

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

natural predators. If these fish are not stopped, we are risking the destruction of the delicate ecosystem of the Great Lakes and the countless industries and communities that rely upon them.

Mr. Chair, current efforts to stop the Asian Carp are not getting the job done. Indeed, last year a live Carp was found well beyond the electronic barriers and only 6 miles from Lake Michigan. Despite the imminent threat, the Supreme Court has refused to consider Michigan's request to close the Chicago locks. Congress must act now; there is no time to lose. The Chicago-area locks must be kept closed to protect our region from this grave danger.

I commend my colleague Congressman CAMP for introducing this important amendment to keep the Chicago area locks closed and protect our Great Lakes. I urge my colleagues to join us in protecting these great bodies of water. We cannot allow the Great Lakes to become a smorgasbord for the Asian Carp. We must act now so that our communities and industries can continue to rely on these great bodies for generations to come.

WESTMONT LIONS CLUB 75TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the members of the Westmont Lions Club as they celebrate the club's 75th year of service in the Village of Westmont.

Chartered on January 8, 1936, the Lions Club is the oldest and one of the most dedicated service organizations in Westmont. Over the past 75 years, the Westmont Lions Club has risen to Helen Keller's challenge to become the "knights of the blind" by setting up several scholarship programs, as well as by hosting such fundraising events as A Magical Vision Fundraiser.

They have worked very hard to become a pillar of service in my congressional district. I would like to join my colleagues in congratulating the Westmont Lions Club for its 75 years of service to the Village of Westmont and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAKE FARENTHOLD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 86 I missed the vote due to a previously scheduled satellite interview in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING MRS. ELLEN WILLIAMS
RAGLAND

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public

servant Mrs. Ellen Williams Ragland. Mrs. Ragland got her start in 1929. She grew up in a small rural community in Humphreys County, MS, where she witnessed the implementation of the civil rights movement and watched it unfold victoriously.

Mrs. Ragland married Adam Ragland in 1947. They later moved to Silver City, MS, and had five children. They were black farmers and owners of Semicko's Record Shop.

Mrs. Ragland was hired as a nurse assistant for the black schools in Humphreys County before integration. She picked-up the sick children from school and took them to the doctor in Belzoni, MS. She also worked for Friends of Children of Mississippi as a teacher assistant in 1968.

After the schools were integrated, Mrs. Ragland was hired as a teacher assistant in Humphreys County Public School in 1970. She worked for Humphreys County School District until she retired in 1990.

In 1991, Mrs. Ragland began working as an Entitlement Aid for National Caucus for Black Age. She was very passionate about her job and the people she served, where she often went beyond the call of duty to service their needs. Mrs. Ragland is well respected in the community. She has a pleasant personality that makes people feel comfortable going to her for help.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Ellen Williams Ragland for her dedication to serving others in need.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

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. McKEON. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of the Kline/Fox/Hastings/McCarthy/Payne amendment which will block the administration from using any funds to implement the gainful employment regulations.

The overbearing regulations the Department of Education promulgated deny students a choice in their educational program and would require the federal government to approve new educational programs being offered at proprietary schools. This is another attack by an administration that is more intent on exerting more government control than expanding job creation in America.

For-profit schools perform a crucial role in higher education; they fill a void in providing college education that traditional universities cannot meet. Traditional public universities are tightening their belts both financially and in terms of the number of students entering their programs. For-profit schools are capable of being flexible enough to meet the demands of students and businesses looking for qualified candidates. This regulation stands to destroy that relationship between the needs of the market and the dreams of students.

After hearing the arguments put forward by the Department of Education several times, I remain completely unconvinced. After receiving over 90,000 comments in the public comment period on the proposed rule, the Department has largely ignored the chorus of opposition to the rule. The process is flawed, the logic at the department is flawed, and the administration's approach on higher education is flawed. Therefore, I strongly support this amendment to ensure that the Department of Education cannot move forward on the gainful employment regulation.

COMMEMORATING THE SUMGAI
POGROMS AGAINST AZER-
BAIJANI ARMENIANS

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, the 26th and 27th of February mark the 23rd anniversary of a violent and horrific attack against Azerbaijani citizens of Armenian descent. The 1988 attacks occurred in the town of Sumgait in Soviet Azerbaijan. Dozens of Armenians were killed, and hundreds more were wounded. During the pogrom, Armenian women and children were raped and people were set on fire and beaten to death while police stood by, unwilling or unable to intervene.

The violence touched off a broader attack against Azerbaijan's ethnic Armenians, ultimately resulting in a war with Nagorno-Karabakh in which tens of thousands of people were killed. The conflict persists and remains unresolved today, as does the military blockade of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. The pogroms precipitated a massive refugee situation displacing hundreds of thousands of people, virtually eliminating Azerbaijan's once-significant Armenian population.

Mr. Speaker, as people of conscience, this is a remembrance we must all engage in. For me, it is also a very personal remembrance. My own family members fled the slaughter of the Armenian Genocide under the Ottomans, and when we learned of the massacres against Armenians in 1988, we saw history repeating itself. These vicious acts of murder, targeted at ethnic groups, must be forcefully condemned whenever and wherever we see them. Yet 96 years after the slaughter, Congress has yet to officially recognize the Armenian genocide.

Without our recognition and our forceful condemnation, the cycle of violence will continue. Even today, Christians and other minority groups are being driven from Iraq by extremists, and the once large and diverse ethnic mosaic there is all but eradicated. Without our attention and action by the world community, there is no end in sight.

Today, Mr. Speaker, let us remember the Armenians who lost their lives in Azerbaijan 23 years ago. And then let us take up the work that our principles demand of us, standing united against ethnic violence, discrimination, extremism and brutality, wherever we find them.