.

Additionally, the legislation requires the Department of Transportation to develop a new maritime strategy and direct the Government Accountability Office to conduct an assessment of how future export trade can be augmented.

I welcome the opportunities to chart new courses forward to improve the competitiveness of the U.S. flag fleet on the high seas, to increase opportunities for short sea shipping, and to expand our commercial shipbuilding industrial base.

I am pleased that this legislation will advance significant new policies already discussed by Mr. HUNTER to finally force the Federal Government and the Coast Guard especially to take constructive actions to address the implications of the thawing of the Arctic Ocean and the imminent demands for commercial maritime transportation and resource development across that vast region. A particular shout-out to Mr. HUNTER for leading the charge on this very important effort.

In closing, this bill is responsible legislation that would provide budget stability for the Coast Guard, advance sensible policy reforms, and promote our merchant marine. The bill deserves support from Members from both sides of the aisle.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, this bill would not have happened without the leadership of Mr. RAHALL and the full committee chairman, BILL SHUSTER from Pennsylvania. They did a lot of work on this bill.

I am honored to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER).

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlemen from California, Mr. HUNTER and Mr. GARAMENDI, for their great work. There were a couple of rough patches, but in the House, we were able to figure it out. In the Senate, I especially thank Senator ROCKEFELLER for working through this. I know Senator ROCKEFELLER is retiring, so it is fitting that, as he leaves, this bill and his work is complete, and so we congratulate and thank him for his work.

This bill that Chairman HUNTER and Mr. GARAMENDI put together is truly bipartisan and bicameral. There are a lot of great reforms in it. The men and women of the Coast Guard that help to keep this country safe and enforce our laws, this is a tribute to them for what they do.

They risk their lives to save people and to save property, and so my hat goes off to them and to thank them again for the great work that they do protecting the American people on the waterways and on the high seas and the marine natural resources that they also help to protect. They have a huge job.

I am very, very proud that the Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act is going to pass today. As I said, a lot of bipartisan reforms are in the bill that will help to streamline and ensure that our Coast Guard can do their job more efficiently and with less red tape, giving them the resources that they need.

Again, a special thanks to HOWARD COBLE, who the bill is named for. This

is his final bill. We wish him well in his future journey. Being the only Member of Congress that is a coastie, we thank him for all of his years of service back to 1985.

I think I am one of the few Members who has known HOWARD COBLE since 1985—not that I was a Member then, but my father served with HOWARD on the committee. I was with my father last night, and I told him that we are doing the bill today, and he sends his best to you, HOWARD, and congratulates you on your retirement.

You have been a tireless worker for the interests of the Coast Guard and for the security of America, and we can't thank you enough for that.

□ 1300

In addition, the ranking member, Mr. RAHALL, I believe this will be the final bill that he moves through the committee. I want to thank him for his friendship and for working with me the past 2 years. It has been a great partnership.

I have got a lot of great stories. As we went through the WRDA bill, a lot of great successes. A couple of them I can't tell, or I can't tell them on the House floor, but they are all clean. They are all good. But, again, we really worked well together on that, and I wish you the best in your future endeavors. You will be missed here in Washington. And again, a family friend for almost 40 years, serving with my father and with me; and again, we can't thank you enough for the great work that you have done in your 38 years here.

Mr. COBLE. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SHUSTER. I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. COBLE. I will be very brief.

In thanking Mr. RAHALL and Mr. HUNTER, I failed to thank the chairman. That is a mistake you should never commit. So I thank you as well, Mr. SHUSTER. Thanks to all of you.

Mr. SHUSTER. I was more than happy to let Mr. COBLE come up. He didn't have to thank me. His hard work is thanks enough. But, again, a fine member of the committee and a Member of Congress. We are going to miss him greatly.

So, again, as I want to sum up, Chairman HUNTER, Ranking Member GARAMENDI, great work on this bill. I encourage all of my colleagues to vote for this, and hopefully we will get a vote in the Senate next week, and we can get this to the President's desk and he can sign it for Christmas. So, again, thanks to all.

I want to thank the staff for their great work, not only on the subcommittee but on the full committee. As we worked through the past 2 years, the staff has had a lot of good action together, and I want to thank the staff and wish them a Merry Christmas, a happy holiday, and a happy new year. If we don't see you, then we will see you around the first of the year.

I am particularly pleased that the bill includes a provision which equalizes the regulatory treatment among similar vessels which operate out of the British and U.S. Virgin Islands.

Current law puts certain vessels operating out of the U.S. Virgin Islands at a competitive disadvantage with similar vessels operating out of the British Virgin Islands. H.R. 5769 establishes an equal playing field for these vessels.

It allows vessels operating out of the U.S. Virgin Islands which meet safety requirements identical to those in effect for similar vessels operating out of the British Virgin Islands to carry an equal number of passengers.

It is clear the provision comes into effect on the date of enactment. The Coast Guard may write standards to implement the provision, but, again, the provision is clear, any such standards must be identical to those imposed on BVI vessels; and during any period prior to the implementation of such standards, vessels operating out of the U.S. Virgin Islands which meet the standards referenced in section 319, uninspected passenger vessels in the United States Virgin Islands, of H.R. 5769 shall be allowed to carry an equal number of passengers as those operating out of the British Virgin Islands.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS).

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to thank Ranking Member RAHALL for this time. I also thank him for his work on this legislation and for his decades of service to our great Nation. He will be sorely missed in the Transportation Committee and, indeed, in the Congress.

I also want to thank Chairman SHUSTER, Chairman HUNTER, and Ranking Member GARAMENDI for all of their hard work on this legislation.

I rise today in support of this measure, H.R. 5769, the Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014.

And it is interesting that Mr. COBLE just got up to make sure that he thanked everybody, but I want to thank him. When I served as the chairman of the subcommittee, he was one of my staunchest supporters. He was the epitome of bipartisanship. He always made it clear that the Coast Guard was sometimes not put on the front burner, was on the back burner, and he wanted to make sure that they were on the front burner, and I want to thank him for this. This is so very, very significant, and I want to thank him for his friendship over the many years.

This measure includes critical provisions strengthening the Department of Transportation's, DOT, authority to enforce cargo preference requirements to ensure that government-impelled cargoes are carried on U.S.-flagged vessels. Section 321 of this legislation clarifies that the DOT has exclusive authority to determine whether a government-impelled cargo is subject to these requirements.

Section 321 also requires the DOT to conduct an annual review to determine whether government programs are in compliance with cargo preference requirements. According to the Maritime Administration, the number of U.S.-flagged vessels operating in international trade has declined nearly 25 percent in just the last 3 years, falling from 106 in January of 2012 to just 81 as of this month.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman another minute.

Mr. CUMMINGS. It is not an exaggeration to say that if we don't take deliberate and swift steps to preserve the U.S. Merchant Marine, we will lose it, leaving our Nation dependent for merchant sealift capacity on foreign-flagged vessels and foreign mariners. Despite what some may claim, reserving the carriage of the U.S. Government-impelled cargoes is not unlike any other government program designed to ensure that the expenditure of U.S. taxpayer funds benefits Americans.

Again, this is a very important piece of legislation. I urge all the Members to vote for it. To all of those who have been a part of this in making it happen, I express my appreciation. On behalf of the Coast Guard, I express my appreciation.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), my good friend and colleague and the full committee chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the efforts of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Its leadership should be commended for this bipartisan effort to strengthen the Coast Guard in a time of heightened security threats to the United States.

The Foreign Affairs Committee has been working in a bipartisan way to reform international food assistance, so I particularly appreciate the fact that this legislation does not include a provision that would have raised the cargo preference requirements for these programs from 50 percent to 75 percent. A provision like this would cost U.S. taxpayers millions more and slow life-saving assistance by months.

Lives are at stake, and I appreciate that the committee heard our view, and I also appreciate the assurances provided by the Transportation Committee that nothing in section 321 will drastically alter the existing consultation requirements for enforcement of cargo preference. I also understand that nothing in the bill will have the effect of raising cargo preference above an annual global threshold of 50 percent, particularly for the Food for Peace program.

Again, congratulations to Chairman HUNTER and his colleagues for crafting this important legislation and also Mr. COBLE and Mr. RAHALL for their work.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, may I have a time check, please.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from West Virginia has 10 minutes remaining. The gentleman from California has 9½ minutes remaining.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN), the distinguished ranking member of our Subcommittee on Aviation.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5769, the Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014.

As a former ranking member of the Coast Guard Subcommittee, I am very pleased that this bill provides the necessary resources to keep the men and women of the Coast Guard on the job. I am also pleased this bill makes needed advancements in our Nation's engagement in the Arctic.

Our country faces a steep opportunity curve when it comes to the Arctic. We haven't made the needed investments in that region to protect our environment, our economic interests, and our national security. But as our country gets ready to take over the chairmanship of the Arctic Council in 2015, this bill signals that our country is ready to engage further in Arctic issues. It requires the Coast Guard to come up with a plan for moving our icebreaker fleet forward; it encourages the development of forward operating bases for the Coast Guard in the region; and it improves the ability of the Coast Guard to monitor, patrol, and protect our Nation's Arctic waters.

I am hopeful that this bill will finally push the Coast Guard to reactivate the mothballed Polar Sea icebreaker so that it can act as a bridge towards a new icebreaker fleet. In the longer term, funding a new icebreaker fleet will require a whole of government approach. The Coast Guard simply does not have the acquisition budget to build a new icebreaker fleet on its own.

The Department of Defense, Coast Guard, and National Science Foundation need to work together to develop a funding strategy for assets they will all use. This bill endorses such a strategy.

Finally, I am very pleased that this bill includes $10 million for the Small Shipyard Grant Program, a successful effort that provides infrastructure spending to shipyards in the Pacific Northwest and around the country that creates jobs and supports local economies.

With that, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, again, I want to commend our full committee chairman, Mr. SHUSTER; the subcommittee chair, Mr. HUNTER; our ranking member, Mr. GARAMENDI; and our staffs, as well, for the tremendous work that has gone in to producing this legislation.

Under Chairman SHUSTER's leadership, our Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is indeed demonstrating once again today what bipartisanship can do and the productive manner in which we can work for the American people in what is often described as a dysfunctional city. I know that in the years ahead, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will step up to the plate and do its work again, especially in addressing a major transportation bill next year and a major aviation bill that is on its agenda.

I guess it is kind of fitting, Mr. Speaker, that the last bill that Senator ROCKEFELLER and myself are in part being managed by West Virginians. Both of us will be leaving this Congress. West Virginia is the great seafaring State that it is. But I do salute Senator ROCKEFELLER as well for his tremendous leadership as chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, for his leadership on this legislation and so many other pieces of legislation that have benefited our State of West Virginia in a more direct way, perhaps, but also a benefit to this great country. He is one that has been concerned for all of us, as we all are, about producing jobs for America, and that is what our Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is about.

I commend the staffs and I commend my dear friend Mr. COBLE that so much has been said about and for whom this legislation is named. We have traveled together on a few occasions. During my entire time here, I have not seen any Member of this body conduct themselves in such a true gentleman fashion as HOWARD COBLE does. We all call him our dear friend.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and, again, commend Chairman HUNTER and Chairman SHUSTER for their bipartisan and cooperative manner in which they have worked on this and so many pieces of legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Again, I want to thank the gentleman from West Virginia and my colleague from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) and the great staffs that spent time on this and, of course, the great HOWARD COBLE, who said in one of his elections probably about 10 years ago when he was down by a few hundred votes, I called him up on it election night and his answer was, ''Look good, feel good.'' That is the great HOWARD COBLE.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, today the House will vote on the bipartisan Howard Coble Coast Guard & Maritime Transportation Act of 2014. This bill is a great step for our nation's Coast Guard and federal maritime transportation. Under the constraints of limited resources, this important agreement will continue to provide our Coast Guard and Federal Maritime Commission with the ability to protect our nation's international borders while promoting American commerce around the world.

Having served the people of Los Angeles for nearly 15 years on the City Council and now in Congress, I have long appreciated the work of our Coast Guard and Federal Maritime Commission officials who support the largest port complex in the United States. America relies on the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, which is the gateway for forty percent of all maritime commerce, and providing security to these ports keeps goods flowing across the nation.

In addition, this act provides new incentives for the employment of veterans on U.S. flagged vessels, and directs the Secretary of Transportation to work with Congress to create a national maritime strategy to promote the competitiveness of the U.S. flagged fleet, increase the use of short seas shipping, and enhance U.S. shipbuilding capacity. Our nation's ports and maritime commerce drive all aspects of our economy, and this agreement will provide our nation's maritime gateways the federal support to ensure American ports remain the safest and most economical for shippers around the world.

I am pleased this strong agreement bears the name of our colleague HOWARD COBLE, a fellow member of the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee and a great friend of mine, who has long been a champion of America's Coast Guard and ports. Congress will miss his leadership. I urge the Senate to consider this legislation immediately and send it to the President's desk for his signature.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5769.

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. HUNTER. 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.

□ 1315

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5771, TAX INCREASE PREVENTION ACT OF 2014, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 647, ACHIEVING A BETTER LIFE EXPERIENCE ACT OF 2014

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 766 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 766

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 5771) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions and make technical corrections, and for other purposes. All points

of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 647) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of ABLE accounts established under State programs for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill, the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 3. In the engrossment of H.R. 5771 the Clerk shall—

(a) add the text of H.R. 647, as passed by the House, as new matter at the end of H.R. 5771;

(b) conform the title of H.R. 5771 to reflect the addition of H.R. 647, as passed by the House, to the engrossment;

(c) assign appropriate designations to provisions within the engrossment; and

(d) conform cross-references and provisions for short titles within the engrossment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my friend, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, as the calendar year comes to an end, America's small businesses and taxpayers are looking to Congress for certainty before they file their taxes in April of 2015. While far from perfect, the Tax Increase Prevention Act will provide certainty by extending for 1 more year a number of tax relief provisions that simply would have expired at the end of this year. Put simply, this bill will prevent tax increases on millions of families that would happen if we were not bringing it to the floor today.

And to Mr. KINGSTON, I thank you for your years of service to this body on behalf of the American people and the people of Georgia.

In an ideal world, Mr. Speaker, the House would be debating a more comprehensive approach to tax reform. We would be worried and focusing our activities on growing jobs in America and giving the American people more of their hard-earned money back so they could invest either in their family or in their business—an opportunity to grow our economy to keep America strong—but our Tax Code is holding back America from being competitive and from providing America with more jobs.

American taxpayers deserve what we are doing today, which is an opportunity to work incrementally on a better, simpler, easy-to-navigate Tax Code with certainty, but only for 1 more year. We should be making long-range plans by working with the United States Senate and the President to make sure the American people come up winners. The United States tax rate is currently the highest in the world, and I would prefer to be debating reform, but we are here today for 1 more year's worth of opportunity to keep America where she and her citizens are prepared for the future.

Thanks to the leadership of the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, DAVE CAMP from Michigan, we almost had a chance to fix these issues today, but he came to the rescue and said, ''I am going to work with Republicans and Democrats and anybody who will work with me''—meaning the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee—''on helping American business be stronger.''

The bottom line is that I believe we are going to work together, and it starts in the House of Representatives to get that work done. So just like the deal that DAVE CAMP started, we are here for the process today of jump-starting American business for yet another year.

Sadly, reports tell us that the President's veto threat undermines these bipartisan negotiations. The things Chairman DAVE CAMP is working on to make American jobs stronger and a reality—and working on in a bipartisan effort—the President of the United States is threatening to veto that very legislation. So, today, despite the veto threat, we are here to do our work.

Today, you will see, Mr. Speaker, Republicans and Democrats certainly have things in the bill which are special and important to them but that, more importantly, are about the American people and opportunities to save and grow jobs.

Earlier this year, and certainly last year, the House passed a number of permanent extensions of these policies on a bipartisan basis. That means, Mr. Speaker, Republicans and Democrats tried to work together. But the failure of leadership on the Senate side meant those bills were not ever even brought before the Senate to debate them. Worse yet, the President of the United States opposes those efforts.

We are here for one simple reason today. By taking the leadership opportunity, we think we can gain the ability, on a bipartisan basis in the House of Representatives, to give the Senate and the President one more whack at it.

Let me be clear. Even if this legislation is not as ambitious as it could have been, it is still vitally important. I think what we are doing here, under the leadership of JOHN BOEHNER, is to say to the American people that we know what our job is, even if we are not as wildly successful as we want to be. America's small businesses and families actually need, and rely upon, Congress to do its job.

Mr. Speaker, as the Representative of the 32nd Congressional District of Texas, which is essentially Dallas, Texas, and some suburbs, I regularly meet with small businesses—important businesses—that employ people. Earlier in the year, I met with Jamey Rentfrow of Ascend Custom Extrusions in Wylie, Texas. Jamey's company manufactures and designs custom aluminum extrusions for industry. It was a most interesting visit. They call this manufacturing in America.

On the same day, I also met with JoAnn Gardner, a young woman who owns Savage Precision Fabrication. They make parts for military aircraft. They count on us to be able to get our job done to buy the newest and best equipment. It goes to help not only aerospace and military but other civilian needs also. They know that if we do this, the option for them to expense 50 percent of the purchase price of their assets can be taken care of. They can write it off when they want to rather than when the Tax Code wants.

In March, I met with Frank Millsap. It was a most interesting visit. He runs a rod car store called Sachse Rod Shop. He explained to me how our onerous Tax Code prevented him from employing more people.

Mr. Speaker, that is why we are here today. We are here to make sure we take care of the people in our home districts, many of them companies that are small mom-and-pop shops, but others that employ hundreds of people.

The bill would also affect a minority-owned business called Aluma Graphics, which is located in Wylie, Texas, and owned by Randall Williams, a young man who played professional football. When he got out, he decided he was going to go into business. He is realizing how tough it is to manufacture labels and decals for industrial products. This bill would help him and his employees.

These businesses, not just in the 32nd Congressional District but all over our

country, are important, as they provide people the honesty of hard work and the return of continuing to come to work the next day because their company can make the money to get it done.

What we are doing today will extend for only 1 more year the tax provisions, but it will help millions and millions of people.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, this rule contains a great bill that's called the ABLE Act, which represents, I believe, what our country can do best when Republicans and Democrats and people who care in the United States Congress work together.

Almost every single person in America, I believe, knows someone with a disability: a family member, a best friend, perhaps a brother or sister, or maybe even an aunt or uncle. But we all know that it is only fair that we pay attention to the people we dearly love.

So, today is a game-changer. Today, we are removing what I think is a glass ceiling for disabled people who are held at a disadvantage in our Tax Code. The ABLE Act would make 529 tax-free savings accounts available so that families can cover important expenses such as postsecondary education, housing, career development, and medical expenses not covered by private insurance, Medicaid, or other benefits that might be available to them offered by government.

These tax-free savings accounts will empower families so that their loved ones can have opportunities they have not had in the past. It is personal to me because as my father looks at all of his grandchildren, he can have the opportunity of helping out in their education, but not for Alex Sessions, his grandson with Down syndrome. He can help all the grandkids, but not Alex.

This happens millions of times in our country. There are millions of people with disabilities who count on going into a program or being enrolled in something that the Federal Government pays for, but we discriminate against them. When this gets signed into law, my father, Judge Sessions, will be able to treat Alex as he does his other grandchildren. What is amazing is that Alex needs it more than all of them combined, but he is the one that we wanted to keep in his place because he has a disability called Down syndrome.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is important. It is important to the people whom it impacts. It is important to our families. But more importantly, it is important to our country. The gentleman, ANDER CRENSHAW from Jacksonville, has worked on this bill for 8 years. We are finding a way to put it into a piece of legislation. To help millions of people with their jobs, it needs to pass.

Mr. Speaker, that is why we are here today. We are here doing important work for millions of people. It does matter, and I think we make a huge difference.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today, we have two bills before us: one extending tax relief measures and another for helping our brothers and sisters and family members with disabilities. These bills, considered under two more closed rules, which I feel I must point out, adds to the tally of the most closed Congress in American history.

□ 1330

First, H.R. 5771, the Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2014. This 1-year extension will cover approximately 60 temporary Tax Code provisions that expired at the end of 2013 or during 2014. Many of the provisions have been previously extended with broad bipartisan support.

This bill is far from perfect, but it provides us a sorely-needed stopgap measure. Our economy has finally emerged from the shadow of the Great Recession, but playing games like this, lurching from one short-term measure to another, will certainly harm that recovery.

This bill will ensure some consistency in the Tax Code that will help the American people avail themselves of the tax credits that they depend on, just in time for the tax filing season.

However, of particular note, left out of this package is the health coverage tax credit, which is made available to workers who have lost their jobs as a result of unfair trade deals and retirees who are at risk of losing their pensions.

In my district, in Rochester, the retirees of Delphi and other local companies depend on the health coverage tax credit to cover their health care bills, and they have been fighting mightily for some relief from the fact that they have lost their pensions and their health care. This is all that they have, the government program.

Denying a critical tax credit to families who have been hit hardest by unfair foreign competition and a tough economy here at home is a mistake, and one I will fight hard to correct.

The second bill we have before us today is H.R. 647, the ABLE Act. This bill will right an injustice that has been impacting millions of Americans with disabilities, their families, and their caregivers.

Under current law, the individuals with disabilities can qualify to receive Social Security Disability Insurance, but there is an asset limit of $2,000, meaning that if you have more cash than that on hand, your SSDI benefits will be reduced.

This disincentivizes work and saving, creates an unnecessary economic uncertainty, and it does nothing to better the circumstances of our Nation's most vulnerable.

The ABLE Act will change that by creating a tax-free savings account, with an annual cap on contributions of $14,000, ensuring that people with disabilities have a better sense of security and ways that friends and family can contribute to their education, transportation, medical expenses, employment support, housing, and more without risking their eligibility for the badly-needed disability insurance.

I am pleased to see this come to the floor with such strong support because my district in Rochester has a vibrant and involved community of people with disabilities.

I commend my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, my friend, the chairman of the Rules Committee, in particular, for the diligent, passionate, and careful work on this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, I have some reservations about these bills, the first bill anyway, but stabilizing the Tax Code and ensuring financial independence for our brothers and sisters does provide much-needed support. So I urge my colleagues to do the best they can on the rule and the bill.

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Jackson County, North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS).

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Rules Committee for his leadership and his vision and his passion and his great words.

I also want to thank the gentleman from Jacksonville, Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW). He is a true leader, and I am proud to be a cosponsor of the ABLE Act.

Today, we can talk about taxes, we can talk about legislation, but really, what we are talking about is people, Mr. Speaker.

I want to share two personal stories because, for me, I don't have to deal with children with disabilities on a daily basis. I was blessed with two kids that didn't have some of those same challenges.

What I have had is I have experienced the love and the compassion that two children with special needs have given to me over and over.

The first one of those is a young lady, 21 years of age, with Down syndrome named Chloe. Chloe is not only a dear friend but also is someone who has been able to share with me the struggles in her life, the passion in her life, the vision. She has a part-time job.

But the other part of that story is the difficulties that sometimes families with special needs have. What I have seen over and over again is that, even though I was able to experience the love firsthand, that there is a 24-hour, 7-day a week job that parents have to deal with, and some of those challenges are monumental.

We need to address that as a body. We need to partner with those moms and dads across America to make sure that, indeed, what they have to face is

not really handicapped because of a Tax Code that penalizes them.

So the ABLE Act, after 8 long years of work by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW), hopefully, will be voted on and passed in this very House to provide the needs and the help that those parents so desperately need.

But I also want to share another story about a young lady from my home district who has just turned 1 named Holland Burleson, because, indeed, Down syndrome, whether it is with Chloe or this young lady, has a profound effect; same love, same compassion that I got to experience.

But yet, what happened is that those parents went out, funded a 5K run to bring the awareness to a community up in the mountains of western North Carolina, and overwhelmingly, that community came together, raising funds not just for the benefit of the Burleson family but for the benefit of all of those families.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. MEADOWS. I thank the gentleman.

What happened is lives were transformed in that small little town. And so I am here today to speak on behalf of not only great work, but great vision and a partnership in which we can partner with families, moms and dads across this country, to do a job that should have been done long ago, to allow the special needs of those special families to be addressed.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I have one request for time, and so I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH), within the parameters of the debate time, and provided that no one else shows up who requests time.

Mr. WELCH. I thank the gentlelady.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to reiterate what Mr. SESSIONS said, and thank you for your tremendous service here in this body. So thank you for acknowledging that too.

Mr. Speaker, Congress is broken. We know it, and the American people know it. The difference between us and them is that we can actually do something about it. In fact, that is our job.

But here we go again, ducking our responsibility and not doing our job. We ducked when we failed to pass a long-term transportation bill. We ducked when we failed to meet our constitutional responsibility to debate a new, long-term military commitment in the Middle East.

And now, here we go again with this tax extender bill.

We need tax reform. 435 Members of Congress agree. Both parties agree. This year we had an opportunity. The Ways and Means Committee, under Chairman DAVE CAMP, presented a real plan, real simplification and lower rates, and all of it was paid for.

There were many points of disagreement, as well as agreement in that bill. In a functioning legislature, we would have debated the Camp bill, modified it, and passed some version of it to move America forward.

Instead, Speaker BOEHNER said the Camp bill was dead on arrival. No discussion, no debate, no progress. More ducking and dodging instead of Congress doing its job.

This tax extender package adds insult to the American people who want tax reform to the injury Congress inflicts by failing to do its job. When we pass tax extenders instead of tax reform, Congress, once again, is back to doing business as usual.

This bill, considered on December 3, is retroactive to January. How can we expect businesses and families to plan when we don't let them know what the rules for the tax year are until the year is nearly over?

It is business as usual when we preach fiscal responsibility, pledging allegiance to a balanced budget, and then pass a bill which adds $44.7 billion to the taxpayers' credit card.

Mr. Speaker, how can Congress assert today that we will do tax reform next year, tax reform that the American people are demanding, when we are about to repeat the irresponsible practice of passing short-term, retroactive bills, something Congress has been doing year in and year out?

This bill says to the American people that Congress is up to its old tricks. Meet the new Congress—same as the old Congress. Congress says one thing: ''We need tax reform,'' but Congress does another, kicks the can down the road.

Mr. Speaker, I do support some of the provisions in this bill and I would like to vote for them, but Congress must do its job, not dodge its responsibilities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a ''no'' vote.

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

Mr. Speaker, we are going to take the gentleman from Vermont up on, really, his issues. We are going to have a Republican House, a Republican Senate, that is able to effectively work with each other, look each other in the eye and find progress for the American people. So I promise the gentleman, he is going to get what he wants and more so that we can grow our economy.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to have as our next speaker a gentleman who, for 8 years, has toiled on the ABLE Act. He is the chief sponsor. He is the young man who has made so many conversations and discussions, not just among our Members here, but also among people all around this country, disability groups.

I earlier accused him of being from Texas. He is actually from Jacksonville, Florida, so I am sure I will get lots of cards and letters about that. We wish he were a Texan, but he is from Florida.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW).

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding the time. I thank Chairman SESSIONS for the work that he has done all along the way.

Mr. Speaker, I want to urge the adoption of this rule and the underlying legislation, particularly the ABLE Act, which the chairman just talked about.

Eight years ago I first filed this legislation, and an awful lot of people have spent a lot of time and a lot of energy bringing us to where we are today.

The gentleman before me spoke about how Congress is often dysfunctional. As we look at the ABLE Act today, I think we will have a chance to see what can happen when people work together, when Democrats and Republicans come together, when the House and the Senate work together to do what is best for the people of our country.

I think it is a great illustration of what we can do, and the fact that we have over 380 cosponsors in the House, over 70 sponsors in the United States Senate, is a demonstration of that, what can be accomplished when we put our minds to it and work together.

It has been pointed out that most of us know someone with a severe disability, might be Down syndrome, might be autism. But sometimes it is hard for us to understand the difficulties that they have to go through, along with their families. They face challenges that we can hardly even imagine sometimes.

The ABLE Act seeks to try to remedy that situation, to bring justice, to bring peace of mind to millions of American families who have to live with disabilities every day. It does that by creating these tax-free savings accounts, allows the money that they set aside to grow tax-free as long as they use those proceeds for qualified expenses. And what that does is it simply gives those individuals with disabilities a chance for the American Dream.

They have hopes and dreams just like we all do, and this will give them the tool to open the door to a brighter future, the way to realize their full potential.

□ 1345

We help other people save for college by creating 529 tax-advantaged accounts. We allow people to save for their health care by creating health savings accounts. We allow people to save for their retirements through individual retirement accounts and 401(k)'s.

It seems only fair that we offer individuals with disabilities the same tax-advantaged tools, so they can realize their dreams, maybe get a job, maybe save for the future, maybe go to college.

I just hope that, as we adopt this rule and as we move into the ABLE Act, that we will all continue to work together because I can't think of anything more special, as more of a privilege, than for us as a Congress to speak up for those who so often can't speak for themselves.

I urge the adoption of the rule and of the underlying bill as well.

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

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

A number of people who asked to speak today are on their way here, and we will do that.

I really want to stand up for just a few minutes, pending those several Members coming here, to say to you and to the American people, Mr. Speaker, that this country—America—is a great, great, great country. It is great because of its people. There is a lot that has been said today and on other days about some of our frailties, about some of our warts, about some of the problems that we have.

I think what Mr. CRENSHAW said in his remarks is most appropriate because you have a man who has a number of very important issues that he carries on behalf of his congressional district in Jacksonville, Florida. He spoke about also taking the time to be a voice for millions of people across this country, not just for those whom he saw specifically in Jacksonville.

You heard the gentleman, Mr. MEADOWS, speak very plainly about two Down syndrome young women of our country who are key assets to our country. We weren't asking for anything else today through this ABLE Act that Mr. CRENSHAW has so ably moved forward—it has taken 8 years—than for people to have equity or fairness.

In the larger scheme of things, as a parent of a Down syndrome young man, I looked at where we stood, and said, ''Why wouldn't we allow the fairness?''

Really, let's look at it another way. Why would we want to keep these disabled individuals from having fairness? Why do we want to keep them poor and in the same circumstances they are in? Why would we want everyone else to be treated under one set of rules and, because they are disabled, they are treated another way?

These are questions and discussions that have been in my family now for 20 years. I don't know why Alex is my special gift. He is perfect. God made every child perfect in His image. We are the ones who struggle.

Today, we are working together as the House of Representatives for a bill that Mr. CRENSHAW saw a need for, and he had the fortitude and the opportunity today because of JOHN BOEHNER. Yes, CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, a Democrat Member of this body; yes, some United States Senators, including Senator HARKIN of Iowa and, yes, Senator CASEY from Pennsylvania; yes, CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS, a senior member of our Republican leadership team who, by the way, has a Down syndrome son, Cole—we all worked together. This is a special thing.

I think, today, it ought to be a pat on the back for us, an opportunity for us to say this is important and this is good. That is what we should remember from today, in that we may not go to sleep knowing our job is done, but that we did something right by coming together as a body.

My dear colleague LOUISE SLAUGHTER, who is from New York, very clearly understood a long time ago, as she put her name on the bill, that this is a good bill. Members of the Rules Committee, who typically don't put their names on bills, put their names on this bill—380 Members of this body. See, there are good things that happen.

I do want to thank my colleague, Ms. SLAUGHTER. I do want to thank people because this is a bipartisan effort. This is a chance for us to work together, and I think we did a good job today.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, in reply to the gentlewoman, I will let her make her closing arguments, and then I will do the same.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, in closing, the Democrats have reservations on these bills, but extending tax credits to ensure continuity in the Tax Code is very important to us, even though we know that large pieces of America have been left out of this bill.

It causes us great sadness, but nonetheless, we recognize the need to get this done. All of us appreciate the opportunity for the brothers and sisters with disabilities to have the stability that they need, and we are certainly in concert with that.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

It has been mentioned a couple of times today, but I also want to thank you, Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Georgia, for your distinguished service, not only to the people of Georgia in your district, but also to the people—your friends—who are in this body, who have benefited from your service on the Appropriations Committee and who knew that you took time, just as we are doing here today, to deal with the intricacies of NIH, to deal with the intricacies of cancer, to deal with the intricacies of disabilities, to deal with the intricacies of our working together as a country and as a body and as Americans to make life better for people.

Mr. Speaker, your years of service here—some 20 years of service that you have given—have been of distinguished service. I have known you for a long time and have admired you.

I want to thank the gentleman, JACK KINGSTON, for his great service to America, which is exactly in line with what we are doing today.

Thank you, sir. I appreciate your hard work. Your being in the chair as we do this is not by accident. It is on purpose. With the distinguished opportunity that you have of serving as the Speaker pro tempore today, I appreciate your great service.

Mr. Speaker, we have made the case today of what we are trying to do. We are on the floor to bring certainty to the Tax Code for one more year. It is not perfect—the gentleman from Vermont noted that—but it is an opportunity as best as we can do in the environment that we are in, and that is what this is about. It is the knowledge that we are going to wake up and do the best that we can for the American people.

Today is about the American people and their Tax Code. Today is about the ABLE Act and about millions of people with disabilities who are attempting as best as they can to make due with what they have but who, tomorrow, can get fairness and equity in that process. It is about an opportunity for families not to question why but to dig in and help.

Today is yet another opportunity when not only the gentlewoman, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and I may work together in our tutelage as chairman and ranking member of the Rules Committee but when we can have a common sense of purpose. This is not perfect, but the world can be better today and tomorrow.

I would ask my fellow Members to understand that we are here asking for everybody to vote ''yes'' on the rule. They can do what they want to do on the underlying legislation, but today is an opportunity to give thanks for the opportunities that lie ahead of us that are about others instead of ourselves.

Mr. Speaker, I move the previous question on the resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1440

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) at 2 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.

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:

Adoption of H. Res. 766, by the yeas and nays;

Motion to suspend the rules on H.R. 5769, by the yeas and nays;

Approval of the Journal, 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.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5771, TAX INCREASE PREVENTION ACT OF 2014, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 647, ACHIEVING A BETTER LIFE EXPERIENCE ACT OF 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on adoption of the resolution (H. Res. 766) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5771) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions and make technical corrections, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 647) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of ABLE accounts established under State programs for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 231, nays 192, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 540]

YEAS—231

Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Delaney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Himes
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—192

Adams
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stockman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—11

Aderholt
Bishop (UT)
Capuano
Doyle
Duckworth
Gingrey (GA)
Hall
McCarthy (NY)
Miller, Gary
Negrete McLeod
Price (GA)

□ 1510

Messrs. SCHNEIDER, DINGELL, STOCKMAN, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. MCINTYRE and Ms. SINEMA changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOWARD COBLE COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5769) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) 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 413, nays 3, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 541]

YEAS—413

Adams
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Capito
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
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
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
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
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
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
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
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
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
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
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—3

Bonamici
DeFazio
Schrader

NOT VOTING—18

Aderholt
Bishop (UT)
Capps
Capuano
Cole
Costa
Davis, Rodney
Doyle
Duckworth
Gingrey (GA)
Hall
Issa
Joyce
McCarthy (NY)
Miller, Gary
Negrete McLeod
Rogers (AL)
Woodall

□ 1517

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. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 541, had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 541, I was off the floor in a meeting and missed this second vote in the series. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 275, nays 137, answered ''present'' 2, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 542]

YEAS—275

Adams
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Beatty
Becerra
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Capito
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Coble
Cohen
Cole
Collins (NY)
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Dent
DesJarlais
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Gabbard
Gallego
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Grayson
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Horsford
Huelskamp
Huffman
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Levin
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Maloney, Carolyn
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McHenry
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pascrell
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Pocan
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Roby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stutzman
Takano
Thornberry
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Vela
Wagner
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Womack
Yarmuth
Yoho
Young (IN)

NAYS—137

Amash
Barr
Bass
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bishop (NY)
Brady (PA)
Broun (GA)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Carney
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Chaffetz
Clarke (NY)
Clyburn
Coffman
Collins (GA)
Conaway
Costa
Cotton
Crowley
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
Delaney
Denham
DeSantis
Duffy
Ellison
Esty
Fitzpatrick
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Foxx
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Gibson
Gosar
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Hanna
Hastings (FL)
Heck (NV)
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huizenga (MI)
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Jordan
Keating
Kilmer
Kind
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Lance
Lee (CA)
Lewis
LoBiondo
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
McDermott
McGovern
McKinley
Meeks
Miller (FL)
Miller, George
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Norcross
Nugent
Pallone
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pittenger
Poe (TX)
Price (GA)
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Richmond
Rigell
Roe (TN)
Ros-Lehtinen
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Sewell (AL)
Sires
Slaughter
Stivers
Stockman
Swalwell (CA)
Terry
Thompson (CA)

Thompson (MS)	Valadao	Weber (TX)
Thompson (PA)	Veasey	Wittman
Tiberi	Velázquez	Woodall
Tipton	Visclosky	Yoder
Upton	Walberg	Young (AK)

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—2

Gohmert	Owens

NOT VOTING—20

Aderholt	Doyle	McIntyre
Bishop (UT)	Duckworth	Miller, Gary
Brady (TX)	Franks (AZ)	Negrete McLeod
Braley (IA)	Gingrey (GA)	Nolan
Capps	Grijalva	Schwartz
Capuano	Hall	Turner
Diaz-Balart	McCarthy (NY)	

□ 1524

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

ACHIEVING A BETTER LIFE EXPERIENCE ACT OF 2014

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 766, I call up the bill (H.R. 647) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of ABLE accounts established under State programs for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to H. Res. 766, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means, printed in the bill, the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in part B of House Report 113–643 is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 647

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; ETC.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2014'' or the ''ABLE Act of 2014''.

(b) AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; etc.

TITLE I—QUALIFIED ABLE PROGRAMS

Sec. 101. Purposes.
Sec. 102. Qualified ABLE programs.
Sec. 103. Treatment of ABLE accounts under certain Federal programs.
Sec. 104. Treatment of able accounts in bankruptcy.
Sec. 105. Investment direction rule for 529 plans.

TITLE II—OFFSETS

Sec. 201. Correction to workers compensation offset age.
Sec. 202. Accelerated application of relative value targets for misvalued services in the Medicare physician fee schedule.
Sec. 203. Consistent treatment of vacuum erection systems in Medicare Parts B and D.
Sec. 204. One-year delay of implementation of oral-only policy under Medicare ESRD prospective payment system.
Sec. 205. Modification relating to Inland Waterways Trust Fund financing rate.
Sec. 206. Certified professional employer organizations.
Sec. 207. Exclusion of dividends from controlled foreign corporations from the definition of personal holding company income for purposes of the personal holding company rules.
Sec. 208. Inflation adjustment for certain civil penalties under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.
Sec. 209. Increase in continuous levy.

TITLE I—QUALIFIED ABLE PROGRAMS

SEC. 101. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this title are as follows:

(1) To encourage and assist individuals and families in saving private funds for the purpose of supporting individuals with disabilities to maintain health, independence, and quality of life.

(2) To provide secure funding for disability-related expenses on behalf of designated beneficiaries with disabilities that will supplement, but not supplant, benefits provided through private insurance, the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act, the supplemental security income program under title XVI of such Act, the beneficiary's employment, and other sources.

SEC. 102. QUALIFIED ABLE PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter F of chapter 1 is amended by inserting after section 529 the following new section:

''SEC. 529A. QUALIFIED ABLE PROGRAMS.

''(a) GENERAL RULE.—A qualified ABLE program shall be exempt from taxation under this subtitle. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, such program shall be subject to the taxes imposed by section 511 (relating to imposition of tax on unrelated business income of charitable organizations).

''(b) QUALIFIED ABLE PROGRAM.—For purposes of this section—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The term 'qualified ABLE program' means a program established and maintained by a State, or agency or instrumentality thereof—

''(A) under which a person may make contributions for a taxable year, for the benefit of an individual who is an eligible individual for such taxable year, to an ABLE account which is established for the purpose of meeting the qualified disability expenses of the designated beneficiary of the account,

''(B) which limits a designated beneficiary to 1 ABLE account for purposes of this section,

''(C) which allows for the establishment of an ABLE account only for a designated beneficiary who is a resident of such State or a resident of a contracting State, and

''(D) which meets the other requirements of this section.

''(2) CASH CONTRIBUTIONS.—A program shall not be treated as a qualified ABLE program unless it provides that no contribution will be accepted—

''(A) unless it is in cash, or

''(B) except in the case of contributions under subsection (c)(1)(C), if such contribution to an ABLE account would result in aggregate contributions from all contributors to the ABLE account for the taxable year exceeding the amount in effect under section 2503(b) for the calendar year in which the taxable year begins.

For purposes of this paragraph, rules similar to the rules of section 408(d)(4) (determined without regard to subparagraph (B) thereof) shall apply.

''(3) SEPARATE ACCOUNTING.—A program shall not be treated as a qualified ABLE program unless it provides separate accounting for each designated beneficiary.

''(4) LIMITED INVESTMENT DIRECTION.—A program shall not be treated as a qualified ABLE program unless it provides that any designated beneficiary under such program may, directly or indirectly, direct the investment of any contributions to the program (or any earnings thereon) no more than 2 times in any calendar year.

''(5) NO PLEDGING OF INTEREST AS SECURITY.—A program shall not be treated as a qualified ABLE program if it allows any interest in the program or any portion thereof to be used as security for a loan.

''(6) PROHIBITION ON EXCESS CONTRIBUTIONS.—A program shall not be treated as a qualified ABLE program unless it provides adequate safeguards to prevent aggregate contributions on behalf of a designated beneficiary in excess of the limit established by the State under section 529(b)(6). For purposes of the preceding sentence, aggregate contributions include contributions under any prior qualified ABLE program of any State or agency or instrumentality thereof.

''(c) TAX TREATMENT.—

''(1) DISTRIBUTIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Any distribution under a qualified ABLE program shall be includible in the gross income of the distributee in the manner as provided under section 72 to the extent not excluded from gross income under any other provision of this chapter.

''(B) DISTRIBUTIONS FOR QUALIFIED DISABILITY EXPENSES.—For purposes of this paragraph, if distributions from a qualified ABLE program—

''(i) do not exceed the qualified disability expenses of the designated beneficiary, no amount shall be includible in gross income, and

''(ii) in any other case, the amount otherwise includible in gross income shall be reduced by an amount which bears the same ratio to such amount as such expenses bear to such distributions.

''(C) CHANGE IN DESIGNATED BENEFICIARIES OR PROGRAMS.—

''(i) ROLLOVERS FROM ABLE ACCOUNTS.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to any amount paid or distributed from an ABLE account to the extent that the amount received is paid, not later than the 60th day after the date of such payment or distribution, into another ABLE account for the benefit of the same designated beneficiary or an eligible individual who is a family member of the designated beneficiary.

''(ii) CHANGE IN DESIGNATED BENEFICIARIES.—Any change in the designated beneficiary of an interest in a qualified ABLE program during a taxable year shall not be treated as a distribution for purposes of subparagraph (A) if the new beneficiary is an eligible individual for such taxable year and a member of the family of the former beneficiary.

''(iii) LIMITATION ON CERTAIN ROLLOVERS.—Clause (i) shall not apply to any transfer if such transfer occurs within 12 months from the date of a previous transfer to any qualified ABLE program for the benefit of the designated beneficiary.

''(D) OPERATING RULES.—For purposes of applying section 72—

''(i) except to the extent provided by the Secretary, all distributions during a taxable year shall be treated as one distribution, and

''(ii) except to the extent provided by the Secretary, the value of the contract, income on the contract, and investment in the contract shall be computed as of the close of the calendar year in which the taxable year begins.

''(2) GIFT TAX RULES.—For purposes of chapters 12 and 13—

''(A) CONTRIBUTIONS.—Any contribution to a qualified ABLE program on behalf of any designated beneficiary—

''(i) shall be treated as a completed gift to such designated beneficiary which is not a future interest in property, and

''(ii) shall not be treated as a qualified transfer under section 2503(e).

''(B) TREATMENT OF DISTRIBUTIONS.—In no event shall a distribution from an ABLE account to such account's designated beneficiary be treated as a taxable gift.

''(C) TREATMENT OF TRANSFER TO NEW DESIGNATED BENEFICIARY.—The taxes imposed by chapters 12 and 13 shall not apply to a transfer by reason of a change in the designated beneficiary under subsection (c)(1)(C).

''(3) ADDITIONAL TAX FOR DISTRIBUTIONS NOT USED FOR DISABILITY EXPENSES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The tax imposed by this chapter for any taxable year on any taxpayer who receives a distribution from a qualified ABLE program which is includible in gross income shall be increased by 10 percent of the amount which is so includible.

''(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply if the payment or distribution is made to a beneficiary (or to the estate of the designated beneficiary) on or after the death of the designated beneficiary.

''(C) CONTRIBUTIONS RETURNED BEFORE CERTAIN DATE.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to the distribution of any contribution made during a taxable year on behalf of the designated beneficiary if—

''(i) such distribution is received on or before the day prescribed by law (including extensions of time) for filing such designated beneficiary's return for such taxable year, and

''(ii) such distribution is accompanied by the amount of net income attributable to such excess contribution.

Any net income described in clause (ii) shall be included in gross income for the taxable year in which such excess contribution was made.

''(4) LOSS OF ABLE ACCOUNT TREATMENT.—If an ABLE account is established for a designated beneficiary, no account subsequently established for such beneficiary shall be treated as an ABLE account. The preceding sentence shall not apply in the case of an account established for purposes of a rollover described in paragraph (1)(C)(i) of this section if the transferor account is closed as of the end of the 60th day referred to in paragraph (1)(C)(i).

''(d) REPORTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Each officer or employee having control of the qualified ABLE program or their designee shall make such reports regarding such program to the Secretary and to designated beneficiaries with respect to contributions, distributions, the return of excess contributions, and such other matters as the Secretary may require.

''(2) CERTAIN AGGREGATED INFORMATION.—For research purposes, the Secretary shall make available to the public reports containing aggregate information, by diagnosis and other relevant characteristics, on contributions and distributions from the qualified ABLE program. In carrying out the preceding sentence an item may not be made available to the public if such item can be associated with, or otherwise identify, directly or indirectly, a particular individual.

''(3) NOTICE OF ESTABLISHMENT OF ABLE ACCOUNT.—A qualified ABLE program shall submit a notice to the Secretary upon the establishment of an ABLE account. Such notice shall contain the name and State of residence of the designated beneficiary and such other information as the Secretary may require.

''(4) ELECTRONIC DISTRIBUTION STATEMENTS.—For purposes of section 4 of the Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2014, States shall submit electronically on a monthly basis to the Commissioner of Social Security, in the manner specified by the Commissioner, statements on relevant distributions and account balances from all ABLE accounts.

''(5) REQUIREMENTS.—The reports and notices required by paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) shall be filed at such time and in such manner and furnished to such individuals at such time and in such manner as may be required by the Secretary.

''(e) OTHER DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULES.—For purposes of this section—

''(1) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—An individual is an eligible individual for a taxable year if during such taxable year—

''(A) the individual is entitled to benefits based on blindness or disability under title II or XVI of the Social Security Act, and such blindness or disability occurred before the date on which the individual attained age 26, or

''(B) a disability certification with respect to such individual is filed with the Secretary for such taxable year.

''(2) DISABILITY CERTIFICATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'disability certification' means, with respect to an individual, a certification to the satisfaction of the Secretary by the individual or the parent or guardian of the individual that—

''(i) certifies that—

''(I) the individual has a medically determinable physical or mental impairment, which results in marked and severe functional limitations, and which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months, or is blind (within the meaning of section 1614(a)(2) of the Social Security Act), and

''(II) such blindness or disability occurred before the date on which the individual attained age 26, and

''(ii) includes a copy of the individual's diagnosis relating to the individual's relevant impairment or impairments, signed by a physician meeting the criteria of section 1861(r)(1) of the Social Security Act.

''(B) RESTRICTION ON USE OF CERTIFICATION.—No inference may be drawn from a disability certification for purposes of establishing eligibility for benefits under title II, XVI, or XIX of the Social Security Act.

''(3) DESIGNATED BENEFICIARY.—The term 'designated beneficiary' in connection with an ABLE account established under a qualified ABLE program means the eligible individual who established an ABLE account and is the owner of such account.

''(4) MEMBER OF FAMILY.—The term 'member of the family' means, with respect to any designated beneficiary, an individual who bears a relationship to such beneficiary which is described in subparagraph section 152(d)(2)(B). For purposes of the preceding sentence, a rule similar to the rule of section 152(f)(1)(B) shall apply.

''(5) QUALIFIED DISABILITY EXPENSES.—The term 'qualified disability expenses' means any expenses related to the eligible individual's blindness or disability which are made for the benefit of an eligible individual who is the designated beneficiary, including the following expenses: education, housing, transportation, employment training and support, assistive technology and personal support services, health, prevention and wellness, financial management and administrative services, legal fees, expenses for oversight and monitoring, funeral and burial expenses, and other expenses, which are approved by the Secretary under regulations and consistent with the purposes of this section.

''(6) ABLE ACCOUNT.—The term 'ABLE account' means an account established by an eligible individual, owned by such eligible individual, and maintained under a qualified ABLE program.

''(7) CONTRACTING STATE.—The term 'contracting State' means a State without a qualified ABLE program which has entered into a contract with a State with a qualified ABLE program to provide residents of the contracting State access to a qualified ABLE program.

''(f) TRANSFER TO STATE.—Subject to any outstanding payments due for qualified disability expenses, upon the death of the designated beneficiary, all amounts remaining in the qualified ABLE account not in excess of the amount equal to the total medical assistance paid for the designated beneficiary after the establishment of the account, net of any premiums paid from the account or paid by or on behalf of the beneficiary to a Medicaid Buy-In program under any State Medicaid plan established under title XIX of the Social Security Act, shall be distributed to such State upon filing of a claim for payment by such State. For purposes of this paragraph, the State shall be a creditor of an ABLE account and not a beneficiary. Subsection (c)(3) shall not apply to a distribution under the preceding sentence.

''(g) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations or other guidance as the Secretary determines necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this section, including regulations—

''(1) to enforce the 1 ABLE account per eligible individual limit,

''(2) providing for the information required to be presented to open an ABLE account,

''(3) to generally define qualified disability expenses,

''(4) developed in consultation with the Commissioner of Social Security, relating to disability certifications and determinations of disability, including those conditions deemed to meet the requirements of subsection (e)(1)(B),

''(5) to prevent fraud and abuse with respect to amounts claimed as qualified disability expenses,

''(6) under chapters 11, 12, and 13 of this title, and

''(7) to allow for transfers from one ABLE account to another ABLE account.''.

(b) TAX ON EXCESS CONTRIBUTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 4973 (relating to tax on excess contributions to certain tax-favored accounts and annuities) is amended by striking ''or'' at the end of paragraph (4), by inserting ''or'' at the end of paragraph (5), and by inserting after paragraph (5) the following new paragraph:

''(6) an ABLE account (within the meaning of section 529A),''.

(2) EXCESS CONTRIBUTION.—Section 4973 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(h) EXCESS CONTRIBUTIONS TO ABLE ACCOUNT.—For purposes of this section—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an ABLE account (within the meaning of section 529A), the term 'excess contributions' means the amount by which the amount contributed for the taxable year to such account (other than contributions under section 529A(c)(1)(C)) exceeds the contribution limit under section 529A(b)(2)(B).

''(2) SPECIAL RULE.—For purposes of this subsection, any contribution which is distributed out of the ABLE account in a distribution to which the last sentence of section 529A(b)(2) applies shall be treated as an amount not contributed.''.

(c) PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO FILE REPORTS.—Section 6693(a)(2) is amended by striking ''and'' at the end of subparagraph (D), by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (F), and by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

''(E) section 529A(d) (relating to qualified ABLE programs), and''.

(d) RECORDS.—Section 552a(a)(8)(B) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in clause (viii), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) in clause (ix), by adding ''or'' at the end; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new clause:

''(x) matches performed pursuant to section 3(d)(4) of the Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2014;''.

(e) OTHER CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 26(b)(2) is amended by striking ''and'' at the end of subparagraph (W), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (X) and inserting '', and'', and by inserting after subparagraph (X) the following:

''(Y) section 529A(c)(3)(A) (relating to additional tax on ABLE account distributions not used for qualified disability expenses).''.

(2) Section 877A is amended—

(A) in subsection (e)(2) by inserting ''a qualified ABLE program (as defined in section 529A),'' after ''529),'', and

(B) in subsection (g)(6) by inserting ''529A(c)(3),'' after ''529(c)(6),''.

(3) Section 4965(c) is amended by striking ''or'' at the end of paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (7) and inserting '', or'', and by inserting after paragraph (7) the following new paragraph:

''(8) a program described in section 529A.''.

*(4) The heading for part VIII of subchapter F of chapter 1 is amended by striking ''**HIGHER EDUCATION**'' and inserting ''**CERTAIN**''.*

(5) The item in the table of parts for subchapter F of chapter 1 relating to part VIII is amended to read as follows:

''PART VIII. CERTAIN SAVINGS ENTITIES.''.

(6) The table of sections for part VIII of subchapter F of chapter 1 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 529 the following new item:

''Sec. 529A. Qualified ABLE programs.''.

(7) Paragraph (4) of section 1027(g) of the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 (12 U.S.C. 5517(g)(4)) is amended by inserting '', 529A'' after ''529''.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2014.

(2) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary's designee) shall promulgate the regulations or other guidance required under section 529A(g) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as added by subsection (a), not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 103. TREATMENT OF ABLE ACCOUNTS UNDER CERTAIN FEDERAL PROGRAMS.

(a) ACCOUNT FUNDS DISREGARDED FOR PURPOSES OF CERTAIN OTHER MEANS-TESTED FEDERAL PROGRAMS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal law that requires consideration of 1 or more financial circumstances of an individual, for the purpose of determining eligibility to receive, or the amount of, any assistance or benefit authorized by such provision to be provided to or for the benefit of such individual, any amount (including earnings thereon) in the ABLE account (within the meaning of section 529A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) of such individual, any contributions to the ABLE account of the individual, and any distribution for qualified disability expenses (as defined in subsection (e)(5) of such section) shall be disregarded for such purpose with respect to any period during which such individual maintains, makes contributions to, or receives distributions from such ABLE account, except that, in the case of the supplemental security income program under title XVI of the Social Security Act—

(1) a distribution for housing expenses (within the meaning of such subsection) shall not be so disregarded, and

(2) in the case of such program, any amount (including such earnings) in such ABLE account shall be considered a resource of the designated beneficiary to the extent that such amount exceeds $100,000.

(b) SUSPENSION OF SSI BENEFITS DURING PERIODS OF EXCESSIVE ACCOUNT FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The benefits of an individual under the supplemental security income program under title XVI of the Social Security Act shall not be terminated, but shall be suspended, by reason of excess resources of the individual attributable to an amount in the ABLE account (within the meaning of section 529A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) of the individual not disregarded under subsection (a) of this section.

(2) NO IMPACT ON MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY.—An individual who would be receiving payment of such supplemental security income benefits but for the application of paragraph (1) shall be treated for purposes of title XIX of the Social Security Act as if the individual continued to be receiving payment of such benefits.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 104. TREATMENT OF ABLE ACCOUNTS IN BANKRUPTCY.

(a) EXCLUSION FROM PROPERTY OF THE ESTATE.—Section 541(b) of the title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (8), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (9), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon and ''or''; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (9) the following:

''(10) funds placed in an account of a qualified ABLE program (as defined in section 529A(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) not later than 365 days before the date of the filing of the petition in a case under this title, but—

''(A) only if the designated beneficiary of such account was a child, stepchild, grandchild, or stepgrandchild of the debtor for the taxable year for which funds were placed in such account;

''(B) only to the extent that such funds—

''(i) are not pledged or promised to any entity in connection with any extension of credit; and

''(ii) are not excess contributions (as described in section 4973(h) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986); and

''(C) in the case of funds placed in all such accounts having the same designated beneficiary not earlier than 720 days nor later than 365 days before such date, only so much of such funds as does not exceed $6,225.''.

(b) DEBTOR'S MONTHLY EXPENSES.—Section 707(b)(2)(A)(ii)(II) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end ''Such monthly expenses may include, if applicable, contributions to an account of a qualified ABLE program to the extent such contributions are not excess contributions (as described in section 4973(h) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) and if the designated beneficiary of such account is a child, stepchild, grandchild, or stepgrandchild of the debtor.''.

(c) RECORD OF DEBTOR'S INTEREST.—Section 521(c) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting '', an interest in an account in a qualified ABLE program (as defined in section 529A(b) of such Code,'' after ''Internal Revenue Code of 1986)''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to cases commenced under title 11, United States Code, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 105. INVESTMENT DIRECTION RULE FOR 529 PLANS.

(a) AMENDMENTS RELATING TO INVESTMENT DIRECTION RULE FOR 529 PLANS.—

(1) Paragraph (4) of section 529(b) is amended by striking ''may not directly or indirectly'' and all that follows and inserting ''may, directly or indirectly, direct the investment of any contributions to the program (or any earnings thereon) no more than 2 times in any calendar year.''.

(2) The heading of paragraph (4) of section 529(b)is amended by striking ''NO'' and inserting ''LIMITED''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2014.

TITLE II—OFFSETS

SEC. 201. CORRECTION TO WORKERS COMPENSATION OFFSET AGE.

(a) RETIREMENT AGE.—Section 224(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 424a(a)) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''the age of 65'' and inserting ''retirement age (as defined in section 216(l)(1))''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to any individual who attains 65 years of age on or after the date that is 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 202. ACCELERATED APPLICATION OF RELATIVE VALUE TARGETS FOR MISVALUED SERVICES IN THE MEDICARE PHYSICIAN FEE SCHEDULE.

Section 1848(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–4(c)) is amended—

(1) in subclause (VIII) of paragraph (2)(B)(v), as added by section 220(d)(2) of the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–93)—

(A) by striking ''2017'' and inserting ''2016''; and

(B) by redesignating such subclause as subclause (IX);

(2) in paragraph (2)(O)—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''2017 through 2020'' and inserting ''2016 through 2018'';

(B) in clause (iii), by striking ''2017'' and inserting ''2016''; and

(C) in clause (v), by inserting ''(or, for 2016, 1.0 percent)'' after ''0.5 percent''; and

(3) in paragraph (7), by striking ''2017'' and inserting ''2016''.

SEC. 203. CONSISTENT TREATMENT OF VACUUM ERECTION SYSTEMS IN MEDICARE PARTS B AND D.

Section 1834(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(a)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(I) TREATMENT OF VACUUM ERECTION SYSTEMS.—Effective for items and services furnished on and after July 1, 2015, vacuum erection systems described as prosthetic devices described in section 1861(s)(8) shall be treated in the same manner as erectile dysfunction drugs are treated for purposes of section 1860D-2(e)(2)(A).''.

SEC. 204. ONE-YEAR DELAY OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ORAL-ONLY POLICY UNDER MEDICARE ESRD PROSPECTIVE PAYMENT SYSTEM.

Section 632(b)(1) of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (42 U.S.C. 1395rr note), as amended by section 217(a)(1) of the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-93), is amended by striking ''2024'' and inserting ''2025''.

SEC. 205. MODIFICATION RELATING TO INLAND WATERWAYS TRUST FUND FINANCING RATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4042(b)(2)(A) is amended to read as follows:

''(A) The Inland Waterways Trust Fund financing rate is 29 cents per gallon.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to fuel used after March 31, 2015.

SEC. 206. CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYER ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) EMPLOYMENT TAXES.—Chapter 25 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 3511. CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYER ORGANIZATIONS.

''(a) GENERAL RULES.—For purposes of the taxes, and other obligations, imposed by this subtitle—

''(1) a certified professional employer organization shall be treated as the employer (and no other person shall be treated as the employer) of any work site employee performing services for any customer of such organization, but only with respect to remuneration remitted by such organization to such work site employee, and

''(2) the exemptions, exclusions, definitions, and other rules which are based on type of employer and which would (but for paragraph (1)) apply shall apply with respect to such taxes imposed on such remuneration.

''(b) SUCCESSOR EMPLOYER STATUS.—For purposes of sections 3121(a)(1), 3231(e)(2)(C), and 3306(b)(1)—

''(1) a certified professional employer organization entering into a service contract with a

customer with respect to a work site employee shall be treated as a successor employer and the customer shall be treated as a predecessor employer during the term of such service contract, and

''(2) a customer whose service contract with a certified professional employer organization is terminated with respect to a work site employee shall be treated as a successor employer and the certified professional employer organization shall be treated as a predecessor employer.

''(c) LIABILITY OF CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYER ORGANIZATION.—Solely for purposes of its liability for the taxes and other obligations imposed by this subtitle—

''(1) a certified professional employer organization shall be treated as the employer of any individual (other than a work site employee or a person described in subsection (f)) who is performing services covered by a contract meeting the requirements of section 7705(e)(2), but only with respect to remuneration remitted by such organization to such individual, and

''(2) the exemptions, exclusions, definitions, and other rules which are based on type of employer and which would (but for paragraph (1)) apply shall apply with respect to such taxes imposed on such remuneration.

''(d) TREATMENT OF CREDITS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of any credit specified in paragraph (2)—

''(A) such credit with respect to a work site employee performing services for the customer applies to the customer, not the certified professional employer organization,

''(B) the customer, and not the certified professional employer organization, shall take into account wages and employment taxes—

''(i) paid by the certified professional employer organization with respect to the work site employee, and

''(ii) for which the certified professional employer organization receives payment from the customer, and

''(C) the certified professional employer organization shall furnish the customer and the Secretary with any information necessary for the customer to claim such credit.

''(2) CREDITS SPECIFIED.—A credit is specified in this paragraph if such credit is allowed under—

''(A) section 41 (credit for increasing research activity),

''(B) section 45A (Indian employment credit),

''(C) section 45B (credit for portion of employer social security taxes paid with respect to employee cash tips),

''(D) section 45C (clinical testing expenses for certain drugs for rare diseases or conditions),

''(E) section 45R (employee health insurance expenses of small employers),

''(F) section 51 (work opportunity credit),

''(G) section 1396 (empowerment zone employment credit), and

''(H) any other section as provided by the Secretary.

''(e) SPECIAL RULE FOR RELATED PARTY.—This section shall not apply in the case of a customer which bears a relationship to a certified professional employer organization described in section 267(b) or 707(b). For purposes of the preceding sentence, such sections shall be applied by substituting '10 percent' for '50 percent'.

''(f) SPECIAL RULE FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.—For purposes of the taxes imposed under this subtitle, an individual with net earnings from self-employment derived from the customer's trade or business (including a partner in a partnership that is a customer) is not a work site employee with respect to remuneration paid by a certified professional employer organization.

''(g) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND OBLIGATIONS.—The Secretary shall develop such reporting and recordkeeping rules, regulations, and procedures as the Secretary determines necessary or appropriate to ensure compliance with this title by certified professional employer organizations or persons that have been so certified. Such rules shall include—

''(1) notification of the Secretary in such manner as the Secretary shall prescribe in the case of the commencement or termination of a service contract described in section 7705(e)(2) between such a person and a customer, and the employer identification number of such customer,

''(2) such information as the Secretary determines necessary for the customer to claim the credits identified in subsection (d) and the manner in which such information is to be provided, as prescribed by the Secretary, and

''(3) such other information as the Secretary determines is essential to promote compliance with respect to the credits identified in subsection (d) and section 3302, and

shall be designed in a manner which streamlines, to the extent possible, the application of requirements of this section and section 7705, the exchange of information between a certified professional employer organization and its customers, and the reporting and recordkeeping obligations of the certified professional employer organization.

''(h) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this section.''.

(b) CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYER ORGANIZATION DEFINED.—Chapter 79 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 7705. CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYER ORGANIZATIONS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this title, the term 'certified professional employer organization' means a person who applies to be treated as a certified professional employer organization for purposes of section 3511 and has been certified by the Secretary as meeting the requirements of subsection (b).

''(b) CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—A person meets the requirements of this subsection if such person—

''(1) demonstrates that such person (and any owner, officer, and other persons as may be specified in regulations) meets such requirements as the Secretary shall establish, including requirements with respect to tax status, background, experience, business location, and annual financial audits,

''(2) agrees that it will satisfy the bond and independent financial review requirements of subsection (c) on an ongoing basis,

''(3) agrees that it will satisfy such reporting obligations as may be imposed by the Secretary,

''(4) computes its taxable income using an accrual method of accounting unless the Secretary approves another method,

''(5) agrees to verify on such periodic basis as the Secretary may prescribe that it continues to meet the requirements of this subsection, and

''(6) agrees to notify the Secretary in writing within such time as the Secretary may prescribe of any change that materially affects the continuing accuracy of any agreement or information that was previously made or provided under this subsection.

''(c) BOND AND INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL REVIEW.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An organization meets the requirements of this paragraph if such organization—

''(A) meets the bond requirements of paragraph (2), and

''(B) meets the independent financial review requirements of paragraph (3).

''(2) BOND.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A certified professional employer organization meets the requirements of this paragraph if the organization has posted a bond for the payment of taxes under subtitle C (in a form acceptable to the Secretary) that is in an amount at least equal to the amount specified in subparagraph (B).

''(B) AMOUNT OF BOND.—For the period April 1 of any calendar year through March 31 of the following calendar year, the amount of the bond required is equal to the greater of—

''(i) 5 percent of the organization's liability under section 3511 for taxes imposed by subtitle C during the preceding calendar year (but not to exceed $1,000,000), or

''(ii) $50,000.

''(3) INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL REVIEW REQUIREMENTS.—A certified professional employer organization meets the requirements of this paragraph if such organization—

''(A) has, as of the most recent audit date, caused to be prepared and provided to the Secretary (in such manner as the Secretary may prescribe) an opinion of an independent certified public accountant as to whether the certified professional employer organization's financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and

''(B) provides to the Secretary an assertion regarding Federal employment tax payments and an examination level attestation on such assertion from an independent certified public accountant not later than the last day of the second month beginning after the end of each calendar quarter.

Such assertion shall state that the organization has withheld and made deposits of all taxes imposed by chapters 21, 22, and 24 in accordance with regulations imposed by the Secretary for such calendar quarter and such examination level attestation shall state that such assertion is fairly stated, in all material respects.

''(4) CONTROLLED GROUP RULES.—For purposes of the requirements of paragraphs (2) and (3), all certified professional employer organizations that are members of a controlled group within the meaning of sections 414(b) and (c) shall be treated as a single organization.

''(5) FAILURE TO FILE ASSERTION AND ATTESTATION.—If the certified professional employer organization fails to file the assertion and attestation required by paragraph (3) with respect to any calendar quarter, then the requirements of paragraph (3) with respect to such failure shall be treated as not satisfied for the period beginning on the due date for such attestation.

''(6) AUDIT DATE.—For purposes of paragraph (3)(A), the audit date shall be six months after the completion of the organization's fiscal year.

''(d) SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may suspend or revoke a certification of any person under subsection (b) for purposes of section 3511 if the Secretary determines that such person is not satisfying the agreements or requirements of subsections (b) or (c), or fails to satisfy applicable accounting, reporting, payment, or deposit requirements.

''(e) WORK SITE EMPLOYEE.—For purposes of this title—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The term 'work site employee' means, with respect to a certified professional employer organization, an individual who—

''(A) performs services for a customer pursuant to a contract which is between such customer and the certified professional employer organization and which meets the requirements of paragraph (2), and

''(B) performs services at a work site meeting the requirements of paragraph (3).

''(2) SERVICE CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS.—A contract meets the requirements of this paragraph with respect to an individual performing services for a customer if such contract is in writing and provides that the certified professional employer organization shall—

''(A) assume responsibility for payment of wages to such individual, without regard to the receipt or adequacy of payment from the customer for such services,

''(B) assume responsibility for reporting, withholding, and paying any applicable taxes under subtitle C, with respect to such individual's wages, without regard to the receipt or adequacy of payment from the customer for such services,

''(C) assume responsibility for any employee benefits which the service contract may require the certified professional employer organization to provide, without regard to the receipt or adequacy of payment from the customer for such benefits,

''(D) assume responsibility for recruiting, hiring, and firing workers in addition to the customer's responsibility for recruiting, hiring, and firing workers,

''(E) maintain employee records relating to such individual, and

''(F) agree to be treated as a certified professional employer organization for purposes of section 3511 with respect to such individual.

''(3) WORK SITE COVERAGE REQUIREMENT.—The requirements of this paragraph are met with respect to an individual if at least 85 percent of the individuals performing services for the customer at the work site where such individual performs services are subject to 1 or more contracts with the certified professional employer organization which meet the requirements of paragraph (2) (but not taking into account those individuals who are excluded employees within the meaning of section 414(q)(5)).

''(f) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE.—The Secretary shall make available to the public the name and address of—

''(1) each person certified as a professional employer organization under subsection (a), and

''(2) each person whose certification as a professional employer organization is suspended or revoked under subsection (d).

''(g) DETERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT STATUS.—Except to the extent necessary for purposes of section 3511, nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the determination of who is an employee or employer for purposes of this title.

''(h) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this section.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 3302 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(h) TREATMENT OF CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYER ORGANIZATIONS.—If a certified professional employer organization (as defined in section 7705), or a customer of such organization, makes a contribution to the State's unemployment fund with respect to wages paid to a work site employee, such certified professional employer organization shall be eligible for the credits available under this section with respect to such contribution.''.

(2) Section 3303(a) is amended—

(A) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (3) and inserting ''; and'' and by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:

''(4) if the taxpayer is a certified professional employer organization (as defined in section 7705) that is treated as the employer under section 3511, such certified professional employer organization is permitted to collect and remit, in accordance with paragraphs (1), (2), and (3), contributions during the taxable year to the State unemployment fund with respect to a work site employee.'', and

(B) in the last sentence—

(i) by striking ''paragraphs (1), (2), and (3)'' and inserting ''paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4)'', and

(ii) by striking ''paragraph (1), (2), or (3)'' and inserting ''paragraph (1), (2), (3), or (4)''.

(3) Section 6053(c) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(8) CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYER ORGANIZATIONS.—For purposes of any report required by this subsection, in the case of a certified professional employer organization that is treated under section 3511 as the employer of a work site employee, the customer with respect to whom a work site employee performs services shall be the employer for purposes of reporting under this section and the certified professional employer organization shall furnish to the customer and the Secretary any information the Secretary prescribes as necessary to complete such reporting no later than such time as the Secretary shall prescribe.''.

(4) Section 6652 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(n) FAILURE TO MAKE REPORTS REQUIRED UNDER SECTIONS 3511, 6053(c)(8), AND 7705.—In the case of a failure to make a report required under section 3511, 6053(c)(8), or 7705 which contains the information required by such section on the date prescribed therefor (determined with regard to any extension of time for filing), there shall be paid (on notice and demand by the Secretary and in the same manner as tax) by the person failing to make such report, an amount equal to $50 for each report with respect to which there was such a failure. In the case of any failure due to negligence or intentional disregard the preceding sentence shall be applied by substituting '$100' for '$50'.''.

(d) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The table of sections for chapter 25 is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''Sec. 3511. Certified professional employer organizations.''.

(2) The table of sections for chapter 79 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 7704 the following new item:

''Sec. 7705. Certified professional employer organizations.''.

(f) USER FEES.—Section 7528(b) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(4) CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYER ORGANIZATIONS.—The fee charged under the program in connection with the certification by the Secretary of a professional employer organization under section 7705 shall be an annual fee not to exceed $1,000 per year.''.

(g) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to wages for services performed on or after January 1 of the first calendar year beginning more than 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall establish the certification program described in section 7705(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as added by subsection (b), not later than 6 months before the effective date determined under paragraph (1).

(h) NO INFERENCE.—Nothing contained in this section or the amendments made by this section shall be construed to create any inference with respect to the determination of who is an employee or employer—

(1) for Federal tax purposes (other than the purposes set forth in the amendments made by this section), or

(2) for purposes of any other provision of law.

SEC. 207. EXCLUSION OF DIVIDENDS FROM CONTROLLED FOREIGN CORPORATIONS FROM THE DEFINITION OF PERSONAL HOLDING COMPANY INCOME FOR PURPOSES OF THE PERSONAL HOLDING COMPANY RULES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 543(a)(1) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) and (D) as subparagraphs (D) and (E), respectively, and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

''(C) dividends received by a United States shareholder (as defined in section 951(b)) from a controlled foreign corporation (as defined in section 957(a)),''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this Act shall apply to taxable years ending on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 208. INFLATION ADJUSTMENT FOR CERTAIN CIVIL PENALTIES UNDER THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.

(a) FAILURE TO FILE TAX RETURN OR PAY TAX.—Section 6651 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(i) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any return required to be filed in a calendar year beginning after 2014, the $135 dollar amount under subsection (a) shall be increased by such dollar amount multiplied by the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) determined by substituting 'calendar year 2013' for 'calendar year 1992' in subparagraph (B) thereof.

''(2) ROUNDING.—If any amount adjusted under paragraph (1) is not a multiple of $5, such amount shall be rounded to the next lowest multiple of $5.''.

(b) FAILURE TO FILE CERTAIN INFORMATION RETURNS, REGISTRATION STATEMENTS, ETC.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 6652(c) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(6) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any failure relating to a return required to be filed in a calendar year beginning after 2014, each of the dollar amounts under paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) shall be increased by such dollar amount multiplied by the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) determined by substituting 'calendar year 2013' for 'calendar year 1992' in subparagraph (B) thereof.

''(B) ROUNDING.—If any amount adjusted under subparagraph (A)—

''(i) is not less than $5,000 and is not a multiple of $500, such amount shall be rounded to the next lowest multiple of $500, and

''(ii) is not described in clause (i) and is not a multiple of $5, such amount shall be rounded to the next lowest multiple of $5.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) The last sentence of section 6652(c)(1)(A) is amended by striking ''the first sentence of this subparagraph shall be applied by substituting '$100' for '$20' and'' and inserting ''in applying the first sentence of this subparagraph, the amount of the penalty for each day during which a failure continues shall be $100 in lieu of the amount otherwise specified, and''.

(B) Section 6652(c)(2)(C)(ii) is amended by striking ''the first sentence of paragraph (1)(A)'' and all that follows and inserting ''in applying the first sentence of paragraph (1)(A), the amount of the penalty for each day during which a failure continues shall be $100 in lieu of the amount otherwise specified, and in lieu of applying the second sentence of paragraph (1)(A), the maximum penalty under paragraph (1)(A) shall not exceed $50,000, and''.

(c) OTHER ASSESSABLE PENALTIES WITH RESPECT TO THE PREPARATION OF TAX RETURNS FOR OTHER PERSONS.—Section 6695 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(h) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any failure relating to a return or claim for refund filed in a calendar year beginning after 2014, each of the dollar amounts under subsections (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), and (g) shall be increased by such dollar amount multiplied by the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) determined by substituting 'calendar year 2013' for 'calendar year 1992' in subparagraph (B) thereof.

''(2) ROUNDING.—If any amount adjusted under subparagraph (A)—

''(A) is not less than $5,000 and is not a multiple of $500, such amount shall be rounded to the next lowest multiple of $500, and

''(B) is not described in clause (i) and is not a multiple of $5, such amount shall be rounded to the next lowest multiple of $5.''.

(d) FAILURE TO FILE PARTNERSHIP RETURN.—Section 6698 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any return required to be filed in a calendar year beginning after 2014, the $195 dollar amount under subsection (b)(1) shall be increased by such dollar

amount multiplied by the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) determined by substituting 'calendar year 2013' for 'calendar year 1992' in subparagraph (B) thereof.

''(2) ROUNDING.—If any amount adjusted under paragraph (1) is not a multiple of $5, such amount shall be rounded to the next lowest multiple of $5.''.

(e) FAILURE TO FILE S CORPORATION RETURN.—Section 6699 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any return required to be filed in a calendar year beginning after 2014, the $195 dollar amount under subsection (b)(1) shall be increased by such dollar amount multiplied by the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) determined by substituting 'calendar year 2013' for 'calendar year 1992' in subparagraph (B) thereof.

''(2) ROUNDING.—If any amount adjusted under paragraph (1) is not a multiple of $5, such amount shall be rounded to the next lowest multiple of $5.''.

(f) FAILURE TO FILE CORRECT INFORMATION RETURNS.—Section 6721(f)(1) is amended by striking ''For each fifth calendar year beginning after 2012'' and inserting ''In the case of any failure relating to a return required to be filed in a calendar year beginning after 2014''.

(g) FAILURE TO FURNISH CORRECT PAYEE STATEMENTS.—Section 6722(f)(1) is amended by striking ''For each fifth calendar year beginning after 2012'' and inserting ''In the case of any failure relating to a statement required to be furnished in a calendar year beginning after 2014''.

(h) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to returns required to be filed after December 31, 2014.

SEC. 209. INCREASE IN CONTINUOUS LEVY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (3) of section 6331(h) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting ''and by substituting '30 percent' for '15 percent' in the case of any specified payment due to a Medicare provider or supplier under title XVIII of the Social Security Act.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to payments made after 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 647.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, many of us know the joys and responsibilities of being a parent. We spend years ensuring our children have the skills and education to reach their full potential as they grow and enter adulthood.

Many of these everyday responsibilities parents face can and often do increase tremendously when they have a child with a disability. Today, we have an opportunity to ease some of those challenges.

The Achieving a Better Life Experience Act, commonly known as the ABLE Act, will allow those with disabilities and their caregivers to have the stability and security of knowing that they can save and provide for their education, housing, and medical expenses in the future.

In short, the ABLE Act lets those with disabilities set up tax-free savings accounts to help them manage the costs of medical care, housing, transportation, and continued education. This will allow those who are on Medicaid and SSI to work, earn, and save more while still receiving these important benefits.

It is important to note that these savings accounts will be available to all individuals with disabilities and their caretakers, not just those on Medicaid and SSI.

This is a commonsense bill that will aid those with disabilities and their caretakers so they can live more fulfilling, happy lives and have the ability to provide for a better future.

□ 1530

At the same time, this will not burden taxpayers since the cost of the ABLE Act is fully offset by the savings provisions in this bill. These offsets are a balanced and fair mix of savings provisions that all Members should be able to support.

This bill is supported by more than 70 leading organizations and health care professionals, including the American Association of People with Disabilities, the Autism Society of America, Autism Speaks, the Brain Injury Association of America, Easter Seals, the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities, the National Disability Institute, the National Down Syndrome Society, the National Federation of the Blind, and The Arc.

They support this bill because they know it will help more disabled individuals help themselves. That is all I can ask for—that is all anyone can ask for—and it is something I am pleased this legislation provides. This is why the ABLE Act has 380 cosponsors in the House and 74 cosponsors in the Senate.

I want to particularly thank the sponsor of this legislation, my good friend from Florida, Representative ANDER CRENSHAW, as well as Representatives SESSIONS, MCMORRIS RODGERS, and VAN HOLLEN for their diligence in helping us bring this legislation to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, it is not every day that we have a chance to clear major hurdles in front of people who simply need a hand up. That is what this bill does, and I encourage all Members to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

With this bill, we can help millions of Americans who are living with disabilities become more financially secure. Just as families today can open tax-free accounts to save for the future costs of college for their children, this legislation would make it easier for families to save money for disability-related expenses like transportation, housing, and health prevention and wellness. The ABLE Act aims to ease the financial burden on these individuals and their families.

I applaud the efforts of Congressmen CRENSHAW, VAN HOLLEN, SESSIONS, and you, Chairman CAMP, among others.

The CBO estimates the cost of the bill will be $2 billion over 10 years. The bill is paid for through $638 million in revenue offsets and $1.4 billion in spending cuts.

There has been active bipartisan work on paying for this bill, and there is broad agreement on the revenue offsets. There is some opposition to the Medicare offsets included in the bill because the legislation uses Medicare savings for nonhealth purposes.

We have challenges ahead, including important work on SGR. I understand the concern about Medicare offsets. I think it is important as we proceed on this bill to stress that it must not be considered a precedent for using Medicare savings to pay for unrelated costs associated with tax changes.

The ABLE Act provides much-needed relief, as we have said, to families and their children with disabilities. This is an important step forward for them in a very personal way. I support its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW), who is the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding the time.

Let me first just say thank you to Chairman CAMP, the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, for his hard work in bringing this bill out of the Ways and Means Committee with a unanimous vote. I thank him and his staff who have worked long and hard to bring this bill to the floor today.

On a personal note, as Chairman CAMP leaves the Congress this year, I want to express my thanks and gratitude for his friendship over the years and for his leadership not only for the people of Michigan, but for the people of America. You will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, when we talk about the ABLE Act, I think that this is a great example of what can be accomplished when people work together. People say we don't always work together, but here is a case where people have come together—Democrats and Republicans, the House working with the Senate—for the common good of the people of America.

I think all of us probably know somebody, either a family member or maybe a friend of the family—somebody—who has a disability. It might be Down syndrome, or it might be autism, or it might be some other disability, but sometimes, I don't think we understand the difficulty and the challenges

that those individuals and their families face. They are beyond our comprehension sometimes because we are lucky in the way that we can live.

The ABLE Act seeks to address that inequity. It seeks to help those people who so often society overlooks or maybe the government overlooks. The ABLE Act is very simple, it is very straightforward, it is understandable, and we have come to this after 8 years of hard work.

When I first filed the bill in 2006, there were very few cosponsors of this legislation, but over the years, an awful lot of people on both sides of the aisle have worked long and hard to make this legislation better. Some of the individuals who have these disabilities come to Washington every year. They have gone out, and they have talked to their individual Representatives.

That is one of the reasons we have 380 cosponsors in the House. It is because those individuals have gone to an office and have sat down and have said, ''This is something that would make a difference in my life.'' And those Members have said, ''We want to help.'' The same thing has happened in the Senate.

You heard Chairman CAMP talk about how that takes place. Individuals with disabilities can create a tax-free savings account, put their own money in that account, and have a chance to actually save for their futures.

Those dollars grow tax free, and as long as they are used for qualified expenses, such as medical expenses or maybe educational or job training expenses, they can use those proceeds. We already allow folks to help themselves by setting up tax-free savings accounts to save for college. It is called a 529.

We allow people to save for their retirements through a tax-free savings account called an IRA or a 401(k), and we allow people to save for their health insurance by the creation of health savings accounts. It only seems fair to me and to all of us that we would provide the same sort of treatment to those individuals who are less fortunate than we are.

Now, we have a situation in which the ABLE accounts will open a door to a bright future to millions of Americans. It will give those individuals a chance to realize their hopes and their dreams, to be part of the American Dream, and to be able to achieve their full potential.

I can't think of anything that is more rewarding. I can't think of any greater privilege than to speak out for people who can't always speak for themselves. This ABLE Act will bring justice, and it will bring peace of mind to millions of American families who live with disabilities every day. I think that is something worth fighting for.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is now my real pleasure to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), another person like Mr. CRENSHAW and others who have been working so hard on this issue for a long time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, let me start by thanking my colleague, Ranking Member LEVIN, for yielding but, most importantly, for his partnership on this important bipartisan legislation.

I also want to thank my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. Chairman CAMP, thank you for all of your efforts and diligence in getting us to this point. To our fellow cosponsors—Congressman CRENSHAW, Congresswoman MCMORRIS RODGERS, Congressman SESSIONS, and others—thank you for all you have done to get us to this point.

To our colleagues on the other side of the Capitol, Senator BOB CASEY and Senator RICHARD BURR, this has been a team effort.

Mr. Speaker, like Congressman CRENSHAW, I want to especially recognize and honor those families from across the country who actually worked so hard over so many years to get us to this point. Many of those families are in the gallery today. Others are watching from around the country.

At a time when there is deep cynicism about the ability or lack of ability of Congress and the government to function, they broke through that cynicism and are an example to others of what we can do and can accomplish by working together.

Because of their efforts, as we heard, we have 380 cosponsors, Republicans and Democrats, in the House and 74 United States Senators, Republicans and Democrats. With that broad bipartisan and bicameral support, everyone worked together to get to this point.

We have heard what this does. It provides an opportunity for families with kids or other members of the families with disabilities to put aside a little money, tax free, to help defray some of the extra medical costs that are incurred by those families.

It is a benefit available to families who are sending their kids to college, and we should make sure that we provide that kind of benefit to families who are trying to make sure their loved ones are cared for.

That is what this does. It is about equity. It is about fairness. It is about making sure that every child has the opportunity to reach his or her full potential. It is a time-honored American value, and that is why this has attracted such broad support.

Mr. Speaker, no single piece of legislation—nothing we can do here—can single-handedly eliminate the additional medical and financial burdens faced by families living and loving and caring for their children with disabilities every day, but this act, this ABLE Act, can help ease that financial burden and can help assist families in some small way in ensuring that their children receive the love and care they deserve.

I thank my colleagues for coming together on this important effort, and I hope it gets through the Senate and to the President's desk, where it can be signed soon.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, everybody, for being a part of this effort.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). The Chair would remind all Members that the rules require Members to refrain from referencing occupants in the gallery.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington State (Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS), the distinguished chair of the House Republican Conference.

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for your tremendous leadership.

To my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in the House and in the Senate, I thank them for their tremendous support.

Mr. Speaker, I join in rising in strong support of H.R. 647, the Achieving a Better Life Experience Act, the ABLE Act, which will help millions of Americans and families save for their futures.

Today is the day we have been waiting for, for a long time, and I am so proud to stand here with my colleagues, with the advocates who are here, with the families across the Nation who have spent countless days, weeks, years pushing us across the finish line.

For me, personally, this bill is about a little boy who was diagnosed with Down syndrome 3 days after he was born. His diagnosis came with a list of future complications: endless doctors' visits and therapy sessions, potential heart defects, even early Alzheimer's.

Seven years later, as the mom of that little boy, nothing has given me greater joy than watching Cole grow and the tremendous impact that he is already having on this world.

When Cole was born, my husband and I were told don't put any assets in his name because he may need to qualify for one of these programs in the future. That is the wrong message to send to parents who are ready to save—who are ready to sacrifice—to ensure that their children have an opportunity for a better life.

The ABLE Act is going to change this. It is going to empower individuals with disabilities and empower their families through tax-free savings accounts to save for college, retirement, and other future expenses.

As a part of America's new Congress, we are here to advance real solutions, solutions to make people's lives better, solutions that will empower all Americans no matter where you come from, no matter how much money to your name, or what challenges you face.

The ABLE Act is one of the many ways that we are going to do that. It is going to empower millions, including my son Cole, with the opportunity for a better life.

I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support H.R. 647.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT), another distinguished member of our committee.

□ 1545

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by being very clear. I support the ABLE Act itself. It is a compassionate bill that seeks to expand the common good by providing tax-free savings accounts for disabled Americans. If we were voting on that bill today, I would strongly support it. But the ABLE Act isn't the issue here. The issue is how we are going to pay for it. And the proposal we are considering today is just one that jeopardizes the future of our safety net.

Newt Gingrich talked about wanting to have Medicare wither on the vine. That has always been the desire of the Republicans. So today we are setting out on an unprecedented and dangerous course in the funding of this bill.

In a last-minute development, the Congress is now considering using cuts to Medicare to offset the cost of this legislation, taking away from the old people and giving it to these folks. That is their idea of a balanced act.

There has been no serious debate. There has never been a hearing and no thoughtful discussion of the implications of this proposal. If we vote to make these cuts, we will take the first step down a slippery slope that directly undermines the social safety net.

I have checked with the experts in the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service and couldn't find one example in which Congress has used Medicare as a piggy bank to pay for a tax bill. And that is what this bill is, basically, a tax exemption. It is a good idea, but are we going to use Medicare to pay for it? Because, mark my words, when it comes time to offer another tax break, my colleagues on the other side will come after Medicare again; and the next time, the cut will be deeper and easier because we did it today.

I believe that we should not be a part of beginning to rip Medicare at the very bottom. It looks like just a little bit. And they will say, oh, it is only a tiny bit, and it is not going to affect anybody. But you are establishing a precedent that you will hear again on this floor. For that reason, I intend to vote "no."

AARP,
Washington, DC, December 3, 2014.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: As the largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization representing the interests of Americans age 50 and older and their families, AARP urges you to reject using Medicare savings as an offset to pay for non-healthcare programs, including the cost of the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act of 2014.

AARP has consistently advocated against using permanent reductions in Medicare to pay for other unrelated government spending. While we agree it is important to help individuals with disabilities maintain health, independence, and quality of life, we oppose using Medicare savings to finance tax expenditures or other non-healthcare programs.

The ABLE Act establishes tax-exempt savings plans for persons with disabilities, making it much easier for them and their families to save for future expenses. Although ABLE accounts are only available for individuals under the age of 26, the savings accrued will help with living expenses as the person ages. This is especially important because at ages 50–64, adults with disabilities are less than half as likely to be employed as those without disabilities.

However, establishing the ABLE program should not be achieved by tapping into Medicare savings. This is especially true at a time when Medicare faces its own long term funding needs, and when Congress will shortly need to find savings to pay for either permanent Medicare SGR reform or another temporary "doc fix" in 2015. We urge you to remove Medicare offsets from the ABLE Act.

Sincerely,

NANCY A. LEAMOND,
Executive Vice President,
State & National Group.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Washington State (Mr. REICHERT), a member of the Ways and Means Committee and chairman of the Human Resources Subcommittee.

I also ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Washington control the remainder of my time.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman CAMP for yielding and for all of his hard work on this legislation and for bringing it forward today.

I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW), too, for his hard work.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 647, as amended, also known as the ABLE Act. And we have heard what ABLE stands for, but let me just repeat it very slowly so people can understand really what this is about: achieving better life experience for people who have special needs and who are disabled.

We all strive to have better lives, but some people in this world need a little help, and that is what we are doing today. Some people might disagree with some of the ways we are going about this. The bottom line is we are helping people that need a little special help, a little extra help from us, and we are going to step up and do that.

This is a bipartisan piece of legislation. It is designed to help those individuals with disabilities overcome the hurdles that they often face holding a job and trying to live independently.

Here is the problem: if someone with a disability works and achieves even a modest level of savings, they lose their assets to certain safety net programs, such as Medicaid and SSI. This can discourage individuals from pursuing work opportunities and gaining the independence that comes through work.

Here is the solution: this legislation today. This is the solution, Mr. Speaker. It helps individuals, regardless of disability, to achieve the best possible quality of life by ensuring continued access to essential safety net programs as well as tax-free savings accounts, allowing them to pursue independence and community involvement.

These ABLE accounts would be used to cover a wide variety of expenses related to addressing and overcoming the disabilities, and they would grow tax-free. These costs quickly add up, as needs can range from uncovered health care needs, education costs, housing needs, transportation costs, assistive technology, speech-generating devices and other technology, and personal support services.

This bill is critical because it allows individuals with ABLE accounts to maintain their eligibility for benefits while working and saving more for their future needs. ABLE account balances and withdrawals are completely excluded for purposes of Medicaid; and under the SSI program, the first $100,000 in account balances would be excluded from being counted as resources, meaning disabled individuals could save far more than today, while remaining eligible for benefits along the way.

This bill is about real people—we have heard some of the stories already this afternoon—real people who have real hopes and real dreams, dreams of being able to support themselves and plan for the future, dreams for a better life, and people like my godson, Kyle.

Now, Kyle today is 20 years old, but Kyle weighs 60 pounds and is in a wheelchair. Kyle was diagnosed at 18 months old with cancer. He can't speak. Up to this point, Kyle has only been able to save $2,000. And once you reach that $2,000 level, that is it. If you go over that, you don't get the benefits. Imagine if you were the parents of Kyle, trying to save for his future, to maybe get a speech device so Mom and Dad can hear Kyle say "I love you," because he hasn't been able to say that. Imagine not being able to hear your child say, "I love you, Mom. I love you, Dad."

This savings account allows people to save that money for their children, to buy that technology, to get that wheelchair that costs $20,000. Some of us who are able-bodied and don't understand the disability that people live with every day, you see a wheelchair and there is no cost attached. We see people in wheelchairs, $20,000 and more for people who can only use maybe their index finger and a thumb to operate the toggle switch on a wheelchair so they can go from point A to point B.

I am proud to be Kyle's godfather. When you wheel Kyle into a room, he lights up the room, and we want to give him a better life. That is what this bill does.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself an additional 30 seconds.

I would like to thank the cosponsors of this bill, the 379 Members. But more than anyone, I would really like to especially thank the families that have been working on this for years. It has been an honor to visit with them, to

get to know them, and to get to know their families.

I urge a ''yes'' vote on this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I think everyone here would agree that the goals of the ABLE Act are worthy. The bill's title stands for achieving better life experience, and it would allow for the creation of tax-free savings accounts to benefit individuals with disabilities. These accounts would provide a way for families raising children with disabilities to set aside savings for their child's care.

What I am concerned about is the offsets. The bill before us today uses Medicare cuts to pay for a tax break. Medicare is a program that seniors and people with disabilities depend upon for their health care, and we should not be cutting Medicare to pay for this bill.

Meanwhile, we all know that our efforts to permanently repeal and replace the SGR in the lameduck are, unfortunately, falling flat. And while I hope we can still pass SGR this month, if it does not get done, we are going to have a Medicare bill that will cost tens of billions of dollars in March, and Republicans will force us to pay for every last dime, and here we are, using $1.2 billion in health offsets for non-health bills.

In addition to the Medicare offsets, there are other offsets included in this bill that are troublesome. The provision on certified professional employer organizations could have a negative effect on worker rights, including collective bargaining and organizing and worker protections.

I say again, the goals of the ABLE Act are laudable. I hope that our Senate colleagues will send the bill back to us without these offensive offsets so that we can enact a good law that we can all be proud of.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM), a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Imagine that sense when you get the word that a new baby has been diagnosed with something that was completely unanticipated. That has been a situation that has been present in the lives of constituents, family, friends, and those of us who are nearby.

I think there is a hopefulness today, Mr. Speaker, about what we are talking about. And there are so many people that have run for office with the idea of trying to get something done, the notion that you have this strong of a voice all coming together saying, You know what? We may not be able to agree about what time of day it is in this Congress, but we can agree that we all ought to come together to help those who are unable to help themselves or to help those who want to care for the ones who are around them. So it is also a good lesson to learn about the tenacity of Americans who have decided to substantively engage this place over a period of years.

A number of minutes ago, we heard from the gentleman from Florida, Representative CRENSHAW, who talked about introducing this back in 2006. He was tenacious, and he was joined by others, and they pushed and they pushed. Now they have accomplished something, and we are on the verge of, actually, a great moment.

So I am here to celebrate. I am here to celebrate with my colleagues who took the initiative. I am here to celebrate others who came alongside. But most of all, Mr. Speaker, we are here to celebrate the lives of those who are being supported by this act.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from the District of Columbia, ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I have been working with Mr. CRENSHAW, with Senator CASEY, and I congratulate them on this bill. But I want to say how deeply I regret that there are extraneous provisions in the bill concerning worker protections and offsets that keep it from being the bipartisan bill that it means to be, or else we wouldn't have seen virtually the whole House on the bill. So I have come to speak for the underlying bill and to hope that those provisions will somehow be swept aside and we can have the bill that I think most who signed on thought they were signing.

We talk on both sides of the aisle, as well we should, about personal responsibility, but what we have been doing until this time was leaving the disabled dependent on their own parents or on charities without any way to liberate themselves from others. I think about the parents of 20-year-old autistic brothers who kept them locked up and had no way to liberate them or to care for them.

Most woeful is dependence on charities who, themselves, get tax exemptions to take care of people who need them, and they do an excellent job. But, if we are going to give a tax break to people who take care of disabled people, surely there should be a tax benefit for them to take care of themselves.

And just consider this: most disabled people, truly disabled people, are unable to find jobs of any kind; but if they do, they will not be the kinds of jobs normally that leave them able to open savings accounts, prepare for their own retirement, and the rest. So even if they were able to be employed, they still, of course, must look to other sources of income

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentlelady an additional 2 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. That is why this bill, in many ways, is so sensitive. It doesn't supplant any of the assistance that is necessary, like Medicaid and their own insurance that they may have or SSI.

My own daughter, Katherine Felicia Norton, was the Global Down Syndrome ambassador this year. Katherine will probably not need one of these savings accounts. But I am here this afternoon to speak for all of those who do—and there are millions in our country—and to thank particularly the sponsors for what they are trying to do with this bill.

I thank my good friend for yielding to me.

□ 1600

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING), who is a cosponsor of the bill.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the time.

Earlier today I had the privilege of meeting with Kenneth Kelty and his mother, Jacqueline. They are from my district, and this is a family who would benefit directly from the ABLE Act and who shared their support of this important bill with me just this afternoon. Kenneth recently graduated from the University Participant Program at Western Carolina University, a program that allows students with disabilities to study side-by-side with other students at the university. In Kenneth's words, it was ''a chance to do all the same things as everyone else with nothing holding us back.'' Kenneth joined a fraternity, had a good time, learned a lot, was able to come back, has a job.

Mr. Speaker, just as the University Participant Program helps people with disabilities like Kenneth, so will this bipartisan ABLE Act. This bill will allow tax-free savings accounts for expenses such as housing, education, employment training. Similar to a 529 program college savings account, these accounts will help provide families with some peace of mind when trying to save for their children's long-term expenses.

So, Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support the ABLE Act.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the manager, Mr. LEVIN, for his kindness, as well as the manager for the majority, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and the many others who, along with myself, cosponsored this legislation.

It is very moving to have a moment of family on the floor of the House as I listen to Members recount their individual stories of those in their families and those of us who encounter our constituents with wonderful, beautiful children, many of whom fit squarely in this relief that is being given.

As I watched two twins grow up who are prized and special in our community, I could just imagine what their

mother and their late father would say about this opportunity. This legislation, H.R. 647, squarely answers our concerns.

I want to get to two points that I think are so important. We hear it all the time: it seems as if these are rich people trying to get money, but they are not. They may be working families and middle class families, and to be able to not deny them eligibility for Medicaid when there are severe health issues that many of these young people and children face, and also for them to be able to have SSI, which is sometimes a lifeline, to be able to put aside this savings that will help them in education and transportation—I hear it so often, training for employment; any of us who have dealt with Goodwill and seen what Goodwill does with young people whose parents bring them there—yet they need other ways of being able to respond, and they should not be denied higher education.

This bill allows the savings to be part of the higher education efforts that these parents want for their children, and sometimes the ability for independence with primary residence, what it says is that these young people, as they grow, have developmental possibilities and opportunities, and that there are no throwaway children, there are no throwaway young people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 1 minute.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the gentleman. There are no throwaway young people, and we should not throw them away.

I agree with my colleagues who have mentioned items that we would hope would be reframed, if you will, impacting workers' conditions and rights, provisions that may, in fact, impact Medicare. None of us who have committed ourselves to the strength of Medicare want to see that undermined. But I will say that the goodness of this legislation for my neighbors and my constituents whom I personally know, individuals whom I personally know—this is a lifeline.

I am very glad to speak on H.R. 647 for the lifeline that it provides for people who deserve it, and they do not in any way have the need or the desire to see the opportunities for their children and their young people be determined only by the limitations of their ability to provide for them.

This is an account. It is more than a savings account. It is a lifeline account to help give every American, no matter who they are, this equal opportunity and particularly those with disabilities.

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

Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot of stories today about people in need, about people with disabilities and special needs, and we have had some names attached to those stories, which really touches the hearts of those people that know those individuals, and I hope touches the hearts of the Members here in this Chamber when they hear the stories of people in need who need that special attention.

One key challenge for disabled individuals is that their access to certain safety net programs can be lost if they work. I want to just repeat that. It can be lost if they work and achieve even a modest level of savings. To overcome that challenge, the ABLE Act would help more individuals with disabilities save and live independently without losing access to critical programs like Medicaid and SSI.

Now, starting in 2015, States could create an ABLE program under which individuals with disabilities could start an ABLE account modeled after current section 529 savings accounts. Anyone—parents, grandparents, and other family members, and friends—could contribute to that account, which would grow tax free. Then when they need to withdraw from that account, those withdrawals would be tax free if spent on a wide variety of expenses related to helping them address and overcome their disability. That includes expenses like uncovered health care, education costs, housing needs, transportation costs, assistive technology, and others that I have mentioned earlier.

ABLE ACCOUNT DETAILS

One key challenge for disabled individuals is that their access to certain safety-net programs can be lost if they work and achieve even a modest level of savings.

To overcome that challenge, the ABLE Act would help more individuals with disabilities save and live independently without losing access to critical programs like Medicaid and SSI.

Starting in 2015, States could create an ABLE program, under which individuals with disabilities could start an ABLE account, modeled after current Section 529 savings accounts.

Anyone—parents, grandparents, and other family and friends—could contribute to their ABLE account, which would grow tax-free.

Then when they need to withdraw from the account, those withdrawals would be tax free if spent on a wide variety of expenses related to helping them address and overcome their disability.

That includes expenses like uncovered health care, education costs, housing needs, transportation costs, assistive technology, and personal support services.

Critically, individuals with ABLE accounts could maintain their eligibility for means-tested benefits while working and saving more for their future needs.

ABLE account balances and withdrawals are completely excluded for purposes of Medicaid.

And under the SSI program, the first $100,000 in account balances would be excluded from being counted as resources, meaning disabled individuals could save far more than today while remaining eligible for benefits along the way.

This change will go a long way to easing the minds of disabled individuals and those around them.

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

Mr. LEVIN. Let me ask my colleague if he is ready to close?

Mr. REICHERT. I am waiting for one other speaker. If the gentleman has another speaker, it would be helpful.

Mr. LEVIN. I do not.

Mr. REICHERT. I guess we are ready to close then, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. LEVIN. Okay. I would like to give your colleague a chance, but shall we proceed? Is that okay?

Mr. REICHERT. Yes, we are prepared to close.

Mr. LEVIN. Okay. I can do so very briefly. I think we face a somewhat unusual situation here. We have an opportunity to help people who have some very major challenges, including challenges related to their health, and so on balance I think there is a need for us to act, and so therefore I support this bill.

I just want us to remember, in a sense, the unusual opportunity that we have here to help millions of people who are living with disabilities that affect their lives, including their basic health status.

I yield back the balance of our time.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the remaining time.

I thank the gentleman for his comments and words of support and, again, thank all 379 cosponsors of this bipartisan bill. I thank the Senate, which has worked with the Members of the House on this bill, making it a bicameral bill, and I think it is also important, Mr. Speaker, to point out the outside support that this bill has garnered.

Let me just name a few of those: the American Association of People With Disabilities, Autism Society of America, Autism Speaks, the Brain Injury Association of America, Easter Seals, National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities, National Disability Institute, National Down Syndrome Society, National Federation of the Blind, and the Arc, and that is just to name a few of the outside organizations and groups that support this legislation.

Again, this is important legislation designed to help individuals with disabilities overcome the hurdles that they often face in holding a job and living independently, and I appreciate again the comments of the ranking member, Mr. LEVIN, and urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the ABLE Act. I would like to commend the efforts of my colleagues Representative ANDER CRENSHAW and Representative CHRIS VAN HOLLEN for their leadership and steadfast commitment to moving this legislation forward. This is truly a great bipartisan effort that will help families across this country and I've been proud to join the hundreds of members of Congress who support it as a cosponsor.

For years, I have heard from constituents like Andrew and Tamara Selinger from West Hartford, who have advocated not only on behalf of their own family, but for families across

Connecticut and the country. Their two children have Fragile X syndrome and all they are asking for are the same opportunities for their children that other families have with the 529 plan, to have a savings mechanism that would enhance their lives and pay for non-covered medical expenses, while not minimizing the services that they receive. I have heard from people like Bob and Rosie Shea and Shannon Knall from our local Autism Speaks chapter and many others from families and groups advocating on behalf of individuals with disabilities, who have spoken so passionately about why this legislation is so important.

In spite of the partisan rancor that often dominates this building, this bill shows that we can come together in a meaningful way to act in a positive manner on behalf of the American people. It is truly inspiring how many advocates and families have made their voice heard on this legislation and I urge my colleagues to support this bill and finally get it across the finish line on behalf of families across this country.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the ABLE Act and its intent to promote greater independence and freedoms to disabled and handicapped Americans. However, I have great concerns with the policy that is being used to pay for this legislation because it would seek to further decrease Medicare reimbursement for physicians—an action that could threaten seniors' access to health care.

Since the passage of the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 and the creation of the sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula, Congress has passed 17 ''doc-fixes'' to prevent further cuts to physicians providing care for our seniors. Each year, the entire medical community must pick up the tab to prevent the disastrous cuts that would be implemented if the SGR was to take effect. The result? Medicare reimbursement for physicians has decreased by 17% when adjusted for inflation, while the cost of care continues to rise.

In the most recent ''doc fix'' passed in March of this year, a controversial provision required the annual re-evaluation of codes matching 0.5% of total physician spending from 2017 through 2020. If this target is not met, the difference would be taken in the form of an across the board cut. The proposed offset included in the ABLE Act would shift these targets forward and compress them, requiring CMS to identify misvalued services equal to at least 1% of total physician spending in 2016, and 0.5% in 2017 and 2018. Moving the target to 2016 and frontloading it to require the identification of 1% of total physician spending in the first year would make it extremely difficult to meet the target.

However, CMS has no intention of implementing this law. In the 2015 Medicare Fee Schedule Final Rule, CMS finalized a proposal to transition 10- and 90-day global period codes to 0-day global period codes in 2017, and 2018, respectively, yet CMS has not developed a methodology for how that transition will be made. This is a major overhaul of close to half of the currently existing CPT codes and will dramatically reform how physicians are paid. Because CMS has not yet developed a methodology for how this transition will occur, the nature of the impact is currently unknown, leading to further instability in physician payments. CMS notes in the Rule that due to the work necessary to make this change, they will not have resources to review certain other potentially misvalued services for the ''next several years'', almost certainly resulting in an across the board cut to all physicians caring for Medicare patients.

This continuous pursuit by our Congress and CMS to re-evaluate codes within the physician fee schedule will be detrimental to the medical community and to ensuring access for our Medicare beneficiaries. A 1% cut may not sound like much, but when taken in conjunction with the combined maximum penalties for not meeting the PQRS, physician value-based payment modifier, and EHR programs, the total potential cut faced by physicians will be −9% in 2016, and −11.5% in 2017. This does not even take into account the cuts required by the unresolved SGR.

Despite these concerns, I will support the ABLE Act today with the hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will recommit themselves in the new Congress to securing the Medicare program for all Americans.

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, more than 37 million people in the United States have a disability, including more than 500,000 in Minnesota. For parents raising a child with a disability, it is both emotionally and financially draining.

While, individuals with disabilities are living longer and more productive lives than ever before, they still face barriers to finding and holding employment, living independently, and taking care of their daily needs. We can make it easier for these families to bear this financial burden.

The bipartisan ABLE Act, or Achieving a Better Life Experience, will give individuals with disabilities new opportunities for them to save and pay for the costs of their disabilities. Using an ABLE account, they and their families are able to put aside money tax free and then use it to cover qualified expenses such as health, education, housing, and transportation.

For eight years, this legislation has been proposed, talked about, and pending in Congress. I became an early advocate for the ABLE Act when I was first elected to the House. It is supported by more than 70 health care and disability organizations. Now's the time to get this across the finish line and pass the ABLE Act to help families and individuals most in need.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, as a proud cosponsor of H.R. 647, the ABLE Act, I urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation today. If enacted, it would allow Americans living with a disability and their families to establish tax-exempt financial accounts so they can finance qualified expenses including education, housing, transportation, employment support, medical care and other personal necessities. Critically, it would not jeopardize eligibility for other important federal benefits like Medicaid and Social Security.

As a disabled American myself, I understand the financial strain a disability can have on individuals and their families. Not only do disabled Americans often face higher costs and lower incomes, but they are currently penalized for saving for their future. The ABLE Act will allow millions of Americans with disabilities to invest in their futures, live fulfilling lives and become more independent and less reliant on public benefits. It will empower them to build a better economic future for themselves and their families.

Disabled Americans deserve every opportunity to achieve their dreams. I urge the House to pass this important legislation as quickly as possible.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the Achieving a Better Life Experience Act or ''the ABLE Act,'' legislation I cosponsored that is designed to improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities by assisting in long-term financial planning.

As the founder and co-chair of the Coalition for Autism Research and Education, I understand the financial demands of raising a child with support needs. Education, housing, transportation, employment support, medical care, and other life expenses can quickly add up for persons with disabilities.

A study published this year in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Pediatrics found that the lifetime cost for an individual with ASD averages $1.4 million. These costs jump to $2.4 million when autism involves intellectual disability—an estimated 40 percent of individuals with autism also have intellectual disability.

Unfortunately, under current law, saving more than $2,000 jeopardizes access to services and supports, such as Social Security and Medicaid. If enacted, the ABLE Act—which establishes tax-exempt accounts, similar to the current 529 Education Savings Plans—will no longer force parents to choose between saving for their child's future and sacrificing the assistance their child requires.

I commend Speaker BOEHNER for bringing this bill to the floor today. It is especially timely for the autism community as we continue to address the looming crisis of aging out. Every year, 50,000 age-out of their support system and into a society that disincentivizes employment and financial security. Enactment of my legislation—the Autism CARES Act—earlier this year began the conversation of how to better address the needs of individuals with ASD who are aging out and we have much work to do.

The ABLE Act is a step in the right direction. While I have concerns regarding the Medicare physician services offsets, ABLE accounts are a sensible and fiscally responsible tool that will benefit some of the most vulnerable members of our society. It is a smart piece of legislation to assist families in saving and planning for the long-term needs of individuals with disabilities and a more secure future. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 766, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

TAX INCREASE PREVENTION ACT OF 2014

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 766, I call up the bill (H.R. 5771) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions and make technical corrections, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 766, the amendment printed in part A of House Report 113–643 is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 5771

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE, ETC.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2014''.

(b) AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title, etc.

TITLE I—CERTAIN EXPIRING PROVISIONS

Subtitle A—Individual Tax Extenders

Sec. 101. Extension of deduction for certain expenses of elementary and secondary school teachers.
Sec. 102. Extension of exclusion from gross income of discharge of qualified principal residence indebtedness.
Sec. 103. Extension of parity for employer-provided mass transit and parking benefits.
Sec. 104. Extension of mortgage insurance premiums treated as qualified residence interest.
Sec. 105. Extension of deduction of State and local general sales taxes.
Sec. 106. Extension of special rule for contributions of capital gain real property made for conservation purposes.
Sec. 107. Extension of above-the-line deduction for qualified tuition and related expenses.
Sec. 108. Extension of tax-free distributions from individual retirement plans for charitable purposes.

Subtitle B—Business Tax Extenders

Sec. 111. Extension of research credit.
Sec. 112. Extension of temporary minimum low-income housing tax credit rate for non-federally subsidized buildings.
Sec. 113. Extension of military housing allowance exclusion for determining whether a tenant in certain counties is low-income.
Sec. 114. Extension of Indian employment tax credit.
Sec. 115. Extension of new markets tax credit.
Sec. 116. Extension of railroad track maintenance credit.
Sec. 117. Extension of mine rescue team training credit.
Sec. 118. Extension of employer wage credit for employees who are active duty members of the uniformed services.
Sec. 119. Extension of work opportunity tax credit.
Sec. 120. Extension of qualified zone academy bonds.
Sec. 121. Extension of classification of certain race horses as 3-year property.
Sec. 122. Extension of 15-year straight-line cost recovery for qualified leasehold improvements, qualified restaurant buildings and improvements, and qualified retail improvements.
Sec. 123. Extension of 7-year recovery period for motorsports entertainment complexes.
Sec. 124. Extension of accelerated depreciation for business property on an Indian reservation.
Sec. 125. Extension of bonus depreciation.
Sec. 126. Extension of enhanced charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory.
Sec. 127. Extension of increased expensing limitations and treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.
Sec. 128. Extension of election to expense mine safety equipment.
Sec. 129. Extension of special expensing rules for certain film and television productions.
Sec. 130. Extension of deduction allowable with respect to income attributable to domestic production activities in Puerto Rico.
Sec. 131. Extension of modification of tax treatment of certain payments to controlling exempt organizations.
Sec. 132. Extension of treatment of certain dividends of regulated investment companies.
Sec. 133. Extension of RIC qualified investment entity treatment under FIRPTA.
Sec. 134. Extension of subpart F exception for active financing income.
Sec. 135. Extension of look-thru treatment of payments between related controlled foreign corporations under foreign personal holding company rules.
Sec. 136. Extension of temporary exclusion of 100 percent of gain on certain small business stock.
Sec. 137. Extension of basis adjustment to stock of S corporations making charitable contributions of property.
Sec. 138. Extension of reduction in S-corporation recognition period for built-in gains tax.
Sec. 139. Extension of empowerment zone tax incentives.
Sec. 140. Extension of temporary increase in limit on cover over of rum excise taxes to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.
Sec. 141. Extension of American Samoa economic development credit.

Subtitle C—Energy Tax Extenders

Sec. 151. Extension of credit for nonbusiness energy property.
Sec. 152. Extension of second generation biofuel producer credit.
Sec. 153. Extension of incentives for biodiesel and renewable diesel.
Sec. 154. Extension of production credit for Indian coal facilities placed in service before 2009.
Sec. 155. Extension of credits with respect to facilities producing energy from certain renewable resources.
Sec. 156. Extension of credit for energy-efficient new homes.
Sec. 157. Extension of special allowance for second generation biofuel plant property.
Sec. 158. Extension of energy efficient commercial buildings deduction.
Sec. 159. Extension of special rule for sales or dispositions to implement FERC or State electric restructuring policy for qualified electric utilities.
Sec. 160. Extension of excise tax credits relating to certain fuels.
Sec. 161. Extension of credit for alternative fuel vehicle refueling property.

Subtitle D—Extenders Relating to Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Sec. 171. Extension of automatic extension of amortization periods.
Sec. 172. Extension of shortfall funding method and endangered and critical rules.

TITLE II—TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS

Sec. 201. Short title.
Sec. 202. Amendments relating to American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012.
Sec. 203. Amendment relating to Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012.
Sec. 204. Amendment relating to FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012.
Sec. 205. Amendments relating to Regulated Investment Company Modernization Act of 2010.
Sec. 206. Amendments relating to Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010.
Sec. 207. Amendments relating to Creating Small Business Jobs Act of 2010.
Sec. 208. Clerical amendment relating to Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act.
Sec. 209. Amendments relating to American Recovery and Reinvestment Tax Act of 2009.
Sec. 210. Amendments relating to Energy Improvement and Extension Act of 2008.
Sec. 211. Amendments relating to Tax Extenders and Alternative Minimum Tax Relief Act of 2008.
Sec. 212. Clerical amendments relating to Housing Assistance Tax Act of 2008.
Sec. 213. Amendments and provision relating to Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2008.
Sec. 214. Amendments relating to Economic Stimulus Act of 2008.
Sec. 215. Amendments relating to Tax Technical Corrections Act of 2007.
Sec. 216. Amendment relating to Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006.
Sec. 217. Amendment relating to Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act of 2005: A Legacy for Users.
Sec. 218. Amendments relating to Energy Tax Incentives Act of 2005.
Sec. 219. Amendments relating to American Jobs Creation Act of 2004.
Sec. 220. Other clerical corrections.
Sec. 221. Deadwood provisions.

TITLE III—JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

Sec. 301. Increased refund and credit threshold for Joint Committee on Taxation review of C corporation return.

TITLE IV—BUDGETARY EFFECTS

Sec. 401. Budgetary effects.

TITLE I—CERTAIN EXPIRING PROVISIONS

Subtitle A—Individual Tax Extenders

SEC. 101. EXTENSION OF DEDUCTION FOR CERTAIN EXPENSES OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (D) of section 62(a)(2) is amended by striking ''or 2013'' and inserting ''2013, or 2014''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 102. EXTENSION OF EXCLUSION FROM GROSS INCOME OF DISCHARGE OF QUALIFIED PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE INDEBTEDNESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (E) of section 108(a)(1) is amended by striking ''January 1, 2014'' and inserting ''January 1, 2015''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to indebtedness discharged after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 103. EXTENSION OF PARITY FOR EMPLOYER-PROVIDED MASS TRANSIT AND PARKING BENEFITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 132(f) is amended by striking ''January 1, 2014'' and inserting ''January 1, 2015''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to months after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 104. EXTENSION OF MORTGAGE INSURANCE PREMIUMS TREATED AS QUALIFIED RESIDENCE INTEREST.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subclause (I) of section 163(h)(3)(E)(iv) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''December 31, 2014''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to amounts paid or accrued after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 105. EXTENSION OF DEDUCTION OF STATE AND LOCAL GENERAL SALES TAXES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (I) of section 164(b)(5) is amended by striking ''January 1, 2014'' and inserting ''January 1, 2015''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 106. EXTENSION OF SPECIAL RULE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS OF CAPITAL GAIN REAL PROPERTY MADE FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Clause (vi) of section 170(b)(1)(E) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''December 31, 2014''.

(b) CONTRIBUTIONS BY CERTAIN CORPORATE FARMERS AND RANCHERS.—Clause (iii) of section 170(b)(2)(B) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''December 31, 2014''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to contributions made in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 107. EXTENSION OF ABOVE-THE-LINE DEDUCTION FOR QUALIFIED TUITION AND RELATED EXPENSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (e) of section 222 is amended by striking ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''December 31, 2014''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 108. EXTENSION OF TAX-FREE DISTRIBUTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT PLANS FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (F) of section 408(d)(8) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''December 31, 2014''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to distributions made in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

Subtitle B—Business Tax Extenders

SEC. 111. EXTENSION OF RESEARCH CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 41(h) is amended by striking ''paid or incurred'' and all that follows and inserting ''paid or incurred after December 31, 2014.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subparagraph (D) of section 45C(b)(1) is amended to read as follows:

''(D) SPECIAL RULE.—If section 41 is not in effect for any period, such section shall be deemed to remain in effect for such period for purposes of this paragraph.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to amounts paid or incurred after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 112. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY MINIMUM LOW-INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT RATE FOR NON-FEDERALLY SUBSIDIZED BUILDINGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (A) of section 42(b)(2) is amended by striking ''January 1, 2014'' and inserting ''January 1, 2015''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall take effect on January 1, 2014.

SEC. 113. EXTENSION OF MILITARY HOUSING ALLOWANCE EXCLUSION FOR DETERMINING WHETHER A TENANT IN CERTAIN COUNTIES IS LOW-INCOME.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of section 3005 of the Housing Assistance Tax Act of 2008 is amended by striking ''January 1, 2014'' each place it appears and inserting ''January 1, 2015''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of section 3005 of the Housing Assistance Tax Act of 2008.

SEC. 114. EXTENSION OF INDIAN EMPLOYMENT TAX CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (f) of section 45A is amended by striking ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''December 31, 2014''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 115. EXTENSION OF NEW MARKETS TAX CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (G) of section 45D(f)(1) is amended by striking ''and 2013'' and inserting ''2013, and 2014''.

(b) CARRYOVER OF UNUSED LIMITATION.—Paragraph (3) of section 45D(f) is amended by striking ''2018'' and inserting ''2019''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to calendar years beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 116. EXTENSION OF RAILROAD TRACK MAINTENANCE CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (f) of section 45G is amended by striking ''January 1, 2014'' and inserting ''January 1, 2015''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to expenditures paid or incurred in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 117. EXTENSION OF MINE RESCUE TEAM TRAINING CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (e) of section 45N is amended by striking ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''December 31, 2014''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 118. EXTENSION OF EMPLOYER WAGE CREDIT FOR EMPLOYEES WHO ARE ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (f) of section 45P is amended by striking ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''December 31, 2014''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to payments made after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 119. EXTENSION OF WORK OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (4) of section 51(c) is amended by striking ''for the employer'' and all that follows and inserting ''for the employer after December 31, 2014''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to individuals who begin work for the employer after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 120. EXTENSION OF QUALIFIED ZONE ACADEMY BONDS.

(a) EXTENSION.—Paragraph (1) of section 54E(c) is amended by striking ''and 2013'' and inserting ''2013, and 2014''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to obligations issued after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 121. EXTENSION OF CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN RACE HORSES AS 3-YEAR PROPERTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Clause (i) of section 168(e)(3)(A) is amended—

(1) by striking ''January 1, 2014'' in subclause (I) and inserting ''January 1, 2015'', and

(2) by striking ''December 31, 2013'' in subclause (II) and inserting ''December 31, 2014''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 122. EXTENSION OF 15-YEAR STRAIGHT-LINE COST RECOVERY FOR QUALIFIED LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS, QUALIFIED RESTAURANT BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS, AND QUALIFIED RETAIL IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Clauses (iv), (v), and (ix) of section 168(e)(3)(E) are each amended by striking ''January 1, 2014'' and inserting ''January 1, 2015''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 123. EXTENSION OF 7-YEAR RECOVERY PERIOD FOR MOTORSPORTS ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEXES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (D) of section 168(i)(15) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''December 31, 2014''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 124. EXTENSION OF ACCELERATED DEPRECIATION FOR BUSINESS PROPERTY ON AN INDIAN RESERVATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (8) of section 168(j) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''December 31, 2014''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 125. EXTENSION OF BONUS DEPRECIATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 168(k) is amended—

(1) by striking ''January 1, 2015'' in subparagraph (A)(iv) and inserting ''January 1, 2016'', and

(2) by striking ''January 1, 2014'' each place it appears and inserting ''January 1, 2015''.

(b) SPECIAL RULE FOR FEDERAL LONG-TERM CONTRACTS.—Clause (ii) of section 460(c)(6)(B) is amended by striking ''January 1, 2014 (January 1, 2015'' and inserting ''January 1, 2015 (January 1, 2016''.

(c) EXTENSION OF ELECTION TO ACCELERATE THE AMT CREDIT IN LIEU OF BONUS DEPRECIATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subclause (II) of section 168(k)(4)(D)(iii) is amended by striking ''January 1, 2014'' and inserting ''January 1, 2015''.

(2) ROUND 4 EXTENSION PROPERTY.—Paragraph (4) of section 168(k) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(K) SPECIAL RULES FOR ROUND 4 EXTENSION PROPERTY.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of round 4 extension property, in applying this paragraph to any taxpayer—

''(I) the limitation described in subparagraph (B)(i) and the business credit increase

amount under subparagraph (E)(iii) thereof shall not apply, and

''(II) the bonus depreciation amount, maximum amount, and maximum increase amount shall be computed separately from amounts computed with respect to eligible qualified property which is not round 4 extension property.

''(ii) ELECTION.—

''(I) A taxpayer who has an election in effect under this paragraph for round 3 extension property shall be treated as having an election in effect for round 4 extension property unless the taxpayer elects to not have this paragraph apply to round 4 extension property.

''(II) A taxpayer who does not have an election in effect under this paragraph for round 3 extension property may elect to have this paragraph apply to round 4 extension property.

''(iii) ROUND 4 EXTENSION PROPERTY.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term 'round 4 extension property' means property which is eligible qualified property solely by reason of the extension of the application of the special allowance under paragraph (1) pursuant to the amendments made by section 125(a) of the Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2014 (and the application of such extension to this paragraph pursuant to the amendment made by section 125(c) of such Act).''.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The heading for subsection (k) of section 168 is amended by striking ''JANUARY 1, 2014'' and inserting ''JANUARY 1, 2015''.

(2) The heading for clause (ii) of section 168(k)(2)(B) is amended by striking ''PRE-JANUARY 1, 2014'' and inserting ''PRE-JANUARY 1, 2015''.

(3) Subparagraph (C) of section 168(n)(2) is amended by striking ''January 1, 2014'' and inserting ''January 1, 2015''.

(4) Subparagraph (D) of section 1400L(b)(2) is amended by striking ''January 1, 2014'' and inserting ''January 1, 2015''.

(5) Subparagraph (B) of section 1400N(d)(3) is amended by striking ''January 1, 2014'' and inserting ''January 1, 2015''.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2013, in taxable years ending after such date.

SEC. 126. EXTENSION OF ENHANCED CHARITABLE DEDUCTION FOR CONTRIBUTIONS OF FOOD INVENTORY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Clause (iv) of section 170(e)(3)(C) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''December 31, 2014''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to contributions made after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 127. EXTENSION OF INCREASED EXPENSING LIMITATIONS AND TREATMENT OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY AS SECTION 179 PROPERTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) DOLLAR LIMITATION.—Section 179(b)(1) is amended—

(A) by striking ''beginning in 2010, 2011, 2012, or 2013'' in subparagraph (B) and inserting ''beginning after 2009 and before 2015'', and

(B) by striking ''2013'' in subparagraph (C) and inserting ''2014''.

(2) REDUCTION IN LIMITATION.—Section 179(b)(2) is amended—

(A) by striking ''beginning in 2010, 2011, 2012, or 2013'' in subparagraph (B) and inserting ''beginning after 2009 and before 2015'', and

(B) by striking ''2013'' in subparagraph (C) and inserting ''2014''.

(b) COMPUTER SOFTWARE.—Section 179(d)(1)(A)(ii) is amended by striking ''2014'' and inserting ''2015''.

(c) ELECTION.—Section 179(c)(2) is amended by striking ''2014'' and inserting ''2015''.

(d) SPECIAL RULES FOR TREATMENT OF QUALIFIED REAL PROPERTY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 179(f)(1) is amended by striking ''beginning in 2010, 2011, 2012, or 2013'' and inserting ''beginning after 2009 and before 2015''.

(2) CARRYOVER LIMITATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 179(f)(4) is amended by striking ''2013'' each place it appears and inserting ''2014''.

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading of subparagraph (C) of section 179(f)(4) is amended by striking ''2011 AND 2012'' and inserting ''2011, 2012, AND 2013''.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 128. EXTENSION OF ELECTION TO EXPENSE MINE SAFETY EQUIPMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (g) of section 179E is amended by striking ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''December 31, 2014''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 129. EXTENSION OF SPECIAL EXPENSING RULES FOR CERTAIN FILM AND TELEVISION PRODUCTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (f) of section 181 is amended by striking ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''December 31, 2014''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATES.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to productions commencing after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 130. EXTENSION OF DEDUCTION ALLOWABLE WITH RESPECT TO INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO DOMESTIC PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES IN PUERTO RICO.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (C) of section 199(d)(8) is amended—

(1) by striking ''first 8 taxable years'' and inserting ''first 9 taxable years'', and

(2) by striking ''January 1, 2014'' and inserting ''January 1, 2015''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 131. EXTENSION OF MODIFICATION OF TAX TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PAYMENTS TO CONTROLLING EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Clause (iv) of section 512(b)(13)(E) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''December 31, 2014''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to payments received or accrued after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 132. EXTENSION OF TREATMENT OF CERTAIN DIVIDENDS OF REGULATED INVESTMENT COMPANIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraphs (1)(C)(v) and (2)(C)(v) of section 871(k) are each amended by striking ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''December 31, 2014''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 133. EXTENSION OF RIC QUALIFIED INVESTMENT ENTITY TREATMENT UNDER FIRPTA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Clause (ii) of section 897(h)(4)(A) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''December 31, 2014''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendment made by this section shall take effect on January 1, 2014. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, such amendment shall not apply with respect to the withholding requirement under section 1445 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for any payment made before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) AMOUNTS WITHHELD ON OR BEFORE DATE OF ENACTMENT.—In the case of a regulated investment company—

(A) which makes a distribution after December 31, 2013, and before the date of the enactment of this Act, and

(B) which would (but for the second sentence of paragraph (1)) have been required to withhold with respect to such distribution under section 1445 of such Code,

such investment company shall not be liable to any person to whom such distribution was made for any amount so withheld and paid over to the Secretary of the Treasury.

SEC. 134. EXTENSION OF SUBPART F EXCEPTION FOR ACTIVE FINANCING INCOME.

(a) EXEMPT INSURANCE INCOME.—Paragraph (10) of section 953(e) is amended—

(1) by striking ''January 1, 2014'' and inserting ''January 1, 2015'', and

(2) by striking ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''December 31, 2014''.

(b) SPECIAL RULE FOR INCOME DERIVED IN THE ACTIVE CONDUCT OF BANKING, FINANCING, OR SIMILAR BUSINESSES.—Paragraph (9) of section 954(h) is amended by striking ''January 1, 2014'' and inserting ''January 1, 2015''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years of foreign corporations beginning after December 31, 2013, and to taxable years of United States shareholders with or within which any such taxable year of such foreign corporation ends.

SEC. 135. EXTENSION OF LOOK-THRU TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS BETWEEN RELATED CONTROLLED FOREIGN CORPORATIONS UNDER FOREIGN PERSONAL HOLDING COMPANY RULES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (C) of section 954(c)(6) is amended by striking ''January 1, 2014'' and inserting ''January 1, 2015''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years of foreign corporations beginning after December 31, 2013, and to taxable years of United States shareholders with or within which such taxable years of foreign corporations end.

SEC. 136. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY EXCLUSION OF 100 PERCENT OF GAIN ON CERTAIN SMALL BUSINESS STOCK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (4) of section 1202(a) is amended—

(1) by striking ''January 1, 2014'' and inserting ''January 1, 2015'', and

(2) by striking ''AND 2013'' in the heading and inserting ''2013, AND 2014''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to stock acquired after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 137. EXTENSION OF BASIS ADJUSTMENT TO STOCK OF S CORPORATIONS MAKING CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PROPERTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 1367(a) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''December 31, 2014''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to contributions made in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 138. EXTENSION OF REDUCTION IN S-CORPORATION RECOGNITION PERIOD FOR BUILT-IN GAINS TAX.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (C) of section 1374(d)(7) is amended—

(1) by striking ''2012 or 2013'' and inserting ''2012, 2013, or 2014'', and

(2) by striking ''2012 AND 2013'' in the heading and inserting ''2012, 2013, AND 2014''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 139. EXTENSION OF EMPOWERMENT ZONE TAX INCENTIVES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Clause (i) of section 1391(d)(1)(A) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''December 31, 2014''.

(b) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN TERMINATION DATES SPECIFIED IN NOMINATIONS.—In the

case of a designation of an empowerment zone the nomination for which included a termination date which is contemporaneous with the date specified in subparagraph (A)(i) of section 1391(d)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as in effect before the enactment of this Act), subparagraph (B) of such section shall not apply with respect to such designation if, after the date of the enactment of this section, the entity which made such nomination amends the nomination to provide for a new termination date in such manner as the Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary's designee) may provide.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATES.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to periods after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 140. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY INCREASE IN LIMIT ON COVER OVER OF RUM EXCISE TAXES TO PUERTO RICO AND THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 7652(f) is amended by striking ''January 1, 2014'' and inserting ''January 1, 2015''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to distilled spirits brought into the United States after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 141. EXTENSION OF AMERICAN SAMOA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (d) of section 119 of division A of the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 is amended—

(1) by striking ''January 1, 2014'' each place it appears and inserting ''January 1, 2015'',

(2) by striking ''first 8 taxable years'' in paragraph (1) and inserting ''first 9 taxable years'', and

(3) by striking ''first 2 taxable years'' in paragraph (2) and inserting ''first 3 taxable years''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

Subtitle C—Energy Tax Extenders

SEC. 151. EXTENSION OF CREDIT FOR NONBUSINESS ENERGY PROPERTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 25C(g) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''December 31, 2014''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 152. EXTENSION OF SECOND GENERATION BIOFUEL PRODUCER CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Clause (i) of section 40(b)(6)(J) is amended by striking ''January 1, 2014'' and inserting ''January 1, 2015''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to qualified second generation biofuel production after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 153. EXTENSION OF INCENTIVES FOR BIODIESEL AND RENEWABLE DIESEL.

(a) CREDITS FOR BIODIESEL AND RENEWABLE DIESEL USED AS FUEL.—Subsection (g) of section 40A is amended by striking ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''December 31, 2014''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to fuel sold or used after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 154. EXTENSION OF PRODUCTION CREDIT FOR INDIAN COAL FACILITIES PLACED IN SERVICE BEFORE 2009.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (A) of section 45(e)(10) is amended by striking ''8-year period'' each place it appears and inserting ''9-year period''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to coal produced after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 155. EXTENSION OF CREDITS WITH RESPECT TO FACILITIES PRODUCING ENERGY FROM CERTAIN RENEWABLE RESOURCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The following provisions of section 45(d) are each amended by striking ''January 1, 2014'' each place it appears and inserting ''January 1, 2015'':

(1) Paragraph (1).

(2) Paragraph (2)(A).

(3) Paragraph (3)(A).

(4) Paragraph (4)(B).

(5) Paragraph (6).

(6) Paragraph (7).

(7) Paragraph (9).

(8) Paragraph (11)(B).

(b) EXTENSION OF ELECTION TO TREAT QUALIFIED FACILITIES AS ENERGY PROPERTY.—Clause (ii) of section 48(a)(5)(C) is amended by striking ''January 1, 2014'' and inserting ''January 1, 2015''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATES.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on January 1, 2014.

SEC. 156. EXTENSION OF CREDIT FOR ENERGY-EFFICIENT NEW HOMES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (g) of section 45L is amended by striking ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''December 31, 2014''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to homes acquired after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 157. EXTENSION OF SPECIAL ALLOWANCE FOR SECOND GENERATION BIOFUEL PLANT PROPERTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (D) of section 168(l)(2) is amended by striking ''January 1, 2014'' and inserting ''January 1, 2015''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 158. EXTENSION OF ENERGY EFFICIENT COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS DEDUCTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (h) of section 179D is amended by striking ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''December 31, 2014''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 159. EXTENSION OF SPECIAL RULE FOR SALES OR DISPOSITIONS TO IMPLEMENT FERC OR STATE ELECTRIC RESTRUCTURING POLICY FOR QUALIFIED ELECTRIC UTILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (3) of section 451(i) is amended by striking ''January 1, 2014'' and inserting ''January 1, 2015''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to dispositions after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 160. EXTENSION OF EXCISE TAX CREDITS RELATING TO CERTAIN FUELS.

(a) EXCISE TAX CREDITS AND OUTLAY PAYMENTS FOR BIODIESEL AND RENEWABLE DIESEL FUEL MIXTURES.—

(1) Paragraph (6) of section 6426(c) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''December 31, 2014''.

(2) Subparagraph (B) of section 6427(e)(6) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''December 31, 2014''.

(b) EXTENSION OF ALTERNATIVE FUELS EXCISE TAX CREDITS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Sections 6426(d)(5) and 6426(e)(3) are each amended by striking ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''December 31, 2014''.

(2) OUTLAY PAYMENTS FOR ALTERNATIVE FUELS.—Subparagraph (C) of section 6427(e)(6) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''December 31, 2014''.

(c) EXTENSION OF ALTERNATIVE FUELS EXCISE TAX CREDITS RELATING TO LIQUEFIED HYDROGEN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Sections 6426(d)(5) and 6426(e)(3), as amended by subsection (b), are each amended by striking ''(September 30, 2014 in the case of any sale or use involving liquefied hydrogen)''.

(2) OUTLAY PAYMENTS FOR ALTERNATIVE FUELS.—Paragraph (6) of section 6427(e) is amended—

(A) by striking ''except as provided in subparagraph (D), any'' in subparagraph (C), as amended by this Act, and inserting ''any'',

(B) by striking the comma at the end of subparagraph (C) and inserting '', and'', and

(C) by striking subparagraph (D) and redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (D).

(d) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendments made by this section shall apply to fuel sold or used after December 31, 2013.

(2) LIQUEFIED HYDROGEN.—The amendments made by subsection (c) shall apply to fuel sold or used after September 30, 2014.

(e) SPECIAL RULE FOR CERTAIN PERIODS DURING 2014.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in the case of—

(1) any biodiesel mixture credit properly determined under section 6426(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for periods after December 31, 2013, and before the date of the enactment of this Act, and

(2) any alternative fuel credit properly determined under section 6426(d) of such Code for such periods,

such credit shall be allowed, and any refund or payment attributable to such credit (including any payment under section 6427(e) of such Code) shall be made, only in such manner as the Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary's delegate) shall provide. Such Secretary shall issue guidance within 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act providing for a one-time submission of claims covering periods described in the preceding sentence. Such guidance shall provide for a 180-day period for the submission of such claims (in such manner as prescribed by such Secretary) to begin not later than 30 days after such guidance is issued. Such claims shall be paid by such Secretary not later than 60 days after receipt. If such Secretary has not paid pursuant to a claim filed under this subsection within 60 days after the date of the filing of such claim, the claim shall be paid with interest from such date determined by using the overpayment rate and method under section 6621 of such Code.

SEC. 161. EXTENSION OF CREDIT FOR ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLE REFUELING PROPERTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (g) of section 30C is amended by striking ''placed in service'' and all that follows and inserting ''placed in service after December 31, 2014.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2013.

Subtitle D—Extenders Relating to Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

SEC. 171. EXTENSION OF AUTOMATIC EXTENSION OF AMORTIZATION PERIODS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (C) of section 431(d)(1) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2014'' and inserting ''December 31, 2015''.

(b) AMENDMENT TO EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974.—Subparagraph (C) of section 304(d)(1) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1084(d)(1)(C)) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2014'' and inserting ''December 31, 2015''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to applications submitted under section 431(d)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and section 304(d)(1)(C) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 after December 31, 2014.

SEC. 172. EXTENSION OF SHORTFALL FUNDING METHOD AND ENDANGERED AND CRITICAL RULES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 221(c) of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 are each amended by striking ''December 31, 2014'' and inserting ''December 31, 2015''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (2) of section 221(c) of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 is amended by striking ''January 1, 2015'' and inserting ''January 1, 2016''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to plan years beginning after December 31, 2014.

TITLE II—TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Tax Technical Corrections Act of 2014''.

SEC. 202. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO AMERICAN TAXPAYER RELIEF ACT OF 2012.

(a) AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 101(b).—Subclause (I) of section 642(b)(2)(C)(i) is amended by striking ''section 151(d)(3)(C)(iii)'' and inserting ''section 68(b)(1)(C)''.

(b) AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 102.—Clause (ii) of section 911(f)(2)(B) is amended by striking ''described in section 1(h)(1)(B) shall be treated as a reference to such excess as determined'' and inserting ''described in section 1(h)(1)(B), and the reference in section 55(b)(3)(C)(ii) to the excess described in section 1(h)(1)(C)(ii), shall each be treated as a reference to each such excess as determined''.

(c) AMENDMENTS RELATING TO SECTION 104.—

(1) Clause (ii) of section 55(d)(4)(B) is amended by inserting ''subparagraphs (A), (B), and (D) of'' before ''paragraph (1)''.

(2) Subparagraph (C) of section 55(d)(4) is amended by striking ''increase'' and inserting ''increased amount''.

(d) AMENDMENTS RELATING TO SECTION 310.—Clause (iii) of section 6431(f)(3)(A) is amended—

(1) by striking ''2011'' and inserting ''years after 2010'', and

(2) by striking ''of such allocation'' and inserting ''of any such allocation''.

(e) AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 331.—Clause (iii) of section 168(k)(4)(J) is amended by striking ''any taxable year'' and inserting ''its first taxable year''.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the provision of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 to which they relate.

SEC. 203. AMENDMENT RELATING TO MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2012.

(a) AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 7001.—Paragraph (1) of section 7001 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 is amended by striking ''201(b)'' and inserting ''202(b)''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if included in section 7001 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012.

SEC. 204. AMENDMENT RELATING TO FAA MODERNIZATION AND REFORM ACT OF 2012.

(a) AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 1107.—Section 4281 is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 4281. SMALL AIRCRAFT ON NONESTABLISHED LINES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The taxes imposed by sections 4261 and 4271 shall not apply to transportation by an aircraft having a maximum certificated takeoff weight of 6,000 pounds or less, except when such aircraft is operated on an established line or when such aircraft is a jet aircraft.

''(b) MAXIMUM CERTIFICATED TAKEOFF WEIGHT.—For purposes of this section, the term 'maximum certificated takeoff weight' means the maximum such weight contained in the type certificate or airworthiness certificate.

''(c) SIGHTSEEING.—For purposes of this section, an aircraft shall not be considered as operated on an established line at any time during which such aircraft is being operated on a flight the sole purpose of which is sightseeing.

''(d) JET AIRCRAFT.—For purposes of this section, the term 'jet aircraft' shall not include any aircraft which is a rotorcraft or propeller aircraft.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if included in section 1107 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012.

SEC. 205. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO REGULATED INVESTMENT COMPANY MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2010.

(a) AMENDMENTS RELATING TO SECTION 101.—

(1) Subsection (c) of section 101 of the Regulated Investment Company Modernization Act of 2010 is amended—

(A) by striking ''paragraph (2)'' in paragraph (1) and inserting ''paragraphs (2) and (3)'', and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) EXCISE TAX.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), for purposes of section 4982 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, paragraphs (1) and (2) shall apply by substituting 'the 1-year periods taken into account under subsection (b)(1)(B) of such section with respect to calendar years beginning after December 31, 2010' for 'taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act'.

''(B) ELECTION.—A regulated investment company may elect to apply subparagraph (A) by substituting '2011' for '2010'. Such election shall be made at such time and in such form and manner as the Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary's delegate) shall prescribe.''.

(2) The first sentence of paragraph (2) of section 852(c) is amended—

(A) by striking ''and without regard to'' and inserting '', without regard to'', and

(B) by inserting '', and without regard to any capital loss arising on the first day of the taxable year by reason of clauses (ii) and (iii) of section 1212(a)(3)(A)'' before the period at the end.

(b) AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 304.—Paragraph (1) of section 855(a) is amended by inserting ''on or'' before ''before''.

(c) AMENDMENTS RELATING TO SECTION 308.—

(1) Paragraph (8) of section 852(b) is amended by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (G) and by striking subparagraphs (C) and (D) and inserting the following new subparagraphs:

''(C) POST-OCTOBER CAPITAL LOSS.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'post-October capital loss' means—

''(i) any net capital loss attributable to the portion of the taxable year after October 31, or

''(ii) if there is no such loss—

''(I) any net long-term capital loss attributable to such portion of the taxable year, or

''(II) any net short-term capital loss attributable to such portion of the taxable year.

''(D) LATE-YEAR ORDINARY LOSS.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'late-year ordinary loss' means the sum of any post-October specified loss and any post-December ordinary loss.

''(E) POST-OCTOBER SPECIFIED LOSS.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'post-October specified loss' means the excess (if any) of—

''(i) the specified losses (as defined in section 4982(e)(5)(B)(ii)) attributable to the portion of the taxable year after October 31, over

''(ii) the specified gains (as defined in section 4982(e)(5)(B)(i)) attributable to such portion of the taxable year.

''(F) POST-DECEMBER ORDINARY LOSS.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'post-December ordinary loss' means the excess (if any) of—

''(i) the ordinary losses not described in subparagraph (E)(i) and attributable to the portion of the taxable year after December 31, over

''(ii) the ordinary income not described in subparagraph (E)(ii) and attributable to such portion of the taxable year.''.

(2) Subparagraph (G) of section 852(b)(8), as so redesignated, is amended by striking '', (D)(i)(I), and (D)(ii)(I)'' and inserting ''and (E)''.

(3) The first sentence of paragraph (2) of section 852(c), as amended by subsection (a), is amended—

(A) by striking '', and without regard to'' and inserting '', without regard to'', and

(B) by inserting '', and with such other adjustments as the Secretary may prescribe'' before the period at the end.

(d) AMENDMENTS RELATING TO SECTION 402.—

(1) Subparagraph (B) of section 4982(e)(6) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: ''or which determines income by reference to the value of an item on the last day of the taxable year''.

(2) Subparagraph (A) of section 4982(e)(7) is amended by striking ''such company'' and all that follows through ''any net ordinary loss'' and inserting ''such company may elect to determine its ordinary income and net ordinary loss (as defined in paragraph (2)(C)(ii)) for the calendar year without regard to any portion of any net ordinary loss''.

(e) CLERICAL AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 201.—Subparagraph (A) of section 851(d)(2) is amended by inserting ''of this paragraph'' after ''subparagraph (B)(i)''.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the provision of the Regulated Investment Company Modernization Act of 2010 to which they relate.

(2) SAVINGS PROVISION.—In the case of an election by a regulated investment company under section 852(b)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with respect to any taxable year beginning before the date of the enactment of this Act, such company may treat the amendments made by paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (c) as not applying with respect to any such election.

SEC. 206. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TAX RELIEF, UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE REAUTHORIZATION, AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2010.

(a) AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 103.—Clause (ii) of section 32(b)(3)(B) is amended by striking ''in 2010'' and inserting ''after 2009''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS RELATING TO SECTION 302.—

(1) Paragraph (1) of section 2801(a) is amended by striking ''(or, if greater, the highest rate of tax specified in the table applicable under section 2502(a) as in effect on the date)''.

(2) Subsection (f) of section 302 of the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010 is amended by striking ''subsection'' and inserting ''section''.

(c) AMENDMENTS RELATING TO SECTION 753.—Subparagraph (A) of section 1397B(b)(1) is amended by striking ''and'' at the end of clause (ii), by striking the period at the end of clause (iii) and inserting '', and'', and by adding at the end the following new clause:

''(iv) the day after the date set forth in section 1391(d)(1)(A)(i) were substituted for 'January 1, 2010' each place it appears.''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if

included in the provisions of the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010 to which they relate.

SEC. 207. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO CREATING SMALL BUSINESS JOBS ACT OF 2010.

(a) AMENDMENTS RELATING TO SECTION 2102.—

(1) Subsection (h) of section 2102 of the Creating Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 is amended by inserting '', and payee statements required to be furnished,'' after ''information returns required to be filed''.

(2) Paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b), and subsection (c)(1)(C), of section 6722 are each amended by striking ''the required filing date'' and inserting ''the date prescribed for furnishing such statement''.

(3) Subparagraph (B) of section 6722(c)(2) is amended by striking ''filed'' and inserting ''furnished''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the provision of the Creating Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 to which they relate.

SEC. 208. CLERICAL AMENDMENT RELATING TO HIRING INCENTIVES TO RESTORE EMPLOYMENT ACT.

(a) AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 512.—Paragraph (1) of section 512(a) of the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act is amended by striking ''after paragraph (6)'' and inserting ''after paragraph (5)''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall take effect as if included in the provision of the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act to which it relates.

SEC. 209. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT TAX ACT OF 2009.

(a) AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 1003.—Paragraph (4) of section 24(d) is amended to read as follows:

''(4) SPECIAL RULE FOR CERTAIN YEARS.—In the case of any taxable year beginning after 2008 and before 2018, paragraph (1)(B)(i) shall be applied by substituting '$3,000' for '$10,000'.''.

(b) AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 1004.—Paragraph (3) of section 25A(i) is amended by striking ''Subsection (f)(1)(A) shall be applied'' and inserting ''For purposes of determining the Hope Scholarship Credit, subsection (f)(1)(A) shall be applied''.

(c) AMENDMENTS RELATING TO SECTION 1008.—

(1) Paragraph (6) of section 164(b) is amended by striking subparagraph (E) and by redesignating subparagraphs (F) and (G) as subparagraphs (E) and (F), respectively.

(2) Subparagraphs (E) and (F) of section 164(b)(6), as so redesignated, are each amended by striking ''This paragraph'' and inserting ''Subsection (a)(6)''.

(d) AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 1104.—Subparagraph (A) of section 48(d)(3) is amended by inserting ''or alternative minimum taxable income'' after ''includible in the gross income''.

(e) AMENDMENTS RELATING TO SECTION 1141.—

(1) Subsection (f) of section 30D is amended—

(A) by inserting ''(determined without regard to subsection (c))'' before the period at the end of paragraph (1), and

(B) by inserting ''(determined without regard to subsection (c))'' before the period at the end of paragraph (2).

(2) Paragraph (3) of section 30D(f) is amended by adding at the end the following: ''For purposes of subsection (c), property to which this paragraph applies shall be treated as of a character subject to an allowance for depreciation.''.

(f) AMENDMENTS RELATING TO SECTION 1142.—

(1) Subsection (b) of section 38 is amended by striking ''plus'' at the end of paragraph (35), by redesignating paragraph (36) as paragraph (37), and by inserting after paragraph (35) the following new paragraph:

''(36) the portion of the qualified plug-in electric vehicle credit to which section 30(c)(1) applies, plus''.

(2)(A) Subsection (e) of section 30 is amended—

(i) by inserting ''(determined without regard to subsection (c))'' before the period at the end of paragraph (1), and

(ii) by inserting ''(determined without regard to subsection (c))'' before the period at the end of paragraph (2).

(B) Paragraph (3) of section 30(e) is amended by adding at the end the following: ''For purposes of subsection (c), property to which this paragraph applies shall be treated as of a character subject to an allowance for depreciation.''.

(g) AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 1302.—Paragraph (3) of section 48C(b) is amended by inserting ''as the qualified investment'' after ''The amount which is treated''.

(h) AMENDMENTS RELATED TO SECTION 1541.—

(1) Paragraph (2) of section 853A(a) is amended by inserting ''(determined after the application of this section)'' before the comma at the end.

(2) Subsection (a) of section 853A is amended—

(A) by striking ''with respect to credits'' and inserting ''with respect to some or all of the credits'', and

(B) by inserting ''(determined without regard to this section and sections 54(c), 54A(c)(1), 54AA(c)(1), and 1397E(c))'' after ''credits allowable''.

(3) Subsection (b) of section 853A is amended to read as follows:

''(b) EFFECT OF ELECTION.—If the election provided in subsection (a) is in effect with respect to any credits for any taxable year—

''(1) the regulated investment company—

''(A) shall not be allowed such credits,

''(B) shall include in gross income (as interest) for such taxable year the amount which would have been so included with respect to such credits had the application of this section not been elected,

''(C) shall include in earnings and profits the amount so included in gross income, and

''(D) shall be treated as making one or more distributions of money with respect to its stock equal to the amount of such credits on the date or dates (on or after the applicable date for any such credit) during such taxable year (or following the close of the taxable year pursuant to section 855) selected by the company, and

''(2) each shareholder of such investment company shall—

''(A) be treated as receiving such shareholder's proportionate share of any distribution of money which is treated as made by such investment company under paragraph (1)(D), and

''(B) be allowed credits against the tax imposed by this chapter equal to the amount of such distribution, subject to the provisions of this title applicable to the credit involved.''.

(4) Subsection (c) of section 853A is amended to read as follows:

''(c) NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.—The amount treated as a distribution of money received by a shareholder under subsection (b)(2)(A) (and as credits allowed to such shareholder under subsection (b)(2)(B)) shall not exceed the amount so reported by the regulated investment company in a written statement furnished to such shareholder.''.

(5) Clause (ii) of section 853A(e)(1)(A) is amended by inserting ''other than a qualified bond described in section 54AA(g)'' after ''as defined in section 54AA(d))''.

(i) AMENDMENTS RELATING TO SECTION 2202.—

(1) Subparagraph (A) of section 2202(b)(1) of division B of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 is amended by inserting ''political subdivision of a State,'' after ''any State,''.

(2) Section 2202 of division B of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e) TREATMENT OF POSSESSIONS.—

''(1) PAYMENTS TO MIRROR CODE POSSESSIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall pay to each possession of the United States with a mirror code tax system amounts equal to the loss to that possession by reason of credits allowed under subsection (a) with respect to taxable years beginning in 2009. Such amounts shall be determined by the Secretary of the Treasury based on information provided by the government of the respective possession.

''(2) COORDINATION WITH CREDIT ALLOWED AGAINST UNITED STATES INCOME TAXES.—No credit shall be allowed against United States income taxes for any taxable year under this section to any person to whom a credit is allowed against taxes imposed by the possession by reason of the credit allowed under subsection (a) for such taxable year.

''(3) DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULES.—

''(A) POSSESSION OF THE UNITED STATES.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'possession of the United States' includes the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

''(B) MIRROR CODE TAX SYSTEM.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'mirror code tax system' means, with respect to any possession of the United States, the income tax system of such possession if the income tax liability of the residents of such possession under such system is determined by reference to the income tax laws of the United States as if such possession were the United States.

''(C) TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS.—For purposes of section 1324(b)(2) of title 31, United States Code, the payments under this subsection shall be treated in the same manner as a refund due from the credit allowed under section 36A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as added by this Act).''.

(j) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 1131.—Paragraph (2) of section 45Q(d) is amended by striking ''Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency'' and all that follows through ''shall establish'' and inserting ''Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Secretary of Energy, and the Secretary of the Interior, shall establish''.

(2) AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 1141.—Paragraph (37) of section 1016(a) is amended by striking ''section 30D(e)(4)'' and inserting ''section 30D(f)(1)''.

(3) AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 3001.—Subparagraph (A) of section 3001(a)(14) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 is amended by striking ''is amended by redesignating paragraph (9) as paragraph (10)'' and inserting '', as amended by this Act, is amended by redesignating paragraphs (9) and (10) as paragraphs (10) and (11), respectively,''.

(k) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Tax Act of 2009 to which they relate.

SEC. 210. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO ENERGY IMPROVEMENT AND EXTENSION ACT OF 2008.

(a) AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 108.—Subparagraph (E) of section 45K(g)(2) is amended to read as follows:

''(E) COORDINATION WITH SECTION 45.—No credit shall be allowed with respect to any coke or coke gas which is produced using steel industry fuel (as defined in section 45(c)(7)) as feedstock if a credit is allowed to any taxpayer under section 45 with respect to the production of such steel industry fuel.''.

(b) AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 113.—Paragraph (1) of section 113(b) of the Energy Improvement and Extension Act of 2008 is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(F) TRUST FUND.—The term 'Trust Fund' means the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund established under section 9501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.''.

(c) AMENDMENTS RELATING TO SECTION 306.—

(1) Clause (ii) of section 168(i)(18)(A) is amended by striking ''10 years'' and inserting ''16 years''.

(2) Clause (ii) of section 168(i)(19)(A) is amended by striking ''10 years'' and inserting ''16 years''.

(d) AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 308.—Clause (i) of section 168(m)(2)(B) is amended by striking ''section 168(k)'' and inserting ''subsection (k) (determined without regard to paragraph (4) thereof)''.

(e) AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 402.—Subparagraph (A) of section 907(f)(4) is amended by striking ''this subsection shall be applied'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: ''this subsection, as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Energy Improvement and Extension Act of 2008, shall apply to unused oil and gas extraction taxes carried from such unused credit year to a taxable year beginning after December 31, 2008.''.

(f) AMENDMENTS RELATING TO SECTION 403.—

(1) Subsection (c) of section 1012 is amended—

(A) by striking ''FUNDS'' in the heading for paragraph (2) and inserting ''REGULATED INVESTMENT COMPANIES'',

(B) by striking ''FUND'' in the heading for paragraph (2)(B), and

(C) by striking ''fund'' each place it appears in paragraph (2) and inserting ''regulated investment company''.

(2) Paragraph (1) of section 1012(d) is amended—

(A) by striking ''December 31, 2010'' and inserting ''December 31, 2011'', and

(B) by striking ''an open-end fund'' and inserting ''a regulated investment company''.

(3) Paragraph (3) of section 1012(d) is amended to read as follows:

''(3) SEPARATE ACCOUNTS; ELECTION FOR TREATMENT AS SINGLE ACCOUNT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Rules similar to the rules of subsection (c)(2) shall apply for purposes of this subsection.

''(B) AVERAGE BASIS METHOD.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), in the case of an election under rules similar to the rules of subsection (c)(2)(B) with respect to stock held in connection with a dividend reinvestment plan, the average basis method is permissible with respect to all such stock without regard to the date of the acquisition of such stock.''.

(4) Subsection (g) of section 6045 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(6) SPECIAL RULE FOR CERTAIN STOCK HELD IN CONNECTION WITH DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT PLAN.—For purposes of this subsection, stock acquired before January 1, 2012, in connection with a dividend reinvestment plan shall be treated as stock described in clause (ii) of paragraph (3)(C) (unless the broker with respect to such stock elects not to have this paragraph apply with respect to such stock).''.

(g) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 108.—Paragraph (2) of section 45(b) is amended by striking ''$3 amount'' and inserting ''$2 amount''.

(2) AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 306.—

(A) Paragraph (5) of section 168(b) is amended by striking ''(2)(C)'' and inserting ''(2)(D)''.

(B) The last sentence of section 168(k)(4)(C)(i) is amended by striking ''(b)(2)(C)'' and inserting ''(b)(2)(D)''.

(h) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the provisions of the Energy Improvement and Extension Act of 2008 to which they relate.

SEC. 211. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TAX EXTENDERS AND ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2008.

(a) AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 208.—Subsection (b) of section 208 of the Tax Extenders and Alternative Minimum Tax Relief Act of 2008 is amended to read as follows:

''(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on January 1, 2008. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, such amendment shall not apply with respect to the withholding requirement under section 1445 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for any payment made before October 4, 2008.

''(2) AMOUNTS WITHHELD ON OR BEFORE DATE OF ENACTMENT.—In the case of a regulated investment company—

''(A) which makes a distribution after December 31, 2007, and before October 4, 2008, and

''(B) which would (but for the second sentence of paragraph (1)) have been required to withhold with respect to such distribution under section 1445 of such Code,

such investment company shall not be liable to any person to whom such distribution was made for any amount so withheld and paid over to the Secretary of the Treasury.''.

(b) AMENDMENTS RELATING TO SECTION 305.—Paragraphs (7)(B) and (8)(D) of section 168(e) are each amended by inserting ''which is not qualified leasehold improvement property'' after ''Property described in this paragraph''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) AMENDMENTS RELATING TO SECTION 706.—

(A) Paragraph (2) of section 1033(h) is amended by inserting ''is'' before ''compulsorily''.

(B) Subclause (II) of section 172(b)(1)(F)(ii) is amended by striking ''subsection (h)(3)(C)(i)'' and inserting ''section 165(h)(3)(C)(i)''.

(C) The heading for paragraph (1) of section 165(h) is amended by striking ''$100'' and inserting ''DOLLAR''.

(2) AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 709.—Subsection (k) of section 143 is amended by redesignating the second paragraph (12) (relating to special rules for residences destroyed in Federally declared disasters) as paragraph (13).

(3) AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 712.—Section 712 of the Tax Extenders and Alternative Minimum Tax Relief Act of 2008 is amended by striking ''section 702(c)(1)(A)'' and inserting ''section 702(b)(1)(A)''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the provisions of the Tax Extenders and Alternative Minimum Tax Relief Act of 2008 to which they relate.

SEC. 212. CLERICAL AMENDMENTS RELATING TO HOUSING ASSISTANCE TAX ACT OF 2008.

(a) AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 3002.—Paragraph (1) of section 42(b) is amended by striking ''For purposes of this section, the term'' and inserting the following: ''For purposes of this section—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term''.

(b) AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 3081.—Clause (iv) of section 168(k)(4)(E) is amended by striking ''adjusted minimum tax'' and inserting ''adjusted net minimum tax''.

(c) AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 3092.—Subsection (b) of section 121 is amended by redesignating the second paragraph (4) (relating to exclusion of gain allocated to nonqualified use) as paragraph (5).

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the provisions of the Housing Assistance Tax Act of 2008 to which they relate.

SEC. 213. AMENDMENTS AND PROVISION RELATING TO HEROES EARNINGS ASSISTANCE AND RELIEF TAX ACT OF 2008.

(a) AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 106.—Paragraph (2) of section 106(c) of the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2008 is amended by striking ''substituting for'' and inserting ''substituting 'June 17, 2008' for''.

(b) AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 114.—Paragraph (1) of section 125(h) is amended by inserting ''(and shall not fail to be treated as an accident or health plan)'' before ''merely''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 110.—Subparagraph (B) of section 121(d)(12) is amended by inserting ''of paragraph (9)'' after ''and (D)''.

(2) AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 301.—Paragraph (2) of section 877(e) is amended by striking ''subparagraph (A) or (B) of''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the provisions of the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2008 to which they relate.

SEC. 214. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO ECONOMIC STIMULUS ACT OF 2008.

(a) AMENDMENTS RELATING TO SECTION 101.—Paragraph (2) of section 6213(g) is amended—

(1) by striking ''32, or 6428'' in subparagraph (L) and inserting ''or 32'', and

(2) by striking ''and'' at the end of subparagraph (O), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (P) and inserting '', and'', and by inserting after subparagraph (P) the following new subparagraph:

''(Q) an omission of a correct valid identification number required under section 6428(h) (relating to 2008 recovery rebates for individuals) to be included on a return.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 103.—Subclause (IV) of section 168(k)(2)(B)(i) is amended by striking ''clauses also apply'' and inserting ''clause also applies''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the provisions of the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 to which they relate.

SEC. 215. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TAX TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT OF 2007.

(a) AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 4(c).—Paragraph (1) of section 911(f) is amended by adding at the end the following flush sentence:

''For purposes of this paragraph, the amount excluded under subsection (a) shall be reduced by the aggregate amount of any deductions or exclusions disallowed under subsection (d)(6) with respect to such excluded amount.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 11(g).—Clause (iv) of section 56(g)(4)(C)

is amended by striking ''a cooperative described in section 927(a)(4)'' and inserting ''an organization to which part I of subchapter T (relating to tax treatment of cooperatives) applies which is engaged in the marketing of agricultural or horticultural products''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the provisions of the Tax Technical Corrections Act of 2007 to which they relate.

SEC. 216. AMENDMENT RELATING TO TAX RELIEF AND HEALTH CARE ACT OF 2006.

(a) AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 105.—Subparagraph (B) of section 45A(b)(1) is amended by adding at the end the following: ''If any portion of wages are taken into account under subsection (e)(1)(A) of section 51, the preceding sentence shall be applied by substituting '2-year period' for '1-year period'.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall take effect as if included in the provision of the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 to which it relates.

SEC. 217. AMENDMENT RELATING TO SAFE, ACCOUNTABLE, FLEXIBLE, EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT OF 2005: A LEGACY FOR USERS.

(a) AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 11161.—Paragraph (1) of section 9503(b) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: ''and taxes received under section 4081 shall be determined without regard to tax receipts attributable to the rate specified in section 4081(a)(2)(C)''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall take effect as if included in the provision of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act of 2005: A Legacy for Users to which it relates.

SEC. 218. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO ENERGY TAX INCENTIVES ACT OF 2005.

(a) AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 1341.—Subparagraph (B) of section 30B(h)(5) is amended by inserting ''(determined without regard to subsection (g))'' before the period at the end.

(b) AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 1342.—Paragraph (1) of section 30C(e) is amended to read as follows:

''(1) REDUCTION IN BASIS.—For purposes of this subtitle, the basis of any property for which a credit is allowable under subsection (a) shall be reduced by the amount of such credit so allowed (determined without regard to subsection (d)).''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the provision of the Energy Tax Incentives Act of 2005 to which it relates.

SEC. 219. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO AMERICAN JOBS CREATION ACT OF 2004.

(a) AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 101.—Subsection (d) of section 101 of the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) COORDINATION WITH SECTION 199.—This subsection shall be applied without regard to any deduction allowable under section 199.''.

(b) AMENDMENTS RELATING TO SECTION 102.—Paragraph (3) of section 199(b) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''of a short taxable year or'' after ''in cases'', and

(2) by striking ''AND DISPOSITIONS'' and inserting '', DISPOSITIONS, AND SHORT TAXABLE YEARS''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT RELATING TO SECTION 413.—Paragraph (7) of section 904(h) is amended by striking ''as ordinary income under section 1246 or''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the provision of the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 to which they relate.

SEC. 220. OTHER CLERICAL CORRECTIONS.

(a) Paragraph (8) of section 30B(h) is amended by striking ''vehicle)., except that'' and inserting ''vehicle), except that''.

(b) Subparagraph (A) of section 38(c)(2) is amended by striking ''credit credit'' and inserting ''credit''.

(c) Section 46 is amended by adding a comma at the end of paragraph (4).

(d) Subparagraph (E) of section 50(a)(2) is amended by inserting '', 48A(b)(3), 48B(b)(3), 48C(b)(2), or 48D(b)(4)'' after ''in section 48(b)''.

(e) Clause (i) of section 54A(d)(2)(A) is amended by striking ''100 percent or more'' and inserting ''100 percent''.

(f) Paragraph (2) of section 125(b) is amended by striking ''statutory nontaxable benefits'' each place it appears and inserting ''qualified benefits''.

(g) Paragraph (2) of section 125(h) is amended by striking ''means, any'' and inserting ''means any''.

(h) Subparagraph (F) of section 163(h)(4) is amended by striking ''Veterans Administration or the Rural Housing Administration'' and inserting ''Department of Veterans Affairs or the Rural Housing Service''.

(i) Subsection (a) of section 249 is amended by striking ''1563(a)(1)'' and inserting ''1563(a)(1))''.

(j) Paragraphs (8) and (10) of section 280F(d) are each amended by striking ''subsection (a)(2)'' and inserting ''subsection (a)(1)''.

(k) Clause (iii) of section 402A(c)(4)(E) is amended by striking ''403(b)(7)(A)(i)'' and inserting ''403(b)(7)(A)(ii)''.

(l) Section 527 is amended—

(1) by striking ''(2 U.S.C. 432(e))'' in subsection (h)(2)(A)(i) and inserting ''(52 U.S.C. 30102(e))'', and

(2) by striking ''(2 U.S.C. 431 et seq.)'' in subsections (i)(6) and (j)(5)(A) and inserting ''(52 U.S.C. 30101 et seq.)''.

(m) Subsection (b) of section 858 is amended by striking ''857(b)(8)'' and inserting ''857(b)(9)''.

(n) Subparagraph (A) of section 1012(c)(2) is amended by striking ''section 1012'' and inserting ''this section''.

(o) The heading for section 1394(f) is amended by striking ''DESIGNATED UNDER SECTION 1391(g)''.

(p) Paragraphs (1) and (2)(A) of section 1394(f) are each amended by striking ''a new empowerment zone facility bond'' and inserting ''an empowerment zone facility bond''.

(q) Clause (i) of section 1400N(c)(3)(A) is amended by striking ''section 42(d)(5)(C)(iii)'' and inserting ''section 42(d)(5)(B)(iii)''.

(r) Subsections (e)(3)(B) and (f)(7)(B) of section 4943 are each amended by striking ''January 1, 1970'' and inserting ''January 1, 1971''.

(s) Paragraph (2) of section 4982(f) is amended by adding a comma at the end.

(t) Paragraph (3) of section 6011(e) is amended by striking ''shall require than'' and inserting ''shall require that''.

(u) Subsection (b) of section 6072 is amended by striking ''6011(e)(2)'' and inserting ''6011(c)(2)''.

(v) Subsection (d) of section 6104 is amended by redesignating the second paragraph (6) (relating to disclosure of reports by the Internal Revenue Service) and third paragraph (6) (relating to application to nonexempt charitable trusts and nonexempt private foundations) as paragraphs (7) and (8), respectively.

(w) Subsection (c) of section 6662A is amended by striking ''section 6664(d)(2)(A)'' and inserting ''section 6664(d)(3)(A)''.

(x) Subparagraph (FF) of section 6724(d)(2) is amended by striking ''section 6050W(c)'' and inserting ''section 6050W(f)''.

(y) Section 7122 is amended by redesignating the second subsection (f) (relating to frivolous submissions, etc.) as subsection (g).

(z) Subsection (a) of section 9035 is amended by striking ''section 320(b)(1)(A)'' and inserting ''section 315(b)(1)(A)''.

(aa) Section 9802 is amended by redesignating the second subsection (f) (relating to genetic information of a fetus or embryo) as subsection (g).

(bb) Paragraph (3) of section 13(e) of the Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009 is amended by striking ''subsection (d)'' and inserting ''subsection (c)''.

SEC. 221. DEADWOOD PROVISIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) ADJUSTMENTS IN TAX TABLES SO THAT INFLATION WILL NOT RESULT IN TAX INCREASES.—Paragraph (7) of section 1(f) is amended to read as follows:

''(7) SPECIAL RULE FOR CERTAIN BRACKETS.—In prescribing tables under paragraph (1) which apply to taxable years beginning in a calendar year after 1994, the cost-of-living adjustment used in making adjustments to the dollar amounts at which the 36 percent rate bracket begins or at which the 39.6 percent rate bracket begins shall be determined under paragraph (3) by substituting '1993' for '1992'.''.

(2) CERTAIN PLUG-IN ELECTRIC VEHICLES.—

(A) Subpart B of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 is amended by striking section 30 (and by striking the item relating to such section in the table of sections for such subpart).

(B) Subsection (b) of section 38, as amended by section 209(f)(1) of this Act, is amended by inserting ''plus'' at the end of paragraph (35), by striking paragraph (36), and by redesignating paragraph (37) as paragraph (36).

(C) Subclause (VI) of section 48C(c)(1)(A)(i) is amended by striking '', qualified plug-in electric vehicles (as defined by section 30(d)),''.

(D) Section 1016(a) is amended by striking paragraph (25).

(E) Section 6501(m) is amended by striking ''section 30(e)(6),''.

(3) EARNED INCOME CREDIT.—

(A) Paragraph (1) of section 32(b) is amended—

(i) by striking subparagraphs (B) and (C), and

(ii) by striking ''(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of taxable years beginning after 1995:'' in subparagraph (A) and moving the table 2 ems to the left.

(B) Subparagraph (B) of section 32(b)(2) is amended by striking ''increased by'' and all that follows and inserting ''increased by $3,000.''.

(4) FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER CREDIT.—Section 6213(g)(2), as amended by section 214(a)(2) of this Act, is amended by striking subparagraph (P).

(5) MAKING WORK PAY CREDIT.—

(A) Subpart C of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 is amended by striking section 36A (and by striking the item relating to such section in the table of sections for such subpart).

(B) Subparagraph (A) of section 6211(b)(4) is amended by striking '', 36A''.

(C) Section 6213(g)(2) is amended by striking subparagraph (N).

(6) GENERAL BUSINESS CREDITS.—Subsection (d) of section 38 is amended by striking paragraph (3).

(7) LOW-INCOME HOUSING CREDIT.—Subclause (I) of section 42(h)(3)(C)(ii) is amended by striking ''($1.50 for 2001)''.

(8) MINIMUM TAX CREDIT.—

(A)(i) Section 53 is amended by striking subsections (e) and (f).

(ii) The amendment made by clause (i) striking subsection (f) of section 53 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall not be construed to allow any tax abated by reason of section 53(f)(1) of such Code (as in effect before such amendment) to be included in the amount determined under section 53(b)(1) of such Code.

(B) Paragraph (4) of section 6211(b)(4) is amended by striking '', 53(e)''.

(9) ADJUSTMENTS BASED ON ADJUSTED CURRENT EARNINGS.—Clause (ii) of section 56(g)(4)(F) is amended by striking ''In the case of any taxable year beginning after December 31, 1992, clause'' and inserting ''Clause''.

(10) ITEMS OF TAX PREFERENCE; DEPLETION.—Paragraph (1) of section 57(a) is amended by striking ''Effective with respect to taxable years beginning after December 31, 1992, this'' and inserting ''This''.

(11) INTANGIBLE DRILLING COSTS.—

(A) Clause (i) of section 57(a)(2)(E) is amended by striking ''In the case of any taxable year beginning after December 31, 1992, this'' and inserting ''This''.

(B) Clause (ii) of section 57(a)(2)(E) is amended by striking ''(30 percent in case of taxable years beginning in 1993)''.

(12) ENVIRONMENTAL TAX.—

(A) Subchapter A of chapter 1 is amended by striking part VII (and by striking the item relating to such part in the table of parts for such subchapter).

(B) Paragraph (2) of section 26(b) is amended by striking subparagraph (B).

(C) Section 30A(c) is amended by striking paragraph (1) and by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) as paragraphs (1), (2), and (3), respectively.

(D) Subsection (a) of section 164 is amended by striking paragraph (5).

(E) Section 275(a) is amended by striking the last sentence.

(F) Section 882(a)(1) is amended by striking '', 59A''.

(G) Section 936(a)(3) is amended by striking subparagraph (A) and by redesignating subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D) as subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), respectively.

(H) Section 1561(a) is amended—

(i) by inserting ''and'' at the end of paragraph (2), by striking '', and'' at the end of paragraph (3) and inserting a period, and by striking paragraph (4), and

(ii) by striking '', the amount specified in paragraph (3), and the amount specified in paragraph (4)'' and inserting ''and the amount specified in paragraph (3)''.

(I) Section 4611(e) is amended—

(i) by striking ''section 59A, this section,'' in paragraph (2)(B) and inserting ''this section'', and

(ii) in paragraph (3)(A)—

(I) by striking ''section 59A,'', and

(II) by striking the comma after ''rate)''.

(J) Section 6425(c)(1)(A) is amended by inserting ''plus'' at end of clause (i), by striking ''plus'' and inserting ''over'' at the end of clause (ii), and by striking clause (iii).

(K) Section 6655 is amended—

(i) in subsections (e)(2)(A)(i) and (e)(2)(B)(i), by striking ''taxable income, alternative minimum taxable income, and modified alternative minimum taxable income'' and inserting ''taxable income and alternative minimum taxable income'',

(ii) in subsection (e)(2)(B), by striking clause (iii), and

(iii) in subsection (g)(1)(A), by inserting ''plus'' at the end of clause (ii), by striking clause (iii), and by redesignating clause (iv) as clause (iii).

(L) Section 9507(b)(1) is amended by striking ''59A,''.

(13) STANDARD DEDUCTION.—

(A) So much of paragraph (1) of section 63(c) as follows ''the sum of—'' is amended to read as follows:

''(A) the basic standard deduction, and

''(B) the additional standard deduction.''.

(B) Subsection (c) of section 63 is amended by striking paragraphs (7), (8), and (9).

(14) ANNUITIES; CERTAIN PROCEEDS OF ENDOWMENT AND LIFE INSURANCE CONTRACTS.—Section 72 is amended—

(A) in subsection (c)(4), by striking ''; except that if such date was before January 1, 1954, then the annuity starting date is January 1, 1954'', and

(B) in subsection (g)(3), by striking ''January 1, 1954, or'' and '', whichever is later''.

(15) UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.—Section 85 is amended by striking subsection (c).

(16) ACCIDENT AND HEALTH PLANS.—Section 105(f) is amended by striking ''or (d)''.

(17) FLEXIBLE SPENDING ARRANGEMENTS.—Section 106(c)(1) is amended by striking ''Effective on and after January 1, 1997, gross'' and inserting ''Gross''.

(18) CERTAIN COMBAT ZONE COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.—Subsection (c) of section 112 is amended—

(A) by striking ''(after June 24, 1950)'' in paragraph (2), and

(B) by striking ''such zone;'' and all that follows in paragraph (3) and inserting ''such zone.''.

(19) LEGAL SERVICE PLANS.—

(A) Part III of subchapter B of chapter 1 is amended by striking section 120 (and by striking the item relating to such section in the table of sections for such subpart).

(B)(i) Section 414(n)(3)(C) is amended by striking ''120,''.

(ii) Section 414(t)(2) is amended by striking ''120,''.

(iii) Section 501(c) is amended by striking paragraph (20).

(iv) Section 3121(a) is amended by striking paragraph (17).

(v) Section 3231(e) is amended by striking paragraph (7).

(vi) Section 3306(b) is amended by striking paragraph (12).

(vii) Section 6039D(d)(1) is amended by striking ''120,''.

(viii) Section 209(a)(14) of the Social Security Act is amended—

(I) by striking subparagraph (B), and

(II) by striking ''(14)(A)'' and inserting ''(14)''.

(20) PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE.—Section 121(b)(3) is amended—

(A) by striking subparagraph (B), and

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''(A) IN GENERAL.—'' and moving the text 2 ems to the left.

(21) CERTAIN REDUCED UNIFORMED SERVICES RETIREMENT PAY.—Section 122(b)(1) is amended by striking ''after December 31, 1965,''.

(22) GREAT PLAINS CONSERVATION PROGRAM.—Section 126(a) is amended by striking paragraph (6) and by redesignating paragraphs (7), (8), (9), and (10) as paragraphs (6), (7), (8), and (9), respectively.

(23) TREBLE DAMAGE PAYMENTS UNDER THE ANTITRUST LAW.—Section 162(g) is amended by striking the last sentence.

(24) STATE LEGISLATORS' TRAVEL EXPENSES AWAY FROM HOME.—Paragraph (4) of section 162(h) is amended by striking ''For taxable years beginning after December 31, 1980, this'' and inserting ''This''.

(25) INTEREST.—

(A) Section 163 is amended—

(i) by striking paragraph (6) of subsection (d), and

(ii) by striking paragraph (5) of subsection (h).

(B) Section 56(b)(1)(C) is amended by striking clause (ii) and by redesignating clauses (iii), (iv), and (v) as clauses (ii), (iii), and (iv), respectively.

(26) QUALIFIED MOTOR VEHICLE TAXES.—Section 164, as amended by section 209(c) of this Act, is amended by striking subsections (a)(6) and (b)(6).

(27) DISASTER LOSSES.—

(A) Subsection (h) of section 165 is amended by striking paragraph (3) and by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively.

(B) Paragraph (3) of section 165(h), as so redesignated, is amended by striking ''paragraphs (2) and (3)'' and inserting ''paragraph (2)''.

(C) Subsection (i) of section 165 is amended—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) by striking ''(as defined by clause (ii) of subsection (h)(3)(C))'', and

(II) by striking ''(as defined by clause (i) of such subsection)'',

(ii) by striking ''(as defined by subsection (h)(3)(C)(i)'' in paragraph (4), and

(iii) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(5) FEDERALLY DECLARED DISASTERS.—For purposes of this subsection—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'Federally declared disaster' means any disaster subsequently determined by the President of the United States to warrant assistance by the Federal Government under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

''(B) DISASTER AREA.—The term 'disaster area' means the area so determined to warrant such assistance.''.

(D) Section 1033(h)(3) is amended by striking ''section 165(h)(3)(C)'' and inserting ''section 165(i)(5)''.

(28) CHARITABLE, ETC., CONTRIBUTIONS AND GIFTS.—Section 170 is amended—

(A) by striking paragraph (3) of subsection (b),

(B) by striking paragraph (6) of subsection (e), and

(C) by striking subsection (k).

(29) AMORTIZABLE BOND PREMIUM.—

(A) Subparagraph (B) of section 171(b)(1) is amended to read as follows:

''(B)(i) with reference to the amount payable on maturity (or if it results in a smaller amortizable bond premium attributable to the period before the call date, with reference to the amount payable on the earlier call date), in the case of a bond described in subsection (a)(1), and

''(ii) with reference to the amount payable on maturity or on an earlier call date, in the case of a bond described in subsection (a)(2).''.

(B) Paragraphs (2) and (3)(B) of section 171(b) are each amended by striking ''paragraph (1)(B)(ii)'' and inserting ''paragraph (1)(B)(i)''.

(30) NET OPERATING LOSS CARRYBACKS, CARRYOVERS, AND CARRYFORWARDS.—

(A) Section 172, as amended by section 211(c)(1)(B) of this Act, is amended—

(i) by striking subparagraphs (D), (H), (I), and (J) of subsection (b)(1) and by redesignating subparagraphs (E), (F), and (G) as subparagraphs (D), (E), and (F), respectively, and

(ii) by striking subsections (g) and (j) and by redesignating subsections (h), (i), and (k) as subsections (g), (h), and (i), respectively.

(B) Each of the following provisions of section 172 (as amended by section 211(c)(1)(B) of this Act and as redesignated by subparagraph (A)) are amended as follows:

(i) By striking ''ending after August 2, 1989'' in subsection (b)(1)(D)(i)(II).

(ii) By striking ''subsection (h)'' in subsection (b)(1)(D)(ii) and inserting ''subsection (g)''.

(iii) By striking ''section 165(h)(3)(C)(i)'' in subsection (b)(1)(E)(ii)(II) and inserting ''section 165(i)(5)''.

(iv) By striking ''subsection (i)'' and all that follows in the last sentence of subsection (b)(1)(E)(ii) and inserting ''subsection (h)).''.

(v) By striking ''subsection (i)'' in subsection (b)(1)(F) and inserting ''subsection (h)''.

(vi) By striking subparagraph (F) of paragraph (2) of subsection (g).

(vii) By striking ''subsection (b)(1)(E)'' each place it appears in subsection (g)(4) and inserting ''subsection (b)(1)(D)''.

(viii) By striking the last sentence of subsection (h)(1).

(ix) By striking ''subsection (b)(1)(G)'' each place it appears in subsection (h)(3) and inserting ''subsection (b)(1)(F)''.

(C) Subsection (d) of section 56 is amended by striking paragraph (3).

(D) Paragraph (5) of section 382(l) is amended by striking subparagraph (F) and by redesignating subparagraphs (G) and (H) as subparagraphs (F) and (G), respectively.

(31) RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTAL EXPENDITURES.—Subparagraph (A) of section 174(a)(2) is amended to read as follows:

''(A) WITHOUT CONSENT.—A taxpayer may, without the consent of the Secretary, adopt the method provided in this subsection for his first taxable year for which expenditures described in paragraph (1) are paid or incurred.''.

(32) AMORTIZATION OF CERTAIN RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTAL EXPENDITURES.—Paragraph (2) of section 174(b) is amended by striking ''beginning after December 31, 1953''.

(33) SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION EXPENDITURES.—Paragraph (1) of section 175(d) is amended to read as follows:

''(1) WITHOUT CONSENT.—A taxpayer may, without the consent of the Secretary, adopt the method provided in this section for the taxpayer's first taxable year for which expenditures described in subsection (a) are paid or incurred.''.

(34) CLEAN-FUEL VEHICLES.—

(A) Part VI of subchapter A of chapter 1 is amended by striking section 179A (and by striking the item relating to such section in the table of sections for such part).

(B) Section 30C(e) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(7) REFERENCE.—For purposes of this section, any reference to section 179A shall be treated as a reference to such section as in effect immediately before its repeal.''.

(C) Section 62(a) is amended by striking paragraph (14).

(D) Section 263(a)(1) is amended by striking subparagraph (H).

(E) Section 280F(a)(1) is amended by striking subparagraph (C).

(F) Section 312(k)(3) is amended by striking ''179A,'' each place it appears.

(G) Section 1016(a) is amended by striking paragraph (24).

(H) Section 1245(a) is amended by striking ''179A,'' each place it appears in paragraphs (2)(C) and (3)(C).

(35) QUALIFIED DISASTER EXPENSES.—Part VI of subchapter A of chapter 1 is amended by striking section 198A (and by striking the item relating to such section in the table of sections for such part).

(36) ACTIVITIES NOT ENGAGED IN FOR PROFIT.—Section 183(e)(1) is amended by striking the last sentence.

(37) DOMESTIC PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES.—

(A) Subsection (a) of section 199 is amended—

(i) by striking paragraph (2),

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively, and by moving paragraphs (1) and (2) (as so redesignated) 2 ems to the left, and

(iii) by striking ''ALLOWANCE OF DEDUCTION.—'' and all that follows through ''There shall be allowed'' and inserting the following:

''(a) ALLOWANCE OF DEDUCTION.—There shall be allowed''.

(B) Paragraphs (2) and (6)(B) of section 199(d) are each amended by striking ''(a)(1)(B)'' and inserting ''(a)(2)''.

(38) RETIREMENT SAVINGS.—

(A) Subparagraph (A) of section 219(b)(5) is amended to read as follows:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The deductible amount is $5,000.''.

(B) Clause (ii) of section 219(b)(5)(B) is amended to read as follows:

''(ii) APPLICABLE AMOUNT.—For purposes of clause (i), the applicable amount is $1,000.''.

(C) Paragraph (5) of section 219(b) is amended by striking subparagraph (C) and by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (C).

(D) Clause (ii) of section 219(g)(2)(A) is amended by striking ''for a taxable year beginning after December 31, 2006''.

(E) Section 219(g)(3)(B) is amended by striking clauses (i) and (ii) and inserting the following:

''(i) In the case of a taxpayer filing a joint return, $80,000.

''(ii) In the case of any other taxpayer (other than a married individual filing a separate return), $50,000.''.

(F) Paragraph (8) of section 219(g) is amended by striking ''the dollar amount in the last row of the table contained in paragraph (3)(B)(i), the dollar amount in the last row of the table contained in paragraph (3)(B)(ii), and the dollar amount contained in paragraph (7)(A),'' and inserting ''each of the dollar amounts in paragraphs (3)(B)(i), (3)(B)(ii), and (7)(A)''.

(39) REPORTS REGARDING QUALIFIED VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTIONS.—

(A) Section 219 is amended by striking paragraph (4) of subsection (f) and subsection (h).

(B) Section 6652 is amended by striking subsection (g).

(40) INTEREST ON EDUCATION LOANS.—Paragraph (1) of section 221(b) is amended by striking ''shall not exceed'' and all that follows and inserting ''shall not exceed $2,500.''.

(41) DIVIDENDS RECEIVED ON CERTAIN PREFERRED STOCK; AND DIVIDENDS PAID ON CERTAIN PREFERRED STOCK OF PUBLIC UTILITIES.—

(A) Sections 244 and 247 are hereby repealed, and the table of sections for part VIII of subchapter B of chapter 1 is amended by striking the items relating to sections 244 and 247.

(B) Paragraph (5) of section 172(d) is amended to read as follows:

''(5) COMPUTATION OF DEDUCTION FOR DIVIDENDS RECEIVED.—The deductions allowed by section 243 (relating to dividends received by corporations) and 245 (relating to dividends received from certain foreign corporations) shall be computed without regard to section 246(b) (relating to limitation on aggregate amount of deductions).''.

(C) Paragraph (1) of section 243(c) is amended to read as follows:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any dividend received from a 20-percent owned corporation, subsection (a)(1) shall be applied by substituting '80 percent' for '70 percent'.''.

(D) Section 243(d) is amended by striking paragraph (4).

(E) Section 246 is amended—

(i) by striking '', 244,'' in subsection (a)(1),

(ii) in subsection (b)(1)—

(I) by striking ''sections 243(a)(1), 244(a),'' and inserting ''section 243(a)(1)'',

(II) by striking ''244(a),'' the second place it appears, and

(III) by striking ''subsection (a) or (b) of section 245, and 247,'' and inserting ''and subsection (a) or (b) of section 245,'', and

(iii) by striking '', 244,'' in subsection (c)(1).

(F) Section 246A is amended by striking '', 244,'' both places it appears in subsections (a) and (e).

(G) Sections 263(g)(2)(B)(iii), 277(a), 301(e)(2), 469(e)(4), 512(a)(3)(A), subparagraphs (A), (C), and (D) of section 805(a)(4), 805(b)(5), 812(e)(2)(A), 815(c)(2)(A)(iii), 832(b)(5), 833(b)(3)(E), and 1059(b)(2)(B) are each amended by striking '', 244,'' each place it appears.

(H) Section 1244(c)(2)(C) is amended by striking ''244,''.

(I) Section 805(a)(4)(B) is amended by striking '', 244(a),'' each place it appears.

(J) Section 810(c)(2)(B) is amended by striking ''244 (relating to dividends on certain preferred stock of public utilities),''.

(K) The amendments made by this paragraph shall not apply to preferred stock issued before October 1, 1942 (determined in the same manner as under section 247 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as in effect before its repeal by such amendments).

(42) ORGANIZATION EXPENSES.—Section 248(c) is amended by striking ''beginning after December 31, 1953,'' and by striking the last sentence.

(43) BOND REPURCHASE PREMIUM.—Section 249(b)(1) is amended by striking '', in the case of bonds or other evidences of indebtedness issued after February 28, 1913,''.

(44) AMOUNT OF GAIN WHERE LOSS PREVIOUSLY DISALLOWED.—Section 267(d) is amended by striking ''(or by reason of section 24(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1939)'' in paragraph (1), by striking ''after December 31, 1953,'' in paragraph (2), by striking the second sentence, and by striking ''or by reason of section 118 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1939'' in the last sentence.

(45) ACQUISITIONS MADE TO EVADE OR AVOID INCOME TAX.—Paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 269(a) are each amended by striking ''or acquired on or after October 8, 1940,''.

(46) MEALS AND ENTERTAINMENT.—Paragraph (3) of section 274(n) is amended—

(A) by striking ''(A) IN GENERAL.—'',

(B) by striking ''substituting 'the applicable percentage' for'' and inserting ''substituting '80 percent' for'', and

(C) by striking subparagraph (B).

(47) INTEREST ON INDEBTEDNESS INCURRED BY CORPORATIONS TO ACQUIRE STOCK OR ASSETS OF ANOTHER CORPORATION.—

(A) Section 279 is amended—

(i) by striking ''after December 31, 1967,'' in subsection (a)(2),

(ii) by striking ''after October 9, 1969,'' in subsection (b),

(iii) by striking ''after October 9, 1969, and'' in subsection (d)(5), and

(iv) by striking subsection (i) and redesignating subsection (j) as subsection (i).

(B) The amendments made by this paragraph shall not—

(i) apply to obligations issued on or before October 9, 1969 (determined in the same manner as under section 279 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as in effect before such amendments), and

(ii) be construed to require interest on obligations issued on or before December 31, 1967, to be taken into account under section 279(a)(2) of such Code (as in effect after such amendments).

(48) BANK HOLDING COMPANIES.—

(A) Clause (iii) of section 304(b)(3)(D) is repealed.

(B) The heading of subparagraph (D) of section 304(b)(3) is amended by striking ''AND SPECIAL RULE''.

(49) EFFECT ON EARNINGS AND PROFITS.—Subsection (d) of section 312 is amended by striking paragraph (2) and redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2).

(50) DISQUALIFIED STOCK.—Paragraph (3) of section 355(d) is amended by striking ''after October 9, 1990, and'' each place it appears.

(51) BASIS TO CORPORATIONS.—Section 362 is amended by striking ''on or after June 22, 1954'' in subsection (a) and by striking '', on or after June 22, 1954,'' each place it appears in subsection (c).

(52) TEMPORARY WAIVER OF MINIMUM REQUIRED DISTRIBUTION.—Section 401(a)(9) is amended by striking subparagraph (H).

(53) INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS.—Clause (i) of section 408(p)(2)(E) is amended to read as follows:

''(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(ii), the applicable amount is $10,000.''.

(54) TAX CREDIT EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLANS.—Section 409 is amended by striking subsection (q).

(55) CATCH-UP CONTRIBUTIONS.—Clauses (i) and (ii) of section 414(v)(2)(B) are amended to read as follows:

''(i) In the case of an applicable employer plan other than a plan described in section 401(k)(11) or 408(p), the applicable dollar amount is $5,000.

''(ii) In the case of an applicable employer plan described in section 401(k)(11) or 408(p), the applicable dollar amount is $2,500.''.

(56) EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLANS.—Section 423(a) is amended by striking ''after December 31, 1963,''.

(57) PENSION RELATED TRANSITION RULES.—

(A) Section 402(g)(1)(B) is amended by striking ''shall be'' and all that follows and inserting ''is $15,000.''.

(B)(i) Subparagraph (D) of section 417(e)(3) is amended—

(I) by striking clauses (ii) and (iii),

(II) by striking ''if—'' and all that follows through ''section 430(h)(2)(D)'' and inserting ''if section 430(h)(2)(D)'', and

(III) by striking ''described in such section,'' and inserting ''described in such section.''.

(ii) Clause (iii) of section 205(g)(3)(B) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1055(g)(3)(B)) is amended—

(I) by striking subclauses (II) and (III),

(II) by striking ''if—'' and all that follows through ''section 303(h)(2)(D)'' and inserting ''if section 303(h)(2)(D)'', and

(III) by striking ''described in such section,'' and inserting ''described in such section.''.

(C)(i) Paragraph (5) of section 430(c) is amended by striking subparagraph (B) and by striking ''(A) IN GENERAL.—''.

(ii) Paragraph (5) of section 303(c) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1083(c)) is amended by striking subparagraph (B) and by striking ''(A) IN GENERAL.—''.

(D)(i) Paragraph (2) of section 430(h) is amended by striking subparagraph (G).

(ii) Paragraph (2) of section 303(h) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1083(h)) is amended by striking subparagraph (G).

(E)(i) Paragraph (3) of section 436(j), as added by section 113(a)(1)(B) of the Pension Protection Act of 2006, is amended by striking subparagraphs (B) and (C) and by striking ''(A) IN GENERAL.—''.

(ii) Subparagraph (C) of section 206(g)(9) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1056(g)(9)) is amended by striking clauses (ii) and (iii) and by striking ''(i) IN GENERAL.—''.

(F)(i) Section 436(j) is amended by striking the paragraph (3) added by section 203(a)(2) of the Preservation of Access to Care for Medicare Beneficiaries and Pension Relief Act of 2010.

(ii) Section 206(g)(9) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1056(g)(9)) is amended by striking subparagraph (D).

(G)(i) Section 436 is amended by striking subsection (m).

(ii) Section 206(g) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1056(g)) is amended by striking paragraph (11).

(H) Section 457(e)(15)(A) is amended by striking ''shall be'' and all that follows and inserting ''is $15,000.''.

(58) LIMITATION ON DEDUCTIONS FOR CERTAIN FARMING.—

(A) Section 464 is amended by striking ''any farming syndicate (as defined in subsection (c))'' both places it appears in subsections (a) and (b) and inserting ''any taxpayer to whom subsection (d) applies''.

(B)(i) Subsection (c) of section 464 is hereby moved to the end of section 461 and redesignated as subsection (j).

(ii) Such subsection (j) is amended—

(I) by striking ''For purposes of this section'' in paragraph (1) and inserting ''For purposes of subsection (i)(4)'', and

(II) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

''(3) FARMING.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'farming' has the meaning given to such term by section 464(e).

''(4) LIMITED ENTREPRENEUR.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'limited entrepreneur' means a person who—

''(A) has an interest in an enterprise other than as a limited partner, and

''(B) does not actively participate in the management of such enterprise.''.

(iii) Paragraph (4) of section 461(i) is amended by striking ''section 464(c)'' and inserting ''subsection (j)''.

(C) Section 464 is amended—

(i) by striking subsections (e) and (g) and redesignating subsections (d) and (f) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively, and

(ii) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e) FARMING.—For purposes of this section, the term 'farming' means the cultivation of land or the raising or harvesting of any agricultural or horticultural commodity including the raising, shearing, feeding, caring for, training, and management of animals. For purposes of the preceding sentence, trees (other than trees bearing fruit or nuts) shall not be treated as an agricultural or horticultural commodity.''.

(D) Subsection (d) of section 464 of such Code (as redesignated by subparagraph (C)) is amended—

(i) by striking paragraph (1) and redesignating paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) as paragraphs (1), (2), and (3), respectively, and

(ii) by striking ''SUBSECTIONS (A) AND (B) TO APPLY TO'' in the heading.

(E) Subparagraph (A) of section 58(a)(2) is amended by striking ''section 464(c)'' and inserting ''section 461(j)''.

(59) DEDUCTIONS LIMITED TO AMOUNT AT RISK.—Subparagraph (A) of section 465(c)(3) is amended by striking ''In the case of taxable years beginning after December 31, 1978, this'' and inserting ''This''.

(60) PASSIVE ACTIVITY LOSSES AND CREDITS LIMITED.—

(A) Section 469 is amended by striking subsection (m).

(B) Subsection (b) of section 58 is amended by adding ''and'' at the end of paragraph (1), by striking paragraph (2), and by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2).

(61) ADJUSTMENTS REQUIRED BY CHANGES IN METHOD OF ACCOUNTING.—Section 481(b)(3) is amended by striking subparagraph (C).

(62) EXEMPTION FROM TAX ON CORPORATIONS, CERTAIN TRUSTS, ETC.—Section 501 is amended by striking subsection (s).

(63) REQUIREMENTS FOR EXEMPTION.—

(A) Section 503(a)(1) is amended to read as follows:

''(1) GENERAL RULE.—An organization described in paragraph (17) or (18) of section 501(c), or described in section 401(a) and referred to in section 4975(g) (2) or (3), shall not be exempt from taxation under section 501(a) if it has engaged in a prohibited transaction.''.

(B) Paragraph (2) of section 503(a) is amended by striking ''described in section 501(c)(17) or (18) or paragraph (a)(1)(B)'' and inserting ''described in paragraph (1)''.

(C) Subsection (c) of section 503 is amended by striking ''described in section 501(c)(17) or (18) or subsection (a)(1)(B)'' and inserting ''described in subsection (a)(1)''.

(64) ACCUMULATED TAXABLE INCOME.—Paragraph (1) of section 535(b) and paragraph (1) of section 545(b) are each amended by striking ''section 531'' and all that follows and inserting ''section 531 or the personal holding company tax imposed by section 541.''.

(65) DEFINITION OF PROPERTY.—Subsection (b) of section 614 is amended—

(A) by striking paragraphs (3)(C) and (5), and

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking ''whichever of the following years is later: The first taxable year beginning after December 31, 1963, or''.

(66) AMOUNTS RECEIVED BY SURVIVING ANNUITANT UNDER JOINT AND SURVIVOR ANNUITY CONTRACT.—Subparagraph (A) of section 691(d)(1) is amended by striking ''after December 31, 1953, and''.

(67) INCOME TAXES OF MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES ON DEATH.—Section 692(a)(1) is amended by striking ''after June 24, 1950''.

(68) SPECIAL RULES FOR COMPUTING RESERVES.—Paragraph (7) of section 807(e) is amended by striking subparagraph (B) and redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (B).

(69) INSURANCE COMPANY TAXABLE INCOME.—

(A) Section 832(e) is amended by striking ''of taxable years beginning after December 31, 1966,''.

(B) Section 832(e)(6) is amended by striking ''In the case of any taxable year beginning after December 31, 1970, the'' and inserting ''The''.

(70) CAPITALIZATION OF CERTAIN POLICY ACQUISITION EXPENSES.—Section 848 is amended by striking subsection (j).

(71) TAX ON NONRESIDENT ALIEN INDIVIDUALS.—Subparagraph (B) of section 871(a)(1) is amended to read as follows:

''(B) gains described in subsection (b) or (c) of section 631,''.

(72) LIMITATION ON CREDIT.—Paragraph (2) of section 904(d) is amended by striking subparagraph (J).

(73) FOREIGN EARNED INCOME.—Clause (i) of section 911(b)(2)(D) is amended to read as follows:

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The exclusion amount for any calendar year is $80,000.''.

(74) BASIS OF PROPERTY ACQUIRED FROM DECEDENT.—

(A) Section 1014(a)(2) is amended to read as follows:

''(2) in the case of an election under section 2032, its value at the applicable valuation date prescribed by such section,''.

(B) Section 1014(b) is amended by striking paragraphs (7) and (8).

(75) ADJUSTED BASIS.—Section 1016(a) is amended by striking paragraph (12).

(76) PROPERTY ON WHICH LESSEE HAS MADE IMPROVEMENTS.—Section 1019 is amended by striking the last sentence.

(77) INVOLUNTARY CONVERSION.—Section 1033 is amended by striking subsection (j) and by redesignating subsections (k) and (l) as subsections (j) and (k), respectively.

(78) PROPERTY ACQUIRED DURING AFFILIATION.—Section 1051 is hereby repealed, and the table of sections for part IV of subchapter O of chapter 1 is amended by striking the item relating to section 1051.

(79) CAPITAL GAINS AND LOSSES.—Section 1222 is amended by striking the last sentence.

(80) HOLDING PERIOD OF PROPERTY.—

(A) Paragraph (1) of section 1223 is amended by striking ''after March 1, 1954,''.

(B) Paragraph (4) of section 1223 is amended by striking '' '(or under so much of section 1052(c) as refers to section 113(a)(23) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1939)' ''.

(C) Paragraphs (6) and (8) of section 1223 are repealed.

(81) PROPERTY USED IN THE TRADE OR BUSINESS AND INVOLUNTARY CONVERSIONS.—Subparagraph (A) of section 1231(c)(2) is amended by striking ''beginning after December 31, 1981''.

(82) SALE OR EXCHANGE OF PATENTS.—Section 1235 is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (c) and by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively, and

(B) by striking ''subsection (d)'' in subsection (b)(2)(B) and inserting ''subsection (c)''.

(83) DEALERS IN SECURITIES.—Subsection (b) of section 1236 is amended by striking ''after November 19, 1951,''.

(84) SALE OF PATENTS.—Subsection (a) of section 1249 is amended by striking ''after December 31, 1962,''.

(85) GAIN FROM DISPOSITION OF FARMLAND.—Paragraph (1) of section 1252(a) is amended—

(A) by striking ''after December 31, 1969'' the first place it appears, and

(B) by striking ''after December 31, 1969,'' in subparagraph (A).

(86) TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED ON RETIREMENT OR SALE OR EXCHANGE OF DEBT INSTRUMENTS.—Subsection (c) of section 1271 is amended to read as follows:

''(c) SPECIAL RULE FOR CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS WITH RESPECT TO WHICH ORIGINAL ISSUE DISCOUNT NOT CURRENTLY INCLUDIBLE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—On the sale or exchange of debt instruments issued by a government or political subdivision thereof after December 31, 1954, and before July 2, 1982, or by a corporation after December 31, 1954, and on or before May 27, 1969, any gain realized which does not exceed—

''(A) an amount equal to the original issue discount, or

''(B) if at the time of original issue there was no intention to call the debt instrument before maturity, an amount which bears the same ratio to the original issue discount as the number of complete months that the debt instrument was held by the taxpayer bears to the number of complete months from the date of original issue to the date of maturity, shall be considered as ordinary income.

''(2) SUBSECTION (a)(2)(A) NOT TO APPLY.—Subsection (a)(2)(A) shall not apply to any debt instrument referred to in paragraph (1) of this subsection.

''(3) CROSS REFERENCE.—For current inclusion of original issue discount, see section 1272.''.

(87) AMOUNT AND METHOD OF ADJUSTMENT.—Section 1314 is amended by striking subsection (d) and by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (d).

(88) ELECTION; REVOCATION; TERMINATION.—Clause (iii) of section 1362(d)(3)(A) is amended by striking ''unless'' and all that follows and inserting ''unless the corporation was an S corporation for such taxable year.''.

(89) OLD-AGE, SURVIVORS, AND DISABILITY INSURANCE.—Subsection (a) of section 1401 is amended by striking ''the following percent'' and all that follows and inserting ''12.4 percent of the amount of the self-employment income for such taxable year.''.

(90) HOSPITAL INSURANCE.—Paragraph (1) of section 1401(b) is amended by striking: ''the following percent'' and all that follows and inserting ''2.9 percent of the amount of the self-employment income for such taxable year.''.

(91) MINISTERS, MEMBERS OF RELIGIOUS ORDERS, AND CHRISTIAN SCIENCE PRACTITIONERS.—Paragraph (3) of section 1402(e) is amended—

(A) by striking ''whichever of the following dates is later: (A)'', and

(B) by striking '';or (B)' '' and all that follows and inserting a period.

(92) WITHHOLDING OF TAX ON NONRESIDENT ALIENS.—The first sentence of subsection (b) of section 1441 and the first sentence of paragraph (5) of section 1441(c) are each amended by striking ''gains subject to tax'' and all that follows through ''October 4, 1966'' and inserting ''and gains subject to tax under section 871(a)(1)(D)''.

(93) AFFILIATED GROUP DEFINED.—Subparagraph (A) of section 1504(a)(3) is amended by striking ''for a taxable year which includes any period after December 31, 1984'' in clause (i) and by striking ''in a taxable year beginning after December 31, 1984'' in clause (ii).

(94) DISALLOWANCE OF THE BENEFITS OF THE GRADUATED CORPORATE RATES AND ACCUMULATED EARNINGS CREDIT.—

(A) Subsection (a) of section 1551 is amended—

(i) by striking paragraph (1) and by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively, and

(ii) by striking ''after June 12, 1963,'' each place it appears.

(B) Section 1551(b) is amended—

(i) by striking ''or (2)'' in paragraph (1), and

(ii) by striking ''(a)(3)'' in paragraph (2) and inserting ''(a)(2)''.

(95) CREDIT FOR STATE DEATH TAXES.—

(A)(i) Part II of subchapter A of chapter 11 is amended by striking section 2011 (and by striking the item relating to such section in the table of sections for such subpart).

(ii) Section 2106(a)(4) is amended by striking ''section 2011(a)'' and inserting ''2058(a)''.

(B)(i) Subchapter A of chapter 13 is amended by striking section 2604 (and by striking the item relating to such section in the table of sections for such subpart).

(ii) Clause (ii) of section 164(b)(4)(A) is amended by inserting ''(as in effect before its repeal)'' after ''section 2604''.

(iii) Section 2654(a)(1) is amended by striking ''(computed without regard to section 2604)''.

(96) GROSS ESTATE.—Subsection (c) of section 2031 is amended by striking paragraph (3) and by amending paragraph (1)(B) to read as follows:

''(II) $500,000.''.

(97)(A) Part IV of subchapter A of chapter 11 is amended by striking section 2057 (and by striking the item relating to such section in the table of sections for such subpart).

(B) Paragraph (10) of section 2031(c) is amended by inserting ''(as in effect before its repeal)'' immediately before the period at the end thereof.

(98) PROPERTY WITHIN THE UNITED STATES.—Subsection (c) of section 2104 is amended by striking ''With respect to estates of decedents dying after December 31, 1969, deposits'' and inserting ''Deposits''.

(99) FICA TAXES.—

(A) Subsection (a) of section 3101 is amended by striking ''the following percentages'' and all that follows and inserting ''6.2 percent of the wages (as defined in section 3121(a)) received by the individual with respect to employment (as defined in section 3121(b))''.

(B)(i) Subsection (a) of section 3111 is amended by striking ''the following percentages'' and all that follows and inserting ''6.2 percent of the wages (as defined in section 3121(a)) paid by the employer with respect to employment (as defined in section 3121(b)).''.

(ii) Subsection (b) of section 3111 is amended by striking ''the following percentages'' and all that follows and inserting ''1.45 percent of the wages (as defined in section 3121(a)) paid by the employer with respect to employment (as defined in section 3121(b)).''.

(C)(i) Section 3121(b) is amended by striking paragraph (17).

(ii) Section 210(a) of the Social Security Act is amended by striking paragraph (17).

(100) RAILROAD RETIREMENT.—

(A) Subsection (b) of section 3201 is amended to read as follows:

''(b) TIER 2 TAX.—In addition to other taxes, there is hereby imposed on the income of each employee a tax equal to the percentage determined under section 3241 for any calendar year of the compensation received during such calendar year by such employee for services rendered by such employee.''.

(B) Subsection (b) of section 3211 is amended to read as follows:

''(b) TIER 2 TAX.—In addition to other taxes, there is hereby imposed on the income of each employee representative a tax equal to the percentage determined under section 3241 for any calendar year of the compensation received during such calendar year by such employee representative for services rendered by such employee representative.''.

(C) Subsection (b) of section 3221 is amended to read as follows:

''(b) TIER 2 TAX.—In addition to other taxes, there is hereby imposed on every employer an excise tax, with respect to having individuals in his employ, equal to the percentage determined under section 3241 for any calendar year of the compensation paid during such calendar year by such employer for services rendered to such employer.''.

(D) Subsection (b) of section 3231 is amended—

(i) by striking ''compensation; except'' and all that follows in the first sentence and inserting ''compensation.'', and

(ii) by striking the second sentence.

(101) CREDITS AGAINST FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT TAX.—

(A) Paragraph (4) of section 3302(f) is amended—

(i) by striking ''subsection—'' and all that follows through ''(A) IN GENERAL.—The'' and inserting ''subsection, the'',

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B),

(iii) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and

(iv) by moving the text of such subparagraphs (as so redesignated) 2 ems to the left.

(B) Paragraph (5) of section 3302(f) is amended by striking subparagraph (D) and by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (D).

(102) DOMESTIC SERVICE EMPLOYMENT TAXES.—Section 3510(b) is amended by striking paragraph (4).

(103) LUXURY PASSENGER AUTOMOBILES.—

(A) Chapter 31 is amended by striking subchapter A (and by striking the item relating to such subchapter in the table of subchapters for such chapter).

(B)(i) Section 4221 is amended—

(I) in subsections (a) and (d)(1), by striking ''subchapter A or'' and inserting ''subchapter'',

(II) in subsection (a), by striking ''In the case of taxes imposed by subchapter A of chapter 31, paragraphs (1), (3), (4), and (5) shall not apply.'', and

(III) in subsection (c), by striking ''4001(c), 4001(d), or''.

(ii) Section 4222 is amended by striking ''4001(c), 4001(d),''.

(iii) Section 4293 is amended by striking ''subchapter A of chapter 31,''.

(104) TRANSPORTATION BY AIR.—Section 4261(e) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking subparagraph (C), and

(B) by striking paragraph (5).

(105) TAXES ON FAILURE TO DISTRIBUTE INCOME.—

(A) Subsection (g) of section 4942 is amended by striking ''For all taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 1975, subject'' in paragraph (2)(A) and inserting ''Subject''.

(B) Section 4942(i)(2) is amended by striking ''beginning after December 31, 1969, and''.

(106) TAXES ON TAXABLE EXPENDITURES.—Section 4945(f) is amended by striking ''(excluding therefrom any preceding taxable year which begins before January 1, 1970)''.

(107) DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULES.—Section 4682(h) is amended—

(A) by striking paragraph (1) and redesignating paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) as paragraphs (1), (2), and (3), respectively, and

(B) in paragraph (1) (as so redesignated)—

(i) by striking the heading and inserting ''IN GENERAL'', and

(ii) by striking ''after 1991'' in subparagraph (C).

(108) RETURNS.—Subsection (a) of section 6039D is amended by striking ''beginning after December 31, 1984,''.

(109) INFORMATION RETURNS.—Subsection (c) of section 6060 is amended by striking '''year''' and all that follows and inserting ''year.''.

(110) COLLECTION.—Section 6302 is amended—

(A) in subsection (e)(2), by striking ''imposed by'' and all that follows through ''with respect to'' and inserting ''imposed by sections 4251, 4261, or 4271 with respect to'',

(B) by striking the last sentence of subsection (f)(1), and

(C) in subsection (h)—

(i) by striking paragraph (2) and redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively, and

(ii) by amending paragraph (3) (as so redesignated) to read as follows:

''(3) COORDINATION WITH OTHER ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS.—Under regulations, any tax required to be paid by electronic fund transfer under section 5061(e) or 5703(b) shall be paid in such a manner as to ensure that the requirements of the second sentence of paragraph (1)(A) of this subsection are satisfied.''.

(111) ABATEMENTS.—Section 6404(f) is amended by striking paragraph (3).

(112) 2008 RECOVERY REBATE FOR INDIVIDUALS.—

(A) Subchapter B of chapter 65 is amended by striking section 6428 (and by striking the item relating to such section in the table of sections for such subchapter).

(B) Subparagraph (A) of section 6211(b)(4) is amended by striking ''6428,''.

(C) Paragraph (2) of section 6213(g), as amended by section 214(a)(2) of this Act and paragraphs (4) and (5)(C) of this subsection, is amended by striking subparagraph (Q), by redesignating subparagraph (O) as subparagraph (N), by inserting ''and'' at the end of subparagraph (M), and by striking the comma at the end of subparagraph (N) (as so redesignated) and inserting a period.

(D) Paragraph (2) of section 1324(b) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking ''6428, or 6431,'' and inserting ''or 6431''.

(113) ADVANCE PAYMENT OF PORTION OF INCREASED CHILD CREDIT FOR 2003.—Subchapter B of chapter 65 is amended by striking section 6429 (and by striking the item relating to such section in the table of sections for such subchapter).

(114) FAILURE BY CORPORATION TO PAY ESTIMATED INCOME TAX.—Clause (i) of section 6655(g)(4)(A) is amended by striking ''(or the corresponding provisions of prior law)''.

(115) RETIREMENT.—Section 7447(i)(3)(B)(ii) is amended by striking ''at 4 percent per annum to December 31, 1947, and 3 percent per annum thereafter'', and inserting ''at 3 percent per annum''.

(116) ANNUITIES TO SURVIVING SPOUSES AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF JUDGES.—

(A) Paragraph (2) of section 7448(a) is amended—

(i) by striking ''or under section 1106 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1939'', and

(ii) by striking ''or pursuant to section 1106(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1939''.

(B) Subsection (g) of section 7448 is amended by striking ''or other than pursuant to section 1106 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1939''.

(C) Subsections (g), (j)(1), and (j)(2) of section 7448 are each amended by striking ''at 4 percent per annum to December 31, 1947, and 3 percent per annum thereafter'' and inserting ''at 3 percent per annum''.

(117) MERCHANT MARINE CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION FUNDS.—Paragraph (4) of section 7518(g) is amended by striking ''any nonqualified withdrawal'' and all that follows through '''shall be determined'' and inserting ''any nonqualified withdrawal shall be determined''.

(118) VALUATION TABLES.—

(A) Subsection (c) of section 7520 is amended by striking paragraph (2) and redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2).

(B) Paragraph (2) of section 7520(c) (as redesignated by subparagraph (A)) is amended—

(i) by striking ''Not later than December 31, 1989, the'' and inserting ''The'', and

(ii) by striking ''thereafter'' in the last sentence thereof.

(119) DEFINITION OF EMPLOYEE.—Section 7701(a)(20) is amended by striking ''chapter 21'' and all that follows and inserting ''chapter 21.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) GENERAL RULE.—Except as otherwise provided in subsection (a) or paragraph (2) of this subsection, the amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) SAVINGS PROVISION.—If—

(A) any provision amended or repealed by the amendments made by this section applied to—

(i) any transaction occurring before the date of the enactment of this Act,

(ii) any property acquired before such date of enactment, or

(iii) any item of income, loss, deduction, or credit taken into account before such date of enactment, and

(B) the treatment of such transaction, property, or item under such provision would (without regard to the amendments or repeals made by this section) affect the liability for tax for periods ending after date of enactment, nothing in the amendments or repeals made by this section shall be construed to affect the treatment of such transaction, property, or item for purposes of determining liability for tax for periods ending after such date of enactment.

TITLE III—JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

SEC. 301. INCREASED REFUND AND CREDIT THRESHOLD FOR JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION REVIEW OF C CORPORATION RETURN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsections (a) and (b) of section 6405 are each amended by inserting ''($5,000,000 in the case of a C corporation)'' after ''$2,000,000''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, except that such amendment shall not apply with respect to any refund or credit with respect to a report that has been made before such date under section 6405 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

TITLE IV—BUDGETARY EFFECTS

SEC. 401. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

(a) PAYGO SCORECARD.—The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(b) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARD.—The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 201 of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 5771.

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

There was no objection.

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

As we all know, there is a series of tax provisions that routinely expire that Congress must then renew, typically extending them for 1 year retroactively and 1 year prospectively. Congress routinely extends these policies without offsetting the revenue loss.

This on again-off again style of legislating on a temporary basis is a terrible way to make tax policy. We are the only Nation in the world that lets large pieces of its Tax Code expire.

Hard-working taxpayers deserve to know whether these tax policies are going to be there year in and year out on a permanent basis. Temporary renewals cannot provide the certainty that American businesses need in order to make the best decisions about how to invest in cutting-edge research, whether to buy new pieces of equipment, and most importantly, whether to hire that additional worker. These temporary renewals mean uncertainty for families as well as they try to plan their family budgets.

Throughout the year, the Ways and Means Committee has produced legislation that carefully examined many of these temporary extenders and reformed and made permanent several of the most important ones. The whole House on a bipartisan basis later passed this legislation.

This included important policies such as a permanent and improved credit for research and development and permanently higher section 179 expensing levels for small businesses—policies that were also included in the President's budget proposals.

Analysis by the nonpartisan experts at the Joint Committee on Taxation confirmed that permanent extensions of these policies would result in companies spending more on R&D and making new investments, all of which would promote job creation and higher wages.

Having passed a number of these policies through the House on a bipartisan basis, we proceeded with the rather old-fashioned approach of beginning bipartisan negotiations with the Senate.

□ 1615

Until last week, we were making significant progress in those negotiations as everyone involved worked in good faith to reach a successful conclusion. We were close to reaching an agreement that would ensure that many of the bills that passed the House on a bipartisan basis would be included.

In addition, we were going beyond the list of traditional tax extenders and including additional policies designed specifically to assist low- and middle-income American families, in particular, policies such as the American Opportunity Tax Credit, which helps low- and middle-income families afford college, which was also included in the President's budget proposals. Other policies included making permanent the deduction for State and local sales taxes and the tax rules for mass transit benefits.

However, before these negotiations could conclude, the administration took the unbelievable step of issuing a veto threat. The President issued a veto threat over bipartisan, bicameral negotiations.

Now, I can't tell you with certainty exactly what the administration wants because the administration has not even bothered to reach out and tell us what the President's priorities are; rather than trying to engage and work with Congress, the administration is only communicating through press statements.

The President has often said that he wants to work with Congress to find bipartisan solutions. In fact, in his press conference after the election, the President said:

> I am eager to work with the new Congress to make the next 2 years as productive as possible. I am committed to making sure that I measure ideas not by whether they are from Democrats or Republicans, but whether they work for the American people.

That statement is completely at odds with the President's actions last week, and we all know that actions speak louder than words. As a result of the administration's actions, negotiations with the Senate have come to a standstill.

Inexplicably, the administration and some Senate Democrats have taken the position that policies that promote savings, investment, charitable donations, and job creation are a ''giveaway'' to big corporations.

These Senators and the administration should listen to the 1,032 charitable organizations that have written to every Member of Congress in support of the permanent tax incentives for charitable giving that would have been included in the agreement with the Senate. I don't think that policies that promote donations to food banks, homeless shelters, and hospitals are giveaways to corporate America.

The administration's actions now force us to take a different and less effective approach. With the end of the year and a new tax filing season rapidly approaching, we need to act. The IRS has been clear, unless Congress acts quickly, it will be forced to delay the start of the tax filing season.

American families are struggling to make ends meet as wages remain flat, even as expenses increase. These families can't and should not face a delay in getting their tax refund.

The legislation before us today will address the concerns raised by the IRS and ensure the tax filing season can open on time. We should ensure that the President's actions do not hurt hardworking taxpayers who are counting on that tax refund; therefore, I urge the House to pass this legislation and ensure that the tax filing season opens on time.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

This legislation is crucial as much for what it avoids as what it accomplishes. A 1-year extension avoids the dangerous plan pushed by House Republicans for much of this last year to make permanent a select number of provisions at a cost of nearly $1 trillion.

That plan was not only fiscally irresponsible, it also left many provisions behind that are vital to working families and small businesses, including the exclusion for mortgage debt forgiveness, new market tax credits, continuations of the expansions to the earned income tax credit, and the refundable portion of the child tax credit.

This bill also avoids an almost equally harmful proposal under consideration last week that would have permanently extended a select group of expiring provisions and would also have given permanent breaks to a relative few while costing more than $400 billion and leaving out critical provisions that help working families.

I actively and publicly opposed that proposal. Fortunately, it generated a veto threat from the President.

The provisions in today's extender bill need more serious consideration than would have been provided in that proposal both as to substance, whether they contribute to economic growth and jobs, and how they fit into the need for both equity and fiscal responsibility.

Some of the extender provisions have contributed to economic growth, such as the provisions for R&D, promoting development of renewable energy, encouraging development of small business, and increasing educational opportunity. Others should not be part of any permanent action, such as bonus depreciation, which was always contemplated as a temporary measure to stimulate economic growth and activity.

Some of the provisions in tax extenders should end, and others need to be addressed as we make better sense of the international tax structure, including closing tax loopholes. While I did not agree with many of the provisions of the tax reform proposal of the chairman, he did attempt to address issues in a more comprehensive way, unlike what was passed through the House up to $1 trillion and was attempted last week.

It was a serious mistake, as I said, for the Republicans to have taken pieces of it, trying to make them permanent without paying a dime to offset the more than $800 billion cost of doing so.

The bill today, therefore, only maintains the status quo for this year. Not to act would disrupt the coming tax filing season for millions of American workers and businesses which have relied on Congress to extend these provisions and will, in a matter of weeks, begin filing their 2014 tax returns. As a result, I will support this measure.

As we act in the future, including on tax reform, I believe the lesson that should be learned from the past is that it is critical to try to work on a bipartisan basis, recognizing the importance of maintaining support for the values that must underpin legislative action.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I do want to thank my friend from Michigan for his support of this legislation before us today. It is something that we do need to do. We cannot allow these provisions to be expired for all of 2014, but I would say that, if you look around, we are not seeing the kind of growth and opportunity that we should see in America. We are not seeing the kind of job creation, we are not seeing the kind of income increases; yet expenses are going up for families.

The items that the gentleman talked about, whether it was research and development or section 179 or the American Opportunity Tax Credit, all of those were going to be permanent in the package that we were working on, and even the mortgage debt forgiveness for those who are selling their homes and their mortgages were underwater, we were extending that for 2 years, so there were a lot of things for families.

Certainly, the charitable provisions for food banks and for charitable giving, those would certainly help middle class Americans as well.

The reason why I think it is important to get permanent policy is that we haven't seen the kind of growth that we need to see, and the more of these items that we can make permanent, the more stability we have, the more likely it is that employers and individuals and families are going to make the kind of long-term decisions that will cause our economy to grow.

It is not just me saying this; it is the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation that says permanent policies such as these, as we were working on, are the kinds of things that the country needs to do to grow.

Again, I want to thank him for his support of the legislation. Hopefully, in

the future, we will be able to get at some of these issues in a more permanent way, so that we don't have this unusual system where we have had all of these policies expired for all of 2014 and, in the final 2 weeks, we are going to retroactively put them into place for the final weeks of the year, so that when people file in April, they will be able to take advantage of these items. We should really do this on a more regular basis.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Look, you made provisions permanent, Mr. Chairman, and you paid for them in your bill. There is disagreement how you paid for them, but you paid for them, and then you come forth with up to $1 trillion permanent unpaid for and leave out the child tax credit and the EITC.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield myself an additional 1 minute.

Then we hear last week a proposal for $400 billion of it unpaid for, permanent—unpaid for, permanent—leaving out the EITC and the child tax credit, so that is why the President acted, and that is why it was essential he act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to other Members in the second person.

Mr. LEVIN. I now yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman CAMP for his courage. I am not going to thank him for this bill, however, but I am going to vote for this bill.

Mr. Speaker, American families and businesses deserve certainty from their tax system—confidence, stability. I am glad we are able to move forward on this legislation rather than pursue a plan to make certain tax preferences permanent while ballooning our debt.

While I am supporting this tax extender package, Mr. Speaker, I do so with two very serious reservations. First, it adds the cost of extending this preference to our deficit. It is good, however, that we did not make unpaid-for extensions on a permanent basis, as the ranking member has just discussed.

Second, this is a very short-term fix when Congress needs to work toward a long-term solution. I join the ranking member in congratulating Mr. CAMP for bringing that forward—well, at least he put it on the table. It didn't come forward.

We ought to make the research and experimentation tax credit permanent, but we need to pay for it. While this legislation allows teachers to deduct their out-of-pocket expenses, it does not give them the certainty that they will be able to do so in 2015 or beyond. To that extent, they are in the same position as everybody else covered by this bill will be.

Neither does this bill provide appropriate tax support for renewable energy, biofuels, and energy efficiency—sadly, the failure to extend this for at least 2 years may result in the loss of up to 30,000 jobs—nor, Mr. Speaker, does it provide long-term clarity on long-term bonus depreciation or small business expensing, all of which would give greater confidence to the growth of jobs.

This all speaks to a larger challenge that Congress has an opportunity to address in the new year; instead of this annual ritual of extending individual credits and deductions, we ought to engage in meaningful, comprehensive, and pro-growth tax reform that provides greater certainty across our economy to businesses and individuals alike.

We all know that doing so will not be easy. It will involve difficult choices on both sides of the aisle.

Again, Mr. Chairman, I want to congratulate you. You had the courage to put forward a bill earlier this year that made tough decisions in order to show a path to lower rates and a simpler Code without adding to the deficit, but that path wasn't the path taken by the majority in this Congress.

Instead, the House voted on bill after bill after bill to cut taxes recklessly without any plan to stabilize the debt, invest in our future priorities, and create jobs in a meaningful way.

This package we will be voting on today is the least we can do. It isn't what I hoped for, and it isn't what I hoped I would stand in this well and urge my colleagues to support at the beginning of the 113th Congress, but it is better than many of the cynical alternatives that we have heard about.

□ 1630

I want to congratulate the ranking member and, frankly, the President of the United States for saying ''no'' to an irresponsible package.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 2 minutes to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

While I support this measure, I do so believing that America deserves better, wants better, hopes to get better. That is what each and every one of us was sent here to deliver: responsible policy for our country. This is not that policy. It is, however, as I said, better than the alternative in that it would at least give those in 2014 who have operated on the expectation of getting the credit the assurance that they will get it.

My hope, Mr. Speaker, is that, come next December, we won't be here again considering another tax extender bill to keep the economy from collapsing. It is my hope, Mr. Speaker, that the Republican majority and the Democratic minority can work together to effect responsible, fiscally sound tax reform which will help grow our economy and give the business community and our people the confidence they need to have to grow our economy and to participate effectively in making America better.

Mr. Speaker, again, in closing, I want to congratulate Mr. CAMP, because I think he did bring forth a bill that could have engendered that responsible debate that we needed, a fiscally sound proposal making tough tradeoffs that we ought to have the courage to make. He had that courage, and I congratulate him for it.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I just want to thank the distinguished gentleman from Maryland for his remarks. This is a debate America needs to have and, hopefully, next year that debate will move forward.

With that, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Indiana (Mr. STUTZMAN).

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2014.

Mr. Speaker, American workers and businesses are most successful when they are able to keep, spend, and invest more of their hard-earned money. Our economy, which has already remained too weak for too long, simply cannot afford a series of irresponsible tax hikes that will target individuals, small businesses, and job creators all across the country. So this legislation will help protect those taxpayers—our taxpayers—and their pocketbooks and provide them some level of clarity as they plan for the new year.

Right now, working families and businesses are simply trying to make ends meet. I know from speaking with families and workers back home in Indiana that the last thing that they can afford is higher taxes when they need to be providing for their kids' education, savings, or growing their business.

In this legislation, Mr. Speaker, I am especially pleased to support the provisions that would extend the increased section 179 deduction levels, as well as the extension of bonus depreciation. Countless farms, small businesses, and manufacturers in the Hoosier State and across the country use these important tools to make business-building capital investments. A failure to act on those tax extensions would only slow an economic recovery that desperately needs to pick up the pace.

Today, we have an opportunity to stand together as Republicans and Democrats and pass legislation that will prevent economic harm to millions of families and businesses across the United States. While this may not be the intention that we would all like to have, I do believe that this is the best that we can do for right now to prevent any sort of further damage to the economy.

I would like to, in closing, thank Chairman CAMP and the members of the Ways and Means Committee for their hard work on this issue, and I would urge my colleagues to support their efforts.

I would also like to take a brief moment to thank Chairman CAMP for his

many years of service as a tireless advocate for the constituents back in Michigan. I have the opportunity to travel with him to Detroit from time to time and appreciate his thoughtfulness and his leadership and his desire to do what is best for America. He is an honorable colleague, and I have been honored to have had the chance to serve with him. I wish him the very best in his retirement and know that he will continue to stay busy one way or another.

Thank you again, Mr. Chairman, for your work on this. I know that you definitely set the table for further tax reform, which is desperately needed here in our country, and know that it would be good for our economy. Thank you for what you have done. This has given folks back home some clarity and certainty for this year.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT), another distinguished member of our committee.

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

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, there is a fundamental issue with our current policy on tax extenders.

I was a Ways and Means chairman in the State legislature and was told by a very important businessman in the State of Washington once: I don't care what rate you give me, tell me how long it is going to be; how am I going to amortize this? I need to know the length of time.

This bill, so people really understand, lasts exactly 28 days. It will die on January 1. It is for last year.

Now, businesses and individuals can't be certain they are going to get a tax break because of the stop-and-start, temporary nature of Congress reauthorizing these tax bills. Businesses and individuals need to know what the tax is going to be in the beginning of the year so that they can plan and take advantage of incentives rather than waiting until the last 2 weeks of the year when the Congress may or may not act.

This year, businesses that want to take advantage of the research tax credit have either been sitting on the sidelines or making investments or not making investments not knowing, or maybe they gambled and said: Well, we figure that Congress will do something some day.

Everyone should take note of today, the 3rd of December. Next year, right about this time, we will be right back here with the same bill—we can have the same speeches put right out here—because we simply do not give businesses certainty. If we did, we would have the economy rolling better.

Individuals and businesses are going into this year wondering whether they will have to act retroactively on these provisions. I am going to vote ''yes'' like everybody else, but it makes no sense that you have a bill like this 28 days before the end of the year. You have got the IRS wondering if they are going to be able to do the tax stuff and all of this chaos that is created. There are calls coming into our office: Are you going to pass this? Are you going to pass that? What should I do for next year? The answer that a Congressman has to give if he is honest is, ''I don't know.''

This place is dysfunctional. It may be some of the explanation of why people didn't vote in the last election. They figured that Congress isn't going to do anything, and this is a perfect example of it. We should have done it a long time ago, and done it permanently.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN), the chairman of the Budget Committee and the incoming chairman of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chair.

The reason I came down here is to speak in favor of this legislation, to suggest that I wish we could have gotten where we were with the bipartisan negotiations that occurred before White House involvement. This is obviously something that is necessary that has to pass.

But here is the reason that I came down. I came down to say thank you to DAVE CAMP for being an absolutely stellar chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. This is a man who spent 24 years in this room making a difference in the lives of the people from Michigan and the lives of the 300 million Americans in this country. This country is so much better off because of the dedicated service of this man, the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. He came in at a young age, reforming a lot of different programs, but one of the biggest marks he made in his early days in Congress is welfare reform.

DAVE CAMP was one of the principal architects of that 1996 welfare reform, which did so much to move people from welfare to work, to reduce child poverty, to help single moms get back to work, to get people lives of dignity. And he went from there to trade, to tax reform, to health care reform, on and on and on.

I only hope that I can do somewhat of the job that he has done in being a stellar steward of this magnificent committee and being a fantastic chairman. Mr. Speaker, I simply wish him great success in his future endeavors.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), another distinguished member of our committee.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I, too, would extend my congratulations to Mr. CAMP. I have enjoyed being able to work with him for a lot of these 20 years. I enjoy his leadership, his dedication, and his friendship. In a sense, I feel that it was unfortunate that he had to navigate all these bizarre, choppy waters. It would have been fun to see what would have happened in a little more measured environment.

The legislation we are dealing with here today is kind of a symbol of the difficulty he faces and the frustrations we all met. This should be the first legislation that we deal with in the next Congress, not the last legislation we deal with now.

It has been referenced that this is only going to be in effect for a few days. Look at what has happened when we deal with areas that I care deeply about. I have worked for years with short-line railroad interests. They rely on a tax credit to be able to make a difference in rural and small town America. Some of them are plunging in and have taken the risk that will be extended, some have not. These are investments that can't be made in that fashion.

I have enjoyed working with the wind energy industry and looking at what we have done over the course of 2005 to 2012. When we had the production tax credit in place and there was some certainty, we had the wind industry grow nine times over, over $100 billion in investment and helping us generate clean energy and drop the price per unit profoundly. Now who knows what they are facing.

Looking at the transit benefit, I was pleased to have worked to be able to give transit parity to the millions of Americans who take buses and trains to work, to treat them the way we treat people who drive a car. For 3 years, they were treated that way. And then Congress, after the change in power had dropped to $125 a month, and then we kind of got it back when we dealt with the fiscal cliff, now it is back to $130. It is not fair to people in Chicago, in Detroit, in Metropolitan Washington, in New Jersey, in small town America where they take advantage of this. It is another example of where we are in this squirrel cage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional minute to the gentleman.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. I appreciate his courtesy.

I am to the point where I don't actually know what is the right vote. I have no doubt that it will pass, but is it the right signal to send for so many industries that have a right to expect certainty, that have a right to expect the things that they have relied upon for years, built their business models around, are treated in the cavalier fashion by this Congress? I don't think that is right.

I think there are many areas of reform. I appreciate my friend Mr. CAMP diving in and dealing with some of these tough issues. We had a demonstration that it is not going to be easy to deal with tax reform. But it is not going to help anybody for the long term or short term to have businesses roll the dice on things in many cases

that are critical to the national interest and that they rely upon. They deserve better, and so does the American public.

□ 1645

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND), another member of our committee.

Mr. KIND. I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, this may be one of the last times I have an opportunity to address the current chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. CAMP from Michigan, and I just want to commend him for such a distinguished career in the United States Congress. He has been an honest broker on the issues, a good friend, and I know all of us are going to miss him terribly when he decides to retire and go on to other ventures in his life. We all wish him well.

Mr. Speaker, I think all of us, it is safe to assume, are not happy with this process or the fact that we are here again at the end of the year trying to do a 1-year extension on tax breaks that will be retroactive to 2014, mind you, and not paid for. This is a lousy way to run a Tax Code. It is a lousy way to run a government. I think individuals and businesses, large and small, need greater certainty for the decisions they have got to make with their lives and their businesses, especially the investment decisions; and by doing things retroactively around here and maintaining that uncertainty in future years, it is not the right way to go. And, also, not paying for it.

I think there are opportunities. Certainly the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget laid out a whole list of potential pay-fors that, if we had real interest, we could have very easily scrubbed the Code to find some offsets to pay for the $40 billion cost that this 1-year extension has today, rather than just adding it to the debt and deficit in our country. We have got to do a better job at that.

But if this also means we have an opportunity moving into next year of being serious about comprehensive tax reform, something that is long overdue—again, with the leadership of the Ways and Means Committee and Mr. CAMP and introducing his discussion draft proposal earlier this year, so a lot of a groundwork has been made—then this might be the pressure that we need to get the committee and this body to do what is long overdue, and that is reform an antiquated Tax Code to make it more fair, more simple, to make it more competitive in the global environment.

I think that is a goal that, again, hopefully, we share, and it might be an avenue of bipartisan cooperation as we do move forward.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. KIND. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I continuously hear from small business owners and farmers back home about the need for greater certainty and the need to revamp a Tax Code that has outlived its usefulness. It is riddled with inefficiencies. It is riddled with certain expenditures that have been included in it throughout the years due to powerful special interests who know how to work the Halls of Congress to get their special provisions in it, and who we are leaving behind are hardworking families back home and the small businesses on Main Street who can't hire their legion of lobbyists out here to protect their interests or to get their special provisions in.

So as we move forward, hopefully this will be one of those areas where we can find some common ground and do what is right for our Nation. That would help jump-start the U.S. economy and put us in a much more competitive place, when it comes to the global economy, at the same time.

I reluctantly support it. I think we could have done a better job. But I think it is also important for policy reasons to maintain these tax provisions until we get a chance to do comprehensive reform around here.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL), another distinguished member of our committee.

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Thank you, Mr. Ranking Member, and thank you, Mr. Chairman. I listened to both sides, and you have given me the reasons that I am going to be opposed to this legislation.

For the past 4 years, the Ways and Means Committee has debated comprehensive tax reform. Sadly, the fruit of that discussion before us is a 1-year retroactive extension of a temporary tax provision. This is an illusion. This is a Fellini movie we are seeing on a late afternoon in Washington, D.C. It is completely unpaid for. It gives no certainty to businesses or individuals because it expires 1 month from today.

Unlike today's bill, Chairman CAMP's tax reform draft dealt with many expiring tax provisions in a courageous way. We were dealing with wind credits, R&D tax credits, mortgage debt forgiveness, all the way down the line, as well as the mortgage principal extension, which is needed for people who have had catastrophic problems within their own States. This is an example of what a responsible approach to extenders looks like.

This bill before us today is wholly inadequate. Not only does it add billions of dollars to the deficit, we kick the can down the road by only dealing with extenders in a retroactive manner. In other words, this money has been spent over the last 11 months, hopefully, getting to the point where we would pay for it. That is not the way to run the show, and you know that only puts us deeper into uncertainty and certainly deeper into debt.

Does anyone believe the 2 weeks these provisions will be in effect will encourage any business to make decisions about whether to hire more workers or invest in alternative energy or research, new equipment for small businesses or development in disadvantaged communities?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. PASCRELL. Thank you.

I am not finished yet, but I want to say to Mr. CAMP, you have been a civil voice that will be missed in this hallowed Hall. And I mean that sincerely from my heart, because civil discussion is necessary in the House of Representatives.

Many times, in other places, it has not been civil. It will do nothing to encourage this legislation, this new development in renewable energy.

I want to be clear. I strongly support, my record will show, many of these tax provisions. I want to work with colleagues on the other side and my own side to make many of them permanent.

While this approach may help taxpayers and businesses who made decisions assuming Congress would act responsibly, it is not in the country's long-term interest, Mr. Speaker. At a bare minimum, Congress should be extending these provisions until the end of 2015 in a fiscally responsible way.

Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately must oppose this legislation, the so called "Tax Increase Prevention Act." For the past four years, the Ways and Means Committee has debated comprehensive tax reform. Sadly, the fruit of that discussion before us is a one-year, retroactive extension of temporary tax provisions, completely unpaid for, and that gives no certainty to businesses or individuals because it expires one month from today.

It didn't have to be this way. Earlier this year, Chairman CAMP released an ambitious proposal for a comprehensive reform of our tax code. I did not agree with everything in that proposal, and neither did many of my friends on the other side of the aisle. But I was confident that both sides could use Chairman's CAMP's draft as a starting point to come together around a reform plan that would finally address the many loopholes and inefficiencies in our tax code.

Mr. CAMP's draft also dealt with the many expiring tax provisions before us today in a courageous way. He resisted the temptation to assume these breaks would be indefinitely extended and added to the deficit. Instead, he made permanent the ones he wanted to keep and paid for them, while separately identifying ones he would let expire. This is an example of what a responsible approach to extenders looks like. Unfortunately, what happened next could not have been less reflective of Mr. CAMP's earlier work.

Before the ink had even dried on Chairman Camp's tax reform draft, the majority of Ways and Means began passing permanent extensions of nearly $1 trillion in tax

provisions and did not even make an attempt to pay for one dime of them. This approach is the height of irresponsibility and has squandered any good will that had been developed during the years of debate over tax reform.

This bill before us today is wholly inadequate. Not only does it add to the deficit and kick the can down the road, but by only dealing with extenders in a retroactive manner, it will not even encourage any business investment in the future. Does anyone really believe that the two weeks these provisions will be in effect will really encourage any business make decisions about whether to hire more workers, or invest in alternative energy, research and development, new equipment for small businesses or development in disadvantaged communities?

A retroactive extension will do nothing for commuters in New Jersey, who have been denied parity in their transit benefits for the last 11 months and will now be denied them again next year. It will do nothing to encourage new development in renewable energy, including offshore wind in my home state, as developers will have no certainty at all that the critical tax credits in this bill will be there for them next year.

I want to be clear: I strongly support many of these tax provisions, and I want to work with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to make many of them permanent. However, while this bare minimum approach might help taxpayers and businesses who made decisions assuming Congress would act responsibly, it is not in the country's long-term interest. At a bare minimum, Congress should be extending these provisions until the end of 2015, in a fiscally responsible way, and then get back to work on real, permanent tax reform that ends this destructive cycle of expiring and renewing temporary tax policy once and for all.

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

I just want to say to my friend from New Jersey, I agree with you on the need for certainty. We have heard today a lot of common discussion about the need for certainty in our Tax Code and how difficult it is to be the only country in the world that let's tax policy expire and what that means for families and employers. But in terms of the concerns you raise about the deficit, as the gentleman well knows, these measures have never been offset. These measures have never been paid for, whether it was a Republican majority or a Democrat majority. Whether it was a Republican President or a Democrat President, these provisions have never been paid for.

I would just say to the gentleman and to the Members of this body, why do we need to raise taxes on somebody to keep taxes the same? What we are doing is continuing current policy. In many cases, like R&D, it has been continued since 1981. Let's call it what it is.

If we are continuing something in a piecemeal fashion every few years, let's just make it permanent so we can get the benefits of those provisions in terms of reliability and certainty, as the gentleman raised, so that the small businesses all throughout the country can actually plan and expect that these items will be in place.

I share the concerns that have been raised by a number of speakers. Here we are at the end of 2014, retroactively putting in policies for the whole year.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS) another member of our committee.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, this 1-year retroactive extension is not ideal. It is not the best that we should or could do. It does little to provide certainty to individuals and businesses for 2015. My constituent, Mary Joe, still will not know whether she can give money from her IRA to a Chicago charity without tax liability in 2015, nor does my constituent, Henry, know if he can receive enhanced tax benefits for donating food to the Chicago Food Depository.

Further, I am deeply disappointed that this bill fails to extend the Trade Adjustment Assistance for health care workers laid off through no fault of their own. However, I believe that this bill may be our only option for this year to provide these tax benefits for 2014 and to ensure the taxpayers can begin filing their taxes and receiving their refunds early next year. There are many provisions included that are critical to Chicago and Illinois, and that must be covered in 2014.

This is not the best bill, but it is a necessary bill. I look forward to working in a bipartisan way to ensure comprehensive permanent reforms to the Tax Code that help all Americans, including provisions that help the lowest income workers, such as the earned income tax credit and enhanced child tax credit.

I end, Mr. Speaker, by commending Chairman CAMP.

Mr. CAMP, I commend you on your efforts to bring comprehensive tax reform to the forefront, and I wish you well as you finish out a very distinguished career in the people's House. Sir, I salute you.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

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

You are never sure what is going to happen the next day around here, so I am not sure if this is the last time you will be presenting a bill—something could come up next week—but let me assume that it is for just a moment and speak on a personal basis if I might. I hope the speaker won't cut me off. You are not supposed to talk to each other, so I will try to speak to you while I speak to the chair. I will try to do both.

Around here we can question each other's positions. In a sense, that is why we are here. DAVE CAMP leaves here having participated in a discussion of substance and questioning each other's positions in a way to try to come forth with legislation. But I think, in a rather unique way, our chairman has been able to do that with complete integrity, with complete seriousness—now and then a sense of humor, but complete seriousness—and the ability to question within a framework of some friendship.

So if this is your last management of a bill, I simply want to say for myself and, more importantly, I think, for this institution, if I might, that your decision to leave here means that you are leaving with your head so high and with, I hope, a feeling of real accomplishment and complete integrity and seriousness about your work. I am sure that your constituents are very proud to have voted for you 12 times. That was a commendable dozen.

So with some feeling of gratitude for having been able to serve with you, DAVE, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I want to thank my friend, colleague, and partner on the Ways and Means Committee from Michigan for those very gracious and kind remarks.

I think the Ways and Means Committee is the best committee in Congress. We have a lot of bills that come to us. We have a lot of hard decisions. There is a lot of discussion. As you know, this is a big country and there are a lot of different opinions, but we always try to find a way to at least do that in a manner that is productive for the people we represent and that sent us here.

I want to thank you for the ability to work with you over these last few years. Maybe I should have turned that 12 into a baker's dozen, with all the kind remarks that have been said here today. I just want thank you and thank the members of the committee and staff on both sides of the aisle.

One of the things that is required in a committee like Ways and Means, with all of the responsibilities, is a staff that is able to work together as well.

□ 1700

So they help make us do the job well. They help keep us informed and really help make all the things that we do come together, including items like this legislation today so, thank you.

I would just urge passage of H.R. 5771, what we call the extenders bill, or the Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2014.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 766, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. NEAL. I am opposed to the bill in its current form, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I reserve a point of order against the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A point of order is reserved.

The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. NEAL moves to recommit the bill H.R. 5771 to the Committee on Ways and Means with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Add at the end of title I the following (and conform the table of contents accordingly):

Subtitle E—No Government Subsidies for Corporations That Move Their Headquarters Overseas to Avoid Paying Taxes

SEC. 191. TAX BENEFITS DISALLOWED IN CASE OF INVERTED CORPORATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a taxpayer which is, or is a member of an expanded affiliated group which includes, an applicable inverted corporation, the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall be applied and administered as if the provisions of, and amendments made by, this title (other than this subtitle) had never been enacted.

(b) APPLICABLE INVERTED CORPORATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, the term ''applicable inverted corporation'' means any foreign corporation which—

(A) would be a surrogate foreign corporation under subsection (a)(2) of section 7874 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 if such subsection were applied by substituting ''80 percent'' for ''60 percent'', or

(B) is an inverted domestic corporation.

(2) INVERTED DOMESTIC CORPORATION.—For purposes of this subsection, a foreign corporation shall be treated as an inverted domestic corporation if, pursuant to a plan (or a series of related transactions)—

(A) the entity completes after May 8, 2014, the direct or indirect acquisition of—

(i) substantially all of the properties held directly or indirectly by a domestic corporation, or

(ii) substantially all of the assets of, or substantially all of the properties constituting a trade or business of, a domestic partnership, and

(B) after the acquisition, either—

(i) more than 50 percent of the stock (by vote or value) of the entity is held—

(I) in the case of an acquisition with respect to a domestic corporation, by former shareholders of the domestic corporation by reason of holding stock in the domestic corporation, or

(II) in the case of an acquisition with respect to a domestic partnership, by former partners of the domestic partnership by reason of holding a capital or profits interest in the domestic partnership, or

(ii) the management and control of the expanded affiliated group which includes the entity occurs, directly or indirectly, primarily within the United States, and such expanded affiliated group has significant domestic business activities.

(3) EXCEPTION FOR CORPORATIONS WITH SUBSTANTIAL BUSINESS ACTIVITIES IN FOREIGN COUNTRY OF ORGANIZATION.—A foreign corporation described in paragraph (2) shall not be treated as an inverted domestic corporation if after the acquisition the expanded affiliated group which includes the entity has substantial business activities in the foreign country in which or under the law of which the entity is created or organized when compared to the total business activities of such expanded affiliated group. For purposes of applying section 7874(a)(2)(B)(iii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the preceding sentence, the term ''substantial business activities'' shall have the meaning given such term under Treasury regulations in effect on May 8, 2014, except that the Secretary of the Treasury may issue regulations increasing the threshold percent in any of the tests under such regulations for determining if business activities constitute substantial business activities for purposes of this paragraph.

(4) MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL.—For purposes of paragraph (2)(B)(ii)—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe regulations for purposes of determining cases in which the management and control of an expanded affiliated group is to be treated as occurring, directly or indirectly, primarily within the United States. The regulations prescribed under the preceding sentence shall apply to periods after May 8, 2014.

(B) EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT.—Such regulations shall provide that the management and control of an expanded affiliated group shall be treated as occurring, directly or indirectly, primarily within the United States if substantially all of the executive officers and senior management of the expanded affiliated group who exercise day-to-day responsibility for making decisions involving strategic, financial, and operational policies of the expanded affiliated group are based or primarily located within the United States. Individuals who in fact exercise such day-to-day responsibilities shall be treated as executive officers and senior management regardless of their title.

(5) SIGNIFICANT DOMESTIC BUSINESS ACTIVITIES.—For purposes of paragraph (2)(B)(ii), an expanded affiliated group has significant domestic business activities if at least 25 percent of—

(A) the employees of the group are based in the United States,

(B) the employee compensation incurred by the group is incurred with respect to employees based in the United States,

(C) the assets of the group are located in the United States, or

(D) the income of the group is derived in the United States,

determined in the same manner as such determinations are made for purposes of determining substantial business activities under regulations referred to in paragraph (3) as in effect on May 8, 2014, but applied by treating all references in such regulations to ''foreign country'' and ''relevant foreign country'' as references to ''the United States''. The Secretary of the Treasury may issue regulations decreasing the threshold percent in any of the tests under such regulations for determining if business activities constitute significant domestic business activities for purposes of this paragraph.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section, the terms ''domestic corporation'', ''foreign corporation'', and ''expanded affiliated group'' shall each have the same meaning as when used in section 7874 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

Mr. NEAL (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that we dispense with the reading of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I am opposed to this bill in its current form, and I want to remind colleagues that this amendment to the bill will not kill the bill, nor will it send it back to committee, and, in fact, if adopted, we will immediately proceed to final passage.

Mr. Speaker, we are here today debating this faulty effort for one reason and one reason only: the failure fundamentally to change the Tax Code.

Now, let me say to my friends, the praise delivered on behalf of Mr. CAMP is well-earned. But I also want to say something today. We all love to say, ''I hate to say I told you so,'' but we really like to say, ''I told you so.''

I told you so. The staff would be rich if they took that bet that I offered not long ago on the very floor of this House.

Now, Mr. CAMP, the wily sorcerer of tax policies that he is, he employed every bit of magic at his disposal to bring forth tax reform. He put together a great model and, for 3 years, without the glare of publicity, we actually had an adult conversation between the parties, principals and the stakeholders, who listened carefully to what everyone had to say.

Unfortunately, the Republican leadership was not spellbound by the sorcerer's good deeds. When he was pleased to release his tax proposal, the leadership of the Republican side said, Blah, blah, blah.

Well, one blah in support of continuing uncertainty for the American family and for business; two blahs, or a second blah, for cutting economic growth and business investment; and finally, a third blah to the lowest worker participation rate in 36 years.

Seven to 8 million Americans still looking for work, but we can't do tax reform.

The last time we reformed our code, the Internet didn't exist, but we can't do tax reform.

Economic growth at 2 percent, but we can't do tax reform.

Forty percent of the Business Roundtable's major alliances said this week they plan on hiring new employees. That means 60 percent don't—but we can't do tax reform.

Thirteen percent of these companies said they are committing to investing in buying new equipment, but that means 87 percent are not.

Our inaction on tax reform is harming this economy, and it is not Mr. CAMP's fault. Rather than working on this bill and staying with it, with wage stagnation, low worker participation rate, depressed business investment, instead of addressing these problems, we are debating a bill that, once the President signs it, we will immediately see it as being outdated, and we are going to start the process all over again, maybe in just a couple of days.

What we have before us, in terms of process, is the pinnacle of congressional nonsense. This bill does not incentivize companies to invest more; no more for research. We are rewarding companies for their past behavior.

You cannot find any economist with credibility that will suggest that retroactivity in the Tax Code is sound policy.

Pick up the newspaper and you are going to find very quickly that, as we released this draft, over that same period of time, more companies inverted. The sound of the dam breaking is all around us.

Recent reports have stated that the United States stands to lose $2 billion next year alone, and since the first inversion in 1982, we have lost more than $9 billion. Sadly, these inversions are a part of an epidemic that started a decade ago.

CRS points out that at least 47 companies have inverted since the beginning of the last year, 19 inversion deals are still pending, and 14 more are sure to come in the coming year alone.

The Joint Committee on Taxation says now it is costing us $33.6 billion in lost tax revenue because of our inability to deal with corporate tax inversions.

I understand the argument about tax avoidance versus tax evasion. We have done a reasonably good job at cracking down on Switzerland and Liechtenstein and other places, but we need to address this question of Bermuda and these other tax havens where corporate residents of America pay their fair share, and those who invert to escape taxes—while, incidentally, we are engaged militarily across the globe with a substantial bill—they feel as though they don't have to deliver anything.

Now, my motion to recommit today is very simple. Those companies that have inverted cannot take advantage of the very tax benefits that we are going to vote upon in a few minutes, which, by the way, I favor extending. If you have inverted, you should not be allowed the same credits and deductions and exclusions that American businesses who have stayed here dutifully, respectfully, and with great patriotic fervor continue to pay.

I don't understand, for the life of me, why Republicans can't support doing something about corporate tax inversions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my point of order and seek time in opposition to the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The reservation is withdrawn.

The gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I would just say, in brief, there is nothing in this motion to recommit that addresses the issues raised by my friend from Massachusetts. The problems the gentleman identified are not dealt with at all here.

Does this motion to recommit increase investment, create jobs, and raise wages?

Does this motion to recommit create certainty in what is an uncertain Tax Code with this process?

It doesn't. What this does is make our Tax Code more complex, makes American workers and American employers less competitive, and it will actually hurt our economy and stifle growth.

I urge a ''no'' vote on this motion to recommit, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by 5-minute votes on the question of passage, if ordered, and passage of H.R. 647.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 197, nays 223, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 543]

YEAS—197

Adams
Barber
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NAYS—223

Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—14

Aderholt
Bishop (UT)
Capito
Capuano
Doyle
Duckworth
Hall
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McKeon
Miller, Gary
Negrete McLeod
Southerland
Wasserman Schultz

□ 1737

Messrs. PEARCE, BARR, BACHUS, YOHO, BRIDENSTINE, and Ms. GRANGER changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Ms. EDWARDS and Mr. WAXMAN changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 378, noes 46, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 544]

AYES—378

Adams
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Black
Blackburn
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Capito
Capps
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Costa
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Levin
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOES—46

Amash
Becerra
Blumenauer
Broun (GA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cooper
Cotton
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Ellison
Fleming
Garrett
Gowdy
Grijalva
Harris
Hastings (FL)
Huelskamp
Jones
Jordan
Labrador
Lamborn
Lankford
Lee (CA)
Lewis
Lummis
McClintock
Meadows
Mulvaney
Napolitano
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Pocan
Polis
Pompeo
Ribble
Sanford
Schakowsky
Shuster
Stockman
Thompson (CA)
Visclosky
Welch
Whitfield

NOT VOTING—10

Aderholt
Bishop (UT)
Capuano
Doyle
Duckworth
Hall
McCarthy (NY)
McKeon
Miller, Gary
Negrete McLeod

□ 1745

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ACHIEVING A BETTER LIFE EXPERIENCE ACT OF 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SESSIONS). The unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 647) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of ABLE accounts established under State programs for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 404, nays 17, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 545]

YEAS—404

Adams
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brat
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Capito
Capps
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
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)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
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
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McGovern

McHenry
McIntyre
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
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)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
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
Waters
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—17

Amash
Becerra
Bridenstine
Garamendi
Grijalva
Huelskamp
Jones
McDermott
Moore
Napolitano
Pocan
Ruiz
Sanford
Schakowsky
Scott, David
Takano
Wasserman Schultz

NOT VOTING—13

Aderholt
Bishop (UT)
Capuano
Castro (TX)
Doyle
Duckworth
Hall
McCarthy (NY)
McKeon
Miller, Gary
Negrete McLeod
Pearce
Poe (TX)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1755

Mr. GARAMENDI changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So 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. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 545, H.R. 647, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my vote was not recorded on rollcall No. 545 on H.R. 647—ABLE Act of 2014. I was present for the vote but not recorded due to a mechanical problem with my voting card. I am a cosponsor of this legislation and I intended to vote "aye."

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE SCOTT PERRY, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable SCOTT PERRY, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
December 1, 2014.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a subpoena, issued by the United States Army, seeking documents for use by the prosecution in a court-martial. The subpoena seeks documents in my custody and control that relate to various communications, dated in 2008, between a constituent and the office of former U.S. Representative Todd Platts.

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

Sincerely,

SCOTT PERRY,
Member of Congress.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER FOR A CEREMONY TO PRESENT THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO THE WORLD WAR II MEMBERS OF THE CIVIL AIR PATROL

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of House Concurrent Resolution 120, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 120

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR CEREMONY TO PRESENT CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO WORLD WAR II MEMBERS OF CIVIL AIR PATROL.

Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used on December 10, 2014, for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the Civil Air Patrol collectively, in recognition of the military service and exemplary record of the Civil Air Patrol during World War II. Physical preparations for the conduct of the ceremony shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1800

ADDING EBOLA TO THE FDA PRIORITY REVIEW VOUCHER PROGRAM ACT

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 2917) to expand the program of priority review to encourage treatments for tropical diseases, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2917

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 ''Adding Ebola to the FDA Priority Review Voucher Program Act''.

SEC. 2. PRIORITY REVIEW TO ENCOURAGE TREATMENTS FOR TROPICAL DISEASES.

Section 524 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360n) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraph (Q) as subparagraph (R);

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (P) the following:

''(Q) Filoviruses.''; and

(C) in subparagraph (R), as so redesignated, by striking ''regulation by'' and inserting ''order of''; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by adding ''There is no limit on the number of times a priority review voucher may be transferred before such voucher is used.'' after the period at the end; and

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking ''365 days'' and inserting ''90 days''.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUDDEN UNEXPECTED DEATH DATA ENHANCEMENT AND AWARENESS ACT

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 669) to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life, with the Senate amendments thereto, and concur in the Senate amendments.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate amendments.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendments:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Sudden Unexpected Death Data Enhancement and Awareness Act''.

SEC. 2. CONTINUING ACTIVITIES RELATED TO STILLBIRTH, SUDDEN UNEXPECTED INFANT DEATH AND SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall continue activities related to still birth, sudden unexpected infant death, and sudden unexplained death in childhood, including, as appropriate—

(1) collecting information, such as socio-demographic, death scene investigation, clinical history, and autopsy information, on stillbirth, sudden unexpected infant death, and sudden unexplained death in childhood through the utilization of existing surveillance systems and collaborating with States to improve the quality, consistency, and collection of such data;

(2) disseminating information to educate the public, health care providers, and other stakeholders on stillbirth, sudden unexpected infant death and sudden unexplained death in childhood; and

(3) collaborating with the Attorney General, State and local departments of health, and other experts, as appropriate, to provide consistent information for medical examiners and coroners, law enforcement personnel, and health care providers related to death scene investigations and autopsies for sudden unexpected infant death and sudden unexplained death in childhood, in order to improve the quality and consistency of the data collected at such death scenes and to promote consistent reporting on the cause of death after autopsy to inform prevention, intervention, and other activities.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to Congress a report that includes a description of any activities that are being carried out by agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health, related to stillbirth, sudden unexpected infant death, and sudden unexplained death in childhood, including those activities identified under subsection (a).

SEC. 3. NO ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS.

This Act shall not be construed to increase the amount of appropriations that are authorized to be appropriated for any fiscal year.

Amend the title so as to read: ''An Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life.''.

Mr. BILIRAKIS (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the Senate amendments be dispensed with.

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

There was no objection.

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

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

CONDEMNING THE ACTIONS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 758) strongly condemning the actions of the Russian Federation, under President Vladimir Putin, which has carried out a policy of aggression against neighboring countries aimed at political and economic domination, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 758

Whereas the Russian Federation has subjected Ukraine to a campaign of political, economic, and military aggression for the purpose of establishing its domination over the country and progressively erasing its independence;

Whereas the Russian Federation's invasion of, and military operations on, Ukrainian territory represent gross violations of Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity and a violation of international law, including the Russian Federation's obligations under the United Nations Charter;

Whereas the Russian Federation has, since February 2014, violated each of the 10 principles of the 1975 Helsinki Accords in its relations with Ukraine;

Whereas the Russian Federation's forcible occupation and illegal annexation of Crimea and its continuing support for separatist and paramilitary forces in eastern Ukraine are violations of its obligations under the 1994 Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances, in which it pledged to respect the independence and sovereignty and the existing borders of Ukraine, and to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine;

Whereas the Russian Federation has provided military equipment, training, and other assistance to separatist and paramilitary forces in eastern Ukraine that has resulted in over 4,000 civilian deaths, hundreds of thousands of civilian refugees, and widespread destruction;

Whereas the Ukrainian military remains at a significant disadvantage compared to the armed forces of the Russian Federation in terms of size and technological sophistication;

Whereas the United States strongly supports efforts to assist Ukraine to defend its territory and sovereignty against military aggression by the Russian Federation and by separatist forces;

Whereas the terms of the cease-fire specified in the Minsk Protocol that was signed on September 5, 2014, by representatives of the Government of Ukraine, the Russian Federation, and the Russian-led separatists in the eastern area of Ukraine have been repeatedly violated by the Russian Federation and the separatist forces it supports;

Whereas separatist forces in areas they controlled in eastern Ukraine prevented the holding of elections on May 25, 2014, for a new President of Ukraine and on October 26, 2014, for a new Rada, thereby preventing the people of eastern Ukraine from exercising their democratic right to select their candidates for office in free and fair elections;

Whereas on November 2, 2014, separatist forces in eastern Ukraine held fraudulent and illegal elections in areas they controlled for the supposed purpose of choosing leaders of the illegitimate local political entities they have declared;

Whereas the Russian Federation continues to provide the military, political, and economic support without which the separatist forces could not continue to maintain their areas of control;

Whereas the reestablishment of peace and security in Ukraine requires the full withdrawal of Russian forces from Ukrainian territory, the resumption of the Government of Ukraine's control over all of the country's international borders, the disarming of the separatist and paramilitary forces in the east, an end to Russia's use of its energy exports and trade barriers to apply economic and political pressure, and an end to Russian interference in Ukraine's internal affairs;

Whereas Malaysia Airlines Flight 17, a civilian airliner, was destroyed by a missile fired by Russian-backed separatist forces in eastern Ukraine, resulting in the loss of 298 innocent lives;

Whereas the Russian Federation continues to supply the vast majority of arms purchases, which include anti-aircraft missile systems and other lethal weapons, to the Bashar Assad regime in Syria, a state sponsor of terrorism that is actively backed by Hezbollah, a sophisticated terrorist group hostile to the United States and its close allies;

Whereas the Russian Federation has protected the Assad regime and backed its brutal assault against the Syrian people;

Whereas the Russian Federation has used and is continuing to use coercive economic measures, including the manipulation of energy prices and supplies, as well as trade restrictions, to place political and economic pressure on Ukraine;

Whereas France agreed to sell to the Russian Federation two Mistral-class amphibious assault ships in 2011 for $1.7 billion;

Whereas Russian possession of these ships would be a destabilizing addition to the Russian military, which would likely have boosted its ability to invade Crimea;

Whereas given the Russian invasion of sovereign territory of the Republic of Ukraine in Crimea and elsewhere and its dangerous behavior throughout the region, France decided to suspend delivery of the Mistral-class warships to the Russian Federation;

Whereas purchase of the two Mistral-class warships by North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) countries would expand NATO's capabilities, resolve France's legitimate concern over the cost of the ships, and eliminate a potential threat to countries in Eastern Europe;

Whereas the Russian Federation invaded the Republic of Georgia in August 2008, continues to station military forces in the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, and is implementing measures intended to progressively integrate these regions into the Russian Federation, including by signing a ''treaty'' between Georgia's Abkhazia Region and the Russian Federation on November 24, 2014;

Whereas the Russian Federation continues to subject the Republic of Georgia to political and military intimidation, economic coercion, and other forms of aggression in an effort to establish its control of the country and to prevent Georgia from establishing closer relations with the European Union and the United States;

Whereas the Russian Federation continues to station military forces in the

Transniestria region of Moldova in violation of the express will of the Government of Moldova and of its Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) commitments;

Whereas the Russian Federation continues to provide support to the illegal separatist regime in the Transniestria region of Moldova;

Whereas the Russian Federation continues to subject Moldova to political and military intimidation, economic coercion, and other forms of aggression in an effort to establish its control of the country and to prevent efforts by Moldova to establish closer relations with the European Union and the United States;

Whereas the Russian Federation acceded to the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty obligation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in a declaration issued at Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in October 1992;

Whereas under the terms of the INF Treaty, a flight-test or deployment of any INF-banned weapon delivery vehicle by the Russian Federation constitutes a militarily significant violation of the INF Treaty;

Whereas on April 2, 2014, the Commander, U.S. European Command, and Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General Breedlove, stated that, ''A weapon capability that violates the INF, that is introduced into the greater European land mass is absolutely a tool that will have to be dealt with. . . I would not judge how the alliance will choose to react, but I would say they will have to consider what to do about it. . . It can't go unanswered.'';

Whereas on July 29, 2014, the United States Department of State released its report on the Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Disarmament Agreements and Commitments, as required by Section 403 of the Arms Control and Disarmament Act, for calendar year 2013, which found that, ''[t]he United States has determined that the Russian Federation is in violation of its obligations under the INF Treaty not to possess, produce, or flight-test a ground-launched cruise missile (GLCM) with a range capability of 500 km to 5,500 km, or to possess or produce launchers of such missiles'';

Whereas concerns also exist with respect to a new Russian ballistic missile, the RS-26, which, according to reports, has been tested on multiple occasions at intermediate ranges, and in different configurations, which would be covered by the interpretative statements the United States Senate relied upon when it ratified the INF Treaty in May 1988;

Whereas the Russian Federation has requested the approval of new sensors and new aircraft to be flown over the United States and Europe as part of the Treaty on Open Skies, and serious concerns have been raised regarding impacts to United States national security if such approval is given;

Whereas on November 11, 2014, the Commander, U.S. European Command, and Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General Breedlove, stated that, Russian forces ''capable of being nuclear'' are being moved to the Crimea Peninsula;

Whereas according to reports, the Government of the Russian Federation has repeatedly engaged in the infiltration of, and attacks on, computer networks of the United States Government, as well as individuals and private entities, for the purpose of illicitly acquiring information and disrupting operations, including by supporting Russian individuals and entities engaged in these actions;

Whereas the political, military, and economic aggression against Ukraine and other countries by the Russian Federation underscores the enduring importance of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as the cornerstone of collective Euro-Atlantic defense;

Whereas the United States reaffirms its obligations under the North Atlantic Treaty, especially Article 5 which states that ''an armed attack against one or more'' of the treaty signatories ''shall be considered an attack against them all'';

Whereas the Russian Federation is continuing to use its supply of energy as a means of political and economic coercion against Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, and other European countries;

Whereas the United States strongly supports energy diversification initiatives in Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, and other European countries to reduce the ability of the Russian Federation to use its supply of energy for political and economic coercion, including the development of domestic sources of energy, increased efficiency, and substituting Russian energy resources with imports from other countries;

Whereas the Russian Federation continues to conduct an aggressive propaganda effort in Ukraine in which false information is used to subvert the authority of the legitimate national government, undermine stability, promote ethnic dissension, and incite violence;

Whereas the Russian Federation has expanded the presence of its state-sponsored media in national languages across central and western Europe with the intent of using news and information to distort public opinion and obscure Russian political and economic influence in Europe;

Whereas expanded efforts by United States international broadcasting across all media in the Russian and Ukrainian languages are needed to counter Russian propaganda and to provide the people of Ukraine and the surrounding regions with access to credible and balanced information;

Whereas the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), Incorporated continue to represent a minority market share in Ukraine and other regional states with significant ethno-linguistic Russian populations who increasingly obtain their local and international news from Russian state-sponsored media outlets;

Whereas the United States International Programming to Ukraine and Neighboring Regions Act of 2014 (PL 113–96) requires the Voice of America and RFE/RL, Incorporated to provide programming content to target populations in Ukraine and Moldova 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including at least 8 weekly hours of total original video and television content and 14 weekly hours of total audio content while expanding cooperation with local media outlets and deploying greater content through multimedia platforms and mobile devices; and

Whereas Vladimir Putin has established an increasingly authoritarian regime in the Russian Federation through fraudulent elections, the persecution and jailing of political opponents, the elimination of independent media, the seizure of key sectors of the economy and enabling supporters to enrich themselves through widespread corruption, and implementing a strident propaganda campaign to justify Russian aggression against other countries and repression in Russia, among other actions: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) strongly supports the efforts by President Poroshenko and the people of Ukraine to establish a lasting peace in their country that includes the full withdrawal of Russian forces from the territory of Ukraine, full control of Ukraine's international borders, the disarming of separatist and paramilitary forces in eastern Ukraine, the adoption of policies to reduce the ability of the Russian Federation to use energy exports and trade barriers as weapons to apply economic and political pressure, and an end to interference by the Russian Federation in the internal affairs of Ukraine;

(2) affirms the right of Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, and all countries to exercise their sovereign rights within their internationally recognized borders free from outside intervention, and to conduct their foreign policy in accordance with their determination of the best interests of their peoples;

(3) condemns the continuing political, economic, and military aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova and the continuing violation of their sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity;

(4) states that the military intervention by the Russian Federation in Ukraine—

(A) is in breach of its obligations under the United Nations Charter;

(B) is in clear violation of each of the 10 principles of the 1975 Helsinki Accords;

(C) is in violation of the 1994 Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances in which it pledged to respect the independence, sovereignty, and existing borders of Ukraine and to refrain from the threat of the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine; and

(D) poses a threat to international peace and security;

(5) calls on the Russian Federation to reverse its illegal annexation of Crimea, to end its support of the separatist forces in Crimea, and to remove its military forces from that region other than those operating in strict accordance with its 1997 agreement on the Status and Conditions of the Black Sea Fleet Stationing on the Territory of Ukraine;

(6) calls on the President to cooperate with United States allies and partners in Europe and other countries around the world to refuse to recognize any *de jure* or *de facto* sovereignty of the Russian Federation over Crimea, its airspace, or its territorial waters;

(7) calls on the Russian Federation to remove its military forces and military equipment from the territory of Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova, and to end its political, military, and economic support of separatist forces;

(8) calls on the Russian Federation and the separatist forces it supports and controls in Ukraine to end their violations of the cease-fire announced in Minsk on September 5, 2014;

(9) calls on the President to cooperate with United States allies and partners in Europe and other countries around the world to impose visa bans, targeted asset freezes, sectoral sanctions, and other measures on the Russian Federation and its leadership with the goal of compelling it to end its violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, to remove its military forces and equipment from Ukrainian territory, and to end its support of separatist and paramilitary forces;

(10) calls on the President to provide the Government of Ukraine with lethal and non-lethal defense articles, services, and training required to effectively defend its territory and sovereignty;

(11) calls on the President to provide the Government of Ukraine with appropriate intelligence and other relevant information in a timely manner to assist the Government of Ukraine to defend its territory and sovereignty;

(12) calls on North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies and United States partners in Europe and other nations around the world to suspend all military cooperation with Russia, including prohibiting the sale to the Russian Government of lethal and non-lethal military equipment;

(13) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to its obligations under the North Atlantic Treaty, especially Article 5, and calls on all Alliance member states to provide their full share of the resources needed to ensure their collective defense;

(14) urges the President, in consultation with Congress, to conduct a review of the force posture, readiness, and responsibilities of United States Armed Forces and the forces of other members of NATO to determine if the contributions and actions of each are sufficient to meet the obligations of collective self-defense under Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty and to specify the measures needed to remedy any deficiencies;

(15) welcomes the decision of France to indefinitely suspend the delivery of the Mistral-class warships to the Russian Federation and urges the United States, France, NATO, and other partners to engage in consultations and consider all alternative acquisition options for such warships which would not include transfer of the ships to the Russian Federation;

(16) urges the President to publicly hold the Russian Federation accountable for violations of its obligations under the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty and to take action to bring the Russian Federation back into compliance with the Treaty;

(17) urges the President to work with Asian, European, and other allies to develop a comprehensive strategy to ensure the Russian Federation is not able to gain any benefit by its development of military systems that violate the INF Treaty;

(18) believes the emplacement by the Russian Federation of its nuclear weapons on Ukrainian territory would constitute a provocative and destabilizing move;

(19) calls on Ukraine and other countries to support energy diversification initiatives to reduce the ability of the Russian Federation to use its energy exports as a means of applying political or economic pressure, including by promoting energy efficiency and reverse natural gas flows from Western Europe, and calls on the United States to promote increased natural gas exports and energy efficiency;

(20) calls on the President and the United States Department of State to develop a strategy for multilateral coordination to produce or otherwise procure and distribute news and information in the Russian language to countries with significant Russian-speaking populations which maximizes the use of existing platforms for content delivery such as the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), Incorporated, leverages indigenous public-private partnerships for content production, and seeks in-kind contributions from regional state governments;

(21) calls on the United States Department of State to identify positions at key diplomatic posts in Europe to evaluate the political, economic, and cultural influence of Russia and Russian state-sponsored media and to coordinate with host governments on appropriate responses;

(22) calls on the Russian Federation to cease its support for the Assad regime in Syria;

(23) calls on the President to publicly and privately demand the Russian Federation cease its destabilizing behavior at every opportunity and in every engagement between the United States and its officials and the Russian Federation and its officials;

(24) calls upon the Russian Federation to seek a mutually beneficial relationship with the United States that is based on respect for the independence and sovereignty of all countries and their right to freely determine their future, including their relationship with other nations and international organizations, without interference, intimidation, or coercion by other countries; and

(25) calls for the reestablishment of a close and cooperative relationship between the people of the United States and the Russian people based on the shared pursuit of democracy, human rights, and peace among all nations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this resolution.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 758 and commend the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KINZINGER) for his work in bringing this important measure to the floor tonight. I also commend the work of our great chairman, Chairman ROYCE, and our fabulous ranking member, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), for their work on this critical issue.

As this resolution documents, Mr. Speaker, Vladimir Putin has repeatedly demonstrated that he is a threat not just to our friends and allies, but to international peace and stability. From Ukraine, Moldova, and the Republic of Georgia, to arms control violations and support for the Assad regime in Syria, Putin's continuing military, economic, and political aggression against Ukraine and others is on full display. Of course, his most dramatic action was the forcible occupation and annexation of Crimea earlier this year.

Today, as we consider this resolution, Russian forces are operating on Ukrainian soil supporting separatists that they have heavily armed. The apparent intent of the Russian-backed separatists is to carve out an area that Russia will be able to permanently dominate. This is not what the people of Ukraine want.

Already, thousands of Ukrainians have died in the fighting, and hundreds of thousands have been made refugees, with many more suffering severe deprivation. The destruction of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 demonstrated the threat to civilians in this conflict, but many more have been killed in the months since; yet these tragedies go mostly unnoticed in the West.

Ukraine is not asking the U.S. to defend it against Russia, but instead to provide it with the means with which it can defend its people and its sovereignty, but the administration has refused to do so, instead, restricting U.S. assistance to small amounts of nonlethal goods and equipment.

As Ukraine's President said when he addressed us in Congress in September, one cannot win a war with blankets. Ukraine is clearly in need of urgent military assistance. The administration must act quickly to equip it with the means not just to clothe its soldiers, but to stop tanks as well.

The assault on Ukraine isn't being carried out by military means alone. Putin has also attempted to use economic coercion on Ukraine. He has used Russia's supply of energy to Ukraine and to other countries, including many in the European Union, as a political weapon, shutting off deliveries in the middle of winter.

The United States and our friends and allies in Europe and around the world are taking action to ensure that he and his regime pay a heavy price for this aggression. By imposing sanctions on key sectors, especially financial institutions and the oil sector, we have put enormous pressure on the Russian economy, which its officials openly admit.

More needs to be done, Mr. Speaker. We must also counter Russia's ability to use energy as a weapon. The U.S. can play an important role in this effort simply by removing the unilateral restrictions we have imposed on our export of natural gas.

Finally, we must work with our allies in NATO to enhance the security of the Baltic States and other countries of the alliance that are menaced by Russian aggression. A perceived weakness could lead to miscalculation on Moscow's part with incalculable consequences. No one should doubt our commitment to NATO.

Through these and other measures, Mr. Speaker, we can demonstrate to Putin and the world that we will do what is necessary to protect Ukraine and other countries that are threatened by his imperial ambitions and ensure that they can live in peace and security.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of H. Res. 758.

Mr. Speaker, after the cold war, we all hoped that Russia would emerge as a modern power, governed by democratic norms, the rule of law, and respect for human rights. Regrettably, things didn't turn out that way. It is time to recognize the fact that Russia, under the leadership of Vladimir Putin, is a threat to European security and to U.S. interests in the region.

We must be clear that our concerns are not directed toward the Russian people. In fact, as Putin tightens his grip, his own citizens are among those suffering the most. Basic freedoms are under attack. The media has become a mouthpiece for Putin and his cronies, and as Russia continues its aggression in Ukraine, international sanctions are hitting home, dragging down Russia's economy.

Nevertheless, we have high hopes for those inside Russia who seek an alternative, who want a brighter future for their country and for their children, so this resolution encourages the establishment of close and cooperative ties between the people of the United States and the people of Russia.

It pains me that Putin has effectively destroyed democracy in Russia. We must let the Russian people know that we stand by them against this tyrant. We need to keep supporting those in Russia who are struggling against tough odds to keep the media and civil space open, to share ideas that originate beyond the Kremlin's walls, to shine a light on the corruption in Moscow and the misinformation on the airwaves.

I think this resolution sends an important message, and I would like to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KINZINGER) for taking the lead on this important issue, but I also think we should be doing more, and I am pleased to be working with Chairman ROYCE on new legislation to support Ukraine and further penalize Russia for its continued trampling of Ukrainian sovereignty.

I am also pleased that this resolution lays out Congress' strong opposition to France's sale of two Mistral warships to Russia, a key priority of mine over the last several months. We should all thank France for indefinitely suspending transfer of the ship to Russia, but I think we can go even further, with NATO buying or leasing the ships.

I believe that this would be a win-win-win: a win for NATO, which would acquire these powerful ships; a win for France, whose legitimate financial interests would be addressed; and a win for the countries in Eastern Europe, which would be further threatened if Russia, indeed, had these vessels.

Among those countries under Moscow's pressure are Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia, where Russia continues to stoke separatism. There was a vote recently in Moldova which rejected Putin and his nonsense, and I was happy to see it.

In the Baltic States and elsewhere, Russian propaganda fills the airwaves, spreading deceptions about the West. Across Eastern Europe, millions wait with apprehension to see what Putin will do next. They have good reason. We know that he is willing to flout international law and trample his neighbors' sovereignty, so better to stand up to a bully now than to try to reverse his future gains.

When Putin talks about going into Crimea to protect ethnic Russians, it sounds to me a very lot like Hitler in 1938 who said he was going in to Czechoslovakia to the Sudetenland to protect ethnic Germans.

During the cold war, the United States stared down the Soviet Union at the height of its power and refused to blink. We sided with those behind the Iron Curtain who stood up for their universal rights.

Today, those rights are once again under threat; so, my colleagues, let's pass this resolution, and let's keep working to meet the challenge of Russia's growing aggression.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KINZINGER), a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and the author of this important measure.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for yielding the time. Thanks to the committee and the leadership for bringing this very important issue forward.

Russia's continuing political, military, and economic aggression against Ukraine, as well as Georgia and Moldova, must be addressed; in short, this aggression will not stand. Mankind everywhere has a responsibility to stand up for territorial integrity and sovereignty in Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova.

U.S. and European sanctions, to date, have unfortunately not caused Russia to change course. It is imperative that this body continues to pressure Russia and remain focused on exposing their illegal actions.

Mr. Putin would love nothing more than the world to simply not take notice or not have the political will to directly push back against his illegal annexation of Crimea. In fact, there is some who would promote a policy of appeasement for political, business, or other purposes against Russia.

That approach is woefully shortsighted and naive and underestimates what Mr. Putin's regime is capable of throughout Eastern Europe and now, unfortunately, the Middle East.

The U.S., Europe, and our allies must aggressively keep the pressure on Mr. Putin to encourage him to change his behavior. Sadly, Mr. Putin will only respond to raw power, and we must remain unified in our opposition to the annexation of Crimea and continued efforts to destabilize eastern Ukraine. We must be willing to change Mr. Putin's calculation to make it far too costly for him to continue down this path.

My constituents in Illinois have been shocked by Russia's military aggression into Ukraine, and over the past year, they have been afraid that we are moving into a second cold war. I agree with my constituents and believe Putin has alienated all the Western countries he ostensibly was trying to woo by the Sochi Olympics and is on the path to reigniting a second cold war.

Moreover, Putin has enraged the world by denying Russia's involvement in the death of 200 civilian passengers on a commercial Malaysian airplane from Holland to Malaysia in the spring of 2014.

□ 1815

Russia, sending arms and rockets to the Russian-aligned forces in Ukraine, was the match that lit the fire for this heinous act.

On another note, I have had the opportunity to visit the country of Georgia on several occasions over the past few years and have been impressed with its people and their political aspirations. I have personally witnessed Russian troops in Georgia, where they continue to occupy Abkhazia and South Ossetia. In the same way Crimea should be returned to Ukraine, Russia should immediately withdraw its troops from Georgia.

The recent ''treaty'' between Georgia's Abkhazia region and the Russian Federation is a farce. Abkhazia and South Ossetia remain integral parts of Georgia and deserve to be part of an independent, sovereign Georgia.

It is long past time to stand up to Mr. Putin and his wars of opportunities in Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine, and I would urge my colleagues to support the measure.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not thank Chairman ROYCE for his strong leadership on this and many other issues that have come before the Foreign Affairs Committee this past Congress. It has been an absolute pleasure to serve on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. The past 2 years have been an extremely tumultuous time for the world. I am extremely proud of this committee's work to directly confront the problems quickly and with clear, unified voice.

While I can't thank everyone, I would like to specifically thank the following staff for their tremendous diligence and hard work: Tom Sheehy, Edward Burrier, Doug Seay, Elizabeth Heng, and, out of my personal office, Michael Essington. You have been wonderful to work with on this committee, and I am sure you will continue the hard work in the next Congress as we confront a world that is severely lacking in global American leadership.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much.

Let me express my appreciation to the author of this bill, Mr. KINZINGER, and to the managers on the bill, as well as, in particular, to thank the ranking member, the chairman, and, of course, the manager today. Thank you for your leadership.

I associate myself with Congressman ENGEL's remarks about leaving a space for affirmation of the Russian people but to make it very clear that we condemn the actions of Mr. Putin. Maybe calling him that is even too polite.

Remember the days of Gorbachev when we understood that there was an open Russia, there was a Russia who was committed to working for world peace, standing on their own principles and values and history, not denying their strength, but yet working collaboratively in a civilized way. What happened to that Russia? What happened to the Russia that was supposed to be shown to the world during the Olympics? What happened to the Russia that believed in its great history and was prepared to stand alongside of all world leaders to make a better place?

The taking over, the dominance, the literal invasion of Crimea was intolerable and an unacceptable action by a nation that calls itself ''standing civilized with other nations.'' The horrific tragedy of Malaysian Airlines and what many of us viewed around the world as we watched bodies being unattended and thugs not allowing persons to come and see to those bodies, how long they languished in those fields.

So I think it is important to ask the question of Mr. Putin: What has happened to the Russia that we have known?

I would say that this resolution condemns the actions of the government and the leadership of the government, but not the Russian people. I look forward to legislation coming forward that we all will debate on how we interact with the Russian people and provide the freedom of press and the freedom of speech and the opportunities for them.

Mr. Speaker, as I conclude my remarks, I would be remiss not to be able to acknowledge Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, who has an excellent bill on the floor, H. Res. 714, but to be able to say to him, I consider him a great American and a representative of his community and his region and all that he has done to turn our attention to south China, east China, and the Asian Pacific region. We are grateful for what he has done and grateful for his service. I thank him very much and wish for the continued support of his legislation and his service to this country.

Let me also say that I support S. 2673, the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act, and look forward to its passage.

Again, in conclusion, I hope that this legislation, the underlying legislation, is a statement on behalf of America, of what we mean and what we stand for.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio, MARCY KAPTUR, who has been a leader in Ukraine freedom and other issues involving Eastern Europe.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my dear friend and colleague, the ranking member, Congressman ELIOT ENGEL of New York, for yielding me this time, and also wish to thank the chair, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN of Florida, obviously Chairman ROYCE, Congressman KINZINGER, all those who have brought this important resolution to the floor, and I rise in support.

Let me just say that the actions of Russia have truly disappointed any liberty-loving person that exists on the face of the Earth. I think this resolution further undergirds the high regard this Nation places on the value of liberty, and liberty for all; its provisions that deal with increasing sanctions and with added efforts in the energy security arena for Ukraine are extraordinarily important; the focus on additional communications; defensive equipment for the military of Ukraine to defend the interests of that country; and, importantly, cooperation with NATO nations and nonallied NATO nations to develop the kind of international cooperative effort that truly can yield a better Central and Eastern Europe in the decades ahead.

I want to commend the leadership on both sides of the aisle. This is a bipartisan effort, what the American people are asking us for, aspiring to the highest values that we hold as a nation, and that is liberty for all, liberty for those who live in places where individuals have not had the opportunity to fully flourish because of the totalitarian and repressive regimes that make normal life impossible.

I would urge my colleagues to support the resolution, and I thank the leadership for bringing this up in the closing hours of this Congress.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART).

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida and also Mr. KINZINGER, the sponsor for this fine resolution.

In 1 minute I have one very simple thing to say. It is time that we recognize who we are dealing with here. I know that it is easy and it is fun to talk about diplomacy and diplomatic talk and pretend that Mr. Putin is this democratic leader who has democratic aspirations, but as this resolution clearly states, facts just do not bear that out.

So I thank the sponsor, and I thank the chairwoman for bringing to the floor the truth of what Europe is threatened with and the world is threatened with. Mr. Putin, that regime, is a regime of a thug for thugs, and he must be treated that way.

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

In closing, let me again stress the importance of this resolution. It is strong and it is comprehensive. It says what needs to be said, namely, that the United States stands firmly with Ukraine as it faces Russia's aggregation, period, plain and simple, and it condemns that aggregation in unambiguous terms.

But this resolution also keeps the door open to improved U.S.-Russian relations should Mr. Putin cease his aggression against Ukraine and observe the rules and norms that undergird the international order.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution. It is very important. It is very timely. It is important that we act now.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank our esteemed chairman, Mr. ROYCE of California, as well as Mr. KINZINGER, the author of this resolution, for bringing forth this timely resolution before us.

By approving this resolution, Mr. Speaker, the House will send Vladimir Putin a clear and unmistakable message, one aimed not only at him, but at all of those in other countries who are tempted to use aggression and invasion to achieve their objectives.

There is more at stake here than simply defending Ukraine's independence and sovereignty, although that is our primary goal. The message is that the United States will not simply stand by and silently watch the world ascend into anarchy nor allow aggressors to accomplish their goals by force and coercion.

By demonstrating to Putin that his aggressive actions will only result in unacceptable costs to him and his regime, we can prevent others from concluding that we and our allies will do nothing to stop them and that they are free to impose the law of the jungle once again.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 758 as amended, which condemns Russia aggression against her neighbors. In the past year, we have seen Russia's determination to exert influence over neighboring sovereign states such as Ukraine. Ever since November 2013, when the Ukrainian people gathered peacefully in Maidan Square to protest against a corrupt, Russian-backed government, the Ukrainian people have come under siege by separatist forces supported and armed by Russia. It is clear to all of us that in spite of the ceasefire, Russia has never intended to honor the terms of the agreement and has continued to undermine any genuine effort to stabilize Ukraine.

Here in the United States, we must fully understand that such acts of aggression undermine peace and security—not just for Ukraine, but for all of Europe and the international community. At this critical juncture when normalcy seems unattainable, the United States must stand with the Ukrainian people and support their own desire to build a free and democratic country, free from Russia's interference—in complete freedom to determine Ukraine's own course of history.

We and our NATO allies have taken important steps in support of Ukraine. We are collectively providing $100 million in military assistance and have increased military cooperation. We have imposed economic sanctions that force Russia pay a heavy price for its aggression. The international community has spoken with one voice—if Russia chooses aggression, there are clear consequences to its expansionist agenda.

But there is much more that needs to be done. I urge my colleagues to continue their

support of the Ukrainian people by passing additional legislation that provides for military and humanitarian assistance. The Ukrainian people have demonstrated time and again their will to defend their nation against a more powerful aggressor—with no expectation that anyone would come to their aid. Now, we need to do our part and give them the chance to stand up for the same values and principles that define us as a nation.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 758 as amended. President Vladimir Putin seems to have learned nothing from history other than that power grows out of the barrel of a gun. The Russian Federation under President Putin has demonstrated an ethos of naked aggression that threatens the principle of nation-state sovereignty and the territorial integrity of Russia's neighbors.

When Russian troops were identified as fomenting unrest in Crimea in February of this year, President Putin adamantly denied Russian involvement. By April, Russia had illegally annexed Crimea, and Putin had come clean about the blatant Russian intrusion.

He admitted that Russian troops had been deployed to Crimea before the illegal annexation on March 21, and exposed the illegitimate referendum on independence in Crimea for what it was, a referendum held at the end of the barrel of a gun. As Ukrainians in Crimea flee their Russian occupiers, I cannot help but feel the reverberations of Crimea's bloody history.

What we are witnessing in eastern Ukraine constitutes one of the most audacious power grabs of the 21st century, and it is happening in Europe no less.

I recently participated in a bipartisan delegation to the Annual Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. I can attest that our NATO allies are under no illusions about Mr. Putin and they see him for what he is, a bully who will only be encouraged by concession.

The 28 nations represented at the NATO PA adopted strong language calling on NATO member countries to ''make it unambiguously clear that the illegal 'annexation' of Crimea will never be recognized.''

The leadership of the NATO PA has rotated to the United States, and my colleague, Mr. Turner of Ohio, has been elected President of the parliamentary body. The world is looking to the United States to reverse the dangerous precedent that has been set in Crimea.

To that end, I am pleased to see that H. Res. 758 includes language that echoes bipartisan legislation I introduced earlier this year with my colleague Rep. STEVE CHABOT, the Crimea Annexation Non-Recognition Act, H.R. 5241.

Today's resolution calls on the President to cooperate with United States allies and partners in Europe and other countries around the world to refuse to recognize any de jure or de facto sovereignty of the Russian Federation over Crimea, its airspace, or its territorial waters.

Some of my colleagues may recall that in the Cold War era, the U.S. had a policy of non-recognition regarding the Soviet Union's illegal annexation of the Baltic Republics. The U.S. recognized neither the de jure nor de facto sovereignty of the Soviet Union over the Baltic Republics.

Our policy of non-recognition did not end in 1991 because it had become outdated or failed to recognize a fait accompli. It ended because the Baltic people gained their independence in 1991 almost 50 years after the Soviet occupation began, and today, Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia are NATO allies.

Without a clear stance on the issue of Crimea, the West becomes unwittingly complicit in Putin's further aggression in eastern Ukraine and offers little hope to Ukrainians leaving Crimea that they will ever have the opportunity to return home.

For the United States to allow this naked aggression to go unaddressed would be truly an abrogation of our moral responsibility and would turn our back on what we should have learned from 20th century history.

Congress must make a stand, and I, for one, am stuck at Crimea.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 758, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. 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.

REAFFIRMING THE PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES IN THE SOUTH CHINA AND THE EAST CHINA SEAS

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 714) reaffirming the peaceful and collaborative resolution of maritime and jurisdictional disputes in the South China Sea and the East China Sea as provided for by universally recognized principles of international law, and reaffirming the strong support of the United States Government for freedom of navigation and other internationally lawful uses of sea and airspace in the Asia-Pacific region, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 714

Whereas the maritime domains of the Asia-Pacific region, which include both the sea and airspace above the domains, are critical to the region's prosperity, stability, and security, including global commerce;

Whereas the maritime domain in the Asia-Pacific region between the Pacific and Indian Oceans includes critical sea lines of commerce and communication;

Whereas China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan, Malaysia, and Brunei have disputed territorial claims over the Spratly Islands, and China, Taiwan, and Vietnam have disputed territorial claims over the Paracel Islands;

Whereas, although the United States Government is not a claimant in maritime disputes in either the East China or South China Seas, the United States has an interest in the peaceful diplomatic resolution of disputed claims in accordance with international law, in freedom of navigation and overflight, and in the free-flow of commerce free of coercion, intimidation, or the use of force;

Whereas in 2002, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China agreed to the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, and committed to developing an effective Code of Conduct;

Whereas that declaration committed all parties to those territorial disputes to ''reaffirm their respect for and commitment to the freedom of navigation in and over flight above the South China Sea as provided for by the universally recognized principles of international law'', and to ''resolve their territorial and jurisdictional disputes by peaceful means, without resorting to the threat or use of force'';

Whereas since that time, tensions over the disputed maritime and territorial areas have increased;

Whereas on September 2010, tensions escalated in the East China Sea near the Senkaku (Diaoyutai) Islands, a territory under the legal administration of Japan, when a Chinese fishing vessel deliberately rammed Japanese Coast Guard patrol boats;

Whereas on February 25, 2011, a frigate from the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) fired shots at three fishing boats from the Philippines;

Whereas on March 2, 2011, the Government of the Philippines reported that two patrol boats from China attempted to ram one of its surveillance ships;

Whereas on May 26, 2011, a maritime security vessel from China cut the cables of an exploration ship from Vietnam, the Binh Minh, in the South China Sea in waters near Cam Ranh Bay in the exclusive economic zone of Vietnam;

Whereas on May 31, 2011, three Chinese military vessels used guns to threaten the crews of four Vietnamese fishing boats while they were fishing in the waters of the Spratly Islands;

Whereas on June 9, 2011, three vessels from China, including one fishing vessel and two maritime security vessels, ran into and disabled the cables of another exploration ship from Vietnam, the Viking 2, in the exclusive economic zone of Vietnam;

Whereas on July 22, 2011, an Indian naval vessel, sailing about 45 nautical miles off the coast of Vietnam, was warned by a Chinese naval vessel that it was allegedly violating Chinese territorial waters;

Whereas in April 2012, tensions escalated between the Philippines and China following a standoff over the Scarborough Shoal;

Whereas in June 2012, Vietnam passed a Maritime law that claimed sovereignty and jurisdiction over the Paracel and Spratly Islands;

Whereas in June 2012, China's cabinet, the State Council, approved the establishment of the city of Sansha to oversee the areas claimed by China in the South China Sea;

Whereas in July 2012, Chinese military authorities announced that they had established a corresponding People's Liberation Army garrison in Sansha, in the new prefecture;

Whereas on June 23, 2012, the China National Offshore Oil Corporation invited bids for oil exploration in areas within 200 nautical miles of the continental shelf and within the exclusive economic zone of Vietnam;

Whereas in January 2013, a Chinese naval ship allegedly fixed its weapons-targeting radar on Japanese vessels in the vicinity of the Senkaku islands in the East China Sea, and, on April 23, 2013, eight Chinese marine surveillance ships entered the 12-nautical-

mile territorial zone off the Senkaku Islands, further escalating regional tensions;

Whereas on May 9, 2013, a fatal shooting incident occurred in which shots fired from a Philippine Coast Guard patrol boat resulted in the death of a Taiwanese fisherman;

Whereas on May 1, 2014, China's state-owned energy company, CNOOC, anchored its deepwater drilling rig Hai Yang Shi You 981 (HD–981) in Vietnamese waters and deployed over 80 vessels, including seven military vessels, to support its provocative actions and attempt to change the status quo by force;

Whereas Chinese vessels accompanying Hai Yang Shi You 981 (HD–981) intimidated Vietnamese Coast Guard ships in violation of the Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, ramming multiple Vietnamese vessels, and using helicopters and water cannons to obstruct others;

Whereas on May 5, 2014, vessels from the Maritime Safety Administration of China (MSAC) established an exclusion zone with a radius of three nautical miles around Hai Yang Shi You 981 (HD–981);

Whereas China's actions in support of the Hai Yang Shi You 981 (HD–981) drilling activity constitute a unilateral attempt to change the status quo by force;

Whereas claimants have participated in land reclamation and building up of land features, and whereas such activities have raised tensions among the claimants;

Whereas, without prior consultations with the United States, Japan, the Republic of Korea or other nations of the Asia-Pacific region, China declared an Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) over the East China Sea on November 23, 2013;

Whereas China announced that all aircraft, even if they do not intend to enter the ADIZ airspace, would have to submit flight plans, maintain radio contact, and follow directions from the Chinese Ministry of National Defense;

Whereas the ''rules of engagement'' declared by China, which at one time included the threat of ''emergency defensive measures'', are in violation of the concept of ''due regard for the safety of civil aviation'' under the Chicago Convention of the International Civil Aviation Organization and thereby are a departure from accepted practice;

Whereas China's declaration of an ADIZ over the East China Sea has contributed to increased uncertainty and unsafe conditions in the maritime region in East Asia and the broader Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas freedom of navigation and other lawful uses of sea and airspace in the Asia-Pacific region are embodied in international law, not granted by certain states to others;

Whereas the United States Government expressed profound concerns with China's unilateral, provocative, dangerous, and destabilizing declaration of such a zone, including the potential for misunderstandings and miscalculations by aircraft operating lawfully in international airspace;

Whereas China's declaration of an ADIZ in the East China Sea will not alter how the United States Government conducts operations in the region or the unwavering United States commitment to peace, security and stability in the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas other governments in the Asia-Pacific region, including the Governments of Japan, Korea, Philippines, Australia and Indonesia have expressed deep concern about China's declaration of such a zone, regarding it as an effort to unduly infringe upon the freedom of flight in international airspace and to change the status quo that could escalate tensions and potentially cause unintentional consequences in the East China Sea;

Whereas the United States Government does not support unilateral actions taken by any claimant seeking to change the status quo through the use of coercion, intimidation, or military force;

Whereas the United States Government is deeply concerned about unilateral actions taken by any state to prevent any other state from exercising its sovereign rights to the resources of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and continental shelf by making claims to those areas that have no apparent basis in international law; declarations of administrative and military districts in contested areas in the South and East China Seas; and the imposition of new fishing regulations covering disputed areas, which have raised tensions in the region;

Whereas international law is important to safeguard the rights and freedoms of all states in the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas China and Vietnam have undertaken discussions to reduce tensions between their navies;

Whereas in November 2014, the United States and China signed a non-binding memorandum of understanding (MOU) on ''rules of behavior for safety of air and maritime encounters'';

Whereas the MOU currently addresses only maritime behaviors and both sides have agreed to complete an additional annex on air-to-air encounters in 2015;

Whereas the United States welcomes the agreement by Japan and China, in advance of their bilateral meeting in November 2014, to reduce tensions over disputed islands in the East China Sea and to ''gradually resume political, diplomatic and security dialogues''; and

Whereas a peaceful and prosperous China, which acts as a responsible international stakeholder and which respects international laws, standards, and institutions, will enhance security and peace in the Asia-Pacific region: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) reaffirms the strong support of the United States for the peaceful resolution of maritime territorial disputes in the South China Sea and the East China Sea and pledges continued efforts to facilitate a collaborative, peaceful process to resolve these disputes;

(2) reaffirms the strong support for freedom of navigation and over flight and condemns coercive and threatening actions or the use of force to impede these freedoms in international maritime domains and airspace by military or civilian vessels, to alter the status quo or to destabilize the Asia-Pacific region;

(3) does not recognize the East China Sea Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) declared by China, which is contrary to freedom of overflight in international airspace, and calls on China to refrain from taking similar provocative actions elsewhere in the Asia-Pacific region, including in the South China Sea;

(4) urges the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), all United States allies and partners, and all claimants to amiably and fairly resolve these outstanding disputes, including through the conclusion of a Code of Conduct for the South China Sea;

(5) urges the conclusion of the annex to the non-binding memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the United States and China on ''rules of behavior for safety of air and maritime encounters'' addressing air-to-air encounters in 2015;

(6) supports the continuation of operations by the United States to support freedom of navigation in international waters and air space in the South China Sea and the East China Sea; and

(7) encourages the continuation of efforts by the United States Government to strengthen partnerships in the region to build capacity for maritime domain awareness in support of freedom of navigation, maintenance of peace and stability, and respect for universally recognized principles of international law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 714.

I would like to recognize the gentleman from American Samoa, our good friend, ENI FALEOMAVAEGA, for introducing this important measure, and I was proud to have joined him as the lead cosponsor.

I would like to commend and thank Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA for his nearly four decades of service in the United States Congress and to our Foreign Affairs Committee, which will soon come to an end, sadly, and we will all miss him dearly.

Throughout his career, ENI has fought for human rights and for the rule of law, especially in the Asia-Pacific region, and the idea that all people should have the opportunity to prosper without fear for their family's safety or livelihoods. This resolution that he presents before us is a fitting representation of the ideals and goals that ENI has worked so hard in support of during his many years in Congress.

This resolution encourages a peaceful reconciliation of the maritime and jurisdictional disputes in the South and East China Seas, as well as the kind of peace that is too often lacking in our world today. This resolution is also an important statement in support of the universally recognized principle of the freedom of navigation.

Mr. Speaker, peace in Asia has held for over a generation, and we have seen incredible economic growth. Home to a vast combination of global sea routes and shipping lanes, substantial energy resources, and significant fishing territories, the importance of maintaining peace in the South China Sea and the East China Sea cannot be overstated.

□ 1830

According to estimates, the South China Sea contains oil reserves of 900 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, making the area second only to Saudi Arabia in regard to oil supply. With Asian

energy consumption set to double by the year 2030, the conflicting claims in this region will likely grow more intense.

Beyond the region's vast energy resources, peace in the South China Sea is essential for international commerce. Each year, $5.3 trillion in trade passes through the South China Sea, over $1 trillion of which can be attributed to the United States. But the fragile stability that has held in Asia is now being threatened by China's hegemonic ambitions and its aggressive stance towards its neighbors. From its declaration of an Air Defense Identification Zone to its ramming of other nation's fishing boats to its economic coercion of U.S. allies like Taiwan, China has rapidly raised tensions in the region.

China is pushing the limits on the high seas, motivated by potent nationalist trends and the resources at stake. China's territorial stakes are a clear challenge to its neighbors and must not be allowed to go unchallenged. This resolution rightfully states that China's declaration has contributed to increased uncertainty and unsafe conditions in East Asia.

Additionally, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA's resolution calls for freedom of navigation, which is a bedrock principle of international commerce that dates back centuries, helping to ensure the continued flow of global trade.

Mr. Speaker, given the importance of this region, I urge my colleagues to support Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA's resolution, which puts the House on record supporting a peaceful process to resolve these disputes.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 714. Let me start by thanking my colleague from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) for authorizing this resolution. I also thank him for his many years of distinguished service here in Congress. This is especially moving for me because ENI and I were both elected to Congress on the same day and started to serve that first day. We were elected in November of 1988, and we both served starting January 3, 1989. As the jargon is here in Washington, we are classmates. We sat next to each other on the Foreign Affairs Committee for all those years and had a good chance to travel together and have our families get to know each other, especially our wives. It really has been a pleasure to be a friend and a colleague of Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. We are going to miss him, but I know he will grace our presence and come back and visit.

So this is really a tribute. This is an important resolution. It is important for its substance, but it is also important because I look at it as a tribute to ENI FALEOMAVAEGA, my colleague, my friend, a really great human being, great American, and great person representing American Samoa for so many years. Thank you, ENI.

As both the chairman and the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific throughout the years, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA was focused on U.S. policy involving the Asia-Pacific region. He was focused on this policy long before anyone decided we need a ''pivot'' or ''rebalance'' to the region. ENI always knew—and knows—that Asia is important, and that the United States, as a Pacific power, has a vital role to play.

The measure we are considering today reaffirms our strong support for a peaceful resolution to disputes in the South China Sea and East China Sea. It calls on all parties to reduce tensions, manage disputes peacefully, and adhere to international law. It encourages our own government to keep working with allies and partners, helping expand their ability to keep an eye on their own maritime domains.

The United States, as I mentioned before, is a Pacific power. We have a vital interest in freedom of navigation and overflight in these disputed areas, which are vital to economic security and lawful commerce in the region. These are universal rights, not rights granted by some states to others and not rights that China thinks it can dominate and be aggressive in terms of claiming the seas as its own, even though many of those seas are literally thousands of miles away from mainland China.

Tensions in the East and South China Sea have been steadily increasing for the last several years. Provocations have become bolder and more frequent, and little progress has been made on a code of conduct in the South China Sea to establish rules of the road among claimants.

When I went there more than a year ago with Chairman ROYCE, we were told by the government of the Philippines and Japan that they were very, very concerned with what China has been doing and claiming. The United States does not take sides in these disputes. We believe that they should be resolved diplomatically and without force or coercion. Territorial claims—and arbitration of those claims—should be based on international law.

There have been some hopeful signs. Japan and Taiwan have worked out an agreement relating to fishing rights. China and Vietnam have began discussions on how to reduce tensions between their respective navies. In advance of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, called APEC, and bilateral meetings, Japan and China decided to ''agree to disagree'' on the issue of the Senkaku Islands. They are now looking for other ways to expand their diplomatic, political, and security ties, despite their differences.

In addition, the President announced during his recent visit to Beijing that the United States and China agreed to a range of maritime confidence-building measures. We will continue working to expand this cooperation into airspace next year.

These developments are positive and should continue in earnest, but they are not enough. H. Res. 714 urges all parties to stay focused on this progress and to continue working for a peaceful resolution of maritime disputes in areas that are vitally important to the continued economic development, peace, and security of the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure and honor to yield 5 minutes to the Representative from American Samoa, Mr. ENI FALEOMAVAEGA.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I want to especially thank my good friend from New York and the gentlewoman from Florida for their leadership and their support of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 714, a resolution I introduced calling for the peaceful and collaborative resolution of maritime territorial disputes in the South China Sea and the East China Sea.

I thank my colleagues, both Republicans and Democrats, who have stood with me since 2012 on this issue. I want to especially thank again Chairwoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN and Chairman STEVE CHABOT for their leadership and support. I also thank Chairman ED ROYCE and Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL for their support and help.

I am so serious about this matter that I have introduced this language as a resolution, as a bill, and now again as a resolution in hopes that the House will take a stand in response to China's aggressive actions in the South China Sea and the East China Sea.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to China, I consider myself a fair broker, but it is time for China to stop provoking its neighbors and pursue a course of peace. This is the last resolution I have introduced that the House will consider, and I am proud that this resolution calls for peace in the Asia-Pacific region.

Also, as a matter of observation, Mr. Speaker, two-thirds of the world's population is in the Asia-Pacific region. For years, I have always had a little sense of complaint that it seems that our focus has always been toward Europe and the Middle East. Not that they are not important, but the fact is that issues coming out of the Asia-Pacific region should be given our proper attention.

I have served on the House Foreign Affairs Committee since I first came to the U.S. Congress in 1989. For as long as I have served, it has always been, and continues to be, my belief that the United States should pay more attention to the Asia-Pacific region. As of now, we should pay particular attention to the ongoing tensions in the South China Sea.

Also, although the United States Government is not a claimant in maritime disputes in either the East China Sea or the South China Sea, the United States has an interest in the peaceful diplomatic resolution of disputed claims in accordance with international law; in freedom of navigation and overflight; and in the free flow of commerce that is free of coercion, intimidation, or the use of force.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the leadership of Vietnam in standing for peace—even when China violated its sovereignty by planting its oil rig, HD–981, in the waters of Vietnam's Exclusive Economic Zone. I also commend Taiwan and Japan for peacefully reaching an agreement to jointly share fishing resources in their overlapping Exclusive Economic Zones through the East China Sea Initiative, which demonstrates that resolutions can be achieved through peaceful means.

Mr. Speaker, I firmly believe that we should earnestly seek ways to promote peace, and I thank you for the opportunity I have had to associate with you and our colleagues to carry out our responsibilities in this great Nation.

It has been my distinct honor to serve the people of American Samoa in the U.S. House of Representatives for the past 25 years. I thank them for giving me the opportunity to serve them and this great Nation. I believe I did my best, and I hope I will be remembered for giving all I could to American Samoa and to our great Nation, especially to the Asia-Pacific region, a region that has been too long neglected by our national government.

To borrow the words of Mahatma Gandhi:

I hope my life will be my message.

Mr. Speaker, we will meet again, hopefully, and I extend to each of my colleagues my fondest aloha.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Guam, Representative MADELEINE BORDALLO.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in very strong support of H. Res. 714, authored by my very good friend, Representative ENI FALEOMAVAEGA of American Samoa. This resolution reaffirms the United States' interest in a peaceful and collaborative resolution of maritime and jurisdictional disputes in the South and East China Seas.

Disputes over islands in the South and East China Seas have broad economic and security implications to United States interests in the Asia-Pacific region. Escalation of these disputes undercut peace and stability in the region and seriously impact economies across the globe.

I strongly believe that the United States must take a leadership role in these disputes and work with our Asian allies to support a peaceful and collaborative resolution to these issues. The resolution takes a step in the right direction. We cannot accept unilateral action by any of the countries involved in these disputes, as it further degrades security in the region. Here is a clear example of Congress supporting the United States' role in the rebalance of the Asia-Pacific region.

In particular, we cannot allow recent aggressive actions by China to go unchecked. So I urge all parties, like Secretary Clinton did in 2012, to push toward finalizing a code of conduct that would establish a mechanism to resolve these differences. I believe that it is important for all parties to come to a resolution over these disputes and not allow them to fester any longer.

□ 1845

These disputes should no longer be used as weapons to bolster nationalism helping to secure domestic power.

We must do all that we can to ensure continued peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, and I am glad that the House of Representatives is acting on this important measure to send a clear message to China and our allies in the region.

I want to close by saying that I am a close friend of Congressman ENI FALEOMAVAEGA. I am from Guam, he represents American Samoa, islands in the Pacific area. I want to thank him for his leadership on this issue and his long and dedicated service in the House of Representatives, I understand not just as an elected Member, but as a staffer as well, serving here over 40 years, as well as all the other issues in the Asia-Pacific region that he has looked after.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly, again, urge my colleagues to pass H. Res. 714.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am going to close now. In closing, I would like to underscore the importance and timeliness of this resolution. It is imperative that disagreements in the East or South China Seas be resolved peacefully, without force or coercion, and in accordance with international law.

Anything less than this jeopardizes the interests of the United States, of our allies and partners, and the continued economic development, peace, and security of the Asia-Pacific region.

I urge all my colleagues to support this important resolution, H. Res. 714.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ENGEL. I yield to the gentleman from American Samoa.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and certainly want to thank him for his most eloquent statements towards me. I feel a little embarrassed by it, but I do want to thank him.

I do want to note, also, that it has been my honor to have served with him and our colleagues on the other side of the aisle very well, on affairs affecting our national interests, our government.

The gentlelady from Florida will note that I have a relative who happens to live in her district. His name happens to be Dwayne Johnson, and if you haven't seen his latest movie, ''Hercules,'' I suggest to my colleagues that you should see the movie ''Hercules'' and see what Samoans are like.

I do want to thank the gentleman again for yielding.

Mr. ENGEL. I thank the gentleman, and I want to just say, I think we all have relatives that live in ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN's district. And if we don't, we want to go to her district in the wintertime.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. And I would like to point out that Dwayne Johnson, The Rock, is a University of Miami Hurricanes alum. It is not bragging if it is true. But thank you.

Mr. Speaker, over the past several years, I have noticed, we all have noticed a worrying trend in Asia. What we are seeing is that Asia's collective attention is gradually shifting away from economic prosperity to security concerns.

Where nations used to focus on trade and commerce, there is increasing discussion of nationalism, of military budgets, and even provocative behavior. There is no better example than the territorial disputes that Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA points out in his resolution in the South China and East China Sea.

We need to work against this shift toward nationalism and promote a peaceful resolution to these disputes. This resolution by Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA encourages just that. I urge my colleagues to support it.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank our good friend and colleague Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA for his lifetime of service. And I know that I am speaking for our esteemed chairman, Mr. ROYCE, and all of the Members when we say, thank you, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, for your service to our country during the Vietnam war.

Thank you for the service in the cause of peace in the decades that followed that conflict during his distinguished career here in the people's House. We are a better institution for you having served here, sir.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 714, as amended.

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

The title of the resolution was amended so as to read: ''A resolution reaffirming the strong support of the United States Government for the

peaceful and collaborative resolution of maritime and jurisdictional disputes in the South China Sea and the East China Sea as provided for by universally recognized principles of international law, and reaffirming the vital interest of the United States in freedom of navigation and other internationally lawful uses of sea and airspace in the Asia-Pacific region.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

UNITED STATES-ISRAEL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2014

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2673) to enhance the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2673

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 ''United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The people and the Governments of the United States and of Israel share a deep and unbreakable bond, forged by over 60 years of shared interests and shared values.

(2) Today, the people and Governments of the United States and of Israel are facing a dynamic and rapidly changing security environment in the Middle East and North Africa, necessitating deeper cooperation on a range of defense, security, and intelligence matters.

(3) From Gaza, Hamas continues to deny Israel's right to exist and persists in firing rockets indiscriminately at population centers in Israel.

(4) Hezbollah—with support from Iran—continues to stockpile rockets and may be seeking to exploit the tragic and volatile security situation within Syria.

(5) The Government of Iran continues to pose a grave threat to the region and the world at large with its reckless pursuit of nuclear weapons.

(6) Given these challenges, it is imperative that the United States continues to deepen cooperation with allies like Israel in pursuit of shared policy objectives.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to reaffirm the unwavering support of the people and the Government of the United States for the security of Israel as a Jewish state;

(2) to reaffirm the principles and objectives enshrined in the United States-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–150) and ensure its implementation to the fullest extent;

(3) to reaffirm the importance of the 2007 United States-Israel Memorandum of Understanding on United States assistance to Israel and the semi-annual Strategic Dialogue between the United States and Israel;

(4) to pursue every opportunity to deepen cooperation with Israel on a range of critical issues including defense, homeland security, energy, and cybersecurity;

(5) to continue to provide Israel with robust security assistance, including for the procurement of the Iron Dome Missile Defense System; and

(6) to support the Government of Israel in its ongoing efforts to reach a negotiated political settlement with the Palestinian people that results in two states living side-by-side in peace and security.

SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON ISRAEL AS A MAJOR STRATEGIC PARTNER.

It is the sense of Congress that Israel is a major strategic partner of the United States.

SEC. 5. EXTENSION OF WAR RESERVES STOCKPILE AUTHORITY.

(a) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005.—Section 12001(d) of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2005 (Public Law 108–287; 118 Stat. 1011) is amended by striking ''more than 10 years after'' and inserting ''more than 11 years after''.

(b) FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961.—Section 514(b)(2)(A) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321h(b)(2)(A)) is amended by striking ''and 2014'' and inserting '', 2014, and 2015''.

SEC. 6. ELIGIBILITY OF ISRAEL FOR THE STRATEGIC TRADE AUTHORIZATION EXCEPTION TO CERTAIN EXPORT CONTROL LICENSING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that Israel—

(1) has adopted high standards in the field of export controls;

(2) has declared its unilateral adherence to the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Australia Group, and the Nuclear Suppliers Group; and

(3) is a party to—

(A) the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, signed at Geneva October 10, 1980;

(B) the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva June 17, 1925; and

(C) the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, adopted at Vienna on October 26, 1979.

(b) ELIGIBILITY FOR STRATEGIC TRADE AUTHORIZATION EXCEPTION.—The President, consistent with the commitments of the United States under international arrangements, shall take steps so that Israel may be included in the list of countries eligible for the strategic trade authorization exception under section 740.20(c)(1) of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations, to the requirement for a license for the export, reexport, or in-country transfer of an item subject to controls under the Export Administration Regulations.

SEC. 7. UNITED STATES-ISRAEL COOPERATION ON ENERGY, WATER, HOMELAND SECURITY, AGRICULTURE, AND ALTERNATIVE FUEL TECHNOLOGIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized, subject to existing law—

(1) to undertake activities in cooperation with Israel; and

(2) to provide assistance promoting cooperation in the fields of energy, water, agriculture, and alternative fuel technologies.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out subsection (a), the President is authorized, subject to existing requirements of law and any applicable agreements or understandings between the United States and Israel—

(1) to share and exchange with Israel research, technology, intelligence, information, equipment, and personnel, including through sales, leases, or exchanges in kind, that the President determines will advance the national security interests of the United States and are consistent with the Strategic Dialogue and pertinent provisions of law; and

(2) to enhance scientific cooperation between Israel and the United States.

(c) COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PILOT PROGRAMS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Director of the Homeland Security Advanced Research Projects Agency and with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, is authorized, subject to existing law, to enter into cooperative research pilot programs with Israel to enhance Israel's capabilities in—

(1) border, maritime, and aviation security;

(2) explosives detection; and

(3) emergency services.

SEC. 8. REPORT ON INCREASED UNITED STATES-ISRAEL COOPERATION ON CYBERSECURITY.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to Congress a report, in a classified format or including a classified annex, as appropriate, on the feasibility and advisability of expanding United States-Israeli cooperation on cyber issues, including sharing and advancing technologies related to the prevention of cybercrimes.

SEC. 9. STATEMENT OF POLICY REGARDING THE VISA WAIVER PROGRAM.

It shall be the policy of the United States to include Israel in the list of countries that participate in the visa waiver program under section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1187) when Israel satisfies, and as long as Israel continues to satisfy, the requirements for inclusion in such program specified in such section.

SEC. 10. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SECTION 4 OF THE UNITED STATES-ISRAEL ENHANCED SECURITY COOPERATION ACT OF 2012.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall, to the extent practicable and in an appropriate manner, provide an update to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives on current and future efforts undertaken by the President to fulfill the objectives of section 4 of the United States-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act (22 U.S.C. 8603).

SEC. 11. IMPROVED REPORTING ON ENHANCING ISRAEL'S QUALITATIVE MILITARY EDGE AND SECURITY POSTURE.

(a) BIENNIAL ASSESSMENT REEVALUATIONS.—Section 201(c) of the Naval Vessel Transfer Act of 2008 (22 U.S.C. 2776 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) BIENNIAL UPDATES.—Two years after the date on which each quadrennial report is transmitted to Congress, the President shall—

''(A) reevaluate the assessment required under subsection (a); and

''(B) inform and consult with the appropriate congressional committees on the results of the reevaluation conducted pursuant to subparagraph (A).''.

(b) CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR MAJOR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT.—Section 36(h) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2776(h)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO DETERMINATION FOR MAJOR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT.—A determination under paragraph (1) relating to the sale or export of major defense equipment shall include—

''(A) a detailed explanation of Israel's capacity to address the improved capabilities provided by such sale or export;

''(B) a detailed evaluation of—

''(i) how such sale or export alters the strategic and tactical balance in the region, including relative capabilities; and

''(ii) Israel's capacity to respond to the improved regional capabilities provided by such sale or export;

''(C) an identification of any specific new capacity, capabilities, or training that Israel may require to address the regional or country-specific capabilities provided by such sale or export; and

''(D) a description of any additional United States security assurances to Israel made, or requested to be made, in connection with, or as a result of, such sale or export.''.

SEC. 12. UNITED STATES-ISRAEL ENERGY COOPERATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Section 917(a) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17337(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''renewable'' and inserting ''covered'';

(2) in paragraph (4)—

(A) by striking ''possible many'' and inserting ''possible—

''(A) many''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following: ''and

''(B) significant contributions to the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency through the established programs of the United States-Israel Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation and the United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation;'';

(3) in paragraph (6)—

(A) by striking ''renewable'' and inserting ''covered''; and

(B) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(4) in paragraph (7)—

(A) by striking ''renewable'' and inserting ''covered''; and

(B) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(8) United States-Israel energy cooperation and the development of natural resources by Israel are in the strategic interest of the United States;

''(9) Israel is a strategic partner of the United States in water technology;

''(10) the United States can play a role in assisting Israel with regional safety and security issues;

''(11) the National Science Foundation of the United States, to the extent consistent with the National Science Foundation's mission, should collaborate with the Israel Science Foundation and the United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation;

''(12) the United States and Israel should strive to develop more robust academic cooperation in—

''(A) energy innovation technology and engineering;

''(B) water science;

''(C) technology transfer; and

''(D) analysis of emerging geopolitical implications, crises and threats from foreign natural resource and energy acquisitions, and the development of domestic resources as a response;

''(13) the United States supports the goals of the Alternative Fuels Administration of Israel with respect to expanding the use of alternative fuels;

''(14) the United States strongly urges open dialogue and continued mechanisms for regular engagement and encourages further cooperation between applicable departments, agencies, ministries, institutions of higher education, and the private sector of the United States and Israel on energy security issues, including—

''(A) identifying policy priorities associated with the development of natural resources of Israel;

''(B) discussing and sharing best practices to secure cyber energy infrastructure and other energy security matters;

''(C) leveraging natural gas to positively impact regional stability;

''(D) issues relating to the energy-water nexus, including improving energy efficiency and the overall performance of water technologies through research and development in water desalination, wastewater treatment and reclamation, water treatment in gas and oil production processes, and other water treatment refiners;

''(E) technical and environmental management of deep-water exploration and production;

''(F) emergency response and coastal protection and restoration;

''(G) academic outreach and engagement;

''(H) private sector and business development engagement;

''(I) regulatory consultations;

''(J) leveraging alternative transportation fuels and technologies; and

''(K) any other areas determined appropriate by the United States and Israel;

''(15) the United States—

''(A) acknowledges the achievements and importance of the Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation and the United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation; and

''(B) supports continued multiyear funding to ensure the continuity of the programs of the foundations specified in subparagraph (A); and

''(16) the United States and Israel have a shared interest in addressing immediate, near-term, and long-term energy, energy poverty, energy independence, and environmental challenges facing the United States and Israel, respectively.''.

(b) GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 917(b) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17337(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''renewable energy or energy efficiency'' and inserting ''covered energy'';

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (F), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (G), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(H) natural gas energy, including conventional and unconventional natural gas technologies and other associated technologies, and natural gas projects conducted by or in conjunction with the United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation and the United States-Israel Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation; and

''(I) improvement of energy efficiency and the overall performance of water technologies through research and development in water desalination, wastewater treatment and reclamation, and other water treatment refiners.''; and

(3) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking ''energy efficiency or renewable'' and inserting ''covered''.

(c) INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS; REGIONAL ENERGY COOPERATION.—

(1) INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS.—Section 917 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17337) is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (d);

(B) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (e);

(C) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

''(c) INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, subject to the availability of appropriations, may enter into cooperative agreements supporting and enhancing dialogue and planning involving international partnerships between the Department, including National Laboratories of the Department, and the Government of Israel and its ministries, offices, and institutions.

''(2) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Secretary may not pay more than 50 percent of Federal share of the costs of implementing cooperative agreements entered into pursuant to paragraph (1).

''(3) ANNUAL REPORTS.—If the Secretary enters into agreements authorized by paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit an annual report to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives that describes—

''(A) actions taken to implement such agreements; and

''(B) any projects undertaken pursuant to such agreements.

''(d) UNITED STATES-ISRAEL ENERGY CENTER.—The Secretary may establish a joint United States-Israel Energy Center in the United States leveraging the experience, knowledge, and expertise of institutions of higher education and entities in the private sector, among others, in offshore energy development to further dialogue and collaboration to develop more robust academic cooperation in energy innovation technology and engineering, water science, technology transfer, and analysis of emerging geopolitical implications, crises and threats from foreign natural resource and energy acquisitions, and the development of domestic resources as a response.''; and

(D) in subsection (e), as redesignated, by striking ''the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act'' and inserting ''September 30, 2024''.

(2) CONSTRUCTIVE REGIONAL ENERGY COOPERATION.—The Secretary of State shall continue the ongoing diplomacy efforts of the Secretary of State in—

(A) engaging and supporting the energy security of Israel; and

(B) promoting constructive regional energy cooperation in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this resolution.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this has been a long time coming, but I am so pleased that we finally have an opportunity to send to the President's desk the bill before us, the U.S.-Israel Strategic Partnership Act.

I authored the original bill, alongside my Florida colleague, my good friend

Mr. DEUTCH, and together we introduced it in the House almost 2 years ago. Chairman ROYCE, Ranking Member ENGEL, and their staffs were immensely supportive in pushing this bill through, and we ultimately passed the House version, H.R. 938, in this body in March, with an overwhelming vote of 410–1.

I want to thank our colleagues in the other Chamber, Senator BOXER and Senator BLUNT, for introducing the companion bill in the Senate.

Today is, indeed, a significant day in the history of the United States-Israel relationship. Our bill takes the already strong bond between our two countries and makes it even stronger.

In the aftermath of this summer's Gaza conflict, in which we saw Hamas fire thousands of rockets indiscriminately into innocent Israeli civilian populations, and with the alarming rise in terror attacks in Jerusalem these past few weeks, well, Mr. Speaker, now is precisely the time for us to make this bill a law.

Our bill is as important strategically as it is symbolically. It shows the world how deeply America values its bilateral relationship with Israel, affording the democratic Jewish state the unique label of major strategic partner of the United States.

At a time when many around the world seek to test our resolve and our commitment to our friend and ally, passing this bill will reaffirm an unwavering commitment to Israel, to its right to defend herself and her citizens, and redoubles our efforts to ensure that Israel always maintains a qualitative military edge over its enemies.

Israel has many enemies, like Hamas. Hamas is, no doubt, planning its next assault against our ally.

Hezbollah, another enemy which may be preoccupied right now in Syria, certainly has not forgotten its desire to wipe out Israel, especially not when its patron, the Iranian regime, continues to incite violence against Israel and calls for its very destruction.

Iran's Supreme Leader, while he is telling his people to continue to string along the P5+1 countries in the nuclear negotiations under the ruse of wanting to reach an agreement, is calling for all Palestinians in the West Bank to take up arms against Israel.

And while the administration continues to extend and negotiate a very weak and dangerous Iran nuclear deal, it is important that we in the United States Congress send a signal to Khamenei and Rouhani and all the mullahs in Iran that the United States Congress will not undermine our ally, Israel, for a regime that cannot be trusted and is the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism.

This bill will do that, Mr. Speaker. It will do that and much more, and I am so honored to have led the charge, with Mr. ROYCE, with Mr. ENGEL, with Mr. DEUTCH, in getting this bill to the President's desk. I look forward to it finally becoming law.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 2673, the U.S.-Israel Strategic Partnership Act, and I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me first thank Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, the chair of the Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee, and Mr. DEUTCH, the ranking member of that subcommittee, for authoring the House version of this legislation, which passed by a vote of 410–1 on March 5 of this year.

I will have to figure out who that one is.

They have worked tirelessly, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN and Mr. DEUTCH, with their Senate counterparts, Senators BOXER and BLUNT, to send this bill to the President.

This legislation would reaffirm our support for the U.S.-Israel relationship at a time of unprecedented threats.

In the north, Israel sees Syria engulfed in a civil war that has killed upwards of 200,000 people. The extremists who have filled the vacuum of leadership, like the al-Qaeda-affiliated al-Nusra front, are sitting right on Israel's border. They even kidnapped U.N. peacekeepers tasked with keeping that border calm.

From Jordan, typically a quiet ally, we have seen some ugly rhetoric over the past few weeks. After terrorists seized a synagogue and slaughtered rabbis in their place of worship, the Jordanian Parliament praised the so-called martyrs who perpetrated this heinous attack.

This summer's war against Hamas and Gaza left the Israeli public acutely aware of their own vulnerabilities. For years, Israelis on border towns have said that they have heard digging underneath their feet, scratches and vibrations that kept them up at night.

It turns out they were right. Hamas was digging tunnels in order to kidnap Israeli civilians and soldiers, or perpetrate large-scale terrorist attacks in some of Israel's largest cities.

I stood with Chairman ROYCE in one of those tunnels just a couple of months ago. We were also with Mr. ROHRABACHER, and we looked at those tunnels. It was just amazing. They were solidly-constructed and well-engineered.

I couldn't help but wonder what Gaza would look like today if Hamas had put those resources into building schools or hospitals or a modern infrastructure for the Palestinian people. But they didn't. They, instead, made them terror tunnels. What a waste.

Hamas is now a legitimate political actor. It uses violence to gain power. It sees no value in human life, neither its Israeli victims nor its Palestinian human shields. And we did pass a resolution earlier this year condemning Hamas' use of innocent civilians as human shields.

And, of course, Israel faces the existential threat of Iran and its illicit nuclear weapons program. Even as talks continue between the P5+1 and Iran, Tehran continues to support international terrorism that targets Jews in Israel and other parts of the world.

Israel is a bright light, Mr. Speaker, in a very, very dark region, the only democracy in the Middle East, and a valued ally of the United States. That is why we are considering this bill to strengthen our relationship with the state and the people of Israel, and to send a clear and unmistakable message to Israel's foes, and that message is: America stands with Israel.

Specifically, this bill would build on our robust defense cooperation. It would ramp up U.S.-Israel collaboration on cybersecurity, expand U.S.-Israel energy cooperation, and reaffirm our commitment to Israel's QME, or qualitative military edge.

This legislation names Israel as a major strategic partner, demonstrating that our relationship is not transactional, it is not assistance-based. Our relationship is based on shared cultural, societal, and historical ties, and is clearly ingrained in the values we hold dear. It is mutually beneficial and serves the strategic interests of both countries.

Again, in my trip to Israel with Chairman ROYCE and Mr. ROHRABACHER and Mr. GREGORY MEEKS, we understood why America stands with Israel.

So, for these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. It is very important. It is very important that we do this.

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

□ 1900

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York, Mrs. NITA LOWEY, who is the ranking member of the Appropriations subcommittee which deals with all of these important issues.

Mrs. LOWEY. I want to thank all of the authors of this bill for your important work, and I appreciate your bringing these issues once again to the attention of my colleagues and to all of those who are watching us this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act.

During a period of tremendous turmoil in the Middle East, the passage of this important legislation sends a strong signal to our steadfast ally that the United States Congress remains fully committed to its security.

This bill, which I cosponsored, supports greater U.S.-Israeli cooperation on a number of fronts, including energy, cybersecurity, homeland security, and agriculture. It also extends the authorization for U.S. weapons to be stored in Israel in case they are needed by either of our countries to respond to an emergency.

Additionally, this bill provides for the greater congressional oversight of Israel's qualitative military edge over its neighbors, a status that remains absolutely critical to Israel's ongoing security needs. Lastly, this bill encourages Israel's inclusion in the Visa Waiver Program and supports a greater engagement with Israel on meeting the program's requirements.

I remain committed to making it easier for young Israelis to travel to the United States. As I have said before, our visa policies should reflect the unbreakable bond between our nations and people.

Supporting Israel, our strongest ally and the only democracy in the region, remains a vital component of protecting U.S. national security interests.

As ranking member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, I will continue to fight to provide Israel with the resources it requires to secure its borders and protect its citizens.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida, Mr. TED DEUTCH, one of the authors of this bill.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, today, the House is taking up the Senate version of the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act, a bill that passed this Chamber in March with a vote of 410–1. Our vote today will send this important piece of legislation to the President's desk.

I am particularly grateful for the efforts of my colleagues on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, notably those by Chairman ED ROYCE; by ranking member and my friend, ELIOT ENGEL, for helping to ensure this legislation's passage; by the Senate sponsors, Senator BOXER and Senator BLUNT; and by my friend, chairman, and stalwart champion of the U.S.-Israel relationship, chairman emeritus ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN.

I would also like to offer a special thanks as well to Casey Kustin, in my office; to Eddy Acevedo; and to the entire committee staff, including Matt Zweig and Mira Resnick, who worked so hard to bring this bill to the floor at this moment.

This critical bill enhances the broad cooperation between the United States and Israel on a wide spectrum of issues, and it reflects the simple truth that our bilateral relationship spans not only shared security interests but shared values.

This bill was crafted with particular consideration of the heightened security situation faced by Israel today. This summer's Operation Protective Edge reminds us just how vital and strong U.S. support for Israel can be as the Iron Dome missile defense system saved tens of thousands of lives by taking down hundreds of Hamas rockets aimed at civilians and as the U.S. was able to quickly assist Israel in the resupply of defense articles, so that it could defend its citizens from brutal terror attacks.

The United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act also highlights Israel's significant contributions to the areas of water, irrigation, agriculture, and energy issues by expanding collaborative research efforts. It recognizes that the United States is strengthened by these joint efforts with Israel to tackle shared problems and to advance shared interests.

Through dire security threats and unimaginable hostility from the outside actors, the State of Israel has managed to thrive as an open and free democratic society, and it has prospered into a global leader in research and development in countless fields.

This bill, the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act, sends a clear and a bipartisan message to our ally Israel and to the rest of the world that the U.S.-Israel relationship runs wide and deep, that our commitment to the lasting safety and security of Israel is and always will be unbreakable, and that our work together not only in security but in agriculture, cybersecurity, water, and energy advances the interests of our Nation, as well as those of our great ally.

I urge my colleagues to support the U.S.-Israel Strategic Partnership Act.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, in closing, let me say that I am very proud to help send this bill to the President's desk. This is really significant and important.

The United States stands with Israel during these challenging times, and deepening our ties with Israel will only help strengthen our mutually beneficial relationship. Let me say that again, ''mutually beneficial relationship.''

It benefits both countries to have the kind of relationship that we have with Israel. It benefits both countries because we have shared values and care about democracy. It benefits both countries because we share intelligence and do so many things together as closest allies.

This is a very important piece of legislation, and I urge everyone to support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is in our national security interests of the United States to strengthen our relationship with our strongest ally, the democratic Jewish State of Israel.

Our two nations share more than just a strategic partnership—we share the same values; we share the same ideals. The United States and Israel are both freedom-loving and democratic nations that serve as a model of how free and open societies can work and can thrive, but it is also our belief in these ideals that has made us a target by those who seek to oppress their people and impose strict laws that govern their everyday lives and restrict their freedom of expression and their freedom of religion.

The citizens of the United States and of Israel speak openly, and we live honestly, but our enemies hate everything that we stand for, and they will stop at nothing to harm or destroy our way of life.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, it is so important that we continue to strengthen our relationship with Israel and support its right to defend itself and its citizens, and that is exactly what we will be doing when we pass this bill.

I would like to say to my Florida colleague, Mr. DEUTCH, that it has been a joy to have joined him in our recent trip to Israel, and I have greatly enjoyed our Florida road trip as we speak around our great State about the strength and the vitality of the U.S.-Israel relationship.

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 2673, the U.S.-Israel Strategic Partnership Act. I'd like to note that the groundwork for this legislation was laid when the House-passed H.R. 938 by a vote of 410–1 in March. I would like to recognize the Gentlewoman from Florida, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, and the Gentleman from Florida, Mr. DEUTCH, for their leadership in authoring that important measure. With passage of this legislation today, this bill now goes to the President's desk for his signature.

I also want to thank the Ranking Member of the Committee, the Gentleman from New York, Mr. ENGEL, for his assistance in bringing this legislation to the floor and for his longstanding support for the State of Israel. Over the past two years, Mr. ENGEL and I have had the chance to travel twice to Israel together as Chair and Ranking Member, showing bipartisan support for the relationship.

We witnessed together the many factors that drive our relationship. Israel is a pluralistic democracy which includes the freedoms we cherish: freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of association, freedom of the press, and government by the consent of the governed.

Our militaries hold combined exercises where they constantly learn from each other. A key collaboration here has been in missile defense. Jointly developed and produced by the U.S. and Israeli militaries, the Arrow defense system, Iron Dome, and David's Sling system—which is currently under development—will soon be combined to create the world's most sophisticated missile shields. And given the threats Israel faces, this is needed now more than ever. This summer, once again we saw how the Iron Dome helped save innocent Israeli lives, giving its leaders breathing room and preventing more bloodshed. Congress can be proud of its role in backing the Iron Dome.

But we must always be working to ensure that our support for Israel keeps apace with the threats proliferating against the country—from Iran to Hamas.

That is why today's legislation is important. Once signed into law, it will expedite the provision of critical security assistance to Israel by ushering in an expedited licensing regime and

increasing the U.S. war reserves stockpile, for Israel to access, if needed. It will also require more frequent and detailed reporting on Israel's Qualitative Military edge—a provision which is the direct result of Mr. COLLINS' good efforts—so I thank the gentleman from Georgia for his contribution. Finally, the legislation will expand our cooperation with Israel on energy research and development.

I urge all Members to support this legislation.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank my colleagues Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN and Mr. DEUTCH who worked on the House version of this much-needed and timely bill.

This substantive bill expands our relationship with our closest ally by formally declaring Israel a "major strategic partner" of the U.S. It provides for increased cooperation in many spheres, including homeland security, cyber security, defense and intelligence, as well as water, energy, agriculture, and alternative fuels. This will send a signal to Israel's enemies that, despite their manipulative and dishonest global campaign against Israel, the U.S.-Israel relationship continues to deepen—as it should. It is right and good for both of our countries.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is largely a response to anti-Semitism—to militant, military and terroristic, and profoundly evil expressions of anti-Semitism. That's what poisons the hearts and minds of those who launch rockets at Israel and tunnel under its borders.

As we see on a sickeningly regular basis, many governments in the Middle East (and elsewhere) propagate anti-Semitic incitement as an official or quasi-official state ideology—the hate that still kills. They do this in order to distract people from their own authoritarian rule and human rights abuses. This constant incitement is a major factor in the security situation in the Middle East. In February of last year I chaired a hearing at which we heard important testimony from Dr. Zuhdi Jasser on this subject. He made the point that it is not only Jews who suffer from this incitement, but that Muslims suffer too, as Middle-Eastern despots deploy anti-Semitism as one of their principal tools in the subjugation and impoverishment of entire Muslim peoples.

Mr. Speaker, this bill fights the evil effects of anti-Semitism. I urge my colleagues to support this outstanding bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2673.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I have got a heavy heart because I feel like, in just the short time you and I have been in this body, we have seen the same story play out more than once. You would like to think that we would all learn from our mistakes in this body.

In fact, I don't fault any of my colleagues who make mistakes. I am one of the folks who is guilty of having made a mistake before, Mr. Speaker, and I am not going to put you in that same box; but, yes, I have made a mistake before. The question isn't: "Do you make mistakes?" The question is: "What do you learn from your mistakes?"

As we go down this road of executive action, this conversation that the country is having today, I feel like we have been down this road before, and I want to try to connect a couple of those dots for folks tonight, Mr. Speaker.

You can't see what I have here, but it is something that is near and dear to your heart. It is article II, section 2, of the United States Constitution.

It says:

> The President shall have the power to fill up all vacancies that may happen during the recess of the Senate by granting commissions which shall expire at the end of their session.

Now, you wonder why this is important. It is just one paragraph in a relatively lengthy and really meaty Constitution. The answer is because it defines the relationship between the article I, Congress, and the article II, White House.

It says, White House, if you want to make appointments to positions of great power, of great authority, in the United States Government, you must do so with the advice and consent of the United States Senate, that the Senate must confirm all of those individuals the President wishes to place in these positions of great power.

The President back in 2012, 2011, had some folks he wanted to appoint to positions of great responsibility. One of those was to the National Labor Relations Board. You will recall this, Mr. Speaker. The President made some nominations, and the Senate said, "No, this isn't going to fly."

Now, the President could have gone back and said: "Do you know what? If you don't like these nominees, this is an important job, it is an important responsibility, I am going to appoint some different nominees. I am going to put some different names out there. I am going to work with you to try to find some folks we can agree on as the Constitution requires."

It is not what the President did. In fact, there is a pattern of that not being what the President does.

What the President did instead of working with the Senate—what the President did instead of offering some different names—what the President did instead of trying to find common ground was he went to this article II, section 2, of the United States Constitution and said: "I have the power to fill these spots without anybody else's advice or counsel, without anybody else's consent, as long as I do it during recess."

He woke up one morning, and he declared the Senate in recess, and he made these appointments. Now, that would be all well and good, Mr. Speaker, if the Senate had, in fact, been in recess, but the Senate was not in recess.

I have here on a chart, Mr. Speaker, a quote from Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID. It is November 16, 2007, when President Bush was still the President of the United States. He, too, wanted to make some nominations. The Senate then, as in 2012, disagreed with those nominations and didn't want to appoint those people.

Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID said this:

> The Senate will be coming in for pro forma sessions during the Thanksgiving holiday to prevent recess appointments. My hope is that this will prompt the President to see that it is in our mutual interests for the nominations process to get back on track.

Hear that, Mr. Speaker? Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID said to then-President George Bush: "I don't like the folks you are trying to nominate. I disagree with you on those nominations, so I am going to keep the Senate in, in pro forma session, to prevent you from nominating those folks during a period of recess, to prevent you from using article II, section 2. I hope that will encourage you to come and work with us together to find folks who are mutually agreeable for these positions."

In November 2007, HARRY REID kept the Senate in session, these pro forma sessions, all through the Thanksgiving holiday.

□ 1915

I now bring you to December 19, 2007, later that same year. Again, Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID said this: I could be a grinch. I could tell the President that I would not move any nominations, given his demand to make controversial recess appointments. But I am not going to do that tonight, Mr. President. I am not going to meet intransigence with intransigence. We will confirm those appointments this evening, and I will keep the Senate in pro forma session to block the President from doing an end run around the Senate and the Constitution with his other controversial nominees.

Hear that: Getting ready to head home for Christmas, Senator HARRY REID said to then-President George Bush: I will not let you do an end run around the Constitution by appointing individuals to these powerful positions across the government without the consent of the Senate. I will not let you do it, and I will prevent you from doing it by keeping the Senate in pro forma session during the holidays.

Pro forma session means you are in once every 3 days. That is how the law defines it. You come in once every 3 days. It doesn't count as a recess. HARRY REID knows this. It is the tool that he uses to prevent then-President

George Bush from doing, and I quote, an end run around the Senate and the Constitution.

I found it fairly persuasive, Mr. Speaker. In fact, President George Bush found it fairly persuasive. And this ended the argument because no President has a vested interest in making an end run around the Senate and the Constitution.

But President Obama didn't see things that same way. In January of 2012, faced with the exact same circumstances, Mr. Speaker, a Senate in pro forma session designed specifically to prevent recess appointments, the President woke up one morning in January and said: The Senate is, in fact, in recess. They say that they are not, but they are wrong. They, in fact, are. I am going to make four appointments today.

Now, you would think, having read what we read from Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID, that the Senate would have melted down with defenders of article I standing up and saying: Mr. President, we may agree with your politics, we may agree with your policy, but we disagree with this end run that you are making around the Senate and the United States Constitution.

It is what you would have expected. It is what you would have hoped for. But it is not what you got.

Senator TOM HARKIN, when asked about those appointments, said the President ''acted responsibly'' in making those appointments. He ''acted responsibly.''

This is the National Labor Relations Board we are talking about. So, of course, the AFL–CIO commented that President Richard Trumka said the President was ''exercising his constitutional authority to ensure that crucially important agencies protecting workers and consumers are not shut down.''

The Labor Secretary is one of those Members that had to be confirmed by the United States Senate. Then-Labor Secretary Hilda Solis said: ''We can't afford to not move on very important issues that affect working class people.'' We cannot afford not to move. We cannot afford to allow the Constitution to get in the way of those things that we would like to do.

This isn't sour grapes from a Republican in the U.S. House of Representatives, Mr. Speaker. This case went to the Supreme Court. This case went to the Supreme Court. And on that Court, of course, sit two Obama appointees; two Clinton appointees sit there. Mr. Speaker, 2½ years later, 9–0 was the ruling from the Supreme Court that what the President did was patently unconstitutional. Unconstitutional.

Now, this isn't a surprise to anyone. You will remember the words of HARRY REID when he implemented these sessions to prevent recess appointments. He said: I am not going to let the President do ''an end run around the Constitution.'' The Constitution has these requirements. HARRY REID knew it. President Bush knew it. HARRY REID knew it again in 2012. President Obama knew it in 2012, and he did it anyway, as then-Labor Secretary Hilda Solis said: because we have important things that we need to do, and we can't let things get in the way.

Quoting from that 9–0 decision, Mr. Speaker, Justice Breyer wrote the majority opinion. He said: ''The recess appointments clause is not designed to overcome serious institutional friction. Friction between the branches is an inevitable consequence of our constitutional structure.''

That bears repeating, Mr. Speaker. The ''clause is not designed to overcome serious institutional friction. Friction between the branches is an inevitable consequence of our constitutional structure.''

I don't even know if that captures it, Mr. Speaker. It is not really an inevitable consequence. It is there by design. It is not an accident that we have this friction. It is there by design.

This isn't the ranting of a sour grapes conservative Republican. This is the unanimous decision of a Supreme Court that is as divided as any Court we have seen in my lifetime.

But they unanimously said: President Obama, your goals are not what we are litigating today. The process that you are using to achieve your goals is unconstitutional. Why? Because Congress got in your way. And instead of working with Congress, you went around Congress, and the law doesn't allow for that.

Sound familiar, Mr. Speaker? Sound familiar? It took 2½ years to litigate that case. It took 2½ years to get an answer from the Supreme Court. In those 2½ years, over 400 cases were decided by the National Labor Relations Board, now all invalidated by this Supreme Court decision, lives thrown into turmoil.

Not one Senator, not one Democratic Senator, not one Senator from the leadership spoke out to say: Mr. President, I may agree with your politics, I may agree with your policies, but the way you are getting them done is unconstitutional.

And every one of them knew it, just like the Supreme Court did, 9–0, when they ruled 2½ years later.

Now fast-forward to today, Mr. Speaker. We are talking about immigration. And we are not talking about good immigration policy, because that is what we talk about in the Judiciary Committee. We are not talking about immigration law in this country, because that is what is decided in the House and the Senate. What we are talking about is the President taking action on his own in an end run around the Senate, an end run around the House, an end run around the Constitution and implementing immigration policy all by himself.

He was asked about that in a Univision town hall, Mr. Speaker. It was March of 2011, and the question that was put to the President was: ''Mr. President, my question will be as follows: With an executive order, could you be able to stop deportations of the students?''

Fair question. Fair question. A lot of folks out there have this issue on their mind.

It was March of 2011, and this is what President Barack Obama said in answer to the question: Mr. President, can't you just stop deportations by executive order? The President said this: ''With respect to the notion that I can just suspend deportations with executive order, that's just not the case because there are laws on the books that Congress has passed.''

The President was right on that day in March.

''I can't just do this by executive order,'' he told the questioner, ''because there are laws on the books that Congress has passed.'' He says: ''Congress passes the law. The executive branch's job is to enforce and implement those laws. Then the judiciary has to interpret those laws. There are enough laws on the books by Congress that are very clear in terms of how we have to enforce our immigration system that for me to simply, through executive order, ignore those congressional mandates would not conform with my appropriate role as President.''

Those are not my words, Mr. Speaker. Those are President Barack Obama's words. ''There are enough laws on the books by Congress that are very clear''—very clear—''in terms of how we have to enforce our immigration system that for me to simply, through executive order, ignore those congressional mandates would not conform with my responsibilities as President.''

Now, that is powerful, Mr. Speaker; but that is not even the most interesting part of that response. He went on in that question and said this:

That doesn't mean that we can't make decisions to emphasize enforcement. It doesn't mean that we can't strongly advocate and propose legislation that would change the law in order to make it fair or more just and ultimately would help young people who are here trying to do the right thing and whose talents we want to embrace in order to succeed as a country. It doesn't mean that we can't work hard to change the law. It just means that I, as President, don't have the ability to do it by myself. The Constitution requires a team effort between Congress and the White House.

Mr. Speaker, this wasn't just a one-time thing. This wasn't just a quote that I pulled out of thin air. I am not trying to mischaracterize the President's feelings.

November 2013, he is being heckled. He is giving a speech, and he is being heckled by protesters who want him to do more in terms of changing immigration law. You have just heard his last quote, where he said, I can't do this by myself. Congress has to lead in this

area. He is being heckled; and he says this:

''What you need to know, when I'm speaking as President of the United States and I come to this community, is that if, in fact, I could solve all these problems without passing laws in Congress, then I would do so.''

That is what he says to the heckler. He said: Sir, what you need to know is, if I could, I would. If I could change these laws without Congress, I would. But the Constitution doesn't allow for it.

President Obama went on to say:

''We're also a nation of laws. That's part of our tradition. And so the easy way out is to try to yell and pretend like I can do something by violating our laws. And what I'm proposing is the harder path, which is to use our democratic processes to achieve the same goal that you want to achieve. But it won't be as easy as just shouting. It requires us lobbying and getting it done.''

Wow, Mr. Speaker. He is being heckled for his position on immigration policy, and he says to the heckler: If I could do something about it, I would, but I can't because America's tradition is a tradition of laws. He says: It is not as easy as just one man deciding that he is going to ignore the law or change the law. What it takes is hard work, working with Congress, lobbying in Congress, working through legislation and changing the laws. It is not as easy as one man deciding he doesn't like the law, because our tradition is a tradition of law.

He goes on to that heckler, Mr. Speaker, and he says to him: If you are serious about making that happen—that change happen, changing the law—if you are serious about making that happen, then I am willing to work with you, but it is going to require work.

He says: It is not simply a matter of us just saying we are going to violate the law. That is not our tradition. The great thing about this country, President Obama said, is we have this wonderful process of democracy. And sometimes it is messy, and sometimes it is hard, but ultimately, justice and truth win out. That has always been the case in this country, and that is going to continue to be the case today.

Mr. Speaker, that was a year ago. That was a year ago that President Obama said to the heckler wanting him to do unilateral immigration action, he said it is not just a matter of us saying we are going to violate the law. He said we have got this wonderful process, this crazy, crazy process called democracy, where we go to the House and we go to the Senate and we work to change the law. He says it is hard. He says it is a hard process. It is a messy process. But ultimately, truth and justice win out. And he is so right. He is so right.

Justice Breyer in that 9–0 decision, rebuking the President for violating the Constitution, said: ''Friction between the branches is an inevitable consequence of our constitutional structure.''

□ 1930

We have been down this road before.

Mr. Speaker, I represent a community of immigrants, a vibrant, wonderful, wonderful community of immigrants, folks who have stood in line and paid their money, folks who have relatives overseas who have been waiting in line 5 years, or 10 years, or 20 years, and I welcome the opportunity to work with my colleagues to change the law to bring fairness and justice to them. Oh, Mr. Speaker, I have got folks in my district with big brains, big minds, strong work ethics, but the visas they are here under don't allow them to go to work.

The President has proposed offering 4 million new work permits to folks who have done it the wrong way. I have got folks in my district who have done it the right way, waiting in line without the ability to work.

Are there things on which we can agree? There absolutely are. But isn't the first of those things that the President cannot unilaterally change the law from 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue? He knew that was true in 2012. He knew that was true in 2013. What has changed about our 250-year-old Constitution today that suddenly makes it okay? The silence in this town is deafening from folks who know the right way, who know the right way to pass a law, to change a law, to implement a law, and to enforce a law in the America that you and I love, the America that we inherited from patriots before us.

The President says it is sometimes messy and it is sometimes hard, but the great thing about this country is we have this wonderful process called democracy. Justice Breyer says, ''Mr. President you might have forgotten a little bit about that democracy.'' And 9–0 the Supreme Court says the Constitution was thrown by the wayside in the President's zeal to implement his policies, in the President's zeal to do, as HARRY REID described it, an end run around the Senate, and the President's zeal to do, as Mr. REID described it, an end run around the Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome a policy debate with the President. I welcome a partnership with the President to fix a muddled immigration process that we have in this country today. We are a land of immigrants. We always have been, and we always will be. And I thrive on that. I celebrate that. But we are also a land of laws, a sentiment the President has acknowledged and celebrated in years past and a sentiment that just days after the last election the President threw out the window in the spirit of the ends justifying the means.

I don't think the American people are going to let that stand, Mr. Speaker. And I call on folks from the left and the right to be a part of that chorus of voices. We are not having a debate tonight. We are not having a debate tomorrow about policies of immigration reform. The discussion we are having is about process. The discussion we are having is about whether or not the Constitution matters. The discussion we are having is, who writes the laws? Does Congress craft the laws and the President signs them? Or does the President craft the laws and the President signs them?

''It is not simply a matter of our saying we are going to violate the law,'' the President said. ''The easy way is to yell and scream and pretend that I can do something by violating our laws, but the better path is the harder path,'' the President says. ''With respect to the notion that I can just suspend deportation through executive order, that is just not the case because there are laws on the books that Congress has passed,'' the President says. ''There are enough laws on the books by Congress that are very clear in terms of how we have to enforce our immigration system that for me to simply through executive order ignore those congressional mandates would not conform with my appropriate role as President,'' President Obama says.

Nine to zero in defense of the Constitution the last time the President decided he was going to go it alone, an end run around the Senate, as HARRY REID says, an end run around the Congress, as HARRY REID says. But it took 2½ years for the Supreme Court to sort that out.

I think America deserves better, I think those trying to immigrate to this country deserve better, I think those fighting for work back home deserve better, and perhaps worst, Mr. Speaker, I think the President knows better and has chosen the path he has chosen anyway. There is still time to turn back on that decision, Mr. Speaker.

There is still time to engage in that partnership, to engage in that messy, that hard, but that oh so rewarding process as the President has described it that is the Constitution-defined democracy that we live in today.

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

NO INDICTMENT IN ERIC GARNER'S CHOKE HOLD CASE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRAT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) for 30 minutes.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight, ladies and gentlemen, with a heavy heart because today we had a secret grand jury finding in New York that resulted in no charges against the police officer who killed an unarmed man named Eric Garner, a man whom they accused of trying to sell some cigarettes. That man was approached by law enforcement on the streets of New York, and when approached, he said that he had not done

anything wrong. He held his hands up in the hands up, don't shoot position, and they took him down while his hands were up and applied a choke hold, an illegal choke hold, and applied it until the man took his last breath.

What did Eric Garner say 13 times before he died? What did he say 13 times before he died? He said, ''I can't breathe. I can't breathe. I can't breathe.'' And he said that over and over again until he could not breathe. He took his last breath just like Michael Brown, accused of stealing some cigarettes—or cigars, excuse me—Michael Brown, accused of stealing some cigars, Eric Garner, accused of selling some cigarettes. I don't know when possession and/or sale of tobacco merited a death penalty in this country, but both of them, both of those cases involved tobacco products. Both of them involved men—Black men—with their hands up in the ''don't shoot'' position. Both of them were killed. Both cases were handled in a secret grand jury process. We don't know the names of the grand jurors, we don't know what went on in that grand jury room, although we do have the transcript in the Michael Brown case, and it shows that a lot of injustice was done in that grand jury room which resulted in an unjust no bill against the police officer involved in that case.

We don't know what happened in the New York case, but we got a result, a no bill against that police officer who was caught on tape just like in the Rodney King case, all caught on tape, Eric Garner caught on tape, the killing, but still no justice done. Cameras are not the sole answer, it appears. It runs deeper than a camera.

These are dark days, ladies and gentlemen, that we are living in today. The first African American President is treated like no other President has ever been treated before. Is this a symptom of the Obama backlash that is occurring in this country? Is there any connection between what we see happening in the streets of Ferguson and on the streets of New York, with what is going on with the dehumanization of the leader of the free world?

First they said he was not a resident, not a citizen of this country. Then they said he was a Communist, a socialist. They accused him of being weak and indecisive as a President and not really having the intellectual capacity to be the President. Now they are saying he was a Muslim. Now they are saying that he is an emperor, a king, disregarding the Constitution. Where are we in America when it comes to Black males and how we treat them and how they end up faring in life?

Is it our fault? Yes, we do have responsibility. We can always do better. But don't put your foot on my neck and tell me that it is my fault that your foot is on my neck. People are tired of seeing what is happening over and over again. A young, 12-year-old Black male with a BB gun at a park on the streets and a police car rolls up, a police officer gets out and immediately shoots the young man and kills him. Will that go to another secret grand jury process and have the same result as what we saw with Michael Brown and Eric Garner? It is happening throughout the streets of the Nation.

I tell you, I have been gratified by the protesters. I have seen protesters out there. It has been Black and White protesters out there demonstrating peacefully being met with a militarized response. And I say that to say this, that I am going to paraphrase something that you will probably be familiar with:

> They first came for the gypsy, and I wasn't a gypsy, and I didn't say anything. Then they came for the Jews, and I was not a Jew, and so I didn't say anything. Then they came for the women, and I wasn't a woman, and I didn't say anything. Then they came for me, and there was nobody left to say anything.

Is that where we are headed in this country, ladies and gentlemen? Because there are all kinds of people out peacefully protesting, and that is what I advocate for, peaceful protests. Violence is not the way. Violence just produces more pain and agony. Violence is not the way. Nonviolence is the way that we must confront this because really, when you move past the fact that Black males are at the bottom of the totem pole, and we are the ones who bear the brunt, these who come to aid us are in the line of fire also.

□ 1945

What happens to one of us happens to all of us. If not you now, then what happens tomorrow when you come to my assistance? So we all are our brother's keeper.

Right now, we are operating under an economic philosophy in this country that only the strong survive. If you are weak, it is your fault, and I don't owe you anything. Don't ask me for nothing. You get yours. I got mine; you get yours. Don't worry about me. Don't ask me for nothing.

That is the economic attitude that we have that we are trying to preserve and protect in this hallowed body here. It is called laissez-faire capitalism, and it is supported by the U.S. Supreme Court that has contorted itself in such ways so as to rule in ways that enable a corporation to become a person.

When we have a corporation having a right to free speech and having unlimited funds and unlimited duration and we have a corporation that has a right to religious freedom, so that it can dictate to its employees their religious beliefs—it doesn't even make sense for a corporation to have a religious belief, but that is what our Supreme Court has found—and every other way that it can aid corporations to become richer.

The rich get richer, and the poor get poorer, and I don't owe you a thing—you are on your own. That is what they want us to believe, but it is time for people—for us to come together. It is all about economics.

They put Blacks against Whites, poor Whites and poor Blacks against each other, and then they are going to the bank in the Brink's truck, and we are sitting, pointing fingers at ourselves, when we are all in the same boat together, the 99 percent—or the 47 percent, as one of our Presidential candidates most famously talked about in the last election. I am proudly one of those 47 percent, and I represent the 47 percent that is really the 99 percent.

So this extrajudicial killing of Black men has to end. If not, then what is going to happen to you tomorrow?

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

IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate myself with the words of my colleague, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL). I think this body has been blessed by ROB WOODALL being here, and his words tonight just reinforce that.

The President has declared an amnesty. The law of the land is if someone is in this country illegally, they are not allowed to legally work. To change that law requires a bill. As Saturday Night Live pointed out in their version of Schoolhouse Rock, a bill has to pass the House, it has to pass the Senate, and then it goes to the President and gets his signature if it is going to change existing law.

For anyone to just pronounce ''here is the new change'' is an indiscriminate approach to changing the law without following the law.

> I believe such an indiscriminate approach would be both unwise and unfair. It would suggest to those thinking about coming here illegally that there will be no repercussions for such a decision, and this could lead to a surge in more illegal immigration, and it would also ignore the millions of people around the world who are waiting to come here legally.
>
> Ultimately, our Nation, like all nations, has the right and obligation to control its borders and set laws for residency and citizenship, and no matter how decent they are, no matter their reasons, the 11 million who broke these laws should be held accountable. That is what I believe.

All of the words—every one of the words I just spoke, beginning with ''I believe such an indiscriminate approach would be both unwise and unfair''—were words directly out of the mouth of the United States of America's Barack Hussein Obama.

He was right. In everything he said in that quote, he was exactly right. There are millions of people lined up around the world who are wanting to come here legally. Most of those who would be coming would have to have some way to support themselves; yet the President spoke into law and signed his oral fiat saying: ''You know what, I am going to disregard everything I have previously said that was exactly right,

change the law without a bill going to the House or the Senate or without coming to me for my signature after it has passed both.''

Our President also said:

I take the Constitution very seriously. The biggest problems that we are facing right now is the President trying to bring more and more power into the executive branch and not go through Congress at all, and that is what I intend to reverse when I am President of the United States of America.

The trouble is he said that on March 31, 2008, and when he became President, he forgot that promise. Somebody needs to get that promise in front of him again.

Also, in 2008, before he got elected, he said:

We have got a government designed by the Founders so there will be checks and balances. You don't want a President who is too powerful or a Congress that is too powerful or a court that is too powerful. Everybody has got their role. Congress' job is to pass legislation. The President can veto it or he can sign it.

Senator Obama said:

I believe in the Constitution, and I will obey the Constitution of the United States. We are not going to use signing statements as a way of doing an end-run around Congress.

I had a practice court instructor at Baylor Law School. He was an incredible trial lawyer before he came to be a professor at Baylor Law School. He talked even slower than I talk. I can still hear Matt Dawson saying, when he caught a witness saying something different one time than he said another time, he would say to the witness: ''Well, were you lying then, or are you lying now?''

Let the shoe fit on the foot that wears that size.

Now, there has been a lot of talk about the law, and I have been called anal and everything else around this House floor, even by people in my party, for actually reading bills and reading laws, but 8 United States Code section 1324a(a)(1) says:

It is unlawful for a person or other entity—(A) to hire, or to recruit or refer for a fee, for employment in the United States an alien knowing the alien is an unauthorized alien, as defined in subsection (h)(3) of this section, with respect to such employment; or (B) (i) to hire for employment in the United States an individual without complying with the requirements of subsection (b) of this section; or (ii) if the person or entity is an agricultural association, agricultural employer, or farm labor contractor, to hire, or to recruit or refer for a fee, for employment in the United States an individual without complying with the requirements of subsection (b) of this section.

Basically, it makes clear, and it is easier for me to see it in print, but when I see it in print, it is very clear, it is illegal for someone to get a job in America who is not an authorized alien.

If you are an illegal alien or an unauthorized alien, as the language is here, then you are not entitled, it is illegal for you to get a job in the United States, and it is illegal for someone to hire you.

It really raises an interesting question, and I haven't seen this in the President's fiat, the royal decree that he made, I haven't seen if he is providing amnesty for every employer that hires someone who is here illegally because the President is saying, basically, ''I'm giving you amnesty, so you can go work wherever you want to,'' but as the law makes clear in section 1324 of volume 8 of the United States Code, it is illegal to hire someone that is illegally in the country.

Is the President going to pardon every employer that hires one of the 5 million that is going to get a permit? We know that the President wants to give pardons to folks who are here illegally, but the trouble is a pardon doesn't work for someone wanting to grant legal status. A pardon only works if you want to forgive a crime that has been committed, like President Clinton did.

President-elect George W. Bush and Vice President Cheney, he kept them waiting. The service was supposed to start, and President Clinton was over there, just signing pardons as fast as he could. It took him awhile to get that done.

He left President-elect George W. Bush and Vice President Cheney waiting. They were late starting the service that day on Inauguration Day for George W. Bush because he was signing those pardons as fast as he could, because he had to sign the individual pardons.

Well, the President hasn't signed 5 million pardons, and even if he did, a pardon forgives the committing of a crime. It does not change the status of someone that is illegally in the country. A pardon pertains to criminal law.

The changing of status is under naturalization and immigration, and that power is strictly reserved to this House and the body down the hall, the U.S. Senate.

□ 2000

We have the power under article I, section 8, to make the law on those things; the President does not. And there is no provision that allows him to pardon someone from the requirements of the naturalization or immigration laws.

Now, something else caught my attention. It is down in the miscellaneous provisions of section 1324, because I am always looking: Okay, does the President have a loophole here? And at first I thought maybe he did. It turns out he doesn't. But under the definition of ''unauthorized alien,'' it says:

As used in this section, the term ''unauthorized alien'' means, with respect to the employment of an alien at a particular time, that the alien is not at that time either:

A) an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, or

B) authorized to be so employed by this chapter or by the attorney general (now the Secretary of Homeland Security).

So I thought maybe this is their loophole here that the President might try to use, even though that is not what was said in a basis that was provided.

But then when you get over here, it says this exception may not be provided to the alien unless the alien is lawfully admitted for permanent residence or otherwise would, without regard to removal proceedings, be provided such authorization.

So again, it kicks it back to the law as Congress has decreed it in the past, by both Houses passing it with a majority and a President previously signing it, that you have to follow the law in order to get this lawful permanent resident status. You have to be lawfully admitted. You are not even eligible for that miscellaneous exception under section 1324.

There are people that have violated the law to come into the country in such a way that it is not necessarily a crime, but if they go to work, under volume 8 of the United States Code, section 1324, it will be a crime for anybody that hires them, and it will be a crime for them. That is where the crime may get committed.

I guess at that time if the President wants to sign 5 million pardons for 5 million employers, well, he could do that. He has that authority under the Constitution. He can sign pardons for all 5 million employers that employ people who are unauthorized aliens in this country. No matter what the President gives them under the law, that person is still an unauthorized alien under this criminal provision.

There are some interesting days ahead, and the statute of limitations will not have run out when a new President comes into office. The only way that wouldn't happen is if the President got a third term, and, of course, we know that would be as unconstitutional as the President legislating, and surely that wouldn't happen.

Now, it is interesting, too, that in the manner in which the President has given this amnesty and is authorizing these work permits, he has actually doubled down legally on his violation of the law previously under DACA in which he had said that—well, this is the way he doubled down on it. Basically, he expands his previous unconstitutional action that the House passed a law the last week of July canceling but the Senate didn't take it up. That is why, when the President says Congress hadn't done anything, the House did. They talked about the Senate passing a comprehensive bill, and they forget to mention that the Senate's bill is unconstitutional. We are not allowed to take it up because it raised revenue, and under the Constitution, such a bill has to originate in the House.

If the Senate gets around to sending it down here, we don't get to bring it on the floor. It would be what is called ''blue slipped,'' where you put a blue slip on there and say the House cannot take this up. It raises revenue. It has

to originate in the House. Therefore, the House is not allowed to take it up.

Since the Senate passed a bill that was not allowed under the Constitution, we took one up ourselves and we passed that one, and it was constitutional and it was a good bill. There was more that needed to be done, but for what it did, it was a good bill. It dealt largely with securing our border. Because the question people are not asking and the President is not answering is a very important question.

If this act of amnesty, unconstitutional, illegal as it is, if this act of amnesty is allowed to stand, and obviously the border is not secure, we still have thousands and thousands continuing to come across our border illegally, and nowadays nobody apparently is being turned away, then the big question I am getting to that has to be answered is: How often should we go ahead and have an amnesty? Because clearly, since the President has chosen to provide an amnesty unconstitutionally without securing the border first—and the vast majority of Americans do, and even a majority of our Hispanic friends that are legally here want the border secure before we do anything else.

I have said over and over, if the President will just secure the border, as we get confirmed by the border States, not by anybody over at Homeland Security—we have already seen their kind of work, at least the people at the top—but if it is confirmed by the border States that the borders are now factually secured, then people would be amazed at what the House and the Senate can negotiate on and get accomplished.

But until the border is secured, then we have to decide, if this amnesty is going to stand, as unconstitutional and as illegal as it is, how often should we give an amnesty? The President has given amnesty to 5 million this time. And, of course, those 5 million are in this time where there is already over 92 million people of working age who are not working, they have given up even trying to get a job, and there are millions more that are looking for jobs and can't find them. So we will put 5 million Americans out of work, middle class, poor working Americans that are legally here. They will be put out of work. Why? Because people that have just gotten an amnesty, as unconstitutional as it is, they will surely take jobs for lesser pay than what the American citizens or legal permanent residents were getting paid, so they will bump them out of a job.

And then also for any employer that hires more than 50 employees, they have learned over the last few years since ObamaCare passed, actually in 2010, employers have learned if you have got more than 50 employees, then you are going to end up paying a $3,000 fine for anybody that you don't provide what the Federal Government considers adequate insurance for.

So, for example, today, our friend Dennis Michael Lynch was pointing out that he has about 200 or so employees that are either American citizens or legally here, and the law is clear he is going to have to provide insurance that is approved by this government. That means even if they are 60 years old and they are a single man, they are going to have to have maternity coverage. Or as the couple I saw on TV, the gay or lesbian couple, women in their sixties, saying, ''We don't need maternity care.'' Well, it won't matter because they require it.

If you don't provide that very expensive insurance for your employees, if you have more than 50 employees, then you are going to be paying the $3,000 fine, penalty. As Chief Justice Roberts called it at page 14 and 15 of his opinion, clearly it is not a tax, it is a penalty, it is a fine. Never mind what he said 40 pages later. But you are going to have to pay this fine, this penalty, of $3,000 per employee.

So for somebody like our friend Dennis Michael Lynch, this President has, by his act of amnesty, conveyed to Dennis Michael Lynch: If you will let those 200 American citizens or legal permanent residents who have done everything the right way, if you will allow them to be fired, let them go, and then hire these people who are illegally in the country, then my administration has put in place a law called, informally, ObamaCare that will save you $600,000.

So basically, Dennis Michael Lynch, how would you like to take home an extra $600,000 this next year? All you have got to do is let your American citizens go, hire people illegally in the country, because under this royal decree from the White House they don't have to be provided insurance.

So Dennis Michael Lynch can save at least $600,000. It may be he had 300 employees, in which case he gets to pocket an extra $900,000 if he'll just let the American citizens go and hire those folks that are illegally here. And since there are 5 million of those folks that are going to be looking for jobs, then 300 is a drop in the bucket compared to the 5 million. But $600- to $900,000 for one person in extra income, that is some serious money. Even for people in Congress, that is serious money.

But that also doesn't address the issue of whether or not Dennis Michael Lynch, if he went ahead and did that and made himself an extra $600- to $900,000 next year, it doesn't address the issue of whether a new President that comes in in January of 2017 might have their Justice Department actually follow the law, and even though might not be able to pursue the aliens illegally here that got jobs, certainly would be able to prosecute the employers.

But here again, the President could do what President Clinton did and leave his successor sitting there waiting on Inauguration Day while he signs 5 million pardons, and he could do that. That doesn't seem to have been this administration's history. If you get thrown under the bus, someone else has said before: When this administration throws you under the bus, they mean for you to stay there. So you probably shouldn't count on a pardon in the future for people that violate the law and don't have a pardon in their hand before this President leaves office.

Now, there has been a lot of discussion among Republicans here in the House and among some of our friends. In fact, some of us have been talking tonight about what is the best way to address this unconstitutional amnesty. And I know our leadership has talked about, well, we could fund all of the government with an omnibus, taking appropriations bills that have been done already by the House—there have been seven of those—adding four to them, and then not funding the Department of Homeland Security and only funding them until March, and then by March of next year we could try to overturn the amnesty action taken by the President.

□ 2015

Most of us believe if those permits are issued before Congress stops them, it is going to be difficult to get enough votes to withdraw the permits. Once they are out there, it is going to be so tough to get them withdrawn. Some of us have been saying we don't think we can wait until March because, if you wait until March, there is a real risk that permits are done.

Maybe if we just do a short-term CR until January, when we get the new Senate in, then we can act on that, but another problem there is that it is not just the Department of Homeland Security that is involved in this process for people that are here illegally.

You have the Department of Homeland Security. You also have the Bureau of Consular Affairs that is involved in this unconstitutional amnesty. That is the State Department that is involved. You have the Department of Defense that has been involved in housing for the next influx of people as they flood in. DOD housed many of those people initially.

You have got Health and Human Services, who takes custody of minors that comes in and ships them all over the country. You have got Social Security that is going to be issuing Social Security numbers. You have got the Department of Justice and CJS for immigration court processing. You have got HUD for housing.

There are a lot of issues here, and as somebody once said, you should never take a hostage that the other person you are trying to influence by taking hostage is willing for you to shoot. It doesn't do you much good to take a hostage that the other side wants you to shoot.

We need to be concerned that if we say, ''All right. We are not funding the Department of Homeland Security until you cease this illegal and unconstitutional action,'' the President might say, ''So you mean you're not

going to fund the Border Patrol? In other words, you're going to leave the border wide open, so that anybody wants to come in, can. And that's your threat. You are going to leave the border wide open for anybody to come in unless I back off of my amnesty.''

Well, good luck. That is not going to do the trick. We need a short-term CR to get us into the first of the year. For example, the House has defunded ourselves over a 4-year period by over 20 percent. We cut our own budgets over 20 percent. Nobody noticed, nobody cared, except those of us in the House. We had to make real adjustments.

If we can make those adjustments, I think the White House ought to be able to make those adjustments. Maybe they could do with a few less czars—maybe we defund all the czars—but there are smart ways to defund the waste, fraud, and abuse in the executive branch, and I don't think it is a good idea to start with Homeland Security.

At the same time, what happens when those employers that hire the 5 million people that have just been given amnesty are able to save millions of dollars? What happens to them? They are going to make more money than ever, and that is during a President's administration who has presided for the first time in our history over a Nation where 95 percent of all the income has gone to the top 1 percent. It has got to stop.

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

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 19 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2139

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BURGESS) at 9 o'clock and 39 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 3979, PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5759, EXECUTIVE AMNESTY PREVENTION ACT OF 2014; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5781, CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY DROUGHT RELIEF ACT OF 2014

Mr. NUGENT, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113–646) on the resolution (H. Res. 770) providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 3979) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5759) to establish a rule of construction clarifying the limitations on executive authority to provide certain forms of immigration relief; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5781) to provide short-term water supplies to drought-stricken California, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ADERHOLT (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY of California) for today on account of a family illness.

Mr. DOYLE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of family medical issues.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

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

S. 1237. An act to improve the administration of programs in the insular areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources; in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Education and the Workforce and the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform 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.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 2203. An act to provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus, in recognition of his service to the Nation in promoting excellence, good sportsmanship, and philanthropy.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, December 4, 2014, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

8134. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's ''Major'' final rule — Regulation Systems Compliance and Integrity [Release No.: 34-73639; File No.: S7-01-13] (RIN: 3235-AL43) received December 1, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8135. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Food Labeling; Nutrition Labeling of Standard Menu Items in Restaurants and Similar Retail Food Establishments [Docket No.: FDA-2011-F-0172] (RIN: 0910-AG57) received December 1, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8136. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Food Labeling; Calorie Labeling of Articles of Food in Vending Machines [Docket No.: FDA-2011-F-0171] (RIN: 0910-AG56) received December 1, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8137. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Periodic Report on the National Emergency Caused by the Lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979 for February 26, 2014, to August 25, 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8138. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Semiannual Report of the Office of Inspector General for the period ending September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8139. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Agency Financial Report for FY 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8140. A letter from the Chairwoman, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2014, through September 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); Public Law 95-452, section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8141. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Revisions to Framework Adjustment 51 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan and Sector Annual Catch Entitlements; Updated Annual Catch Limits for Sectors and the Common Pool for Fishing Year 2014 [Docket No.: 140624530-4848-01] (RIN: 0648-XD354) received November 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8142. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Western Pacific Pelagic Fisheries; U.S. Territorial Catch and Fishing Effort Limits [Docket No.: 130708597-4380-01] (RIN: 0648-BD46) received November 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

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. MILLER of Florida: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 4971. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct annual surveys of veterans on experiences obtaining hospital care and medical services from medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113–645). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. NUGENT: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 770. Resolution providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 3979) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5759) to establish a rule of construction clarifying the limitations on executive authority to provide certain forms of immigration relief; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5781) to provide short-term water supplies to drought-stricken California (Rept. 113–646). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TSONGAS, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida):

H.R. 5783. A bill to amend the Social Security Act, the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 to require that the value of child's savings accounts be disregarded for the purpose of determining eligibility to receive benefits under such Acts; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, Energy and Commerce, and 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. MCKINLEY (for himself and Ms. TITUS):

H.R. 5784. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide additional educational assistance under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to certain eligible individuals; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 5785. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the exclusion from gross income of discharges of qualified principal residence indebtedness; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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

H.R. 5786. A bill to amend certain banking statutes to exempt community banks from certain regulatory requirements, to include a community bank representative in the membership of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, to create a process for a county to be designated as a rural area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself and Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas):

H.R. 5787. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude payments received under the Work Colleges Program from gross income, including payments made from institutional funds; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUELSKAMP:

H.R. 5788. A bill to designate the Junction City Community-Based Outpatient Clinic located at 715 Southwind Drive, Junction City, Kansas, as the Lieutenant General Richard J. Seitz Community-Based Outpatient Clinic; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 5789. A bill to establish a system for integration of Rapid DNA instruments for use by law enforcement to reduce violent crime and reduce the current DNA analysis backlog; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 5790. A bill to authorize the Director of the National Institutes of Health to design and enter into agreements for the implementation of prize competitions with the goal of improving health outcomes and thereby reducing Federal expenditures; 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 Mr. MCCAUL:

H. Con. Res. 120. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the Civil Air Patrol; to the Committee on House Administration. considered and agreed to.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

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

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 5783.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 2: 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;

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 5784.

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

The bill is authorized by Congress' power to ''provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States'' pursuant to Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 5785.

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. LANKFORD:

H.R. 5786.

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

Congress has the explicit constitutional authority to regulate commerce ''with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with Indian tribes:'' as enumerated in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 5787.

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

Article I, Section 8, which states ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes. . .,'' and Article I, Section 7, which states ''All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives.''

By Mr. HUELSKAMP:

H.R. 5788.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 ''The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powes, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of hte United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof''

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 5789.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 5790.

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, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 352: Mr. PITTENGER.

H.R. 597: Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 942: Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HIMES, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 1015: Mr. CUMMINGS and Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 1094: Ms. DEGETTE.

H.R. 1229: Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. POCAN, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 1998: Ms. DEGETTE.

H.R. 2288: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 2591: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 2907: Mr. SALMON.

H.R. 2994: Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. ROSS, Ms. MENG, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. ESTY, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. FLEMING.

H.R. 3116: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mrs. WALORSKI.

H.R. 3172: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 3836: Mr. FOSTER, Mr. COSTA, and Mrs. LUMMIS.

H.R. 4122: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 4188: Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 4341: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. MATHESON, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 4395: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 4752: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 4842: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 4851: Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 4930: Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. COFFMAN, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. NEAL.

H.R. 4951: Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 4969: Mr. DEFAZIO.

H.R. 5082: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 5197: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 5226: Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 5227: Mr. HOLDING.

H.R. 5294: Mr. POCAN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 5343: Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 5353: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 5364: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 5368: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 5373: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 5380: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 5403: Mr. POE of Texas and Mr. CHABOT.
H.R. 5417: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
H.R. 5454: Mr. MORAN, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. MARINO, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 5478: Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 5484: Ms. ESTY, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
H.R. 5504: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 5505: Mrs. WALORSKI.
H.R. 5580: Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 5620: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 5644: Mr. JOLLY.
H.R. 5656: Mr. REICHERT, Mr. HANNA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. FATTAH, and Ms. FUDGE.
H.R. 5705: Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. RIBBLE.
H.R. 5706: Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 5710: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 5721: Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 5737: Mr. JONES.
H.R. 5753: Ms. KAPTUR and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
H.R. 5759: Mr. MCKINLEY and Mr. KLINE.
H.R. 5768: Mr. JORDAN, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. COOK, Mr. FLORES, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. MARINO, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. YODER, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. YOHO, and Mr. MULVANEY.
H.R. 5780: Mr. CARNEY.
H.R. 5782: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H. Res. 109: Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, and Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.
H. Res. 190: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK and Mr. DOYLE.
H. Res. 281: Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia, Mr. ROSS, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. COHEN, Ms. EDWARDS, and Mr. GIBSON.
H. Res. 428: Mr. PASTOR of Arizona.
H. Res. 596: Mrs. BACHMANN and Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H. Res. 688: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Ms. BROWN of Florida.
H. Res. 728: Mr. POCAN and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H. Res. 757: Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia.
H. Res. 758: Mr. SHIMKUS and Mr. CHABOT.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. GOODLATTE

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Judiciary in H.R. 5759 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. HASTINGS OF WASHINGTON

The provisions of H.R. 5781, the California Emergency Drought Relief Act of 2014, that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Natural Resources do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of House Rule XXI.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

113. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the City Commission of Miami, Florida, relative to Resolution R-14-0387 urging the 113th Congress to enact the ''All-American Flag Act''; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 160 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2014 No. 146

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 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.

Our gracious God and friend, great is Your faithfulness. Guard our Senators. As they wait expectantly for Your salvation, may they not stumble in the darkness.

Lord, protect their minds with Your instructions so that they will not deviate from the path of integrity. May they follow Your directions and embrace Your counsel so that America can be like a shining city on a hill.

Give their petitions Your personal care so that no weapon formed against them will prosper. Let praises cascade from their lips and Your promises ring from their tongues, O God of our salvation.

We pray in Your merciful 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.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will proceed to executive session, with the time until 10 a.m. equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

At 10 a.m. the Senate will proceed to five rollcall votes on confirmation of the Burrows and Lopez nominations and on cloture on the Hale, Kearney, and Pappert nominations.

There will be another series of up to five rollcall votes at 5:30 p.m. this afternoon.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2970

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand that S. 2970 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is correct.

The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2970) to reform procedures for determinations to proceed to trial by court-martial for certain offenses under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. I object to any further proceedings with respect to the bill.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Mr. REID. Would the Chair announce the business of the day.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF CHARLOTTE A. BURROWS TO BE A MEMBER OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time until 10 a.m. will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LANCE CORPORAL CHADWICK A. GILLIAM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this morning, I rise to share with my colleagues the story of one brave marine from Kentucky who lost his life while wearing our country's uniform.

LCpl Chadwick A. Gilliam of Mayking, KY, passed away on January 3, 2009, of an apparent cardiac arrest at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. He was 29 years old.

For his service in uniform, Lance Corporal Gilliam received several medals, awards, and decorations, including the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

Chris Damron, Chad's brother-in-law, recalls how Chad was happy to enlist. ''He'd said that it was just something he wanted to do,'' Chris says. ''All his life he wanted to be a Marine.''

Before entering the U.S. Marine Corps, Chad graduated from Whitesburg High School in the mid-1990s. After earning his bachelor's degree, he also graduated from Lindsay

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

Printed on recycled paper.

Wilson College with a master's degree in counseling and human development.

One of his former high school teachers, Scottie Billiter, said Gilliam was an inspiration to other students. Billiter remembers that Chad had a wide array of interests, from the football team to the Spanish club. ''I have nothing but great, fond memories of him,'' Billiter says. ''He was a big part of who we were.''

As a marine, Chad continued to be a natural inspiration to others. ''All the Marines seemed to really look up to Chad,'' says brother-in-law Chris Damron. ''He was a leader in the Marine Corps.''

Chad was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines, 2nd Marine Division, Second Marine Expeditionary Force, based out of Camp Lejeune, NC. He was an infantryman and joined the unit in June 2007. He was promoted to lance corporal in 2008 and deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

We are thinking of Chad's family as I share his story with my Senate colleagues, particularly his parents Paul Gilliam and Mary Ellen Cook Gilliam, his wife Corinne Marie Stewart Gilliam, his sister Paula Regina Damron, his brother Michael Wayne Gilliam, his brother-in-law Chris Damron, along with many other beloved family members and friends. Chad was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents Willard and Belvia Holbrook Gilliam and his maternal grandparents Arlie and Edna Sergent Cook.

I know my Senate colleagues join me in expressing gratitude and sympathy to the family of LCpl Chadwick A. Gilliam—gratitude for his life of service and sympathy for his ultimate sacrifice. Without brave men and women such as Lance Corporal Gilliam to defend our country, we would not be free. Those of us who cherish our freedoms must never ever forget that.

I suggest the absence of a quorum

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant 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 (Mr. KING). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I support the nomination of Charlotte Burrows to be a commissioner of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, or EEOC, and David Lopez to continue to serve as the agency's general counsel.

These are two eminently qualified nominees. Mr. Lopez is a dedicated public servant who has spent over two decades protecting people from workplace discrimination. He did an admirable job during his first term, and was responsible for marked improvements in both the agency's litigation program and in its outreach to stakeholders.

Ms. Burrows has also had a distinguished career in public service. She is currently Associate Deputy Attorney General at the Department of Justice, and previously served as general counsel for Civil and Constitutional Rights for Senator Kennedy and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. She is a leading expert in the field of discrimination law, and she has proven herself committed to public service.

Both of these nominees deserve to be confirmed by the Senate. And our Nation needs public servants of their caliber and experience at the EEOC, which has the critical mission of protecting working Americans from workplace discrimination.

Throughout my career I have been guided by the vision of an America that is compassionate, just, and inclusive—a society where the government provides a ladder, or sometimes a ramp—of opportunity that gives every American a fair shot at the American dream. However, that ladder cannot function properly if there are barriers of discrimination that unfairly limit opportunities for some Americans to fully participate in the social, political, and economic life of this Nation.

Over the last 50 years, we have made great strides towards eliminating discrimination in the workplace. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibited discrimination on the basis of race, sex, national origin and religion. The Age Discrimination in Employment Act, in 1967, prohibited discrimination on the basis of age. The Americans with Disabilities Act, in 1990, and the ADA Amendments Act, in 2008, prohibited discrimination on the basis of disability.

These important guarantees, however, are not self-enforcing. They are only as strong as the agency charged with enforcing them, the EEOC. The EEOC's mission is simple and profoundly important—to promote equality of opportunity in the workplace and enforce Federal laws prohibiting employment discrimination.

While much progress has been made in recent decades, discrimination in the workplace continues to be all too common. Too many employment decisions are based on insidious stereotypes and prejudices rather than an employee's talent, ability, and qualifications. Too many hardworking Americans face the harsh reality of getting a pink slip or not being hired at all because of race, sex, national origin, religion, age, disability or some other irrelevant factor.

The realities are especially harsh for individuals with disabilities. Less than 30 percent of working-age Americans with disabilities participate in the workforce, and households with an adult member with a disability earn 38.4 percent less than households without an adult member who has a disability. These facts make it clear that people with disabilities are still encountering roadblocks, and that the ADA's goal of economic self-sufficiency is far from achieved.

The EEOC has an important role to play in combating discrimination and supporting employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities and for all Americans.

Unfortunately, today's EEOC faces enormous challenges. The agency has a substantial backlog of almost 71,000 cases. And it takes an average of 267 days to process a discrimination claim. The truth is that the EEOC suffers from chronic underfunding, and this underfunding has resulted in a significant reduction in full-time employees. Under this administration, the agency has made real progress moving investigations forward in a timely manner, but all too often justice delayed is justice denied.

American workers deserve better, especially in these times of economic turmoil, when discrimination often increases and workers who are victims of discrimination face even greater challenges. Now more than ever, we need strong leadership at the EEOC. The nominees are both extremely well-qualified and have a deep commitment to public service. They possess the extraordinary skills and experience that will help them advance the EEOC's mission and ensure proper enforcement of critically important laws.

Some of my friends on the other side of the aisle have raised concerns that EEOC is too quick to bring lawsuits. That is just not the case. Litigation is a last resort for the agency, and represents less than 0.5 percent of all charges filed and only around 5 percent of charges where the commission has issued a cause finding.

The EEOC under this administration has made enormous strides in improving the conciliation process. In the last 3 years, the EEOC improved its conciliation results significantly with successful conciliations now at a rate of 41 percent of all cases that are conciliated, up from 31 percent in fiscal year 2011. It is important to remember that EEOC v. CRST, the case so often cited as evidence that the agency isn't doing enough in the conciliation process, was a case brought by a Bush administration-appointed general counsel.

My Republican colleagues also criticize the Commission for delegating the prosecution of routine cases to the general counsel. There is absolutely nothing inappropriate about that practice, and it should not be a controversial issue. It is a practical measure to make sure the Commissioners are focusing on the most important issues and have ample opportunity to deliberate on broader policy issues. That is why the EEOC's delegation policy has been carried forward across multiple administrations and has bipartisan support from both Republican and Democratic Commissioners.

Now, I think we can all agree that there have been some unacceptable instances where courts have required the EEOC to pay attorney's fees for a defendant. But those cases are rare and

need to be viewed in perspective. Out of the 1,045 lawsuits filed from fiscal year 2009 through fiscal year 2013, there have only been seven in which fees have been assessed, and two of those are pending an appeal. Generally, the EEOC is prudent and successful in litigation, and the agency has won 11 out of 16 trials from fiscal year 2013 to the present.

I want to comment on another issue that came up at the HELP Committee hearing on these nominees—the EEOC's work with regard to wellness programs. I am a strong supporter of wellness programs, and I was intimately involved in drafting the section of the Affordable Care Act that encourages such programs. Recently, the EEOC has been involved in litigation involving wellness programs, and I think a lot of people are trying to cloud the issue here. The EEOC has never—never—taken the position that wellness programs are illegal. They are, however, investigating extreme cases where employers have allegedly forced their employees to participate in programs that require medical testing. That raises Americans with Disabilities Act issues, and the EEOC is right to look carefully at the issue. Plus, the agency has indicated that it intends to issue guidance next year to help employers and employees navigate the tricky legal issues.

One final point, none of the manufactured concerns coming from the other side of the aisle have anything to do with the ability of these two nominees to do the job for which they were nominated. No one has questioned their qualifications. Both Ms. Burrows and Mr. Lopez are eminently qualified. Some of my Republican colleagues just do not like the fact that the EEOC is doing its job and enforcing our Nation's civil rights laws. That is a shame because civil rights should not be a partisan issue. We should all be coming together to support the agency and the important role it plays in making fairer, more equal workplaces.

I urge my colleagues to support both of these distinguished nominees and confirm them quickly so they can get to work ensuring fairness and equal opportunity for every American worker.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all cloture time has expired.

Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Burrows nomination.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I don't know of anybody seeking recognition. I ask unanimous consent that all time be yielded back.

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

All time having been yielded back, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission?

Mr. ENZI. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 93, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 301 Ex.]

YEAS—93

Alexander	Gillibrand	Moran
Ayotte	Graham	Murkowski
Baldwin	Grassley	Murphy
Barrasso	Hagan	Murray
Begich	Harkin	Nelson
Bennet	Hatch	Paul
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Portman
Blunt	Heitkamp	Pryor
Booker	Heller	Reed
Boozman	Hirono	Reid
Brown	Hoeven	Risch
Burr	Inhofe	Rubio
Cantwell	Isakson	Sanders
Cardin	Johanns	Schatz
Carper	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Casey	Johnson (WI)	Scott
Chambliss	Kaine	Sessions
Coats	King	Shaheen
Collins	Kirk	Stabenow
Coons	Klobuchar	Tester
Corker	Leahy	Thune
Cornyn	Lee	Toomey
Crapo	Levin	Udall (CO)
Cruz	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	Markey	Vitter
Durbin	McCain	Walsh
Enzi	McCaskill	Warner
Feinstein	McConnell	Warren
Fischer	Menendez	Whitehouse
Flake	Merkley	Wicker
Franken	Mikulski	Wyden

NAYS—2

Roberts	Shelby

NOT VOTING—5

Boxer	Cochran	Rockefeller
Coburn	Landrieu	

The nomination was agreed to.

NOMINATION OF P. DAVID LOPEZ TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the Lopez nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of P. David Lopez, of Arizona, to be General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the nomination.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, today we are voting on the nomination of P. David Lopez to serve as general counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The EEOC is an important agency with a critical task.

In August 1963, I stood in the crowd on the National Mall and listened to Dr. Martin Luther King's ''I Have a Dream'' speech when he called for our Nation to ''make real the promises of democracy.''

The next year, the historic Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed, establishing the EEOC as an important, independent agency to put an end to workplace discrimination, particularly in hiring, firing, and promoting.

Today, employees are protected by law if they are discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, national origin, age, disability, or genetic information.

The EEOC is charged with investigating complaints of discrimination to determine whether or not they have merit, and then attempting to resolve them informally, through conciliation and mediation.

The general counsel at the EEOC has a great deal of responsibility—he or she is in charge of conducting litigation at this important agency.

Mr. Lopez is being re-nominated for the general counsel position. I do not believe he has fulfilled his charge over the last four and one-half years and will not support extending his time at the agency. I would strongly urge my colleagues to vote against this nomination as well.

It is critical that the general counsel make wise decisions about which cases to litigate and how. Unfortunately, Mr. Lopez, often has failed to meet this standard.

I have three primary concerns about the EEOC.

First, EEOC has placed too much emphasis on litigating high profile lawsuits, some of which have been rebuked by the courts, rather than resolving its backlog of discrimination charges filed by individuals.

Second, EEOC has not been fully transparent in how it issues guidance to the public and in the information it shares with the public about its activities.

And third, EEOC is suing employers for following the President's very own health care law.

On the first concern, a judicious general counsel should view costly and time-consuming litigation as a last resort. However, this EEOC has placed too great an emphasis on litigating high-profile cases, some of which have been rebuked by the courts, rather than resolving its backlog of discrimination charges filed by individuals.

In fiscal year 2014, more than 88,000 charges of discrimination were filed with the EEOC and at the end of November 2014, EEOC reported it had 75,935 unresolved discrimination charges pending.

A backlog of charges pending is nothing new for EEOC, but given this backlog, I am disappointed that this EEOC has placed such a strong emphasis on actions and lawsuits—predicated upon not a single complaint—that do not address actual charges of discrimination brought to the Agency by employees.

Under this administration, the EEOC has focused too heavily on headline-making lawsuits at the expense of fair and swift resolution of claims for those alleging workplace discrimination.

The desire to win big lawsuits has backfired. Numerous Federal courts have criticized EEOC's litigation practices, failure to attempt to resolve cases and avoid court, misuse of authority, and reliance on faulty expert analysis, among other complaints.

Example No. 1—EEOC's case against Kaplan Higher Education Corporation received such a sharp rejection by a unanimous three-judge panel on the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in 2014 that The Wall Street Journal named it the ''Opinion of the Year.''

EEOC sued Kaplan for alleged race discrimination due to the use of credit background checks. The court wrote, ''EEOC brought this case on the basis of a homemade methodology, crafted by a witness with no particular expertise to craft it, administered by persons with no particular expertise to administer it, tested by no one, and accepted only by the witness himself.'' The court also criticized EEOC for bringing a case against Kaplan for ''using the same type of background check that the EEOC itself uses.''

Example No. 2—Another Federal court reprimanded EEOC for being ''negligent in its discovery obligations, dilatory in cooperating with defense counsel, and somewhat cavalier in its responsibility to the United States District Court.''

Example No. 3—EEOC caused a small employer to spend $100,000 attempting to comply with requests for information that, according to a Federal judge, ''EEOC had no authority to obtain.''

Since 2011, EEOC has been ordered to pay attorney's fees in 10 different cases. In six cases, fees were awarded under a rare step allowed by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, which according to the U.S. Supreme Court is reserved for cases that are ''frivolous, unreasonable, or without foundation'' or ''continued to [be] litigate[d]'' after those circumstances became present.

In the four other cases, the court awarded fees for failing to prevent the destruction of evidence, for discovery abuses and for pursuing a case that lacked substantial justification.

Not all of these cases where EEOC was ordered to pay attorney's fees were initiated on this general counsel's watch, but he did initiate five of them and it appears he continued to pursue four of them. These court losses cost taxpayers and hurt the victims of workplace discrimination whose charges are backlogged at EEOC.

EEOC's credibility is at risk. As one commissioner described, EEOC's ''reputation and credibility has . . . suffered from several recent lawsuits where [EEOC was] not only sanctioned, but openly chastised by the courts.''

EEOC should immediately reconsider the strong emphasis on lawsuits that are not based on any complaint and do not even have a victim plaintiff.

In recent years, EEOC has pursued a number of cases without complaints, such as age discrimination cases against large accounting firms—PricewaterhouseCoopers, Deloitte, and KPMG—whose partners have voluntarily adopted a mandatory retirement age.

Age discrimination is certainly a significant problem that EEOC should work to address. But they should go about it by assisting the more than 21,000 people who complained to EEOC of age discrimination in 2013, rather than directing investigations at an industry they find suspect.

The five-member Commission has exercised too little restraint over the general counsel. In 1995, the EEOC's then Commissioners gave the general counsel far more authority to bring whatever cases he wanted, with no check from the Commission. By 2012, this practice led to only 3 of the 122 lawsuits filed that year coming before the Commission for approval. Although EEOC has taken some steps to increase the Commission's role in approving litigation, more should be done. The Commission has the authority and duty to reverse this imprudent decision and return to performing its statutorily obligated responsibilities.

On my second concern, I believe the Commission has not been transparent in its issuance of guidance and the information it shares with the public about its activities. The EEOC sets national workplace discrimination policy by issuing formal regulations as well as guidance, which are meant to help employers and employees understand how the law applies to them. EEOC does not allow the public to review or comment upon its draft guidance, even in cases of novel, significant or controversial guidance.

This is especially concerning because in two cases last year, the Supreme Court rejected substantive positions found in EEOC guidance. EEOC's issuance of guidance is not in compliance with the administration's own best practices recommendations or the recommendations of three of the current Commissioners.

I am concerned about this because agencies expect people to follow guidance. At a hearing in June, I asked the head of the Office for Civil Rights at the Department of Education whether she expected higher education institutions to comply with the Office for Civil Rights guidance and she said yes.

Senator ENZI also urged greater transparency on significant guidance when he was ranking member of the HELP Committee, and I share his view.

So what harm would come from allowing the public to comment on draft guidance prior to issuing it?

Finally, my third concern about EEOC and its general counsel, Mr. Lopez, is this. Employer wellness plans with premium discounts were specifically authorized in the health care law and I worked on it with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle—it was one of the few provisions of Obamacare with Republican and Democrat buy in.

I am concerned that EEOC has pursued litigation against employers who have followed the health care law and implemented voluntary employer wellness plans to encourage healthy lifestyle choices.

These wellness plan lawsuits are sending a confusing message to employers—reliance on the health care law's authorization of wellness plans does not mean you would not be sued by the EEOC.

This is why I intend to introduce legislation to prevent EEOC from suing employers who are following the law in offering wellness programs. Employers who are acting in good faith, relying on a law should not face uncertainty of litigation due to an agency's misguided priorities.

EEOC is tasked with an important mission—to ensure workplaces are free from discrimination. EEOC's misdirected focus and high-profile litigation failures are coming at significant cost to taxpayers and victims of workplace discrimination.

Unfortunately, when questioned about these missteps and the Agency's focus on litigation without a single complaint, Mr. Lopez was not forthcoming with his answers. Therefore, I cannot support Mr. Lopez's nomination.

Mr. REID. I yield back the time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of P. David Lopez, of Arizona, to be General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission?

Mr. SESSIONS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 302 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin	Carper	Harkin
Begich	Casey	Heinrich
Bennet	Coons	Heitkamp
Blumenthal	Donnelly	Hirono
Booker	Durbin	Johnson (SD)
Boxer	Feinstein	Kaine
Brown	Franken	King
Cantwell	Gillibrand	Klobuchar
Cardin	Hagan	Leahy

Levin	Nelson	Tester
Manchin	Pryor	Udall (CO)
Markey	Reed	Udall (NM)
McCaskill	Reid	Walsh
Menendez	Sanders	Warner
Merkley	Schatz	Warren
Mikulski	Schumer	Whitehouse
Murphy	Shaheen	Wyden
Murray	Stabenow	

NAYS—43

Alexander	Flake	Murkowski
Ayotte	Graham	Paul
Barrasso	Grassley	Portman
Blunt	Hatch	Risch
Boozman	Heller	Roberts
Burr	Hoeven	Rubio
Chambliss	Inhofe	Scott
Coats	Isakson	Sessions
Collins	Johanns	Shelby
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Thune
Cornyn	Kirk	Toomey
Crapo	Lee	Vitter
Cruz	McCain	Wicker
Enzi	McConnell	
Fischer	Moran	

NOT VOTING—4

Coburn	Landrieu
Cochran	Rockefeller

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill 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 nomination of David J. Hale, of Kentucky, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard Blumenthal, Sheldon Whitehouse, Mazie K. Hirono, Amy Klobuchar, Al Franken, Benjamin L. Cardin, Patty Murray, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Jeanne Shaheen, Claire McCaskill, Christopher A. Coons, Mark Begich, Jeff Merkley, Richard J. Durbin, Charles E. Schumer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Hale nomination.

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent all time be yielded back on both sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of David J. Hale, of Kentucky, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 65, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 303 Ex.]

YEAS—65

Ayotte	Hagan	Nelson
Baldwin	Harkin	Paul
Begich	Heinrich	Portman
Bennet	Heitkamp	Pryor
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Isakson	Reid
Boxer	Johnson (SD)	Rubio
Brown	Kaine	Sanders
Cantwell	King	Schatz
Cardin	Klobuchar	Schumer
Carper	Leahy	Shaheen
Casey	Levin	Stabenow
Chambliss	Manchin	Tester
Collins	Markey	Udall (CO)
Coons	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	McConnell	Vitter
Durbin	Menendez	Walsh
Feinstein	Merkley	Warner
Flake	Mikulski	Warren
Franken	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murphy	Wyden
Graham	Murray	

NAYS—31

Alexander	Fischer	Moran
Barrasso	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hatch	Roberts
Boozman	Heller	Scott
Burr	Hoeven	Sessions
Coats	Inhofe	Shelby
Corker	Johanns	Thune
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Toomey
Crapo	Kirk	Wicker
Cruz	Lee	
Enzi	McCain	

NOT VOTING—4

Coburn	Landrieu
Cochran	Rockefeller

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 65, the nays are 31.

The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF DAVID J. HALE TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of David J. Hale, of Kentucky, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate on the motion to invoke cloture on the Kearney nomination.

Who yields time?

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

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 nomination of Mark A. Kearney, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Barbara Boxer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Bill Nelson, Barbara A. Mikulski, Amy Klobuchar, Al Franken, Jack Reed, Sheldon Whitehouse, Robert Menendez, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Richard Blumenthal, Sherrod Brown, Dianne Feinstein.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Mark A. Kearney, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 60, nays 36, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 304 Ex.]

YEAS—60

Ayotte	Hagan	Nelson
Baldwin	Harkin	Paul
Begich	Heinrich	Pryor
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Rubio
Boxer	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Levin	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Collins	Markey	Toomey
Coons	McCaskill	Udall (CO)
Donnelly	Menendez	Udall (NM)
Durbin	Merkley	Walsh
Feinstein	Mikulski	Warner
Franken	Murkowski	Warren
Gillibrand	Murphy	Whitehouse
Graham	Murray	Wyden

NAYS—36

Alexander	Fischer	McCain
Barrasso	Flake	McConnell
Blunt	Grassley	Moran
Boozman	Hatch	Portman
Burr	Heller	Risch
Chambliss	Hoeven	Roberts
Coats	Inhofe	Scott
Corker	Isakson	Sessions
Cornyn	Johanns	Shelby
Crapo	Johnson (WI)	Thune
Cruz	Kirk	Vitter
Enzi	Lee	Wicker

NOT VOTING—4

Coburn	Landrieu
Cochran	Rockefeller

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 60, the nays are 36.

The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF MARK A. KEARNEY TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Mark A. Kearney, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate prior to the cloture vote on the Pappert nomination.

Who yields time?

Mr. REID. I yield back the time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

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 nomination of Gerald J. Pappert, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Harry Reid, Richard J. Durbin, Patty Murray, Barbara Boxer, Patrick J. Leahy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Debbie Stabenow, Michael F. Bennet, John D. Rockefeller IV, Jon Tester, Jack Reed, Mark R. Warner, Tim Kaine, Benjamin L. Cardin, Charles E. Schumer, Christopher A. Coons, Christopher Murphy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Gerald J. Pappert, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 67, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 305 Ex.]

YEAS—67

Alexander	Baldwin	Bennet
Ayotte	Begich	Blumenthal
Blunt	Heitkamp	Portman
Booker	Hirono	Pryor
Boxer	Isakson	Reed
Brown	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Cantwell	Kaine	Rubio
Cardin	King	Sanders
Carper	Klobuchar	Schatz
Casey	Leahy	Schumer
Coats	Levin	Shaheen
Collins	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Toomey
Donnelly	McCain	Udall (CO)
Durbin	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Feinstein	Menendez	Vitter
Flake	Merkley	Walsh
Franken	Mikulski	Warner
Gillibrand	Murkowski	Warren
Graham	Murphy	Whitehouse
Hagan	Murray	Wyden
Harkin	Nelson	
Heinrich	Paul	

NAYS—28

Barrasso	Grassley	Moran
Boozman	Hatch	Risch
Burr	Heller	Roberts
Chambliss	Hoeven	Scott
Corker	Inhofe	Sessions
Cornyn	Johanns	Shelby
Crapo	Johnson (WI)	Thune
Cruz	Kirk	Wicker
Enzi	Lee	
Fischer	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—5

Coburn	Landrieu	Stabenow
Cochran	Rockefeller	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 67, the nays are 28.

The motion is agreed to.

VOTE EXPLANATION

● Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I was unable to attend today's cloture vote on the nomination of Gerald Pappert to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Had I been present, I would have supported this cloture motion.●

NOMINATION OF GERALD J. PAPPERT TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Gerald J. Pappert, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 5:30 p.m. will be equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from Virginia.

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE USE OF MILITARY FORCE

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, next Monday will mark 4 months since the President commenced military action in Syria and Iraq against ISIL. As of December 2, Operation Inherent Resolve, which the administration calls a war on ISIL, has involved more than 1,100 coalition airstrikes in Iraq and Syria, the vast majority carried out by American air men and women. The President has authorized currently 1,400 U.S. ground troops who are deployed in Iraq to train and advise regional forces. The President has authorized an additional 1,500 U.S. troops to serve in that train-and-advise capacity. This past Monday, 250 paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, NC, were sent to Iraq. The total cost of the operation thus far to U.S. taxpayers is in excess of $1 billion.

There have been three deaths of Americans serving in Operation Inherent Resolve. On October 1, Marine Cpl Jordan Spears of Memphis, TN, was lost at sea while conducting flight operations over the Persian Gulf. On October 23, Marine LCpl Sean Neal of Riverside, CA, died in Iraq. On December 1, Air Force Capt. William Dubois of Newcastle, CO, died in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

Senator KING and I visited Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar in October to see the Combined Air Operations Center in action, and I saw many Virginians there working with colleagues from all service branches and many other coalition nations in directing the air strike campaign.

Let's not make any mistake about this—America is at war. The number of air and ground troops deployed is steadily creeping upwards every day. Our troops are dying. And the fiscal cost to American taxpayers is growing every day.

But this is a most unusual war. While all the activities of war are occurring, there is a strange conspiracy of silence about it in the White House and in the Halls of Congress.

The President has not offered any proposed authorization for the war, despite his suggestions that one is needed. Congress has not debated on, taken committee action on, or voted on the ongoing war. The House is contemplating adjourning for the holidays on December 11, without saying anything about an ongoing war. And because neither the President nor Congress has undertaken the necessary public debate over the war, the American public has not had the chance to be fully educated about what is at stake and why it is in our international interest to ask our troops to risk their lives thousands of miles away.

We owe it to our troops serving abroad—troops who are engaged in war even as we think about recessing and leaving Washington on December 11 for the holidays—to do our job and to have a debate and vote about the war that our Constitution demands.

Let me make an earnest request to our President and to my colleagues in Congress.

To the President: I have previously taken the floor to strongly argue that the President needs new legal authority to conduct the war on ISIL.

When the President spoke to the Nation on September 10, he said that he would ''welcome'' a congressional authorization. And on November 5, he affirmatively asserted that a new congressional authorization was needed and that he would ''engage'' Congress

in passing one. But to this date, 4 months after the initiation of war, the administration has not even been willing to present a draft authorization of the mission to Congress.

In testimony yesterday at the Armed Services Committee, no DOD witness could recall a single other instance in which a President told Congress of the need for a war but failed to present a proposed authorization spelling out the dimensions of the military mission.

Instead, the President has persisted in a war that is not within the scope of his Article II powers, that is not authorized by any treaty obligation, that is not justified under either of the congressional authorizations passed in 2001 or 2002. The President's unilateral action has even extended beyond the 60- and 90-day timing requirements created by the War Powers Resolution of 1973.

The President's willingness to push a war without engaging Congress has even violated his own solemn and wise pronouncement of just 1 year ago:

> I believe our democracy is stronger when the President acts with the support of Congress. This is especially true after a decade that put more and more war-making powers in the hands of the President—while sidelining the people's representatives from the critical decisions about when we use force.

So I request our President: Make good on your promise to engage Congress. Do what other Presidents have done—demand that we debate and vote on an authorization, and that we do it now.

The votes are here in this body to support the President. I am a supporter of the need for military action against ISIL, and I know that is a position held by a strong majority of the Senate and a strong majority of the House. There is no reason for the President to not demand that we actually have that debate and have that vote.

To my congressional colleagues, I have a similar request. Let's not leave this Capitol without a debate and a vote on this war on ISIL. We have gone 4 months without any meaningful action about this war.

First, we were told that Congress would get to it after the midterm elections, and so we recessed for 7 weeks in the middle of a war without saying one thing—shirking our constitutional duties. Now many are saying we need to delay until after New Year's before having any meaningful discussion of this war. So the unilateral war would extend to at least 5 months—and, in all likelihood, longer—before Congress gets around to any meaningful discussion of the ISIL threat and what we should do to counter it.

Giving this President—giving any President—a green light to wage unilateral war for 5 or 6 months without any meaningful debate or authorization would be deeply destructive of the legitimacy of the legislative branch of our government; it would be deeply disrespectful of our citizens; and it would be especially disrespectful of the troops who are risking their lives every day while we do nothing.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

POWER TO DECLARE WAR

Mr. KING. Madam President, Senator KAINE has spoken eloquently about events of today. I wish to speak for a few moments about events of 200-plus years ago.

On Tuesday, August 17, 1787, at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, the delegates debated the question of war. They debated it passionately and with a sense of history and human nature. They understood the propensity of the Executive—any Executive throughout history, a prince, a king, a potentate, a sultan—to lead their country into war for good reasons or no good reasons. They understood that this was a basic question before the body—before the Constitutional Convention, and I would assert that the Framers knew what they were doing.

Interestingly, in the first draft of the Constitution, the clause in article I, section 8 that says the Congress shall have the power to declare war, said: The Congress shall have the power to make war. That was the first draft.

The debate was about whether Congress could effectively make and execute war. They wisely, I believe, realized that was impractical, given the nature of Congress and the large number of representatives, and the exigencies of war. So they left the power to the Commander in Chief, to the Chief Executive. They also recognized the Chief Executive's inherent power to repel an attack on this country. But in all other cases what the Constitution says is very clear. Article 1, section 8, says the Congress shall declare war. There was some discussion about this. Some people said, well, we don't want to tie the hands of the Executive, but others made it more clear.

Madison's notes are a fascinating source of information about the history of the Constitution. The notes were taken the day of the debate on Tuesday, August 17, 1787. Mr. Ellsworth of Connecticut stated that ''it should be more easy to get out of war than into it.'' He understood this principle.

Pierce Butler of South Carolina said the Executive should have the power to repel sudden attacks. That is common sense. But then Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts, I think, put it most succinctly. He said, ''I never expected to hear in a Republic a motion to empower the Executive alone to declare war.'' That is the fundamental issue that is before us today.

Then George Mason of Virginia later in the debate used a wonderful phrase that I think aptly captures what the Framers were after. He said: ''I am for flogging rather than facilitating war.'' That is what we are supposed to do, is to debate, discuss, and have the people engaged in the discussion before this country is committed to war.

The Constitution in the Preamble makes it very clear that one of the fundamental purposes of this government or any government is to provide for the common defense. Nobody questions that. Neither Senator KAINE nor myself nor anyone else who is talking about this issue questions, A, whether we should be debating it and, B, that it is our solemn responsibility to provide for the common defense. I happen to think, as Senator KAINE does, that the fight against ISIL is worthy of national attention, worthy of national effort, and should be debated and circumscribed through some form of authorization in this body. There has not been a declaration of war by the Congress since 1942.

I will conclude with the observation that power doesn't spring from one branch of our government to the other overnight or in some flash of inspiration or change. I would argue more aptly it oozes from one branch to the other, not necessarily through Executive usurpation as through congressional application. For us to go home, to take a recess, to say: We don't really want to be talking about this, we don't want to be responsible for this, I think is unfair to the American people. It is unfair to the people who are being put into harm's way. It is unfair and not responsive to the basic principles of the Constitution.

We owe it to our country to have this debate, and it is one that I believe is important and is constitutionally based. We are very good in Congress about not making decisions and then criticizing the Executive for what they do. This is an opportunity where we have the power, the constitutional power and the constitutional responsibility to discuss, debate, and authorize the Executive's actions against this terrible foe. I believe it is our responsibility to do so. To not do so is simply one more sliding away, one more giving away of our constitutional authority to the Executive that I think is in detriment not only to the Constitution itself, clearly, but also to the interests of the American people.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

WORKING TOGETHER

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, ever since November 4—this last election, some 3 or so weeks ago—a number of people have speculated as to what a new Republican majority in the Senate will mean for the country. We will be working together with our Republican colleagues in the House and with the President, who has hopefully heard the message the American people sent him on November 4. He was the one who said it was his policies that were on the

ballot. I believe the vote by the American people came through pretty loud and clear as to what they thought of those policies. It was pretty clear that they want a new direction.

When people ask me what my constituents expect—my 26.5 million constituents in Texas—I tell them they want us to demonstrate that we can govern. They want us to demonstrate that we can actually solve some of the problems confronting our country. Those problems primarily deal with how we unleash the American economy, get it growing again to create jobs and opportunity so people can find work, provide for their families, and pursue their dreams.

I believe that is what Senator SCHUMER was saying the other day at the National Press Club. We need to focus on the needs of the middle class and the wage earners. They are seeing stagnant wages. While health care, energy, and other costs go up, their paychecks are shrinking. As a result, they are having to live on less, which is not the American dream most people have bargained for.

The truth is no political party or branch of government can govern on its own. The fact is that even though we have a Republican majority in the House and Senate, we still have a divided government, with President Obama in the White House—and he is not constitutionally irrelevant. In fact, he is critical in terms of actually getting things done.

My hope is that we can find issues we can work on together. I believe Republicans and Democrats can vote to put legislation on the President's desk, but then he has a choice to make—either to sign that legislation into law or veto it. We then have a decision to make as to whether we want to try—and whether we can—override his veto.

The truth is none of us can govern on our own. What has been troubling to me—since the election—is that President Obama seems to think he can govern on his own without regard for the Congress. Now, part of the consequences are the debates going on in the House and here in the Senate about the appropriate response to what has been widely seen as an overreach by the President—particularly when it comes to his Executive action on immigration, which circumvented the Congress. He acted as though he could do this alone without any consequence.

We know one thing for sure, and that is the President cannot appropriate money, which is why we are now having this discussion. But there will be other ramifications and consequences as well. I hope one of those consequences is not that we fall back into the dysfunction we have experienced over the last few years where we find ourselves incapable of working together and getting things done. All we can do is all we can do. As a Senate—as a Congress—we can't make the President do anything he is bound and determined not to do, but we can do our job.

I and others have said: Well, with a new majority in the Senate, we have to show we can govern. The truth is we can't govern by ourselves. The President can't govern by himself, and we can't govern by ourselves. That is the constitutional separation of powers and the division of responsibility that we must embrace together.

I don't know where the President has gotten this idea that he thinks he can govern on his own. For 225 years our constitutional norms have said otherwise, and experience has shown otherwise. If we want to make real progress on improving our broken immigration system—we actually saw a bill passed out of the Senate. The President said he is frustrated with the timetable in the House. But there continues to be a bipartisan desire, I believe, to fix our broken immigration system.

If we want to reform our Tax Code, I think that is something we ought to be getting to work on. The fact of the matter is we have the highest tax rate in the world. That is making America less competitive in terms of attracting investment and jobs. It discourages multinational corporations headquartered in the United States from bringing back the money they have earned overseas because they don't want to have to pay taxes twice—for what they have earned on their income overseas and then pay double again when they bring that money back home. We ought to look at what kind of Tax Code makes sense for us and incentivizes investment and job creation in the United States and not be content with a system that discourages that.

I believe there is bipartisan support for doing what we can to shore up Medicare and Social Security. We have all seen the numbers—the aging baby boomers and more and more people retiring. Unfortunately, these young people are being left holding the bag. We are going to be OK—people my age and my generation—but future generations will not be OK unless we do our job now to deal with Medicare and Social Security and make them sustainable into the future.

What I feel has been most discouraging is health care. Whether you supported the Affordable Care Act or were a skeptic, such as I was, I think by and large the evidence is that it didn't work the way the people who were the biggest cheerleaders thought it would work.

One little factoid that jumped out at me yesterday in the Wall Street Journal is that between 2007 and 2013 the average cost for middle-class families for their health care went up 24 percent. That is part of what has made this wage stagnation even worse because people are actually paying more for items such as health care. If there is one thing we ought to all be able to agree on is that what makes health care more available and accessible to more people is when it is more affordable. Unfortunately, the Affordable Care Act did not do that.

Well, I mentioned my disappointment with some of the President's actions—including his Executive action on immigration, which I think has made our job harder—not easier. More recently there were stories of a pending negotiation on the tax bill that the President said he would veto if it got to him. Why didn't the President say: Mr. Majority Leader, if this isn't in it, I am going to consider vetoing it? In other words, why didn't he use the bully pulpit and the leverage the President has to change the package if he didn't like it and make it more acceptable? That is the kind of compromise and negotiation that needs to occur.

What happens when you say I want everything my way or I want nothing? More often than not, you are going to get nothing. Unfortunately, that is what the taxpayers got—a temporary reprieve from the retroactive taxes and no real long-term solution which creates an opportunity to plan and make investments. That is what encourages job creation and job growth and grows the economy. All of this churning and uncertainty is the antithesis of what we need when it comes to growing our economy, creating jobs, and creating more predictability.

I know back in 2008 when President Obama was elected, millions of Americans thought President Obama would be the kind of President that would bring the country together on a number of levels—whether it was a matter of race or just getting the government to be responsive to the needs of the middle class. Unfortunately, he seems to have developed this disdain for the very job he was elected to do. This stuff doesn't happen by accident. It happens as a result of hard work. A lot of that hard work happens behind closed doors where Members of both parties sit around the table and say how can we work this out. When we are doing our best work, it does work out, and although it is not perfect, it is a vast improvement over the status quo. That is the sort of thing the President, unfortunately, seems unwilling or unable to do.

The Executive action on immigration is perhaps the freshest demonstration of the President's contempt for the role of Congress and the normal legislative process. What I find hard to understand and believe is that for the weeks and months leading up to the announcement, the President was repeatedly warned that such a decision would provoke a constitutional crisis. And he was repeatedly warned that what he was getting ready to do was something he did not have the power under the Constitution to do. And not coincidentally, the President—I think on 22 different occasions—admitted publicly that he didn't have the authority to do what he ultimately decided to do with this Executive order, but he did it anyway.

I can't think of many things he could have done that would be more damaging to public confidence and Congress and the Presidency and our ideal

of self-government. If the President says ''I don't have the authority to do this without Congress'' but then he proceeds to do it anyway, what are we supposed to think?

As a result of the President's ill-advised action, the coming weeks and months threaten to be dominated by a political fight that was completely unnecessary. Meanwhile, the bipartisan prospects for compromise on everything from immigration to tax reform have been significantly reduced.

The tragedy is that once we get beyond the daily partisan rhetoric, there are more areas of bipartisan agreement in this Senate than people might think.

For example, Members of both parties want to vote on the Keystone XL Pipeline.

Members of both parties want to pass commonsense regulatory reform that will reduce the burdens on families and businesses.

Members of both parties want to improve our patent system in order to discourage the abuse of costly litigation.

Members of both parties want to address America's counterproductive business tax rate to help boost investment and create jobs here at home.

Members of both parties want to take action to restore the 40-hour workweek that was penalized by ObamaCare to get people back on full-time work and off of part-time work. People would like to work full time. And there are Members from both parties who want to repeal the law's medical device tax, falling as it does on the gross receipts of medical device innovators here in America, causing some of my constituents, for example, from Dallas to move their operations to Costa Rica and places where this tax won't be collected. Those are the sorts of incentives and disincentives that tax policy can have—and in this case, very damaging.

Both parties want an immigration system that puts more emphasis on skills and on education. We are a very compassionate country when it comes to immigration. We naturalize almost 1 million people a year in this country. It is part of what makes our country great. But we ought to recognize that we need to use both our heads and our hearts on a lot of these issues. It makes sense to me and I think to a lot of other people to say: What do these immigrants bring to America that will make us better, and not just operate strictly on the basis of compassion, as in, what do they need? This seems to be a system that helps us to continue to attract the best and the brightest people from around the world through a legal immigration system.

Finally, Members of both parties believe we need a permanent solution to our transportation needs in this country. I come from the fast-growing State of Texas, where we simply don't have enough resources to build the mass transits and the highways and deal with the transportation needs we have in order to continue to grow our economy and create jobs. What we have done, sadly—and both parties are complicit in this—is one temporary bandaid after another, making it very hard to plan. We have just put patches on it, and then we come back and—sort of like the movie ''Groundhog Day'' we do it all over again 6 months or a year later.

None of this is going to be easy. Nobody told us it would be easy, but we need to do it anyway. We need to vote, and we need to come up with solutions.

This is only a partial list of some of the bipartisan, smart ideas that could become law pretty quickly with the right leadership. I am hopeful that after the first of the year in the new Congress, we will look for opportunities—and I am confident we will—to work together to put legislation on the President's desk to show we can actually function and hopefully regain some of the public's lost confidence in their government and in self-government itself.

So the question is, What do we do if the President continues to give very little indication that he is going to be a partner in this effort? We need to do our job anyway. His initial reaction in 2014 has been to flout the will of Congress and the will of the American people. I know the temptation is to say we are going to retaliate for the President's action which we consider unlawful. I think we need to make a measured and prudent and appropriate response. There needs to be consequences when one branch usurps its power under the Constitution. But we don't need to fall back into the same sort of dysfunction we were in previously that got us to where we are today.

So governing is not about having the executive branch or the legislative branch see how much they can get away with on their own. That is not our Constitution. That is not our form of government. It is about having the two branches working together to try to find common ground and proposing and negotiating policies that serve the national interests—not the interests of one political party or the other but the interests of the country as a whole.

In January I hope to demonstrate that the newfound confidence voters have in Republicans is well-founded, not in the sense that we receive any mandate—believe me, I don't believe that for a minute, but I do believe people are looking for responsible alternatives to the status quo, and I believe sincerely that, working together, Republicans and Democrats, the Senate and the House and the President can demonstrate that we can actually do our jobs and govern. None of us can do it alone. We can and we must demonstrate that we are able to do our job and function. But, again, in order to move the country forward, in order to find solutions to the problems we have on so many fronts, we are going to have to do this together. I only hope the President reconsiders his record and his attitude about trying to go it alone because we know that is not going to end very well.

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 bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BENNET. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

TAX EXTENDERS

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, I come to the floor today to talk about the tax extenders package the House is likely to vote on today.

Unfortunately and sadly, it looks as though we have reached another low point in the world of dysfunctional Washington politics. The House will vote on what is being called a 1-year retroactive extension of dozens of expired tax laws. This bill contains everything from the research and development tax credit, to the wind production tax credit, to the new markets tax credit, and they have let us know that this is the best bill they could cobble together. But in reality this is not a 1-year extension; it is a 3-week extension of expired tax laws until the end of this year—3 weeks until the end of this year. On January 1 all of our tax laws will expire again. No one in the real world would ever run an enterprise in this manner.

It is bad enough that we do extenders for 2 years without making them permanent, but to say the best we can do is a 1-year extension and to know that really it is only a 3-week extension makes no sense at all. If the purpose of this bill is to encourage investments in business or our communities, how does a 1-year retroactive bill make any sense at all? If the purpose of the bill is to provide greater certainty for families and for businesses, how does a 1-year retroactive bill accomplish that? Only in the land of flickering lights—in Washington, DC—where we are barely keeping the government running, does it make sense.

I thought we had reached a new low 2 years ago when we voted on the so-called fiscal cliff deal—when the Bush tax cuts were expiring and there was a bipartisan deal that was meant to, among other things, avoid the sequester. That bill passed at 2:30 in the morning; then, 90 days later, the sequester went into effect—the very thing we were supposed to be protecting against. That deal is sometimes touted as a great act of bipartisanship. The only thing bipartisan about it was the confession that the two parties couldn't figure out how to actually get our fiscal house in order. Had we known that night that the sequester was going to go into effect 90 days later—had we known that that night—there is no way there would have been 92 ''yes'' votes for that deal. There is

no way it would have passed. And we are still living with it today.

Coincidentally, the last time we passed tax extenders, it was part of that deal. The fiscal cliff deal at least provided a 2-year extension to these temporary tax laws. Here, it turns out we will be lucky if we provide 3 weeks of certainty.

Many of the people I represent say this bill is only marginally better than no bill at all, and they reasonably wonder why in the world we wouldn't just do another 2-year extension. They prefer more certainty than that to plan for their businesses and for their communities. Instead of doing the short-term House bill, the Senate should instead take up the bipartisan bill the Senate Finance Committee reported over 6 months ago. I always hear people in this body lament the lack of regular order, and I lament the lack of regular order. This bill represented a great attempt at regular order and it got the votes of Republicans and Democrats on the Finance Committee. We had a markup, and we voted on amendments. Some passed, some didn't. And then we voted the bill out to the Senate floor 6 months ago.

The Ways and Means Committee in the House didn't hold a markup on the House bill they are considering today. It is my understanding the House will be allowing few, if any, amendments. So why is that bill in any way preferable to the Senate bill, where we did the work of legislating? Our 2-year bill deserves a vote here on this floor.

Among dozens of provisions that are important to families and businesses in Colorado and across the country, I wanted to highlight two today. The first is the credit for wind energy. The wind PTC and ITC—the production tax credit and the investment tax credit—have always enjoyed broad support from both sides of the aisle, ranging from its original cosponsor, Senator GRASSLEY from Iowa, to my friend and colleague from Colorado, MARK UDALL. And I should say that nobody has been a greater champion for wind or more relentless over the years in support of the wind industry in Colorado and those high-paying jobs in our State than MARK UDALL.

If enacted into law, the Senate version of the PTC and ITC for wind will continue to drive job growth in Colorado. We are not talking about some fly-by-night experiment here. This isn't some Bolshevik takeover of the United States. These are jobs—manufacturing jobs and other high-paying jobs—right here in the United States.

In Colorado, we have 5,000 people working in this industry. In Colorado, Vestas, which manufactures wind turbines, employs over 1,400 workers across 4 factories—from Pueblo all the way up I–25 to Brighton and Windsor. These are not just manufacturing and design jobs in urban centers, but construction and operations jobs at the actual wind farms.

I visited one of these turbine farms in Peetz, CO, a couple of years ago. It was a little scary because we climbed up—I climbed up—to the very top of the wind turbine. I thought we were done climbing, but then they opened a hatch in the top of this thing and they said: Senator, it is time to go out and see what this looks like, which I did, standing on the top of this wind turbine housing in the shoes I wear on the floor of the Senate. Even though I was hooked up, it was a little scary.

The guy who took me there was telling me he had been able to come back to his home community—a rural community in Colorado—and work in this high-paying job because the wind industry was there. This was something he never would have imagined as a kid, but now he has real opportunity, and there are thousands of people just like him all over my State who are concerned the political conversation here has decoupled once again from their concerns and has become about the internal politics of Washington, DC, and not what is actually going on in places such as rural Colorado or in rural places all across the United States.

This industry drives economic growth across our State—from the conference rooms of tech startups in Boulder and Denver all the way to the 6,000-acre Kit Carson wind power generating site just west of the Kansas State line.

The production tax credit has driven $105 billion in private investment. This is actually amazing when you think about it, given the fact there has been so much uncertainty associated with it—$105 billion. It has opened up 550 industrial facilities and provided $180 million in lease payments to rural farmers, to ranchers, and to landowners who host wind farms.

The mention of those rural farmers and ranchers brings me to the second provision of the EXPIRE Act that I would like to highlight: the tax incentive for conservation easements.

Private land conservation is critical in States such as Colorado. Healthy grasslands, open landscapes, and abundant wildlife are a fundamental part of what is to be in the West and in Colorado. In the 2014 farm bill, we worked really hard to build a strong conservation title.

The easement incentive in the Senate finance bill is an important complement to the work in the farm bill. This incentive accounts for the true value of conserved land, which allows family farmers, ranchers, and moderate-income landowners to preserve land for our kids and for our grandkids to enjoy.

In Colorado, we have landowners lined up to take advantage of this very well-designed program. It opens up conservation opportunities to people who might be land rich but cash poor—producers who feed this country. This is land we have to keep in production. But when you are living in a place where the value isn't calculated properly, and there is a high value associated with it and you don't have the money to be able to put it into easement, this program can help you do that.

If we do that, we get to hold on to our farms and ranches in our States. But here we are again considering a bill that extends these benefits for only 3 weeks. If it is good policy for 3 weeks, why isn't it good policy for 2 years? If we pass the House bill, we are telling the farmers and ranchers across States such as Colorado that we don't value long-term conservation, that we don't take it seriously.

The loss of this tax incentive would mean less land across the West would be protected—again, a voluntary program. This isn't telling anybody they have to do anything with their farms and ranches; it is an option for them if they want to use it. More wildlife habitat will be lost, water quality will suffer, and Colorado's scenic beauty, which is critical to our way of life and our economy, will be threatened.

If we pass the House bill, people's jobs across Colorado will be placed at risk. And this is all due to Congress's failure to do its job. We can do better than that. We should, at this late hour, reconsider this and pass the Senate bill—pass the EXPIRE Act. We should pass a bipartisan piece of legislation that came out of the Finance Committee through regular order 6 months ago. We have had plenty of time to consider that. Then we should come back and we should do comprehensive tax reform and give our country a Tax Code that is actually worthy of the entrepreneurs who are out there working every day to invent our future. The last time the Tax Code—this might be of interest to the pages here today—the last time the Tax Code was updated in this country, I was in college. I was in college. What are the chances that today's Tax Code reflects the American economy as it actually is, to say nothing of the global economy as it actually is? The chances are zero. This is the work we have been sent here to do. It is hard, but that is what we are supposed to be doing here.

I hope in the new year there is going to be a big change around this place, and I hope all of us use that change to the advantage of the American people by putting ourselves back to work. They are working hard. The least we can do is work together to actually align our legislation and our regulation to the world as it actually exists rather than one that existed 50 or 100 years ago.

Madam President, I appreciate the chance to speak today on these important issues to Colorado.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COONS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR DAVID WILSON

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, this is a bittersweet moment for me, because Maj. David Wilson, who has served in my office in an exemplary way in the Air Force Fellowship Program, will be leaving my office this week. He has been there for the past year. He has been an incredibly valuable member of my staff.

I would like to encourage my colleagues to join me in thanking my military fellow for his exemplary service to the Senate and to wish him well in his next endeavor at the Pentagon. Maj. David Wilson has dedicated his life to serving our Nation. David was commissioned by the U.S. Air Force in 2002 as a graduate of the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps at Texas Tech University.

David has served in Texas, Montana, and Germany and has been deployed to Kuwait, Cuba, and Liberia. He has served the Air Force in a wide range of missions, from personnel and readiness to executive officer and deployed squadron commander. While on Active Duty, David has earned a master's degree in international relations.

Major Wilson joined my office as part of the Air Force Legislative Fellowship Program. I know my colleagues familiar with that program know how valuable it is. It is a year-long program that offers those in the military an opportunity to learn about the legislative process firsthand. But for me he has been an additional valuable member of my staff who has advised me on defense issues. He has been very helpful on so many issues.

My staff and I will truly miss Major Wilson. David hit the ground running. When he joined the office, he started contributing immediately. He is personable, hard-working, and enthusiastic. He has been a key member of the staff, providing me with concise, straightforward guidance on some of our most sensitive defense-related legislative issues. He has advised me on issues ranging from how to best address claims backlogs and other problems at the Veterans' Administration to military strategies against Islamic State terrorists.

I know the Presiding Officer joins me in knowing the complications and concerns we get from our veterans community, particularly on delays in getting claims heard. I thank Major Wilson for helping us to understand how we could better serve our veterans in this country.

David has drafted innovative legislation to improve the recruitment of our Guard and Reserve Forces, which I hope to introduce soon. David has worked extremely hard to ensure that Maryland veterans have adequate and timely access to the services they need.

I think our Nation's greatest resource is its young people, especially those who have joined our All-Volunteer Force to defend our country and our way of life. Many times we take the opportunity to thank those who wear the uniform of our Nation for defending our principles. We think about what is happening around the world and recognize that in the United States we can pray to the God we want without fear of intimidation. In other parts of the world they would cut your head off for that.

We can express our opposition to government peacefully. We can have an election where the outcomes are in the hands of the voters, and we celebrate that. In other countries they lock up people for dreaming that. Our military makes sure we preserve those freedoms.

The Air Force should be proud of the extraordinary talent they have in Maj. David Wilson. My staff and I still refer to David as ''Major,'' but in fact he has been selected to the rank of lieutenant colonel 2 years below the promotion zone, which is quite an accomplishment. Fewer than 1 percent of the officers up for promotion get promoted 2 years early. So this is a rare accomplishment. It is not surprising in this instance, given David's drive, ambition, and talent.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Major Wilson on his graduation and thanking him for his service to our country. I also wish to take this opportunity to thank David's wife Susan and daughter Ella for sharing him with the Senate. We have been enriched by his presence. I know of the late hours he has worked and the sacrifices he has made to his family.

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Mr. President, I was pleased to be appointed by the President to be one of the two Senate representatives to the United Nations for the 69th United Nations General Assembly Session. Senator RON JOHNSON of Wisconsin is the other member. The two of us have visited New York together. We have talked about how we can best represent the legislative branch of government at the U.S. Mission in New York to further the objectives the United States has within the United Nations.

Just recently I visited New York. I had a chance to meet with Helen Clark, who is the U.N. Development Program Director, the former Prime Minister of New Zealand, a person who is instrumentally involved in dealing with the development programs within the United Nations.

I mention that because we are now at the conclusion of the 2000 Millennium Development Goals. I want to mention that for a moment because our goals were to reduce poverty, increase the stability of governments. As the Presiding Officer knows, yes, these are core U.S. principles. The Presiding Officer has been very active in Africa, has done an incredible job in Africa in pointing out the need for reducing poverty and increasing stability.

These are our core principles. That is why we do it, our humanitarian goals—yes, absolutely, our participation. But it is also important for our national security goals. Because if we have nations that are prosperous, that include their people in the prosperity of their nation, have good governance, it is going to be a more stable government and it will help us have partners whom we can rely on to help us deal with world stability, rather than have to call upon our military to restore order.

This helps us reduce our need for conflicts around the world. So the U.N. programs dealing with the Millennium Development Goals were well received when they were conceived a decade ago. There are eight specific goals. What is interesting about the eight specific goals is they had specific, achievable objectives to achieve by 2015.

It was basically to reduce poverty and disease by next year, cutting in half the number of undernourished individuals on this planet to deal with child mortality and maternal health. It was interesting that we recognized last decade that we could deal with some simple issues, such as dealing with infection at birth, dealing with nutrition, dealing with how we deal with an infant being able to breathe properly through simple devices and that we could significantly reduce infant mortality and we could significantly improve maternal health.

So we set those goals. We set the goals of improving primary education because we knew education was an opportunity for children to be able to succeed. Gender equity and equality was a huge issue. Secretary Clinton, when she was Secretary of State, was our leader on this issue globally.

Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases. The United States took a leadership role in the PEPFAR Program that made a consequential difference in dealing with the spread of HIV/AIDS. Environmental sustainability was one of our Millennium Development Goals because we recognized that to be perhaps the greatest challenge on how we are going to deal with the sustainability of our environment with the challenges of global climate change.

We also recognized that we needed global partners for development. These are all part of the Millennium Development Goals. We recognized these are not just goals of each nation working together within the United Nations to achieve, but it also involves private foundations. It involves international organizations, NGOs, all working together in order to achieve these objectives.

Guess what. Now that we are reaching that plateau in 2015, we can look back and say we accomplished a great deal for this planet, a 15-percent reduction in extreme poverty since the Millennium Development Goals were established. That is an incredible accomplishment. We now have safe drinking water in so many parts of the world that did not have safe drinking water when these goals were developed.

Gender disparity in education has been dramatically reduced. It has been estimated that since the Millennium Development Goals were established, we have saved—100 million babies have survived who would otherwise not survive. That is an incredible accomplishment we have been able to achieve since the development of these goals.

Yes, there is much more that needs to be done. Every year about 6 million babies die needlessly at birth. We can do much better and save more children. The Ebola crisis in West Africa teaches us that we still need to deal with basic health services. In so many countries in the world the spread of Ebola was because they were not prepared to deal with basic health care needs. They could have dramatically reduced the spread of the Ebola virus.

We still have, unfortunately, widespread corruption affecting our Millennium Development Goals in countries around the world. Quite frankly, we cannot accomplish what we want in a country—that is, get their agriculture sustainable, develop the health clinics they need, deal with the gender equity—if they have corrupt government.

So dealing with the issue of good governance is clearly an area we need to improve. We are now talking about the post-2015 development goals, Millennium Development Goals. The United Nations is working on that. Helen Clark, whom I talked to, is working on that. They have some working documents in which they are prepared to come together, as they did for the original Millennium Development Goals, which offer again additional opportunities.

We need to build on what we have done and make sure we have achievable goals. I want to mention a couple of areas that I hope will be included in the post-2015 Millennium Development Goals. First, we need to deal with the realities of the current threats we have. The Ebola crisis points that out.

It is interesting that Nigeria had a few cases of Ebola, but they were able to eradicate it. One of the reasons they were able to eradicate it is because they had a health clinic set up from the PEPFAR money that was made available through what we did with HIV/AIDS. The point is this: Let's use this opportunity, this crisis of Ebola, to make sure we have basic health care services in all our countries so we do not have another Ebola-type crisis in the future. That should be clearly one of our development goals.

Let's deal with good governance by having anticorruption guidelines. In my work as Chair of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, we have workable ways we can deal with corruption in countries and how we can fight corruption. Our trade negotiators right now are dealing with countries that are developing countries in the Trans-Pacific Partnership and are looking at how we can improve good governance in countries through trade legislation. We can be the leader in dealing with good governance and anticorruption issues. It should be a Millennium Development Goal post-2015.

We need to have specific targets in educating boys and girls on health access and food security, climate change, good governance. The United States can be a leader. I do want to point out—and the Presiding Officer is very much aware of this—we have taken steps, this administration and this Congress, to pave the way for the post-2015 Millennium Development Goals. For example, we have the Feed the Future Initiative, where we help small farmers, particularly women, in dealing with sustainable agricultural products.

We do not just give food to the poor, we are looking at changing the economics within the country so they can have sustainable agriculture. The Global Development Lab that Administrator Shaw has proposed, again the Presiding Officer is one of the leaders on that. But here what we are doing is we are taking the USAID development assistance dollars and we are leveraging it with work already being done by our academic centers in America that are active internationally.

I am proud of the work Johns Hopkins does globally. I am sure many Members of the Senate know of the great work done by their academic centers with private companies. Why private companies? Because they get markets. They are interested in working with us to help sustainable economic progress in other countries, which helps us and allows our development assistance to be leveraged and to go further.

We need to be a leader in the post-2015 goals for millennium development within the United Nations.

I wish to underscore this last point. We need to do this because that is who we are—our values. Our values are humanitarian. We believe we have a responsibility to help, and that includes globally. But we do it because our national security also depends upon it.

We really understand that our national security is more than our soldiers and our weapons. It is very important to those who serve in our military. But our diplomacy, development assistance, and having stable governments globally help us become a more stable society and help us with our own national security.

I urge my colleagues to be involved with us. I look forward to working with Senator JOHNSON at the United Nations as we pursue many different missions. I hope one that we will pursue is the continuation of Millennium Development Goals post-2015 to continue to make progress in reducing world poverty and hunger.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time in quorum calls be equally divided between the Democrats and the Republicans.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

RELEASE OF GUANTANAMO DETAINEES

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise today, along with my colleague from New Hampshire, to discuss an issue that has been spoken about on this floor over the last several years many times, but it continues to be a problem. The Senator from New Hampshire has been very focused, as have I, on this issue, which is the release of detainees from Guantanamo and the fact that we know that not only are there dangerous individuals there who should not be released, but we also know these individuals are returning to the fight, and they are scheming and planning and intending to do harm to America and Americans. So we wish to visit this issue again.

I wish to start off by saying that it is well-founded in our Nation's history that the United States has the authority to hold enemy combatants until the end of hostilities in order to prevent their return to the battlefield. For the past several years, each National Defense Authorization Act that has been signed into law by the President has recognized this principle and made clear that any Al Qaeda-affiliated terrorists, whether foreign or American, who takes up arms against the United States can be held under the law of war.

Because Congress authorized the use of military force against these terrorists shortly after they attacked us on September 11, 2001, detention within a military framework is often the best means of collecting valuable intelligence to prevent further terrorist attacks, while ensuring they remain on the sidelines for the duration of the conflict.

There are fundamental failures of the administration in the war against terrorism.

First, when the President announced the closing of the detention facility at Guantanamo in January of 2009, he left our Nation without a clear policy for detaining and interrogating suspected terrorists. Without such a policy, including one that identifies a facility for holding terrorists who are captured outside of Afghanistan, the intelligence community's ability to conduct ongoing intelligence operations has been severely limited.

Second and even more alarming is the ill-advised release of these Gitmo detainees back to the battlefields from which they came. I would suggest to

the Senator from New Hampshire that we are doing material harm to our national security efforts by purging the Guantanamo facility, particularly without a long-term plan for guaranteed monitoring, and I know she is going to address this issue. In fact, those who remain at Guantanamo Bay today are not low-level fighters who were in the wrong place at the wrong time; they are some of the most hardened, determined extremists we have encountered and remain singularly focused on bringing violence to the United States and our allies.

Shockingly, many of the detainees who are being transferred were determined to be too dangerous to transfer by the administration's own Guantanamo Review Task Force. Yet many of them are still being transferred. I have been to Guantanamo on several different occasions, the most recent time being about 3 months ago. I can attest once again that these truly are the most hardened and the most dangerous terrorists who exist today, particularly who are, obviously, in captivity. As we see these individuals on the screen, in their cells, we can see in their eyes that criminal activity is occupying 100 percent of their thoughts and that they truly are determined that they are going to, one of these days, get out of that facility and return to the battlefield.

There was one particular anecdote where the leadership at the facility and I were engaging in a conversation, and it was close to the cell of one of the individuals. All of a sudden we realized that individual was telling other cell mates that he was trying to hear what was going on in our conversation. It has gotten that sophisticated on their part when it comes to trying to figure out ways to communicate with the outside the ideas they have about killing and harming Americans and planning and scheming to one day, as I said earlier, leave that place and reengage in the fight.

Instead of working with Congress to develop commonsense policies to enable our national security personnel to detain and interrogate terrorists, this administration is releasing them back with little thought to their future actions. In this haphazard fashion, there is no uniform procedure for the continued monitoring of these individuals—individuals, I might add, who have already demonstrated a propensity for violence. Each country accepts them on their own terms with varying commitments and cooperation, making further monitoring by the intelligence community and our partners nearly impossible.

This is neither a safe nor a sustainable way of ensuring the national security of the United States, yet it has become an all too common practice in this administration. We know for a fact that a number of these former detainees are returning to the battlefield with renewed zeal to wage war against our American way of life.

According to the Director of National Intelligence, an additional four former Guantanamo detainees were confirmed to have rejoined the fight between July of 2013 and January of 2014, raising the combined suspected and confirmed recidivism rate to 29 percent. In addition, although the next report has not been released, we know this number will increase.

We constantly face new plots and operatives looking for ways to murder Americans, such as the foiled May 2012 AQAP plot that put another IED on a United States-bound aircraft. Thankfully, this plot and others did not materialize. But we are not going to always be that fortunate, especially in the absence of meaningful interrogation of terrorists and their imminent return to the battlefield.

We know that Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, or AQAP, today represents one of the biggest threats to the United States homeland, as well as personnel serving overseas. They are continually plotting against our interests and seeking new recruits, especially among our own citizens as well as former Guantanamo detainees.

Explosives experts, such as Ibrahim al-Asiri, continue to roam free, posing a tremendous threat to the safety and security of U.S. citizens. It is Mr. al-Asiri who is the bomb-making expert who has attempted to devise bombs that cannot be detected by the equipment in airports, so that they can hopefully place a bomb either inside an individual or on an individual who can secure a seat on an airplane without that bomb being detected as they go through the various checkpoints at airports around the world.

Additionally, as the Senator from New Hampshire again will allude to, this proposed closure of Guantanamo Bay presents significant risks for the United States as well as Yemeni efforts to counter AQAP inside of Yemen.

A substantial portion of the detainees remaining in Guantanamo Bay are, in fact, Yemeni citizens. Transferring these individuals to a country plagued by prison breaks, assassinations, and open warfare at this point could prove catastrophic. These detainees would likely rejoin several other former Gitmo detainees who have returned to the fight in Yemen, further destabilizing the country, and worsening an already tenuous security situation.

The most recent example of a totally failed and dangerous policy on the part of this administration is the exchange of the Taliban Five back in May. That decision, to release five individuals who now wake up every morning thinking of ways to kill and harm Americans, was wrong. This administration clearly and callously failed in its obligations of notifying Congress. It appears they did not comply with this requirement because they knew there would be objections to the release of those five individuals from both sides of the aisle here in the Senate, as well as across the Capitol on the House side. This administration clearly decided they wanted to intentionally release these individuals in spite of the fact that we had included language in the previous Defense authorization bills requiring specific notification to Congress in advance of them doing so.

In addition to simply violating that notification requirement, the administration violated the Antideficiency Act by obligating funds that were not legally available. While the President has a habit of ignoring laws relating to domestic policies such as health care and immigration, this overreach will likely directly threaten the lives of our citizens and servicemembers in Afghanistan.

In the wake of the President's bold defiance of congressional oversight, I wrote the White House requesting the declassification of the 2009 Guantanamo Bay review task force assessments for the Taliban Five. I also requested, on the floor of the Senate, that the administration release these files so the American people can know what I know, and what the Presiding Officer knows, and decide for themselves if that was the right decision.

Today I renew that request and I call on this administration to fulfill its failed promises of transparency and show to the American people the very real stakes they are gambling with in their attempts to empty Guantanamo.

Nevertheless, this dangerous trend continues unabated, even amidst bipartisan calls for greater oversight after the Taliban Five release.

In November alone, seven detainees were transferred, three to the country of Georgia, two to Slovakia, one to Saudi Arabia, and another to Kuwait. Some of these countries have previously had detainees sent to them. We have mixed reaction as to the reengagement or the oversight that is provided in those countries. Some of those countries have never had a detainee they have taken possession of. We have no idea what kind of supervision they are going to exercise over these individuals.

Whether it is in Iraq, Afghanistan, or in other parts of the Middle East, Americans have fought and died in the war against Al Qaeda. Our Nation may be weary of war, but threatening elements still remain. Those five individuals, the Taliban Five to whom I alluded, are clearly threats to the United States. I urge President Obama as well as my congressional colleagues and the American people not to abandon the gains we have made in this fight against terrorism since 9/11. We must remain steadfast in our resolve to defeat extremists who oppose freedom, democracy, and our American way of life.

I look forward in my remaining days here in the Senate to working with colleagues such as my friend from New Hampshire and other Members of this body as we continue to face this growing threat.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

Ms. AYOTTE. I thank my colleague from Georgia, Senator CHAMBLISS, for his incredible leadership on the Intelligence Committee, on the Armed Services Committee, and his deep commitment to ensuring that our country remains safe, that our freedoms are protected. I daresay from the time I have been in the Senate, Senator CHAMBLISS is one of the most knowledgeable people in this body about the threats we face, how we address those threats, and how we ensure that America remains safe. I thank Senator CHAMBLISS for his incredible leadership in this body, not only on the issue of how do we address ensuring that the detainees who are held—who are very dangerous—at Guantanamo Bay do not present additional threats to our country and to our allies, but on so many issues, ensuring that our intelligence officials have strong information and oversight to ensure that America remains protected.

I rise in support of what my colleague from Georgia has just talked about. If we look at what is happening around the world, the recent developments with ISIS, combined with the continuing threats we face here at home from Al Qaeda and its affiliates, it underscores the continuing need we have for a military detention facility that is outside the United States of America, that prevents enemy combatants who are at war with us from returning to the battle, and allows us a secure location to gather intelligence, to ensure that when we capture a member of Al Qaeda, or when we capture one of its affiliates that is in a position where the organization is threatening the United States of America that we take the opportunity to ensure there is a full and complete interrogation of those terrorists to make sure we know everything they know, to ensure we can prevent future attacks, and that the United States of America is protected.

So I would argue, as we look at what is happening around the world, the need for this detention facility actually has become more apparent. Yet what we have seen with the administration, as Senator CHAMBLISS has so eloquently outlined, is there has been a push—there was a political promise made in the President's campaign to close Guantanamo Bay. Despite having a policy as to how we are going to handle the capture of these enemy combatants, one that he worked with Congress on, and how we will ensure the full interrogation of those combatants to ensure information we need to protect our country, we have seen a rush to release people from Guantanamo Bay that has been accelerated recently, as my colleague from Georgia talked about, where the Department of Defense has announced the transfer of seven detainees fairly recently.

Some of those detainees were reportedly assessed to be high risk. There are also questions about what are the conditions the countries that are taking these detainees are going to ensure so they do not return to the fight, where we have direct evidence of a 29-percent reentry rate with those who have been released from Guantanamo Bay, not just under this administration but under prior administrations, who are confirmed or suspected of having reengaged in terrorism.

There is nothing that must appall our troops more than to be on the battlefield, or our intelligence officials or our allies, to reencounter a terrorist we had safely detained at a detention facility, at Guantanamo Bay, and to see that person again and to know they continue to be a threat to the United States of America and to our interests.

I would urge, I hope, my colleagues, now more than ever, that it is important we have that detention facility there that is safe, secure, and we can ensure that those who are captured, who want to do us harm, members of Al Qaeda terrorist groups—that we can ensure they cannot get back in this battle against us.

I specifically want to talk about the country of Yemen, because as a member of the Armed Services Committee—and Senator CHAMBLISS supported this effort—we passed an amendment in the Senate Armed Services Committee that would have prohibited the transfer of Guantanamo Bay detainees to the country of Yemen until December 31 of 2015. That provision was removed during the conference committee. I am being told we will not have a chance to debate that issue on the Senate floor or to amend the Defense authorization as it comes to the floor because—this is something that I cannot understand, why this provision was removed and why the administration would want the ability to transfer Guantanamo Bay detainees to Yemen.

Let's talk about what is happening in Yemen. Last May, President Obama, in my view unwisely, lifted the moratorium on detainee transfers to Yemen. Since that decision was made, between the date of the President's and the administration's order that we could potentially release detainees to Yemen—let me outline what has happened in Yemen since then.

That country has continued to be a place where there is instability, lack of government control, and, in fact, between November 24 and December 2 of 2014, Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula reportedly claimed responsibility for 17 attacks in 8 Yemeni provinces.

I have a laundry list of very dangerous attacks that have occurred in Yemen. One of the most troubling things that has occurred—as we think about those who are present at Guantanamo who are very dangerous individuals, a number of them are Yemeni. If they were to be transferred back to the country of Yemen—for example, in February of 2014, militants attacked Yemen's main prison, killing 7 and enabling 29 inmates to escape, including 19 members who were convicted members of Al Qaeda.

So I don't know why the administration would seek to transfer Guantanamo detainees to this country, where there have been prison breaks and where there have been multiple incidences of violent attacks by Al Qaeda. Yet this provision got dropped from the Defense authorization even though it had the support of the Senate committee. I am very troubled by that.

I am very troubled we will not have an opportunity to debate that on the floor. I would hope the administration would look very closely at the record of what has occurred in Yemen since the President has made the decision to end the moratorium on transfers to Yemen because it is an incredible list of dangerous activities and prison breaks by members of Al Qaeda.

So there is no way if we transfer someone from Gitmo to Yemen there, we can guarantee that those individuals will not get back in the fight, that they will not escape from any prison we put them in because that country cannot secure their security.

I want to talk about a very important issue as we look at this issue of the administration's rush to close Guantanamo; that is, the issue of ISIS.

There have been reports that a certain number of former Guantanamo detainees may be fighting with ISIS. We all saw—with horror—the acts of ISIS, how brutal they are, and the brutality that they have taken out on Americans, including one of my constituents. We all know ISIS is a group the President himself has said we need to defeat.

I have written the President and asked him about these reports. In fact, I wrote a letter to President Obama and requested that all international transfers be suspended until we could know more about potential Guantanamo detainees whom we released who may be getting in the fight in support of ISIS. It was recently reported that one former Guantanamo detainee has pledged his allegiance to the leader of ISIS and is recruiting fighters for ISIS in northern Pakistan.

If that is true we need to revisit not only ensuring that we aren't transferring dangerous detainees from Guantanamo to countries such as Yemen—and allowing them to be in a position to get back in the fight—but that we are also ensuring that we have a moratorium on transfers until we understand how many of these detainees may actually be joining ISIS and present a threat to us.

This issue—as we look at the national security challenges we face now—we have to reevaluate. I would hope the President would reevaluate the campaign promise he made in light of the national security threats we face. Now is not the time to be closing

the facility of Guantanamo when we are presented with so many threats around the world—not only from Al Qaeda but from ISIS—and we need a secure facility to ensure that those who are there now, who are tremendously dangerous individuals, don't get back in the fight to continue to harm us and our allies. Also, we need to ensure that if future enemy combatants are captured who are members of Al Qaeda or its affiliates, that they have a secure place where they can be held and fully interrogated.

I again thank my colleague from Georgia for his leadership on this issue and on so many national security issues.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

PREVENTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH FUND

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am honored to be joined with my distinguished friend and extraordinary colleague Senator HARKIN of Iowa to support continued funding of the Prevention and Public Health Fund.

He has been a leader in this area, so I am particularly privileged to stand with him on behalf of a fund that is absolutely necessary to address prevention of serious and chronic diseases. It is fiscally and morally and absolutely essential that we approach health care in this way.

I am going to ask for permission to continue to speak. I am not sure what the allotted time is. If there is no objection, I ask unanimous consent for the time through 5 o'clock for myself, Senator HARKIN, and others who may join us in this colloquy.

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

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Our Nation currently spends 75 cents of every $1 on health care for the treatment of preventable conditions.

These diseases can be stopped and prevented in people through simple, commonsense measures. Yet a meager 3 cents of every $1 goes toward those treatments, therapies, and practices that can help prevent the diseases that are so wasteful to our economy, to individuals, and their livelihoods.

Our young people are on track to be the first generation of Americans to live a shorter, unhealthier life than their parents. The responsibility to change the course of this history is in our hands.

One step this body—led by Senator HARKIN—has taken is to establish the Prevention and Public Health Fund. It is the only dedicated Federal fund for the prevention and improvement of our Nation's public health. Prevention is the most effective way to improve the health of Americans while reducing health care costs in the United States. This funding supports efforts to reduce our Nation's rate of infant death, cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and tobacco use. They are the killers and they kill unnecessarily and avoidably.

Sadly, many Connecticut residents suffer from those very same chronic diseases I mentioned. Thirty percent of Connecticut residents have high blood pressure, 9 percent have diabetes, 21,000 residents of Connecticut are diagnosed with cancer annually, and 16 percent still use tobacco.

The Prevention and Public Health Fund invests in a broad range of evidence-based activities—not speculative, not abstract, conceptual, theoretical—including community and clinical prevention initiatives that can help stop all Americans from developing debilitating and chronic disease in the future.

So far grants from this fund were awarded to support four Connecticut projects, including mental health and addiction, diabetes management in older and disabled adults, and the establishment of an electronic birth registration system to improve the ability to track the health and well-being of infants. It sounds pretty rudimentary—and it is—using technology to track the health and well-being of infants.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has a hard-hitting anti-tobacco media campaign—funded from this fund—focused on the destructive health effects of smoking. It is not only effective, but it is supported by the efforts that we have advocated on prevention in health management.

Over the next 3 years this campaign is expected to save the country $170 million in nonincurred health costs and lowered productivity that results from smoking. The CDC has estimated that this campaign will assist 50,000 tobacco users to quit smoking.

I know from my own work in suing the tobacco companies and establishing the fund to support exactly these kinds of efforts, that millions of Americans across the United States want to quit. They have tried repeatedly. Ninety-nine percent of all smokers want to quit and also try to quit, but quitting is hard because nicotine is one of the most powerfully addictive drugs known to man and cigarettes are a powerfully effective nicotine delivery tool.

These 50,000 tobacco users who quit smoking are better off, not only in their health but their pocketbooks. They save countless dollars that they would otherwise squander on unhealthy tobacco products. They are healthier, their families are happier, and they save themselves from a lifetime of addiction and disease. The preventive efforts of the CDC as a result of this fund are preventive in stopping young people from beginning to smoke as well.

It is monumental, it is historic, and it is a fund that should be fully supported by Congress. The fund accorded the CDC the ability to run another tobacco education campaign called ''Tips from Former Smokers.''

According to a recent study, this campaign led 1.64 million Americans to attempt to quit smoking. Those who have completely quit smoking as a result of the campaign added half a million quality-adjusted life years to the population of the United States.

I know these numbers sound abstract and obtuse. They are real lives, and they have been saved from the evils of tobacco addiction and smoking, which in turn could cause cancer, heart disease, and all kinds of preventive diseases.

This funding is essential to running the local departments of health in many areas of our Nation. Workers at those departments of public health are in the forefront of preventing infectious diseases, an issue that most recently came into focus as part of the domestic Ebola response.

Without adequate funding for these departments, the people most closely tasked and most immediately responsible for providing services and information to people in the time of a crisis may be unable to respond when communities are most in need.

We must change the focus of our health care from sickness and disease to wellness and prevention.

We grew up, many of us, with our mothers telling us that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. That is not only an adage that is commonly repeated, it is commonly proved in everyday life.

I strongly encourage my fellow Members to support the Prevention and Public Health Fund to help ensure the future well-being of our fellow citizens.

I yield to my colleague Senator HARKIN, one of the leaders in this effort.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. I thank the Presiding Officer.

I thank my friend and colleague from Connecticut for his very excellent, profound statement and for taking a leadership position on this very crucial issue.

It is obviously well known I am retiring in 3 weeks. The Prevention and Public Health Fund of which the Senator spoke so eloquently just now is going to continue, and it is going to need people such as the Senator from the State of Connecticut to take that kind of leadership position.

I believe people are catching on to it around the country, but there are still those who say: People get high blood pressure, they get borderline diabetes, they have high cholesterol. These things just sort of happen—sort of like they are preordained.

Chronic diseases are not preordained. As the Senator said, 75 percent of the money we spent was accountable for preventable chronic diseases and conditions. As the Senator so rightly said, what we need to focus on is keeping people healthy, not paying for it later on when they are in the hospital. That is something that this Prevention and Public Health Fund is making strides on.

People have perhaps a mistaken idea that health care only occurs in the doctor's office or in the exchange between doctor and patient or health care provider and patient. But we know that it

takes place in all aspects of life—in the workplace, in the communities in which we live, in our schools, in our homes. It has to be something that is sort of pervasive in our society.

I say to my friend from Connecticut that I have often said in America it is easy to be unhealthy and hard to be healthy. It seems to me that ought to be turned around. It ought to be easy to be healthy and harder to be unhealthy. That means the simple things in life, such as kids walking to school. If they have a school in their neighborhood, they should be able to walk to school and back. I often talk about when my kids went to school here in Virginia when we moved here from Iowa many years ago. We had a high school 1 mile from our house, but the kids couldn't walk to school. Why? There was no sidewalk. It was a busy street, but there was no sidewalk. Simple things like that.

Things such as the Senator mentioned, making sure people get their checkups every year. The prevention fund does that. It makes sure of that. The money we put in the Affordable Care Act provides for annual checkups and vaccinations for people with no copays and no deductibles. I am told that now over 100 million people have taken advantage of that in this country—no copays, no deductibles. They can go in for a free check and get their cholesterol checked, a blood pressure screening, and all that done on an annual basis.

We also have to be cognizant that our kids need to have better physical opportunities at school and better food at school. With the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 we started to change the way we provide foods for our kids—healthy foods, free and fresh fruits and vegetables in schools all over America. These are the things that make it easier to be healthy—easier to be healthy.

There are the quitlines the Senator spoke about, which have been enormously successful, and the ''Tips from Former Smokers.'' We have the data on that from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. So we know they are working.

So again, I wish to thank the Senator for his focus on this and wish him well in the future in being sort of the champion on this because there are a lot of pulls around this place. I think everyone here would say: Yes, I am for health care; I am for keeping people healthy. We all get that. But there are so many pulls around here on how to appropriate money and what we do that sometimes this gets lost in the shuffle. So I am encouraged and pleased the distinguished Senator from Connecticut will be focused on this Prevention and Public Health Fund. It is making changes all over this country in profound ways—in profound ways—and in our communities.

Our communities are now getting together. I say to the Presiding Officer, the communities in Maine are now getting together and thinking about what they can do as a community to provide for more healthy activities and encouragement for people in their communities, and they are getting grants from the Prevention and Public Health Fund to do just that. Communities all over America are beginning to think about this and taking action.

It is simple things sometimes. A small community in Iowa—a very small town—had a retirement home for the elderly, but they didn't have anyplace for the elderly to exercise. So they built a walking path. They put park benches along the way and a couple of little shelters so they could come right out the door and walk. I don't know how far it is—maybe a mile or two. So it is just simple things like that. Before they had no place to go at all to get that kind of exercise.

So again, this Prevention and Public Health Fund, I hope, will remain a priority, and I hope the Senator from Connecticut will continue his great leadership in this area. I thank him for that and for his excellent statement. If on the outside I can ever be of help in any way, let me know. But I know it is in good hands with the Senator from Connecticut.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. I want, again, to thank my great friend, Senator HARKIN, for the legacy of public health advocacy that he will leave for all of us. I pledge to him that I will carry on, among many others, I am sure, that legacy and advocacy.

The Senator mentioned that it is easy to be unhealthy and harder to be healthy. Part of the reason is lack of awareness and education, and perhaps, in some instances, even a lack of income and wherewithal. Just let me pose the question to him of whether that impression is true.

Mr. HARKIN. If my friend will yield, I think that is absolutely true. First of all, it is true that a lot of times low-income people don't have access to a more healthy environment. The food deserts we call them in our inner cities, where they do not get the fresh fruits and vegetables and items like that. That has to be addressed also, making it easier for them to be healthy. Again, it is an awareness.

I would say to my friend one other thing, and I hope my friend will take a look at what is now undergoing a trial period. It is something that was put in the last farm bill as a trial period for food stamp recipients—people who are on what they call food stamps, which are not food stamps anymore, as the Senator knows—to provide incentives for low-income people, people who use food stamps, to purchase more fruits and vegetables rather than just starches, fats, and sugars. That project is ongoing now. So I would say to the Senator that perhaps next year he might want to take a look at that with the Secretary of Agriculture and see how that project is doing.

Again, this is just a trial, an experiment, to see what we can do to incentivize people who are on food stamps to use them more for more healthy foods. But it is that lack of awareness. The Senator is absolutely correct.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. My impression also is—and perhaps the Senator has some views on this—that, in a way, we have a responsibility in this body to create that awareness and to spend the money on what should be regarded as an investment. It is spending, and it involves funding. But really the way to look at it is as an investment in education, in the clinics and the doctors and the services that can make Americans healthier and save us dollars over the long term—not only in the money spent on truly preventable diseases but also avoiding the suffering and the pain that is involved in many of those diseases, whether it is cancer or heart disease or diabetes, which are connected to so many preventable conditions.

Mr. HARKIN. I thank my friend. I remember Dr. Andrew Weil, who is very well known in this country and a good friend of mine, once made the statement sometime ago in a hearing that the default state of the human body is to be healthy. The body wants to be healthy. After all these millennia of changes, the body wants to be healthy. The problem is we put all these obstacles in the way.

I think that is true of people. People want to be healthy. They may not know that some of their lifestyle choices, some of what they do is provoking their illnesses. So I think it is our job to make people more aware of that and to help to provide some assistance, to provide some incentives for them to have a more healthy lifestyle.

I say to my friend from Connecticut, people will be here, I hope, for the next highway bill. We haven't been able to get one for a long time. I was here for the last one. I had an amendment I thought was going to pass. It was simply this: Any time Federal funds are involved in communities for streets or roads or highways or bridges or whatever, there must be incorporated in the plan provisions for walkways or bike paths along the side. I didn't say they had to build them. I just said they had to be put in the plans.

They are doing that in Europe, by the way. Every road, every street built has a walkway or a bike path—both for walking or biking.

Someone here objected to it, and we didn't get it. But I still think that would be something, again, to make people more aware. If they are incorporated in the plans, they might see it doesn't cost that much more to add it on to a road or bridge or whatever—the streets we are building in this country. Again, it makes it easier for people to be healthy—just a little thing like that. So I hope the Senator would take a look at that the next time the highway bill comes up.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I certainly will pledge to do so and will

think of the Senator from Iowa when we do, hopefully, consider the next such highway bill. But let me just say, in conclusion, for myself, I was not going to mention the ''R'' word—the retirement word—because it seems almost impossible to imagine this body without the Senator from Iowa not only because of his advocacy of the Prevention and Public Health Fund but also his constant reminding us and his unceasing advocacy for better public health, for championing the interests of ordinary working men and women. So I thank him for that legacy to me and for so many others.

Mr. HARKIN. I thank the Senator for his kindness.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY RIGHTS DAY

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I see my friend from Tennessee here on the floor, but I want to take a few minutes on another subject.

Today, December 3, is International Disability Rights Day—International Disability Rights Day. It is observed around the globe as a day to think about, consider, and support more fully inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of our societies, to provide the support and the accommodations for people with disabilities to get a good education, to get employment, and to be able to enjoy all aspects of life with their families and their friends in all societies around the world.

This date commemorates this fight for equality and opportunity and access for people with disabilities all around the globe. In 150 countries and the European Union, they have ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, a day to celebrate a future of increased opportunities and inclusion for people with disabilities.

I am proud of the fact that we in America have been the leader in the world on disability rights and inclusion. Beginning with IDEA—the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act—and followed up by the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, we helped set the framework for equal opportunity and full participation for individuals with disabilities. Most of the world now shares those principles, and they have shown their support by signing onto this treaty—this convention. But there is a difference between signing on to principles and implementing them.

By ratifying the CRPD, as it is known—the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities—we can play an important role in helping other countries actually implement that treaty, that convention, those principles.

Under our system of government, the President of the United States has already signed for the United States on this treaty, but under our system of government, under our Constitution, that must be ratified by a vote in the Senate, a vote requiring two-thirds of those present and voting—not two-thirds of the Senate, two-thirds of those present and voting. That is what it says in the Constitution.

As we all know, 2 years ago this month we brought this treaty up for a vote in the Senate, and it failed by six votes. I think at that time there was a lot of misinformation about it. But under our system, it had to go back to the White House, it having died that Congress. It came back this Congress under the great leadership of Senator MENENDEZ. We had further hearings on it. The bill was reported out of the Foreign Relations Committee this summer. Yet we cannot bring it to the floor because of some objections by a few on the Republican side—not every Republican, just a few.

I always want to point out that we had courageous Republicans supporting this. Ever since the adoption of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Senator MCCAIN has been a stalwart supporter of the rights of people with disabilities. Senator BARRASSO from Wyoming, Senator KIRK from Illinois, Senator AYOTTE from New Hampshire, Senator MURKOWSKI of Alaska, and Senator COLLINS from Maine have all been supporters. That is as it should be. Disability policy has never been a partisan issue. In this body, in the 30 years I have served here, it has never been a partisan issue.

I am sorry the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities seems to be caught up in some kind of partisanship, and that shouldn't be. I was hoping we might bring it up for another vote before we left. I asked consent to do so, and it was objected to by the junior Senator from Utah at that time. So this Congress will adjourn once again without ratifying this convention.

Last evening I was privileged to share an honor by the U.S. International Council on Disabilities with Professor Patrick Quinn, a citizen of Ireland, who was very instrumental in drafting the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at the United Nations. He pointed out that much of what they did was based on the Americans with Disabilities Act and that it would send a bad signal around the world if we aren't going to join with the community of nations in helping them implement the principles. As I said, we can sign on to the principles, but implementing them is quite another story. That is where we can be very helpful.

Some people say that we can do that on our own, that we don't need to be a part of this treaty. But we don't have the wherewithal to go to every country and do that. We don't have that many personnel. We have budget constraints too. But if we join with other nations—and there are other nations that are very good at implementing disability policy, both in the European Union—and I might mention that great nation of Ireland. They have been very good at implementing disability policies. We could work with other countries, and when we go to other countries to help them implement these principles so that people with disabilities can have a fair place in their societies, an equal place in their societies, it is better if we speak a common language—not the United States going in and telling them ''Here is what you should do'' but go into a country with other nations and say ''Here is what we do. Here is what we do together. Here is what we can do to help you implement the principles on which you signed the treaty.'' It is a shame we can't ratify it.

Again I point out, as I have many times, that it has broad support in our society. Think about this. We have a measure coming before the Senate—that doesn't go before the House, just the Senate. We have a measure that is supported by the following: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce—Tom Donahue has been a stalwart supporter of this from the very beginning. We have the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The Business Roundtable, led by a former Republican Governor of Michigan, John Engler, came out in strong support of this. The veterans groups all support this. We have all of the faith-based groups. In fact, on November 10 of this year, we received a letter from the National Association of Evangelicals supporting this treaty. The high-tech industries. All of the disability groups without exception support this.

I must also mention that one of the strong supporters who has poured his heart into trying to get this adopted is our former majority leader of the Senate, Bob Dole. I would also point out that every former Republican leader of the Senate supports this treaty—Bob Dole, Trent Lott, and Bill Frist. Every former President of the United States, from Jimmy Carter, to George H.W. Bush, to President Clinton, President George W. Bush, and President Obama—all support this. So we would think this would be a slam dunk, but there are a few who have blocked this from coming up. Over 800 disability, civil rights, and faith groups, 20 top veterans organizations, and I mentioned the Chamber of Commerce and the Business Roundtable—all support this.

It is sad that on this International Disability Rights Day, I am sad to say, it looks as though the clock is running out and we will not even vote again on it this year, let alone adopt it.

Next year I will not be here. I am retiring next year. My friends on the Republican side will take over the Senate. I hope they will pick up on this and take this treaty—move it through their committee and bring it out on the floor. It should not be a partisan issue. If there are some things that need to be done with the reservations, understandings, and declarations, fine. There were some changes made this last time to accommodate the concerns

of people who were concerned about homeschooling. There is a whole new thing that was put in there on homeschooling.

I am hopeful we will continue our efforts to pass this and to become a part of this international effort.

People wonder: The United States—we are so good on disability policy, we can help people with disabilities all around the globe. I can't say how many times I have had people who have talked to me in the past, young people who are students in universities who got some kind of a grant to go overseas to study but can't do it because of accessibility issues in other countries. They just can't get around. They can't find adequate housing. So it is still part of discrimination globally, and, again, we should be a part of it.

So I take the floor on this International Disability Rights Day to ask that this Senate in the future take up the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ratify it, and let's become a part of the international effort to work with every other country in the world to implement the kinds of policies we have in this country that provide equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency to people with disabilities—the four great goals of the Americans with Disabilities Act. We can do this, we should do it, and we should do it with our friends around the globe.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, before I begin my remarks, I wish to acknowledge once again my gratitude for Senator HARKIN and his leadership for these past 2 years that I have had the privilege of working with him as ranking member of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee and to acknowledge once again that there has been no one in this body on either side of the aisle who has been a greater champion for Americans with disabilities.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, will the Senator from Tennessee yield?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. I thank the Senator for those kind remarks. Let me say again what a pleasure it has been to work with the Senator from Tennessee for the last few years. In the last couple of years, we brought a lot of meaningful legislation through our committee, signed by the President. In fact, as my friend from Tennessee pointed out, we had 21 bills through our committee signed by the President—the most productive committee I think in the entire Congress; I know in the Senate.

So as I retire, the Senator from Tennessee, I hope, will be taking over the HELP Committee, and it will be in good hands. The Senator is a person of good will and good heart and good mind. After all, he has all the background needed—former president of the University of Tennessee, former Secretary of Education, former Governor, and, of course, U.S. Senator. So the HELP Committee will be in good hands with the Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Iowa.

INLAND WATERWAYS TRUST FUND FEE INCREASE

Mr. President, the House of Representatives is expected to pass tonight legislation that should be very good news to Americans who care about their jobs and Americans who care about the condition of our inland waterway systems.

Inland waterway systems aren't on the front page of the U.S. newspapers until a lock closes or something happens and the cargo can't get down the river, and then it is big trouble. Which is the case in Tennessee with the Chickamauga Lock, an old lock that the Army Corps of Engineers says could close. It is in such bad shape, and if it were to close it would throw 150,000 heavy trucks on I–75 and disrupt the economy in all of eastern Tennessee. That same picture applies in many other parts of our country to these important waterways: The Mississippi, the Missouri, the Tennessee, and the Ohio—rivers that carry so much of the heavy cargo that provides income and jobs for so many American families.

Tonight the House of Representatives is expected to enact the third part of a three-part plan that was envisioned in the American Waterworks Act of 2012, which would provide a permanent, long-term solution to having the kind of inland waterway system that a great country such as the United States deserves. I wish to speak for a moment about the effect that has not just on our country but on my home State of Tennessee.

For our country, it would be hard to imagine how we could carry cars and coal and agricultural equipment from the great Midwest and the South to the rivers to be shipped overseas without the barges that carry that equipment, millions of tons of cargo every year, and it is usually cheaper and faster than many other forms of transportation. That means more jobs and more money in the pockets of Americans who are able to work for industries that are competitive.

The legislation the House is expected to pass will provide $260 million for inland waterway projects across the country over the next 10 years. It is important to note that this fee is paid entirely by the owners of the big commercial barges that use the locks when they go down the rivers, and that none of it would be paid by the fishing boats and recreation boats which also use the locks. In other words, the big commercial barges are going to pay more to get through the locks faster, to save money and to save time, and that is good for the fishermen as well, without any cost. This is the third step in the American Waterworks Act that was proposed in 2012.

This step would increase by 9 cents the way the fee is calculated that the big barge companies pay to go through the locks. The barge companies have volunteered to do this. They have been pleading with the U.S. Congress, saying, ''Please raise the fee we pay to go through the locks so you can use the Corps of Engineers to replace the locks so we can go through faster and cheaper.'' So the House is taking steps to do that tonight. The fee will increase from 20 to 29 cents per gallon of fuel used and, as I said, $260 million of that over the next 10 years will go to help repair these locks.

The first two steps in the plan of the American Waterworks Act were enacted by law earlier this year as part of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act. Step 1 was to take the Olmsted lock in Ohio and treat it separately, because it was soaking up all the money that might be available for all the other locks in the country. Step 2 was to create a prioritization of the locks, so we didn't come here every year and say my lock is more important than your lock. And, in fact, with that, the Chickamauga lock in Tennessee became No. 4. And Step 3 is the user fee I talked about earlier.

What difference does this legislation mean for the State of Tennessee and the Chickamauga lock? Well, for years the Chickamauga lock has been subject to year-by-year efforts by those of us in Congress to find a little money to repair it, to keep it from closing, all knowing full well that if we didn't replace it, it would one day soon close. Those days are over. This is a long-term solution that says, No. 1, the Olmsted lock which has been soaking up the money has been reduced, Chickamauga lock is a fourth priority in the government, and now we have money paid by the big barge owners that, when combined with the annual appropriations, should make it possible to begin to replace Chickamauga lock beginning in the year in 2016. That would mean it would still take several years to replace the lock. It would mean it would still cost about half a billion dollars. But it would mean that instead of year-by-year appropriations and guessing games that the Army Corps of Engineers can have a long-term plan and begin to do the job, and those who are making plans to invest in our part of the region—not just in Chattanooga but in eastern Tennessee—can know if they do that, the lock would be there to help provide low-cost transportation for what they manufacture and what they grow.

I want to thank a variety of people who have taken great leadership in this. The Senator from Pennsylvania, Senator CASEY, and I have been the joint sponsors of this legislation in the Senate. We are very hopeful that the House will do its work tonight and the Senate will do its work next week and that the bill will go to the President before the end of the year and this will be law by the end of the year. So I thank him for his leadership.

I also want to congratulate Congressman FLEISCHMANN of Chattanooga who

rounded up a group of Republican Members to support this effort, and Congressman DUNCAN from Knoxville. Speaker BOEHNER has been very helpful, and Congressman CAMP has been very helpful.

In the Senate I would like to thank Senator VITTER, who is the ranking member of the Environment & Public Works Committee for his leadership on this effort, and I would like to thank Senator REID, the majority leader, and Senator MCCONNELL, the Republican leader, for their cooperation on this.

Nothing is ever done in the U.S. Congress until it is finally done. So this is passing the House tonight and it is expected to pass the Senate next week, which is very good news for Americans who depend on the inland waterways for their jobs, and in Tennessee where change—instead of a year-by-year appropriation, it is an effort, it is the first chance we have had to have a long-term solution to the replacement over the next several years of Chickamauga lock beginning as early as the year 2016.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

KEARNEY AND PAPPERT NOMINATIONS

Mr. CASEY. Thank you, Mr. President. I rise and ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

Mr. CASEY. Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise this evening to talk about two of our judicial nominations who are before the Senate today. We have gotten through one vote, and we will be having several more on a number of judges. The two I will speak about are Mark Kearney and Jerry Pappert, and I know my colleague Senator TOOMEY is with us and I will make some remarks and I will obviously be here for his remarks as well.

First and foremost, I am grateful to be working with Senator TOOMEY on these nominations as we have on others. It is a long and difficult process for everyone, ever more so if you are a candidate, someone who puts yourself forward to be a U.S. district court judge. We are grateful that individuals are willing to do that, but it does not work unless we work together here in the Senate, and Senator TOOMEY and I have been working together over several years now. We have got one additional nomination after this, we hope, by the end of the year.

I would like to give a little bit of biographical background on both of these nominees. Mark Kearney is currently managing shareholder at Elliot Greenleaf & Siedzikowski, where he has worked since 1990. He has spent almost a quarter of a century in a firm that does a wide variety of legal matters. I know this firm well and I know the work they do on litigation and all kinds of complex litigation. Mark has broad and diverse experience in that firm. Previously he worked at the Elliot Mannino & Flaherty firm, going back and forth in his days at the Elliot Greenleaf & Siedzikowski firm.

After law school he clerked in the Delaware Court of Chancery following his legal training. Of course that is a court that has a high degree of specialization. A lot of business matters and obviously corporate matters come before that very well-known court in Delaware.

Mark Kearney is also obviously very active in his community and I have known him for a couple of decades now. He serves on various charitable and civic organizations including director for Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Bar Institute as well, and the Montgomery County Bar Foundation.

Finally, in that vein of service to his community, he has worked as a volunteer child advocate of the Montgomery Child Advocacy Project since 2007 and served as director of that organization from 2009 to 2012. Montgomery County is one of our largest counties by way of population, just bordering Philadelphia. It is a big county that has challenges as any county of its size, and to have a judge—or nominee whom we hope will become a judge after our voting—to have spent that time with children in an advocacy position is a great testament to Mark's commitment.

So whether you focus on his academic credentials as someone who had a wide variety of matters come before him as a lawyer in a big firm, whether it is volunteer work and therefore his commitment to service, Mark is well prepared and I believe one of the best nominees we have put forward for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

I have known him a long time. When I make a decision about whether to support a particular candidate for judge of any court, but especially a district court judge, I look at their academic training and experience and whether it is experience as a lawyer and advocate or in some cases a lawyer as well as a judge. You have to make an assessment of someone's character, their integrity, their judicial temperament, all of those qualities and attributes you would want to find in a judge. On all those, Mark Kearney is someone I know personally who possesses those attributes and qualifications. But I also know him as someone who just by virtue of his record that we can recite here is well prepared to serve as a district court judge.

I would ask my colleagues to give him on this vote all the consideration that is warranted.

Jerry Pappert, more formally Gerald Pappert—I think I am allowed to call him Jerry until he becomes a judge—is someone I met in State government. I was in an elected position—it is now 18 years ago I was elected, and early in my term I was having a meeting with the attorney general, Mike Fisher, who is now on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. Attorney General Fisher brought his chief of staff, his first deputy, as they called it in that department, to a meeting with my chief of staff and we sat down at a restaurant to have pizza one night to talk about how our offices could work together, even though they don't have an overlapping jurisdiction. But it was one of those meetings you never forget. It was the first time I met Jerry Pappert. I knew then of his commitment to service, because he was serving in the top position in the State attorney general's office. Years later he became an attorney general when there was a vacancy. He served as the attorney general of Pennsylvania.

He currently serves as the chairman of the Pennsylvania Banking and Securities Commission in Harrisburg. Previously he was a legislative appointee to the Commonwealth Financing Authority and Department of Community and Economic Development, a very important authority which makes determinations about where to invest tax dollars—economic development dollars—across Pennsylvania and how to make those difficult decisions about where dollars should go and how to grow the economy.

From December of 2003 to January of 2005, as I mentioned, he was the attorney general of the State, and prior to that serving as first deputy. As attorney general he was in the National Association of Attorneys General, dealing with issues that relate to Pennsylvania and law enforcement and prosecution, but also on national issues that are common to all the States. So I know Jerry well and I know him to be someone of the highest caliber and integrity and commitment to service and commitment to justice. His long and significant history of service to our Commonwealth prepares him well to serve his Commonwealth, but also a Federal district court position as a U.S. district court judge.

I can say the same of Jerry that I said of Mark Kearney, in terms of his qualifications, experience, but also his character and his integrity. I am grateful to have the opportunity to speak about both of these candidates and certainly am grateful to have a chance to work with Senator TOOMEY on moving these nominations forward and we hope tonight bringing them to a conclusion upon confirmation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. TOOMEY. Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise to offer my support as well to the two nominees to serve as judges for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Jerry Pappert and Mark Kearney, whom we are scheduled to confirm in a short time.

Let me start by thanking Chairman LEAHY and Ranking Member GRASSLEY for facilitating this process and handling this at the committee level, and

I want to thank Leader REID and Leader MCCONNELL for bringing these nominees to the Senate floor. I also want to take a moment to thank my colleague from the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Senator CASEY, for all the work he and I have been able to do together. The collaboration we have had has been very constructive and it has been a pleasure to work with Senator CASEY. In the 4 years I have been in the Senate, we have confirmed 11 district court judges. We have been able to place a judge in the Reading courthouse in Berks County which had been vacant for 3 years. We were able to place a judge in Easton courthouse in Northampton County which had been vacant for 10 years. With the confirmations that I am certainly hopeful about tonight, Mr. Pappert and Mr. Kearney, that number will rise to 13 members of the Federal bench from Pennsylvania in just the past 4 years.

We have one additional district court nominee, Joseph Leeson, awaiting a vote from the full Senate, and I am looking at a speedy confirmation of his candidacy as well.

Before I speak on the two nominees before us this evening, I want to briefly note how pleased I was that on November 20 the Senate confirmed Wendy Beetlestone to serve on the District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. She was confirmed unanimously by voice vote and I think that was a testament to her strong qualifications. I am delighted that Senator CASEY and I were able to see that to completion.

Let me say a couple of words about Jerry Pappert.

Senator CASEY spoke about Mr. Pappert. Jerry Pappert is eminently qualified for this post. He is a graduate of Notre Dame Law School and has an extensive and diverse legal background. He is currently a partner at Cozen O'Connor, which is a practice that has an emphasis on commercial litigation.

Prior to that he was the general counsel at Cephalon, where he oversaw all of the company's litigation, financial transactions, and intellectual property issues.

Not only has he handled a very wide range of issues in the private sector, but Mr. Pappert has also demonstrated his dedication to public service. As Senator CASEY pointed out, he was a very successful attorney general for Pennsylvania for 6 years. He has successfully argued cases before the U.S. and Pennsylvania Supreme Courts. He won a landmark case before the U.S. Supreme Court, Booth v. Churner, which set forth the administrative exhaustion requirement for a prisoner seeking to sue in Federal court.

Mr. Pappert has also enjoyed bipartisan support in the Senate. The Senate Judiciary Committee successfully voted him out of committee on a voice vote back in September.

Mark Kearney is the other gentleman we will be voting on in a short time. He is a graduate of Villanova University School of Law and a very successful attorney. As Senator CASEY pointed out, he is a managing shareholder at Elliott Greenleaf & Siedzikowski, where he has been for 24 years and practices commercial litigation.

Mr. Kearney is highly respected by his colleagues. He received the AV peer review rating in the Martindale-Hubbell system—the highest rating. He has also taken time to give back to his community. He put a lot of time and energy into an issue that is very important to me; that is, protecting children from dangerous predators. Mr. Kearney has worked with the Montgomery County Child Advocacy Project, representing abused children, and I commend him for that service.

Mr. Kearney has also enjoyed bipartisan support in the Senate. He was voice voted out by the Senate Judiciary Committee, reflecting unanimous support for his candidacy.

It is clear, and I believe strongly, that both Mr. Pappert and Mr. Kearney have the experience, acumen, and commitment to public service that will make them excellent additions to the Federal bench. I am pleased to speak on their behalf, and I am grateful to Senator CASEY for the cooperative effort that has gotten us to this point.

I urge my colleagues to support the confirmation of these two outstanding individuals.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

NOMINATION OF DAVID J. HALE TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of David J. Hale, of Kentucky, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky?

The nomination was confirmed.

NOMINATION OF MARK A. KEARNEY TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Mark A. Kearney, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania?

The nomination was confirmed.

NOMINATION OF GERALD J. PAPPERT TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Gerald J. Pappert, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania?

The nomination was confirmed.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate prior to the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Orr nomination.

Who yields time?

Mr. GRASSLEY. I yield back our time.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I yield back our time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The assistant 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 nomination of Franklin M. Orr, Jr., of California, to be Under Secretary for Science, Department of Energy.

Harry Reid, Mary Landrieu, Jon Tester, Barbara Boxer, Charles E. Schumer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Christopher A. Coons, John D. Rockefeller IV, Carl Levin, Bill Nelson, Ron Wyden, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Tom Udall.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Franklin M. Orr, Jr., of California, to be Under Secretary for Science, Department of Energy, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 71, nays 25, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 306 Ex.]

YEAS—71

Alexander	Blumenthal	Cardin
Ayotte	Booker	Carper
Baldwin	Boxer	Casey
Barrasso	Brown	Chambliss
Begich	Burr	Coats
Bennet	Cantwell	Collins

Coons	King	Reed
Cornyn	Kirk	Reid
Donnelly	Klobuchar	Rockefeller
Durbin	Leahy	Sanders
Feinstein	Levin	Schatz
Flake	Manchin	Schumer
Franken	Markey	Shaheen
Gillibrand	McCaskill	Stabenow
Graham	Menendez	Tester
Hagan	Merkley	Toomey
Harkin	Mikulski	Udall (NM)
Hatch	Murkowski	Vitter
Heinrich	Murphy	Walsh
Heitkamp	Murray	Warner
Hirono	Nelson	Warren
Isakson	Paul	Whitehouse
Johnson (SD)	Portman	Wyden
Kaine	Pryor	

NAYS—25

Blunt	Hoeven	Roberts
Boozman	Inhofe	Rubio
Corker	Johanns	Scott
Crapo	Johnson (WI)	Sessions
Cruz	Lee	Shelby
Enzi	McCain	Thune
Fischer	McConnell	Wicker
Grassley	Moran	
Heller	Risch	

NOT VOTING—4

Coburn	Landrieu
Cochran	Udall (CO)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 71, the nays are 25. The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF FRANKLIN M. ORR, JR., TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR SCIENCE, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Franklin M. Orr, Jr., of California, to be Under Secretary for Science, Department of Energy.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Hezir nomination.

Who yields time?

Mr. CARDIN. I ask unanimous consent all time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The assistant bill 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 nomination of Joseph S. Hezir, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy.

Harry Reid, Mary Landrieu, Patrick J. Leahy, Elizabeth Warren, Robert Menendez, Barbara Mikulski, Jack Reed, Richard Blumenthal, Carl Levin, Christopher Murphy, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Sheldon Whitehouse, Patty Murray, Thomas Carper, John D. Rockefeller IV, Jeff Merkley, Richard J. Durbin, Benjamin Cardin.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Joseph S. Hezir, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Energy, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 68, nays 27, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 307 Ex.]

YEAS—68

Ayotte	Gillibrand	Murphy
Baldwin	Graham	Murray
Begich	Hagan	Nelson
Bennet	Harkin	Paul
Blumenthal	Hatch	Pryor
Blunt	Heinrich	Reed
Booker	Heitkamp	Reid
Boxer	Hirono	Rubio
Brown	Inhofe	Sanders
Cantwell	Isakson	Schatz
Cardin	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Carper	Kaine	Sessions
Casey	King	Shaheen
Chambliss	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Coats	Leahy	Tester
Collins	Levin	Toomey
Coons	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Cornyn	Markey	Walsh
Donnelly	McCaskill	Warner
Durbin	Menendez	Warren
Feinstein	Merkley	Whitehouse
Flake	Mikulski	Wyden
Franken	Murkowski	

NAYS—27

Alexander	Grassley	Moran
Barrasso	Heller	Portman
Boozman	Hoeven	Risch
Burr	Johanns	Roberts
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Scott
Crapo	Kirk	Shelby
Cruz	Lee	Thune
Enzi	McCain	Vitter
Fischer	McConnell	Wicker

NOT VOTING—5

Coburn	Landrieu	Udall (CO)
Cochran	Rockefeller	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 68, the nays are 27.

The motion is agreed to.

JOSEPH S. HEZIR TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Joseph S. Hezir, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, with respect to the confirmation votes on the Hale, Kearney, and Pappert nominations, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that all postcloture time on the Orr and Hezir nominations be considered expired and the votes on confirmation of these nominations occur at 10 a.m. tomorrow morning.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Finally, 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF GREGORY N. STIVERS TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1039.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Gregory N. Stivers, of Kentucky, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there is a cloture motion at the desk, and I ask for it to be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant 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 nomination of Gregory N. Stivers, of Kentucky, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Christopher Murphy, Christopher A. Coons, Dianne Feinstein, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Brian Schatz, Debbie Stabenow, Michael F.

Bennet, Jeff Merkley, Patty Murray, Barbara Boxer, Edward J. Markey, Al Franken, Tom Harkin, Sheldon Whitehouse.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF JOSEPH F. LEESON, JR., TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1040.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Joseph F. Leeson, Jr., of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there is a cloture motion at the desk that I ask to have reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant 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 nomination of Joseph F. Leeson, Jr., of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Christopher A. Coons, Dianne Feinstein, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Brian Schatz, Debbie Stabenow, Michael F. Bennet, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Jeff Merkley, Christopher Murphy, Edward J. Markey, Al Franken, Tom Harkin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Angus S. King, Jr.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF LYDIA KAY GRIGGSBY TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 835.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Lydia Kay Griggsby, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there is a cloture motion at the desk that I ask to be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant 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 nomination of Lydia Kay Griggsby, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Robert Menendez, Patty Murray, Debbie Stabenow, Benjamin L. Cardin, Amy Klobuchar, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Tom Harkin, Angus S. King, Jr., Tom Udall, Mazie K. Hirono, Sheldon Whitehouse.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF JEFFERY MARTIN BARAN TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1082.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jeffery Martin Baran, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. There is a cloture motion at the desk, and I ask the Chair to order it reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant 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 nomination of Jeffery Martin Baran, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Tom Udall, Brian Schatz, Charles E. Schumer, Barbara Boxer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard Blumenthal, Jeff Merkley, Al Franken, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Martin Heinrich, Elizabeth Warren, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy, Bernard Sanders.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF LAUREN McGARITY McFERRAN TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1083.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Lauren McGarity McFerran, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there is a cloture motion at the desk that I ask to be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant 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 nomination of Lauren McGarity McFerran, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board.

Harry Reid, Tom Harkin, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Tom Udall, Brian Schatz, Charles E. Schumer, Barbara Boxer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard Blumenthal, Jeff Merkley, Al Franken, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Martin Heinrich, Elizabeth Warren, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF ELLEN DUDLEY WILLIAMS TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY-ENERGY, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 552.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Ellen Dudley Williams, of Maryland, to be Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, Department of Energy.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there is a cloture motion at the desk I ask to be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant 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 nomination of Ellen Dudley Williams, of Maryland, to be Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, Department of Energy.

Harry Reid, Christopher Murphy, Elizabeth Warren, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Ron Wyden, Tom Harkin, Angus S. King, Jr., Richard Blumenthal, Charles E. Schumer, Mazie K. Hirono, Amy Klobuchar, Barbara Boxer, Tammy Baldwin, Bernard Sanders, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jeff Merkley.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF VIRGINIA TYLER LODGE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1080.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Virginia Tyler Lodge, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant 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 nomination of Virginia Tyler Lodge, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Tom Udall, Brian Schatz, Charles E. Schumer, Barbara Boxer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard Blumenthal, Jeff Merkley, Al Franken, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Martin Heinrich, Elizabeth Warren, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy, Bernard Sanders.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF RONALD ANDERSON WALTER TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1081.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Ronald Anderson Walter, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. The cloture motion has been filed, and I ask that the Chair have it reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant 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 nomination of Ronald Anderson Walter, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Tom Udall, Brian Schatz, Charles E. Schumer, Barbara Boxer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard Blumenthal, Jeff Merkley, Al Franken, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Martin Heinrich, Elizabeth Warren, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy, Bernard Sanders.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, at 10 a.m., on Thursday, December 4, 2014, all postcloture time be considered expired and the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of Calendar Nos. 555 and 660; further, that following these votes, the Senate proceed to vote on cloture on the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 1039, 1040, and 835; further, that if cloture is invoked on any of these nominations, that the time until 1:45 p.m. be in morning business, for debate only, equally divided in the usual form, and that at 1:45 p.m. all postcloture time be considered expired and the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of the nominations in the order upon which cloture was invoked; further, that following these votes, the Senate proceed to vote on cloture on the following nominations: Calender Nos. 1082, 1083, and 552; further, that if cloture is invoked on any of these nominations,

that on Monday, December 8, 2014, following my remarks and those of Senator MCCONNELL, the time until 5:30 p.m. be in morning business, for debate only, equally divided in the usual form; and that at 5:30 p.m. all postcloture time be considered expired and the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of the nominations in the order upon which cloture was invoked; further, that following those votes, the Senate be in a period of morning business, for debate only; further, that on Tuesday, December 9, 2014, the Senate be in a period of morning business, for debate only, with the time equally divided in the usual form; that at 10:30 a.m. the Senate proceed to vote on cloture on Calendar Nos. 1080 and 1081; further, that if cloture is invoked, the time until 6 p.m. be in morning business, for debate only, equally divided in the usual form; that at 6 p.m. all postcloture time be considered expired and the Senate proceed to vote on the nominations in the order listed; further, that there be 2 minutes for debate prior to each vote and all rollcall votes after the first vote in each sequence be 10 minutes in length; further, with respect to the nominations in this agreement, that if any nomination is confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TRIBUTE TO SAM HEMINGWAY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, one of Vermont's longest-serving journalists, Sam Hemingway, recently retired after a distinguished 37-year career with the Burlington Free Press. His career at the paper spans a period of our State's history filled with interesting stories, and Sam covered so many of them.

During the course of those many years Sam captured the pulse of Vermont, whether through his personalized columns or his probing reports. Sam's institutional memory was a rich and vital resource for the newspaper and for his readers. His writing talents, his reporting skills and his ability to make personal connections will be sorely missed.

Marcelle and I join all Vermonters in extending all best wishes to Sam and his family as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

I ask that this Burlington Free Press article sketching Sam's tenure and retirement plans be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Burlington Free Press, Oct. 7, 2014]

HEMINGWAY TO RETIRE AFTER 37 YEARS

(By Adam Silverman, Free Press Staff Writer)

Sam Hemingway, a reporter, editor and columnist who is among Vermont's most well-known journalists, will retire from the Burlington Free Press after a career of more than 37 years.

''You don't know how much this place means to me,'' he told the staff in announcing his departure Tuesday afternoon, ''and I will miss you, and I will miss this work, so much.''

A self-described ''generalist,'' Hemingway's award-winning coverage stretched from the rejection of a controversial shopping mall development in Williston in 1977, through the illegal shipping of arms from a Vermont business to South Africa in violation of the apartheid-era embargo, to a weeks-long trip to embed with the Vermont National Guard in Afghanistan in 2010, among numerous examples across portions of five decades.

''There's a great thrill, if you're into journalism, if it's in your blood, to be present in moments of great importance and to write stories that actually make a difference,'' Hemingway said Tuesday in an interview before addressing his colleagues.

''When you work for a paper like this, in a state like Vermont, if you do a story and do it well, with the idea that this is going to turn the rock over and show something that people need to know about, there will be results,'' he continued. ''You can help make something happen. That's a great feeling.''

Free Press Executive Editor Michael Townsend praised Hemingway as a colleague and a journalist.

''With his breadth of experience, Sam knew where to find the information,'' Townsend said. ''He had a great eye for a hard news story. He was dependable, productive and engaged. We will miss his unique style.''

Hemingway, 66, wanted to be a newspaper reporter since boyhood in New Haven, Conn. With the help of a ditto machine, he produced a newspaper for his neighborhood. Coverage included missing dogs, families' vacations plans and who might have been suffering from the measles.

He edited his high-school newspaper and then studied journalism at Syracuse University in New York before moving to Vermont in 1971. He helped start the Lamoille County Weekly in Johnson, spent a year teaching journalism at Johnson State College, and then began freelancing for the Burlington Free Press.

He joined the staff in 1977, when he was assigned to provide full-time coverage of the debate over the Pyramid Mall proposal percolating in Williston. Hemingway attended 54 night meetings regarding the Act 250 development-control law over two years before the project was rejected.

Then came the story Space Research Corp., a North Troy weapons manufacturer that was breaking an international embargo to sell millions of dollars of artillery and shells to South Africa—possibly with the backing of the CIA. Hemingway recalled sneaking onto the military base at Camp Lejune, N.C., with a colleague and knocking on the door of a suspected CIA agent said to be involved—and then departing in a hurry when the agent called base security. Eventually, two company officials were convicted of related crimes.

As with his more recent coverage, including of teen girls from the Burlington area lured into working as prostitutes in New York, of the priest sex abuse claims against the Roman Catholic Church, of the heroin epidemic sweeping Vermont, Hemingway's reporting exposed a rarely seen underbelly of Vermont.

''If you didn't shine a light on it, the cases might or might not have reached a point where people went to jail,'' Hemingway said. ''But there's more assurance that justice is going to be meted out.''

Hemingway is perhaps best known for his column, which he wrote from 1989 to 2005 (with a yearlong hiatus to cover the presidential campaign of former Gov. Howard Dean).

''It was wonderful to have a voice,'' Hemingway said. ''The great thing about that column was it wasn't just a political column, it wasn't just a crime column, it wasn't a slice of life, it wasn't a feature—it was all of those things. And it would change. Sometimes it was first-person. Sometimes it was personal. Sometimes it was investigative. I broke stories in the column. And it was very well-read.''

The column aimed to give a voice to the powerless, Hemingway said.

''It was average folks,'' he said, ''and that was the whole point of the column: to be an outlet for people who weren't newsmakers who maybe had trouble with government or a problem or a personal issue, somebody who lost a kid in a traffic accident.''

Hemingway's work earned him 11 Best of Gannett awards from the Burlington Free Press' parent company, along with citations for excellence from the New England Newspaper and Press Association, the Vermont Press Association and others.

The time is right to step away, Hemingway said. He has been thinking of stepping away for some time, and he's ready for a change. He plans to write, travel and spend time with family: his wife, Lee, his four adult children and his two grandchildren—and a third on the way.

His announcement came as the Burlington Free Press shared plans for a newsroom reorganization, a process other Gannett properties also are undergoing. Hemingway said his departure is unrelated.

''It's very hard to walk away from this,'' Hemingway said. ''I need to go. It's time for me to go.''

He has yet to decide on the timing of his last day.

''I'll miss my colleagues in the newsroom,'' he said. ''I'll miss the camaraderie of the journalism community at large in Vermont, which, even though we sometimes compete, we all for the most part respect each other.''

Hemingway ended with advice for his colleagues:

''Don't just do the stories that you have to do. Try to keep looking for the stories that need to be done. . . . You have to push the limits, go after stories that are out there but aren't waiting to be written, that you've got to go and dig out.''

''That's what I've tried to do.''

CONGRATULATING CELLARS AT JASPER HILL

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Vermont is a farming State: dairy, livestock, vegetables or fruit, farms across Vermont are known for their innovative and sustainable approaches to farming and food production.

The dairy industry in particular is known throughout Vermont, and far beyond. Dairy cows are a familiar sight for those who live in or visit our State, and Vermont farms have been recognized both domestically and internationally for their dairy-based products. The cheese-making tradition in Vermont dates back to the early 1900s, when Vermont dairy farmers sought uses for their surplus milk. Since those early days, many farms have developed methods for artisanal cheese production.

Recently, Jasper Hill—a celebrated farm in Greensboro Bend, VT—won international recognition at the World Cheese Awards in London, when its Bayley Hazen Blue cheese won the award for the ''World's Best Unpasturized Cheese.'' Besting more than 2,600 submissions, Jasper Hill's award-winning blue cheese also took home a Super Gold award. Six other cheeses produced by Jasper Hill also won awards. And two other Vermont cheese makers—Grafton Village Cheese and the Vermont Creamery—were also recognized.

Some might skip over a story about the World Cheese Awards. But in Vermont, we take pride in the products we produce from the livestock nurtured and raised on Vermont's rich land. Farming remains a fabric of our American story, and in Vermont, it is a tradition that has spanned generations.

Congratulations to the Cellars at Jasper Hill, to Grafton Village Cheese, and to the Vermont Creamery for their recent recognitions. They represent the quality and high standards that are a hallmark of the Vermont brand.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of a story recently featured about these dairies on Vermont Public Radio be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From Vermont Public Radio, Nov. 17, 2014]

CELLARS AT JASPER HILL WINS ''WORLD'S BEST UNPASTEURIZED CHEESE''

(By Angela Evancie)

Before a recent batch of the Cellars at Jasper Hill's Bayley Hazen Blue cheese was finished aging, before it was ready to sell, and before it would be crowned—or rinded?—''World's Best Unpasteurized Cheese'' at the World Cheese Awards in London, its makers knew they had something special.

''I'm not lying when I say we were excited about it at a young age,'' Vince Razionale, sales and inventory manager for Jasper Hill, said by phone Monday. ''We tasted it on day 50, and this particular batch was one that we thought was really on point.'' (So on point, they thought, that it merited an Instagram post.)

The more than 250 international cheese experts who judged the 26th annual World Cheese Awards this weekend agreed. Bayley Hazen Blue was selected from more than 2,600 cheeses, first winning a Super Gold award and then its ''World's Best'' award.

It isn't the only superlative Vermont can add to its list of aged-milk achievements; Grafton Village Cheese also earned two Super Golds, for its Shepsog and Bismark cheeses, while Vermont Creamery took home one gold for its Bijou goat's milk cheese, and seven bronzes. Six other cheeses by Jasper Hill also won awards, including gold medals for its Cabot Clothbound and Moses Sleeper. ''Ten years ago, American cheese was something to be laughed at in England. Now, collectively, we're a force to be reckoned with.''—Vince Razionale, Jasper Hill Farm

Vermont cheese has certainly made a notable debut on the domestic stage. Vermont's Secretary of Agriculture Chuck Ross recently noted that cheeses made here have been named ''Best In Show'' at the American Cheese Society Conference for the past two years: Jasper Hill's Winnimere in 2013, and the Farms for City Kids Foundation's Tarentaise Reserve this year.

But Razionale says the international acclaim shows how far cheese making, in the U.S. in general and Vermont in particular, has come.

''Ten years ago, American cheese was something to be laughed at in England. Now, collectively, we're a force to be reckoned with.''

ALAN GROSS

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the fifth anniversary of the unfair arrest and imprisonment of an American citizen in Cuba from Maryland, Mr. Alan Gross. I stand with his wife Judy, and their two daughters in calling for the immediate release of Mr. Gross by the Cuban government.

In 2009, Mr. Gross went to Cuba as a contractor for the U.S. Agency for International Development. On this visit to Cuba, he wanted to assist Cuba's Jewish community by improving their access to the internet. With a background in social work, he dedicated his career to helping others around the world.

The Cuban government arrested Mr. Gross on December 3, 2009. He was held for 14 months without being charged with a crime. He was eventually charged as a spy and sentenced to 15 years in prison.

At 65 years old, Mr. Gross' physical and mental health has suffered severely over the past 5 years. He has lost a significant amount of weight and developed several painful medical conditions. His contact with his family is extremely limited, compounding his anxiety. On his birthday, May 2, 2014, Mr. Gross made several statements that demonstrated the mental strain and anguish that he feels daily. Following the death of his mother in June, he was visited by his wife Judy and said his goodbyes to her. Mr. Gross's current physical and mental state is at a critical point. The Cuban government must allow him to come home to the United States.

Judy Gross has never given up. She continues to put pressure on the Cuban government, speaking out against the poor treatment of her husband. She is a true inspiration, continuing her fight despite the health and financial challenges that her family has felt.

Every day I think of and pray for the Gross family. I pray that they are reunited soon. If Cuba wants to improve relations with the United States, they need to release Mr. Gross now. I thank my colleagues for standing with me and calling for the release of Alan Gross. I look forward to the day that we welcome him home to Maryland, and most importantly, to his family.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, last week I released a staff report that found litigation missteps at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission are costing taxpayers millions, while at the same time EEOC faces a deep backlog of discrimination complaints.

The report finds that the EEOC has had a recent pattern of pursuing questionable cases through sometimes overly aggressive means and as a result has suffered significant court losses that are embarrassing to the agency and costly to taxpayers.

Courts have found EEOC's litigation tactics to be so egregious they have ordered EEOC to pay defendants' attorney's fees in 10 cases since 2011. The courts have criticized EEOC for misuse of its authority, poor expert analysis, and pursuit of novel cases unsupported by law.

While the agency has pursued high-profile lawsuits without a complainant, in March 2014 EEOC reported almost 71,000 unresolved complaints of discrimination from individuals who filed charges. The agency's litigation has recovered almost $200 million less for victims than under the previous administration over the same timeframe.

The report finds that EEOC also has suffered from a troubling lack of transparency. In the past 2½ years, EEOC has ignored calls from current Commissioners and Congress to allow public review of significant and controversial guidance prior to its adoption. Also, the Office of General Counsel has, since 2010, failed to issue its standard annual report, and the agency is being sued for violating the Freedom of Information Act.

Certainly, the EEOC of today has had successful enforcement efforts and court victories for victims of discrimination, but this report finds the agency is increasingly demonstrating poor judgment and using questionable tactics in pursuit of cases that are not fulfilling the EEOC's objective of protecting employees from workplace discrimination.

The full report, ''EEOC: An Agency on the Wrong Track? Litigation Failures, Misfocused Priorities and Lack of Transparency Raise Concerns about Important Anti-Discrimination Agency,'' may be viewed on the HELP Committee's website, http://www.help.senate.gov/.

I ask unanimous consent to have the report's executive summary and key findings printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions—Ranking Member Lamar Alexander (R–TN) Minority Staff Report, Nov. 24, 2014]

EEOC: AN AGENCY ON THE WRONG TRACK? LITIGATION FAILURES, MISFOCUSED PRIORITIES, AND LACK OF TRANSPARENCY RAISE CONCERNS ABOUT IMPORTANT ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AGENCY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) serves an important role in our nation's workplaces. Under the leadership of five commissioners and a general counsel, EEOC is charged with protecting employees from discrimination at work through enforcement of equal opportunity employment laws. The commission investigates allegations of discrimination and seeks to mediate cases, allowing lawsuits to go forward if settlements are unsuccessful. The general counsel pursues allegations of discrimination in court and has been deputized by the commission to initiate litigation in many instances. The commission also issues guidance to inform the public about how it believes employers should interpret and apply the laws.

Today's EEOC, however, is pursuing many questionable cases through sometimes overly aggressive means—and, as a result, has suffered significant court losses that are embarrassing to the agency and costly to taxpayers. Courts have found EEOC's litigation tactics to be so egregious they have ordered EEOC to pay defendants' attorney's fees in ten cases since 2011. The courts have criticized EEOC for misuse of its authority, poor expert analysis, and pursuit of novel cases unsupported by law. Several courts have openly criticized EEOC for its failure to satisfy pre-litigation requirements, such as attempting to resolve discrimination disputes out of court; yet, the general counsel is leading an effort to prevent court review of such requirements.

These court losses also have come at a significant cost to victims of workplace discrimination. While EEOC's monetary recoveries for victims through settlements are up, EEOC's litigation has recovered almost $200 million less for victims than under the previous administration over the same time frame. In March 2014, EEOC reported almost 71,000 unresolved complaints of discrimination from individuals who filed charges with EEOC.

EEOC also has suffered from a troubling lack of transparency. In the past two and a half years, EEOC has ignored calls from current commissioners and Congress to allow public review of significant and controversial guidance prior to its adoption. Also, the Office of General Counsel has, since 2010, failed to issue its standard annual report, and the agency is being sued for violating the Freedom of Information Act.

This staff report will first explain the background and operation of EEOC. Next, the report will explore costly rebukes of EEOC's recent litigation practices. The report will also discuss the ways in which EEOC has shown a lack of transparency.

Today's EEOC has had successful enforcement efforts and court victories for victims of discrimination, but this report finds the agency is increasingly demonstrating poor judgment and using questionable tactics in pursuit of cases that are not fulfilling the EEOC's objective of protecting employees from workplace discrimination.

KEY FINDINGS

EEOC's Office of General Counsel frequently initiates litigation without the benefit of a commission vote. In FY 2012, only three of 122 lawsuits filed by EEOC were brought to the commission for a vote. According to a former EEOC general counsel who served from 2003 to 2005, this represents a significant departure from the previous commission.

EEOC has been sanctioned by courts and ordered to pay attorney's fees ten times since 2011 for untenable litigation and litigation strategies. (See Appendix 1.)

Monetary awards pursued in litigation for victims of discrimination are down from previous years. In FY 2012 and 2013, EEOC recovered $44.2 million and $38.6 million, respectively—the lowest recovery amounts in the past 16 years.

As of March 2014, EEOC had 70,781 unresolved discrimination charges pending.

EEOC's credibility is at risk. As one commissioner described, EEOC's ''reputation and credibility has . . . suffered from several recent lawsuits where [EEOC was] not only sanctioned, but openly chastised by the courts.''

A federal court reprimanded EEOC for being ''negligent in its discovery obligations, dilatory in cooperating with defense counsel, and somewhat cavalier in its responsibility to the United States District Court.''

EEOC caused a small employer to spend $100,000 attempting to comply with requests for information that, according to a federal judge, ''EEOC had no authority to obtain.''

A unanimous three judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit found ''[t]he EEOC continued to litigate . . . claims after it became clear there were no grounds upon which to proceed.''

EEOC is not consistently meeting its statutory mandate to attempt to resolve discrimination disputes out of court. One court found EEOC ''blatantly contravene[d] Title VII's emphasis on resolving disputes without resort to litigation,'' and another found EEOC ignored its obligation to conciliate. EEOC's general counsel is leading the fight to prevent court review of such efforts, and the U.S. Supreme Court is reviewing the issue this term.

Successful conciliations (i.e. resolution of a case outside of court) have decreased from 8,273 during the first five years of the previous administration to 6,967 during the same time period in the current administration.

Despite Office of Management and Budget best practices found in an agency bulletin and support from a majority of commissioners, EEOC does not allow the public to review or comment upon its draft guidance, even in cases of novel, significant or controversial guidance. This is especially concerning because in two cases last year, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected substantive positions found in EEOC guidance.

Unlike prior years, EEOC's Office of General Counsel has only published one annual report since 2010. These reports summarize the activities and litigation record of the Office of General Counsel.

EEOC is being sued for failing to meet statutory deadlines imposed by the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and EEOC's own FOIA regulations.

REMEMBERING COLONEL ELIOT NATHANIEL PEARL

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I wish to express our Nation's deepest thanks and to honor the life of Col. Eliot N. Pearl, U.S. Air Force (Ret.). On July 12, 2014, Colonel Pearl died at the age of 95 peacefully at his home in Silver Spring, MD.

Today, Colonel Pearl's family will lay him to rest at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors in recognition of his 36 years of service to our Nation. In 1939, Eliot graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Instead of becoming a doctor, Eliot chose to serve his Nation during World War II, much to the chagrin of his father. He was commissioned into the Army Air Corps and served as a cryptographic message center officer. Colonel Pearl served two active duty tours in World War II and the Korean war including a deployment to Panama. Colonel Pearl was also one of the founding instructors of the Department of Defense's cryptology schoolhouse.

After Colonel Pearl separated from active duty service, he continued to serve our Nation in the Air Force Reserve for another 25 years concurrently working as a cryptologist at the National Security Agency, Fort Meade, MD.

On August 16, 1978, Colonel Pearl retired from the Air Force. He was awarded the American Theater Service Medal, World War II Victory Medal, and National Defense Service Medal.

We continue to live safe and free because of individuals like Colonel Pearl. He committed his life to serving our Nation while in uniform and as a civilian. Eliot defended our Nation and led the way for the next generation that will secure our future.

Colonel Pearl's beloved son David and his beloved second wife Joyce, preceded him in death. He is survived by his sons, Mark A. Pearl (Pamela), Scott M. Pearl (Renee) and Geoffrey B. Anthony Pearl; five loving grandchildren: David, Vincent, Samuel, Anthony and Daniel; his devoted sister Eva Erony; his first wife Thelma Pearl; his loving niece Susan Erony (Jay Jaroslav); and his nephew Alan Erony.

As we say goodbye, we also say thank you for your service that keeps our Nation strong and free. May God bless Colonel Pearl and his family, and welcome him with open arms.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING EMILY KATH

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Emily Kath for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Emily is a native of Powell, WY, and a graduate of Powell High School. She currently attends the University of Wyoming, where she is studying communications and prelaw. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is

reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Emily for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

RECOGNIZING MAEGAN MURPHY

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Maegan Murphy for her hard work as an intern in my Casper, WY, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Maegan is a native of Casper, WY, and a graduate of Natrona County High School. She currently attends Casper College, where she is studying preoccupational therapy and Spanish. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Maegan for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

RECOGNIZING CHELSEA RODEKUHR

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Chelsea Rodekuhr for her hard work as an intern in my Cheyenne, WY, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Chelsea is a native of Cheyenne, WY, and a graduate of Cheyenne Central High School. She currently attends the University of Wyoming, where she is studying physiology and business. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Chelsea for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

RECOGNIZING GRANT ROGERS

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Grant Rogers for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Grant is a native of Jackson, WY, and a graduate of Jackson Hole High School. He currently attends the University of Wyoming, where he is studying political science and economics. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Grant for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his next journey.●

RECOGNIZING IAN WORTHINGTON

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Ian Worthington for his hard work as an intern in my Republican policy committee office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office.

Ian is from Charleston, SC, and a graduate of Porter-Gaud School. He currently attends Georgetown University where he is studying towards a bachelor of science in foreign service, majoring in science, technology and international affairs. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Ian for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his next journey.●

RECOGNIZING BUTCH MORRIS

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I wish to honor Sheriff Randall ''Butch'' Morris who will retire after over three decades of honorable service to the people of Howard County, AR.

A lifelong resident of Howard County, Sheriff Morris was born and raised in Umpire, AR. He began working as a deputy sheriff in Howard County and was later named the office's chief deputy and investigator, a position he held for over 16 years before being elected sheriff.

For over 18 years, Butch Morris served as the Howard County sheriff and collector, winning nine straight elections, including eight of them in which he ran unopposed. During the course of that time, Sheriff Morris also worked to advance law enforcement best practices as a member of Arkansas Sheriffs' Association board of directors and the Commission on Arkansas Law Enforcement Standards and Training.

On a personal note, I am grateful for the professionalism that Sheriff Morris's office always exhibited throughout my tenure in the Senate. My staff and I always had pleasant interactions with the sheriff's office and that is a testament to the exceptional leadership of Butch Morris.

I thank Butch Morris for his dedication, commitment, and eagerness to serve his community. We are all grateful for his years of service and leadership to Howard County and Arkansas. I wish him continued success in his future endeavors and many years of good health to enjoy with his grandchildren, Brooklyn and Brantley.●

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHELBI

● Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I wish to speak about a New Jersey company, Louis Berger, and to draw the Senate's attention to the 30th anniversary of CHELBI, Louis Berger's successful engineering, design and infrastructure partnership in the People's Republic of China.

Louis Berger was established in 1953 and has in the years since developed into a multidisciplinary global consulting firm founded on its dedication to engineering excellence.

Today it has partnerships in major infrastructure projects spanning the globe, including in North America, Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East.

More than just undertaking projects, though, one of Louis Berger's founding principles is to transfer knowledge to people in the local countries and communities in which it operates to ensure the long-term sustainability of its projects.

For example, in 1984, Louis Berger undertook a groundbreaking partnership known as CHELBI—a joint venture between Louis Berger International and China Highway Planning and Design Institute, HPDI, Consultants.

This partnership created a new pathway for knowledge sharing in engineering design between the United States and China, and to millions of dollars for the U.S.—and New Jersey—economy.

Over the past 30 years, CHELBI has provided international and domestic consulting services for more than 600 highways, bridges, and other projects in over 30 provinces and cities in China, totaling more than 10,000 kilometers, including the 36 kilometer long Hangzhou Bridge, one of the longest ocean-crossing bridges in the world.

CHELBI also fosters international communications and cooperation between the Chinese consulting engineering field and counterparts in Western countries and projects beyond China.

In fact, it is my understanding that the partners in CHELBI have agreed to extend their historic venture for another 10 years beginning in 2014.

So today I would like to recognize the cooperation in engineering design between the United States and China since 1984, as encompassed by CHELBI's work, including its partners at Louis Berger and China Highway Planning and Design Institute, HPDI, Consultants.

The continued exchange of knowledge and coordination of work in large scale infrastructure projects in China and around the globe help to better connect people within and between countries and is of tremendous benefit, both for the countries where these infrastructure projects take place but also for U.S. global leadership in engineering consultation and design.

CHELBI is to be commended for 30 years of productive work—and I would like to express my continued support for initiatives undertaken by the venture and the benefits that such cooperation and coordination provides to both the United States and China.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:28 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 2040. An act to exchange trust and fee land to resolve land disputes created by the realignment of the Blackfoot River along the boundary of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2366. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of World War I.

H.R. 2790. An act to authorize private nonprofit organizations to administer permanent housing rental assistance provided through the Continuum of Care Program under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3240. An act to instruct the Comptroller General of the United States to study the impact of Regulation D, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3572. An act to revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units.

H.R. 4200. An act to amend the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 to prevent duplicative regulation of advisers of small business investment companies.

H.R. 4329. An act to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4569. An act to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to make certain improvements to form 10–K and regulation S–K, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5050. An act to repeal the Act of May 31, 1918, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5471. An act to amend the Commodity Exchange Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to specify how clearing requirements apply to certain affiliate transactions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5629. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to strengthen the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5714. An act to permit commercial applicators of pesticides to create, retain, submit, and convey pesticide application-related records, reports, data, and other information in electronic form.

H.R. 5739. An act to amend the Social Security Act to provide for the termination of social security benefits for individuals who participated in Nazi persecution, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 6:10 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 2203. An act to provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus, in recognition of his service to the Nation in promoting excellence, good sportsmanship, and philanthropy.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2790. An act to authorize private nonprofit organizations to administer permanent housing rental assistance provided through the Continuum of Care Program under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3240. An act to instruct the Comptroller General of the United States to study the impact of Regulation D, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 4200. An act to amend the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 to prevent duplicative regulation of advisers of small business investment companies; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 4329. An act to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

H.R. 4569. An act to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to make certain improvements to form 10–K and regulation S–K, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 5471. An act to amend the Commodity Exchange Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to specify how clearing requirements apply to certain affiliate transactions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 5629. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to strengthen the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5714. An act to permit commercial applicators of pesticides to create, retain, submit, and convey pesticide application-related records, reports, data, and other information in electronic form; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2970. A bill to reform procedures for determinations to proceed to trial by court-martial for certain offenses under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and for other purposes.

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–7966. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Burma that was declared in Executive Order 13047 of May 20, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7967. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7968. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the continuation of a national emergency declared in Executive Order 13222 with respect to the lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7969. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulation Systems Compliance and Integrity'' (RIN3235–AL43) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 24, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7970. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–426, ''Wage Theft Prevention Act of 2014''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7971. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Requests'' (5 CFR Part 1630 and 5 CFR Part 1631) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 24, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7972. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Federal Student Loan Repayment Program Calendar Year 2013''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7973. A communication from the Acting Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Chairman's Semiannual Report on Final Action Resulting from Audit Reports, Inspection Reports, and Evaluation Reports for the period from April 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7974. A communication from the Treasurer, National Gallery of Art, transmitting,

pursuant to law, the Gallery's Performance and Accountability Report for the year ended September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7975. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005–78; Small Entity Compliance Guide'' (FAC 2005–78) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7976. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Acquisition Regulation; Technical Amendments'' (FAC 2005–78) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7977. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Acquisition Regulation; Year Format'' ((RIN9000–AM53) (FAC 2005–78)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7978. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Acquisition Regulation: Streamlining Claims Processing'' ((RIN9000–AM83) (FAC 2005–78)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7979. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Acquisition Regulation; Incorporating Section K in Contracts'' ((RIN9000–AM78) (FAC 2005–78)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7980. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005–78; Introduction'' (FAC 2005–78) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7981. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Acquisition Regulation; Higher-Level Contract Quality Requirements'' ((RIN9000–AM65) (FAC 2005–78)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7982. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Marine Mammals; Subsistence Taking of Northern Fur Seals; St. George Island, Alaska'' (RIN0648–BD12) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 24, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7983. 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; West Virginia's Redesignation Request and Associated Maintenance Plan of the West Virginia Portion of the Martinsburg-Hagerstown, WV–MD Nonattainment Area for the 1997 Annual Fine Particulate Matter Standard'' (FRL No. 9919–65–Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7984. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Rulemaking to Amend Dates in Federal Implementation Plans Addressing Interstate Transport of Ozone and Fine Particulate Matter'' ((RIN2060–AS40) (FRL No. 9919–71–OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7985. 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: 2014 Revisions and Confidentiality Determinations for Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems; Final Rule'' ((RIN2060–AR96) (FRL No. 9918–95–OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7986. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Delegation of Authority to Texas'' (FRL No. 9919–74–Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7987. 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; State of Iowa; 2014 Iowa State Implementation Plan'' (FRL No. 9919–87–Region 7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7988. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Availability of Data on Allocations of Cross-State Air Pollution Rule Allowances to Existing Electricity Generating Units'' (FRL No. 9919–91–OAR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7989. 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; Indiana; CFR Update'' (FRL No. 9919–83–Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7990. 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; Allegheny County's Adoption of Control Techniques Guidelines for Four Industry Categories for Control of Volatile Organic Compound Emissions'' (FRL No. 9919–66–Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7991. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Hazardous Waste Management System; Identification and Listing of Hazardous Waste; Final Exclusion'' (FRL No. 9919–72–Region 7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7992. 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 ''Balanced System for Measuring Organizational and Employee Performance Within the Internal Revenue Service'' ((RIN1545–BL89) (TD 9703)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7993. 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 ''Applicable Federal Rates—December 2014'' (Rev. Rul. 2014–31) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7994. 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 ''Minimum Essential Coverage and Other Rules Regarding the Shared Responsibility Payment for Individuals'' ((RIN1545–BL91) (TD 9705)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7995. 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 ''Revenue Procedure Providing Indexing Under Section 36B and Section 5000A (2016)'' (Rev. Proc. 2014–62) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7996. 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 ''Individual Shared Responsibility Payment Hardship Exemptions that May Be Claimed on a Federal Income Tax Return Without Obtaining a Hardship Exemption Certification from the Marketplace'' (Notice 2014–76) received during

adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7997. A communication from the Acting Chief Management Officer, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 24, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–7998. A communication from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits'' (29 CFR Part 4022) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 24, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–7999. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Drug Enforcement Agency, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Exemption From Registration for Persons Authorized Under U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission or Agreement State Medical Use Licenses or Permits and Administering the Drug Product DaTscan'' ((RIN1117–AB38) (Docket No. DEA–394)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–8000. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Mail or Telephone Order Merchandise Rule'' (RIN3084–AB07) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8001. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska Management Area'' (RIN0648–XD590) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8002. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska Management Area'' (RIN0648–XD589) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8003. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fraser River Sockeye Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Orders'' (RIN0648–XD548) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. SCHUMER for the Committee on Rules and Administration.

*Matthew Vincent Masterson, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission for a term expiring December 12, 2017.

*Christy A. McCormick, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission for a term expiring December 12, 2015.

By Mr. LEAHY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

*Sarah R. Saldana, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

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 Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 2971. A bill to promote energy efficiency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. CARPER):

S. 2972. A bill to require all equestrian helmets manufactured or sold in the United States to meet a minimum safety standard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PAUL:

S.J. Res. 46. A joint resolution to declare that a state of war exists between the organization referring to itself as the Islamic State and the Government and the people of the United States, and to make provisions to prosecute the same; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KING):

S. Res. 593. A resolution designating December 13, 2014, as ''Wreaths Across America Day''; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 714

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 714, a bill to impose certain limitations on consent decrees and settlement agreements by agencies that require the agencies to take regulatory action in accordance with the terms thereof, and for other purposes.

S. 1011

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1011, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

S. 1038

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1038, a bill to eliminate racial profiling by law enforcement, and for other purposes.

S. 1040

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1040, a bill to provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus, in recognition of his service to the Nation in promoting excellence, good sportsmanship, and philanthropy.

S. 1323

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1323, a bill to address the continued threat posed by dangerous synthetic drugs by amending the Controlled Substances Act relating to controlled substance analogues.

S. 1921

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1921, a bill to require a Federal agency to include language in certain educational and advertising materials indicating that such materials are produced and disseminated at taxpayer expense.

S. 2694

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2694, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to extend the application of the Medicare payment rate floor to primary care services furnished under Medicaid and to apply the rate floor to additional providers of primary care services.

S. 2714

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2714, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of World War I.

S. 2723

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2723, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to qualify homeless youth and veterans who are full-time students for purposes of the low income housing tax credit.

S. 2762

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2762, a bill to prevent future propane shortages, and for other purposes.

S. 2930

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2930, a bill to direct the Secretary of

Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the conduct of an evaluation of mental health care and suicide prevention programs of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2944

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 2944, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to provide for the termination of social security benefits for individuals who participated in Nazi persecution, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. NELSON, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2944, supra.

S. 2963

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2963, a bill to remove a limitation on a prohibition relating to permits for discharges incidental to normal operation of vessels.

S. RES. 578

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 578, a resolution supporting the role of the United States in ensuring children in the world's poorest countries have access to vaccines and immunization through Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

AMENDMENT NO. 3421

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3421 intended to be proposed to S. 2410, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 593—DESIGNATING DECEMBER 13, 2014, AS ''WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY''

Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 593

Whereas 23 years ago, the Wreaths Across America project began an annual tradition of donating, transporting, and placing Maine balsam fir remembrance wreaths on the graves of our fallen heroes at Arlington National Cemetery during the month of December;

Whereas more than 1,700,000 wreaths have been sent to locations, including national cemeteries and veterans memorials, in every State and overseas;

Whereas the mission of the Wreaths Across America project to ''Remember, Honor, Teach'' is carried out in part by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery as well as veterans cemeteries and other locations in all 50 States and overseas;

Whereas the Wreaths Across America project carries out a week-long veterans parade between Maine and Virginia, stopping along the way to spread a message about the importance of remembering the fallen heroes of the United States, honoring those who serve, and teaching the people of the United States about the sacrifices made by veterans and their families to preserve freedom in the United States;

Whereas in 2013, remembrance wreaths were sent to more than 900 locations across the United States and overseas, 100 more locations than the previous year;

Whereas in December 2014, the Patriot Guard Riders, along with other patriotic groups, will continue the tradition of escorting tractor-trailers filled with donated wreaths from Harrington, Maine, to Arlington National Cemetery;

Whereas the Nation's trucking industry continues to support Wreaths Across America by providing drivers, equipment, and related services to assist in the transportation of wreaths to over 1,000 locations across the country;

Whereas thousands of individuals volunteer each December to lay remembrance wreaths;

Whereas 2014 is the 150th Anniversary of Arlington National Cemetery, where some 230,000 markers stand in honor of those who have served this country;

Whereas this year, it is the aspiration of Wreaths Across America to lay a wreath at the grave of every veteran buried at Arlington National Cemetery;

Whereas December 14, 2013, was previously designated by the Senate as ''Wreaths Across America Day''; and

Whereas on December 13, 2014, the Wreaths Across America project will continue the proud legacy of bringing remembrance wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery to honor our veterans: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates December 13, 2014, as ''Wreaths Across America Day'';

(2) honors the Wreaths Across America project, the Patriot Guard Riders, the trucking industry, and all of the volunteers and donors involved in this worthy tradition; and

(3) recognizes the service and sacrifice that our veterans, members of the Armed Forces, and their families have made, and continue to make, for our great Nation.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3971. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for Mrs. FEINSTEIN) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 531, honoring the life, accomplishments, and legacy of Louis Zamperini and expressing condolences on his passing.

SA 3972. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3971. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for Mrs. FEINSTEIN) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 531, honoring the life, accomplishments, and legacy of Louis Zamperini and expressing condolences on his passing; as follows:

The resolving clause is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a period; and

(3) by striking paragraph (3).

SA 3972. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. NOTICE OF STATUS AS AN ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY CONSUMER.

The Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 605, by adding at the end the following:

''(i) NOTICE OF STATUS AS AN ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY CONSUMER.—With respect to an adverse item of information about a consumer, if the action or inaction that gave rise to the item occurred while the consumer was an active duty military consumer, the consumer may provide appropriate proof, including official orders, to a consumer reporting agency that the consumer was an active duty military consumer at the time such action or inaction occurred, and any consumer report provided by the consumer reporting agency that includes the item shall clearly and conspicuously disclose that the consumer was an active duty military consumer when the action or inaction that gave rise to the item occurred.''; and

(2) in section 605A(c)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) as subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), respectively, and moving such redesignated subparagraphs 2 ems to the right;

(B) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), as so redesignated, by striking ''Upon'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon'';

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) NEGATIVE INFORMATION ALERT.—If a consumer reporting agency receives an adverse item of information about a consumer who has provided appropriate proof that the consumer is an active duty military consumer, the consumer reporting agency shall promptly notify the consumer—

''(A) that the consumer reporting agency has received the adverse item of information, along with a description of the item; and

''(B) the method by which the consumer may dispute the validity of the item.

''(3) CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY CONSUMERS.—If a consumer who has provided appropriate proof to a consumer reporting agency that the consumer is an active duty military consumer provides the

consumer reporting agency with contact information for the purpose of communicating with the consumer while the consumer is an active military consumer, the consumer reporting agency shall use such contact information for all communications while the consumer is an active military consumer.

''(4) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that any person making use of a consumer report that contains an adverse item of information should, if the action or inaction that gave rise to the item occurred while the consumer was an active duty military consumer, take such fact into account when evaluating the creditworthiness of the consumer.''; and

(D) in section 611(a)(1), by adding at the end the following:

''(D) NOTICE OF DISPUTE RELATED TO ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY CONSUMERS.—With respect to an item of information described under subparagraph (A) that is under dispute, if the consumer to whom the item relates has notified the consumer reporting agency, and has provided appropriate proof, that the consumer was an active duty military consumer at the time the action or inaction that gave rise to the disputed item occurred, the consumer reporting agency shall—

''(i) include such fact in the file of the consumer; and

''(ii) indicate such fact in each consumer report that includes the disputed item.''.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator ORRIN G. HATCH, intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of Carolyn Watts Colvin, to be Commissioner of Social Security, dated December 3, 2014.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 3, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SR–328A of the Russell Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Farmers and Fresh Water: Voluntary Conservation to Protect our Land and Waters.''

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 3, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SR–253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 3, 2014, at 9 a.m. in room SD–406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled, ''NRC's Implementation of the Fukushima Near-Term Task Force Recommendations and other Actions to Enhance and Maintain Nuclear Safety.''

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 3, 2014, at 9:30 a.m. to conduct an East Asian and Pacific Affairs subcommittee hearing entitled, ''Evaluating the Impact of the 'Umbrella Movement'.''

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 3, 2014, at 2 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled ''Dismantling Iran's Nuclear Weapons Program: Next Steps to Achieve a Comprehensive Deal.''

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 3, 2014, at 10:30 a.m., in room SD–216 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

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

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 3, 2014, in room S–216 immediately following the floor vote at 5:30 p.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 3, 2014, at 11:30 a.m. in room SR–418 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Energy, Natural Resources, and Infrastructure of the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 3, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD–215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Natural Gas Vehicles: Fueling American Jobs, Enhancing Energy Security, and Achieving Emissions Benefits.''

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Laura Sherman, a fellow in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of this session.

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

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that floor privileges be granted to Maj. David Wilson, a U.S. Air Force officer who is currently serving as a defense legislative follow in my office for the duration of today's session of the Senate.

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

PROVIDING FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND FOR COOPERATION ON THE USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY FOR MUTUAL DEFENSE PURPOSES

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 5681, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5681) to provide for the approval of the Amendment to the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for Cooperation on the Uses of Atomic Energy for Mutual Defense Purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 5681) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RELEASING THE CITY OF ST. CLAIR, MISSOURI, FROM ALL RESTRICTIONS, CONDITIONS, AND LIMITATIONS ON THE USE, ENCUMBRANCE, CONVEYANCE, AND CLOSURE OF THE ST. CLAIR REGIONAL AIRPORT

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 609, S. 2759.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2759) to release the City of St. Clair, Missouri, from all restrictions, conditions, and limitations on the use, encumbrance, conveyance, and closure of the St. Clair Regional Airport.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (S. 2759) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2759

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

SECTION 1. RELEASE OF RESTRICTIONS, CONDITIONS, AND LIMITATIONS ON THE USE, ENCUMBRANCE, CONVEYANCE, AND CLOSURE OF THE ST. CLAIR REGIONAL AIRPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The United States, acting through the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, shall release the City of St. Clair, Missouri, from all restrictions, conditions, and limitations on the use, encumbrance, conveyance, and closure of the St. Clair Regional Airport, as described in the most recent airport layout plan approved by the Federal Aviation Administration, to the extent such restrictions, conditions, and limitations are enforceable by the Administrator.

(b) LIMITATION.—The release under subsection (a) shall not be executed before the City of St. Clair, or its designee, transfers to the Department of Transportation of the State of Missouri—

(1) the amounts described in subsection (c), to be used for capital improvements within the meaning of airport development (as defined in section 47102(3) of title 49, United States Code) and consistent with the obligations of the Department of Transportation of the State of Missouri under the State block grant program of the Federal Aviation Administration; and

(2) for no consideration, all airport and aviation-related equipment of the St. Clair Regional Airport owned by the City of St. Clair and determined by the Department of Transportation of the State of Missouri to be salvageable for use.

(c) AMOUNTS DESCRIBED.—The amounts described in this subsection are the following:

(1) An amount equal to the fair market value for the highest and best use of the St. Clair Regional Airport property determined in good faith by an independent and qualified real estate appraiser on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) An amount equal to the unamortized portion of any Federal development grants other than land paid to the City of St. Clair for use at the St. Clair Regional Airport, which may be paid with, and shall be an allowable use of, airport revenue notwithstanding section 47107 or 47133 of title 49, United States Code.

(3) An amount equal to the airport revenues remaining in the airport account for the St. Clair Regional Airport as of the date of the enactment of this Act and otherwise due to or received by the City of St. Clair after such date of enactment pursuant to sections 47107(b) and 47133 of title 49, United States Code.

(d) REQUIREMENT TO REMOVE RUNWAY LIGHTING SYSTEM.—The Federal Aviation Administration shall remove the runway end indicator lighting system at St. Clair Regional Airport.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the applicability of—

(1) the requirements and processes under section 46319 of title 49, United States Code;

(2) the requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(3) the requirements and processes under part 157 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations; or

(4) the public notice requirements under section 47107(h)(2) of title 49, United States Code.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Veterans Affairs' Committee be discharged from the consideration of and the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following measures, which are VA facility-naming bills, en bloc: H.R. 3682, H.R. 3375, S. 2921, and S. 229.

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

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills, en bloc.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. I ask unanimous consent that the bills be read a third time and passed, en bloc, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, en bloc, with no intervening action or debate.

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

LYLE C. PEARSON COMMUNITY BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC

The bill (H.R. 3682) to designate the community based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 1961 Premier Drive in Mankato, Minnesota, as the ''Lyle C. Pearson Community Based Outpatient Clinic,'' was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

PFC FLOYD K. LINDSTROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC

The bill (H.R. 3375) to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be constructed at 3141 Centennial Boulevard, Colorado Springs, Colorado, as the ''PFC Floyd K. Lindstrom Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic,'' was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

LANE A. EVANS VA COMMUNITY BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC

The bill (S. 2921) to designate the community based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 310 Home Boulevard in Galesburg, Illinois, as the ''Lane A. Evans VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic,'' was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2921

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

SECTION 1. LANE A. EVANS VA COMMUNITY BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The community based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 310 Home Boulevard in Galesburg, Illinois, shall be known and designated as the ''Lane A. Evans VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the community based outpatient clinic referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Lane A. Evans VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic''.

CORPORAL MICHAEL J. CRESCENZ DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER

The bill (S. 229) to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 3900 Woodland Avenue in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as the ''Corporal Michael J. Crescenz Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center,'' was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 229

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 ''Corporal Michael J. Crescenz Act of 2013''.

SEC. 2. CORPORAL MICHAEL J. CRESCENZ DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 3900 Woodland Avenue in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the ''Corporal Michael J. Crescenz Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the medical center referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the Corporal Michael J. Crescenz Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

THE CALENDAR

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following measures, which are post office-naming bills, en bloc: Calendar No. 585, H.R. 43; Calendar No. 586, H.R. 451; Calendar No. 587, H.R. 1391; Calendar No. 589, H.R. 3085; Calendar No. 590, H.R. 3957; Calendar No. 591, H.R. 4189; Calendar No. 592, H.R. 4443; Calendar No. 593, H.R. 4919; Calendar No. 595, H.R. 5106; and Calendar No. 584, S. 2523.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills, en bloc.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. I ask unanimous consent that the bills be read a third time and passed, en bloc, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, en bloc, with no intervening action or debate.

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

OFFICER TOMMY DECKER MEMORIAL POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 43) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Red River Avenue

North in Cold Spring, Minnesota, as the ''Officer Tommy Decker Memorial Post Office,'' was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RICHARD K. SALICK POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 451) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 North Brevard Avenue in Cocoa Beach, Florida, as the ''Richard K. Salick Post Office,'' was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

LONDON FALLEN VETERANS MEMORIAL POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 1391) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 South Oak Street in London, Ohio, as the ''London Fallen Veterans Memorial Post Office,'' was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CAPTAIN HERBERT JOHNSON MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 3085) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3349 West 111th Street in Chicago, Illinois, as the ''Captain Herbert Johnson Memorial Post Office Building,'' was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CYNTHIA JENKINS POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 3957) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 218–10 Merrick Boulevard in Springfield Gardens, New York, as the ''Cynthia Jenkins Post Office Building,'' was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

MASTER SERGEANT SHAWN T. HANNON, MASTER SERGEANT JEFFREY J. RIECK AND VETERANS MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 4189) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4000 Leap Road in Hilliard, Ohio, as the ''Master Sergeant Shawn T. Hannon, Master Sergeant Jeffrey J. Rieck and Veterans Memorial Post Office Building,'' was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CORPORAL JUAN MARIEL ALCANTARA POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 4443) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 Vermilyea Avenue in New York, New York, as the ''Corporal Juan Mariel Alcantara Post Office Building,'' was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

LANCE CORPORAL WESLEY G. DAVIDS AND CAPTAIN NICHOLAS J. ROZANSKI MEMORIAL POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 4919) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 715 Shawan Falls Drive in Dublin, Ohio, as the ''Lance Corporal Wesley G. Davids and Captain Nicholas J. Rozanski Memorial Post Office,'' was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

PHILMORE GRAHAM POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 5106) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Admiral Callaghan Lane in Vallejo, California, as the ''Philmore Graham Post Office Building,'' was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

JAMES L. OBERSTAR MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (S. 2523) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 3rd Avenue, NW, in Chisholm, Minnesota, as the ''James L. Oberstar Memorial Post Office Building,'' was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2523

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

SECTION 1. JAMES L. OBERSTAR MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 3rd Avenue, NW., in Chisholm, Minnesota, shall be known and designated as the ''James L. Oberstar Memorial Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''James L. Oberstar Memorial Post Office Building''.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 576, S. Res. 540.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 540) recognizing September 15, 2014, as the International Day of Democracy, affirming the role of civil society as a cornerstone of democracy, and encouraging all governments to stand with civil society in the face of mounting restrictions on civil society organizations.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. 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. 540) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. RES. 540

Whereas in 2007, September 15 of each year was established by the United Nations as the International Day of Democracy, a day set aside to review the state of democracy in the world;

Whereas democracy is a means of government that makes manifest the free exercise of certain inalienable rights, among them being the freedom of assembly, the freedom of association, the freedom of the press, and the freedom of speech;

Whereas democracy allows for participatory governance, mobilizing citizens to strive for their version of the good and instilling hope that the aspirations of the people may one day be realized;

Whereas an analysis of 84 independent studies shows that democracy has a favorable impact on the formation of human capital, the rate of inflation, the level of economic freedom, and the stability of political institutions;

Whereas democracy promotes tolerance and respect by recognizing the human dignity of all people and is necessary to the full realization of the values enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Whereas the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) defines ''civil society'' as associations around which society voluntarily organizes itself and which represent a wide range of interests and ties, including community-based organizations, indigenous peoples' organizations, and non-government organizations (NGOs);

Whereas a vibrant civil society is an essential element of democratic societies and plays a key role in providing transparency, ensuring the legitimacy of elections, advocating for marginalized groups, and making clear the will of the people;

Whereas, since 2012, the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law has identified 69 new restrictive measures in over 50 countries hindering the ability of civil society organizations (CSOs) to freely operate;

Whereas of the 98 countries for which data is available, research presented in a 2013 article for the Journal of Democracy explains that 12 prohibit and 39 restrict foreign funding of domestic NGOs;

Whereas in 2000, the Community of Democracies was founded ''to bring together governments, civil society, and the private sector in the pursuit of a common goal: supporting democratic rules and strengthening democratic norms and institutions around the world'';

Whereas in 2011, the United States joined other like-minded governments to establish the ''Lifeline: Embattled Civil Society Organizations Fund'' to provide small grants to CSOs for immediate needs and to support short-term advocacy projects;

Whereas, through the Open Government Partnership, 63 countries have committed to protecting the ability of CSOs to operate in a manner that is consistent with the rights to freedom of expression, association, and opinion;

Whereas in September 2013, on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, the United States launched a coordinated multilateral effort encouraging countries to stand with civil society and push back against growing restrictions on CSOs;

Whereas the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association stands on the front lines of civil society protection, documenting extensive global threats to civil society and strengthening international norms; and

Whereas the United States remains committed to its stand with civil society by developing new mechanisms to combat restrictions on civil society and bolster civil society's efforts to support democracy around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of the International Day of Democracy;

(2) recognizes the importance of civil society to the healthy development of nations;

(3) celebrates the invaluable contributions civil society has made to the creation, strength, and preservation of vibrant democracies and democratic institutions;

(4) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to the protection, advancement, health, and sustainability of democracy throughout the world;

(5) condemns the use of restrictions, coercion, threats, or force to impede the activities of civil society organizations;

(6) recognizes the important multilateral work of the Community of Democracies, the ''Lifeline: Embattled Civil Society Organizations Fund'', the Open Government Partnership, and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association to protect global civil society;

(7) recognizes the important role diplomacy plays in defending global civil society and creating new openings for civic space;

(8) emphasizes the value of programs of the United States Government in protecting civil society and defending civic space, including the work by the Senior Advisor for Civil Society and Emerging Democracies and the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the United States Department of State, and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID);

(9) calls on private sector partners and other governments to develop new tools and leverage existing technologies to support the efforts of civil society; and

(10) encourages the people of the United States and the world to observe the International Day of Democracy, September 15, 2014, with appropriate programs and activities.

HONORING THE LIFE, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND LEGACY OF LOUIS ZAMPERINI

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 531 and the Senate proceed to its immediate 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. 531) honoring the life, accomplishments, and legacy of Louis Zamperini and expressing condolences on his passing.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Feinstein amendment which is at the desk be agreed to; the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; the preamble be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The amendment (No. 3971) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the resolving clause)

The resolving clause is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a period; and

(3) by striking paragraph (3).

The resolution (S. Res. 531), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 531

Whereas Louis Silvie ''Lou'' Zamperini was born on January 26, 1917, to Anthony and Louise Zamperini, in Olean, New York;

Whereas Louis Zamperini represented the United States in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin as a distance runner;

Whereas Louis Zamperini graduated from the University of Southern California in 1940 and enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps in 1941, earning the rank of lieutenant;

Whereas in May 1943, Louis Zamperini's B–24 bomber malfunctioned and crashed during a search-and-rescue mission over the Pacific Ocean, leaving him and 2 other individuals stranded;

Whereas Louis Zamperini survived for 47 days adrift in a life raft with Second Lieutenant Russell Phillips before being captured by Japanese forces and placed in a prisoner of war camp;

Whereas for more than 2 years, during his imprisonment, Louis Zamperini endured brutal treatment and forced labor with courage and resilience;

Whereas upon the conclusion of World War II, Louis Zamperini was released from the prisoner of war camp in September 1945;

Whereas Louis Zamperini was promoted to captain and awarded multiple distinguishing military honors, including the Purple Heart, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Prisoner of War Medal;

Whereas Louis Zamperini was given the honor of carrying the Olympic flame in 1984, 1996, and 1998;

Whereas in the years after World War II, Louis Zamperini traveled as an inspirational public speaker, using his experiences to inspire a message of forgiveness;

Whereas the airport in Torrance, California, was named ''Zamperini Field'' in honor of Louis Zamperini; and

Whereas Louis Zamperini leaves a legacy as a national hero and an inspiration to future generations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life, accomplishments, and legacy of Louis Zamperini; and

(2) extends heartfelt sympathies and condolences to the family of Louis Zamperini.

NATIONAL PHENYLKETONURIA AWARENESS DAY

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 585.

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. 585) designating December 3, 2014, as ''National Phenylketonuria Awareness Day.''

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. 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. 585) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of November 20, 2014, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 593, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 593) designating December 13, 2014, as ''Wreaths Across America Day.''

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am pleased to join with my colleague Senator KING in submitting S. Res. 593 to designate December 13, 2014, as Wreaths Across America Day. Since its inception 23 years ago, the Wreaths Across America project has become an annual tradition of donating, transporting, and placing Maine balsam fir remembrance wreaths on the graves of our fallen heroes buried at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at veterans' cemeteries and memorials in every State and overseas. In the program's first 23 years, more than 1.7 million wreaths have been placed in honor of those who have served our country.

On this December 13, thousands of volunteers across the river in Arlington, throughout our nation, at such overseas locations as Normandy, and on our Navy ships at sea, will carry out the mission of Wreaths Across America to ''Remember, Honor, Teach.'' This will be the culmination of a week-long procession between Maine and Virginia, with stops along the way to spread a message about the importance

of remembering and honoring those who serve, and teaching the people of the United States about the sacrifices made by Veterans and their families.

This year, as in years past, the Patriot Guard Riders, along with other patriotic groups and Maine's First Lady Ann LePage, will escort the tractor-trailers filled with donated wreaths from Maine to Arlington National Cemetery. America's trucking industry will continue to support Wreaths Across America by providing drivers, equipment, fuel, and related services to assist in the transportation of wreaths across the country to more than 1,000 locations.

In recent years, Wreaths Across America has provided some 130,000 wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery. To mark Arlington's 150th anniversary, the goal this year is to decorate each of the 230,000 Veterans' graves and memorials on that hallowed ground. Thanks to the generosity and gratitude of the American people, this goal will surely be achieved.

The origin of Wreaths Across America is an inspiring example of that generosity and gratitude. During the Christmas season in 1991, Morrill and Karen Worcester took time during their busiest season to donate and deliver 5,000 wreaths from their company in Harrington, ME, to Arlington National Cemetery to honor the heroes who lie at rest there. At first, a small band of volunteers laid the wreaths quietly and with little notice. In recent years, however, the Arlington Wreath Project has grown to become a national phenomenon. The people of Maine are proud that this heartfelt gesture of America's gratitude began in our state.

Wreaths Across America honors our departed heroes, but it does even more. It tells the Veterans still with us that we honor their service. It tells our men and women in uniform today that we are grateful for their courage and devotion to duty. It tells the families of those serving our country that they are in our thoughts and prayers. And it tells the families of the fallen that we share their grief.

Throughout human history, the evergreen wreath has been offered as a tribute to heroes. On December 13, we will again offer this enduring symbol of valor and sacrifice. In this season of giving, we will pay tribute to those who have given us the most precious gift of all, our freedom.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. 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. 593) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2014

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its businesses today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 4, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; and that following any leader remarks, the Senate resume executive session and consideration of the Orr nomination, with the time until 10 a.m. equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, there will be up to five rollcall votes at 10 a.m. on confirmation of the Orr and Hezir nominations and cloture on the Stivers, Leeson, and Griggsby nominations. Another series of up to six rollcall votes will occur at 1:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. 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 7:44 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, December 4, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

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 lieutenant colonel

ROBERT B. O. ALLEN
CATHERINE A. BONHOFF
BRAD C. BORDES
JEREMY L. BRASWELL
JEFFREY S. CHAPERON
ANTHONY W. CRANE
BRENT J. CUNNINGHAM
STELLA E. V. GARCIA
MIGUEL A. GUEVARA
ANDREW A. HERMAN
CHARLES S. HUGHES
DAVID HUINKER
NATHAN T. KELLETT
JENNIFER M. LAVERGNE
DONALD E. LOFTON, JR.
SEAN E. MARSHALL
LUZ A. MAYA
ALEXANDER L. MILLMAN
AIMEE L. MORALES
LAURA A. PATZ
JUSTICE M. SAKYI
TRACIE R. TIPPINS
ERNESTINA E. VAN LEER
KEITH M. VOLLENWEIDER

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 lieutenant colonel

RICHARD Y. BAIRD
MICHAEL S. BOGAARD
TIMOTHY J. BONJOUR
BRYAN DAVID BONZO
GOLDIE R. E. BOONE
COLIN M. BURCHFIELD
JACQUELINE E. BVLGARI
ANTHONY J. CAGLE
CATHERINE M. CALLENDER
JENNIFER R. CAREY
JOHN F. CARGIOLI
RICHARD C. T. CASABAR
TROY D. CHINEVERE
JOANNE S. CLARK
JEFFREY S. COLLINS
PAUL M. CONROY
HJALMAR CONTRERAS
KELLY L. CZEISZPERGER
JON K. EHRENFRIED
CARL S. ERICKSON
BRIAN C. EVERITT
RICHARD C. EVORS
STEPHANIE A. FORSYTHE
NICOLE D. GARRIS
DAVID R. GILLIAM, JR.
STEVEN B. GRAVES
ALAN C. HALE
MIRANDA L. HANCOCK
BENJAMIN R. HANDO
JESSICA D. HUGHES
TARA M. JAYNE
CHELSEA D. JOHNSON
JULIE M. JOHNSON
JONELLE J. KNAPP
JAY S. KOST
JEANE M. LAMBRECHT
BRIAN J. LANGFORD
COURTNEY M. LEE
ROGER A. LEE
DENISE M. LENNON
FE LOBOMENENDEZ
HANS J. MEISSNEST
ARTHUR L. MILLER
ERIC J. OGLESBEE
CRYSTAL E. PRICE
BRANDI A. RITTER
KATHRYN B. SHAW
STEPHEN C. SIMPSON
JEREMY SKABELUND
MICHAEL A. SKINNER
SCOTT W. STEIGERWALD
RANDALL L. STEVENS
TIMOTHY W. STOUT
DANIEL D. SWEENEY
JENNIFER A. TAY
JUSTIN L. THEISS
JEROME L. VINLUAN

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

RICHARD M. BURGON
JOSHUA N. SCOTT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

ALLYSON M. YAMAKI

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

AARON J. AGIRRE
ERIK B. ANDERSON
TANYA P. BERG
BRIAN F. BRAGASSA
JONATHAN R. CARDON
TIMOTHY A. CARLSON
ANTHONY J. CARTER
ALLEN CHAN
WILLIAM R. CONE, JR.
JOSEPH G. CURTIS
AMBER D. DAILEY
J. SEPH ANTHONY DEMEO
FRANCINE A. DRUMMOND
HENRY A. FOERSTER
CHRISTOPHER J. FRIES
FRANCISCO F. GALLARDO, JR.
BRETT M. GERMAIN
NATALIE FAITH GERMAIN
CHELSIE L. GRITZMACHER
JEFFERY Y. HENDERSON
ALEXANDRA E. HERNANDEZ
ELISE L. HICKERSON
RYAN S. HOLBROOK
MELISSA C. HOLT
SHANE A. JENKS
JASON F. KOESTERS
JONATHAN P. KRUZE
KEVIN R. KUNZ
KAREN R. LAPHAM
LISA K. U. LE
DEBBIE R. LEE
JIEUN LEE
KATHERINE MALDONADO ALFANDARI
MARICRUZ S. MARTINEZ
JARED D. MASON
EGYPT RAH Y. MCADOO
ERIN M. MCNAMARA
MANDY M. MILLER
HOON MIN
HELENA M. MINYE
NIKKI L. MOCHKO
JUNHYUNG PARK
CHRISTINA A. PFLIPSEN
KIMBERLY C. QUILAO
KEVIN D. RASMUSSEN
ASHLEY J. REYES
MARY UM ROBINSON

AMBER J. RUSSELL
JONATHAN J. SCHUBERT
SCOTT J. SHUMWAY
WESLEY S. SHUTE
WILLIAM E. SLACK
DANIEL J. SMITH
ROBERT M. SPRIGGEL
BRANDON C. STANLEY
PAULA A. STEPP
MARK R. STEVENSON
TATIANA P. TOQUICA
STEPHANIE L. TRAHAN
DANIEL P. TRUE
SARAH K. TURBUSH
ROBERT E. WAKE III
DANIELLE E. WEHRI
JESSICA R. WHITE
TUNGSHU M. YANG
GREGORY S. ZILINSKI

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

ERIKA S. ABRAHAM
WINFRED B. ABRAMS, JR.
MICHELLE R. ALDERS
DANIEL G. ALLEN
JACOB A. ANDERSON
MELANIE N. ASBURY
MARIE C. AUDETT
HEATHER E. AULTMAN
EDWIN R. AUSTIN
MELINDA M. AUXIER
JASON A. BABCOCK
LANCE T. BACON
ALAN S. BAGGETT
MATTHEW J. BAKER
GARY A. BARBER, JR.
ADRIAN R. BARRON
JONATHAN S. BASSETT
THOMAS J. BAYUK
KEITH T. BEAM
PATRICK C. BEEMAN
JEREMY M. BERNOT
DENAE MARGUERITE BEVILLE
ROBERT D. BOLTON
HOWARD E. BOWERS
AARON B. BRADY
JOSHUA P. BRAUTIGAM
DANIEL R. BREWER
JOHN R. BREWER
LAURA M. BRIDGE
STUART K. BRIGHAM
GABRIEL W. BRISCOE
ADAM S. BROWN
KAESSEE L. BROWN
SHANNON P. BUCK
WILLIAM E. BYNUM IV
NICHOLAS R. CARR
BRADLEY J. CARRA
JAMES T. CASSLEMAN
DARWIN CASTILLO
RYAN S. CHO
JONATHAN K. CHONG
KERRY L. CHRISTENSEN
JUN MO N. CHUNG
ROSELYN J. CLEMENTE FUENTES
JASON B. COOMBS
EMMANUEL CRUZ CABAN
JANET CRUZ
MICHAEL F. DAMORE
CORY J. DARROW
JULIE A. DAVENPORT
TIMOTHY M. DAVIS
NICOLE F. DE SIMONE
CAITLIN A. DUFAULT
ELIZABETH ANNE DUFFY MILMO
EVAN J. DUNN
STEVEN J. DURNING
JOSHUA L. EATON
JASON M. EDWARDS
MARY ANNE Q. EISMA
KATHERINE H. ELLIS
CHARISMA BAUTISTA EVANGELISTA
TIMOTHY J. EWALD
MATTHEW D. FAIN
SABRINA M. FELTON
ROSALINDA F. FITTS
KRISTEN E. FLEMING
ANDREW D. GALUSHA
ERICH M. GAUGER
KARIN SOBY GILKISON
PATRICK T. GLYNN
RYAN C. GOTTFREDSON
MICHAEL J. GRAVETT
ROBERT H. GRAY
GRANT W. GRIFFITH
RICHARD D. GRINSTEAD
JONATHAN T. HANCOCK
ANNA HANG
NICOLE M. HANS
NEEMA R. HARDEMAN
MISHA O. HARRELL
DANIEL E. HATZ
KATHERINE G. HAYES
ADAM D. HEBDON
HUYNH ANH HINSHAW
DEANN M. HOELSCHER
MASON C. HUNT
ALECIA R. HUTSLER
KOJI S. IIZUKA
FRANCIS E. JANES
BRETT C. JOHNSON
BRIAN W. JOHNSON
ELLYN M. JOHNSON
JENNIFER L. JOHNSON
WILLIE K. JONES
NATHAN R. KELSEY
MICHAEL A. KOROSCIL
MATTHEW W. KRAMER
JOSHUA G. KUBIT
STEPHANIE M. LAMPKE
JENNIFER L. LANDUCCI
JAMES H. LANTRY III
ADRIENNE M. LAURY
PETER A. LENNOX
ANDREW W. LEWIS
BRIAN J. LEWIS
YANG LIU
SUSAN B. LOBRANO
HAROLD J. LOCHNER III
JENNIFER D. LORENZ
MICHAEL T. LOUGHLIN
REGAN F. LYON
JOHN P. MAGULICK, JR.
ERIN M. MAI
KURIAN T. MALIEL
KEREEM M. D. MARLOW
ANNA M. MARUSKA
JONATHAN A. MAXHAM
DIXIE ANN MCCLENDON COKER
SETH B. MCCORD
GREGORY K. MCCOY
EMILY M. MCELVEEN
SEAN P. MEAGHER
JASON L. MELLO
ERIC G. MEYER
CHRISTOPHER J. MICALLEF
SHANA M. MILES
NATHAN R. MOODY
CAROLYN S. MOORE
JEFFREY D. MORGAN
TRENT L. MORGAN
BETHANY M. MULLA
HEATHER D. MUNDY
MICHAEL R. NAY
BRITTANIE INGRAM NEAVES
MEAGHAN P. NELLES
JOANNA M. NELMS
ALEXIS E. NELSON
STEVE M. NELSON
MICHELLE R. NEWKIRK
MONIQUE R. NOBLE
DAVID M. NORTHERN
NATHANIEL S. NYE
TAMANNA ODEA
KENNETH L. OFFUTT
NATHAN W. OLSON
MARY K. OSBORNE
NATHAN T. PALMER
JOSHUA E. PASCOE
NEHA K. PATEL
JUSTIN G. PEACOCK
TROY J. PEARCE
VANESSA MICHELLE PEARSON
BRIAN M. PENNINGTON
ASEEM V. PETERSON
MARK R. PETERSON
MAI T. PHAM
REBEKAH E. PIEGOLS
ADAM J. POLOZOLA
LISA MARIE POOLE
ALICIA C. PRESCOTT
ANGELA T. PRESCOTT
LESLIE L. K. PRISTAS
NAVINDRA RAMDATH
RACHEL TENNESSEE RAMSOWER
FREDERIC A. RAWLINS III
EMERSON M. RAZA
BRADLEY A. REEL
MATTHEW T. REYNOLDS
SARAH M. REYNOLDS
TALAYEH REZAYAT
JOHN M. RICHARDSON
RAMON A. RIOJAS
JAIME LYNN ROBEY
SHAINA J. ROGERS
JENNIFER ELIZABETH ROPER
LINDY M. ROSAL
MATTHEW J. ROYALL
FRANK D. RUSSO
HENRY S. SCHEULLER
AMY L. SCHIMKE
ERIKA J. SCHNEBLE
CHRISTOPHER P. SCHWAN
DANNIELLE M. SCHWARTZ
WANDER S. SEGURA
CHARLES S. SHAFFER
ERWIN T. SHAW
TIFFANY M. SHELTON
MICHELLE M. SHIPP
THOMAS M. SKINNER
NICOLAS J. SKORDAS
REBECCA S. SLOGIC
BENJAMIN P. SMITH
DEREK M. SMITH
JOHN R. SMITH
NATHANIEL E. SMITH
NATOSHA D. SMITH
STACY A. SOLHEIM
JOSEPH S. SONTGERATH
CHRISTOPHER M. STANLEY
KOURTNI L. STARKEY
MEGHAN A. STEINOUR
KELLY N. STINSON
JOSHUA C. STOREY
JOHN M. STOWERS
TIFFANY R. STRATTON
PHILLIP A. STRAWBRIDGE
MATTHEW T. STRINGER
NOAH T. SUTTON
CHRISTOPHER N. SWEIGART
SOFIA M. SZARI
CHAUNCEY D. TARRANT
STEVEN A. TAYLOR
NATHAN J. TESCHAN
KELTON M. THOMAS
SARAH E. Y. THOMAS
JAMES A. THOMPSON
MARC D. TOLLEY
ALFRED F. TRAPPEY III
WESLEY E. TRUEBLOOD
MARK R. TRUXILLO
RENE D. TURNER
JOHN R. UNTISZ
MATTHEW D. VANDERHOEK
ANNE M. VENABLE
JAMESON D. VOSS
PAUL D. VU
JUSTYNA T. WADOLOWSKI
ALLISON J. WALKER
HANS R. WATSON
JOHN D. WATSON
MATTHEW F. WATTO
KHANDIE Y. WAUGH
BRYANT J. WEBBER
AMANDA M. WEINDL
JASON P. WELTER
LAURA B. WHITE
ELAINA C. WILD
JON P. WILLIAMS
JORDAN M. WILLIAMS
ADAM M. WILLIS
THOMAS J. WILLSON
CORTNEY C. WILSON
EMILY J. WINTERTON
LAURA B. WOLFE
HALEI K. WONG
JENNIFER L. WOODWARD
APRIL LASHEL WOODY
CHRISTOPHER D. YOUNG
FEI ZHANG

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 lieutenant colonel

RHETT B. CASPER
JAMES K. T. CULLEN
MICHAEL W. DUERS
NICHOLAS B. DUVALL
PAULA K. HOANG
MATTHEW M. HUFFAKER
THEODORE M. JACKSON
JOANNA B. JAMINSKA
JINYOUNG KIM
MISUKE KIM
MARCUS P. KROPF
BRENDAN M. LANE
WENDY D. LOBRE
JAMES M. PIPER II
CHRISTOPHER L. PODLIN
ALLEN M. PRATT
NATHAN T. SCHWAMBURGER
ERIN M. SPEIER
BRADSHAW M. STOUT
BETH L. TOMIC
MARK A. VANZANT
BRENT J. WALDMAN
STERLING J. WHIPPLE
JAESUK YOO
JAMES M. YOUNG
STACEY ELIZABETH ZAIKOSKI

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 lieutenant colonel

JOSE C. AGUIRRE
ANGELA M. ALBRECHT
MICHAEL R. ALCORN
DOUGLAS R. ALFAR
JENNIFER A. ALFAR
DAVID A. APPEL
ALVI A. AZAD
CHRISTOPHER E. BACKUS
BRUCE R. BALL
HEATHER M. BARBIER
TRAVIS CARLOS BATTS
CLAYNE BENSON
KORY R. BODILY
CALE WALTER BONDS
JASON D. BOYD
ERNEST E. BRAXTON
RUTH BRENNER
TYSON C. BROWN
CHRISTOPHER W. BUNT
JEFFREY S. BURBIDGE
DANIELLE J. CERMAK
WENDY CHAO
SPENCER C. CHECKETTS
DAVID S. CHOI
JARED GLEN CLAY
ANGELIQUE N. COLLAMER
MARIA A. CONLEY
CHANTAL COUSINEAU KRIEGER
CARLTON J. COVEY
JOHN R. CUNNINGHAM
BRANDON J. CUTLER
DILLARD L. DEHART III
STEFANI L. DIEDRICH
MELISSA J. DOOLEY
JOSHUA S. DUBOIS
BRANDEN G. DUFFEY
JENNIFER E. DUNLAVY
TODD ALIN EADS
LANCE D. EDMONDS

NATHAN R. EVANS
CRISTINA L. FRANCHETTI
BRUCE JAY GARDNER II
RYAN F. GIBBONS
THOMAS O. GIFFORD
KRISTEN R. GLASS
BRIAN B. GLODT
ARTHUR J. GREENWOOD
IAN D. GREGORY
JOHN THOMAS HARDY
BRANDE M. HARRIS
JAMES C. HARTLEY
JOSHUA A. HARTMAN
KERMIT G. HELO III
ANTONIO J. HERNANDEZ
BERNARD A. HILDEBRAND, JR.
ROBIN A. HOLZER
BORISLAV HRISTOV
MARK W. HUBBELL
BRENT J. HUDDLESTON
JOSEPH A. HUSEMAN II
NICHOLE K. INGALLS
BRENT IZU
CHRISTOPHER E. JONAS
EVAN M. JONES
KEVIN P. JUOZAPAVICIUS
MARTIN P. KASZUBOWSKI
JEFFREY D. KISER
ADAM C. KOERTNER
CHRISTOPHER K. LAWLER
PAMELA R. LECLAIRE
CHRISTOPHER C. LEDFORD
BRETT E. LINCK
JEFFREY M. LODERMEIER
MICHELLE MARINO
SEAN P. MARTIN
LESLIE D. MATESICK
MICHAEL J. MATSUURA
JOHN J. MAXEY
BRADLEY A. MCGREGOR
DAVID C. MILLER
CHRISTINE A. MIRABAL
BENJAMIN J. MITCHELL
BENJAMIN MONSON
STEFANIE M. NANCE
CATHERINE E. NOBLE
CADE M. NYLUND
KATHLEEN M. OLEARY
MICHAEL P. OREJUDOS
REID N. ORTH
CASEY L. PARINI
JASON M. PFLUKE
NECIA M. POPE
DAMIEN C. POWELL
FRANCISCO J. RAMIREZ
JAMIE M. RAND
JOEL ADLAI REYES
RICHARD J. ROBINS
VANCE M. ROTHMEYER
AARON M. RUBIN
MEREDITH A. SARDA
MATTHEW R. SCHMITZ
ROSS A. SCHUMER
FAYE B. SERKIN
JENNIFER A. SEXTON
CYNTHIA S. SHEN
CHRISTINE A. SMETANA
JESSICA K. SMYTH
MARCUS S. SNYDER
RICHARD O. SPEAKMAN
SAMUEL A. SPEAR
DANIEL A. STEIGELMAN
ALLEN I. STERING
TIMOTHY J. STRIGENZ
ANDRE J. SULLIVAN
ROBERT C. SWIFT
BRYAN D. SZALWINSKI
KENJI L. TAKANO
TRAVIS C. TAYLOR
ANDREW A. THORESON
WILLIAM TOTH
VINH Q. TRAN
MARC S. TUBAY
LUCRETIA LYNNE VAUGHAN
KENNETH W. VAWTER
RODNEY C. WADLEY, SR.
JASON M. WEBB
LISA M. WEEKS
JACOB M. WESSLER
NED L. WILLIAMS
PETER M. WILLIAMS
TIMOTHY K. WILLIAMS
SCOTT A. WILTZ
EMILY B. WONG
VANESSA W. WONG
CURTIS J. WOZNIAK
FI A. YI
SANDY K. YIP

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 colonel

JASON D. EITUTIS
MICHAEL D. FOUTCH
PATRICIA D. FOWLER
SALLY ANN KELLYRANK
RANDALL C. LAMBERT
GREGORY W. PAPKE
ROBERT M. PAZ
SCOT S. SPANN
BRYAN E. WOOLLEY
BRIAN K. WYRICK

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 colonel

SARAHANN BEAL
RICHARD J. BERT, JR.
JOSEPH COSTANTINO
CRAIG H. FORCUM
PAUL J. HOERNER
SCOTT M. MCKIM
JAMES R. POEL
MARK A. STAAL
KEVIN W. TILLER
RYAN L. TRAVER
JAY A. VIETAS
CAROL C. WALTERS

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 colonel

KEITH L. CLARK
MICHAEL E. CRABTREE
WILLIAM K. LIN
PAUL A. LONGO
VICTOR B. MAGGIO
JAMES R. MOORE
KYLE E. PELKEY
ENRIQUE E. ROSADO
JENNIE LEIGH L. STODDART

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 colonel

TALIB Y. ALI
JAY R. ALLEN
JASON G. ARNOLD
ANTHONY S. BANKES
VIKHYAT S. BEBARTA
JAMES E. BERMUDEZ
JOHN N. BERRY
ANTHONY I. BEUTLER
CHRISTOPHER T. BIRD
JEREMY W. CANNON
JERRY M. CLINE
ROBERT W. CRAIGGRAY
PAUL F. CRAWFORD, JR.
SCOTT M. CUMMIS
RONALD S. DAY
ANTONIO J. DELGADO
BRIAN L. DELMONACO
KELLY L. DORENKOTT
DAVID J. DUVAL
KENNETH S. EGERSTROM
MARY T. GUEST
GREGORY J. HAACK
CHAD A. HAMILTON
JASON T. HAYES
RACHEL A. HIGHT
MICHAEL GLENN HODGES
ERIC F. HOLT
BRANDON R. HORNE
CHRISTOPHER M. HUDSON
SEAN L. JERSEY
KEVIN J. KAPS
TONY S. KIM
PAULETTE D. LASSITER
MAXIMILIAN S. LEE
MARK D. LYMAN
ROBERT M. MONBERG
THOMAS O. MOORE
BRENDAN M. NOONE
SAMIA A. OCHIA
SAMUEL T. OLATUNBOSUN
STEVEN D. PEINE
MICHAEL C. PETRO
JENNIFER L. RAVENSCROFT
JOSEPH R. RICHARDS
JAMES B. SAMPSON
ZAIGA KAREN SEARS
PATRICK A. SHEA
DAVID L. STEINHISER II
GALE T. TUPER, JR.
CEASAR A. VALLE
JAMES F. WALROTH
STEVEN R. WARD
DERRICK B. WILLSEY
GABRIEL ZIMMERER

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

BAMIDELE A. ADETUNJI
TERESE L. ALLISON
LIAM M. APONTE
JULEE L. AVRAM
BRETT J. BALLARD
SHARON A. BALLINGER
NICHOLAS S. BANCROFT
PAMELA D. BANKS
KATHLEEN V. BELL
NATASHA I. BEST
JUDY L. BLANCHARD
BRIAN T. BOOTH
CASSIDY JO BOYER
TINA S. BRADFORD
MICHAEL J. BRAKEL
LAURIE A. BREZINA
REBECCA A. BRIONES
KELLY ANN CARTER
MARIA C. CASTRO
JENNIE L. CAVAL
MARGARET G. CENTENO
LEWIS G. CHRISTENSEN
DAWN M. CLAUSON
MARION A. COLLINS
JENNIFER L. CONAWAY
JONATHAN C. CRISS
KAREN J. DARGAN
CARMANITA L. DAVIS
MONICA I. DENNING
GUILENE C. DERISMA
RACHELLE R. DIXON
TIFFANI M. DORCH
DEAN P. DORE
DEBBIE J. DORSEY
KATHLEEN M. DRUM
APRIL J. DUNLEVY
CHRISTOPHER D. DUVALL
ABIGAIL J. EASTMAN
LORI E. FLORI
JOAQUINA FONTES LOPES
MOAYAD FOWLER, SR.
JENNIFER L. FRANKS
DENISE M. FREDERIKSEN
ERIC M. FROST
MCKISA P. FRYER
MARY E. GAMBLE
STEPHANIE P. GARCIA
ANGELA C. GOOKIN
KATHERINE R. GRIFFITHS
TWANA A. HADDEN
WENDY H. HEIBEL
KATHERINE M. HITZ
ANGELICA M. HOLLIDAY
JK SHANE HOUSE
HEATHER S. HUBBARD
LAURA A. HUMES
CHENNEL CHRISTIAN JOHNSON
BENJAMIN D. JORGENSEN
SUSAN E. JOSEPH
DIANE J. JUROSKA
KATHERINE S. KASCH
TUESDAY M. KAYONGO
SHARA R. KOCH
VALERIE P. KOSOBUCKI
TAMMY R. KRITZER
MICHELLE A. LEMPKE
JOSEPH C. LEONDIKE
MARCIE A. LEWIS
BETHANY L. LIEBERMAN
BESSA JANE E. LIVICA
LOU A. LYSENGEN
ERIC W. MAGNUSON
ANASTASIA T. MCKOY
SHERRY L. MITCHELL
CYNTHIA G. MONTESI
ROMEATRIUS NICOLE MOSS
RICHARD J. ODOSSO
JAMES C. ONEILL
LIBERTY C. ORADA
HEATHER L. ORTIZ
TINA MARIE OUELLETTE
ANNETTE R. PATTON
DOUGLAS S. POGUE
STEPHANIE M. POWERS
JESSICA L. PRICE
STEPHEN G. RAY
RICHARD P. ROGERS
ESMERALDA SALAZAR
DARRELL C. SANDERS
JEANETTE K. SANDERS
SUZANNE E. W. SEE
SHAWNICE LEE SHANKLE
ANTHONY P. SIBILIA
JOHANA SIERRANUNEZ
MICHELLE B. SMITH CLEGGETT
STEFFANIE L. SOLBERG
BRIAN L. SPURLOCK
ANTHONY R. STEPHENS
THEODORE J. SZERSZENSKI III
GRETCHEN E. SZYMANSKI
SCOTT G. THALLEMER
STACY L. TUTTLE
VERONICA B. VALERIO
ELIZABETH L. VATH
JOEL M. VILLAVERT
TOBIE J. WATKINS
BRENDA D. WHITE
ROSEMARIE WIBISONO
BRIAN K. WIENHOFF
TIFFANY D. WILLIAMS
MICHELLE T. WISE
RHYS I. WOODALL
ZOE T. WOOLSTON
JONATHAN R. WURZELBACHER
KERI L. YOUNG

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

TRAVIS M. ALLEN
THOMAS R. BAIZE
KARL N. BLANCAFLOR
ROBERT DALE BOHNSACK
DANIEL S. CALL
STEVEN R. CUNEIO
GARY J. DAVIDSON
CRAIG MILTON FORSYTHE
DAVID M. HORTON
KEVIN M. HUDSON
PAUL B. JOYNER, JR.
JASON P. KIM
JASON T. KLODNICKI
DAVID R. LEONARD
CHRISTOPHER L. REEDER
DAVID D. REEDY
JONATHAN T. RUNNELS
DAVID Y. SUH
CHRISTOPHER D. UNDERWOOD II

JEROMY JAMES WELLS

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

DAVID P. ABBOTT
COURTNEY A. ADDY
REGINA R. BEINHAUR
JOHN D. BIGBIE
CHARLES MATTHEW BOYD
KRISTEN E. CARTER
RAMONA S. DAUGHERTY
JOSHUA D. DEAN
LOUIS C. EDWARDS, JR.
STUART D. FILLMORE
MICHELLE A. FRONZAGLIA
RAYMOND W. FUNKE
ERIC C. GARDNER
JOHN D. GILLARD
DANIEL A. GRIFFITH
MARK W. HASSETT
HEATHER C. HAYDEN
CORBY J. HEYNE
AMMON B. HICKMAN
CHRIS A. IANNI
JEREMIAH R. JACOBS
GREGORY A. KIRKWOOD
SARAH V. LINDSAY
VIKKI LORRAINE LOPEZ
MEGAN G. MALCOM
STACEY R. MCCRAW
RYAN J. MCGUIRE
JOSHUA LEE MILLER
DENISE K. MIRANDA
TROY R. A. NOVAK
ELIZABETH K. OSANTOWSKI
PRICE T. PARAMORE
DAMIAN K. PARDUE
ARCHIE R. PHLEGAR
ERIN LEIGH ROBERTS
JASON A. SALASKI
JONATHAN S. SEMPLE
ANDREW F. SEVERT
BRANDON LEONARD SHEALEY
DONNA L. SICKLER
JOY SPILLERS
JENNIFER JEAN TOMLINSON
KEVIN D. UNDERWOOD

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

MOHAMMED H. ALJALLAD
AMBER M. ALLARDICE
JESSICA M. ALLINGER
DANIEL M. ANDERSON
FUNMILAYO A. ARANMOLATE
MICHAEL A. ARMSTRONG
LATOYA S. ARTIS
ULISES JOE ATILANO
CHRISTOPHER S. BATES
MEGAN M. BATTEN
COREY M. BAYLISS
DOUGLAS J. BIRD
KODI M. BONE
FRANCISCO A. BORAL
DENNIS R. BOURDO II
LAURA M. BOYLAN
TODD D. BRACKETT
DAPHNE E. BREWTON
SHAMIKA PRYOR BROOKS
CRYSTAL C. BROWN
MICHAEL JOHN BRYANT
JENNIFER M. BUCKINGHAM
NATASHA W. BULLOCK
ROBERT L. CARLSEN
COREY CARNES
KAO YENG CHANG
ERIC CHASE
SPENCER P. CLAYTON
BRANDY K. CONWAY
TATANYA L. COOPER
MARGARET M. COPPINI
MAYARA MERCADO COULTER
BENJAMIN P. CRANDALL
MATTHEW S. DAVIS
EMILY G. DIETRICH
PATRICK DITULLIO
JONATHAN F. DOTI
CHRISTOPHER J. DYKES
RONALD I. ELAZEGUI
DANNY R. ELICH
NEYSA M. ETIENNE
ANNA V. FEDOTOVA
ALFRED J. FELIPE
ARNALDO J. FIGUEROA
KELLY L. FRANKLIN
BERNARDO L. GARCIA
THOMAS S. GARRIDO
JEFFREY D. GEDDES
MELISSA R. GILLINGHAM
MICHAEL S. GITCHEL
SHERRY D. GLENN
EMILY A. GRAZE
EDWARD P. GRIFFIN
ZACKERY A. GROOVER
ALEX H. GUBLER
BRYAN T. HAIL
JOHN M. HAMMILL
AMANDA O. HARDY
BRANDON P. HARRIS
KRISTENE A. HARRIS
JOEL M. HARTONG
RELINDA D. HATCHER
CHRISTINA H. HAYS
QUINTIN A. HECHT
ASPEN C. HEGER
TIFFANY R. HELINE
HEIDI A. HERNANDEZ
KYLE C. HIATT
JOANNA S. HO
KEVIN R. HOOKER
ANDREW C. HOUCHINS
MELINDA HUNT
FELICIA A. JACKSON
KYLE M. JOHNSTON
CHRISTOPHER D. JUDY
RYAN MYUNGHEE JUNG
MICHAEL K. KAN
RYAN L. KASTERN
ROHIN N. KASUDIA
VERONIKA N. KHRAKOVSKAYA
JORDAN W. KIELISZEWSKI
JIN H. KIM
TERRY L. KLEIN
BREANNE M. KORMENDY
MARILYN T. T. LAI
JIMMY F. LAM
JOHN C. LAVIN
LESLIE N. LOVETT
ANNE LY
RAYMOND W. MAK
JEFFERY S. MARTIN
PAUL E. MASON
KRISTEN M. MAYER
ANDREW J. MCUMBER
GARRETT A. MILLER
RONALD P. MILLER
VIVIEN J. MILLER
SHAOPING MO
KASEY MOORERITCHIE
MELANIE K. MULDROW
RICHARD J. NAVAREZ, JR.
JEFFREY G. NELSON
SANG Q. NGO
LYNH H. NGUYEN
KEMEJUMAKA N. OPARA
DAVID PANBOON
MELISSA A. PETERS
BRIAN D. PETROVICH
SONRIE G. PICKENS
JAIME J. PONS VALERIO
LEWIS M. PULLEY
LATEASA REED
CHRISTOPHER P. REICHLEN
JAMES A. RESCH
PETER GEORGE REY
LISA M. ROACH
AMANDA M. RUST
JOSHUA A. RYAN
MICHAEL D. SALYER, JR.
ELIZABETH A. SCHNABEL
DARNELL R. SCHUETTLER
MICHAEL A. SCIORTINO
RYAN M. SEYMOUR
NATHAN P. SHEPARD
ARIELLE R. SHIELY
BRIAN D. SHULER
AMANDA R. SIMSHIGH
EMILY E. SKINNER
RICHARD T. SMITH, JR.
CLIFFORD C. SOUDER
THADDEUS A. SPEED
FELISHA STANCIL
KARA B. TAYLOR
DANA R. THOMAS
EARL E. J. THOMAS
STEPHANIE M. TRACY
QUAN N. TRAM
ALEXANDRA L. TRAN
DEKONTEE M. TRAUB
DAVID S. TUBMAN
SYLVIA K. VALVERDE
JOHN A. VANN
COLLEEN M. VARGA
STEPHEN E. VELA
LETICIA VENEGAS
MICHAEL JOHN VIETTI
JOHN M. WADE
ANDREW B. WALLACE
FELECIA R. WASHINGTON
CHARLA R. WATSON
BENJAMIN C. WEAVER
TIMOTHY C. WEIGLE
MATTHEW S. WILLERICK
ADAM C. WILLETT
ANDREW P. WILLIAMS
SEAN M. WILSON
SETH P. WILSON
JOHN S. WU
ANITA M. YATES

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 lieutenant colonel

RICHARD S. BEYEA III
CHRISTIAN L. BISCOTTI
MATTHEW A. BOARTS
KRISTOFFER K. COX
LARRY J. FOWLER
JULIAN C. GAITHER
KENNETH E. JOHNSON, JR.
EUGENE F. LAHUE
CHRISTOPHER M. LAPACK
CHARLES R. MONTOYA, JR.
SCOTT P. NUPSON
RANDY L. SELLERS
MICHAEL D. SHANNON
MARK F. THOMAS
SAMMY C. TUCKER, JR.
TRAVIS C. YELTON

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY VETERINARY CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

MARION A. ALSTON
SCOTT J. ANDERSON
SHANE J. ANDREWS
KRISTOPHER T. APPLER
CHRISTOPHER D. BASS
FRANCOIS A. BATES
LARA A. BRENNECKE
JESSICA N. BUCHTA
ALICIA D. CAWLFIELD
CURTIS R. CLINE
JESSICA M. CONNOLLY
DANIELLE M. DIAMOND
BETHANY A. EVERETT
CYNTHIA A. FALLNESS
SARA R. HEGGE
MELISSA D. HEHR
DEANNA K. HOWELL
JESSICA J. HUWA
ELIZABETH A. JAMES
ANDREW J. A. KAY
NOEL L. KUBAT
RACHEL E. LEE
TIFFANY D. MCQUEEN
ANNA B. MULLINS
MATTHEW C. REED
JILL A. REIDELBERGER
CARA P. REITER
LAURA E. RIDDLE
MARTY G. ROACHE
DUSTIN J. STAAB
JASON J. THORNTON
NATHAN A. E. WIENANDT
STEFANIA V. WILCOX

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SPECIALIST CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

RACHEL R. ANTHONY
SARAH E. BAKER
PATRICK L. BARKER
STEPHANIE M. BOCANEGRA
BENJAMIN K. BOWER
STEVEN A. BREWER
BARBARA K. BUJAK
BRENDA D. BUSTILLOS
ALVARO CALVILLO
CHRISTINA M. CARRIGAN
CARLA R. CARRILLOKING
ANTONIO F. CHANG
JOHN J. CICCARELLO
ERICKA M. CISCO
SCOTT C. DEMBOWSKI
KIMBERLI A. DEMENT
JEFFERY A. DOLBEER
DAVID L. DRISKELL
WILLIAM H. EDMONDS
CHRIS M. GONZALEZ
VIVIEN S. GUEVARA
ROBERT J. HALLE
REBECCA A. HAWKINS
NATHAN E. HENRY
MATTHEW S. HOLT
MICHAEL R. HUNT
JAMES E. JACKSON
JASON L. JUDKINS
KARYN E. KAGEL
BRYAN C. KOZAK
JOHN M. KURTZ
ANDREA C. LOHMANN
JAMES S. LORENZ
JOHN MASON
RONALD K. MCANDREW
STEVE E. MCKELLAR, JR.
CHRISTOPHER B. MERCER
LETRENDA R. MILES
AMY M. MOORE
RACHEL E. MORGANS
REBECCA L. MORRELL
SHAUN J. OLAUGHLIN
ROBERT M. PADEN
JOSHUA M. PAGE
WILLIAM J. PITT
KAYLA O. RAMOTAR
TRAVIS ROBBINS
RYAN M. RODRIGUEZ
CHERI M. RUIZ
JAMES A. RULEY
MATTHEW Z. SAMONTE
MARION J. SMITH III
RACHEL M. SNELL
SARAH K. SOJA
SEAN T. SUTTLES
LEIGH A. SWAFFORD
ELIZA B. SZYMANEK
ANDREA R. TARRANCE
KERRI A. VANARNEM
LUIS E. VIDAL
HUGH D. WALLER II
NATHAN D. WILLIAMS
TODD WILLIAMS
JAMES P. WINSTEAD
LARRY E. WITHAM

D011532

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

NADINE M. ALONZO
ALFONSO J. ALVAREZ III
NICHOLAS J. BARANELLO
CARLOS A. BARRERA
KRISTINA L. BARTEE
VALERIE S. BARTONICO
JON M. BASHAM
TORRANCE C. BECK
SEAN P. BEEMAN
JAMES F. BEHELER
MIGUEL BENZOR
JARED L. BLACK
AUDREY A. BOENKER
MORRIS J. BOOTH
LONNIE S. BRADFORD
PAOLO C. BRIONES
JEFFREY L. BROWN
KENDRA L. BROWN
DANIEL L. BUNN
DAVID W. BYRD
GABRIELLE N. CALDARA
CHRISTOPHER C. CARPENTER
JESSICA T. CARTHON
PABLO A. CERCENIA
ERICA L. CHABALKO
EUN S. CHOI
BRANDEN K. CHUN
BRIAN E. COAKER
MEGAN A. CONNELL
JOSHUA L. CONNOR
MICHAEL R. COOPER
JARED M. COX
KIMI R. DAMASSIA
DAVID DELGADO
RICHARD A. DEMARAIS
ELIZABETH A. DESITTER
SAMUEL J. DIEHL
DAN T. DITZLER, JR.
BRIAN M. DOWNS
RAN DU
STUART R. DUBRIER
MARC N. DUFFING
TODD R. EAVES
BRITTANY L. ELLIS
NOLAN G. ELLIS
DAMON W. ELLISON
GARY S. FALZONE
ALEC L. FINLAY
JOSEPH E. FISHER
JESSICA L. FORMAN
MICHAEL S. FRANKEL
ASHLEY L. FRANKLIN
JEFFREY W. FROUDE II
PATRICK J. FRY
ANGELA N. FULBRIGHT
MELISSA K. GALAZIN
MICHELLE M. GARCIA
WILLIAM P. GEHLEN
PATRICK R. GLASS
JUSTIN R. GOLDMAN
ELVIS A. GONZALEZ
NATHANIEL B. HAGEN
WILLIAM C. HAMRICK
JODY J. HARBETTTRASK
JEAN P. HARE
ROBERT E. HAUPT
DANIEL D. HEFFNER
RICHARD A. HEIPERTZ
SEAN J. HENDERSON
RONALD R. HENRIQUEZ
QUANESHA K. HENRY
MEEGAN M. HENSON
WILLIAM D. HICKEY
RONNIE HILL
CHRISTOPHER M. HINNERICHS
GARRETT W. HOLT
ADAM T. HUGHES
PATRICK KAYLOR
BEATRICE I. KEARNEY
PATRICK R. KELLEY
KEVIN A. KIRCHGRABER
MELISSA K. KODANI
KATHERINE L. KOLACKI
MATTHEW KRULL
MICHAEL J. KWON
SPENCER D. LEE
BRET M. LEHMAN
THOMAS M. LEHMANN
MARVIN A. LEONARD
REBECCA K. LESEMANN
WILLIAM B. LEWIS
FRANK L. J. LILES
JISUN S. LIM
LUKE A. LINDAMAN
LIONEL Q. LOWERY II
KYLE R. LUND
GREGORY C. MABRY
MARY E. MARKIVICH
MARCOS MARTINEZ
DEEPAK J. MATHEW
JANEEN L. MATHIES
JIMMY L. MCCLAIN, JR.
MAHEALANI N. MCFARLAND
DAMIEN MCGUIGAN
ERIC J. MIES
ERIN E. MILNER
DEREK R. MONTHEI
MATTHEW J. MOOSEY
SCOTT T. MUELLER
NOE R. MUNIZ
STEVEN C. MURTY
BRYAN P. NOWAK
NICHOLAS J. NUSSDORFER
SEAN K. OBRIEN
MICHAEL M. OGANOVICH
EDDIE B. OLIVER
RUFINO D. ONG, JR.
ELIZABETH ORTIZ
VERONICA D. J. ORTIZ
RILIWAN O. OTTUN
STEPHEN W. OWEN
TRAVIS H. OWEN
CARPACCIO E. OWENS
JOHN W. PAAP
SEAN M. PALMER
XAVIER R. PENA
RANDY D. PERRY
BRANDON S. PYBUS
SUSAN H. RAGLIN
JOSHUA D. REECE
LYMAN S. REYNOLDSON
CAMERON L. RICHARDSON
ANTHONY H. B. ROBINSON
RONNIE P. ROBINSON
FAUSTINO RODRIGUEZ, JR.
KENNETH J. RODRIGUEZ
RICARDO J. RODRIGUEZCRUZ
NOLAN D. ROGGENKAMP
RALPH T. SALAZAR
TEFFANY N. SAMPLE
MARK G. SANDER
JOSE A. SANFELIZ
EDILBERTO SANTOS
BETTINA SCHMID
ISAAC S. SCHUNK
TODD C. SCHWARZ
JON M. SHARP
JULIE A. SHIN
RYAN C. SHUBAT
WALTER J. SKEISTAITIS, JR.
BRIAN G. SMITH
MAXWELL H. SMITH
LUIS F. SOTOORTIZ
MICHAEL P. STEVENS
DEREK T. STRANTON
JOHN T. STRINGER
JESSE J. TAFOYA
RONALD M. TALIS
DANIEL H. TENHAGEN
AARON THOMPSON
CRAIG E. THOMPSON
WILLIAM G. THOMPSON
TAMIKA N. THORNTON
JEREMY J. TRESCOTT
NORMAN V. TUALA
JAMES R. TULLIS
ALISA M. VANLANDINGHAM
KAYLA L. VICKERS
ABIGAIL S. VINCENT
KEVIN J. VOGT
LORI B. VOORHEES
MARK D. WALKER
ROBERT M. WEBER
BRAD A. WESLEY
MARK R. WESSELER
MICHELLE WHITLOCK
MARK T. WILLIAMS
ANDREW W. WILSON
JAMES E. WILSON
JOHN R. WOLF
DAVID P. WRIGHTEN
ANGELA M. YARNELL
MATTHEW B. YOUNG
JOSEPH G. ZIEBELL
D012227
D012299

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

MARK ACOPAN
THOMAS C. AGNEW
MAYAMONA D. AIKEN
CHRIS N. ANGELES
MANUSHKA ANGOY
HOLLY R. ARCHER
APRIL L. BACCINELLI
PHILLIP L. BALDWIN
JADELYN T. BANIQUED
REBECCA G. BARRERA
MELVENA R. BARTON
GABRIEL M. BELTRAN
AMBER M. BIRKLE
BRIAN D. BLUMHAGEN
MELANIE R. BOWMAN
CHRISTINE BRANDT
RUTH J. BROWNE
REVENIA J. BUCK
LISA K. BUCKLES
MELANIE C. BUDNIK
ADAM R. CAMPBELL
MICHAEL A. CAMPBELL
KATHLEEN E. CASPER
JESSICA CHAVEZ
JESUS CHAVEZ
KATRINA L. CHEEK
SOCHARA CHUMNOEUR
SCOTT A. COLEMAN
JASON M. CRISP
JUDY L. CRUZ
RUBEN D. CRUZ
TANISHA L. CURRIE
EMILIE M. DANKO
ERNESTINA DELAPENAGUBA
TERRI L. DORN
KEDRICK A. DRAKES
DORIS F. DUALAN
JOCELYN A. EVBUOMWAN
GORDON L. FALVEY
JENNIFER C. FIANDT
CATRENA D. FINDLEY
DAVID R. FISHER
ANNEMARIE FLANIGAN
COURTNEY A. FOLDERAUER
KATINA M. FOXWORTH
ERICK D. GABRIEL
LAURA GALINDOYOUNG
JENNIFER L. GLEN
HIRAM GONZALEZ
ERICA K. GRANT
MONIQUE E. GRINNELL
TREVOR D. HALL
TRANESSIA M. HANSON
SEAN L. HARRIS
IAN K. HENNEBERGER
TINA L. HILL
RICHARD L. HOWARD
ANGELA S. HOWELL
ERIN M. JACKSON
NORISHA L. JACKSON
LESLEY M. JACOBS
KENNEATTA M. JASPER
MARGO S. JENKINS
MONIQUE S. JESIONOWSKI
CHRISTOPHER C. JOHNSON
LAKEISHA D. JONES
BROOKE L. KAHL
ARIELLE J. KALIN
PAUL H. L. KILEY
MARILYNN M. KNORR
KATIE H. KUZMA
SHARIKA D. LABRIE
JAMES LACOMBE
JAMES LAWHORN, JR.
HEATHER S. LEAL
TRACEY L. LEE
JESSICA E. LIETZ
STACY J. LOSEY
PHILIPP T. LUCKOWSKI
CHANTY M. MACKINS
ALEXIS MARTINEZSUAREZ
JOHN R. MCINERNEY
JOSE MEJIA
JERRY L. MOON
TANYA B. MOORE
JULES R. MYERS
ABISAI NEGRON
JAMIE L. NEUMANN
DANA NICHOLSON
THERESA J. NOWAK
MARIA E. ORTEGAARTACHE
ANDRE J. PACHO
VALARIE R. PALACIOS
SHANDEL L. PANNETON
CHARLES A. PAUL
TABATHA E. PEPIN
THORBJORN K. PERSSON
DEREK L. PIERCE
LYNAE D. PLACE
YURENA PRIETOCORUJO
JEFFREY L. QUAN
KRYSTAL J. RALL
NATHAN R. RAVE
CONSUELO N. REED
AUDREY N. RICHERT
ALICIA D. ROBINSON
JOSE A. RODRIGUEZ
YAMILLE P. ROPER
JOYCE A. ROSADOHUGHES
JOHN W. ROY
JACQUELINE M. RUSHTON
JAMES M. SCHALK
PATRICIA M. SCHMIDT
STEVE C. SCUBA
YVONNE R. SENDEJO
KELLY M. SHAMLIAN
PATRICK B. SIMON
ADINA M. SIPPEL
ALISHA L. SOMERO
ESTHER H. SOUTHERLAND
GENNA S. SPEED
KYLE A. STEVENS
LAURA A. STOGNER
JESSICA E. STONE
KIMBERLY L. SUGG
DEBRA L. THORN
ELIZABETH J. TRICOZZI
JORGE A. TRONCOSO
MARY A. G. UGADDAN
ELIZABETH B. VANDERHOOF
MARIELOS VEGA
YASSIR B. VIZCAYA
MARSHA G. WALKER
SHEMICA M. WARD
THOMAS M. WATERS
STEPHEN M. WATT
TIMOTHY C. WICAL, JR.
KELLI C. WILSON
JOHN R. WISDOM
JENNIFER J. WITT
JESSICA M. WOJCICKI
KEVIN T. WORTH
LESEAN A. WRIGHT
JONATHAN G. YOST
TIMOTHY R. YOURK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

KATHARINE M. E. ADAMS
KEVIN M. ADAMS
DAVID L. ADAMSON
CHRISTOPHER K. ANDERSON
BRIAN D. ANDES
DEIRDRE K. BAKER
KATHERINE R. BANNING
BRANDON R. BERGMANN
STEPHEN J. BISHOP
MICHELLE E. BORGNINO
MICHAEL G. BOTELHO
STEPHEN R. CINCOTTA
LANCE E. CLARK
GREGORY J. COSTELLO
FAITH R. COUTIER
CHRISTOPHER M. COY
PATRICK A. CROCKER
DONEL J. DAVIS
SHEROD L. DAVIS, SR.
KATHERINE T. DENEHY
JACK D. EINHORN
SEAN P. FITZGIBBON
DAVID L. FORD
MATTHEW L. FORST
KRISTEN M. FRICCHIONE
SAMUEL GABREMARIAM
MATTHEW C. GALLAGHER
MARK E. GARDNER
EMILY E. GEISINGER
DANIEL M. GOLDBERG
HOUSTON J. GOODELL
TRACY L. GREINERLEE
KURT S. P. GURKA
STACEY A. GUTHARTZ COHEN
JOHN B. HABERLAND
JACK R. HATFIELD II
TYLER J. HEIMANN
BENJAMIN W. HILLNER
LATISHA IRWIN
HANNAH E. KAUFMAN
ELINOR J. KIM
JAMES W. KITCHEN
MELVIN A. LEE
JANAE M. LEPIR
KURTIS S. MACIOROWSKI
JOHN H. MARK
JASON R. MARQUEZ
CYNTHIA MARSHALL
EVAN R. MATTHEWS
PHILIP C. MAXWELL
BRUCE L. MAYEAUX
JULIE A. MCCONNELL
MATTHEW T. MILLER
DANIEL B. MITCHELL
JASON W. MOY
WILLIAM J. OSTAN
ANGEL M. OVERGAARD
MAJELLA C. POPE
AUTUMN R. PORTER
SETH B. RITZMAN
SEAN D. ROGERS
KURT M. ROWLAND
JOHN K. SCHELLACK III
JOHN L. SCHRIVER
DANIEL W. SCIALPI
CRAIG M. SCROGHAM
CHRISTOPHER S. SEXTON
RICHARD J. SLEESMAN
ANDREW D. SMITH
STEPHEN P. SMITH
KATHERINE M. SPENCER
HEIDI M. STEELE
BRIAN J. SULLIVAN
BRENT W. THOMPSON
MICHAEL M. TOWNSEND
CARRIE L. WARD
BRITTANY R. WARREN
JULIE K. WATERS
DEVON A. R. WELLS
LAURA B. WEST
EDWARD J. WHITFORD
MATTHEW B. WILLIAMS
JAMES K. WOLKENSPERG
HANS P. ZELLER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

ROBERT J. ABBOTT
BRIAN P. ADAMS
ELIZABETH F. ALLEN
ALAN APPLE
EDWARD G. BAHDI
MICHAEL P. BAILEYS
GREGORY B. BATDORFF
CHRISTIAN E. BEESE
EDWARD W. BERG
JOSHUA F. BERRY
CATHERINE M. A. BOWERY
CAROL A. BREWER
SUSAN A. CASTORINA
ELISABETH A. CLAUS
ALBERT G. COURIE III
JEFFREY S. DIETZ
CHRISTINE C. FONTENELLE
DERRICK W. GRACE
NJERI S. HANES
TODD J. HANKS
ERIC A. HETTINGA
JAMES T. HILL
ADAM S. KAZIN
TONY Y. KIM
KEVIN W. LANDTROOP
ROBERT M. LEONE
EDWARD C. LINNEWEBER
JOHN R. MALONEY
YOLANDA D. MCCRAYJONES
EVAH K. P. MCGINLEY
JOHN J. MERRIAM
DOUGLAS W. MOORE
JAMES W. NELSON
ROBERT B. NELSON
JENNIFER A. NEUHAUSER
ERIC D. NOBLE
JOHN M. RATLIFF
PIA W. ROGERS
FRANKLIN D. ROSENBLATT
ROBERT E. SAMUELSEN II
PHILIP M. STATEN
ALISON M. TULUD
ELIZABETH A. WALKER
MARC B. WASHBURN
HEIDI E. WEAVER
ERIC W. WIDMAR
WINSTON S. WILLIAMS, JR.
D011857

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

FRANCIS J. RACIOPPI, JR.

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 lieutenant commander

JUSTIN C. LEGG

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate December 3, 2014:

THE JUDICIARY

DAVID J. HALE, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY.

MARK A. KEARNEY, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

GERALD J. PAPPERT, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

P. DAVID LOPEZ, OF ARIZONA, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

CHARLOTTE A. BURROWS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2019.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRESSMAN RALPH REGULA'S 90TH BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE

HON. BOB GIBBS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 90th birthday of former Representative, Ralph Regula.

Ralph Strauss Regula was born in Beach City, Ohio, on December 3, 1924. Prior to his election to Congress, Mr. Regula served in the United States Navy, worked as a school teacher and principal in Stark County schools, served on the Ohio State Board of Education and was a member in both the Ohio State House and State Senate. In 1973, Mr. Regula was elected to Congress and served 18 consecutive terms, until his retirement in 2009.

During his tenure in Congress, Mr. Regula served as the Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee for Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, where he worked across party lines to improve educational opportunities, workforce training programs and healthcare. He was a passionate advocate for research and the advancement of science.

Congressman Regula billed himself a "regular" guy. He was the son of a dairy farmer and part of a high school graduating class of only 25, where he developed a strong work ethic and love of community. Ralph loved serving here because he cared about people and helping improve their quality of life. In this House he was a pragmatic leader willing to find solutions to tough problems.

I have personally known Ralph for over three decades and have many fond memories meeting with him both here and in Ohio as my Congressman. Like many others I have learned so much from Congressman Regula over the years. To that I say, Thank you!

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the great life and career of Mr. Ralph Regula, wishing him a very happy 90th birthday.

ISRAEL AT THE UNITED NATIONS

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw your attention to a speech given last week by Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Ron Prosor. Ambassador Prosor spoke passionately before the U.N. General Assembly about the U.N.'s persistent anti-Israel agenda, which continues to manifest itself in many forms such as special sessions, formal inquiries, and one-sided resolutions that single out Israel. I am proud of my steadfast support for the State of Israel and will continue my work to combat the U.N.'s bias against our greatest ally. I found Ambassador Prosor's words enlightening, and applaud him for speaking the truth. I would now like to submit Ambassador Prosor's speech.

AMBASSADOR RON PROSOR AT THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON NOVEMBER 24, 2014

AMBASSADOR RON PROSOR

''Mr. President,

I stand before the world as a proud representative of the State of Israel and the Jewish people. I stand tall before you knowing that truth and morality are on my side. And yet, I stand here knowing that today in this Assembly, truth will be turned on its head and morality cast aside.

The fact of the matter is that when members of the international community speak about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, a fog descends to cloud all logic and moral clarity. The result isn't realpolitik, it's surrealpolitik.

The world's unrelenting focus on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is an injustice to tens of millions of victims of tyranny and terrorism in the Middle East. As we speak, Yazidis, Bahai, Kurds, Christians and Muslims are being executed and expelled by radical extremists at a rate of 1,000 people per month.

How many resolutions did you pass last week to address this crisis? And how many special sessions did you call for? The answer is zero. What does this say about international concern for human life? Not much, but it speaks volumes about the hypocrisy of the international community.

I stand before you to speak the truth. Of the 300 million Arabs in the Middle East and North Africa, less than half a percent are truly free—and they are all citizens of Israel.

Israeli Arabs are some of the most educated Arabs in the world. They are our leading physicians and surgeons, they are elected to our parliament, and they serve as judges on our Supreme Court. Millions of men and women in the Middle East would welcome these opportunities and freedoms.

Nonetheless, nation after nation, will stand at this podium today and criticize Israel—the small island of democracy in a region plagued by tyranny and oppression.

Mr. President,

Our conflict has never been about the establishment of a Palestinian state. It has always been about the existence of the Jewish state.

Sixty seven years ago this week, on November 29, 1947, the United Nations voted to partition the land into a Jewish state and an Arab state. Simple. The Jews said yes. The Arabs said no. But they didn't just say no. Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Lebanon launched a war of annihilation against our newborn state.

This is the historical truth that the Arabs are trying to distort. The Arabs' historic mistake continues to be felt—in lives lost in war, lives lost to terrorism, and lives scarred by the Arabs' narrow political interests.

According to the United Nations, about 700,000 Palestinians were displaced in the war initiated by the Arabs themselves. At the same time, some 850,000 Jews were forced to flee from Arab countries.

Why is it, that 67 years later, the displacement of the Jews has been completely forgotten by this institution while the displacement of the Palestinians is the subject of an annual debate?

The difference is that Israel did its utmost to integrate the Jewish refugees into society. The Arabs did just the opposite.

The worst oppression of the Palestinian people takes place in Arab nations. In most of the Arab world, Palestinians are denied citizenship and are aggressively discriminated against. They are barred from owning land and prevented from entering certain professions.

And yet none—not one—of these crimes are mentioned in the resolutions before you.

If you were truly concerned about the plight of the Palestinian people there would be one, just one, resolution to address the thousands of Palestinians killed in Syria. And if you were so truly concerned about the Palestinians there would be at least one resolution to denounce the treatment of Palestinians in Lebanese refugee camps.

But there isn't. The reason is that today's debate is not about speaking for peace or speaking for the Palestinian people—it is about speaking against Israel. It is nothing but a hate and bashing festival against Israel.

Mr. President,

The European nations claim to stand for Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité—freedom, equality, and brotherhood—but nothing could be farther from the truth.

I often hear European leaders proclaim that Israel has the right to exist in secure borders. That's very nice. But I have to say—it makes about as much sense as me standing here and proclaiming Sweden's right to exist in secure borders.

When it comes to matters of security, Israel learned the hard way that we cannot rely on others—certainly not Europe.

In 1973, on Yom Kippur—the holiest day on the Jewish calendar—the surrounding Arab nations launched an attack against Israel. In the hours before the war began, Golda Meir, our Prime Minister then, made the difficult decision not to launch a preemptive strike. The Israeli Government understood that if we launched a preemptive strike, we would lose the support of the international community.

As the Arab armies advanced on every front, the situation in Israel grew dire. Our casualty count was growing and we were running dangerously low on weapons and ammunition. In this, our hour of need, President Nixon and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, agreed to send Galaxy planes loaded with tanks and ammunition to resupply our troops. The only problem was that the Galaxy planes needed to refuel on route to Israel.

The Arab States were closing in and our very existence was threatened—and yet, Europe was not even willing to let the planes refuel. The U.S. stepped in once again and negotiated that the planes be allowed to refuel in the Azores. The government and people of Israel will never forget that when our very existence was at stake, only one country came to our aid—the United States of America.

Israel is tired of hollow promises from European leaders. The Jewish people have a long memory. We will never ever forget that you failed us in the 1940s. You failed us in 1973. And you are failing us again today.

Every European parliament that voted to prematurely and unilaterally recognize a

Palestinian state is giving the Palestinians exactly what they want—statehood without peace. By handing them a state on a silver platter, you are rewarding unilateral actions and taking away any incentive for the Palestinians to negotiate or compromise or renounce violence. You are sending the message that the Palestinian Authority can sit in a government with terrorists and incite violence against Israel without paying any price.

The first E.U. member to officially recognize a Palestinian state was Sweden. One has to wonder why the Swedish Government was so anxious to take this step. When it comes to other conflicts in our region, the Swedish Government calls for direct negotiations between the parties—but for the Palestinians, surprise, surprise, they roll out the red carpet.

State Secretary Söder may think she is here to celebrate her government's so-called historic recognition, when in reality it's nothing more than a historic mistake.

The Swedish Government may host the Nobel Prize ceremony, but there is nothing noble about their cynical political campaign to appease the Arabs in order to get a seat on the Security Council. Nations on the Security Council should have sense, sensitivity, and sensibility. Well, the Swedish Government has shown no sense, no sensitivity and no sensibility. Just nonsense.

Israel learned the hard way that listening to the international community can bring about devastating consequences. In 2005, we unilaterally dismantled every settlement and removed every citizen from the Gaza Strip. Did this bring us any closer to peace? Not at all. It paved the way for Iran to send its terrorist proxies to establish a terror stronghold on our doorstep.

I can assure you that we won't make the same mistake again. When it comes to our security, we cannot and will not rely on others—Israel must be able to defend itself by itself.

Mr. President,

The State of Israel is the land of our forefathers—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. It is the land where Moses led the Jewish people, where David built his palace, where Solomon built the Jewish Temple, and where Isaiah saw a vision of eternal peace.

For thousands of years, Jews have lived continuously in the land of Israel. We endured through the rise and fall of the Assyrian, Babylonian, Greek and Roman Empires. And we endured through thousands of years of persecution, expulsions and crusades. The bond between the Jewish people and the Jewish land is unbreakable.

Nothing can change one simple truth—Israel is our home and Jerusalem is our eternal capital.

At the same time, we recognize that Jerusalem has special meaning for other faiths. Under Israeli sovereignty, all people—and I will repeat that, all people—regardless of religion and nationality can visit the city's holy sites. And we intend to keep it this way. The only ones trying to change the status quo on the Temple Mount are Palestinian leaders. President Abbas is telling his people that Jews are contaminating the Temple Mount. He has called for days of rage and urged Palestinians to prevent Jews from visiting the Temple Mount using (quote) ''all means'' necessary. These words are as irresponsible as they are unacceptable.

You don't have to be Catholic to visit the Vatican, you don't have to be Jewish to visit the Western Wall, but some Palestinians would like to see the day when only Muslims can visit the Temple Mount.

You, the international community, are lending a hand to extremists and fanatics. You, who preach tolerance and religious freedom, should be ashamed. Israel will never let this happen. We will make sure that the holy places remain open to all people of all faiths for all time.

Mr. President,

No one wants peace more than Israel. No one needs to explain the importance of peace to parents who have sent their child to defend our homeland. No one knows the stakes of success or failure better than we Israelis do. The people of Israel have shed too many tears and buried too many sons and daughters.

We are ready for peace, but we are not naïve. Israel's security is paramount. Only a strong and secure Israel can achieve a comprehensive peace.

The past month should make it clear to anyone that Israel has immediate and pressing security needs. In recent weeks, Palestinian terrorists have shot and stabbed our citizens and twice driven their cars into crowds of pedestrians. Just a few days ago, terrorists armed with axes and a gun savagely attacked Jewish worshipers during morning prayers. We have reached the point when Israelis can't even find sanctuary from terrorism in the sanctuary of a synagogue.

These attacks didn't emerge out of a vacuum. They are the results of years of indoctrination and incitement. A Jewish proverb teaches: ''The instruments of both death and life are in the power of the tongue.''

As a Jew and as an Israeli, I know with utter certainty that when our enemies say they want to attack us, they mean it.

Hamas's genocidal charter calls for the destruction of Israel and the murder of Jews worldwide. For years, Hamas and other terrorist groups have sent suicide bombers into our cities, launched rockets into our towns, and sent terrorists to kidnap and murder our citizens.

And what about the Palestinian Authority? It is leading a systemic campaign of incitement. In schools, children are being taught that 'Palestine' will stretch from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea. In mosques, religious leaders are spreading vicious libels accusing Jews of destroying Muslim holy sites. In sports stadiums, teams are named after terrorists. And in newspapers, cartoons urge Palestinians to commit terror attacks against Israelis.

Children in most of the world grow up watching cartoons of Mickey Mouse singing and dancing. Palestinian children also grow up watching Mickey Mouse, but on Palestinians national television, a twisted figure dressed as Mickey Mouse dances in an explosive belt and chants ''Death to America and death to the Jews.''

I challenge you to stand up here today and do something constructive for a change. Publically denounce the violence, denounce the incitement, and denounce the culture of hate.

Most people believe that at its core, the conflict is a battle between Jews and Arabs or Israelis and Palestinians. They are wrong. The battle that we are witnessing is a battle between those who sanctify life and those who celebrate death.

Following the savage attack in a Jerusalem synagogue, celebrations erupted in Palestinian towns and villages. People were dancing in the street and distributing candy. Young men posed with axes, loudspeakers at mosques called out congratulations, and the terrorists were hailed as ''martyrs'' and ''heroes.''

This isn't the first time that we saw the Palestinians celebrate the murder of innocent civilians. We saw them rejoice after every terrorist attack on Israeli civilians and they even took to the streets to celebrate the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center right here in New York City.

Imagine the type of state this society would produce. Does the Middle East really need another terror-ocracy? Some members of the international community are aiding and abetting its creation.

Mr. President,

As we came into the United Nations, we passed the flags of all 193 member States. If you take the time to count, you will discover that there are 15 flags with a crescent and 25 flags with a cross. And then there is one flag with a Jewish Star of David. Amidst all the nations of the world there is one state—just one small nation state for the Jewish people. And for some people, that is one too many.

As I stand before you today I am reminded of all the years when Jewish people paid for the world's ignorance and indifference in blood. Those days are no more.

We will never apologize for being a free and independent people in our sovereign state. And we will never apologize for defending ourselves.

To the nations that continue to allow prejudice to prevail over truth, I say ''J'accuse.''

I accuse you of hypocrisy. I accuse you of duplicity.

I accuse you of lending legitimacy to those who seek to destroy our State.

I accuse you of speaking about Israel's right of self-defense in theory, but denying it in practice.

And I accuse you of demanding concessions from Israel, but asking nothing of the Palestinians.

In the face of these offenses, the verdict is clear. You are not for peace and you are not for the Palestinian people. You are simply against Israel.

Members of the international community have a choice to make.

You can recognize Israel as the nation-state of the Jewish people, or permit the Palestinian leadership to deny our history without consequence.

You can publically proclaim that the so-called ''claim of return'' is a non-starter, or you can allow this claim to remain the major obstacle to any peace agreement.

You can work to end Palestinian incitement, or stand by as hatred and extremism take root for generations to come.

You can prematurely recognize a Palestinian state, or you can encourage the Palestinian Authority to break its pact with Hamas and return to direct negotiations.

The choice is yours. You can continue to steer the Palestinians off course or pave the way to real and lasting peace.

Thank you, Mr. President.''

TRIBUTE TO THE KENTUCKY COMMUNITIES ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL (KCEOC) COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Kentucky Communities Economic Opportunity Council (KCEOC)—Community Action Partnership in celebration of the agency's 50th anniversary of service to the people of southeastern Kentucky.

As one of the first 23 agencies established in 1964 to address poverty, KCEOC has raised the bar high, going above and beyond the call of duty to provide greater opportunities for those in need. Thanks to a group of local citizens who applied for a competitive grant

opportunity five decades ago, this organization has flourished into the multi-million dollar service agency that it is today.

KCEOC has inspired people across our region to put compassion for our neighbors into action. Through its programs and innovative responses to dire needs in our impoverished communities, more families today have access to child development programs, food resources, affordable housing, and assistance with financial needs than ever before. This agency has also been a critical partner for economic development, from recruiting jobs to providing the infrastructure for new businesses. The employees of KCEOC serve as great ambassadors for eastern Kentucky, proving that we have a strong, dedicated workforce and an intricate support community that believes in helping one another succeed.

Through the vision of leaders like Paul Dole, this agency has turned community losses into gains. One of the greatest examples of those efforts was the transformation of the old asbestos-plagued Corbin Hospital into clean, state-of-the-art housing for senior citizens.

Winston Churchill once said that a pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty. That's what KCEOC works to convey every single day by providing a hand-up, rather than a hand out. They provide hope in an otherwise dark hour for many families and I can't thank this agency enough for its efforts day-in and day-out, letting our neighbors know that someone cares.

KCEOC has forged important partnerships with local schools, employers and other community organizations to capitalize on the resources that are abundant in our communities. Together, we have made great strides in southeastern Kentucky, but we certainly wouldn't be where we are today without the foundation that KCEOC has carefully crafted for thousands of families in our region.

In celebration of this 50th anniversary, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the work of the KCEOC Community Action Partnership in southeastern Kentucky.

7TH ANNUAL LAKESHORE CLASSIC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize the Gary Chamber of Commerce as the organization celebrates the 7th annual Lakeshore Classic basketball tournament. In honor of this occasion, the Gary Chamber of Commerce hosted a celebratory event in Gary, Indiana, which included a corporate luncheon held at the Majestic Star Casino on Tuesday, November 25, and a basketball tournament at West Side High School on Friday and Saturday, November 28 and 29.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of sports and impressive team players. The theme for this year's Lakeshore Classic is the ''Cavalcade of Champions,'' saluting all of the region's state basketball champions from 1940 to 2014. These exceptional players and coaches have made a mark in the region's notable sporting history and are to be highly commended. Along with these outstanding basketball teams, the Gary Chamber chose a prominent featured speaker for their corporate luncheon, Mr. Ulysses ''Junior'' Bridgeman, a former National Basketball Association star and one of the most successful businessmen in the United States. Alongside his extraordinary success, Mr. Bridgeman has also proven to be a great model in transitioning from professional sports to the business industry.

I would like to take this time to honor the region's state basketball champions from 1940 to 2014. These teams have set the standard for sports excellence in our region while creating an inspiring example for the community of Northwest Indiana. The girls basketball teams include East Chicago Roosevelt (1977), East Chicago Roosevelt (1979), Crown Point High School (1984), Crown Point High School (1985), and Lake Central High School (1994). The boys basketball teams include Hammond Technical High School (1940), East Chicago Washington High School (1960), Michigan City Elston High School (1966), Gary Roosevelt High School (1968), East Chicago Roosevelt High School (1970), East Chicago Washington High School (1971), Gary Roosevelt High School (1991), Gary West Side High School (2002), East Chicago Central High School (2007), Thea Bowman Academy (2010), Wheeler High School (2010), and Thea Bowman Academy (2013).

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the Gary Chamber of Commerce, the organizers and sponsors of the 7th annual Lakeshore Classic, and the prestigious state champion teams that have been honored. Their noteworthy commitment, leadership, and contributions have inspired generations to come.

HONORING CHRISTOPHER CARSWELL

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to honor Christopher Carswell, an inspirational young man who has faced numerous medical struggles with grace and poise and has used his experiences as motivation to start his own non-profit organization, 1Boy4Change, when he was only 13 years old. Today, he is 16 and has a story that we all could learn a lesson from.

Throughout his decade and a half of life, Chris has suffered a tonsil adenoid surgery that resulted in the need for a feeding tube, multiple hand reconstructive surgeries, as well as a connective tissue disorder that put him in a wheelchair for a time. Then, he started having seizures that put him into respiratory/cardiac arrest as well as a stroke which robbed him of the right half of his field of vision. But through this long list of challenges, Chris has remained an upbeat person and has dedicated himself to the service of others.

In 2010, Chris was matched up with Bronx, a service dog who became his constant companion, ensuring he would never face what life threw at him alone. Shortly after that, he started 1Boy4Change, with the mission of raising awareness and providing support for individuals and families with disabilities. In the early days of the organization, Chris helped match up 70 service dogs to veterans and children.

Since then, he has expanded his mission to support others who have also chosen to live a life of service: our soldiers and police officers. In that capacity, Chris has started programs meant to help out K9 units by providing them comprehensive first aid kits as well as car heat alarms that can save the lives of dogs that are left in patrol cars.

Chris is to undergo brain surgery in January, and his doctors are hopeful that the procedure will stop his seizures. I hope all of my colleagues in the House will join with me as we wish Chris a successful operation and a speedy recovery so he can come back and continue the good work he's doing.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF MARTIN LITTON

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the extraordinary life and work of Martin Litton, a legendary and passionate environmentalist and wilderness preservationist who died on November 30, 2014, at his home in Portola Valley, California. Mr. Litton was born in Los Angeles on February 13, 1917, and was 97 years of age when he died of age-related causes.

Martin Litton was introduced early to the joys of the wilderness. He attributed a 12-day trip on Mt. Whitney that he and a friend took as teens as the inspiration for his lifelong crusade to protect our environment. At age 18 he wrote a letter to the Los Angeles Times urging Californians to save Mono Lake. Martin Litton was best known for his fierce opposition to the destruction of the Colorado River by the construction of dams, often in association with the Sierra Club. He was one of the first several hundred people to float the river in 1955, and after fourteen years as the travel editor at Sunset Magazine he began running the river often, founding Grand Canyon Dories in 1970 and running commercial trips through the 1970s and 1980s, until he sold the business in 1988. He ran his last trip in 2004 at age 87, rowing his own wooden dory.

Martin Litton was an author, activist, pilot, and a catalyst for change. He was close to major figures in the environmental movement, such as David Brower, Edward Abbey and others. Martin Litton gave generously of his time and considerable talents to the conservation movement as a Director of the Sierra Club from 1964 to 1973, as a member of the Executive Committee of the American Land Conservancy, as an Advisor to the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance and on the Honorary Board of Directors of the Glen Canyon Institute.

Martin Litton leaves his wife, Esther, his children John, Kathleen and Helen, as well as five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in extending our most sincere condolences to Martin Litton's family, and in honoring his extraordinarily productive life. Martin Litton was a soaring figure, larger

than life, with a magnificent voice, a powerful presence, an all-consuming passion for the wilderness, and a passion to preserve and protect the natural beauty of our nation.

HAMAS KILLS AGAIN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, ''We love death more than the Jews love life.'' This Hamas propaganda phrase says it all. International outsiders cry ''peace, peace,'' but there can be no peace as long as Hamas refuses to recognize Israel's right to exist. No matter how many times leaders shake hands or how many agreements are signed, peace cannot be achieved if peace is not desired. The only reason Israel exists is because the Jews persist in surviving.

In the morning hours of November 18, a group of Orthodox Jews gathered at a synagogue in Jerusalem to pray. In the middle of their prayers, at 7 a.m., two terrorists wielding guns, axes, and butcher knives attacked them. Odai Abu Jamal and his cousin, Ghassan Abu Jamal, killed 4 rabbis and one police officer and injured 8 others before they were shot by local police. Three of the four rabbis were American citizens.

The men were members of the terrorist group known as the Popular Front for Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). While the group itself did not claim responsibility, it was quick to support the attack. Hamas, another terrorist group bent on the destruction of Israel, not only commended the attacks but called for more. Terrorist groups supporting terrorist attacks does not surprise me. But Hamas is not your typical terrorist group. It governs the entire Gaza Strip as a result of the 1.8 million Palestinians there voting them into power. And the reaction from some of the people of Gaza to the attack shows that they share its terrorist government's feelings. In the town of Rafah, the people celebrated by handing out sweets, carrying axes, and holding up posters of the terrorists. The religious elites joined in the celebration as well: loudspeakers at mosques in Gaza called out congratulations. Palestinian radio reports described the attackers as ''martyrs''. Undoubtedly, the terrorists' family will receive compensation from the government's ''terrorist fund'', which pays stipends to the families of terrorists who are imprisoned or who died during their attacks.

When an elected government and the people it governs celebrate a brutal terrorist attack, it is a reminder of the challenges Israel faces as it works for peace in the region. For the last six years, this White House has pressured the Israeli government to make concession after concession for peace. The reaction of the people in Gaza to this latest attack should wake the White House up to the unfortunate reality that, no matter how many concessions Israel makes, many Palestinians do not want peace if it means Israel continues to exist. Palestinian acts of terrorism are not just a problem of a couple of lone rats or individual terrorist groups, but they are supported by an entire infrastructure throughout the Palestinian territories that has close ties to the senior Palestinian leadership. Instead of repeatedly twisting Israel's arm to make peace when peace can't be made, the United States should stand strong with our democratic ally against terrorists. The same attackers that want to destroy Israel also call the United States the Great Satan. They want to kill Americans too, as this latest attack that killed three Americans showed. Our first step should be to cut the funding we give to the Palestinian Authority (PA) until they take specific, verifiable, and significant acts to go after those who commit acts of terrorism. At the very least, the PA needs to stop paying reward money to the families of terrorists. Second, we should make sure that our funding to Israel is strong and robust, focused on ensuring Israel can beat back these terrorists. Finally, we need to stop publicly and privately insulting Israel. Israel is the only liberal democracy in the Middle East and one of our strongest allies in the world.

The right response to a terrorist act is not words of condemnation followed by continued pressure on the victims of terrorism. The right response is recognizing the evil for what it is and countering it with swift justice against the perpetrators and strong support for the victims.

And that's just the way it is.

10TH ANNUAL NORTHWEST INDIANA INNOVATION INDUCTION CEREMONY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and enthusiasm that I congratulate Ivy Tech Community College Northwest and its regional partners, who recently celebrated their 10th Annual Northwest Indiana Innovation Induction Ceremony. At the ceremony, which reflects the ''Spirit of Innovation'' in Indiana, fifteen individuals and fourteen teams were inducted as members of the 2014–2015 class of The Society of Innovators of Northwest Indiana. Of these individuals, several members were inducted as Society Fellows for their significant efforts in innovation. These individuals are Scott Albanese, Robert Coangelo, Robert Palumbo, Ph.D., Neeti Parashar, Ph.D., and Roger Pradhan, Ph.D. William E. Nangle was honored as the Gerald I. Lamkin Fellow for Innovation and Service, a special recognition named for the President Emeritus of Ivy Tech College of Indiana. Also honored were two Chanute Prize recipients, the BP ''One Global Team'' for the Whiting Refinery Modernization Project and PCL Alverno. In addition, a new team award designated ''Accelerating Greatness'' was presented for the first time this year, and the recipients were James S. Markiewicz Solar Energy Research Facility, Valparaiso University, and the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority. For their truly remarkable contributions to the community of Northwest Indiana and their continuous efforts to cultivate a culture of innovation, these honorees were inducted at the Horseshoe Casino in Hammond, Indiana, on Thursday, October 16, 2014.

The Society of Innovators of Northwest Indiana was created by Ivy Tech Northwest with the goal of highlighting and encouraging innovative individuals and groups within the not-for-profit, public, and private sectors, as well as building a ''culture of innovation'' in Northwest Indiana. The importance of innovation in Northwest Indiana, as well as globally, is crucial in today's ever-changing economy. Leading the Northwest Region is Dr. Thomas G. Coley, Chancellor, Ivy Tech Community College North West and North Central Regions.

The fellows selected by the Society of Innovators were chosen for their significant innovative leadership and the impact of their accomplishments throughout Northwest Indiana and beyond. Scott Albanese, founder and chief executive officer of Albanese Confectionery Group, Incorporated, in Merrillville, launched his business thirty years ago. Today, the company generates over $100 million in sales and its products can be found nationwide, as well as in nine other countries. In addition, Scott invented the first gummy candy in the world with a distinguishable flavor, which was previously deemed impossible. Robert Coangelo is the founding farmer of Green Sense Farms, which is the nation's largest indoor, commercial, vertical farm and the largest user of Phillips LED grow lights. The organization grows produce in a controlled environment that is free of pesticides, herbicides, and GMO seeds while distributing its products throughout the Midwest. Robert Palumbo, Ph.D., professor and Alfred W. Sieving chair of engineering, inspired the effort to build the nation's fifth solar furnace at the College of Engineering at Valparaiso University, which is utilized by undergrad students to explore new ideas in solar research. Dr. Palumbo is now part of a ''pioneering'' team at the James S. Markiewicz Solar Energy Research Facility. Neeti Parashar, Ph.D., spearheaded a High Energy Physics Team at Purdue University Calumet as part of a large global collaboration to discover the Higgs-Boson subatomic particle, which gave the Nobel Prize to Peter Higgs of the United Kingdom and Francois Englert of Belgium. Roger Pradham, Ph.D. played a key role in the development of new carbon steel products for the automotive industry, and he is the leading developer of bake-hardenable steels. Dr. Pradham received an AISI Gold Medal for his research outlining the implementation of bake-hardenable steels at Burns Harbor, and he currently holds four patents.

I am also honored to acknowledge William E. Nangle, executive editor (ret.), The Times of Northwest Indiana, who was recognized as the Gerald I. Lamkin Fellow for Outstanding Innovation & Service. In his role, Mr. Nangle introduced the ''Munster Model,'' which provided the community with in-depth local and neighborhood news while also covering regional news. This model became a huge success in the journalism industry and is utilized nationwide. In addition, Mr. Nangle brought Indiana's seven largest newspapers together, producing statewide access to public records. Under Mr. Nangle's direction, The Times of Northwest Indiana became a national leader in its industry.

The recipients of the Chanute Prize for Team Innovation should be commended for their contributions. The BP ''One Global Team'' for the Whiting Refinery Modernization Project utilized a single team concept on a world scale to conduct the largest and most complex refinery construction project in BP

history. PCL Alverno introduced total microbiology automation, which revolutionized the delivery of results to patients and physicians. PCL is the first to be designated as a Seimen's Microbiology Innovation Center in the United States.

The Accelerating Greatness Award for Team Innovation included two recipients. The James S. Markiewicz Solar Energy Research Facility, located at Valparaiso University, houses the fifth solar furnace in the United States and the world's only solar furnace primarily designed, built, and used by undergrad students at an institution of higher learning. The Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority is a regional organization that provides nearly $30 million annually in a proven collaborative model to leverage failing assets into more than $1 billion in infrastructure and economic development.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these outstanding innovators. The contributions they have made to society here in Northwest Indiana and worldwide are immeasurable and lifelong. For their truly brilliant innovative ideas, projects, and leadership, each recipient is worthy of the highest commendation.

HONORING WILLIAM H. ''BILL'' DETRICK

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks today to honor William H. ''Bill'' Detrick, who passed away at the age of 87 on September 19, 2014. Bill Detrick was the long-time coach of the Central Connecticut State University Basketball team, and after that was the coach of Trinity College Golf team coach. He was everything that embodies a passionate, tough, and tenacious coach and person. He taught college sports until the age of 86, which is something that very few can claim.

Throughout his 29 year tenure as the Central Connecticut basketball coach, he won 468 games with two undefeated seasons out of 24 winning seasons. He brought the program to six Division II NCAA tournaments and ushered them into Division I basketball, where they remain today. The standard and foundation set by his legacy at Central Connecticut will continue on for the future of their athletic programs.

As a coach, one must assume the responsibility of developing younger generations of people as students, athletes, and most of all as people. Bill Detrick knew this as well as anyone and was able to impact the lives of each of those he coached even to this day. He instilled the same values in his three children and six grandchildren as he did his players: Hard work and dedication to what you love will always prevail in the end. Always go the extra mile in your endeavors. He preached these kinds of lessons to his children and players in order to prepare them not just for the game, but for their entire lives ahead.

A great example of his attitude in life came from a friend and golf partner of many years, who said that Bill would never ride in a cart, and always insisted on walking. Just a week before he passed away, he walked nine holes at the age of 87. Always push yourself, even if it is during a game of such relaxation such as golf.

Mr. Detrick is survived by his wife Barbara, three children, and six grandchildren. I would like to extend my condolences to the family of Mr. Detrick during this difficult time. I hope the Holiday season reminds everyone in his life of the joyful memories that he brought, and the importance of enjoying every moment they had together. Let us all remember the values that William Detrick brought to everyone around him, and try to implement them in our everyday lives in order to strive to be the best people we can be.

DR. GUY ''MOJO'' LEWIS, DDS—MAKING TEXANS SMILE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when Dr. Guy ''Mojo'' Lewis walks into a room, everyone knows it. With his larger-than-life stature and the mystic of Texas legend Sam Houston, his commanding presence captures attention. People can't help but smile when they see him, his presence is contagious.

As a personal friend and fellow Abilene Christian University Alum, I would like to congratulate this outstanding Texan for celebrating his 30th anniversary of practicing dentistry.

Dr. Lewis knew from early on that he wanted to be a dentist, never wavering in his decision to make people smile. After graduating from Abilene Christian University ('80), Dr. Lewis earned his Doctorate of Dentistry from Baylor College of Dentistry.

In 1984, he became a founding member of the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry (AACD), at a time when cosmetic dentistry was beginning to emerge. He became the youngest cosmetic dentist to be accredited by the AACD. Additionally, he is also a member of the Texas Dental Association and the American Dental Association. He received a fellowship in the International Academy for Dental Facial Esthetics.

Dr. Lewis continues to give back to the community and takes time to guide aspiring dentists as well. Recognizing the important of education, Dr. Lewis is an adjunct professor of dentistry at Baylor College.

The legend that is Dr. Lewis is known far and wide. His extensive knowledge of cosmetic dentistry and his incredible work ethic quickly gained him respect from his colleagues in the dental profession. Over his career, Dr. Lewis was routinely recognized for his expertise and contributions to the dental community.

His list of credentials could fill a sports arena, literally. He is the dentist of Olympic gold medal athletes, the Houston Astros, the Houston Rockets and many more.

He was named a ''Top Doc'' for 7 consecutive years by H Texas Magazine and was listed as a ''Super Dentist'' by Texas Monthly Magazine for multiple years. In addition, Dr. Lewis was elected by a group of his peers to be in the book Best Dentists in America.

In addition to his notable recognition for his work within the dental community, Dr. Lewis has continued to serve on advisory boards of many non-profit organizations and on the boards of several schools. I served alongside him on the Abilene Christian University Board.

Our community has benefited greatly from the decades of service that Dr. Lewis has devoted. Dr. Lewis and his staff continue to be involved with Cypress-Woodlands Junior Forum, Be an Angel Fund, and Give Back a Smile.

The list of this model citizen's accomplishments is impressive and well-deserved, and it's no surprise that he's a Texan.

Dr. Lewis's service to his city, state and nation as well as his faith will have an enduring positive impact.

A dedicated family man, Dr. Lewis has been married to his wife, Holly for 33 years. Together, they are the proud parents of five children. Firm believers in Christian education, Dr. Lewis sent his children to Northland Christian School, the same school that my children attended, and where we both served on the Board of Trustees.

His success can be attributed to his faith, happy attitude about life and his career, and his genuine compassion and care for his patients. Dr. Lewis, thank you for your 30 years of service to our community and the State of Texas.

Another great, Texas legend we are proud to have among our neighbors. To 30 more years of making people smile, thank you Dr. Guy ''Mojo'' Lewis.

And that's just the way it is.

CELEBRATING THE SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS' WORLD SERIES WIN

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, as a longtime season ticket holder and proud fan, I rise today to pay tribute to the 2014 World Series Champions, the San Francisco Giants.

On October 29, 2014, our beloved Giants won San Francisco's third championship in five years, defeating the Kansas City Royals in the seventh game of a down-to-the-wire World Series.

The Giants' post-season performance was masterful, a shared victory built on the shoulders of our entire team. The people of San Francisco salute our champions—players, coaches and staff who carried forward the banner of our city to seize the pennant and final victory. With timely hitting and phenomenal pitching, the Giants rose from the Wild Card to reclaim their position as baseball's champions.

In their hard-fought victory, the Giants have once again made us the proudest city in baseball, and given fresh energy to the talk of a rising dynasty on the Bay. Congratulations to all our 'Stronger Together' players, especially the members of the World Series roster: Tim Hudson, Jake Peavy, Ryan Vogelsong, Jeremy Affeldt, Santiago Casilla, Tim Lincecum, Javier López, Yusmeiro Petit, Sergio Romo, Hunter Strickland, Buster Posey, Jean Machi, Andrew Susac, Joaquín Arias, Brandon Belt, Brandon Crawford, Matt Duffy, Joe Panik, Pablo Sandoval, Gregor Blanco, Travis

Ishikawa, Michael Morse, Hunter Pence, Juan Pérez and of course, our latest legend on the pitcher's mound, NLCS and World Series MVP Madison Bumgarner.

Bumgarner's composure and phenomenal pitching silenced the bats of the Kansas City Royals, and vaulted himself into the ranks of the greatest playoff pitchers in history—pitching more innings in a single post-season than anyone in history and securing the lowest World Series ERA of any pitcher with at least 25 World Series innings pitched: only one run allowed in three World Series.

In our march back to the championship, we were also grateful for our gifted announcer, Renel Brooks-Moon, and talented English and Spanish-language broadcasters: Duane Kuiper, Mike Krukow, Jon Miller, Dave Flemming, Tito Fuentes and Erwin Higueros.

The Giants represented excellence from the field to the front office. As San Francisco cherishes our latest victory, our gratitude extends as well to the team's Chief Executive Officer Larry Baer, General Manager Brian Sabean, Manager Bruce Bochy, and to the men and women of the Giants' excellent staff. Their leadership and vision continue to support and strengthen our team.

The heart and hard work of the Giants extend well beyond the baseball diamond through the Giants Community Fund, which has donated more than $18 million to vital community efforts. Under their auspices, communities and non-profit organizations throughout Northern California team with our champions to promote health and violence prevention, youth fitness and recreation, education and literacy. And, as the Junior Giants celebrate their 20th anniversary with more than 24,000 participants, we know there is perhaps no better gift we could have received than the Commissioner's Trophy.

As we celebrate our latest championship and turn our eyes to future World Series, we know that our team is blessed by the millions of passionate and devoted San Francisco Giants fans in Northern California, across the country, and around the world. We are proud fans of a proud community. In pride, let us say once more say: Go Giants!

HISTORICAL RECORD OF FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE AFFECTING AMERICAN SAMOA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, information on the timeline regarding the federal minimum wage issue affecting American Samoa as debated and discussed in the U.S. Congress.

When the Democratic Party took control of both houses of Congress following the 2006 elections, it promised to increase the federal minimum wage to $7.25 per hour in its ''first 100 hours'' on the floor. On January 10, 2007, the House passes H.R. 2, the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007, by a vote of 315–116. CNMI was included in the bill and subject to annual increases until the Territory reached a rate of $7.25 per hour. American Samoa was excluded from the bill, meaning Special Industry Committees would continue to determine increases in American Samoa. False media reports begin to circulate suggesting Speaker Pelosi excluded American Samoa from H.R. 2 because Congressman Eni Faleomavaega (EF) is a Democrat, and because Del Monte is contributing to the Speaker's campaign. The media also implies that the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) does not apply to American Samoa. A campaign begins to make American Samoa subject to the $7.25 federal minimum wage standard.

On January 16, EF responds by informing the press and Members of Congress that the FLSA has applied to American Samoa since 1938 and that since 1956, under Section 5 and 8 of the FLSA, Special Industry Committees administered by the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor have determined wage rates in American Samoa. EF asks for Special Industry Committees to continue and for CNMI to be brought under the Special Industry umbrella. EF also writes to Senator Daniel Inouye, Senator Daniel Akaka and the following Senators from the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP): Senator Lamar Alexander, Senator Wayne Allard, Senator Jeff Bingaman, Senator Sherrod Brown, Senator Richard Burr, Senator Hillary Clinton, Senator Tom Coburn, Senator Chris Dodd, Senator Michael B. Enzi (Ranking Member), Senator Judd Gregg, Senator Tom Harkin, Senator Orrin Hatch, Senator Johnny Isakson, Senator Edward M. Kennedy (Chairman), Senator Barbara Mikulski, Senator Lisa Murkowski, Senator Patty Murray, Senator Barack Obama, Senator Jack Reed, Senator Pat Roberts, and Senator Bernie Sanders. EF also writes to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, Rep. George Miller, Chairman, House Committee of Education and the Workforce, Rep. Howard Buck McKeon, Ranking Member, House Committee on Education and the Workforce, and Speaker Pelosi. On January 18 and January 19, EF speaks out on the House floor. On January 22, EF and Senator Inouye write Senator Kennedy, Chairman of the Senate Committee on HELP, in support of using Special Industry Committees to determine wage rates for American Samoa and CNMI. On January 24, in an attempt to make a stink about Democrats' minimum-wage and territorial voting proposals, House Republicans take to the Floor wearing white stickers of Charlie the Tuna with a caption stating ''Something's Fishy!'' EF writes to Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne. StarKist and Chicken of the Sea write to EF. On January 30, the Senate passes wage bill.

On February 5, EF writes to conferees in support of strengthening Special Industry Committees, including Chairman Kennedy and Ranking Member Enzi of the Senate HELP Committee, and Ranking Member Howard ''Buck'' McKeon and Chairman Miller of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. On March 12, EF writes to Chairman Miller. On March 15, minimum wage bill is attached to Emergency Iraq War Supplemental bill. Republican Mark Kirk also offers an amendment to extend federal minimum wage rates to American Samoa by $0.50 cents per hour every year until the Territory reaches the mainland rate of $7.25 per hour. Amendment is accepted by House Appropriations Committee. On March 15, EF writes to Rep. David Obey, Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations in opposition to the Kirk amendment. Obey promises that the issue will be resolved during conference.

On May 11, EF writes to Chairman Miller offering compromise amendment to the Kirk proposal in which workers would be provided a one-time increase of $0.50 cents per hour and the U.S. Department of Labor would be empowered to determine future increases, though Special Industry Committees would be abolished. EF writes to Speaker Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, Senator Inouye, Senator Akaka, and Senator Bingaman, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. EF also writes to Del Monte CEO Richard Wolford, forwarding copy of letter and amendment to House and Senate. EF writes to Chicken of the Sea CEO John Signorino and Del Monte CEO Richard Wolford to set the record straight about comments made by Del Monte's Executive Vice President regarding EF's position on minimum wage. On May 18, EF, Senator Inouye, Senator Bingaman, Senator Akaka and Rep. Donna Christensen write to Chairman David Obey and Ranking Member Jerry Lewis of the House Committee on Appropriations and Chairman Robert Byrd and Ranking Member Thad Cochran of the Senate Committee on Appropriations urging support of EF's amendment but with an initial increase of $0.35 cents per hour. On May 21, Del Monte CEO Richard Wolford writes to EF in support of his EF's efforts in Congress to resolve the challenges regarding the impact of increased wages on tuna cannery operations in American Samoa. On May 25, conferees do not accept the proposal but do agree to include EF language calling upon the U.S. Department of Labor to conduct a study to determine impact of future increases. Wage hike with automatic escalator clauses is included in the Iraq War supplemental spending bill and President George W. Bush signs it into law on May 25. The first wage increase occurs on June 24.

On June 6, EF writes to Rep. Christensen, Chair of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Insular Affairs requesting an oversight hearing on the impact of the federal minimum wage legislation. EF copies his letter to Governor and Legislature. On June 11, Chicken of the Sea President John Signorino writes to EF, enclosing copy of letter COS Senior Vice President Jim Davet wrote to Del Monte and copied to Governor Togiola. On June 21, EF writes to Thai Union President Thiraphong Chansiri and copies his letter to Senator Inouye, Governor Togiola, Lieutenant Governor Sunia, ASG Legislature, COS President John Signorino, and COS Vice President of Operations Jim Davet. EF responds to Davet's comments and requests meeting with Thai Union President Chansiri. Mr. Chansiri agrees to meet. The same day, EF writes to COS President John Signorino and sets the record straight about Mr. Davet's comments. EF encloses a copy of his letter to Chairwoman Christensen as well as his letter to Thai Union President Thiraphong Chansiri. EF also writes to Del Monte CEO Richard Wolford and encloses a copy of his letter to Rep. Christensen requesting a hearing as soon as possible. EF writes to Governor Togiola informing him that he will meet be meeting with StarKist, Chicken of the Sea, Del Monte, Thai Union and boat owners in San Diego, California regarding the impact of federal minimum wage law. EF also informs Governor that he will be meeting with Thai Union President Thiraphong Chansiri on July 1. EF copies his letter to Senator Inouye, Lieutenant Governor, and the American Samoa Legislature.

On July 1, EF meets with Thai Union President Thiraphong Chansiri in Bangkok, Thailand. On July 24, EF meets with U.S. Department of Labor officials, including Dr. Ronald Baird, Chief Economist from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, who is tasked to undertake the study mandated by Congress to determine impact of minimum wage increases. On July 25, EF writes to Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne regarding his meeting with the U.S. Department of Labor and requesting

support in assisting ASG and CNMI officials in how to collect the necessary data needed to make determinations about both economies.

On January 25, 2008, U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) releases it report. On January 29, EF introduces H.R. 5154 to condition further increases in minimum wage on a determination by the Secretary of Labor. EF writes to Governor Togiola and provides him with a copy of the DOL report and informs him that he has introduced H.R. 5154. EF copies Senator Inouye, U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Lieutenant Governor, ASG Legislature. On February 12, EF writes to Paramount Chief Mauga regarding field hearing to be held in American Samoa regarding impact of minimum wage increases. On February 14, EF writes to Chairman Miller regarding H.R. 5154 and thanking him for sending 2 professional staff members to field hearing scheduled to be held in American Samoa on February 22. On February 22, Rep. Christensen, Chair of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, holds field hearing in American Samoa at EF's request regarding impact of federal minimum wage increases on American Samoa's economy. EF testifies before the House Resources Subcommittee on Insular Affairs. On February 28, EF testifies before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources regarding the Impact of the Recently Increased Minimum Wage in American Samoa.

On March 14, Chairman Miller writes to EF and raises concerns about DOL. The same day, EF, Senator Inouye, Senator Akaka, Senator Bingaman write to Chairman Robert C. Byrd and Ranking Member Thad Cochran of the Senate Committee on Appropriations requesting delays in minimum wage. On March 31, Secretary of the Interior to Dirk Kempthorne writes to EF offering support. On April 3, EF writes to Senator Inouye thanking him for agreeing to offer an amendment based on H.R. 5154 to delay minimum wage increases and to review further increases. EF also writes to Senator Bingaman and Senator Akaka. On April 18, EF writes to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. On April 20, EF writes to Senator Orrin Hatch. On April 22, EF and Governor Fitial write to Senator Kennedy, Senator Inouye, Senator Bingaman, and Senator Akaka. EF and Governor Fitial also write to Chairman Miller. On April 24, EF and Governor Fitial write to House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer. On May 13, EF and CAPAC members Rep. Mike Honda, Rep. Joseph Crowley, Rep. Christensen, Rep. Albio Sires, Rep. Solomon Ortiz, Rep. Nydia Velazquez, Rep. Bennie Thompson, Rep. Neil Abercrombie, Rep. Al Green, Rep. Luis Gutierrez, Rep. Joe Baca, Rep. Mazie Hirono, and Rep. Hank Johnson write to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, Chairman David Obey of the House Appropriations Committee, Chairman Norm Dicks of the Interior Appropriations Committee, Chairman Miller of the Education and Workforce Committee, Chairman Kennedy of the Senate HELP Committee, Senator Inouye, Senator Akaka, and Chairman Bingaman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources requesting support for delays. On May 21, Senate passes language in the Emergency Supplemental to conduct new GAO study. On May 30, the 2nd minimum wage increase goes into effect. On July 31, EF, Chairman Rahall of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Rep. Christensen write to U.S. Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne requesting technical assistance funds to conduct comprehensive economic study of American Samoa. On November 25, EF writes to StarKist regarding announcement to lay off workers and copies Senator Inouye, Governor Togiola and Chairman Kim Jae-Chul of the Dongwon Group.

On January 28, 2009, EF writes to Chairman Miller requesting delays in further increases. On January 30, EF meets with Senator Inouye and thanks him for agreeing to include language in H.R. 1, the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) that would require the GAO to conduct a new study by April 15, 2010. On February 17, H.R. 1 is signed into law with 3rd wage increase to go forward and a mandate for a new GAO report to be released by April 2010. On February 19, EF writes to Governor Togiola, President of the Senate Gaoteote, Speaker Savali and asks them to join him in sending a letter to Chairman Miller requesting a deferment of the 3rd increase until GAO has time to complete its study. On February 23, EF holds meeting in his DC office with Governor Togiola and Governor Fitial for purposes of drafting a letter and sending a unified message to Congress and the Administration regarding the need to delay minimum wage. On February 24, EF, Governor Togiola and Governor Fitial deliver their letter to U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar during meeting of Interagency Group on Insular Affairs (IGIA). On May 7, EF writes to Governor Togiola regarding COS closure and copies letter to American Samoa Legislature. On May 30, the 3rd minimum wage increase goes into effect. On July 24, EF responds to ASG petition to President Obama. On December 14, House and Senate agree to EF's request to postpone 4th increase from May 2010 to September 2010 to give Congress time to act on the GAO study.

On April 8, 2010, GAO releases new study on the impact of minimum wage hikes in American Samoa and CNMI. On April 30, EF thanks Chairman Miller for agreeing to his request to modify minimum wage law based on findings of GAO and copies Senator Inouye, Chairman Nick Rahall of the House Committee on Natural Resources, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, Governor Togiola, and the American Samoa Legislature. On May 5, EF forwards Senator Inouye copy of letter to Chairman Miller. On May 12, Senator Inouye thanks EF for copy and assures him of support in Senate. On June 12, EF and Rep. Sablan of CNMI write to Senator Inouye, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and include language approved by Chairman Miller that would halt minimum wage increases in American Samoa for 2010 and 2011 and for CNMI for 2011 based on GAO report, and asking for inclusion in any legislative vehicle that might be moving. EF and Rep. Sablan also write to Senator Tom Harkin, Chairman of the Senate HELP Committee, Senator Bingaman, Chairman of Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and Chairman David Obey of the House Committee on Appropriations. On July 27, Senator Bingaman and Senator Murkowski agree to include EF and Sablan language in H.R. 934, a CNMI bill already passed by the House, which is hotlined for Unanimous Consent (UC) in the Senate. Bill clears Democratic hotline. Republican hold placed on CNMI provision relating to submerged lands. Rep. Sablan would not agree to take out his submerged lands provision. In response, Senator Bingaman and Senator Murkowski agree to include EF and Sablan minimum wage language in H.R. 3940, a Guam bill already passed by the House, which is hotlined for Unanimous Consent in the Senate.

On August 3, EF writes to Senator Bingaman thanking him for agreeing to include minimum wage language in H.R. 3940. EF writes to Senator Murkowski thanking her for support. On August 6, EF provides updates informing public that H.R. 3940 has cleared Democratic holds but Republicans did not have time enough to review before August recess.

On September 14, House returns from District work period. UC process begins again. Senator Bingaman and Senator Murkowski's committee staff inform EF and Sablan that Democrats have cleared H.R. 3940 for UC. On September 16, at 4 pm, Republican cloakroom informs Democrats that 2 holds have been placed including one by Senator DeMint (R–SC). Senate ends business for the day and does not go in Session on Friday. On September 18, Saturday night, Senator Bingaman and Senator Murkowski's staff inform EF and Sablan that there is nothing they can do to overcome Senator DeMint's hold. On September 20, EF's office contacts Senator DeMint's Chief of Staff at 10:29 am. At 11:52 am, Senator DeMint's Chief of Staff responds stating he has forwarded EF information and comments to policy staff for review. On September 21, at 11:28 am, Senator DeMint's staff informs EF office that Senator DeMint will agree to let minimum wage section pass, but expresses concerns about Guam provision. EF office informs Rep. Bordallo's office of concerns raised about Guam. Rep. Bordallo's office begins process of working out compromise regarding Guam provisions. On September 27, at 4:36 pm, Rep. Bordallo's office and Sen DeMint's office reach agreement on new language regarding Guam provision. On September 28, at 9:45 am, Senator DeMint's office informs Republican cloakroom that he has released his hold on H.R. 3940 pending the change in language regarding the Guam provision. Change is made and H.R. 3940 is hot-lined again. At 1:36 pm, Democrats begin hotline process. At 3:48 pm, Democratic staff informs EF and Sablan that Senator Coburn is raising questions but Senator Murkowski's staff is trying to resolve his concerns. At 4:13 pm, EF speaks with Senator Majority Leader Harry Reid asking that bill be placed on floor for DC once it clears the Democratic and Republican cloakrooms. However, Senator Murkowski's staff is unable to clear Senator Coburn's hold. At 4:42 pm, EF office contacts Senator McCain's office asking for help to release Senator Coburn's hold. Senator McCain's office agrees. At 5:17 pm, EF office phones Senator Coburn's office. At 6:03 pm, Senator Coburn's office informs EF's office that Senator Coburn has agreed to release his hold. At 6:09 pm, Senator McCain's office also informs EF office that Senator Coburn has agreed to release his hold. Senate passes H.R. 3940 by DC. At 10:28 pm, EF sends letter to Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, House Majority leader Steny Hoyer, Chairman Miller of the House and Committee on Education and Labor, Leader and Chairman Nick Rahall of the House Committee on Natural Resources requesting that H.R. 3940 be brought to the House floor for immediate passage.

On September 29, at 8:05 am, EF office phones House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer's Chief of Staff again requesting that H.R. 3940 be brought to Floor for passage. ML Hoyer's office states that Republican Leadership must be on board. At 10:33 am, EF office contacts Republican Leader John Boehner's Chief of Staff, Republican Whip Eric Cantor's Chief of Staff, Republican Staff Director for Ranking Member John Kline of the House Committee on Education and Labor, and Republican Staff Director for Ranking Member Doc Hastings of the House Committee on Natural Resources, providing copy of EF letter to Republican leadership. At 10:38 am, EF office contacts Rep. Flake (R–AZ), member of the Resources Committee and LDS Member of Church, requesting help in getting support from Republicans, including Ranking Member Doc Hastings of the

Natural Resources Committee. At 10:39 am, Rep. Flake's office informs EF office that message will be forwarded to Rep. Flake. At 12:08 pm, Rep. Flake sends message saying he will speak to Ranking Member Doc Hastings of Natural Resources Committee. At 12:31 pm, Republican Leader John Boehner's Chief of Staff responds thanking EF office for bringing this to his attention and stating that they will respond appropriately base on conversations with their two Ranking Members. At 12:30 pm, EF speaks to Ranking Member Doc Hastings on House floor, and also Rep. Flake who has also spoken to Ranking Member Hastings. Ranking Member Hastings and Ranking Member John Kline of the Education and Labor Committee agree to let bill go to the Floor by suspension. At 12:38 pm, EF office informs Majority Leader Hoyer's office that Republicans will agree to let the bill be brought to the House floor by suspension instead of UC, meaning a voice vote will be requested and that the measure must win by a vote of 290. At 5:18 pm, ML Hoyer's office agrees to put bill on House floor. ML Hoyer calls EF. At 8:52 pm, EF office begins providing Samoa News with regular updates.

On September 30, at 12:19 am, EF office informs Samoa News that vote is taking place. At 12:27 am, EF issues press release stating bill passes House by a vote of 386 to 5. At 12:31 am, EF office emails White House requesting assistance to get bill on President's desk for signature. At 8:00 am, White House emails EF office thanking EF for flagging the bill for signature. At 8:36 am, EF office contacts Majority Leader Hoyer's Chief of Staff requesting assistance to get the bill from the House to the White House. At 8:40 am, ML Hoyer's COS states he is working it. At 10:58 am, Majority Leader Hoyer's Chief of Staff informs EF office that he has taken the bill to the Clerk's office and that it is at the Parliamentarian's office awaiting clearance, then it goes to Speaker Pelosi, then to the Senate, then to the President of the United States for signature. At 5:06 pm, White House informs EF that President has signed H.R. 3940. At 5:09 pm, EF office informs Samoa News bill has been signed. Samoa News issues breaking news flash. At 5:38 pm, EF issues press release announcing that bill has been signed into law.

FRAN BAKER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Fran Baker for her tireless dedication and love for the community in Jefferson County.

As the founder and Executive Director of the Gold Crown Enrichment Program, a free program that serves 400 kids per year which focuses on art and technology, Fran has raised over $350,000 each year to keep the program running for free. Under Fran's direction, Gold Crown Enrichment was awarded licensing for an international after school program, The Computer Clubhouse, part of a global network of tech based after school programs. While dedicating herself full time to this program, she does not take home a paycheck. In addition to being a full-time volunteer for Gold Crown, she also works in Jefferson County for other causes that support children.

For nine years, Fran worked as a Title One Reading Teacher and Literacy Coach in Jefferson County. Fran has received the Jefferson Foundation Community Service Award and was named Channel 7's Everyday Hero.

I extend my deepest appreciation and congratulations to Fran for her positive impact in Jefferson County and for the numerous kids she has and continues to support.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY CLUB OF PONTIAC, MICHIGAN

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Golden Opportunity Club, which was established as a venue for senior citizens in the Greater Pontiac community to connect and learn. Founded with the philosophy that increasing age does not need to impact an individual's quality of life, the Golden Opportunity Club is a community organization that directly engages senior citizens in the City of Pontiac to support a wide variety of activities that keeps them both mentally and physically active.

Founded in October 1964, the Golden Opportunity Club first met at the Lakeside Homes Center in Pontiac with ten original members in attendance. Its supervisor, Mrs. Johnson, immediately recognized the club's unique potential and engaged in efforts to expand its reach within the community. After much debate, she came up with the club's signature name under the presidency of Mrs. Annie Thompson. Two locations and thirteen presidents later, the thriving Golden Opportunity Club is now comprised of 400 members.

To carry out its mission, the club arranges activities and events for all people aged fifty-six and up. Club members participate in recreational gatherings including: trips, picnics and parties. In addition, the club offers its members a forum to use their compassion and desire to others by participating in charitable events to support their community. The Golden Opportunity Club also reaches out to ill, hospitalized and homebound members by providing financial and emotional support to them and their families.

Under the leadership of its current president, Carolyn Price, the Golden Opportunity Club has continued to stay focused on its mission of engaging seniors in activities that encourage civic activism and promote an active lifestyle. Recently, the Golden Opportunity Club has allied with Community Network Services and other organizations to ensure that their charitable contributions are benefiting the community. The funds that the Golden Opportunity Club raises through its events are used to make a significant impact on the residents of Pontiac. Specifically, the Golden Opportunity Club uses some of these funds to award annual scholarships to graduating high school seniors, as well as an annual contribution to the God U–C Youth Group, which is committed to inspiring and enriching the lives of youth in Pontiac. In conjunction with annual donations, the Golden Opportunity Club is committed to improving Pontiac as it continues to grow and develop. This past year it made significant contributions to Coats for Kids, and the WHRC Elementary School when its roof caved in.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the remarkable impact the Golden Opportunity Club has made over the last 50 years on the lives of senior citizens in the City of Pontiac. As more and more members of the Baby Boomer generation become seniors, the health and happiness of senior citizens will become increasingly important to sustain robust communities. The Golden Opportunity Club is vital to this work in the Pontiac community. I congratulate the Golden Opportunity Club on its many achievements and wish its members continued success in fulfilling their mission and encouraging the spirit and vitality of Pontiac's seniors.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HISPANIC-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Morris County Hispanic-American Chamber of Commerce, located in Morristown, New Jersey as it celebrates its 25th Anniversary.

The Morris County Hispanic-American Chamber of Commerce is a not-for-profit organization, whose purpose is to serve the growing market needs of the U.S. Hispanic-American businesses and residential communities, specific to Morris County and adjacent areas.

In the summer of 1989, Esperanza Porras-Field, John Sanchez, and Neyla Porras Moreno founded the Morris County Hispanic-American Chamber of Commerce. The three founding members began an organization with the mission to ''advocate, promote, and advance the interests of business owners, professionals, organizations and corporations within Morris County and the adjacent areas that target and serve the U.S. Hispanic-American market.'' Since then, the Hispanic-American Chamber of Commerce has helped to foster the prosperity not only of the Hispanic community, but of Morris County as a whole. Both Esperanza Porras-Field and John Sanchez remain active members of the chamber, while Neyla Porras de Moreno remains an active member of another Hispanic Chamber.

Esperanza Porras-Field, a founding member, current president and CEO of the Chamber, is stepping down after years of distinguished service. She has shown her dedication to promoting the welfare of the community in founding several more Chambers of Commerce and facilitating their development. Her involvement extends beyond Morris County to an international scale, where she is on the Advisory Board for the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in Toronto. Over the years her experience and guidance have been a major factor in the success of the Chamber, and her leadership will be missed.

Throughout the past 25 years, the chamber has continuously been recognized as one of the Best Chambers in the Northeast, within Region V, by the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. In 2007, the chamber was declared the Best National Medium Hispanic Chamber, and received the award again

in 2014. At the 2014 United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Convention, the Morris County Hispanic-American Chamber of Commerce signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Toronto Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to provide mutual membership in each other's respective chamber and host cross-border events with their Canadian friends in order to promote international trade.

With over 350 members, the chamber offers over 20 annual events purposed to further growth and success. These events include networking and social events, fundraising, business incubation, business card exchanges, procurement opportunities, training, and seminars.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Morris County Hispanic-American Chamber of Commerce.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

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 $17,988,139,701,976.27. We've added $7,361,262,653,063.19 to our debt in 5 years. This is over $7.3 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF HARLEM RENAISSANCE POET LAUREATE JAMES BALDWIN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I rise today to join all of the people in the village of Harlem and my Congressional District to pay tribute to Mr. James Baldwin, a legendary writer who broke new literary ground by exploring racial and social issues embedded in American history.

On Saturday, August 2, 2014, the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce, the Harlem Arts Alliance, the New Heritage Theatre Group, Columbia University School of the Arts, The National Black Theater, Street Corner Resources, Harlem Renaissance High School, and HARLEM WEEK, Inc. joined elected officials, community board members, residents, and poet laureates to recognize August 2nd as James Baldwin Day in celebration of his 90th birthday. Among the many tributes, the marquee of the famous Apollo Theater read "Happy 90th Birthday James Baldwin." Above all, a portion of East 128th Street, between Fifth Avenue and Madison Avenue, where he once lived was renamed "James Baldwin Way".

Mr. Baldwin was born to Emma Jones, a single mother, on August 2, 1924 in Harlem, New York. While he never met his biological father, Mr. Baldwin did have a father figure growing up, Baptist Minister David Baldwin. The preacher's religious influence had a lasting impression on James and his writings. The language of the church shaped the cadences and tones of his work, becoming unmistakable hallmarks of his literary style. He would go on to spend three years as a youth minister.

After striking out on his own and moving away from home, Mr. Baldwin published short stories in national periodicals under the tutelage of his mentor, Beauford Delaney, a renowned Harlem Renaissance painter. Disillusioned by the growing bigotry towards African-Americans and the gay community, Baldwin left our country and settled in France at the age of 24. He found that the distance gave him enough space to reflect on his experience as a black man in white America. Please allow me to quote Mr. Baldwin's later thoughts on this dramatic change in his life: "Once I found myself on the other side of the ocean, I saw where I came from very clearly . . . I am the grandson of a slave, and I am a writer. I must deal with both." Through his writing, Baldwin was forced to confront this enlightening reality.

While he spent much of his life abroad, Baldwin was recognized as a quintessential American writer. In 1953, Baldwin published his first novel, a semi autobiography called Go Tell It on the Mountain, which explores the repression, moral hypocrisy, religious inspiration, and community ties that characterized the Black American experience. His two collections of essays, Notes of a Native Son (1955) and Nobody Knows My Name (1961), as well as his two novels, Giovanni's Room (1956) and Another Country (1962), were immediate bestsellers. The works Baldwin published during this unsettling time in American history, explored the deep-rooted racial tension with eloquence and unparalleled honesty. As his collection of notable literary works continue to exude words of strength, power, and wisdom, his writing will forever remain an essential part of the American literary canon.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me as we celebrate this year, the 90th Birthday of Harlem Renaissance Poet Laureate James Baldwin.

HISTORICAL RECORD OF FEDERAL EXPENDITURES TO AMERICAN SAMOA 1995–2012

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, the following information on federal expenditures to American Samoa.

From 1995 to 2001, the amount of federal expenditures from federal agencies to American Samoa totaled over $1 billion. The following is the amount of federal expenditures per year:

1995: $116,008,922
1996: $115,099,073
1997: $174,193,691
1998: $150,888,302
1999: $171,449,811
2000: $175,979,717
2001: $181,203,793
TOTAL: $1,084,823,309

From 2002 to 2007, the federal expenditures from federal agencies to American Samoa totaled nearly $1.4 billion. The following is the amount of federal expenditures per year:

2002: $212,103,366
2003: $231,696,258
2004: $249,179,251
2005: $238,160,608
2006: $226,979,671
2007: $233,242,815
TOTAL: $1,391,361,969

From 2008 to 2012, the federal expenditures from federal agencies to American Samoa totaled over $1.6 billion. The following is the amount of federal expenditures per year:

2008: $234,839,570
2009: $333,785,001
2010: $510,005,555
2011: $293,663,747
2012: $262,246,963
TOTAL: $1,634,540,836

HONORING THE LIFE OF CECIL MOZEL BAILEY

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life of Cecil Mozel Bailey who recently passed away on February 23 at the age of 91. Cecil was a man of God dedicated to his faith, family, and community. I consider myself fortunate to count Cecil and his family as personal friends and I know he will be greatly missed.

Cecil was born on November 11, 1922 in Grand Saline, Texas. The values of family and hard work were ingrained in Cecil from an early age as he grew up helping his parents, Harvey and Tennie Fisher Bailey, on the family farm. After graduating from Grand Saline High School, he received an offer to play football for Arlington State College. Cecil then decided to serve his country in the United States Army where he was stationed in Germany.

After returning home from war, Cecil and his first wife Margarite raised their family together while Cecil worked as a warehouse superintendent with A&P Grocery in Dallas and served as a Sunday School Teacher and deacon at Urban Park Baptist Church.

Following the passing of his wife Margarite, Cecil returned to Grand Saline. He then married his second wife, Irene, and the two moved to Canton where they retired. His faith was important to him, and together, Cecil and Irene Bailey helped start Lakeside Baptist Church. Cecil continued to actively serve the Lord and His church body as the First Chairman of the deacons.

Family was also very important to Cecil. The Baileys enjoyed many trips together, traveling to Israel, Hawaii, Alaska, New England, and Branson. He also spent time growing large vegetable gardens, canning its produce, and sharing what he grew with his family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Cecil Bailey. He was a man who fully believed in the values of faith, family, and community, and! believe everyone can benefit from his example.

HEATHER KAPANDE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Heather Kapande for her outstanding service to our community.

While building her own successful small business in Jefferson County, Heather has positively influenced the small business community as a whole across the County. She began her professional career as a teacher and has continued with her legacy of serving others. Heather is an influential mentor in the community and goes the extra mile to deliver the absolute best she can to her family, friends, clients and community.

Since 1999, Heather manages Nick's Pro Fitness and has helped make it into the prosperous organization it is today. In 2003, Heather took on the additional role as an international event planner. She continues to run Nick's Pro Fitness, but also has a key role at The Bastian Group planning events for businesses in the corporate and entertainment arenas. Heather has a passion and drive that her family, friends, clients and the community all benefit from.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Heather Kapande for her well-deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF JOHN H. RIVES

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of John H. Rives, who passed away on November 22, 2014 at his home, surrounded by loved ones.

John was a dedicated and loving husband and father. John devoted his life to his passions: clock repair and restoration. For 15 years, John was responsible for the weekly winding of the Worcester City Hall clock tower. John was an avid runner, having completed 14 marathons; he was also the running coach at the Notre Dame Academy in Worcester.

On behalf of the people of Worcester, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in keeping the Rives family in our thoughts and prayers.

IN CELEBRATION OF DR. TIMOTHY S. MESCON, PRESIDENT OF COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to extend my personal congratulations to Dr. Timothy S. Mescon, the fourth president of Columbus State University, who will be leaving Columbus State to work at the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International as the senior vice president and chief officer for Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. On Wednesday, December 3, 2014, he will be honored by the community for his career and many achievements at Columbus State University.

Dr. Mescon, along with his wife Lauren and four children William, Preston, Abbie, and David, have lived a fulfilling life supporting the mission of excellence at Columbus State.

Before arriving at Columbus State in August 2008, Dr. Mescon was Dean of the Michael J. Coles College of Business at Kennesaw State University in Atlanta for 18 years, holding the Tony and Jack Dinos Eminent Scholar Chair of Entrepreneurship. He is a Ph.D. recipient from the University of Georgia's Terry College of Business, and also has received an MBA from Southern Methodist University's Cox School of Business and a B.A. from Tulane University. Dr. Mescon also served on the faculties of the University of Miami and Arizona State University. He was founding Dean of the Frank Perdue School of Business at Salisbury University in Maryland and serves on the Advisory Board of the Kingston University (U.K.) School of Business and Law. Additionally, Dr. Mescon has served as a visiting fellow at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Under his six years of leadership, Columbus State University has grown in prestige and stature. It launched its first doctoral program and an array of graduate programs, including the nation's first program in Servant Leadership. The university restructuring under his tenure created Columbus State's Honors College and Graduate School, College of Letters and Sciences, College of the Arts Turner College of Business, and College of Education and Health Professions. Additionally, the School of Nursing added graduate programs and changed its accreditation to the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, the chemistry program received national accreditation from the American Chemical Society, and in 2014 CSU was named winner of the Senator Paul Simon Prize for outstanding international education programs.

Columbus State has established extensive partnerships with Ft. Benning, the Maneuver Center of Excellence, and has been recognized as both a Yellow Ribbon and a Military Friendly School. It added 20 club sports, five NCAA Intercollegiate sports, and built the nation's top Student Recreation Center. Lastly, under his leadership, the 2011 NCAA National Rifle Championship was hosted by Columbus State University and the Army Marksmanship Unit based at Ft. Benning.

For the first time ever, Columbus State was named by U.S. News and World Report as one of the top 50 Comprehensive Public Universities in the South for 2013 and 2014. Additionally, Columbus State's online graduate programs in business and education were named among the top 35 in the nation by U.S. News and World Report for 2013.

Dr. Mescon is the author of more than 200 articles and case studies, and has co-authored four books and an audio book series covering topics ranging from entrepreneurship to management, development to business success.

Locally, Dr. Mescon has given much to our community. As a trustee of the RiverCenter for the Performing Arts in Columbus, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), and the Chattahoochee Council with the Boy Scouts of America, Dr. Mescon's philanthropic presence will be sorely missed in the greater Columbus area. He also serves as an ally in the Circles in Columbus anti-poverty program, Chair for the annual campaign for the United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley, and a member of the Fort Benning Futures Partnership Board.

Of course, Dr. Mescon's service has not gone unnoticed. Georgia Trend Magazine named Dr. Mescon one of the 100 Most Influential Georgians in 2012, 2013, and 2014. Nationally, the White House has named him a winner of the President's Volunteer Service Award from the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation and he has received the national Award of Excellence from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating Dr. Timothy S. Mescon for six outstanding years as President at Columbus State University. He has truly implemented an outstanding vision for Columbus State University and brought leadership to our community. I am profoundly grateful for his outstanding stewardship and dedication and wish him well in all his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE UAB DENTISTRY CARES COMMUNITY DAY

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, it is the privilege of the State of Alabama and the City of Birmingham to be the site of the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) School of Dentistry, host to the second annual UAB Dentistry Cares Community Day held on Wednesday, November 5, 2014. UAB Dentistry Cares is an event that brings together UAB and community volunteers, sponsors and partners to provide one day of free dental treatment and oral health education to the homeless and underserved, giving priority to patients suffering from dental infections or pain. It was my pleasure to be able to see this event first-hand and the dedicated work provided by everyone involved, including the dental students, was truly impressive.

Recognizing that lack of Medicaid dental coverage for adults has created a pressing need for primary care dental treatment among the low-income, UAB School of Dentistry and Alabama Dental Association leadership have collaborated on initiatives such as an incentive program to encourage dentists to establish practices in rural and underserved areas of the state. In 2012, the groups also joined to establish the first UAB Dentistry Cares Community Day which was held in October 2013. The day-long event provided emergency dental treatment to over 300 needy adults. Services included examinations, blood pressure checks, x-rays, almost 100 dental cleanings and 130 dental fillings, and over 300 dental extractions, all at an estimated cost of $130,000.

The event has grown to include many sponsors and partners. This year, over 400 needy adults were provided with free dental treatment at one of four clinic sites around the Birmingham area. UAB School of Dentistry

served as the primary site, while Christ Health Center, The Foundry and Jefferson County Health Department dental clinics offered their facilities as an extension of the event.

UAB School of Dentistry is among very few dental schools in the country to host this type of benevolent event through its partnerships with The Caring Foundation—BlueCross BlueShield of Alabama, Henry Schein, UAB School of Public Health, Alabama Dental Association, Brasseler USA, Courtyard Marriott & SpringHill Suites, OKU Honor Society, Oral Arts Dental Laboratories, UAB Health System, and numerous private supporters. In addition to the Alabama Dental Association and three companion sites, other event partners include the Birmingham District Dental Society, Cahaba Valley Health Care, Fortis Institute School of Dental Hygiene, Samford School of Pharmacy and UAB School of Nursing.

Since its founding in 1948, the UAB School of Dentistry has developed a rich history of healthcare innovation and gained an international reputation for excellence. With an accredited predoctoral and eight accredited postdoctoral areas of study, the School is a world class institution ranking number one in funding from the National Institutes of Dental and Craniofacial Research, with a 100% pass rate for students on National Board exams and a positive track record for community outreach and collaboration. The UAB School of Dentistry continues to supply the City of Birmingham and the State of Alabama with nothing but the world's most equipped and knowledgeable scholars and dentists, a tradition of research and rich community outreach experiences like UAB Dentistry Cares day of service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the combined efforts of the UAB School of Dentistry and its partners who have given of their time and talents to provide critical dental care to Alabama's underserved. Let us congratulate UAB School of Dentistry and its partners on this successful approach to the pressing access to care problem in their state.

KAY MILLER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kay Miller for her outstanding service to the field of health and our community.

As the Vice President of Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer at St. Anthony Hospital, Kay is known for her dedication to her patients, staff and hospital associates. Prior to working at St. Anthony Hospital, she served as Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer at Medical Center of the Rockies in Loveland. Kay brings more than 30 years of experience in nursing, health care administration, and patient safety. Throughout her work at St. Anthony, Kay has been committed to enhancing the culture of the hospital through employee engagement and a continual focus on patient satisfaction.

Kay uses her passion to help inspire others, and uses her knowledge to mentor nursing directors and those aspiring to be at the nurse executive level. Her teams' accomplishments include the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award for health systems, the youngest hospital to receive a Magnet Designation, the Beacon Award for Critical Care Excellence, two Lantern Awards for Emergency Nursing Excellence and Patient Satisfaction Overall Top Performer for five years. Kay is also a member of the Front Range Community College Area Advisory Council.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kay Miller for her well-deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

HONORING DR. HOWARD SILVER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the accomplishments of my colleague, Dr. Howard Silver, on the occasion of his recent retirement as the Executive Director of the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA).

COSSA is the largest consortium dedicated to promoting the social and behavioral sciences and the federal agencies that directly and indirectly supports them. COSSA is comprised of over 100 professional associations, scientific societies, research institutes, and universities, including two in my district—Princeton University and Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

Since its inception in the early 1980s, Howard has been with COSSA. A former political science professor, campaign manager, and legislative analyst at the Department of Education, Howard came to COSSA during its darkest, earliest chapter when the Reagan Administration was attempting to undermine federal support for the social and behavioral sciences. From 1983–88, Howard served COSSA as its Associate Director for Government Relations, establishing effective and innovative strategies that successfully defended the social and behavioral sciences (SBS) against these efforts and promoted understanding of SBS's important contributions to the nation's scientific enterprise. Howard also worked to expand federal support of SBS, advocating for the creation of the Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences at the National Science Foundation. During challenging and prosperous times, Howard has never lost sight of his primary objectives—to protect and promote the social and behavioral sciences in the context of all scientific disciplines.

In recognition of his leadership, Howard has served on numerous advisory boards and committees and received many honors. For example, from 1994–2000, Howard served as the elected Chair of the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF), an elite scientific advocacy group with membership from scientific and engineering societies, higher education associations, and industrial groups. In 1998, he was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 2006 he became the President of the National Capital Area Political Science Association, after serving on its council. From 1998–2000 he served on the Council of the American Political Science Association (APSA). His prior service includes serving as President, Treasurer and Program Chair of the Section on Applied Political Science of the American Political Science Association, the Executive Committee of the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics, and on the steering committees of the National Commission on Social Studies in the Schools and the Coalition for the Advancement of Foreign Languages and International Studies. He also was a member of the 2010 Decennial Census Advisory Committee.

In a town known for its transience, for over 30 years, Howard has been an enduring leader in Washington, DC, providing members of Congress, congressional staff, federal employees, and advocates alike with accurate, incisive, timely, and useful information and guidance. His annual budget issue of the COSSA Washington Update is mandatory reading for anyone who needs to understand federal funding of social and behavioral scientific research. It is hard to imagine COSSA without Howard at the helm, leading the charge—especially when, once again, critics of the social and behavioral sciences have resurfaced to wage battles Howard has fought successfully over the years. Nonetheless, Howard has earned the right to retire and to reflect upon a long distinguished career characterized by many triumphs. I join his friends and colleagues in wishing Howard and his wife, Marilyn, well and thanking him for his years of dedicated, impressive service.

EXPRESSING THANKS TO DR. MARK S. MYERSON, MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE FOR FOOT AND ANKLE RECONSTRUCTION AT MERCY

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Mark S. Myerson for his extraordinary care and skill.

Dr. Myerson is one of the world's foremost experts for foot and ankle surgery. Orthopedic surgeons from around the world turn to him for direction.

Dr. Myerson studied at the University of Cape Town in South Africa. He did his residency in orthopedics at Sinai Hospital, Johns Hopkins University, University of Maryland. He completed a Fellowship for foot and ankle surgery at the Hospital for Joint Diseases in New York. He founded The Institute for Foot and Ankle Reconstruction at the Mercy Medical Center in Baltimore, Maryland, and now serves as its Medical Director. He is rated among the best doctors in the world.

Dr. Mark Myerson's research and dedication to finding the best solutions for foot and ankle injuries has led to his authoring two foot and ankle textbooks. He also has authored various chapters in scientific textbooks and is published in numerous professional and medical journals.

Dr. Myerson has pioneered surgical techniques that have revolutionized the diagnosis,

treatment and recovery of disorders of the foot and ankle. He provides one-of-a-kind treatment options for foot and ankle injuries ranging from the routine to the complex. From football players to ice skaters, professional athletes have trusted Dr. Myerson to help them return to their elite level of play. Parents have trusted Dr. Myerson's skills in relieving their children's foot and ankle pain associated with rare birth defects. Others, injured in traumatic accidents that crush the foot or ankle, have trusted Dr. Myerson to help them recover from their debilitating injuries. Dr. Myerson has performed many surgeries that have saved and prolonged careers, and led to patients being able to once again enjoy their daily activities.

Many patients believe Dr. Myerson is the best of the best, and so do I. I can never thank Dr. Myerson enough for what he has done for me. Because of his skills, I am able to walk again, and I will always be grateful to God for bringing Dr. Myerson into my life.

On a personal level, I am honored to know Dr. Myerson and his son, Lucas, who interned for me years ago. Both father and son are exceptional men. They share their talents with underprivileged communities and impact lives at home and abroad. I wish Dr. Myerson and his family the very best, and I thank him and his staff for all they do to make a difference in the lives of those they serve.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF THE REVEREND MONSIGNOR MICHAEL F. KOSAK, P.A.

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an outstanding leader from my congressional district in the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Reverend Monsignor Michael F. Kosak, a Roman Catholic Priest, for his many contributions to St. Croix and the Virgin Islands community over 44 years.

Born in Brooklyn, New York on December 7, 1938, the first-born child of Michael and Rose Marnick Kosak, Monsignor Kosak graduated from high school in 1956 and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1957, serving for several years before beginning his religious studies. In 1966, Monsignor Kosak earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy from St Mary's College in St. Mary, Kentucky and his Masters in Divinity from St Mary's Seminary and the University of Baltimore, Maryland in 1970.

On June 6, 1970, Monsignor Kosak was ordained as a Roman Catholic Priest for the Prelature of the Virgin Islands by the Most Reverend Edward J. Harper, Bishop of the Virgin Islands at the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Brooklyn, New York. That same year on July 26, Monsignor Kosak became pastor of St. Ann's Church, Barrenspot Hill, St. Croix, Virgin Islands and was appointed Director of Vocations in 1970; Director of Charismatic Renewal in 1977; Director of the Office of the Permanent Diaconate in 1981; Director of Communications in 1982; Dean in 1985; and Episcopal Vicar, St. Croix, a position he held until 1987. Monsignor Kosak was appointed to the position of Vicar General of the Diocese on July 30, 1987, and the title of Monsignor was conferred upon him by the Most Reverend Sean O'Malley on March 13, 1989.

Mr. Speaker, through Monsignor Kosak's ministry at St Ann's Church, it grew in stature from a simply country chapel to a significant parish in the community, which offers Christian education classes to children who attend public and private schools in order that they may receive the sacraments. He has always encouraged the training and involvement of youth in the music ministry of the church. As spiritual director at the St. Joseph High School, Monsignor Kosak, was instrumental in obtaining summer youth programs at St. Joseph's in the early 1970s for the youth of the St. Croix community. He presented evangelical seminars to the churches, first in St. Croix and then in St. Thomas and St. John, the impact of which spread to every island in the Caribbean and, since 1982, to Ghana, Uganda, Botswana, Kenya and Zimbabwe.

After Monsignor Kosak was appointed Pastor of Sts. Peter & Paul Cathedral, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands on May 16, 1989, he performed spiritual director service in Trinidad and in Malta from 1990 to 1991; He was again appointed Pastor of Sts. Peter & Paul Cathedral on August 1, 1992. During the 1990s, Monsignor Kosak oversaw the renovations of the Cathedral which included preserving precious works of art that dated back to the 19th century.

On October 1, 1995, Monsignor Kosak was appointed Pastor of St Ann's Church, where he began major construction of the Sts. Joachim & Ann Church and the renovation of the sugar mill into the Shrine of Our Lady of Barrenspot. Other major construction of the Marian Hall, the paving of new roads and the parking lot, as well as the beautification of the 9.5 acres of parish property at St. Ann's commenced from 1999 to 2007. Always one to continue the path of education and spirituality, Monsignor Kosak took a sabbatical at North American College in Rome 2000 and took a spirituality course at Angelicum, Rome in 2004. The Most Reverend Bishop George Murry appointed him as Vicar General on August 15, 2005 and following Bishop Murry's transfer, Monsignor Kosak was elected Diocesan Administrator.

Mr. Speaker, in January 2008, Monsignor Kosak published his memoir titled, ''Journey of a Homeboy,'' which chronicles his life's journey from his time at a home for boys in Brooklyn to the tropical breezes of the Virgin Islands. He writes of serving as pastor during life-altering events to include the destruction of Hurricane Hugo in 1989 and Hurricane Marilyn in 1995 and spiritual experiences along the way, including a mountaintop experience at Mt. St. Benedict in Trinidad on January 6, 1977 that lit the shepherd on fire and there was no turning back in his ministry.

Mr. Speaker, Monsignor Kosak celebrated his 40th anniversary as an ordained priest on June 6, 2010 and later that year, the Holy Father conferred upon him the papal honor of Prothonotary Apostolic, which is dated July 12, 2010 at the Vatican. From June 2012 to December 2013, Monsignor Kosak served as Editor of the Catholic Islander, the Diocesan Monthly Magazine.

Monsignor Kosak retired as pastor of St. Ann's Catholic Church on August 31, 2014 and is now Pastor Emeritus of St. Ann Barrenspot. Monsignor Kosak will remain active as a Diocesan Consulter to The Most Reverend Herbert Brevard, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of St. Thomas to assist him in matters concerning health care, property insurance and pension issues in the diocese. At the conclusion of his memoir, Monsignor Kosak wrote, ''God isn't finished with me yet and I ask your prayerful support so that this 'homeboy' will always be a faithful disciple of the Holy Spirit.''

Mr. Speaker, Monsignor Kosak has served his country and my constituency well and on behalf of the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands and a grateful flock, I wish ''Father Mike'' continued success and on behalf of the Congress of the United States, thank him for his long, dedicated and bountiful service to the parish of Sts. Ann and Joachim, the community of St. Croix and the Diocese of St. Thomas. May God continue to richly bless him with good health and many more years in service to the Almighty God.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, due to injuries sustained in an automobile accident, I was unable to travel to Washington to cast votes from November 12, 2014 until November 20, 2014.

Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea'' on roll calls numbered 516, 517, 519, 520, 522, 523, 525, 528, and 531.

Also, had I been present, I would have voted ''nay'' on roll calls numbered 526 and 529.

KIT NEWLAND

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kit Newland, Director of the Community Resources Department at the City of Lakewood, for her outstanding service to our community.

Kit has perfected the career of helping individuals stay active and fit and helped to improve the physical and emotional health of her community. She is the current Director of the Community Resources Department for the City of Lakewood. As recreation manager, she oversees Lakewood's parks, trails, open space, recreation and many aspects of human service provision, including early childhood and older adult services. Kit works tirelessly to advocate for the creation of programs and methods for those with chronic conditions to transition seamlessly from medical facilities to community settings in order to remain physically active and engaged with others.

One of Kit's biggest successes is the creation of the CancerFit Program, an exercise program designed specifically for cancer survivors. CancerFit is now a program that is available across the State of Colorado.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kit Newland for her well-deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. The dedication Kit has for her community and her

family exemplifies her strong work ethic and character, and I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

MAYOR TRISH KELLEY

HON. JOHN CAMPBELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Trish Kelley, Mayor of the City of Mission Viejo, on her outstanding service to our community and to congratulate Mayor Kelley on her retirement.

Since taking office in 2002, Mayor Kelley has been a leading advocate in preserving and enhancing public safety, transportation, and quality of life of the Mission Viejo's residents.

Because of Mayor Kelley's leadership, Mission Viejo has received recognition as the safest city in California each year since she was first elected.

She has implemented and advanced transportation and infrastructure programs that have lowered traffic collisions and enabled safer travel for residents.

Furthermore, Mayor Kelley led efforts to establish the City as a Community of Character, developing a youth education program that won national recognition for promising practices by the Character Education Partnership.

Mayor Kelley's volunteerism, vision, and commitment to excellence has created a sense of pride for the City of Mission Viejo as a premier city of Orange County.

I wish Mayor Kelley the very best in her retirement and I thank her for the extraordinary legacy she is leaving behind; a true inspiration for future generations.

REMEMBERING PALMER J. ''BARNEY'' MACALI

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Palmer J. ''Barney'' Macali, 93, who passed away Thursday, Nov. 20, 2014, surrounded by his loving family.

Barney devoted his life to his family and was an active member of his community. Barney served his country in the U.S. Air Force as part of the 5th Air Depot Group. He was a member of numerous organizations, and received multiple awards. Barney received the Community Star from the Tribune Chronicle for outstanding service in the community, due to his integral part in coordinating numerous fundraisers and other charitable events. From the young age of 10, Barney began delivering groceries after school, and for 80 years, he committed himself to the business, his customers, and employees. Barney was a dedicated family man and a valued citizen of Northeast Ohio.

Preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Armand and Gilbert Macali. Barney is survived by his wife, Anne Macali, whom he married Feb. 14, 1955; four children, Ralph, Paula, Palmer, Mary Beth; their AFS student, of Frankfurt, Germany, Hannelore; eight grandchildren, Christopher, Quinn, Tyler, Marco, Nina and Nicholas, Spencer and Anneliese; two sisters, Eleanor and Norma, and sister-in-law, Delores. There is no doubt, Barney left his community a much better place to live in and he will be missed.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY ON HOUSE PASSAGE OF FALEOMAVAEGA'S BILL TO COMBAT TOBACCO SMUGGLING IN AMERICAN SAMOA AND OTHER U.S. TERRITORIES

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, information about a bill I introduced to combat tobacco smuggling in American Samoa and other U.S. Territories.

[Press Release, June 14, 2012]

FALEOMAVAEGA INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO COMBAT TOBACCO SMUGGLING IN AMERICAN SAMOA AND OTHER U.S. TERRITORIES

Congressman Faleomavaega today announced that he has introduced the Stop Tobacco Smuggling in the Territories Act of 2012 (H.R. 5934) to add American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas and Guam to the current Contraband Cigarette Trafficking Act which makes it illegal to knowingly ship, transport, receive, possess, sell, distribute, or purchase 10,000 or more contraband cigarettes that do not have a state or territorial tax stamp. Violators of the act will face fines and criminal penalties.

''This legislation will provide law enforcement an additional tool to combat tobacco smuggling in American Samoa. According to a 2011 Feasibility Study commissioned by American Samoa Community Cancer Network on a Cigarette Tax Stamp Program in American Samoa, an estimated 5.8 million cigarettes were smuggled into American Samoa in 2010; this represents an estimated revenue loss of over $724,000 to the American Samoa government.'' Faleomavaega said.

''Furthermore, the study reported that cigarettes are smuggled into American Samoa by individual travelers, who do not declare cigarettes that are in excess of the amount of tax-free cigarettes allowed for personal use (up to 200 per trip) and also by boats that evade Customs inspections. Contraband cigarettes are also obtained when a purchaser buys them at the Post Exchange (PX) in Tafuna and sold to local merchants who in turn resell them to members of the public. The purchase of cigarettes at a PX is only legal when they are purchased for personal consumption and not for resale.''

''Besides depriving American Samoa of much needed tax revenues, cigarette smuggling contributes to a growing health crisis on our island. There are many health risks associated with cigarette smoking. Smoking causes many different types of cancer such lung, pancreatic, bladder, kidney and throat cancer. Smoking also causes coronary heart disease and is a factor in sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).''

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), ''The adverse health effects from cigarette smoking cause an estimated 443,000 deaths or nearly one of every five deaths, each year in the United States. Additionally, tobacco related illnesses cost nearly $100 billion in health care costs each year in the United States.''

''Currently, on the federal level there are only civil penalties that can be enforced on smugglers in American Samoa pursuant to the Prevent All Cigarette Trafficking Act (the PACT Act). The PACT Act only applies to internet and mail order cigarette smuggling and it only imposes civil penalties while the Contraband Cigarette Trafficking Act imposes criminal penalties.''

''As cigarette smuggling continues in American Samoa, the Stop Tobacco Smuggling in the Territories Act of 2012 will help local authorities combat the growing cigarette smuggling in our territory,'' Faleomavaega concluded.

LAUREN EVANS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Lauren Evans for her outstanding service to business development and our community.

Lauren is the President of Pinyon Environmental, Inc., a company dedicated to fair and ethical business practices since it was founded 21 years ago. Lauren is committed to the advancement of the entire team and the business of engineering through mentoring of staff and interns. Since 2009, Pinyon has been honored as a Top 100 Woman-Owned business in Colorado by ColoradoBiz Magazine.

Lauren has an equally generous spirit outside of her business endeavors, and commits herself to many community non-profit organizations. She serves on the Board of Directors for Socially Conscious Coffee and participates with Denver Animal Shelter, Sweat Equity, Water for People and Greenhouse Scholars. Lauren's work ethic and character shows her commitment to promoting the best interests of all.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Lauren Evans for her well-deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

AIR FORCE CAPTAIN WILLIAM H. DUBOIS

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Air Force Captain William H. DuBois, whose life was tragically lost in support of Operation Inherent Resolve on December 1, 2014.

Captain DuBois grew up in New Castle, Colorado, where he attended Rifle High School. After high school, he studied Aeronautical Engineering at the University of Colorado in Boulder, later joining the United States Air Force.

As a member of the 77th Fighter Squadron out of Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina, Captain DuBois was a specialist aviator in air-to-ground attacks against enemy forces. On

Monday, December 1, 2014, Captain DuBois took off from a U.S. Coalition air base for a combat mission in Operation Inherent Resolve, when his F–16 aircraft began to experience mechanical problems. Captain Dubois attempted to return to the air base and was unable to eject before his airplane crashed.

Captain DuBois was only 30 years old and recently married to his wife Ashley (Jones) DuBois. According to those who knew him, there was rarely a moment when he didn't have a smile on his face, and his selfless and encouraging personality was contagious to anyone who had the pleasure of meeting him. The numbers of lives touched by this courageous young man are innumerable and the love and memories he shared with his friends and family will live on through them.

The death of Captain DuBois is an unfortunate reminder of the dangers our service men and women face every day as they defend our country, as well as of the many sacrifices they make to protect our freedoms and way of life. Captain DuBois served his country with great pride and honor, doing what he had dreamed of since he was a boy. He will be greatly missed by his family, friends and squadron.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Captain William H. DuBois. His dedication to our country, and the way he selflessly lived his life, serve as an inspiration to a grateful nation, as well as to the State of Colorado.

RECOGNIZING ROMANIA'S GREAT UNION DAY AND ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, as President of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Parliamentary Assembly and co-Chairman Congressional Romania Caucus, I congratulate Romania on its Great Union Day, celebrating the anniversary of its unification on December 1, 1918, and its 25th anniversary of independence following the fall of communism.

Romania is a stalwart U.S. and NATO ally. Romania and the United States work closely together to confront a host of global challenges, including through our joint efforts to bolster regional defense, halt nuclear proliferation, and increase energy security. For example, the Permanent Forward Operating Site at Mihail Kogalniceanu Air Base not only enables a vital U.S. forward presence in the region, but also provides essential opportunities for joint training with NATO allies. With the signing of the U.S.-Romania Ballistic Missile Defense Agreement in September 2011, Romania established itself as a key strategic partner in NATO's emerging missile defense capabilities effort. The Missile Defense Interceptor site at Deveselu Air Base near the Bulgarian border will provide missile defense protection to our allies in Europe and the Middle East.

Tragically, ongoing events in Ukraine are unsettling the region and testing the transatlantic alliance. As you know, Russia seeks to once again destabilize much of Eastern Europe and restore influence over territories lost following the collapse of the Soviet Union. That is why it is critically important for the United States, Romania, and other European allies to continue to work together to strengthen the transatlantic alliance and bolster regional security.

The strategic partnership between the United States and Romania has greatly advanced our common interests in promoting transatlantic and regional security and free market opportunities, and should continue to foster greater economic and cultural exchanges, trade and investment, and social contacts.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in celebrating Romania's Great Union Day and its 25th anniversary of independence since the fall of communism.

HONORING ROBERTS TREE FARM

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, Indiana's economic engine is driven by Hoosier innovation and entrepreneurship. Our state's small businesses are a source of pride for towns and cities across the state for the high quality goods and services they provide and the jobs they support. One such small business is the Roberts Tree Farm.

Each year, Americans look forward to Christmastime as a season that brings back memories of family and long-held traditions, as well as offering the promise of creating new memories with our loved ones. The look and smell of a freshly-cut pine tree is something I and others will always associate with the holiday season. Every year, hundreds of families around the state rely on Roberts Tree Farm of Seymour, Indiana to help keep these traditions alive.

Located on 25 acres owned by the same family since 1852, Roberts Tree Farm has been in operation for four decades. Working out of an authentic log cabin that originally housed Roberts Grocery Store, Jerry and Libby Roberts offer services that keep customers coming back year after year.

Jerry oversees the planting and maintenance of thousands of trees throughout the year, taking special care to ensure that they grow to become full and healthy. During the farm's business hours on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays starting in late November, the Roberts provide much more than just rows of mature trees to choose from. Customers are driven around the grounds on a wagon, provided help in cutting and loading their favorite tree, and even get to enjoy Libby's homemade cookies along with a cup of hot chocolate or apple cider.

Family-owned small businesses are the backbone of Indiana's economy. However, Roberts Tree Farm is about more than just dollars-and-cents: They have helped make the holidays special for one generation after another. I wish the Roberts family—along with all the other holiday themed Hoosier small businesses—all the best, and most importantly, a Merry Christmas!

LESLEY DAHLKEMPER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Lesley Dahlkemper for her outstanding service to education and our community.

As the current Vice President of Strategic Engagement and Communications for the Colorado Education Initiative, Lesley has an exemplary passion for public education and has made a huge impact in her field. Her experience spans from the Jefferson County Board of Education to award-winning national reporting for National Public Radio. Lesley brings her experience in public policy, politics and journalism to support the Jefferson County community.

Outside of her professional experience, she provides her time to many non-profits including the Action Center, CASA of Jefferson and Gilpin Counties and Colorado I Have A Dream Foundation. Lesley's leadership has impacted Jefferson County for the better.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Lesley Dahlkemper for her well-deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING JIM ADAMS

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and career of Jim Adams. Mr. Adams serves as the Orange County Council Representative for the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council. A longtime resident of Anaheim, Mr. Adams has worked tirelessly to increase work opportunities for local union members. He has represented the Council in negotiations with corporate entities, local governments, schools and college boards, and politicians to ensure workers and their families have a shot at achieving the American dream.

Originally from Cameron, Oklahoma, Mr. Adams came to Los Angeles on a Greyhound bus in 1959 and entered the floor covering trade. He joined Local 1247 in 1962 and was initiated in 1963. Since then, Mr. Adams has worked hard to help the Trades turn jobs and keep a prevailing wage.

After 50 years as a loyal union member, Mr. Adams is set to retire at the end of this year. His retirement is a great loss to the community and the California Trades. I thank him for his service to my constituents and my union colleagues and wish him and his family the best as he enters this new chapter in his life.

HISTORICAL RECORD OF FALEOMAVAEGA'S RESPONSE TO CLOSURE OF SAMOA PACKING IN AMERICAN SAMOA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, information on the closure of Samoa Packing in American Samoa.

[Press Release, May 7, 2009]

FALEOMAVAEGA INFORMS GOVERNOR THAT MINIMUM WAGE IS NOT THE REASON FOR SAMOA PACKING RELOCATING TO GEORGIA

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that, in a letter dated May 7, 2009 and in response to Governor Togiola's letter of May 1, he has informed the Governor that minimum wage is not the reason for Samoa Packing relocating to Georgia. The full text of the Congressman's letter, which was copied to the President and Senators, and the Speaker and Representatives, is included below.

''Dear Governor Togiola:

I am writing in response to the recent announcement by Chicken of the Sea/Samoa Packing that it will close operations in American Samoa effective September of this year. I am also writing in response to your letter of May 1, 2009. Enclosed for your information is a copy of my letter of May 7 to Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, which explains my position regarding the plant's closure, and my request for his assistance.

While you have suggested that the cannery is leaving due to minimum wage increases, the company has made it clear that minimum wage is only one of many reasons that influenced its decision and, frankly speaking, I believe minimum wage was the least of its reasons, especially considering that the company is relocating to Lyons, Georgia where effective July 24, 2009, minimum wage rates are $7.25 per hour, compared to American Samoa's current rate of $4.26 and American Samoa's projected rate of $4.76 per hour effective July 2009.

That Chicken of the Sea would relocate and immediately pay workers in Georgia double the moneys is not fair to our Samoan workers who spent the last 50 years making Chicken of the Sea one of the most profitable brands of canned tuna in America. It is also not fair that our cannery workers have been paid way below the national average when the vast majority of ASG workers have salaries comparable to national minimum wage standards.

If it is possible to increase salaries of departments by as much as $10,000, why would ASG leaders not support an increase of 50–cents per hour for private sector tuna cannery workers? Regardless of what your position is about the poorest among us, now is not the time to be pointing fingers. We need to work together to find a solution, and my office has already had discussions with the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL).

Enclosed for your information is a point of contact to assist you with ASG's application for national emergency funds to provide job training for our workers. According to the DOL, the request for this assistance must be made by you, and must originate from the Governor's office. Your staff may contact Adri Jayaratne at jayaratne.adri@dol.gov for further information on how to apply for a national emergency grant. This information may also be accessed at http://www.doleta.gov/neg/eligibility.cfm. I will send a letter of support to the U.S. Secretary of Labor prior to the submission of ASG's application.

However, before any action can be taken by Congress or the DOL, I have been informed that ASG will need to provide the DOL and Congress with documentation showing the legal status of our cannery workers. Samoa Packing's current workforce consists of 2,172 active employees of which 274, or 13%, are American Samoans, 87%, or 1,821 workers are Western Samoans, and 3.5%, or 77 employees, are other foreign nationals. The total payroll for all workers for the cannery including benefits annually is approximately $22–$23 million.

I have been informed that ASG will have to certify the legal status of our workers at Chicken of the Sea/Samoa Packing before we can expect federal assistance. Even though most of our tuna cannery workers are from Western Samoa, many of them are married to U.S. nationals and U.S. citizens and, for purposes of helping these families, I am hopeful that you will send me the necessary immigration documentation showing that these workers do have legal status so that we may move forward with assisting them.

I am also hopeful that ASG will inform my office of what kind of trust fund is in place for our local workers in the case of unemployment. As you know, after all these years, ASG has chosen not to participate in the federal Unemployment Insurance (UI) program. Under terms of the UI program, when eligible workers lose their jobs, the UI program may provide them with income support for 6 months based on certain calculations. These unemployment benefits are paid out of a federal trust fund. However, the money for the trust fund comes from taxes States impose on employers.

The State of Hawaii, for example, has protected its workers by taxing employers like Hawaiian Air. The State of Hawaii then sends a portion of those taxes to the federal government to hold in trust for workers who may become unemployed should Hawaiian Air lay off some of its workers. Once a worker is laid off, that worker can apply for unemployment benefits and the federal government will send that worker a check from the trust fund.

When workers in American Samoa get laid off, they are not eligible for UI benefits because ASG has not sent any money to the federal government to hold in trust for our local workers. Since ASG chose not to have the federal government hold money in trust, I am hopeful that ASG has held those funds in trust at the local level from the taxes it has collected from StarKist and Chicken of the Sea so that our workers can seek immediate relief and unemployment checks come September. In the case of layoffs or closures, unemployment compensation should have been at the heart of ASG's lease agreements with the canneries.

If ASG has no local trust fund in place, I would hope that ASG would support my efforts to bring ASG under the federal umbrella. My office has contacted the House Ways and Means Committee and I have every intention of working closely with Chairman Charles Rangel to devise a program that will require ASG to set aside a portion of the taxes it collects either in a local or federal trust fund so that future workers will be protected in the case of layoffs or plant closures. Like every American, our workers deserve protection, and they are entitled to peace of mind in knowing that their local government reserved a portion of taxes for them, in case of their unemployment. Every State plus Puerto Rico, DC, and the Virgin Islands provide their workers with this kind of safety net, and Guam established a modified program It is time for ASG to follow suit, if it has not done so already.

While I am seeking a $20 million emergency set aside in the supplemental appropriations bill, and while I will also ask to increase operations and CIP funding for ASG, I am not sure how successful federal efforts might be, especially given our tuna canneries were recently provided with a $33 million federal income tax break at a time when the United States is faced with an unprecedented financial crisis. Prior to this extension, each cannery received over $5 million per year in federal tax breaks for almost 20 years, which equates to well over $200 million, not to mention the tax breaks they got for the 20 or so years preceding this.

Also, in 1999, at cost of $600,000 from the U.S. Congress, a U.S. Department of the Interior Secretarial Commission was established to examine American Samoa's economic condition and make recommendations to ASG and the Department of the Interior on how to diversify and expand American Samoa's economy. This was the first time in American Samoa's 100-year relationship with the United States that a Secretarial Commission was established.

This Secretarial Commission was supported by Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, chaired by the former Governor of Hawaii John Waihee, and administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior. You served as a commission member. I served as an ex officio member.

In conjunction with the people of American Samoa, the Commission, over about a two-year time period, developed an economic plan which offered specific recommendations on how to diversify the Territory's local economy based on the will of the people. In fact, over 8,000 people were surveyed at the request of the Commission by the American Samoa Community College. In April 2002, the Secretarial Commission issued its final report. To date, the U.S. Department of the Interior has failed to move forward on this plan and I must say our local government officials also have not acted.

I will continue to update you regarding my efforts at the federal level, and I look forward to working with you and the Fono to discuss possible options and new steps forward.

The Congressman concluded his letter by stating, ''Next week, I will be meeting with Bumble Bee's top executive, Mr. Chris Lischewski, and I will keep you apprised of his insights and interests in American Samoa. Until then, I continue to wish you the very best.''

[Press Release, June 19, 2009]

FALEOMAVAEGA CALLS FOR COOPERATION NOT CONFRONTATION

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that he is calling for cooperation not confrontation in response to Samoa Packing's closing.

''At a time when our Territory is faced with the challenges caused by the collapse of the global economy which has also impacted our local businesses, including Samoa Packing, I believe it is very important for our leaders to pull together and do what is right for our people, rather than waste time engaged in personal attacks. For this reason, I will not respond to the negative comments being made on radio and in the press, but I will continue to provide information which is important for the public to know.''

''First and foremost, since the day Chicken of the Sea announced it would be closing its operations, my office has been aggressively working to find solutions at the federal level that would complement local efforts. In fact, it was my office, not ASG, that first contacted the U.S. Department of Labor on behalf of our cannery workers to make sure

they could be provided with a stipend and an opportunity to be re-trained or to attend ASCC.''

''In a letter dated May 7, 2009, I informed the Governor of this opportunity and stated that national emergency grant (NEG) funds would be made available if he would submit the necessary application. I also provided the Governor with names and email addresses of contacts at the U.S. Department of Labor who could assist him in this effort.''

''On May 7, I wrote to Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar to make him aware of our situation and request his support. On May 8, I wrote to Senator Daniel Inouye, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and Chairman David Obey of the House Committee on Appropriations, requesting $20 million in emergency aid which they were unable to provide in the supplemental, although I am hopeful that they will be able to set aside some funds at a later date.''

''On May 14, I held a meeting in my office with officials from the Employment Training Agency at the U.S. Department of Labor, and followed up with a letter on the same day personally thanking Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis for working closely with my office since May 7, 2009 to find real solutions for American Samoa's cannery workers. In a letter dated June 10, 2009 and received in my office on June 17, the DOL thanked me for my letter and stated the following: 'The DOL's San Francisco Regional Office has been providing technical assistance to American Samoa on how to submit a NEG application; however, American Samoa has not submitted a NEG application as of yet.' ''

The DOL also stated: 'I can assure you than once the application is submitted, it will be afforded every consideration, and your office and the Governor will be notified as soon as a decision has been made.'

''Regarding the minimum wage issue, it was my office that contacted Chairman Miller and asked for a delay in minimum wage increases, and it was my office that informed Senator Inouye that Chairman Miller and Chairman Kennedy had agreed to my request for the delay of the fourth increase until their Committees have a chance to review the GAO report due in April 2010.''

''Unfortunately, the Governor issued a press release last week stating that Congress was not supportive of the delay, and both Chairman Miller and Senator Kennedy's staff went on record to state that this was not true. Both Chairman Miller and Chairman Kennedy are supportive of a delay and Senator Inouye's office informed my office that he will be working to include our language in the FY2010 Appropriations bill.''

''Also, as a matter of fact, I opposed automatic increases in minimum wage and from the outset have been united with ASG officials in calling for an end to automatic increases.''

''Finally, while I do not know what ASG is doing to keep StarKist in American Samoa or to buy back the cannery from Samoa Packing at a nominal fee in order to attract other investors to set up tuna canning operations, my office has been in discussions with StarKist, Bumble Bee, Taiwan, China, and the Philippines, and I have every intention of continuing discussions until we find a solution to provide employment for our workers.''

''While it would have been best if ASG had prepared for this day and diversified its economy and acted on the recommendations of the American Samoa Economic Advisory Commission some seven years ago, what matters most is how ASG now responds to Samoa Packing's departure.''

''This is why my door will continue to remain open to the Governor and our Fono leaders, no matter what, and this is why I will also clarify the record every step of the way. In response to the Governor's most recent statements to the press, he stated that I said I was not aware that he was in Washington. To be clear, what I said was that I was unaware of who the Governor was meeting with while he was in Washington.''

''As a matter of record, it was Senator Inouye, not the Governor, who informed me that the two had met. The only information I received from the Governor was through his consultant who left a voicemail with my staff stating that if I wanted to meet with the Governor, to call and let her know. My office returned the call and set up a time to meet with the Governor at which time I invited Chairman Miller's senior staff and Nik Pula of the OIA to meet with us, and I thought we had an excellent meeting in my office.''

''Hopefully, we will continue to move forward in a positive manner and, with the support and prayers of our people, I remain optimistic that American Samoa will come through this stronger and better than before.''

''As a final point, I also want to correct the record regarding Bumble Bee. Up until November of last year, Bumble Bee was Canadian owned until the U.S. management team partnered with U.S. Centre Partners to buy the company and take it private,'' Faleomavaega concluded.

ALZHEIMER'S

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from California, Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI, for the time, and I congratulate him for organizing this evening's Special Order Hour on Alzheimer's Disease.

As the Co-Chair of the Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease, I know how devastating this disease can be on patients, families, and caregivers. The Task Force works on a bipartisan basis to increase awareness of Alzheimer's, strengthen the federal commitment to improving the lives of those affected by the disease, and assist the caregivers who provide their needed support.

Alzheimer's disease in the U.S. is at crisis proportions. As our population ages, the number of persons affected by this brain disorder are expected to triple by 2050. The costs associated with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia are also growing at an unsustainable rate. A recent RAND study of adults ages 70 and older found that the total economic cost of dementia in 2010 was estimated to be $109 billion for direct care alone. That is higher than the cost of both heart disease and cancer. Furthermore, the economic cost of dementia rises to $159 billion to $215 billion when the cost of informal care is included.

In the U.S., someone develops Alzheimer's every 67 seconds. According to recent data, women have a 1 in 6 estimated lifetime risk of developing the disease at age 65, while the risk for men is nearly 1 in 11. The Alzheimer's Association estimates as many as 16 million Americans over age 65 could suffer from Alzheimer's by 2050. It is now the fifth leading cause of death in my home state of California.

Alzheimer's has a devastating impact upon families. Right now nearly 15 million people, mostly family members, provide unpaid care for individuals with Alzheimer's or dementia, a market value of more than $220.2 billion. In California alone, about 1.5 million unpaid caregivers grapple with the tremendous challenges of Alzheimer's disease or dementia every day. Caregivers include spouses, children, and even grandchildren. As compared to caregivers for other diseases, Alzheimer's caregivers disproportionately report being forced to miss work, reduce work hours, quit their jobs, or change jobs due to caregiving demands. They are more likely to experience financial hardship, report health difficulties, experience emotional stress and suffer from sleep disturbance.

The bipartisan supported National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease calls for a cure or an effective treatment for Alzheimer's by 2025. In an effort to meet this goal, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education approved a budget for fiscal year 2015 that calls for an additional $100 million in funding for the National Institute on Aging (NIA) to expand Alzheimer's disease research. NIA, along with other institutes at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), are supporting a number of promising Alzheimer's disease research projects, including cutting-edge ''prevention'' trials that are studying whether or not the disease can be prevented or slowed substantially by administering treatments earlier in the disease process.

I am urging the leaders of the House Appropriations Committee to include at least the additional $100 million for the NIA in the final budget package for FY 2015. This modest increase in Alzheimer's research funding will provide vital resources to support meritorious Alzheimer's disease research projects. This action will also demonstrate further resolve in support of our national priority of eradicating this insidious brain disorder.

The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education also included language directing NIH to submit a professional judgment budget for Alzheimer's disease research. As a cosponsor of the Alzheimer's Accountability Act (H.R. 4351), I believe that unfiltered information specifying the resources necessary to meet the goals and objectives laid out in the National Plan would provide Congress with a valuable tool for setting research and service priorities.

I also plan to urge the President to include robust funding for Alzheimer's research and caregiver support services in his fiscal year 2016 budget, which the President will be submitting to Congress early next year. Increased funding for Alzheimer's programs will allow us to meet these challenges head on and enhance our chances of meeting the goals articulated in the National Plan.

As we continue to search for a cure, our nation is at a critical crossroads that requires decisive action to assure the safety and welfare of the millions of Americans with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. Together, let us commit to take every possible action to improve treatments for Alzheimer's patients, support caregivers, and invest in research to find a cure for this disease.

Once again, I thank my colleague from California for organizing tonight's Special Order.

ELEVATIONS CREDIT UNION

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Elevations Credit Union as a recipient of the 2014 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. This award is the nation's highest Presidential honor recognizing excellence in innovation, improvement, and visionary leadership.

Elevations, based in Boulder, Colorado, is one of only four organizations in the U.S. to receive the honor this year. Even more impressive, Elevations is the first credit union ever to win this prestigious award.

Established in 1952, Elevations is one of the largest and most successful credit unions providing a wide range of exceptional financial products and services. Along with banking services, Elevations connects with its community by providing grants and giving programs, supporting educational opportunities, delivering affordable housing in the Colorado area, and protecting the environment. Since 1999, they have been recognized as one of Boulder County's top financial institution, underscoring their commitment to the community.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate Elevations Credit Union for their accomplishment as a 2014 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award recipient and commend them for their dedication to providing extraordinary services to Colorado.

RECOGNIZING OSAN CITY'S EFFORTS TO HONOR THE U.S. SOLDIERS OF TASK FORCE SMITH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the continuous efforts of The City of Osan in South Korea, to honor the men of Task Force Smith, the first American unit to engage North Korean troops in July of 1950, following the immediate outbreak of the Korean War on June 25, 1950. As an artillery operations specialist in the all-black 503rd Field Artillery Battalion in the 2nd Infantry Division, I arrived in Pusan, South Korea, in August of 1950, shortly after Task Force Smith valiantly held back the North Korean assault and made it possible for my unit to eventually begin moving north as the U.N. Forces advanced deep into North Korea.

The City of Osan, Kyung-gi Province and the Korean Government, with the help of former U.S. Congressman Jay Kim, are planning to construct a memorial park at the site of the Battle of Osan to honor the troops of Task Force Smith and all the other forces from the participating U.N. nations that fought to protect South Korea from the communist invasion.

The Task Force Smith Memorial Park will encompass some twelve acres along the road where a hastily organized force of 540 Americans dug in on July 5, 1950 to slow the advance by a larger, better equipped force of North Korean tanks and infantry. Some 181 Task Force members were killed, wounded, taken prisoner or counted missing in action, but they were able to delay the North Korean advance while other U.S. and Korean units prepared defensive positions. The Memorial Park will include walking paths, historical markers, statues, pavilions and 540 pine trees, one planted for each of the soldiers of Task Force Smith.

This past July 3, former Congressman Jay Kim, his wife, Jennifer Ahn, along with four Task Force Smith veterans and their family members traveled to Korea to participate in the 59th annual ceremony to commemorate the U.N. Forces First Battle Memorial. Those in attendance were: John H Sanchez (52nd) from Waukesha, WI, William C Coe (B co) from Cohoes, NY and daughter Suann M. Ingle, Norman Matthews (C co) from Dexter, MN and his wife Lindy Matthews, Charles Fronapfel (MED co, POW) from Lakewood, CO and son Lee Charles Fronapfel, and Lisa Gay Sholl in honor of her father, Norman Fosness (B co) of Fargo, ND.

According to Osan City, the museum was built in 2013 to remember and honor the brave soldiers of Task Force Smith. Now they want to expand and include a memorial park to provide a place for Korean children to learn and carry forward this special memory and a special appreciation of the friendship between the United States and the Republic of Korea.

Osan is an especially important place to remember the sacrifice and dedication of our American troops. At this site some 540 young Americans, ill-prepared and ill-equipped, were thrown into battle against tremendous odds on behalf of a people and a nation they barely knew.

The relationship between our two countries is a precious one that will continue to grow. It is amazing that after all these decades, Korea and the Korean people have never stopped thanking us. Korea will always have a place in my heart as it does in the hearts of all U.S. veterans who have served then and those who serve now.

HONORING NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the National Academy of Engineering.

The NAE was founded in 1964 and immediately made its mark. It was soon advising NASA how to organize the design and operation of the Space Shuttle, where the NAE provided guidelines for technology and operations that help launch the craft into space.

The NAE's record of accomplishments continued in the 1970s. In a study commissioned by the Port Authority of New York, the NAE came up with some of the first solutions for airport noise, which continue to benefit all of us even to this day.

In 1973, the NAE helped warn us of the effects of ultraviolet radiation from the sun.

In 1974, the Academy provided us with some of the first important scholarship on the adverse health effects of air pollution, and the costs and benefits of controlling auto emissions.

In the years and decades that followed, the National Academy of Engineering continued to pioneer new solutions to some of our nation's most pressing problems. Nothing highlights this better than the instrumental role NAE played in drafting the landmark report, Rising Above the Gathering Storm. This 2007 report described a nation at risk of falling behind our competitors: not educating our children in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; not inventing at the same pace as other nations; and not producing new jobs in high-technology fields. The report was a call to action, and while its vision still needs to be fulfilled, it captured the attention of scientists, economists, think tank experts, government officials, and lawmakers. Led by Norm Augustine, the Chair of the NAE Council, the message of that report remains a compelling call for Congress to recognize how science and engineering can move us toward economic security.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to join me in celebrating the National Academy of Engineering, its accomplishments, and to congratulate them on 50 years of service to the nation.

PASSING OF MAYOR MARION BARRY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in remembrance of Mayor Marion Barry, and my heart and prayers go out to his family, friends, and to the entire city of Washington, D.C.

Mayor Barry was truly Washington's ''Mayor for Life.'' He devoted his life to social justice and equality and bettering the lives of Washington D.C.'s residents.

I had the honor of knowing and working with Mayor Barry for many years, as a Member of Congress and as a congressional staffer for Congressman Ron Dellums.

Mayor Barry was born in Itta Bena, Mississippi and would go on to be the first chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

As SNCC Chairman, he played a critical role in organizing the grassroots efforts that would make the Civil Rights Movement a success.

Later, as a Councilman and Mayor of Washington, D.C., he continued to be a tireless champion for equality and justice.

Mayor Barry will be greatly missed by all and his absence will be felt by many here in Washington, D.C.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY ON PASSAGE OF MINIMUM WAGE DELAY AFFECTING AMERICAN SAMOA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, information about the passage of a minimum wage delay in 2010 affecting American Samoa.

[Press Release, Sep. 27, 2010]

FALEOMAVAEGA THANKS SENATOR DEMINT FOR ALLOWING MINIMUM WAGE DELAY TO MOVE FORWARD BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that he is thanking U.S. Senator Jim DeMint for agreeing to allow H.R. 3940, which includes minimum wage delays for American Samoa and CNMI, to move forward by Unanimous Consent (UC).

H.R. 3940 was originally introduced in the House by Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo and cosponsored by the Delegates to clarify the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to extend grants and other assistance to facilitate political status public education programs for the peoples of the non-self-governing territories of the United States. It was modified in the Senate to include language to delay minimum wage increases in American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

''As I explained in my press release of August 6, 2010, H.R. 3940 was modified and hotlined in the Senate. The hot-lining process is an informal term to describe the procedure whereby the Leaders inform Senators of their respective party caucus about changes to the floor schedule and/or proposed business. Part of the hotline is also to inform Senators of any unanimous consent (UC) requests the Leaders intend to eventually make on the floor. It is a way of clearing legislation by all Senators so that it can actually move to the floor and be called up, read for a third time, and passed by UC.''

''H.R. 3940 cleared the hot-line process for the Democrats. But, the Republicans did not have time to review the bill before Congress went out of session for the August recess. When Congress returned in September, a hold was placed on H.R. 3940 by two Republican Senators. One Republican lifted his hold and the other, U.S. Senator Jim DeMint of S.C., kept his hold in place.''

''Since September 20, 2010, my office has been in direct contact with Senator DeMint's office and by the early morning of Tuesday, September 21, 2010, Senator DeMint's office informed my office that they'd be happy to let our minimum wage provision pass separately,'' Faleomavaega said. ''I did not announce this publicly because Senator DeMint's office informed my office that the Guam provisions were a non-starter for them and, in fairness to Ms. Bordallo, I wanted to give her every opportunity to work out her provisions without bringing media attention to the issue.''

''Given the sensitivities surrounding the minimum wage issue for both Republicans and Democrats, I also did not want to jeopardize the outcome for American Samoa. In fairness to Senator DeMint, he also has every reason to seek federal minimum wage delays in South Carolina because he represents rural communities that are also struggling to survive. But I am deeply appreciative that he stood by American Samoa in our time of need and he has my personal assurances that I will stand with the people of South Carolina should he ever need my help and if I'm ever in a position to help him.''

''I also want to personally thank Senator Jeff Bingaman, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and Senator Lisa Murkowski, Ranking Member. As a result of their leadership and commitment to this process, they have hopefully given the American Samoa Government the time it needs to put together a plan of action to diversify its economy.''

''Finally, I thank Governor Togiola for his attempts to help. Although Senator DeMint had already informed my office that he would let the minimum wage provisions pass separately, I know Governor Togiola had his heart in the right place by also reaching out to Senator DeMint.''

''Tomorrow, H.R. 3940 will be hot-lined again and, hopefully, this time we will clear all holds and delay the next scheduled increases by September 30, 2010. While I have mixed emotions about this because I want our workers to continue to be paid fair wages, I am thankful that our workers have received a $1.50 per hour increase since minimum wage increases were mandated in 2007. As our economy stabilizes and ASG diversifies, I am hopeful that we will revisit this issue in 2012.''

''Again, I thank all those who have been involved and I am also pleased that Congresswoman Bordallo was able to work the compromises she needed for Guam. She and Senator DeMint's office reached their agreement this evening and Senator DeMint informed our offices accordingly. This is why we are able to now speak publicly and inform our constituencies that Senator DeMint has now released his hold and is allowing H.R. 3940, as revised, to move forward by U/C.''

However, we still must clear the hot-line process again but I remain hopeful that this will happen before September 30, 2010,'' Faleomavaega concluded.

[Press Release, Sep. 28, 2010]

SENATE PASSES MINIMUM WAGE DELAY BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that he is thanking U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, Senator Jim DeMint (R-SC), Senator Tom Coburn (R-SC), Senator John McCain (R-AZ), Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) and Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) for the support and assistance they provided his office in passing H.R. 3940 which includes a Sense of Congress regarding political status education in Guam and language to delay minimum wage increases in American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) until such time as these economies can be stabilized.

The language delays minimum wage in American Samoa in 2010 and 2011, and in CNMI in 2011. ''Because H.R. 3940 was modified by the Senate, it must now come back to the House for consideration and final passage, hopefully by voice vote,'' Faleomavaega said.

''By way of separate letters, both Congressman Sablan and I have made our House leadership aware of this legislation and have asked for Speaker Pelosi, Leader Hoyer, Chairman Miller of the Education and Labor Committee, and Chairman Rahall of the Natural Resources Committee to schedule action on H.R. 3940 before Congress adjourns and before the next scheduled minimum wage increase is due to go into effect in American Samoa on September 30, 2010.''

''Successfully passing this legislation in the Senate has been a long and difficult journey with many twists and turns along the way and it took the cooperation of both parties to get this done. Senator DeMint and Senator Coburn both expressed concerns and placed holds because they, too, have legitimate concerns about the economies of their districts and, in fairness, also want to seek minimum wage delays in the rural communities that they represent.''

''I fully understand their concerns and my heart is also with their people. Both Senators have my assurance that I will help them in any way I can, now or later, if I am ever in a position to do so. Since September 20, 2010, my office has been in direct contact with Senator DeMint's office explaining American Samoa's unique situation. By Tuesday morning, September 21, 2010, Senator DeMint's office informed my office that they'd be happy to let our minimum wage provision pass separately. However, because Senator DeMint's office informed my office that the Guam provision was a non-starter for them, I did not announce Senator DeMint's decision at that time. In fairness to Ms. Bordallo, I wanted to give her every opportunity to work out her provisions without bringing media attention to the issue.''

''Yesterday, Senator DeMint and Guam worked out their differences and last night I issued a release publicly thanking Senator DeMint for releasing his hold. Today, Senator Coburn placed a hold. After discussions with my office, he agreed to release his hold and I want to thank him and also Senator McCain's office for weighing in on our behalf.''

[Press Release, Sep. 29, 2010]

HOUSE PASSES MINIMUM WAGE DELAY FOR AMERICAN SAMOA ON ANNIVERSARY OF TSUNAMI; H.R. 3940 NOW AWAITING PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that the House overwhelmingly passed by a vote of 386 to 5 the Senate's revised version of H.R. 3940 which includes language to delay minimum wage increases in American Samoa for 2010 and 2011, and in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) for 2011. The bill passed the Senate last night by Unanimous Consent (UC) and is now awaiting the President's signature.

''First and foremost, I want to thank the people of American Samoa, especially on this day when we pause to remember those we lost as a result of the massive tsunami that struck our islands last year on this very day,'' Faleomavaega said. ''While I wish I did not have to speak of other matters on this somber occasion, the reality is one day after American Samoa was struck by a tsunami, Chicken of the Sea closed its operations in the Territory, displacing over 2,000 workers whose jobs were outsourced to Thailand where workers are paid $0.75 cents and less per hour to clean fish.''

''Given that more than 74% of American Samoa's private-sector workforce has been almost entirely dependent on the tuna fishing and processing industries for more than 50-years and considering that more than 80% of our private-sector economy has hinged, directly or indirectly, on the operations of only two tuna processors, Chicken of the Sea and StarKist, Chicken of the Sea's closure was devastating, especially in the aftermath of a tsunami from which we have not fully recovered.''

''With Chicken of the Sea's closure and increased competition from Thailand, American Samoa's economy has not been able to absorb the rapid minimum wage increases mandated by federal law. While I supported a one-time increase of $0.50 cents per hour, I urged my colleagues to consider American Samoa's remote location and the single-industry status of our economy before mandating further increases.''

''At my request, Congress directed the U.S. Department of Labor to conduct a study regarding the impact of past, present and future minimum wage increases on the economies of American Samoa and CNMI. When the DOL released its report, Congress mandated that a new study be conducted by the GAO. The GAO released its report in April 2010 at which time Congress agreed to take action.''

''However, legislation to delay minimum wage has been stalled and I am fully aware that Republicans who represent rural communities face similar challenges as us. But I am deeply appreciative that many Republicans chose to stand with American Samoa in our time of need.''

''Because American Samoa does not have a vote on the House floor and has no representation in the Senate, it has always been my

policy to work with both parties in good-faith, and I am grateful that both parties have stood with the people of American Samoa when we needed them most.''

''Once more, I thank Senator DeMint of S.C., Senator Tom Coburn of Oklahoma, and Senator John McCain of Arizona who lifted their holds in the Senate and lent their support. Without their support, this legislation would not have moved forward.''

''I also thank Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid who made this legislation one of his highest priorities yesterday. As a result of his leadership and once the Republicans cleared their holds, Senator Reid made certain that H.R. 3940 was brought to the Senate floor for UC.''

''Today, the House also acted quickly and I thank Majority Leader Steny Hoyer for making this happen. He and his staff got H.R. 3940 placed on the suspensions calendar and supported us every step of the way, and somewhere in the middle of it all, Majority Leader found the time to personally call and let me know he was able to get this done.''

''I also want to thank Republican Leader John Boehner who also agreed to place H.R. 3940 on the suspension calendar. In this political climate, Republican Leader Boehner could have opposed and objected, but he did not. Instead, he supported the people of American Samoa, and I am grateful for his support.''

''I also want to personally thank Republican Congressman Doc Hastings who serves as the Ranking Member of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Ranking Member John Kline of the House Committee on Education and Labor. Both agreed to let H.R. 3940 move to the House Floor, although they had every right to hold it since the bill only arrived late last night from the Senate.''

''I also thank Congressman Jeff Flake (R-AZ). Congressman Flake and I serve together on the Natural Resources Committee and the Committee on Foreign Affairs. Congressman Flake is personally acquainted with the needs of the Territories, and he worked side-by-side with me to see this through, and I appreciate his support and friendship.''

''I also thank Speaker Pelosi and Chairman George Miller of the House Committee on Education. Their support was critical. Without them, this legislation would have failed. On behalf of the people of American Samoa, I thank them for their help.''

''Finally, I thank Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo and Congresswoman Donna Christensen. They have been with me from the very beginning of this long and difficult journey and their support has been unwavering. They are true friends.''

''I appreciate both the House and Senate which have come together to get this done. I have every confidence that President Obama will sign this into law and I hope that the American Samoa Government will now use these delays to begin the serious process of diversifying our economy. I also hope that by 2012 our economy will be able to sustain another increase so that our workers can continue to be paid wages comparable with the increases in the cost of living.''

''Again, I thank everyone who has been involved in this process including staff from the Senate and House. Once more, my heart goes out to the victims of last year's tsunami and my prayers are joined with yours,'' Faleomavaega concluded.

[Press Release, Sep. 30, 2010]

PRESIDENT OBAMA SIGNS MINIMUM WAGE DELAY INTO LAW

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that President Obama signed H.R. 3940 into law. As a result, minimum wage increases in American Samoa will be delayed for 2010 and 2011. The issue of future increases will be revisited in 2012 based on the findings of a GAO study to be completed by 2011.

''In previous press releases and on behalf of the people of American Samoa, I have publicly thanked Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Senator Daniel K. Inouye (D-HI), Senator Jim DeMint (R-SC), Senator Tom Coburn (R-OK), Senator John McCain (R-AZ), Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD), House Republican Leader John Boehner (R-OH), Chairman George Miller (D-CA) and Ranking Member John Kline (R-MN) of the House Committee on Education, Chairman Nick Rahall (D-WV) and Ranking Member Doc Hastings (R-WA) of the House Committee on Natural Resources, Congressman Jeff Flake (R-AZ), Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo (D-GU), and Congresswoman Donna Christensen (D-VI) for their leadership and support on the successful passage of H.R. 3940,'' Faleomavaega said. ''Without the support of these key leaders, we would not have been able to pass this legislation which is necessary for stabilizing our economy.''

''Without the prayers of our people, I also do not believe this legislation would have passed the House or Senate. The Senate passed the bill by Unanimous Consent (UC). The House passed H.R. 3940 by a vote of 386 to 5. The overwhelming support we received from both Republicans and Democrats in the House and Senate is a testament to the prayers of our people, and I could not help but note that the final vote took place on the one-year anniversary of the tsunami that claimed the lives of those we loved.''

''The final vote was the final vote before Congress went out of session. There is no doubt in my mind that God has heard and answered our prayers.''

''At this time, I want to thank House and Senate staff who worked behind the scenes to make this happen including Terry Lierman, Barry Jackson, Steve Stombres, Jody Calemine, Barrett Karr, Todd Young, Anne Thorsen, Al Stayman, Isaac Edwards, Bob Greenawalt, Bret Bernhardt, Marie Blanco, Jim Zoia, Nick Matiella, Clay Lightfoot, Kimberly Wallner, Ed Corrigan, Jed Bullock, Matthew Hermann, John Whitt, Alexis Covey-Brandt, Austin Burnes, Bob Schwalbach, Brian Modeste, Nikki Bullock, Colleen Gilbert, Bonnie Bruce, as well as my personal office staff and many others.

''Finally, I thank President Obama for signing this bill today, and I appreciate the support that Nik Pula, Director of the Office of Insular Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior, provided in making White House staff aware that the bill was coming over from the U.S. House of Representatives for signature. I also thank Alejandro Perez at the White House for working closely with my office to bring this to the attention of the President so that our deadline for signature would be met.''

''Also, I would be remiss if I did not thank StarKist. I especially want to thank Chairman Kim Jae-chul of the Dongwon Group for his patience and support throughout this long and difficult process. As owner of StarKist, he could've moved his operations elsewhere, but he has not, and I thank him for his commitment to the people of American Samoa.''

''I also thank and appreciate Mr. Don Binotto, President and CEO of StarKist. I know that Don's heart is with our people and he is proven over and over again that he is doing everything he can to keep StarKist in American Samoa. Mr. Binotto and Chairman Kim have my personal assurances that I will continue to stand with StarKist and do all I can to level the playing field so that we can maximize and protect the jobs of our local cannery workers who cannot fairly compete against workers that are paid $0.75 cents and less per hour in Thailand.''

''Once more, I thank our people, the Governor and also the American Samoa Legislature, and everyone who has been a part of this important effort,'' Faleomavaega concluded.

IRS PROTECTS FAMOUS DEBTORS

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, my chief of staff, Bob Griffitts, received an email from a constituent, Mr. Joe Steuer, regarding Rev. Al Sharpton and his tax debt. I would like for my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD to read this email and one of the news stories about Mr. Sharpton, published in the November 19, 2014, edition of the Long Island, New York, newspaper Newsday, that explains his tax situation in more detail.

Mr. Sharpton has a national television program, which gives him more respect than many people feel he deserves. Most people with tax debt would not be given as much leniency as the IRS is giving Sharpton.

From: Joe Steuer
Sent: Friday, November 21, 2014 11:47 AM
To: Griffitts, Bob
Subject: Al the Elite Sharpton & Taxes

BOB, the tax issue regarding Rev. Al Sharpton strikes a nerve with me personally as a few years ago I was contacted by the IRS. I had not filed or paid taxes for 1 year, an oversight on my part none-the-less I was wrong, admitted my mistake and paid the back taxes, interest and penalties. I did ask the IRS employee at the start of the investigation for consideration as I have never had any issue with the IRS ever. The request for consideration fell on deaf ears.

Thusly, my reaction to high profile individuals like Rev. Sharpton is one of disdain which appears to me to be class warfare, the elites vs. the people.

What efforts are being made to represent the people as well as holding the ''elites'' to the same standards that the rest of live by?

For your information, I am going to write to MSNBC and ask how they condone this blatant disregard of the law? If I do happen to receive a response I will pass it along to your office.

I do look forward to receiving a response from Congressman Duncan.

JOE STEUER.

[From Newsday, Nov. 19, 2014]

SHARPTON SAYS HE'S WORKING OUT TAX-DEBT ISSUES

(By Anthony M. DeStefano)

The Rev. Al Sharpton, responding to new stories about his tangled finances, acknowledged Wednesday that he and his civil rights organization still owe back taxes and significant penalties but asserted that both were up-to-date in paying their ''current'' taxes. Seeking to put a positive spin on the issues, Sharpton said he and his National Action Network have worked out installment payment plans to wipe out the tax debt.

Sharpton said that the National Action Network owes about $400,000 in what were unpaid payroll taxes and an additional

$400,000 in penalties—down from about $1.9 million assessed in 2008. But when asked at a news conference what he currently owes in personal back taxes, interest and penalties, Sharpton answered ''I don't know'' and indicated he might not say even if he had the numbers on hand.

''We are paying current taxes and my current one [taxes], while keeping up with installments,'' Sharpton told reporters at Network headquarters in Harlem.

He said he hoped to reduce the balances further through negotiations. In a story Tuesday, The New York Times reported that Sharpton at one point had more than $4.5 million in current state and federal tax liens against him and his for-profit business.

Sharpton has two businesses, which the Times said face $717,329 in tax liens. The story said Sharpton personally faced more than $3 million in federal tax liens and $777,657 in state liens.

An IRS spokesman said he could not legally discuss individual taxpayer matters. A spokesman for the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance said Wednesday that Sharpton had two current personal state liens totaling $779,577 and two totaling $457,968 for one of his private communications firm.

Those balances, including penalties, have actually risen over the years, the spokesman said. For privacy reasons, the spokesman couldn't discuss any payment plans. Sharpton speculated new stories about his taxes were politically motivated because of his high profile and ties with Mayor Bill de Blasio and President Barack Obama.

''After negotiations in 2009, there was a signed document which worked out a payment plan to pay off those [debts],'' said Sharpton, referring to the back federal taxes.

The Network's 2013 federal charitable organization filing showed the group had income of $4.9 million in contributions and grants against $5.1 million in expenses. Sharpton was paid a salary of $241,545.

ERIK WEIHENMAYER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Erik Weihenmayer for receiving the 2014 City of Golden Mayor's Award of Excellence.

The City of Golden honors Erik for his inspirational pursuit of climbing, running, skiing, cycling, and kayaking challenges all over the world. Known for being the only blind man to climb Mount Everest, Erik co-founded an organization called No Barriers USA, whose mission is to encourage people to conquer barriers in their own lives. While in Golden, he dedicates his time to encouraging the community to live a No Barriers Life, giving speeches at Golden High School, the Mountaineering Center, Bent Gate Mountaineering, and the Buffalo Rose. He also donates his time to lead physically-challenged and underprivileged groups on outings.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Erik Weihenmayer for this well-deserved recognition by the City of Golden.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. AARON SHIRLEY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Aaron Shirley, a public health visionary and trailblazer in the medical profession, who dedicated his life to bringing medical services to underserved rural and urban communities in Mississippi. Not only was he great for his medical acumen and creativity in conceiving unique and innovative service delivery methods but also for his commitment to the cause of equality and civil rights.

Born in Gluckstadt, MS, Dr. Shirley eventually moved with his family to Jackson, MS, where he graduated from Lanier High School. In 1955, Dr. Shirley graduated from Tougaloo College and then received a scholarship to attend Meharry Medical School in Nashville, TN. After he graduated from Meharry in 1959, he moved back to Mississippi to begin a general practice. During this time, he held on to a desire to practice pediatric medicine. In Mississippi, in 1960, this type of specialization seemed an impossibility. Still, Dr. Shirley forged ahead, gaining valuable experience practicing family medicine.

In 1965, Dr. Shirley was invited into the pediatric residency program at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. There, he became the first Black pediatrician in Mississippi and the first Black resident trained at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Dr. Shirley often related a story of being advised by one of his mentors to be prepared for white people to not want him to touch their kids. However, he quickly saw that this was never the case. He saw that when people are in need of medical attention or need help for their kids, the divides of race, color, or ideology simply evaporate. This realization made him understand that there are often bridges between individuals and communities, and from that point on, Dr. Shirley was consistently effective at building bridges across communities.

With this knack for building bridges, and a brilliant mind that eventually led to him receiving a MacAuthur 'Genius Award' Fellowship, Dr. Shirley embarked on a mission to help communities that had very little access to the medical care that they badly needed.

In 1970, Dr. Shirley helped to establish the Jackson-Hinds Comprehensive Health Center which has since become the largest provider of primary health care services to the poor, uninsured and underserved population in central Mississippi. Additionally, he created a comprehensive school-based clinic addressing myriad community health issues including, drug abuse, mental health issues, and teen violence. Both the health center and the clinical program have become models for similar programs across the country.

Dr. Shirley was a visionary. He saw solutions where some people had not even recognized that a problem existed. This was the case with the Jackson Medical Mall—a one stop shop for medical services and treatment. Where most people looked at the dilapidated Jackson Mall building and saw an eyesore, Dr. Shirley saw an opportunity, and in 1997, after much hard work to get stakeholders to buy into the idea, he helped establish the Jackson Medical Mall facility which has subsequently become one of America's most unique and important community health ventures.

Dr. Shirley was committed to achieving quality outcomes and access to medical care. To that end, he looked to a medical system that seemed very effective in Iran—using community health workers in 'health houses' to provide certain services, especially in rural places.

He saw these health houses as a way of bridging the gap and providing a network, through the community health worker, to assure that the patient receives the best and most complete care. With this concept in mind, in 2010, he founded the HealthConnect program that helps prevent unnecessary emergency room visits by sending physicians and nurses directly into the homes of people in underserved communities.

Aaron Shirley's legacy is well-established in this country. Dr. Shirley challenged the system to provide services to the less fortunate and became a tireless advocate for civil and human rights. He provided immeasurable guidance to me during my entire tenure in elective office, making me personally indebted to him. Dr. Shirley's impact on our community cannot be overstated and his accomplishments will benefit generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of Dr. Aaron Shirley, a visionary in American medicine, trailblazer for rural and underserved communities, and dedicated community leader.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF MAYOR MARION BARRY, JR.

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am expressing condolences and commemoration for the life of Mayor Marion Barry, Jr.

In addition, I submit the following:

Whereas, Marion Barry, Jr. was an American activist and politician who served three terms as the Mayor of Washington, District of Columbia, and

Whereas, Mayor Barry served on the Council of the District of Columbia as an at-large member and subsequently in Ward 8, and

Whereas, Mayor Barry was involved in the African-American civil rights movement as a member of the Nashville Student Movement sit-ins and as the first chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and

Whereas, Mayor Barry gave more than 100,000 young people summer jobs and served as a catalyst for thousands of jobs for minorities, and

Whereas, he fought constantly and tirelessly for Home Rule and democracy for the District, and

Whereas, he increased senior citizen involvement and support of their programs, and

Whereas, he worked closely with business leaders to bring increased commerce and recognition to ''America's First City'', and

Whereas, he showed the District of Columbia and the world what resilience and perseverance truly looks like by providing an example of inspiration and hope that a person who falls can indeed rise again, and

Whereas, Mayor Barry was one of the most influential, impactful and savvy local politician of his generation, and will be greatly missed by the community he selflessly dedicated his life to improving, now

Therefore, be it resolved that on behalf of the 5th Congressional District of Florida, I extend my sincerest condolences and deepest sympathy to the family and loved ones of Mayor Marion Barry, Jr., and I wish you God's peace that surpasses all understanding as you take comfort in knowing that he fought a good fight, finished his course, and kept the faith.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT MERWIN CEO OF MILLS-PENINSULA HEALTH SERVICES ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplished career of a distinguished Californian, Mr. Robert Merwin of San Mateo County, who is retiring at the end of 2014 from his position as Chief Executive Officer of Mills-Peninsula Health Services, a post he has held since January, 1996.

A resident of Menlo Park, California, Bob Merwin is a 1971 graduate of the United States International University, and earned his M.B.A. from UCLA in 1973. He began his career in hospital management in 1973 as Assistant Executive Director of the Long Beach Community Hospital. He progressed up the corporate ladder at Long Beach and other facilities, coming to Mills-Peninsula in 1987 as Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer.

Bob Merwin serves his community as a member of the San Mateo Rotary Club, the American College of Health Care Executives, and as Chair of the West Bay Hospital Conference, San Mateo Section, and Chair of the Hospital Consortium of San Mateo County. He is a past director of the American Red Cross Bay Area and a member of the Finance Committee of the Health Plan of San Mateo.

Mills-Peninsula has thrived under Bob Merwin's leadership. He has improved relations between physicians and management, contained costs while increasing productivity and helped develop a strategic plan for the combined hospitals. Under his leadership a new 241 bed acute care facility, Mills-Peninsula Medical Center was constructed. It is a state-of-the-art, $640 million, 450,000 square foot facility that is a source of pride to our entire community.

Bob Merwin is married to the former Nancy Madigan and they have two children, Michael and Megan. He enjoys golf, tennis and photography.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Bob Merwin for his stellar career in hospital management and for his extraordinary contributions to our community and our country.

HISTORICAL RECORD ON PASSAGE OF FALEOMAVAEGA'S LEGISLATION TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF MILITARY ACADEMY APPOINTMENTS FROM AMERICAN SAMOA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, the following information on the passage of legislation to increase the number of military academy appointments from American Samoa.

[Press Release, Nov. 24, 2003]

PRESIDENT SIGNS INTO LAW LEGISLATION FALEOMAVAEGA INTRODUCED TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF MILITARY ACADEMY APPOINTMENTS FROM AMERICAN SAMOA

Congressman Faleomavaega announced that President Bush signed into law today the National Defense Authorization Act for FY04 which included language Faleomavaega offered to increase the number of military academy appointments from American Samoa.

On May 7, 2003, the House Subcommittee on Total Force unanimously voted in favor of my amendment to increase the number of military academy appointments from America Samoa to the U.S. Military Academy, the United States Naval Academy, and the United States Air Force Academy, Congressman Faleomavaega said. On May 9, 2003, the Armed Services Committee also agreed to include this language in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2004.

This legislation passed the House on May 22, 2003 and the Senate and the House agreed to the conference report as of November 12, 2004. I am now pleased that President Bush has signed this historic legislation into law. As a result of this new law, American Samoa will be able to send two students to each service academy. Prior to this law being passed, American Samoa was only able to send one student to each academy.

This also means that I will be able to nominate up to twenty students per academy. Each academy scholarship is worth approximately $250,000 and each service academy is ranked among the top rated educational institutions in the U.S. Given that American Samoa has a population of about 60,000, a per capita income of less than $4,500 and almost 5,000 men and women serving in the U.S. Armed Services, I am pleased that we may be able to offer more students the opportunity to attend one of our nations prestigious military academies.

At this time, I want to thank my colleagues, both Democratic and Republican, for supporting my initiative to increase American Samoa's academy appointments and, again, I commend President Bush for signing this important legislation into law, the Congressman concluded.

WADSWORTH ''LALIE'' DICKERSON

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in posthumous recognition of Wadsworth Dickerson, a Friend, Mentor, campaign and personal supporter, who was with me at the beginning of my political career. He was one of those individuals that could be accurately described as ''Larger than Life''! He would enter a room and fill it with a Presence bigger than his person, and begin to talk in that voice that was oh so powerful—even in a whisper. Many memories come to mind of 'that smile' and how he enjoyed a good joke.

He had more than a finger on the pulse of sentiments being felt by the constituency and their concerns that were often not brought to the attention of those seeking public office. His was an absence that was, and still is, greatly and pointedly missed, in every election I have participated in since his untimely demise a decade ago.

Mr. Dickerson was also affectionately known as ''Lalie'', to those that knew him on a first name or nickname basis. He was born on the island of Antigua to parents that came from the island of St. Kitts. He was the only son that his parents had and those who were brave enough to say it, said that he always got his way and succeeded in getting away with conduct that was never tolerated from his sister siblings or other relatives. This privilege helped to give him stellar and sterling attributes that later on became exemplary characteristics that endeared him to many: a care free, head strong and independent person, with a love for life, adventure and animals, which all started at an early age.

As a young boy, Lalie travelled back and forth from Antigua to St. Croix, until he decided that St. Croix was where he wanted to live and raise a family with his then girlfriend, Cavelle. The island of St. Croix, in the early days of their marriage, provided vast opportunities to young people with talent; and Lalie's carpentry craftsmanship allowed him to make a lot of people very happy when he built cabinets, wall aquariums, mahogany beds and other priceless treasures. This is how he began to establish and maintain close connections with the ''grass roots''.

Lalie's eulogy credited his love for democracy and politics as coming from his mother and former Congressman Ron de Lugo, my predecessor. He was always a person who enjoyed a good time and an intense political chat. This was another method that enabled him to keep his hand on the pulse and enabled him to know who was who and how they thought and felt on various subjects. Other characteristics that endeared him to many was his ability to be there for others, always ready to lend a helping hand to others less fortunate, or to those that just needed advice. ''He was steadfast in whatever he believed in even if it meant he was on the losing side''—which was a very rare event.

Lalie became mesmerized with the beauty of St. Croix so much that he enjoyed hanging out with friends on the waterfront or even just to go to take a sail with a friend. In addition to his carpentry skills, he worked at the Department of Sanitation; the U. S. District Court; the Youth Rehabilitation Center and the Department of Education; where a job injury ended his working career. He was also a Lifelong Democrat because his mother told him there could be no other party than the Democratic Party, because it was the Party for poor people. He has also been involved and a member of numerous Democratic Clubs, including the People's Democratic Club and the Democratic Territorial Committee.

I know that many Democrats still deeply miss the presence and unwavering support

from one of our most dedicated party members who also just happened to be the ''Conscience'' of the Party. Even though he seemed to breathe politics, he also had another passion which was gardening. His green thumb caused his family to always be able to have fresh vegetables and even fruits at times.

Lalie was also a family man, proud of his children; loved his grandchildren and was overjoyed being in the presence of his great-grandchildren. His and Cavelle's home was the center and heartbeat of the family.

As I bring my congressional tenure to closure and reflect on the beginning: the joy, happy memories, the sadness of losing him and appreciation of him and all that he brought to me, my life, family and campaigns; always contributed to making it extremely difficult to think and write about him. It is so easy to be sad in nostalgia but, he would not want us to feel anything but happiness for Life and Opportunity to move on and improve. May he rest in peace.

JOHN WILSON

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the distinguished career of John Wilson. His remarkable broadcasting accomplishments and his outstanding work in the Tampa Bay community is worthy of recognition by all.

Mr. Wilson grew up in a small coal-mining town in Virginia. When he was 15, Mr. Wilson started his work in broadcasting as a disc jockey and news reporter for his local television station. After graduating from the Virginia Commonwealth University, Mr. Wilson was drafted into the U.S. Army where he served with the Armed Forces Radio in Panama. He was honored with the Army Commendation Medal for Excellence in Broadcasting for his service.

Mr. Wilson's tremendous career has led him across the country and around the world. Before settling in the Tampa Bay area in 1981, he anchored primetime newscasts in Richmond, Norfolk, Charlotte, and St. Louis. His passion for reporting took him abroad several times to conduct special reports about hard-hitting issues in Normandy, Guantanamo Bay, Saudi Arabia, Haiti, and Moscow. Over his 50 years in broadcasting, Mr. Wilson has been recognized with three Emmy Awards, numerous Associated Press awards, and most recently, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Broadcasters Club of Florida in 2013.

Not only has Mr. Wilson impacted the Tampa Bay area with his excellent journalistic reporting, he has also strengthened our community through his support of nonprofit organizations. Mr. Wilson and his wife of 48 years, Mary K., regularly volunteer by singing and performing for many civic and charitable organizations including The Boys and Girls Clubs, the National Red Cross, St. Anthony's Hospital, and The Junior League of St. Petersburg. Mr. Wilson is also a gifted and popular emcee, narrator, and speaker.

As Mr. Wilson moves towards retirement, he must be particularly proud to have his son, Mark, continue his legacy as the evening news anchor for WTVT. Mr. Wilson's innumerable achievements are a true reflection of his exceptional success in the broadcasting industry. His insight, professionalism, and support of our community have earned him an unprecedented level of respect that is well deserved. On behalf of the Tampa Bay community that has greatly benefited from his dedicated service, I am honored to congratulate Mr. Wilson on his remarkable career.

HISTORICAL RECORD OF U.S. ARMY RESERVE FACILITY IN AMERICAN SAMOA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, information about the U.S. Army Reserve Facility in American Samoa.

[Press Release, July 20, 2000]

U.S. ARMY RESERVE GETS APPROVAL TO CONSTRUCT $20 MILLION FACILITY AT TAFUNA AIRPORT

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is ready to release to the American Samoa Government 6.5 acres of land at the Tafuna Airport so that the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) can begin construction of its new $20 million training facility.

There was considerable amount of time spent on discussions between my office, the FAA and the USAR to work out this deal, and I am just glad that we have resolved it, Faleomavaega said. With this agreement from the FAA, the ASG and USAR can now begin the process to secure the property and enter into detailed lease negotiations.

As it now stands, the FAA has agreed to release the land from Federal obligation and redesignate the property for non-aeronautical purposes. The FAA has also agreed to extend a 55-year lease to USAR. For its part, USAR has agreed to pay fair-market value for the property. Its a win-win for everybody, Faleomavaega said. Prior to this agreement, the airport stood to lose Federal funding if ASG leased the site to USAR at a nominal lease rate. Now that the military has agreed to pay fair-market value, the airport will retain its right to Federal funding and will still receive fair-market rates from USAR. In turn, the military will be able to construct its $20 million facility on a site that is best-suited to meet the training needs of our troops.

All that's left is for ASG to submit a formal request to the FAA Airports Division, Western-Pacific Region to release the said property, Faleomavaega said. In fact, Mr. Herman C. Bliss, Manager of the FAA Western Division has already been notified to expedite the handling of this FAA request and to coordinate with ASG the preparation and submission of the release. Beyond the details of the lease agreement, Faleomavaega also noted Senator Inouyes involvement in securing funds for construction of the new military facility in American Samoa. Senator Inouye and I have worked on this project for the past five years, Faleomavaega said. I am confident this facility will be both a boon to our economy and a much-needed and welcome operation.

I thank Senator Inouye for his commitment and assistance and I also thank Governor Tauese and his staff for their support in getting this project underway, Faleomavaega said. I think it's fair to say that we're all looking forward to groundbreaking and to renewed and strengthened relations with the United States Army Reserve.

[Press Release, Feb. 8, 2006]

FALEOMAVAEGA RECOMMENDS THAT NEW ARMY RESERVE CENTER BE NAME IN HONOR OF THE LATE SFC KONELIO PELE

In response to recent inquiries from the press and public, Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that on January 25, 2006 and also on April 7, 2004 he wrote a letter to Brigadier General John Ma, Commanding General, 9th Regional Readiness Command, in Hawaii recommending that the newly built $20 million U.S. Army Reserve Center in Tafuna, American Samoa be named in honor of the late Sergeant First Class (SFC) Konelio Pele. I am pleased that in the January 30, 2006 issue of Samoa News, retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Mapu Jamias announced on behalf of our local Veterans of Foreign Wars that they were also recommending that the new Army Reserve Center be named in honor of SFC Konelio Pele. I was unaware that our veterans made the same recommendation but I am pleased by this outcome, Congressman Faleomavaega said.

SFC Konelio Pele was assigned to the Alpha Company, 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division based in Hawaii and was deployed in Vietnam under the command of Major General Carpenter. On July 25, 1966, SFC Konelio Pele was awarded the Silver Star, the third highest medal for valor, for his gallant service in the field of battle during the Vietnam War. SFC Pele served in three wars and was awarded a Bronze medal, two Purple Hearts, and three Combat Infantryman Badges.

On July 25, 1966, the Department of the Army issued General Orders: Number 4997 awarding SFC Konelio Pele the Silver Star for his actions on May 29, 1966. The citation states: Sergeant First Class Pele distinguished himself on 29 May 1966 while serving as a platoon sergeant securing a landing zone in the Pleiku Province, Republic of Vietnam. When his platoon moved out from the landing zone to render assistance to other elements of the company that were pinned down by a large Viet Cong force, Sergeant First Class Pele repeatedly exposed himself to the intense hostile fire as he maneuvered his platoon. During the course of action, he singlehandedly charged a Viet Cong machine gun emplacement, killed two of the crew members with his rifle, and caused the remaining insurgents to flee. After he covered the evacuation of the dead and wounded, he carried the hostile machine gun and ammunition through the bullet swept area to friendly positions. When he returned to the landing zone, he realized that a wounded member of his platoon had been left behind. Sergeant First Class Pele, with complete disregard for his safety, moved several hundred meters across open terrain, found his fallen comrade, and carried him back to be evacuated. Through his heroic efforts, the Viet Cong were defeated in that area. Sergeant First Class Pele's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior Viet Cong force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

SFC Pele's action is a pure example of personal courage. His unit and the U.S. Army recognized his selfless actions and for this reason he was awarded the Silver Star. It is my understanding that SFC Pele was also recommended for the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic actions but there were problems in processing the paperwork

through the higher command and his recommendation never made it through. I feel that SFC Pele was not awarded the full recognition that he deserved, Congressman Faleomavaega said.

In fact, SFC Pele's combat record reminds me of some 52 recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross Award that were presented to the Japanese-American soldiers who fought in Europe during World War II. There was only one Medal of Honor awarded to the brave Japanese-American soldiers who sacrificed so much during World War II, despite the tremendous amount of bigotry and racism brought against these Japanese-American Citizens.

As I recall, in 1996, Senator Daniel Akaka authored a provision in the Defense Authorization Act mandating a review of the service records of the 52 recipients who received the Distinguished Service Cross. As a result, 19 additional Medals of Honor were awarded to our Japanese-American veterans including Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii.

I believe that SFC Peles record is very similar to that of our Japanese-American veterans and I feel that it is only appropriate to request the Department of Defense to review his actions during the Vietnam War and it is my intention to consult closely with Senator Daniel Akaka on this matter. We will explore all options on how best to reexamine SFC Peles war record, and see if he should be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

At the same time, I am also recommending that our new Army Reserve Center be named in honor of SFC Pele. SFC Pele lived his life to the fullest and represented all seven values of the United States Army including loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. For his commitment to God and country, for his example to you and me, I am hopeful that the U.S. Army will recognize his distinguished service and name the new Army Reserve Center in his honor, Congressman Faleomavaega concluded.

[Press Release, June 30, 2006]

NEW U.S. ARMY RESERVE CENTER IN AMERICAN SAMOA WILL BE NAMED IN HONOR OF SAMOAN SOLDIERS

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that the new U.S. Army Reserve Center in American Samoa will be named in honor of Sergeant First Class Konelio Pele and Staff Sergeant Frank F. Tiai.

The U.S. Army Reserve Center will be named in honor of the late SFC Konelio Pele who served in three major wars and was awarded the Silver Star, the third highest medal for valor during the Vietnam War. SFC Pele is also a recipient of the Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, and three Combat Infantryman Badges.

The Maintenance Storage Facility of the Army Reserve Center will be named in honor of the late SSG Frank Tiai, a member of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry, who was killed in July 2005 while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. SSG Tiai was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart medals.

Congressman Faleomavaega and the American Samoa Veterans of Foreign Wars both recommended to the U.S. Army that the newly built Army Reserve Center be named after Sergeant First Class Konelio Pele.

I am pleased the U.S. Army accepted our recommendation to name the Army Reserve Center after SFC Konelio Pele in recognition of his distinguished service, said Congressman Faleomavaega. To my knowledge, SFC Peles Silver Star is the highest award received by any Samoan for courageous valor in the field of battle.

I am also pleased the U.S. Army decided to name the Maintenance Storage Facility after SSG Frank Tiai who as I recall, was the first local reservist from American Samoa to die in the war in Iraq.

Both war heroes have served our country with utmost dedication and honor. They are a great example of the determination and selfless service of our many Samoan sons and daughters who have served or are currently serving in the military today.

The dedication ceremonies are scheduled for Saturday, July 15, 2006 at the new Tafuna facility. Congressman Faleomavaega and Governor Togiola are both invited to the ceremonies. At this moment, I want to express my sincere appreciation to the U.S. Army for its commitment to American Samoa. Most of all, I want to thank all Samoans in the military and their families for their sacrifices and service to our country, concluded Faleomavaega.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HAMTRAMCK FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the first responders of the Hamtramck Fire Department (HFD) as the community celebrates the department's centennial anniversary. This historic milestone in HFD's history is a testament to the thirty-one brave men of the department and their predecessors, who have made the safety of their community their livelihood.

First responders are a critical part of communities across our nation—dedicated individuals who are putting themselves in harm's way to ensure the safety of our communities. For the HFD, the roots of this deep commitment to its community extend all the way back to 1857, before Hamtramck was even incorporated as a village. It was then that the Hamtramck Spouters first organized and formed the Spouters Company Number Eleven. Forged with a mission of protecting the citizens of Hamtramck and their property, it formally became the Hamtramck Fire Department in 1914, and has diligently dedicated itself to fulfilling its mission.

Like all first responders, the HFD provides support and protection to the residents of its community in their moments of greatest need. This support and protection includes: responding to fire emergencies, preventing fires, mitigating hazardous situations, investigating fire emergencies for potential arson and providing emergency medical services—in 2011, the HFD responded to over 3,000 emergencies.

As the HFD has grown, it has continued to obtain and incorporate new technology, equipment and training, to strengthen its ability to protect the community. All of these resources, along with those of neighboring fire departments in Detroit and Highland Park, were put to the test on August 6, 1984, when the HFD responded to a five-alarm industrial fire. The HFD and the other responding departments were instrumental in containing this fire and preventing its spread to neighboring residences and properties. It serves as a poignant example of the important role of first responders in protecting the safety of our communities.

For the firefighters of the HFD, their commitment and dedication to their community are principles which motivate their actions, both in their first responders' duties and in the other endeavors they lead to strengthen Hamtramck. These efforts include: raising funds to support breast cancer research, leading community clean-up days and providing the support necessary for Hamtramck to hold Independence Day festivities for its residents.

Mr. Speaker, our first responders deserve our admiration, our respect and our unending gratitude for the incredible responsibility they shoulder on a daily basis. They provide the security and protection that help bind our communities together, both in their official duties and their volunteer endeavors, which are often focused on supporting the members of our communities that are most in-need. It is my honor to congratulate and thank Fire Chief Paul Wilk, the firefighters of the Hamtramck Fire Department and their families who support them, for the incredible impact they have made and continue to make on their community. The centennial of the HFD is a significant milestone in its history and I wish all of its firefighters and their families continued success and safety in their endeavor to protect the residents of Hamtramck.

TED AND FRANI BICKART

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ted and Frani Bickart for receiving the 2014 City of Golden Mayor's Award of Excellence.

The City of Golden honors Ted and Frani Bickart for their service to the Golden community, specifically their support of Golden's culture, civics and students. Ted served as President of the Colorado School of Mines from 1998 to 2000. During that time and after, Ted and Frani devoted themselves to deepening the town-and-gown bond and to enriching Golden's quality of life. Today Ted serves as chair of the Golden Urban Renewal Authority and devotes time to high school and university education issues. Frani has been chair of the Jefferson Symphony Orchestra Board and the Symphony International Young Artists Competition, as well as a longtime volunteer for the Foothills Art Center, Golden History Museums, and Golden Fortnightly Club.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Ted and Frani Bickart for this well-deserved recognition by the City of Golden.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES ALLEN, A HERO TO OUR COMMUNITY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in tribute to a very important and influential citizen of this Good Nation, Mr. James Allen. Mr. Allen has recently stepped down as Executive

Director and CEO of the Addict Rehabilitation Center (ARC) which began in 1957, at first as a small day program which met in the Manhattan Christian Reform Church. Mr. Allen is an inspiring man who has brought much needed assistance, love, and care to the addicts of our community, taking the steps to bring them back into the folds of society.

Even without his accomplishments in terms of giving back to the world, Mr. Allen's personal story of struggle and growth is enough in itself to merit this tribute. Mr. Allen was himself a heroin addict, and had pushed away his family, friends, and all of his emotions in order to maintain his negative relationship with his drug of choice. After ten years of hopelessness and lack of connection with the world around him, Mr. Allen made the toughest decision addicts are faced with: to get help for his problem. He had the support of his wife, Mary, who pushed him to join a treatment facility in Kentucky. It was there that Allen overcame his previous anger and contempt for religion, and he began to pray to God to help him through his struggle. With an amount of work unimaginable to those who have never dealt with addiction, Allen overcame his dependence on heroin. His journey is an inspiring one, and I am honored to call Mr. Allen my friend.

Yet Mr. Allen's fight did not end here. In addition to facing the daily battles recovered addicts must face throughout their lives, Mr. Allen took the next step to help others dealing with similar struggles. His life crossed paths with that of another dear friend and civil rights leader, the late Reverend Dr. Eugene S. Callender of the Manhattan Christian Reform Church, and he immediately volunteered to assist the Reverend with a church-sponsored narcotics rehabilitation program. Since that day, Mr. Allen has not paused in his goal of helping other addicts change their lives around. As founder of the Addict Rehabilitation Center, he transformed the small church-funded program into a successful, far-reaching organization. Under Allen's loving and committed leadership, ARC has served thousands of people dealing with substance abuse, and the hope he brought to these people's lives will forever remain in their hearts.

HISTORICAL RECORD ON PASSAGE OF AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND RELATED HEALTHCARE FUNDING IN AMERICAN SAMOA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, information on the passage of the Affordable Care Act and related healthcare funding in American Samoa.

[Press Release, Mar. 25, 2010]

HOUSE PASSES FINAL VERSION OF HEALTH CARE LEGISLATION, INCLUDES INCREASE IN MEDICAID AND HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE FOR AMERICAN SAMOA

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that by a vote of 220–207 the U.S. House of Representatives passed the final version of H.R. 4872, the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010. The bill now goes to President Obama for signature.

''As a result of this historic legislation, for the next 9 years American Samoa will receive an increase of $180 million in its total Medicaid spending cap for a total of $285.5 million,'' Faleomavaega said. ''American Samoa will continue to receive the 5% increase in its Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) that was signed into law by the President this past Tuesday. This means that the American Samoa Government (ASG) will pay 45% of the Medicaid costs while the federal government pays 55%.''

''This legislation continues to provide $1 billion for the Territories to participate in the Health Insurance Exchange program. Each of the Territories will be afforded the option to participate or transfer their allocation to their Medicaid program. In this case, if American Samoa chooses not to participate in the Exchange by 2014, the Territory will receive an additional $18.75 million for its Medicaid program.''

''Between 2004 and 2008, ASG has received an estimated $106 million in direct and indirect federal grant funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. As you may know, ASG receives an additional $23 million per year from the federal government for the operations of its local government. ASG continues to be the only State or Territory that receives federal funding for the operation of its local government and more than $7 million per year of these operating funds, provided by the Department of Interior, are allocated for LBJ and healthcare in the Territory.''

''With the hundreds of millions provided to ASG from the federal government for healthcare in American Samoa, I have every confidence that the Fono, together with the local administration, will work to establish a solid program in place for our residents who deserve affordable quality healthcare under the law.''

''Again, I want to thank President Obama and those involved for making health care affordable for all Americans and for working with the Congressional Delegates to make certain that the Territories were included in this historic legislation,'' Faleomavaega concluded.

[Press Release, Apr. 30, 2012]

FALEOMAVAEGA STANDS WITH DEMOCRATIC COLLEAGUES TO FIGHT FOR TERRITORY'S MEDICAID FUNDING

Congressman Faleomavaega today announced that he will continue to work with his Democratic colleagues in Congress to ensure that critical funding for American Samoa's Medicaid program is not affected by Republican proposals to significantly reduce federal healthcare funding for the five U.S. Territories.

The Republican proposed cuts to American Samoa's Medicaid program originated in the House Committee on Energy and Commerce which oversees healthcare issues. The legislation, put forward by Republican Chairman Fred Upton, seeks to repeal a provision of Affordable Care Act (ACA) that provided $6.3 billion in additional funding for Medicaid in the territories from FY 2011 to FY 2019, and increased the territories' Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) from 50% to 55%. The proposal follows the Republican's own directive in the FY 2013 budget approved by the House last month that required the Energy and Commerce Committee to submit legislation to reduce the deficit by $96.76 billion over the next decade.

In a letter to Chairman Fred Upton, dated April 20, 2012, Congressman Faleomavaega, along with his colleagues from the U.S. Territories, Pedro Pierluisi (Puerto Rico), Donna Christensen (U.S. Virgin Islands), Madeleine Bordallo (Guam), and Gregorio ''Kilili'' Camacho Sablan (Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands), voiced their strong opposition to the proposed cuts. Another letter to Chairman Upton, dated April 25, 2012, from all Democratic members of the House Natural Resources Committee, led by Ranking Member Edward Markey and including Congressman Faleomavaega, denounced the Republican proposed legislation. Furthermore, Representative Donna Christensen of the U.S. Virgin Islands, a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, offered an amendment to block the Republican proposal in the Committee. But the amendment was defeated on a party-line vote of 30 to 21. The bill passed in Committee on April 25, 2012 and is expected to be considered by the full House in the coming weeks.

''While I understand the need for fiscal reform and the important work we must do in Congress to reduce the deficit, I do not believe that any budget alternative should be taken out on America's most vulnerable populations,'' Congressman Faleomavaega stated.

''The residents of the five U.S. Territories, numbering more than 4 million, have historically received unequal treatment under the Medicaid program in comparison to the States. For example, some of the country's poorest states receive upwards of 80 percent in their federal matching requirement (FMAP) for Medicaid and do not have a mandated funding cap on their Medicaid program. The Affordable Care Act, passed in 2010 without a single Republican vote, sought to address some of these disparities. While it did not fully close the inequality gap, it did provide a major step forward for the Territories. Out of the $6.3 billion in additional funding to the Territories, the ACA increased American Samoa's Medicaid funding to a total of $285.5 million over the nine year period from FY 2011–FY 2019, compared to $105 million without the legislation.''

''The Affordable Care Act was a major step forward for American Samoa and the U.S. Territories, but this Republican bill only seeks to reverse our progress towards equality under the Medicaid program. If this bill were to be enacted, American Samoa's FY 2012 funding cap of approximately $28 million will revert back to a pre-ACA ceiling of approximately $10.6 million next year,'' said Congressman Faleomavaega.

''At this time, I, along with my fellow Territorial delegates will continue to work hard to ensure that this bill does not become law. It is highly unlikely that the Senate will pass or the President will sign into law such a bill that would repeal such important funding for our Territories.''

''As stated in our joint Territorial letter to Chairman Upton, this proposal has sent 'a terrible message of exclusion to our constituents' by proposing to cut every single dollar of our new funding under the Affordable Care Act. The President's Administration has offered several alternatives to deficit reduction, and like my Democratic colleagues from the Territories as well as our Territorial governors, I do not believe that taking important funding away from our needy healthcare systems in the Territories is a good solution to the deficit.''

''I thank my colleagues for their tireless advocacy on behalf of more than 4 million residents in the U.S. Territories, and I ensure the people of American Samoa that we will continue to fight hard to protect the Territory's Medicaid funding,'' Faleomavaega concluded.

[Press Release, Jan. 13, 2014]

CONGRESSMAN FALEOMAVAEGA APPLAUDS CMS DECISION TO INCREASE MEDICAID FMAP FOR ELIGIBLE TERRITORIES

Congressman Faleomavaega today issued the following statement in response to a decision by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to increase the Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for eligible U.S. Territories.

''I am pleased to hear today of CMS' decision to offer each US. Territory the opportunity to receive increases to the federal Medicaid matching rate provided by the Affordable Care Act (ACA). CMS' announcement today provides for each eligible Territory to receive two increases to their FMAP. CMS will send a letter to Medicaid directors in the five U.S. Territories outlining the specific information needed to determine the eligibility of each Territory. According to CMS, one potential increase will be determined by whether a Territory fulfills the requirements for an 'expansion state' matching rate. The other increase will be a temporary (2 year) 2.2 percentage point increase for all expenditures in jurisdictions that do not claim any 'newly eligible' matching funds. CMS has also determined that both increases will be available to Territories that meet the criteria for 'expansion state' designation. CMS will be reaching out to each Territory similarly to each of the States and the District of Columbia.

''From the outset of negotiations leading up to the passage of the Affordable Care Act, one of the key issues for the U.S. Territories was to increase the FMAP for each Territory. Along with my colleagues from the U.S. Territories, I have continuously voiced American Samoa's desire for state-like treatment in which our FMAP is set according to per capita income to reflect our true ability to share in financing Medicaid services. The ACA increased the Territories' FMAP from 50 to 55 percent federal share. The ACA also gave American Samoa a $180 million increase in the Territory's Medicaid statutory cap over a nine year period, from 2011 through 2019, lifting the overall cap to $285.5 million in Medicaid funding. However, while the increase in funding caps were a victory for the Territories, the fact of the matter is, the ability of the Territories to draw down on this additional federal funding is limited because of the required FMAP.

''I thank Secretary Sebelius, Administrator Marilyn Tavenner, and their team for their work and outreach to American Samoa and our fellow Territories. While full parity by statue is still a goal to be realized for the Territories, I am pleased nonetheless that the most recent decision by CMS will provide an opportunity for Territories to receive an increased FMAP, pending eligibility.''

HEATHER SCHNEIDER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Heather Schneider for receiving the 2014 City of Golden Mayor's Award of Excellence.

The City of Golden honors Heather for her dedication to supporting and improving the Golden community. She is a Golden native and mother of three young children. In addition to working part-time at an engineering firm, Heather is also a graduate of Leadership Golden, a founding member of the Golden Young Professionals, and an enormous advocate for the Golden School Foundation where she has been instrumental in helping to raise money and awareness for the needs of our public schools through marketing the Golden Gallop.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Heather Schneider for this well-deserved recognition by the City of Golden.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, December 4, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 9

Time to be announced

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider pending nominations.

TBA

10 a.m.

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine Social Security, focusing on if there is a key foundation of economic security working for women.

SD–215

10:30 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism

To hold hearings to examine campus sexual assault, focusing on the roles and responsibilities of law enforcement.

SD–226

11 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development

To hold hearings to examine inequality, opportunity, and the housing market.

SD–538

2:30 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights

To hold hearings to examine the state of civil and human rights in the United States.

SD–226

DECEMBER 10

10 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, focusing on the effective enforcement and the future of derivatives regulation.

SR–328A

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine cybersecurity, focusing on enhancing coordination to protect the financial sector.

SD–538

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on African Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Ebola epidemic, focusing on the keys to success for the international response.

SD–419

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security

To hold hearings to examine passenger rail, focusing on investing in our nation's future.

SR–253

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the President's executive action on immigration and the need to pass comprehensive reform.

SD–226

DECEMBER 11

10 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD–226

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6273–S6313

Measures Introduced: Two bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2971–2972, S.J. Res. 46, and S. Res. 593. **Page S6302**

Measures Passed:

Cooperation on the Uses of Atomic Energy for Mutual Defense Purposes: Senate passed H.R. 5681, to provide for the approval of the Amendment to the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for Cooperation on the Uses of Atomic Energy for Mutual Defense Purposes. **Page S6304**

St. Clair Regional Airport: Senate passed S. 2759, to release the City of St. Clair, Missouri, from all restrictions, conditions, and limitations on the use, encumbrance, conveyance, and closure of the St. Clair Regional Airport. **Pages S6304–05**

Lyle C. Pearson Community Based Outpatient Clinic: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3682, to designate the community based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 1961 Premier Drive in Mankato, Minnesota, as the "Lyle C. Pearson Community Based Outpatient Clinic", and the bill was then passed. **Page S6305**

PFC Floyd K. Lindstrom Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3375, to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be constructed at 3141 Centennial Boulevard, Colorado Springs, Colorado, as the "PFC Floyd K. Lindstrom Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic", and the bill was then passed. **Page S6305**

Lane A. Evans VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 2921, to designate the community based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 310 Home Boulevard in Galesburg, Illinois, as the "Lane A. Evans VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic", and the bill was then passed. **Page S6305**

Corporal Michael J. Crescenz Act: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 229, to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 3900 Woodland Avenue in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as the "Corporal Michael J. Crescenz Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center", and the bill was then passed. **Page S6305**

Officer Tommy Decker Memorial Post Office: Senate passed H.R. 43, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Red River Avenue North in Cold Spring, Minnesota, as the "Officer Tommy Decker Memorial Post Office". **Pages S6305–06**

Richard K. Salick Post Office: Senate passed H.R. 451, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 North Brevard Avenue in Cocoa Beach, Florida, as the "Richard K. Salick Post Office". **Page S6306**

London Fallen Veterans Memorial Post Office: Senate passed H.R. 1391, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 South Oak Street in London, Ohio, as the "London Fallen Veterans Memorial Post Office". **Page S6306**

Captain Herbert Johnson Memorial Post Office Building: Senate passed H.R. 3085, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3349 West 111th Street in Chicago, Illinois, as the "Captain Herbert Johnson Memorial Post Office Building". **Page S6306**

Cynthia Jenkins Post Office Building: Senate passed H.R. 3957, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 218–10 Merrick Boulevard in Springfield Gardens, New York, as the "Cynthia Jenkins Post Office Building". **Page S6306**

Master Sergeant Shawn T. Hannon, Master Sergeant Jeffrey J. Rieck and Veterans Memorial Post Office Building: Senate passed H.R. 4189, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4000 Leap Road in Hilliard, Ohio, as the

"Master Sergeant Shawn T. Hannon, Master Sergeant Jeffrey J. Rieck and Veterans Memorial Post Office Building". **Page S6306**

Corporal Juan Mariel Alcantara Post Office Building: Senate passed H.R. 4443, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 Vermilyea Avenue, in New York, New York, as the "Corporal Juan Mariel Alcantara Post Office Building". **Page S6306**

Lance Corporal Wesley G. Davids and Captain Nicholas J. Rozanski Memorial Post Office: Senate passed H.R. 4919, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 715 Shawan Falls Drive in Dublin, Ohio, as the "Lance Corporal Wesley G. Davids and Captain Nicholas J. Rozanski Memorial Post Office". **Page S6306**

Philmore Graham Post Office Building: Senate passed H.R. 5106, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Admiral Callaghan Lane in Vallejo, California, as the "Philmore Graham Post Office Building". **Page S6306**

James L. Oberstar Memorial Post Office Building: Senate passed S. 2523, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 3rd Avenue, NW., in Chisholm, Minnesota, as the "James L. Oberstar Memorial Post Office Building". **Page S6306**

International Day of Democracy: Senate agreed to S. Res. 540, recognizing September 15, 2014, as the International Day of Democracy, affirming the role of civil society as a cornerstone of democracy, and encouraging all governments to stand with civil society in the face of mounting restrictions on civil society organizations. **Pages S6306–07**

Life and Legacy of Louis Zamperini: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 531, honoring the life, accomplishments, and legacy of Louis Zamperini and expressing condolences on his passing, and the resolution was then agreed to, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S6307**

Blumenthal (for Feinstein) Amendment No. 3971, to amend the resolving clause. **Page S6307**

National Phenylketonuria Awareness Day: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 585, designating December 3, 2014, as "National Phenylketonuria Awareness Day", and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S6307**

Wreaths Across America Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 593, designating December 13, 2014, as "Wreaths Across America Day". **Pages S6307–08**

Orr Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Franklin M. Orr, Jr., of California, to be Under Secretary for Science, Department of Energy. **Pages S6292–93**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 71 yeas to 25 nays (Vote No. 306), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S6292–93**

Hezir Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Joseph S. Hezir, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy. **Page S6293**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 68 yeas to 27 nays (Vote No. 307), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S6293**

Stivers Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Gregory N. Stivers, of Kentucky, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky. **Pages S6293–94**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Joseph S. Hezir, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy. **Pages S6293–94**

Leeson Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Joseph F. Leeson, Jr., of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. **Page S6294**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Gregory N. Stivers, of Kentucky, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky. **Page S6294**

Griggsby Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Lydia Kay Griggsby, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years. **Page S6294**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Joseph F. Leeson, Jr., of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. **Page S6294**

Baran Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Jeffery Martin Baran, of

Virginia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Page S6294

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Lydia Kay Griggsby, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years. Page S6294

McFerran Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Lauren McGarity McFerran, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board. Pages S6294–95

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Jeffery Martin Baran, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Pages S6294–95

Williams Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Ellen Dudley Williams, of Maryland, to be Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, Department of Energy. Page S6295

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Lauren McGarity McFerran, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board. Page S6295

Lodge Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Virginia Tyler Lodge, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority. Page S6295

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Wednesday, December 3, 2014, a vote on cloture will occur at 10:30 a.m., on Tuesday, December 9, 2014. Page S6295

Walter Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Ronald Anderson Walter, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority. Page S6295

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Virginia Tyler Lodge, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority. Page S6295

Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding rule XXII, at 10 a.m., on Thursday, December 4, 2014, all post-cloture time be considered expired, and Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations of Franklin M. Orr, Jr., of California, to be Under Secretary for Science, Department of Energy, and Joseph S. Hezir, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy; that following these votes, Senate vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the following nominations: Gregory N. Stivers, of Kentucky, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky, Joseph F. Leeson, Jr., of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and Lydia Kay Griggsby, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims; that if cloture is invoked on any of these nominations, that the time until 1:45 p.m. be in morning business, for debate only, equally divided in the usual form, and that at 1:45 p.m., all post-cloture time be considered expired, and Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations in the order upon which cloture was invoked; that following these votes, Senate vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the following nominations: Jeffery Martin Baran, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Lauren McGarity McFerran, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board, and Ellen Dudley Williams, of Maryland, to be Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, Department of Energy; that if cloture is invoked on any of these nominations, that on Monday, December 8, 2014, following Leader remarks, the time until 5:30 p.m., be in morning business, for debate only, equally divided in the usual form; and that at 5:30 p.m., all post-cloture time be considered expired, and Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations in the order upon which cloture was invoked; that following those votes, Senate be in a period of morning business, for debate only, that on Tuesday, December 9, 2014, Senate be in a period of morning business, for debate only, with the time equally divided in the usual form, and at 10:30 a.m., Senate vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of Virginia Tyler Lodge, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority, and Ronald Anderson Walter, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority; that if cloture is invoked, the time until 6 p.m., be in morning business, for debate only, equally divided in the usual form; and that at 6 p.m., all post-cloture time be

considered expired, and Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations in the order listed; and that there be two minutes for debate prior to each vote, and all roll call votes after the first vote in each sequence be 10 minutes in length. **Pages S6295–96**

Orr and Hezir Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that all post-cloture time on the nominations of Franklin M. Orr, Jr., of California, to be Under Secretary for Science, Department of Energy, and Joseph S. Hezir, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy, be considered expired; and that the votes on confirmation of those nominations occur at 10 a.m., on Thursday, December 4, 2014. **Page S6293**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 93 yeas to 2 nays (Vote No. EX. 301), Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2019. **Pages S6313, S6273–75**

By 53 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 302), P. David Lopez, of Arizona, to be General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term of four years. **Pages S6313, S6275–77**

David J. Hale, of Kentucky, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky. **Pages S6313, S6277, S6292**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 65 yeas to 31 nays (Vote No. 303), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S6277**

Mark A. Kearney, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. **Pages S6277–78, S6313, S6278, S6292**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 60 yeas to 36 nays (Vote No. 304), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S6277–78**

Gerald J. Pappert, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. **Pages S6313, S6278–92**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 67 yeas to 28 nays (Vote No. 305), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S6278**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, and Navy. **Pages S6308–13**

Messages from the House: **Page S6300**

Measures Referred: **Page S6300**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Pages S6300, S6273**

Executive Communications: **Pages S6300, S6302**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S6302**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S6302–03**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Page S6302**

Additional Statements: **Pages S6298–S6300**

Amendments Submitted: **Page S6303**

Notices of Intent: **Page S6304**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S6304**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S6304**

Record Votes: Seven record votes were taken today. (Total—307) **Pages S6275–78, S6292–93**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 7:44 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 4, 2014. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6308.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

FARMERS AND FRESH WATER

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine farmers and fresh water, focusing on voluntary conservation to protect our land and waters, after receiving testimony from Jason Weller, Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture; Trudy D. Fisher, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality former Executive Director, Ridgeland; Mayor D. Michael Collins, Toledo, Ohio; Kristin Weeks Duncanson, Duncanson Growers, Mapleton, Minnesota; Marty D. Matlock, University of Arkansas Office for Sustainability, Fayetteville; and Sean McMahon, Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance, Ankeny.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Mark R. Rosekind, of California, to be Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and Carlos A. Monje, Jr., of Louisiana, to be Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, both of the Department of Transportation, and Tho Dinh-Zarr, of Texas, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

FUKUSHIMA NEAR-TERM TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) implementation of the Fukushima Near-Term Task Force recommendations and other actions to enhance and maintain nuclear safety, after receiving testimony from Representative Capps; Allison M. MacFarlane, Chairman, and Kristine L. Svinicki, William C. Ostendorff, Jeff Baran, and Stephen G. Burns, each a Commissioner, all of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; former California State Senator Sam Blakeslee, former Seismic Safety Commissioner, San Luis Obispo; Daniel Hirsch, University of California, Santa Cruz; and Tony Pietrangelo, Nuclear Energy Institute, Washington, DC.

NATURAL GAS VEHICLES

Committee on Finance: Subcommittee on Energy, Natural Resources, and Infrastructure concluded a hearing to examine natural gas vehicles, focusing on fueling American jobs, enhancing energy security, and achieving emissions benefits, after receiving testimony from Robert Carrick, Daimler Trucks North America, Portland, Oregon; Mike Whitlatch, United Parcel Service, Atlanta, Georgia; Joseph A. Calabrese, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, Cleveland, Ohio; Ron Jibson, Questar, Salt Lake City, Utah; Rich Kassel, Gladstein, Neandross and Associates, New York, New York; and Harrison Clay, Clean Energy Renewable Fuels, Newport Beach, California.

UMBRELLA MOVEMENT

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs concluded a hearing to examine evaluating the impact of the "Umbrella Movement", after receiving testimony from Daniel Russel, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs; and Richard C. Bush, The Brookings Institution, and Sophie Richardson, Human Rights Watch, both of Washington, DC.

DISMANTLING IRAN'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine dismantling Iran's nuclear weapons program, focusing on the next steps to achieve a comprehensive deal, after receiving testimony from David Albright, Institute for Science and International Security, and Michael Doran, Hudson Institute, both of Washington, DC; and Gary Samore, Harvard Kennedy School Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Sarah R. Saldana, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Rules and Administration: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Matthew Vincent Masterson, of Ohio, and Christy A. McCormick, of Virginia, both to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission.

HIGH COST OF TREATING VETERANS WITH HEPATITIS C

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the high cost of treating veterans with the Hepatitis C virus and the impact of the disease on the VA health care system, after receiving testimony from Michael Valentino, Veterans Health Administration Chief Consultant for Pharmacy Benefits Management, Department of Veterans Affairs; and John Rother, National Coalition on Health Care, and Robert Weissman, Public Citizen, both of Washington, DC.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 8 public bills, H.R. 5783–5790; and 1 resolution, H. Con. Res. 120, were introduced. **Page H8365**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H8365–66**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 4971, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct annual surveys of veterans on experiences obtaining hospital care and medical services from medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–645) and

H. Res. 770, providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 3979) to amend

the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5759) to establish a rule of construction clarifying the limitations on executive authority to provide certain forms of immigration relief; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5781) to provide short-term water supplies to drought-stricken California (H. Rept. 113–646).

Pages H8364–65

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Collins (GA) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H8275**

Recess: The House recessed at 11:14 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H8284**

Guest Chaplain: Reverend David Eung Yul Ryoo, Korean Central Presbyterian Church, Centreville, Virginia. **Page H8284**

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by a yea-and-nay vote of 275 yeas to 137 nays with 2 voting "present", Roll No. 542.

Pages H8284, H8211–12

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014: H.R. 5769, to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2015, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 413 yeas to 3 nays, Roll No. 541; **Pages H8289–H8305, H8310–11**

Reaffirming the peaceful and collaborative resolution of maritime and jurisdictional disputes in the South China Sea and the East China Sea: H. Res. 714, amended, to reaffirm the peaceful and collaborative resolution of maritime and jurisdictional disputes in the South China Sea and the East China Sea as provided for by universally recognized principles of international law, and to reaffirm the strong support of the United States Government for freedom of navigation and other internationally lawful uses of sea and airspace in the Asia-Pacific region; and **Pages H8350–54**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "To reaffirm the strong support of the United States Government for the peaceful and collaborative resolution of maritime and jurisdictional disputes in the South China Sea and the East China Sea as provided for by universally recognized principles of international law, and to reaffirm the vital interest of the United States in freedom of navigation and other internationally lawful uses of sea and airspace in the Asia-Pacific region.". **Pages H8353–54**

United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014: S. 2673, to enhance the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel. **Pages H8354–58**

Recess: The House recessed at 1:55 p.m. and reconvened at 2:40 p.m. **Page H8309**

Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2014: The House passed H.R. 647, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of ABLE accounts established under State programs for the care of family members with disabilities, by a yea-and-nay vote of 404 yeas to 17 nays, Roll No. 545. **Pages H8312–22, H8343–44**

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in Part B of H. Rept. 113–643 shall be considered as adopted, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill. **Page H8312**

H. Res. 766, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 5771) and (H.R. 647), was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 231 yeas to 192 nays, Roll No. 540, after the previous question was ordered. **Pages H8305–09, H8310**

Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2014: The House passed H.R. 5771, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions and make technical corrections, by a recorded vote of 378 ayes to 46 noes, Roll No. 544. **Pages H8323–43**

Rejected the Neal motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Ways and Means with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment by a yea-and-nay vote of 197 yeas to 223 nays, Roll No. 543. **Pages H8340–43**

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment printed in Part A of H. Rept. 113–643 shall be considered as adopted. **Page H8323**

H. Res. 766, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 5771) and (H.R. 647), was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 231 yeas to 192 nays, Roll No. 540, after the previous question was ordered. **Pages H8305–06, H8310**

Pursuant to H. Res. 766, in the engrossment of H.R. 5771 the Clerk shall (a) add the text of H.R. 647, as passed by the House, as new matter at the end of H.R. 5771; (b) conform the title of H.R. 5771 to reflect the addition of H.R. 647, as passed by the House, to the engrossment; (c) assign appropriate designations to provisions within the engrossment; and (d) conform cross-references and provisions for short titles within the engrossment.

Authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center: The House agreed to discharge from committee and agree to H. Con. Res. 120, to authorize the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to present

the Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the Civil Air Patrol. **Page H8344**

Adding Ebola to the FDA Priority Review Voucher Program Act: The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and pass S. 2917, to expand the program of priority review to encourage treatments for tropical diseases. **Page H8344**

Sudden Unexpected Death Data Enhancement and Awareness Act: The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table H.R. 669, to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life, and concur in the Senate amendments. **Pages H8344–45**

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, December 4. **Page H8345**

Suspension—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Condemning the actions of the Russian Federation: H. Res. 758, amended, to strongly condemn the actions of the Russian Federation, under President Vladimir Putin, which has carried out a policy of aggression against neighboring countries aimed at political and economic domination. **Pages H8345–50**

Recess: The House recessed at 8:19 p.m. and reconvened at 9:39 p.m. **Page H8364**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H8282.

Senate Referral: S. 2917 was held at the desk; S. 1237 was referred to the Committees on Natural Resources, Education and the Workforce, Financial Services, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Oversight and Government Reform. **Page H8364**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Five yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H8310, H8310–11, H8311–12, H8342, H8343, and H8343–44. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

Committee Meetings

TAKATA AIRBAG RUPTURES AND RECALLS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade held a hearing entitled "Takata Airbag Ruptures and Recalls". Testimony was heard from David J. Friedman, Deputy Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; and public witnesses.

THE FUTURE OF THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled "The Future of the Children's Health Insurance Program". Testimony was heard from Evelyne Baumrucker, Health Financing Analyst, Congressional Research Service; Alison Mitchell, Health Care Financing Analyst, Congressional Research Service; Carolyn Yocom, Director, Health Care, Government Accountability Office; and Anne Schwartz, Executive Director, Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURE

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet held a hearing on H.R. 917, the "Sunshine in the Courtroom Act of 2013". Testimony was heard from Representatives King of Iowa and Lofgren; Julie A. Robinson, Judge, United States District Court for the District of Kansas, on behalf of the Judicial Conference of the United States; and a public witness.

TRANSFORMING FEDERAL SPENDING: IMPLEMENTING THE DIGITAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Transforming Federal Spending: Implementing the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act". Testimony was heard from Senators Warner and Portman; Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability Office; David Mader, Controller, Office of Federal Financial Management, White House Office of Management and Budget; and David Lebryk, Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury.

EXECUTIVE AMNESTY PREVENTION ACT OF 2014; TO PROVIDE FOR THE REDESIGNATION OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC CENTER FOR SECURITY STUDIES AS THE DANIEL K. INOUYE ASIA-PACIFIC CENTER FOR SECURITY STUDIES; CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY DROUGHT RELIEF ACT OF 2014; SENATE AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL, THE "EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2014"

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 5759, the "Executive Amnesty Prevention Act of 2014"; S. 1847, to provide for the redesignation of the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies as the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security

Studies; H.R. 5781, the ''California Emergency Drought Relief Act of 2014''; and Senate amendment to H.R. 3979, the ''Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2014'' [National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015]. The committee granted, by a record vote of 6–4, for the consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 3979. The rule makes in order a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Armed Services or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment with an amendment consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113–58 modified by the amendments printed in part A of the Rules Committee report. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the motion. The rule provides that the Senate amendment and the motion shall be considered as read. The rule provides one hour of debate on the motion equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services. Additionally, the rule granted a closed rule for H.R. 5759. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in part B of the Rules Committee report shall be considered as adopted, and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The rule also granted a closed rule for H.R. 5781. The rule provides one hour of 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 amendment printed in part C of the Rules Committee report shall be considered as adopted, and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. In section 4, the rule provides that the chair of the Committee on Armed Services may insert in the Congressional Record at any time during the remainder of the second session of the 113th Congress such material as he may deem explanatory of defense authorization measures for the fiscal year 2015. Testimony was heard from Chairman McKeon, Chairman Hastings of Washington, Chairman Goodlatte, and Representatives Smith of Washington, Coffman, Cole, Dent, McCollum, Van Hollen, Napolitano, Huffman, Valadao, Lofgren, and Gutierrez.

REVIEW OF THE RESULTS OF TWO AUDITS OF THE NATIONAL ECOLOGICAL OBSERVATORY NETWORK

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Review of the Results of Two Audits of the National Ecological Observatory Network''. Testimony was heard from Allison Lerner, Inspector General, National Science Foundation; and Anita Bales, Director, Defense Contract Audit Agency.

VA'S CAREGIVER PROGRAM: ASSESSING CURRENT PROSPECTS AND FUTURE POSSIBILITIES

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled ''VA's Caregiver Program: Assessing Current Prospects and Future Possibilities''. Testimony was heard from Randall B. Williamson, Director, Health Care, Government Accountability Office; Maureen McCarthy, M.D., Deputy Chief, Patient Care Services, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and a public witness.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2014

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Colette Dodson Honorable, of Arkansas, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 10:30 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Foreign Relations: business meeting to consider S. 2946, to provide improved water, sanitation, and hygiene programs for high priority developing countries, S. Res. 578, supporting the role of the United States in ensuring children in the world's poorest countries have access to vaccines and immunization through Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, S. Res. 586, calling on the Government of Burma to develop a non-discriminatory and comprehensive solution that addresses Rakhine State's needs for peace, security, harmony, and development under equitable and just application of the rule of law, H. Con. Res. 107, denouncing the use of civilians as human shields by Hamas and other terrorist organizations in violation of international humanitarian law, the nominations of Antony Blinken, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary, Robert Francis Cekuta, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Azerbaijan, Richard M. Mills, Jr., of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Armenia, Jess Lippincott Baily, of Ohio, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Macedonia, and Margaret Ann Uyehara, of

Ohio, to be Ambassador to Montenegro, all of the Department of State, Leon Aron, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, and Carol Leslie Hamilton, of California, to be an Alternate Representative to the Sixty-ninth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and lists in the Foreign Service, 10 a.m., S–116, Capitol.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine The FANS Act, focusing on if sports blackouts and antitrust exemptions are harming fans, consumers, and the games themselves, 10:15 a.m., SD–226.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Leigh A. Bradley, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, 10 a.m., SR–418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, hearing entitled ''Is Academic Freedom Threatened by China's Influence on U.S. Universities?'', 1 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs, hearing on H.R. 3099, the ''Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper Conservation Act of 2013'', 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Ongoing Intelligence Activities'', 9 a.m., HVC–304. This hearing will be closed.

Next Meeting of the **SENATE**

9:30 a.m., Thursday, December 4

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: At 10 a.m., Senate will vote on confirmation of the nominations of Franklin M. Orr, Jr., of California, to be Under Secretary for Science, Department of Energy, and Joseph S. Hezir, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy, to be followed by votes on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of Gregory N. Stivers, of Kentucky, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky, Joseph F. Leeson, Jr., of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and Lydia Kay Griggsby, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

At 1:45 p.m., Senate will vote on confirmation of the nominations of Gregory N. Stivers, of Kentucky, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky, Joseph F. Leeson, Jr., of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and Lydia Kay Griggsby, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims, to be followed by votes on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of Jeffery Martin Baran, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Lauren McGarity McFerran, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board, and Ellen Dudley Williams, of Maryland, to be Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, Department of Energy.

Next Meeting of the **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

9 a.m., Thursday, December 4

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Consideration of H.R. 5759—Executive Amnesty Prevention Act of 2014 (Subject to a Rule) and consideration of S. 1847—providing for the redesignation of the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (Subject to a Rule).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue.

HOUSE

Bachus, Spencer, Ala., E1714
Bishop, Sanford D., Jr., Ga., E1714
Brown, Corrine, Fla., E1724
Campbell, John, Calif., E1717
Castor, Kathy, Fla., E1726
Christensen, Donna M., The Virgin Islands, E1716, E1725
Coffman, Mike, Colo., E1713
Duncan, John J., Tenn., E1723
Eshoo, Anna G., Calif., E1707, E1725
Faleomavaega, Eni F.H., American Samoa, E1710, E1713, E1715, E1717, E1719, E1721, E1725, E1726, E1728
Frelinghuysen, Rodney P., N.J., E1712
Gibbs, Bob, Ohio, E1705
Hall, Ralph M., Tex., E1713, E1716
Holt, Rush, N.J., E1715, E1721
Israel, Steve, N.Y., E1705
Larson, John B., Conn., E1707, E1709
Lee, Barbara, Calif., E1721
McGovern, James P., Mass., E1714
Pelosi, Nancy, Calif., E1709
Perlmutter, Ed, Colo., E1712, E1714, E1715, E1716, E1717, E1718, E1721, E1724, E1727, E1729
Peters, Gary C., Mich., E1712, E1727
Poe, Ted, Tex., E1708, E1709
Rangel, Charles B., N.Y., E1713, E1721, E1727
Rogers, Harold, Ky., E1706
Ryan, Tim, Ohio, E1717
Sánchez, Linda T., Calif., E1718
Thompson, Bennie G., Miss., E1724
Tipton, Scott R., Colo., E1717
Turner, Michael R., Ohio, E1718
Visclosky, Peter J., Ind., E1707, E1708
Waters, Maxine, Calif., E1720
Young, Todd C., Ind., E1718

Congressional Record The *Congressional Record* (USPS 087–390). The Periodicals postage is paid at Washington, D.C. The public proceedings of each House of Congress, as reported by the Official Reporters thereof, are printed pursuant to directions of the Joint Committee on Printing as authorized by appropriate provisions of Title 44, United States Code, and published for each day that one or both Houses are in session, excepting very infrequent instances when two or more unusually small consecutive issues are printed one time. ¶Public access to the *Congressional Record* is available online through the U.S. Government Printing Office, at *www.fdsys.gov*, free of charge to the user. The information is updated online each day the *Congressional Record* is published. For more information, contact the GPO Customer Contact Center, U.S. Government Printing Office. Phone 202–512–1800, or 866–512–1800 (toll-free). E-Mail, *contactcenter@gpo.gov*. ¶To place an order for any of these products, visit the U.S. Government Online Bookstore at: bookstore.gpo.gov. Mail orders to: Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 979050, St. Louis, MO 63197–9000, or phone orders to 866–512–1800 (toll-free), 202–512–1800 (D.C. area), or fax to 202–512–2104. Remit check or money order, made payable to the Superintendent of Documents, or use VISA, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, or GPO Deposit Account. ¶Following each session of Congress, the daily *Congressional Record* is revised, printed, permanently bound and sold by the Superintendent of Documents in individual parts or by sets. ¶With the exception of copyrighted articles, there are no restrictions on the republication of material from the *Congressional Record*.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Superintendent of Documents, *Congressional Record*, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, along with the entire mailing label from the last issue received.