

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

SPEECH OF

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 2015

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, tonight we've heard from Representatives from all over the country—from my home state of Washington, to Oklahoma, to Florida—about the economic importance of the Export-Import Bank to our nation. Before we conclude for the evening, there were three other topics I wanted to discuss—wine, music stands, and mint oil. As unrelated as these three things sound, they have a couple of important commonalities. First, these are small businesses in Washington State that create all three of these products. L'Ecole Winery in Walla Walla makes a fantastic, award-winning Bordeaux blend, and sells their wines in over 20 countries. I had the chance to recently tour the Manhasset Specialty Company, located in Yakima, Washington, which manufactures and sells the gold-standard of music stands the world over. Norwest Ingredients, a company located in Royal City, Washington, grows and refines mint extract, and sells it around the globe to food and pharmaceutical producers for flavoring.

The other thing these three businesses have in common, besides making some of the best products in the world, is that they all use Export-Import Bank financing to share their products with the world. They are great examples of small businesses utilizing the Bank—and for the record, they are definitely small businesses, employing a total of 43 full-time employees between the three of them, and that number is growing. In fact, to clear up a common misconception about the Ex-Im Bank, in fiscal year 2014, an astounding 89% of the Export-Import Bank's loans were to small businesses. When these small businesses are seeking to export their product—that is, to grow their businesses and create jobs—they often need financing to do that. However, selling your product in Sidney or Seoul is not the same thing as selling it in St. Louis or San Francisco. When selling overseas, under a different set of laws, sometimes there's little recourse if you have issues with getting paid for your goods. Or say there's a natural disaster or labor dispute—how then can you access your product or the money you're owed? When your product spends six weeks on a barge, and your money is locked in that product in a crate, sometimes you need capital that's just not accessible. In some countries, just to access their markets and sell your products you have to have an insurance guarantee from your home country. And that's where the Export-Import Bank comes in.

The Export-Import Bank supplements private financiers, providing direct loans, working capital, loan guarantees, and other forms of financial insurance, allowing these businesses to reach markets and sell goods they would be unable to otherwise.

Critics on one side argue this simply means these ventures are too risky, and shouldn't be entered into if private financing can't handle the job. On the other side, they argue the reason private financiers can't handle it is because Ex-Im crowds them out of the market, offering rates private finance can't compete with. But, if we look at the evidence, we can see both of these claims are just not true. If the Export-Import Bank backed inherently risky ventures, then how do we account for the 0.175% default rate on Ex-Im loans? This rate is far below the standard market rate, meaning that the Bank's loans are careful, and judicious with taxpayer dollars. As for the Export-Import Bank crowding private lenders out of the market, right now Ex-Im requires in its charter that the Bank only, and I quote only, "supplement and encourage, and not compete with private capital." It also requires that the Export-Import Bank provide an annual report to Congress with a breakdown of all of their loans, demonstrating that private lenders were either unable or unwilling to offer these loans.

However, I would agree with critics that this isn't enough, and we should go further. That's one of the reasons I'm a cosponsor of Mr. Fincher's Export-Import Reform legislation, H.R. 597, the Reform Exports and Expand the American Economy Act. Mr. Fincher's bill reiterates that the Export-Import Bank is the "lender of last resort" to companies, and that companies seeking credit must demonstrate they've tried to procure private financing before they can even be considered for Ex-Im financing.

Mr. Fincher's Export-Import reform bill would make other positive changes to the Bank as well. It would require the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to regularly audit Ex-Im's fraud control measures, as well as their loan, insurance, and guarantee programs. This legislation would require that the Bank's Board of Directors publish an annual list of countries that loan participants should not be doing business with, whether it's because they violate human rights, aid our nation's enemies, or for other foreign policy reason. These are good, ethical reforms that should be made. The reform legislation would also impose capital reserve requirements on Ex-Im so that, while unlikely, should a financial crisis affect the Bank, it will have strong capital reserves to protect taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I aren't asking for a straight reauthorization of Ex-Im—we think there are improvements that can and should be made to the Bank. And we would love to work with those who are critical of the Export-Import Bank to join us in reforming the Bank so that it's more accountable, it's more supportive of the free market, and is a better steward of taxpayer dollars.

Speaking of taxpayer dollars, there's another common myth about the Export-Import Bank that I would like to clear up. Critics of the Bank claim that it's a huge consumer of taxpayer dollars, and that it constantly risks those funds. However, this couldn't be further from the truth. When a business takes out a

loan, just like everyone else, they have to repay that balance with interest—and that's where the Export-Import Bank, like any other lender, makes its revenue.

To quote from a June 17, 2015 Congressional Research Service report, "Ex-Im Bank's activities in FY2013 were estimated to reduce the budget deficit by \$1 billion in FY2013, and are estimated to reduce the budget deficit by \$570 million in FY2014."

Let me repeat that to let it sink in—two years ago, Ex-Im reduced our federal deficit by a billion dollars, and last year it reduced it by \$570 million. Some of the most ardent critics of the Bank are fellow conservative friends of mine, who are just as concerned with federal spending as I am. That's why I have a hard time understanding how they can advocate for ending a program that is helping to curb our deficits by half a billion to a billion dollars annually.

Another misconception I'd like to address is that allowing Export-Import Bank to permanently expire won't cost our country jobs—it certainly will. It's estimated that every year, Ex-Im helps our nation's businesses support about 167,000 jobs. To put this into perspective, that's more than half the population of St. Louis, Missouri. Those are jobs we will be forfeiting if we allow Ex-Im to permanently expire.

Moreover, allowing expiration of the Export-Import Bank will put our nation at a permanent trade disadvantage. Currently, every other nation in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has their own Export-Import Bank to support their country's producers—Britain, Korea, Mexico, Italy, Estonia—you name it. And some of them are enormous. Germany's bank backs \$22.6 billion in exports annually—significantly more than the U.S.'s average of \$14.5 billion. And China's is off the charts—backing \$45.5 billion in exports annually. For those of you keeping track, that's over three times the size of our Bank.

In fact, the Chairman of India's Export-Import Bank in a recent interview with Business Insider was asked for his thoughts on the U.S. Bank expiring. His response? "With the U.S. Ex-Im Bank closing down, we would now have more market, because Indian products were competed by U.S. products." Right now, these other nations are looking for every advantage they can get for their businesses to grow their economies, and they see the U.S. willingly retracting from the global stage and conceding market share. If we would like to maintain U.S. strength abroad, allowing expiration of the Export-Import Bank is a poor strategic decision.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, now is the time to reform and reauthorize the Export-Import Bank, and I encourage House leadership to allow us to vote on its reauthorization as soon as possible. The Export-Import Bank helps our nation's small businesses grow and create jobs. It reduces our nation's federal deficit, and makes us more competitive on the global stage. Could it use reforms? Certainly—there isn't an institution out there that couldn't, and

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

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

I'd love to work with my friends who are critical of the Bank to see these reforms put in place. But we can't willingly remove tools from our arsenal if we want to keep our great nation strong and competitive for decades to come.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT
EUGENE BARTELS

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Robert Eugene Bartels, who passed away at the age of 78, in South Bend, Indiana on July 17, 2015.

Bob was born in 1937 in Zanesville, Ohio to the late Martin H. and Verna K. Bartels. In 1959, he graduated from Purdue University earning a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering. He joined General Electric and worked in various East Coast cities. In 1962, while visiting a fraternity brother in South Bend, he met Nancy Tarnow on a blind date. They later married and settled in Providence, Rhode Island.

In 1964, Martin and Jane Tarnow offered Bob an opportunity to join Martin's Super Markets as a right-hand executive with the company. With Nancy as a partner and trusted confidante, Bob led Martin's Super Markets through many changes during his tenure.

He developed a single 'mom and pop' Martin's Super Market into an innovative, respected store chain covering much of Indiana. Today, these stores are more than just a supermarket; they are the glue that holds our Hoosier communities together.

At 51, he became an employee of the supermarket and served as president and CEO beginning in 1973, and as chairman beginning in 2005.

Under Bob's leadership, Martin's Super Markets grew into a fully functioning corporation by adding 19 additional stores, relocating six and completing countless updates and remodeling projects under his watch.

In addition, he oversaw the introduction of many of the company's most popular features, such as Side Door Deli Cafes, Starbucks Coffee kiosks, catering, and more. Bob was instrumental in expanding Martin's Super Market's commitment to its communities, with fundraisers such as Heat for Homes, Roofsit, Advantages of Education and student scholarship programs, both public and private.

Bob served his community and industry in many roles, including as former trustee of the Stanley Clark School in South Bend, Indiana; former director of St. Joseph County Chamber of Commerce; former director of his local YMCA; and former trustee of Project Future in South Bend, Indiana.

Make no mistake, Bob was a man gifted with a powerful intellect and the ability to understand great complexities, reduce them into simple concepts, and put them to work. He was a good steward and defined his responsibilities expansively.

His commitment to personal excellence, education, demanding workloads, and his ability to turn opportunity into accomplishment were inspiring. His commitment to high personal standards of conduct and seemingly tire-

less effort and engagement were his way of showing his love for his family, colleagues and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire U.S. House of Representatives to join me in expressing our deepest sympathy to Bob Bartels and the entire Bartels family.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES
ACT

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring recognition to the 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This legislation, signed into law by President George H.W. Bush on July 26, 1990, serves as a sterling example of the great things Congress can accomplish for the American people when we work together with amity in a spirit of cooperation.

The ADA codified important rights for those of our fellow Americans with disabilities. It made us a stronger, more diverse and more inclusive society. By lifting restrictions it elevated hopes and by removing barriers it opened up opportunities.

Good Shepherd, a nationally recognized rehabilitation center, located in my hometown of Allentown, will be holding a year-long series of art and cultural events in conjunction with the Lehigh Valley Arts Council highlighting accessibility and inclusion for persons with disabilities in the arts.

I ask the House to join me in commending both Good Shepherd and the Lehigh Valley Arts Council for the outstanding services they provide to the people of my community.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I ask that we all take a moment to reflect on the achievement of the Americans with Disabilities Act itself. The creation and passage of such well-thought-out, beneficial and bipartisan legislation like the ADA Act should always be the goal of the House.

HONORING CHARLES S. CROMPTON

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my friend and colleague, Congressman JOHN CARNEY, to recognize the Honorable Charles Crompton, who took his Oath as Judge of the Superior Court of California for the City and County of San Francisco on June 17, 2015. Since becoming a member of the California Bar, Mr. Crompton has enjoyed a distinguished legal career as a litigation partner with Latham & Watkins LLP and as the Director of the Drop in Legal Clinic at GLIDE in San Francisco.

During his time with Latham & Watkins, Charles Crompton was a member of the firm's Intellectual Property Practice, Technology Transactions Practice and Antitrust & Competition Practice. He successfully handled numerous jury trials, bench trials, arbitrations,

and appeals for high profile clients in the technology, biotechnology, mining, energy, and construction industries. Charles Crompton also arbitrated a number of technology disputes before the American Arbitration Association and the International Chamber of Commerce.

In addition, Mr. Crompton has written several articles for publications that include: The Daily Journal, Antitrust Magazine, and The Computer Lawyer. He has lectured on intellectual property law for the Practising Law Institute, Stanford Law School, and UC Berkeley's Boalt Hall, among others.

In 2014, Charles Crompton withdrew from private practice to dedicate himself full-time to the free Drop-In Legal Clinic that he founded at GLIDE, an organization that has served poor and disenfranchised residents of San Francisco's Tenderloin neighborhood for fifty years. Inspired by GLIDE's comprehensive approach to meeting the diverse needs of its community members, the Drop-In Legal Clinic strives to address any legal issue, turning nobody away because their specific problem does not meet pre-set criteria.

As he begins a new chapter in his legal career, it is fitting that we recognize the Honorable Charles Crompton today for his many accomplishments and for his public services. California's Governor Edmund Brown Jr. made a wise decision when he appointed Charles Crompton to his current judgeship, and we can be sure that Mr. Crompton's extensive legal experience and longstanding commitment to serving others will be a tremendous asset to the San Francisco County Superior Court.

10TH ANNUAL NATIONAL NIGHT
OUT IN THE CITY OF BULVERDE,
TEXAS ON OCTOBER 6, 2015

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie in order to make our neighborhoods safer. National Night Out provides a unique opportunity for Bulverde, Texas, which is located in the 21st Congressional District in Texas, to join with thousands of other communities across the country in promoting cooperative, police-community crime prevention efforts. Police-community partnerships, as well as neighborhood safety awareness and cooperation, are important themes of National Night Out.

Congratulations to the City of Bulverde as it marks its 10th consecutive year participating in this important event with the Bulverde Police Department to promote joint crime, drug, and violence prevention efforts. These efforts keep our communities, and our citizens, more safe and secure.

Credit goes to the citizens of Bulverde, Texas, as they join the Bulverde Police Department and the National Association of Town Watch in supporting the Annual National Night Out on October 6, 2015.

CELEBRATING ARLENE RITTER'S
105TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Arlene Ritter of Johnson, Nebraska, who is celebrating her 105th birthday today, July 22nd.

Arlene was born to Elmer Claude and Ella May Demarest in 1910. She had two brothers, Frank and Harry, and graduated from Talmage High School in Talmage, Nebraska. In December 1932, Arlene married Herbert M.J. Ritter and proudly added farm wife to her list of talents as an artist, seamstress, and cook.

Arlene and her husband raised four daughters. Herbert passed away in 1966, but Arlene continued to live independently on the farm until late last year. She has remained active in her church, school, and community, even serving as the brainchild for the founding of the Brock Bugle local newspaper.

Over the course of 105 years, Arlene has experienced countless remarkable events in Nebraska and our country. As highlights of her life, she lists being honored at a Husker football game and, more importantly, her faith in Jesus Christ. She also enjoys spending time with her 11 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and seven great-great-grandchildren.

On behalf of the people of Nebraska's Third District, I congratulate Arlene on her 105th birthday and wish her many more healthy and happy years.

HONORING ALVIN JAY FUGITT

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness, I rise to recognize an outstanding community leader, Alvin Jay Fugitt, who died after battling Parkinson's disease and cancer for several years.

A resident of the city of La Verne, Mr. Fugitt embraced life, people, and causes that saved endangered species, protected the environment and enriched the lives of the poor and the oppressed.

Mr. Fugitt was an avid reader who co-founded the Friends of La Verne Library, which has provided educational resources to the poor and struggling service men and women. He worked closely with elected officials of La Verne and is recognized as the embodiment of kindness after a lifetime of advocacy for environmental causes, energy conservation, urban development, and improving education.

Mr. Fugitt's selfless service will be missed greatly by his family, friends, and neighbors. We are all devastated by the loss of one so loved, and I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join my constituents and me in honoring Mr. Fugitt for his lasting, positive impact to our San Gabriel Valley community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, on July 21, 2015, I was not present for roll call votes #448 and 449. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE on both.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY
LIFE OF THOMAS M. LOFTON

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a beloved member of the Indiana community, Thomas Lofton. Sadly, Tom passed away on June 19, 2015, at the age of 86. He was a well-established attorney and leader of the Lilly Endowment, one of the largest private philanthropic foundations in the country. He will be dearly missed by the Hoosier community, but he leaves behind a tremendous legacy that will live on and flourish under the leadership of those that he has mentored.

A lifelong Hoosier, Tom was born and raised in Indianapolis. He attended Howe High School, and during this time he was an Eagle Scout and a delegate to Hoosier Boys State. He later earned his bachelor's degree from Indiana University and J.D. from the Indiana University Maurer School of Law. He graduated with distinction and was honored with membership to the Order of the Coif and Beta Gamma Sigma, both of which are honor societies recognizing academic excellence.

Tom's experience in the law field is extensive and impressive. He started his career by serving as a law clerk to United States Supreme Court Justice Sherman Minton. After his clerkship he joined Baker & Daniels law firm in Indianapolis and remained there for over three decades. He developed a national reputation as an expert on tax-exempt organizations, providing counsel to organizations like The Clowes Fund, Liberty Fund, Indiana University Foundation, Christian Theological Seminary, the Eiteljorg Museum, and the Lilly Endowment, which he would later Chair.

In 1991, Tom retired from his position as Managing Partner at Baker & Daniels to accept the position of Vice Chairman of the Lilly Endowment and in 1994 was named Chairman, a position which he would hold for the next 22 years. The impact he made in his over 45 years of service in Indianapolis is incredible. During his Lilly Endowment Chairmanship he oversaw the allocation of more than \$7 billion in grants to education, community development, and religion, mostly in Indianapolis. He had a passion for helping others and cared deeply about the Endowment and its legacy. He was known to be a great mentor, investing time in helping others grow personally and professionally. He truly was an embodiment of the Endowment's mission to serve others.

Tom's dedication to charitable causes went beyond his involvement with the Lilly Endowment. He was a member of the boards of the Indiana University Foundation and the Allen

Whitehall Clowes Charitable Foundation, to name a few. Tom also continued his devotion to Indiana University by founding and sitting on the Board of Visitors of the Indiana University Maurer School of Law and sitting on the IU Medical School Dean's Council.

On many different occasions, Tom was recognized for his wonderful work. He received honorary doctoral degrees from Indiana University, Ball State University, and Wabash College. He received numerous awards from Indiana University, including the Distinguished Alumni Service Award, the Thomas Hart Benton Medallion, and was inducted into the Academy of Law Alumni Fellows. From Wabash College he received the Peck Award for his distinguished career. He was even added to the Sigma Nu Fraternity Hall of Honor and awarded by Governor Mitch Daniels the prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash.

Tom is survived by his wife, Betty Lofton, daughters Stephanie Lees of Indianapolis and Melissa Guinn of Bloomington, six grandchildren, two great grandchildren, and his brother, John Lofton. Tom had an unrivaled wisdom and commitment to serving others. Tom was a leader in the community who will always be remembered through his accomplishments and the enduring benefits he created for the Indianapolis community. Please join me in thanking Tom's family and friends for sharing such a wonderful man with the Hoosier community.

HONORING THE THOMPSON-
CLEMONS POST #200

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Thompson-Clemons Post #200 of Greenwood, Mississippi.

The Thompson-Clemons Post #200 of Greenwood, Mississippi was the first African American Post established in the State of Mississippi and came about due to the perseverance of eighteen determined Black Veterans of World War I and World War II in the Mississippi Delta.

These veterans attempted to join Keeler-Hamrick-Gillespie Post #29 which refused them membership. Given that this was the 1940s and Mississippi being a segregationist state, Post #29 could not get a majority vote of its members to allow black veterans to join their post.

The eighteen black veterans filed a petition to start a new post and presented it to the Mississippi Department of the American Legion. Mr. Solomon N. Dickerson, a black veteran, postal worker and co-worker of Mr. Author H. Ritchter, the Adjutant of post #29, worked to get the petition through the District. It was due to their vigorous and persistent correspondence to the District and the Mississippi Department of the American Legion that they were allowed to form a separate post if they could find a sponsor.

Keesler-Hamrick-Gillespie Post #29 agreed to serve as a sponsor to assist Thompson-Clemons Post #200 in getting the temporary charter, paving the way for other charters to be granted to other black veteran's groups throughout the state of Mississippi.

Originally, the post was called the Mississippi Delta Post #200. Mr. L.H. Threadgill, principal of Stone Street High School, a veteran of World War II, proposed that the post be named after two former students of Stone Street High School, that were killed in action during WWII. The motion carried and the name was adopted. Thompson-Clemons Post #200 was granted a permanent charter on July 28, 1949, becoming the first Black post in the State of Mississippi. The first Post Commander was Mr. Solomon N. Dickerson.

Mr. L.H. Threadgill and others in the community were instrumental in purchasing the property, obtaining a deed, and getting a building to establish a post headquarters where it is still located today.

The Thompson-Clemons Post #200 of Greenwood, Mississippi has a distinct track record of encouragement to veterans with issues, be they from serving abroad; in combat situations or statewide service. Issues range from transportation to Regional Office and VA Hospital for medical disability claims, educational and skill training, housing and other activities including establishing collaborative partnerships with community organizations to provide emergency services such as utilities, homes for the homeless, counseling and assistance in understanding the myriad of services provided by the VA.

The VA community activities include sponsorship of little league baseball teams, voter education classes, veterans day celebration, adopt a school program, donations to needy families, Boys State Program and the National American Legion Oratorical Contest, where candidates sponsored by Post #200 have won the Mississippi State Championship four times, and three out of the past four years.

Leadership activities include a weekly live call in radio talk program aired on WGNL 104.3 FM in Greenwood, Mississippi where veterans can actually dial up and talk about issues that affect them and their community. Partnering with organizations such as the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Greenwood Voters League, Mississippi Valley State University and other community based groups that advocate for social justice.

Thompson-Clemons Post #200 is well integrated into the fabric and culture of the Mississippi Delta and should be recognized as a Post that has the interest of our service men, their families and community at heart.

The American Legion Post #200 is moving forward to continue the legacy of those early veterans who honorably served their country and had the vision that through the American Legion and its core principles, they could continue to protect and build an America and Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a remarkable organization, The Thompson-Clemons Post #200, for its dedication to serving our veterans and giving back to the African American community.

TRIBUTE TO DIANE WATTS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Diane

Watts on the celebration of her 100th birthday. Vera will be celebrating her 100th birthday today July 22nd, 2015.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Diane's life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Diane has lived through seventeen United States Presidents and twenty-four Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Diane in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 100th birthday. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating her on reaching this incredible milestone, and wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ONE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, for nearly 80 years, Social Security has helped protect and nurture the American dream. Americans know if they work hard and pay into Social Security, they and their families will receive Social Security's earned benefits when they need them, for as long as they need them.

Congress has always honored that commitment, making adjustments and corrections to the law as needed, from time to time, so that all Americans receive the Social Security benefits they earned through a lifetime of work. Now Congress must act again. If we don't, 11 million Americans will have their Social Security benefits cut by 20 percent next year.

Let me explain.

Social Security is the heart of economic security for American workers, allowing them to earn birth-to-death protection against the loss of income from work, in one simple package. One seamless Social Security system insures American workers and their families (1) in the case of premature death, (2) if they have to stop working due to a disability or very serious illness, and (3) when they reach retirement.

What many people don't know is that after we make our Social Security tax contribution through each paycheck, the law requires that it be distributed into two different trust funds—one that pays for benefits we qualify for if a wage-earner dies, or when we retire, and one that pays for benefits we earn if we become too sick or disabled to work.

All American workers contribute to both funds, with the vast majority of their contributions being deposited in the retirement and survivor fund. But in practice, Congress and the American public have simply treated the two funds as one unified financing system, which guarantees payment of all Social Security earned benefits. In fact, Congress has routinely rebalanced the allocation of workers' contributions between the two funds to ensure that all benefits can be paid. For example, in 1980 and again in 1983, Congress shifted

funds from the disability fund in order to shore up the retirement and survivor fund, and then in 1994, the most recent reallocation, Congress shifted some of the incoming contributions back to the disability fund, ensuring that it could pay benefits through 2016.

Now it's 2015. Social Security has an overall surplus of \$2.8 trillion, which all workers helped build up. Those who receive Social Security due to a disability worked and paid into Social Security for an average of 22 years to earn their benefits, making a significant contribution to the surplus. But because Social Security is legally required to pay Social Security benefits earned because of a disability only out of the disability fund, the benefits of Americans who receive Social Security because of a disability will be cut by 20 percent unless Congress takes action to permit Social Security to use all its available funds to pay all earned benefits.

Social Security is one unified system. It's wrong to separate out Social Security Americans qualify for because of a disability from the rest of Social Security. It's wrong to delay action on legislation to pay Americans the Social Security benefits they earned and need to live.

Americans know we have one Social Security, and they are counting on Congress to act now to protect all of it, not just some pieces of it.

Just like 168 million other Americans, I pay into Social Security with every paycheck. I make one contribution—just one—to earn Social Security's lifetime, all-in-one protection. I don't make different contributions for disability, for retirement, and for my survivors. It's all one—just one Social Security.

When we begin our working lives, none of us knows what kind of insurance from Social Security we'll need, or at what stage of our lives we'll need it. Some workers will die young, leaving family who can rely on Social Security survivors' protection. The majority of seniors depend on Social Security as their primary source of retirement income. And no one expects to suffer a career-ending disability, but if they do, Social Security is there for them. There's one Social Security that covers it all.

For millions of Americans, that one Social Security coverage—"there when you need it"—is a lifeline. Social Security's survivor insurance is the equivalent of a \$476,000 life insurance policy for a worker with young children. More than half of workers who receive Social Security disability insurance payments because of a work-ending illness or injury would live in poverty without Social Security. Many will not survive to receive retirement benefits. Death rates for disability recipients are three to six times higher than for others their age. And unlike most other retirement benefits, Social Security is inflation-protected and cannot be outlived, which is why 44 percent of seniors who are 80 and over have little or nothing other than Social Security to live on.

Today I am introducing the One Social Security Act to make sure we don't break Social Security's simple promise to every American worker—if you pay into one Social Security, you and your family will receive your full earned benefits, of whatever kind, when you need them.

The One Social Security Act would prevent the scheduled 20 percent cut in Social Security benefits for 11 million Americans by merging Social Security's trust funds into a single

comprehensive fund. This would allow all American workers access to their fair share of Social Security's worker-generated \$2.8 trillion surplus, to pay the benefits they earned. Except for preventing the cut, the bill would not change Social Security benefits or overall Social Security solvency, as projected in the Trustees Report released today.

Creating one unified trust fund for one Social Security is just common sense, and long overdue. In fact, it was unanimously endorsed by the bipartisan 1979 Advisory Council on Social Security—a distinguished federal advisory panel that was charged with making recommendations to Congress on all aspects of Social Security. They found that there was “no longer a need” for separate trust funds. The Advisory Council concluded that the two-trust fund system, with its need for periodic reallocations, “is cumbersome and can cause needless public worry about the financial integrity of the Social Security system.”

The bill has been endorsed by thirty-six organizations representing American workers, people with disabilities, and senior citizens. They know it's the right solution to protect Social Security.

The earned benefits of 11 million Americans are not something we can let hang in the balance. They are a solemn obligation. We have only one Social Security. I look forward to working with my colleagues, on a bipartisan basis, to honor that obligation, so that we can move forward and find the best way to preserve and strengthen all of Social Security for the generations to come.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JUDGE DENNIS CARROLL FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO MADISON COUNTY

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Judge Dennis Carroll on the occasion of his retirement. For more than three decades, Judge Carroll has served as judge of Madison Circuit Court, Division 6 in Madison County, Indiana. The people of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District and especially Madison County are forever grateful for Judge Carroll's contributions to the Hoosier community.

Although he is an Illinois native, Judge Carroll spent most of his life in Indiana. He first came to Indiana to attend Anderson University, where he earned his bachelor's degree in English and Education in 1969. Upon graduating, he was a high school English teacher at Shenandoah schools in Indiana, and later decided to attend law school.

After graduating from the Indiana University School of Law in 1974, Judge Carroll and his wife, Emily, decided to lay down roots in Anderson, Indiana. He began his career in law serving as the first Executive Director of the East Central Indiana Legal Services Program. After three years, Judge Carroll returned to Anderson University as an adjunct professor and was Coordinator of the Pre-Law Studies Program. He also maintained a private law practice during his time with the University.

Judge Carroll is truly a leader in the judiciary and in his community. During his 34 year

tenure on the bench, he has served several terms as the Chief Judge of the Unified Courts of Madison County; was elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the Indiana Judicial Conference; and was appointed by the Chief Justice of the Indiana Supreme Court to serve on the Supreme Court Select Committee on Judicial Ethics, the Indiana Judicial Conference Education Committee, and the State Judiciary Criminal Law and Policy Committee. Additionally, Judge Carroll was a visionary when it came to Problem Solving Courts. In 2007, he founded a specialty court for Madison County, the Mental Health Court. In 2010, that court became the first Mental Health Court to earn accreditation as certified by the State of Indiana. He applied for and was awarded a grant that expanded mental health services in the Madison County courts under the banner of Problem Solving Courts, one of only two courts in the entire country to receive such an honor.

In Madison County, Judge Carroll's contributions to the community go beyond his duties on the bench. He served on the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of Anderson University, the Board of the Madison County Urban League, and is affiliated with Community Hospital Anderson.

His commitment to community led him to recruit people to fill public office and leadership roles in Madison County, including the current prosecutor and three judges. After Anderson University President James Edwards announced he would be retiring, Judge Carroll, as a member of the Anderson University recruitment committee, artfully orchestrated plans to recruit then Transportation and Security Administration Administrator John Pistole, an Anderson University alumnus, to return to Indiana to serve as the new President of Anderson University. This ensures that the strong legacy that past presidents have built at Anderson University will continue to grow.

Judge Carroll's contributions to Madison County are vast and impressive, and although he will be retiring from his judgeship, we are thrilled that he plans to continue to play an active role in making our community a better place. On behalf of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District, I congratulate Judge Carroll on a well-deserved retirement and wish Judge Carroll and Emily the best as they move on to their next adventure.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RYAN A. COSTELLO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on July 16, 2015, I missed five recorded votes on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call 443, YEA on Roll Call 444, NAY on Roll Call 445, NAY on Roll Call 446, and YEA on Roll Call 447.

HONORING NORTH PANOLA HIGH SCHOOL

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable school, North Panola High School of Sardis, Mississippi and the great leadership it is under.

North Panola High School is a rural high school situated on the eastern edge of the Mississippi delta. For many years the high school has been a part of a school district that had been plagued by low test scores, violence and a negative school culture. The school district had been taken over by the state several times due to year after year low test scores.

In July of 2011, Robert King, Conservator of the North Panola School District, hired Jamone Edwards as the principal of North Panola High School. Jamone Edwards, a graduate of Mississippi State University and The University of Mississippi, was the youngest principal the school had ever witnessed. He brought innovative ideas and worked tirelessly to increase teacher morale and create a positive school culture. Under his leadership and the staff's support, the school has made significant gains in the accountability model in which schools are rated. Prior to the new leadership, for many years the school was considered low performing and on academic watch. During his tenure, the school rose to Successful, which is equivalent to a C school. In the 2013–14 school year, Mr. Edwards led the school to its first ever High Performing Status, which is equivalent to a B school. This is a remarkable achievement as the school had never experienced such success and recognition.

Additionally, since 2010, the school has many successes to celebrate. The school's graduation rate was at an all-time low of 49% in 2010. Since that time, the graduation rate has risen to 73% for the 2013–14 academic school year. Currently, the high school is projected to have a graduation rate of 85% for the 2014–15 accountability rating. In addition, Algebra I and U.S. History subject area test scores have surpassed the state's average, and English II and Biology I state test scores are slightly trailing the state's average.

North Panola High School has also made significant improvement in preparing students for college and acquiring scholarships. In 2010, the mean ACT score was 14.8. Since that time, several students of North Panola High School has scored 20 or better on the ACT. In 2010, the high school graduating seniors had generated \$150,000 in scholarship monies. In 2014, the high school graduating class of approximately 80 students received in excess more that \$2 Million in scholarship monies creating more opportunities for our children to succeed in college and careers after high school.

In March 2015, North Panola High School received an award from the State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Carey M. Wright and the Mississippi Department of Education for closing the achievement gap between black and white students in the area of English/Language Arts and Mathematics. North Panola was one of the only predominantly minority high schools to be recognized

with the Distinguished School Award. As a result, North Panola High School received \$23,750.05 to further enhance the students' overall educational experience.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing North Panola High School for its dedication to serving our great state of Mississippi and country.

TRIBUTE TO PETER WILLIAMS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Peter Williams of Indianola, Iowa for receiving a coveted Fulbright award during the 2014–2015 Academic Year. Peter is a recent graduate of the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities with a degree in Ecology, Evolution and Behavior, as well as minors in Chinese and Music. He will travel to China in September 2015 and begin his research on the endangered golden snub-nosed monkey of west central China.

Established by Congress in 1946, the Fulbright Program is funded through an annual appropriation to the U.S. Department of State. It serves as a valuable foreign affairs tool by making people-to-people connections. It also gives participants a chance to help with important issues across the globe and gain valuable skills, giving them the necessary experience to lead our future generations. With over 360,000 participants since its creation, the Fulbright Program serves an important role in educating our young people and improving our diplomatic relations.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I recognize Peter today. It is the young people like him who are willing to work hard and make sacrifices for the betterment of society that will lead our future generations. I know my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating him on this outstanding achievement and wish him nothing but continued success moving forward.

CONGRATULATING SCOTT CUNNINGHAM ON HIS YMCA YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT AWARDS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate one of my personal staff members, Scott Cunningham, on his earning two prestigious national awards from the YMCA Youth and Government program for his volunteer service.

YMCA Youth and Government exists at both the state and national levels and provides teenage youth with the opportunity to participate in model state legislatures, international assemblies, and other related bodies. The students involved often exhibit strong interest in being civic and community leaders and in developing policy ideas to better the world around them. At conferences, which often in-

volve months of preparation on the part of the participants, the students learn to hone these skills. Some, like Scott, go on better prepared to pursue a career in public service and, in turn, give back by regularly helping the next generation's students in their own YMCA conferences.

Scott first became involved with YMCA Youth and Government while in high school in Dallas, Texas, and was active in both Texas and national programs. After graduating high school in 1998, he returned to serve at conferences as a college advisor and has continued ever since among alumni volunteers at several state and national conferences. He has also lived his love for public service and policymaking in his own career. Scott came to Washington as a congressional intern in 1999. In 2007 he joined my staff and continues to serve the people of the 24th district of Texas with energy and integrity, first as policy director, then legislative director, and presently as deputy chief of staff. I have no doubt that Scott's hard work and experience in YMCA Youth and Government, both as a student and an adult volunteer, have contributed to his excellent and good-humored performance.

For his consistent efforts to make Youth and Government and its participants as successful as possible, Scott recently received service awards at two different national conferences. On June 13, he was awarded the YMCA Youth and Government Distinguished Service Award at the Youth Governors Conference in Washington, DC. This award, better known as the Crystal Gavel, is presented to alumni in recognition of dedication and exceptional service to the program. To earn it, one must meet the established criteria which include: having volunteered with Youth and Government for over ten years, personifying a spirit of selfless service and exemplifying the qualities of servant leadership, demonstrating significant personal investment in the program and a meaningful impact on his or her area of work, and exemplifying the Four Core Values of the YMCA—caring, honest, respect, responsibility—and a commitment to the goal that “Democracy must be learned by each generation.”

On July 2, at the 48th Annual YMCA Youth Conference on National Affairs in Black Mountain, North Carolina, Scott was awarded the Dr. Paul Grist Service Award. This lifetime honor is given for most distinguished service as an advisor to the conference and the Youth and Government program.

For his part, Scott affirms that YMCA Youth and Government has done much for him in his life, and he considers it a privilege to give back to the program that gave him “a whole lot and then some.” It is an honor to have such a dedicated public servant assist me in many critical ways in representing the 24th district of Texas. And on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Scott Cunningham on his two YMCA Youth and Government service awards and in thanking him for his tireless and sacrificial work to help the upcoming generation of young Americans learn the ideals and practice of democracy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call #448 on H.R. 1557, I am not recorded because I was absent for personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye.

TRIBUTE TO ALEXANDREA SWANSON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Alexandra Swanson of Carter Lake, Iowa for receiving a coveted Fulbright award during the 2014–2015 Academic Year. Alexandra is a recent graduate of Creighton University with a bachelor's degree in international relations and German and a minor in Spanish. She will travel to Germany in August 2015 and begin working in an English teaching assistantship.

Established by Congress in 1946, the Fulbright Program is funded through an annual appropriation to the U.S. Department of State. It serves as a valuable foreign affairs tool by making people-to-people connections. It also gives participants a chance to help with important issues across the globe and gain valuable skills, giving them the necessary experience to lead our future generations. With over 360,000 participants since its creation, the Fulbright Program serves an important role in educating our young people and improving our diplomatic relations.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I recognize Alexandra today. It is the young people like her who are willing to work hard and make sacrifices for the betterment of society that will lead our future generations. I know my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating her on this outstanding achievement and wish her nothing but continued success moving forward.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

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 \$18,151,831,938,889.04. We've added \$7,524,954,889,975.96 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PAT KIELY FOR HIS 23 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE INDIANA MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pat Kiely on the occasion of his retirement. For 23 years, Pat served as President of the Indiana Manufacturers Association, the second oldest manufacturers association in the country and only trade association in Indiana that exclusively focuses on manufacturing. Pat has been a well-respected legislator and successful business leader in Indiana for decades. The Hoosier community is forever grateful to Pat for his tireless efforts and dedication to making Indiana a better place.

A lifelong Hoosier, Pat spent most of his personal and professional life in Anderson, Indiana. He attended college in Indiana as well, earning his bachelor's degree in Marketing Research and Statistics from Ball State University. In 1978 Pat became the State Representative for the 36th District of Indiana; he was only 26 at the time. Five years into his service at the age of 31, he was appointed Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, making him the youngest Chairman in Indiana history. During his six and a half terms as a state legislator, he also served as Chairman of the State Budget Committee and Chairman of the State Tax and Financing Policy Commission.

Throughout his tenure as a legislator, Pat was also a business owner and operator. In 1982, he opened Computerland, which was the first computer store in Indianapolis. Additionally, he was the Vice President at City Securities Corporation in Anderson from 1983 to 1991. He knew that technology would have a significant impact on the economy and his expertise in the area and experience as a business owner allowed him to bring valuable perspective to his role as a legislator.

In 1991, Pat left the legislature and began his service as President and CEO of the Indiana Manufacturers Association. Under his leadership, the Indiana Manufacturers Association became a national leader in protecting the business environment. Pat was instrumental in his advocacy for manufacturer's interest at both the state and federal level. His advocacy and strong leadership led the association to many accomplishments in the areas of taxes, budget, infrastructure, healthcare, and environmental policy, among others. Pat also enhanced Indiana's economy through his ability to maintain, promote, and create quality manufacturing jobs in Indiana. This was especially important since Indiana is one of the top manufacturing states in the nation.

Pat's involvement with the Indiana business community is extensive. Since 1979, he has been involved with over 35 organizations including the Indiana Economic Development Council, Indiana Employers Quality Health Alliance, Governor's Education Roundtable, Indiana Business Journal's Editorial Advisory Board, Skyline Club Board of Directors, and Indiana Legal Foundation.

His commitment to the community and success as a leader have not gone unnoticed. He

has been honored with Ball State University's Distinguished Alumni Award, Ball State's College of Business Award of Achievement, the Professional Fire Fighters' Union of Indiana Legislator of the Year Award, and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's Environmental Impact Award.

Pat has been a champion for manufacturers in Indiana and across the country for decades. On behalf of the grateful constituents of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Pat on all of his success and extend a huge thank you for his extraordinary contributions to the Hoosier community. I wish the very best to Pat, his wife Mary Pat, and his entire family as he enjoys a well-deserved retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMITHSONIAN MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2015

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill to modernize the Smithsonian Institution and to enhance its governance and fundraising capabilities, in keeping with the recommendations of a number of experts, including the Smithsonian Independent Review Committee, chaired by former U.S. Comptroller General Charles Bowsher. This bill, the Smithsonian Modernization Act of 2015, makes changes to the Smithsonian's governance structure by expanding and changing the current 17-member composition of its Board of Regents, which includes public officials—six Members of Congress, the Vice President of the United States, and the Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court—to 21 members, comprised solely of private citizens. This change will strengthen both the Smithsonian's governance and fundraising capacity, and it would be the first significant change in this old and revered institution since it was established in 1846.

This bill preserves and strengthens the traditional role of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate in selecting Board members while eliminating the role of the Board in selecting private citizens for the Board. The Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate will each send 12 recommendations to the President of the United States, who will select the 21 members of the Board from these recommendations.

The Smithsonian Institution is an irreplaceable cultural, scientific, historical, educational and artistic complex without any public or private counterpart in the world. Since its founding, the Smithsonian has developed an extraordinary array of world-class museums, galleries, educational showplaces and unique research centers, including 19 museums and galleries, nine research facilities, the National Zoo, and the forthcoming National Museum of African American History and Culture, which is now under construction. The Smithsonian has grown with private funding, donations from cultural foundations, and contemporary artists, but most of its funding continues to come from federal appropriations. Despite receiving 70 percent of its funding from the federal government, the Smithsonian has long had serious

funding, infrastructure, and other needs. Today, the Smithsonian is embarking on a seven-year, \$1.5 billion fundraising effort, but its current board members who hold public office are severely limited in participating, as is usually expected of board members. Under the Smithsonian's fundraising plan, the 19 museums and research institutions are working together as part of a unified campaign to raise the necessary funds. With this goal of \$1.5 billion, it is more important now than ever that the Smithsonian's ability to raise money be modernized.

Congress must help the Smithsonian strengthen its ability to build resources beyond what taxpayers are able to provide. The most important step Congress could take today is to rescue the Smithsonian from its 19th-century governance structure, which keeps it from accessing needed and available private resources and limits close and critical oversight. The Smithsonian Modernization Act provides a governance structure befitting the Smithsonian's unique complexity. The existing structure may have fit the Smithsonian over 170 years ago, but today the structure has proven to be a relic that does a disservice to the Smithsonian, the federal government, and the public.

The present governance structure places immense responsibility to raise money on dedicated but overextended Members of the House and Senate, the Vice President of the United States and the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court. These federal officials comprise almost half of the Smithsonian Board of Regents, and must perform their fiduciary duties as board members while giving first priority to their sworn responsibilities as important federal officials.

In 2007, an independent review committee found that the Board had violated principles of good management during the tenure of former Secretary of the Smithsonian Lawrence Small by allowing him to create an "insular culture." The committee's report indicated that the Board had failed to provide the needed oversight and had overcompensated Mr. Small. The report also found that Sheila P. Burke, the Smithsonian's then-deputy secretary and chief operating officer, had frequent absences from her duties because of outside activities, including service on corporate boards, for which she personally earned more than \$1.2 million over six years. Further, the Smithsonian's then-business ventures chief, Gary Beer, was dismissed for financial indiscretions. This crisis, caused by unprecedented controversies and irresponsible risks, put into sharp focus the need for new revenue streams and for a modern governance structure. The first full-blown scandal in the Smithsonian's history, replete with embarrassing media coverage, damaged its reputation and perhaps the confidence of potential contributors. The poor judgment and overreaching of Smithsonian personnel during that period demonstrate the need for new and concentrated oversight.

The current Board, of course, has taken some important action on its own. After irregularities were uncovered by the media, the Board responded to the controversies by creating a governance committee, chaired by Patty Stonesifer, a Regent and former chief executive officer of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, with a mandate to comprehensively review the policies and practices of the Smithsonian and how the Board conducts its

oversight of the institution. The Board also established an Independent Review Committee (IRC), chaired by former U.S. Comptroller General Charles A. Bowsher, to review the issues arising from an Inspector General's report, the Board's response, and related Smithsonian practices.

The IRC was forthright in its investigation and recommendations. The IRC stated explicitly that the root cause of the problems at the Smithsonian was an antiquated governance structure, which led to failures in governance and management. According to the IRC, the Board must assume a fiduciary duty that carries a "major commitment of time and effort, a reputational risk, and potentially, financial liability." The IRC further argued that the Smithsonian, with a budget of over \$1 billion a year, must have Board members who "act as true fiduciaries and who have both the time and the experience to assume the responsibilities of setting strategy and providing oversight." The IRC cited a lack of clarity in the roles of the Vice President of the United States and Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court on the Board in particular, and said that "it is not feasible to expect the Chief Justice to devote the hours necessary to serve as a fiduciary agent." The same observation could be made of the Members of the House and Senate who serve on the Board. The IRC recommended that the Board increase the level of expertise and the number of members to ensure that the Board has sufficient time and attention to dedicate to the Smithsonian. My bill follows this guidance.

The Smithsonian's own governance committee identified several Board weaknesses, concluding that the Board did not receive or demand the reports necessary for competent decision-making, that the staff whom the Board depended upon for oversight inquiries did not have direct access to information, and that the inability of staff to communicate red flags "crippled" internal compliance and oversight.

Only Congress, with the concurrence of the president, can amend the Smithsonian Charter. The last change to the Board's structure occurred over 30 years ago, but it only increased the number of private citizens on the Board from six to nine. The Smithsonian Board is still a board dominated by highly placed public officials.

The number of Regents, however, is not the root problem. My bill expands the Board from 17 to 21 members, but most importantly, it brings the Board into alignment with modern public and private boards by requiring all the Regents to be private citizens. The search for private funds by Smithsonian management was a major cause of the recent controversy. Faced with crippling budget problems, the Regents must be free to give new and unprecedented attention and energy to finding and helping to raise substantially more funds from private sources. The new structure envisioned by this bill will improve oversight and the capacity for fundraising from private sources. Unlike the eight federal officials on the current Board, the nine private citizens on the current Board are entirely free to assist in private fundraising. Most importantly, private citizens have sufficient expertise to serve on the Board, and are able to devote the personal time and attention necessary to fulfill the fiduciary responsibility that comes with serving such a venerable and complex institution.

Considering the seriousness of the findings of the Board's own governance committee, as well as of the IRC, the changes prescribed by this bill are nothing short of mandatory. The reform of the fiduciary and governance issues that have brought public criticism to this iconic American institution must begin with the indispensable step of making the Smithsonian's governance consistent with that of similar institutions today. Only congressional attention can reassure the public that the controversies that recently besieged the Smithsonian will not recur. In the face of an unprecedented public controversy and a \$1.5 billion fundraising goal, Congress would be remiss if it left the Smithsonian to its own oversight and devices alone. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING LUCILLE LOVETTE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a driven and ambitious woman, Ms. Lucille Lovette. Lucille has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to serve others.

Lucille Lovette, a resident of Anguilla, Mississippi, is the ninth of 15 siblings born into a family who believed in hard work and didn't believe in handouts.

Lovette earned a bachelor of science in elementary education degree from Mississippi Valley State University at Itta Bena, followed by a masters degree in educational leadership and supervision and a specialist degree in educational leadership and supervision, both from Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi.

She began her career as an office manager in 1978 for the South Delta School District (formerly known as Anguilla Line Consolidated School District) under the direction of a great superintendent who encouraged her to go a little further. Lovette was employed by the South Delta School District from 1978–2009, serving as curriculum director, federal programs director and principal. During her time as principal, she led an elementary school with a starting enrollment of some 740 students and 90 faculty members. During her tenure, the students' grade level reading scores on state assessments increased more than 38.4 percent and math score on state assessment increased more than 70 percent. The school achieved an Exemplary and High Performing School rating. Also while as principal the South Delta Elementary School received the Torch Award granted by the Mississippi Department of Education.

In 1994 she was one of 13 teachers who were chosen by the state of Mississippi for a six week study with NASA.

Prior to serving as principal of South Delta Elementary School, Lovette worked as educational technologist as South Delta Middle School, and has served as an adult education teacher at Mississippi Delta Community College in Moorhead.

From 2009–2010 Lovette served as an educational leadership consultant at Dollarway Middle School in Pine Bluff, Arkansas and Eliza Miller Junior High School in Helena Arkansas. She was employed as school im-

provement coordinator with the Indianola School district from 2010 until 2011 and from 2011 until 2013; she served as educational leadership consultant for the Jackson Public School District and the Senatobia Public School District.

Among the awards she has garnered during her years in education are: the Mississippi School Board Association's School Improvement Beacon Award in 2009; the Mississippi Success for All School Reading Award in 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007; the South Delta School District Administrator of the Year Award in 2007; Delta State University Educational Leadership Sabbatical in 2001; Mississippi Teacher of the Year State Finalist; Mississippi Second Congressional District Teacher of the Year in 2000; and South Delta Middle School and School District Teacher of the Year in 1998 and 2000.

Lovette joined the Yazoo City Municipal School District in 2013, where she served as assistant superintendent and as federal programs director. In February 2015, the Yazoo City Municipal School District School Board named Lucille Lovette the district's interim superintendent.

Lucille says, "Service is the rent we pay for being allowed to live on this earth. We're supposed to give back, so that's key for me."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Lucille Lovette for her passion and dedication to educate our youth and desire to make a difference in the lives of others.

TRIBUTE TO LT. COL. DOUG
ROSSELL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Lt. Col. Doug Rossell of Atlantic, Iowa for his recent retirement from the Iowa National Guard on May 3rd, 2015. He served his country for 28 years in the Iowa National Guard and the U.S. Army.

Lt. Col. Rossell was a graduate of Griswold Community High School before receiving an Army ROTC Scholarship to Northwest Missouri State University, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts and U.S. Army Reserve commission. He immediately joined the Iowa Army National Guard, where he served in a number of different roles, as a guardsmen and as an active duty member of the military. Lt. Col. Rossell received a number of military awards while in service including, but not limited to: the Meritorious Service Medal, Army and Air Force Commendation medal, the Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal. This is only a small sample of Lt. Col. Rossell's various awards during his decorated military career and we cannot thank him enough for his sacrifices for our country.

I commend and thank Lt. Col. Rossell for his many years of dedicated service to his fellow Americans and Iowans. It is because of people like Lt. Col. Rossell that we are able to sleep soundly at night knowing our safety and security are in their capable hands. I am proud

to represent Lt. Col. Rossell in the United States Congress and I know my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating him on his retirement. I wish him and his family nothing but the best moving forward.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, July 21, I missed a series of Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on #448 and #449.

HONORING CALVARY M. B. CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a church family whose desire is to do God's will, Calvary M. B. Church. Calvary M. B. Church has served the Yazoo County community over a century through faith and service.

Calvary M. B. Church desire is to bring people closer to the Lord. They want to build the foundation of faith in young people and remind the Yazoo community that anything is possible through love, faith and prayer.

Calvary, located on Broadway, began welcoming the community to its services over 100 years ago. November 15, 2015 will mark 131 years of praise, prayer and worship.

On April 1, 1889 a small group purchased a lot for \$50 which became the site of Calvary. For an additional \$35, another lot was purchased along with the original and this site would later develop into the modern day church.

According to church history notes the first pastor was Rev. Phillips. As the years progressed the congregation grew, even amidst growth, there were challenges. Small fires struck the church. Over the years several pastors called Calvary home. But it seemed like perfect timing when Pastor RaSean O. Thomas arrived at Calvary in 2009. Pastor Thomas is a product of Calvary.

Calvary has a rich history within the Yazoo community, its recent ministries and growth show what can be done through strong prayer and fellowship. Currently, the church has two hundred members and growing. The church has Sunday School, morning worship every Sunday, Wednesday night Bible Study, monthly street evangelism and prayer services, outreach project health fairs, men and women empowerment conferences and other ministries. There is always something going on inside the walls of Calvary.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Calvary M. B. Church for its dedication to serving the community and doing God's will.

IN HONOR OF DON A. BUCKALEW
AND BUCKALEW CHEVROLET

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I honor my dear friend, Don A. Buckalew, and the golden anniversary of his ownership of Buckalew Chevrolet. For five decades Don and his family have supported our community and been a huge part of the Montgomery County success story.

Raised by L. A. and Nellie Mae Buckalew in the sawmill community of Magnolia, Don was Valedictorian of Magnolia High School before earning his business degree at Baylor University. After starting his automotive career in Tomball and Humble, he became a partner in the Weisinger Chevrolet Company in Conroe. When W. B. Weisinger sold 50 percent of the company to Don in January of 1965, the name became Weisinger-Buckalew Chevrolet. After Mr. Weisinger's passing, Don bought the remaining 50 percent and the name became Buckalew Chevrolet.

Over the last half century, the name Buckalew has been synonymous with customer service and community. Don has served as chairman of the Board of the Texas Automobile Dealers Association and on the Board of Directors of the Houston Automobile Dealer Association.

This Lion of the Year, Past International Director and Lions International Ambassador of Goodwill is a Lifetime Executive Committee Member and Director for the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo, Lifetime Executive Committee and past Chairman of Montgomery County Fair Association, and has served as Chairman of Greater Conroe Economic Development Council, two-time Chairman and Man of the Year of Conroe/Lake Conroe Area Chamber of Commerce, President of Conroe Industrial Park, Inc., and Chairman of Montgomery County Hospital District. From being awarded the Time Quality Dealer Award by Time Magazine and National Automobile Dealers Association to receiving the Texas Automobile Dealers Association Legends Award, Don's industry and community accolades prove that with strong business and family principles, everything is possible.

Don Buckalew's unwavering support of youth and education is evident in his service as past President and Board Member of the Conroe Independent School District Board of Trustees. In a rare honor, Conroe ISD opened Don A. Buckalew Elementary School in 1998. In keeping with Don's love for all things Baylor, the Bear was named the school mascot and the colors are, not surprisingly, Green and Gold.

Don and his wife Elaine are members of First Baptist Church Conroe. They have 7 children, Debbie, Donnie, Denny, Deann, Kristen, Bryan and Lacey and 13 grandchildren. Five of Don's children, a daughter-in-law and three grandchildren have earned Baylor degrees and at least two more grandchildren will soon follow.

An outstanding record of leadership, service, honesty and integrity and love of family are only part of the Don Buckalew legend. My friend's philanthropic heart—his unsung support of those in his community who need it the

most—is an example to us all of how to walk in the steps of Our Lord. Please join me in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Buckalew Chevrolet in Conroe and in honoring the man who has set that standard, Don Buckalew.

CONGRATULATING THE CANDLE-LITE COMPANY

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, on July 25, 2015, we congratulate the Candle-Lite Company of Leesburg, Ohio, for 175 years of continuous business in Southern Ohio, dating back to 1840.

Across three different centuries, the Candle-Lite Company has manufactured quality candles, lighting the region for generations. The company thrives on the American values of hard work and entrepreneurial perseverance as its employees craft beautiful, quality goods to share with residents throughout Ohio, the United States, and the world.

Candle-Lite Company's story is the American story. Founder Thomas Emery, an immigrant from Europe to Southwest Ohio, started simply enough: door to door sales.

Innovation and dedication led to a growing business and new formulas for higher quality candles that continued Emery's tradition of maintaining a vision for the future.

175 years later, Emery's vision and persistence is now the largest employer in Highland County with products around the world.

As we recognize this historic anniversary, we follow the example of the Candle-Lite Company and look to the future, knowing that the Candle-Lite Company will continue to flourish as a company and employer we are proud to have in Ohio.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF SGT. CARSON ALLEN LOUIS HOLMQUIST

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sorrow that I stand today to recognize the death of Sgt. Carson Allen Louis Holmquist. Sgt. Holmquist was a loving man: He loved cars, trucks, and farming. He was an avid fisherman and hunter, and devoted to his family, friends and serving his country.

On the morning of July 16, 2015, Sgt. Holmquist gave his life for the country he loved. He was shot and killed while working at a military facility in Chattanooga, Tennessee. It is in these stark moments, when soldiers are killed on our own soil, that we recognize just how fragile our freedom is. Liberty is a precious gift whose benefits we all enjoy, but too often we give little thought to the price that is paid.

Vice President Cheney once said, "Our nation grieves for the brave men and women whose lives have ended in freedom's cause. No one can take away the sorrow that comes to the families of the fallen. We can only say

. . . that these Americans served in a noble and a necessary cause, and their sacrifice has made our nation and the world more secure. We will honor their memory forever." Through this moment of reflection, we can help keep Sgt. Holmquist's memory alive. We owe him nothing less than to remember, and to give thanks for all he has done on our behalf. Sgt. Holmquist is survived by his wife, Jasmine, and his young son, Wyatt, for whom Rachel and I offer prayers of comfort.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful nation, I ask that we salute him, and pledge that we will never forget.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 449 on H.R. 2256, I am not recorded because I was absent for personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL
MICHAEL R. REGNER

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to honor Major General Michael R. Regner, for his thirty-nine years of service to our nation in the United States Marine Corps.

Major General Regner's extensive career started in 1976, when he received his commission through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps after graduating from The Citadel.

Major General Regner's storied career is distinguished by his willingness and desire to serve the Marine Corps each and every day. He is a man who has served faithfully and to the best of his abilities in all positions in which he has been assigned, which has made him invaluable to the Marine Corps and to our nation. He has successfully used his skills as Commanding General, both in the field and in garrison. It is likely that most of Major General Regner's service will never fully be recognized, but his leadership will truly be felt for years to come.

During his decades of service, Major General Regner has served with distinction in support of anti-terrorism operations, including Operation Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. During his time as a field grade officer, he commanded at the battalion and Marine Expeditionary Unit level and also deployed to Somalia, Bosnia and the Former Republic of Yugoslavia. Mike Regner continued to serve tirelessly after successful command tours and was selected as the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force Operations Officer where he helped plan the liberation of Fallujah as well as overseeing the first free elections in Al Anbar Province, Iraq.

In 2005, Mike Regner was promoted to Brigadier General and served as the Legislative Assistant to Commandant. During this time he was successful in instituting multiple programs

and ideas, including publishing the U.S. Marine Corps' Legislative Strategy. This ultimately increased congressional awareness and funding of over \$1.2 billion for fundamental Marine programs. In 2009, Mike Regner deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, to serve as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Joint Operations at the International Security Assistance Force Joint Command. Major General Regner retires from his post as Staff Director at Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington D.C.

Major General Regner's achievements go far beyond his impressive resume and hand in relentlessly protecting and serving the American people. Mike Regner established the Department of Defense Enlisted Defense Fellowship Program. This program, created originally for the Marine Corps, has become the model for the entire Department of Defense as all the services now have enlisted members serving in this program. The program has enabled Congressional members and staff to obtain invaluable insight into the workings of all military services, allowing them to make appropriate decisions that affect the military. Mike Regner was recognized in the U.S. House of Representatives for his work as a Marine Corps' Liaison Officer from 1999–2002, before being assigned as the Commanding Officer of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU).

Major General Regner closely assisted in the establishment of the Wounded Warrior Employment Program, acting as a spokesman on behalf of all those service members who were wounded in combat and their families to the United States Congress and worked with then Speaker NANCY PELOSI on the implementation of this program. This program has specifically helped over 130 military service members obtain employment to date. Mike Regner is a passionate advocate for those that are wounded, ill, or injured, and continually uses his voice to speak on behalf of those who have served our country relentlessly.

Of the many words used to describe Major General Regner, strategic planner and coalition builder would be two that best characterize him. Mike Regner has worked with the U.S. Congress to testify on multiple issues that relate to military personnel. He has worked with Former Senator James Webb on instituting the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill, which was signed into law in 2008 and has benefited thousands of service members and their families.

Mike Regner has acted as a lead facilitator when providing security during Afghanistan's presidential elections, and further displayed his ability to form alliances with co-authoring The Republic of Korea Counter Provocation Peace Plan. Mike Regner's ability to plan strategically has led to the creation of the NATO International Joint Command, which produced increased security and operational effectiveness within Afghanistan.

Over the three decades that Major General Regner has served our nation, Mrs. Mary S. Regner, Major General Regner's wife, has equally served the people of the United States. Noted as an educator and leader, Mrs. Regner serves as a member of the Board of Governors for the National Military Family Association. Mrs. Regner is also a Spouse Ambassador for The White House Joining Forces Initiative, Military Spouse Employment Partnership.

Her greatest professional accomplishments stem from her time working as a Department

of Labor contractor for the Department of Defense Transition Assistance Program, where she was able to further support military spouses in careers as trainers and managers. Mrs. Regner is a woman that continually educates those around her, and has presented on various topics at the Marine Corps' Cornerstone Spouses' Courses and at Department of Defense conferences.

Mrs. Regner is involved in and serves a multitude of other organizations in the Washington, D.C. area while being a wife and a mother to three adult children who also strive to make a difference in their daily lives.

Their family includes their oldest son, Michael, who is serving in the Marine Corps as an Infantry Officer, and he is married to Erin, who is busy raising three small children, Michael, Caroline and Charlie. Their daughter, Julia Linton, is working for the South Carolina Research Authority, in Charleston, S.C., as a Project Administrator for SC Launch. Julia and John, an attorney, are expecting their first child. Finally, John Regner, their youngest child, is a high school teacher in Lynchburg, VA, and his wife, Katie, is a social worker.

I have personally known the Regner family since 1998, and I am extraordinarily proud of the work they have done for our nation and will do in the future. I have many fond memories of both Mike and Mary from my early days in Congress, but my favorite memory is the story of USMC K-9, Lex. When Lex's handler, Corporal Dustin Lee, was killed in action in 2007, the Lee family wanted to have the injured Lex retired and adopt him. I turned to my good friend Mike Regner to help make this happen. On December 21, 2007, Lex was officially retired with a Purple Heart and turned over to the Lee family. Without Mike Regner, this would have never happened. It is something for which the Lee family and I will be forever grateful.

On behalf of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I would like to recognize Major General Regner's outstanding accomplishments, courageous attitude, and past and present devotion to our nation. I wish to congratulate him, his wife Mary, and children, Michael, Julia, and John on the completion of a long and highly distinguished career.

In closing, may God continue to bless the Regners and may they have "fair winds and following seas" as they embark on a new journey of service to our beloved nation.

Semper Fidelis.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. MELBA
CURLS FOR HER DEDICATED CAREER
TO THE KANSAS CITY
COMMUNITY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding dedicated employee of the Kansas City community. On July 31, 2015, Ms. Melba J. Curles will officially retire as the councilwoman of Kansas City's 3rd District-at-large, having served the last eight years on the Kansas City City Council. Her commitment to shaping and improving the Kansas City, Missouri community is unparalleled. She is a trailblazer, civil rights activist, a

devoted family woman, and a community leader who has dedicated her life to serving others.

Born on October 3, 1941, Melba Curls is a lifelong resident of Kansas City. She graduated from Central High School where she was one of the first classes in an integrated school. She later went on to attend the University of Missouri-Columbia. At an early age, Melba was active in politics and the civil rights movement. She was active in the NAACP's Youth, and actually met her future husband, the late Missouri Senator Phil B. Curls, on a civil rights trip with the organization. The Curls were married for 43 years before his untimely passing in 2007. She is the proud mother of four amazing children: Phil Jr., Michael, Monica and Louis.

Melba has been involved in public service most of her career. She spent several years working for the City of Kansas City where she served the citizens in the Personnel and Legal Departments and as a Staff Assistant to then Mayor Charles B. Wheeler. She also worked on the staff of U.S. Senator Tom Eagleton. Melba spent almost 15 years working at the KCMC Child Development Corporation in support of the Head Start Program and early childhood education in Kansas City.

In 1999, Melba was elected by the citizens of the 41st District to represent them in the Missouri House of Representatives, where she served for seven years. During her tenure in the State Legislature, she was able to work with colleagues, government officials from all branches, and community leaders, regardless of their political affiliation, race, gender or socio-economic background, to help find solutions to the problems plaguing the community. Melba also served as the Chairperson of the Committee on Urban Affairs, from 2000 to 2002, and as the Vice-Chair of the Ethics committee, from 2004 to 2006. She then successfully ran for City Council in 2007.

Councilwoman Curls' interests in helping better the lives of others through various organizations in our community include her involvement with: The De La Salle Education Center, the Jackson County Board of Domestic Violence Shelters, and the American Jazz Museum, just to name a few. She also currently serves as an Executive Board Member to the longest-serving civil rights organization dedicated to serving the needs of Kansas City's African-American community—Freedom, Incorporated. Kansas City Mayor Sly James selected Councilwoman Curls to serve on the Neighborhoods, Housing and Healthy Communities and Transportation and Infrastructure committees.

Over the years, Melba has been able to earn the respect of her colleagues by working hard to be a bridge-builder between individuals and organizations. She is an active member of the City Council, and is very focused on participating in community activities and being involved in the community that she serves.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and our colleagues in recognizing and honoring Ms. Melba Curls for a lifetime of devoted commitment to the Kansas City community. While she embraces this next phase of life in retirement, I wish to thank her for her tireless service to the Kansas City Community for the past three decades. Demonstrating unparalleled dedication, Melba serves as an inspiration and role model for our community.

HONORING ETHEL C. MANGUM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mrs. Ethel C. Mangum who is a native of Madison County. Many of her formative years were spent in the Virden Addition Area. She attended school at Walton Elementary and Brinkley High School. At Jackson State University she earned B.S. and Masters degree in Social Work and Guidance.

For twenty-eight years she has been an active member of Farish Street Baptist Church and its E. B. Topp Missionary Circle.

Mrs. Mangum has done extensive volunteer work which included: teaching and reading at Powell Middle School; serving as Co-Chairperson of Lake Hico Eubanks Creek Neighborhood Association; working as an HIV/AIDS educator for the American Red Cross; working with children to prevent teenage pregnancy; and motivating them toward moral and academic excellence.

Mrs. Mangum has been a "first" in opening opportunities for others by becoming the first African American woman to hold a professional position at Baptist Children's Village; the first African American woman to work for Michael Baker, Jr., Inc. Consulting Engineers; and for SCAN (Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect). She was one of two females who integrated the lunch room at St. Dominic's Hospital.

Mrs. Mangum currently strives for excellence in the community through her position as Administrative Assistant for Ward 3.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Ethel C. Mangum for her dedication to serving others.

EXPANDING UNARMED AP-
PROACHES TO PROTECT CIVIL-
IANS

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, we are besieged daily with news of intensifying brutal attacks on innocent civilians in South Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, and many more places throughout the world. Women and children are increasingly being targeted.

Anthony Lake, the executive director of UNICEF, recently wrote about South Sudan: "The details of the worsening violence against children are unspeakable, but we must speak of them . . . Survivors report that boys have been castrated and left to bleed to death . . . Girls as young as 8 have been gang raped and murdered . . . Children have been tied together before their attackers slit their throats . . . Others have been thrown into burning buildings . . . Children are also being aggressively recruited into armed groups of both sides on an alarming scale."

When confronted with such atrocities, our typical response is to send in the bombers

and drones, ship military equipment, train "the good guys," or even put our own troops on the ground. By doing these things, we create a state of on-going war. Is it any wonder the result is more violence, rather than less?

The UN High Commissioner on Refugees reported last month that 59.5 million individuals have been forcibly displaced worldwide. This is the largest number since UNHCR began keeping records. UNHCR's Annual Report tells us that every day last year, an average of 42,500 people had to flee their homes, a four-fold increase in just four years. That's like everybody in a city the size of Duluth, the largest city in my district, fleeing from their homes every other day.

But there are effective alternatives that are protecting civilians and deterring violence in some of the most brutal war zones around the world. You probably haven't heard about them because, unlike terrorists, these nonviolent peacekeepers seldom make the headlines.

During this time of crisis, it is imperative that we examine new and less conventional methodologies as we try to fulfill our responsibility to protect our fellow civilians as best we can. One such approach is unarmed civilian protection (UCP), pioneered by Nonviolent Peaceforce, an organization that originated in Minnesota. UCP provides unarmed, specially trained civilians who are recruited from many different countries to live and work with local civil society in areas of violent conflict. Currently there are more than a dozen non-governmental organizations DIRECTLY protecting civilians, using only nonviolent methods, in places like South Sudan, Colombia, Guatemala, Palestine and the Philippines.

Their approaches are strategic, thoughtful, and tailored for each specific situation. These unarmed civilian protectors model peace by practicing it. For example in South Sudan, displaced women leaving the Protection of Civilians areas to gather firewood and water face rape by soldiers lurking at the edge of the sites. The women routinely have to make excruciating choices between their family's sustenance and their personal safety. UCP workers found that when two or more trained, unarmed civilian protectors accompany 20–30 women, the soldiers look the other way. No woman has been attacked when accompanied by an unarmed civilian protector.

Imagine if we had 10,000 unarmed civilians protecting civilians in South Sudan, instead of the 150 that Nonviolent Peaceforce struggles to fund. We can afford them, because these unarmed civilian protectors cost a fraction of the cost of a soldier.

In their report released on June 16, the UN High Level Peace Operations Review Panel recognized UCP as a key reform for protecting civilians under threat of violent conflict.

The Panel Chair, Nobel Laureate Jose Ramos Horta, stated, "The Panel reviewed the excellent input by Nonviolent Peaceforce, which shared with us its positive experience in protecting civilians in war-torn situations. In our Report, we recommend that the UN engage more of those brave people working in the field, unarmed, to protect civilians".

Crisis demands innovation. We need to respond to violence with methods that are effective and efficient, not just usual and conventional. We need methods that move us towards peace, not those that engulf us in further violence. The United States must incorporate UCP as a key instrument in transforming violent conflict, and in protecting civilians, through our initiatives at the State Department and USAID as well as our positions at the United Nations.

CALLING FOR DEBATE AND VOTE
ON LEGISLATION TO REPAIR
DAMAGE TO VOTING RIGHTS ACT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I call upon House Speaker BOEHNER to bring legislation intended to protect the right to vote of all Americans to the floor for debate and vote in advance of the 50th anniversary of the landmark Voting Rights Act signed by President Lyndon Johnson on August 6, 1965.

This action is long overdue.

It has been more than two years since the Supreme Court decided *Shelby County v. Holder*, 570 U.S. 193 (2013), which invalidated Section 4(b) of the Voting Rights Act and paralyzed the application of the Act's Section 5 preclearance requirements, which protect minority voting rights where voter discrimination has historically been the worst.

In the 49 years since its passage in 1965, the Voting Rights Act has safeguarded the right of Americans to vote and stood as an obstacle to many of the more egregious attempts by certain states and local jurisdictions to game the system by passing discriminatory changes to their election laws and administrative policies.

In signing the Voting Rights Act on August 6, 1965, President Lyndon Johnson said:

The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men.

Although much progress has been made there is still much work to be done in order to prevent systemic voter suppression and discrimination within our communities and we must remain ever vigilant and oppose schemes that will abridge or dilute the precious right to vote.

Since 1982, Section 5 has stopped more than 1,000 discriminatory voting changes in their tracks, including 107 discriminatory changes in Texas.

In the aftermath of the *Shelby* decision, I was a member of the working group led by Congressman JIM CLYBURN of South Carolina that was tasked with sharing ideas, making recommendations, and crafting and drafting the legislation that would repair the damage done to the Voting Rights Act by the Supreme Court decision and capable of winning majorities in the House and Senate and the signature of the President.

That effort resulted in the Voting Rights Amendments Act, (H.R. 3899 and H.R. 885) of which I am an original co-sponsor, which repairs the damage done to the Voting Rights Act by the Supreme Court decision.

This legislation replaces the old 'static' coverage formula with a new dynamic coverage formula, or 'rolling trigger,' which effectively gives the legislation nationwide reach because any state and any jurisdiction in any state potentially is subject to being covered if the requisite number of violations are found to have been committed.

I am also a sponsor of H.R. 2867, the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015, a bill that restores and advances the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by providing a modern day coverage test that will extend federal oversight to jurisdictions which have a history of voter suppression and protects vulnerable communities from discriminatory voting practices.

I am also a sponsor of H.R. 12, the Voter Empowerment Act of 2015, which protects voters from suppression, deception, and other forms of disenfranchisement by modernizing voter registration, promoting access to voting for individuals with disabilities, and protecting the ability of individuals to exercise the right to vote in elections for federal office.

For millions of Americans, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is sacred treasure, earned by the sweat and toil and tears and blood of ordinary Americans who showed the world it was possible to accomplish extraordinary things.

The Voting Rights Act is needed as much today to prevent another epidemic of voting disenfranchisement as Dr. Salk's vaccine is still needed to prevent another polio epidemic.

I again call upon Speaker BOEHNER to bring H.R. 2867, the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015, and H.R. 12, Voter Empowerment Act of 2015, to the floor for a vote before August 6, the 50th anniversary of the landmark Voting Rights Act signed by President Lyndon Johnson and three weeks before President Johnson's 107th birthday.

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, July 23, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 28

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine lifting the crude oil export ban.

SD-538

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the State Department's proposal to construct a new diplomatic security training facility.

SD-342

2 p.m.

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine dynamic scoring, focusing on how it will affect fiscal policymaking.

SH-216

2:30 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

JULY 29

9 a.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine reauthorizing the Higher Education Act, focusing on combating campus sexual assault.

SH-216

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection

To hold hearings to examine the role of bankruptcy reform in addressing too-big-to-fail.

SD-538

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the North Korea threat and United States policy.

SD-419

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, "Department of Homeland Security Border Security Metrics Act of 2015", an original bill entitled, "Critical Infrastructure Protection Act of 2015", an original bill entitled, "EINSTEIN Act of 2015", S. 1073, to amend the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012, including making changes to the Do Not Pay initiative, for improved detection, prevention, and recovery of improper payments to deceased individuals, an original bill entitled, "Quarterly Financial Reporting Reauthorization Act of 2015", S. 1607, to affirm the authority of the President to require independent regulatory agencies to comply with regulatory analysis requirements applicable to executive agencies, S. 1526, to amend title 10 and title 41, United States Code, to improve the manner in which Federal contracts for construction and design services are awarded, to prohibit the use of reverse auctions for design and construction services procurements, to amend title 31 and 41, United States Code, to improve the payment protections available to construction contractors, subcontractors, and suppliers for work performed, S. 1820, to require agencies to publish an advance notice of proposed rule making for major rules, S. 1817, to improve the effectiveness of major rules in accomplishing their regulatory objectives by promoting retrospective review, S. 1808, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a Northern Border threat analysis, S. 779, to provide for Federal agencies to develop public access policies relating to research conducted by employees of that agency or from funds

administered by that agency, S. Res. 104, to express the sense of the Senate regarding the success of Operation Streamline and the importance of prosecuting first time illegal border crossers, S. 708, to establish an independent advisory committee to review certain regulations, S. 1170, to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research, H.R. 1531, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide a pathway for temporary seasonal employees in Federal land management agencies to compete for vacant permanent positions under internal merit promotion procedures, an original bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 99 West 2nd Street in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, as the "Lieutenant Colonel James 'Maggie' Megellas Post Office", S. 1596, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2082 Stringtown Road in Grove City, Ohio, as the "Specialist Jo-

seph W. Riley Post Office Building", and the nomination of Denise Turner Roth, of North Carolina, to be Administrator of General Services.

SD-342

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine wireless broadband and the future of spectrum policy.

SR-253

2 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Oversight, Agency Action, Federal Rights and Federal Courts

To hold hearings to examine IRS targeting, focusing on progress of agency reforms and congressional options.

SD-226

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the true costs of alcohol and drug abuse in Native communities.

SD-628

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine ending veteran homelessness.

SR-418

JULY 30

2:30 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

AUGUST 4

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the back-end of the nuclear fuel cycle and related legislation, including S. 854, to establish a new organization to manage nuclear waste, provide a consensual process for siting nuclear waste facilities, ensure adequate funding for managing nuclear waste.

SD-366