

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAKE FARENTHOLD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 85, I missed the vote due to a previously scheduled satellite interview in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

A FAREWELL TO THE HOUSE

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, my congressional career will close on February 28th, so that the constitutionally required special election to replace me can coincide with a statewide referendum Governor Brown intends to hold later this year. This will save taxpayer money, assure a higher turnout, and most quickly fill the vacancy created by my resignation.

The messages that have flooded my offices since I announced my departure have touched me deeply. The extraordinary honor of a congratulatory statement by President Obama was completely unexpected and absolutely thrilling. But the message I may treasure most came from one of my children. It said, simply: Hon. "Brave Mama."

For 17 years, I have worked my heart out for the people of California's 36th congressional district. I cast votes with which some strongly disagreed—but I have always tried my best to listen, and to lead.

The opportunity awaiting me at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars is enormous. It is truly a center of excellence, and a place where I believe I can add real value to bipartisan scholarship and policy-making.

But nothing—and I mean nothing—will ever replace the two-decade long journey I have just completed as I sought and won a seat in Congress—my first and only elected office.

I have worked closely with so many of you in committees, in caucuses like the Blue Dogs and New Democrats, and on legislation.

With some here I have visited garden spots like North Korea, Libya, Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Yemen to assess the threats we face. Such foreign travel is, I believe, a wonderful way to build personal, bipartisan friendships—something dearly needed in Congress.

As a lifelong, passionate, bipartisan-in-my-bones Democrat I have been criticized by both sides. But the center is where, in my view, most Americans are—and where, in many cases, the best policy answers are. I will bring that perspective with me to my new post at the Wilson Center.

Let me make two final points. First, over the years I have worked hard to hire and train the best staff on the planet. We call ourselves "Team Harman" and at annual reunions I marvel at how they and their families have grown. I truly love them, and know how their extraordinary efforts are appreciated by my constituents and other offices.

But second, I always say that I represent the smartest constituents on earth. This is not

a joke: they have helped me enormously to do my job well. Sidney and I and our ever-growing family thank them for the milestones and the memories. I may be changing my day job, but not my residence—or my heart.

So, as I conclude my final statement on the floor of this House, I depart with great affection and gratitude to wonderful colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, who have also become wonderful friends.

SAM MCBURNEY TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, it brings me great pride to stand and recognize the courageous and patriotic actions of young Sam McBurney. In a display of conviction and principle that was far beyond his years, this 13 year old boy took it upon himself to make sure his Fruita, Colorado, middle school recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Sam realized that the Pledge of Allegiance was not being said at the start of each school day, and this did not sit well with him. Being the son of a former Marine, Sam has always possessed a profound respect for our nation, and the knowledge that you must stand up for what you believe in. With his beliefs in line, Sam organized events and created a petition to ensure that the Pledge of Allegiance was recited at least once a week at his middle school. After months of hard work and determination, Sam finally gathered enough signatures to convince the school district that our nation's Pledge of Allegiance was a necessary and important part of the school day.

Mr. Speaker, it warms my heart to know that there are young, concerned citizens of our nation that will go to great lengths in an effort to make sure our flag, and all that it stands for, receive its due respect. It has been an honor to rise and pay tribute to Sam McBurney.

IN SUPPORT OF H. RES. 91, CELEBRATING AND ENCOURAGING DIVERSITY IN STEM AND RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H. Res. 91, a resolution celebrating and encouraging diversity in Science, Technology, Education and Mathematics (STEM), and recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Association for Women in Science (AWIS).

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education is vital to our nation's ability to compete in the global marketplace, and ultimately fulfill goals set forth in this Congress and recently outlined by President Obama in his State of the Union Address. In our pursuit to win the future, we must not only ensure that our schools promote math and science, but that all students, especially those from tradi-

tionally underrepresented populations, engage in STEM education.

Our nation will continue to require highly educated, well trained professionals to take on the careers of tomorrow, and we must strive to encourage diversity in STEM. America has been at the forefront of the world's technological advances for the last century; contributing to breakthroughs in medicine, engineering, mathematics, chemistry, and numerous other fields. By helping foster a new generation of doctors, nurses, engineers, scientific researchers, and mathematicians, we can continue to contribute to this legacy to the world for generations to come.

Encouraging further investment in STEM education is essential. Over the past year, I have hosted two events that have encouraged women and minorities to consider careers within STEM education. We live in a world of opportunity and America has been at the root of the world's technological and scientific advances for the past century. By helping to foster a new generation of scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians, we can continue our legacy for the next hundred years.

The Association for Women in Science has, for 40 years, ensured diversity in STEM, promoting equality for the ever increasing number of women beyond our nation's classrooms; those in the professional STEM workforce. According to the National Science Foundation, in 2006 women accounted for just 23 percent of graduate students in engineering, and made up about 34 percent of the engineering workforce. The Association plays a vital role in inspiring women, ensuring diversity in STEM.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to support this resolution, to further diversity in STEM, and to recognize the Association for Women in Science for its continued contributions to our nation's future.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes:

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of this amendment to prevent federal funds from being used to open the Chicago area locks to protect the Great Lakes from the threat of Asian Carp.

The Great Lakes are among our nation's most precious natural resources. They provide recreation and enjoyment for countless families in our region, and support more than \$7 billion in fishing and approximately 800,000 jobs.

Mr. Chair, this important resource is currently under great threat. The dangerously invasive Asian Carp is moving quickly towards the Great Lakes. These ravenous fish can grow as large as 100 pounds, will eat nearly everything in their path and have no known