

Meanwhile, important services that help seniors stay in their home would be slashed. Job training for workers dislocated by the recession would face cuts. New York City would see a loss of \$14 million in Community Block Service Grants, which fund these valuable initiatives.

In New York, where working families already struggle to make rent, this bill slashes housing services. HUD's public housing capital fund would be reduced by 40%. The New York City Housing Authority relies on this fund for almost three-fourths of its resources. That money ensures elevators work, broken windows get repaired and hallways stay lit. New York City would also lose \$129 million in Community Development Funds. As a result of these cuts, the City's Department of Housing, Preservation and Development, which helps ensure housing is safe and livable, would have to let 1,200 hardworking employees go.

Mr. Chair, the American economy is just now turning the corner, showing early signs of resurgence. As recovery takes hold, this is not the time to cause another wave of job losses, with shortsighted cuts. Instead, we should choose wisely, creating jobs now, while investing for the long term.

If we crafted the right spending bill it could accomplish these goals, funding our government in a way that meets our responsibilities, contributes to growth, and reduces the deficit.

This is not that bill. I urge my colleagues to oppose it.

HONORING BRUCE TAYLOR

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Bruce Taylor for receiving a Citizen of the Year Award from the Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce for his contributions to community organizations last year.

Bruce, the founder and CEO of Taylor Farms based in Salinas, contributed to many causes in the Salinas Valley and nationwide, including the Boys & Girls Club of Monterey, Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital, the National Steinbeck Center, and local high schools.

Bruce Taylor is a third generation member of one of the most innovative lettuce grower and producer families in the country. Taylor's father, Ted, successfully implemented novel techniques to wrap and gas lettuce in order to give it a longer shelf life. In 1981, Taylor joined the newest family business, which he later named Fresh Express, and rose through the ranks quickly to become chairman in 1991 where he led the introduction of "salad in a bag" in grocery stores across the country.

In 1994, he left to start Taylor Farms, which has become the world leader in the production of ready-made salad fixings for the restaurant industry. His new company, which produces fresh-cut vegetables and salads for large foodservice customers such as McDonald's, Subway, and Red Lobster, has \$400 million in annual revenues through nine processing facilities in the United States and Australia.

Lately, Mr. Taylor is repeating his history of renovating landmark business sites in Salinas. With Fresh Express, he helped convert an old

Nestle's site into the company's main salad plant. For Taylor Farms, next up is a former Smucker's site. Taylor companies will shortly be operating about 600,000 square feet of commercial space in Salinas. In a time when California is facing high unemployment levels, it is good to see a leader such as Taylor investing in the community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Bruce Taylor on his reception of the Citizen of the Year Award from the Salinas Chamber of Commerce and wishing him the utmost success as he continues to serve his community and our Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 83, I was unexpectedly engaged and missed rollcall No. 83.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

TRIBUTE TO ALABAMA AUTHOR WINSTON GROOM

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Winston Francis Groom, a southern gentleman of letters and recipient of the 2011 Harper Lee Award for Alabama's Distinguished Writer of the Year.

Winston Groom has brought much credit to our state's literary tradition as both a popular novelist and a renowned author of history. A native of Mobile and the son of a prominent attorney, Winston Groom attended the University of Alabama, where he discovered his true passion for writing. Pursuing a degree in English, he served as editor and contributor to university humor and literary magazines.

Like many young men of his time, he would take a detour after college to serve his country in Vietnam, reaching the rank of Captain in the U.S. Army.

His southern heritage and his war time experiences continue to influence both the topics and flavor of his prolific and distinguished writing career.

After his tour of duty in the Vietnam, Winston Groom chose the path of a journalist, laboring for a brief time at the Washington Star, covering the political and court beat. Encouraged by the newspaper's writer-in-residence, Willie Morris, Mr. Groom relocated to New York to make his name in literature.

After publishing his first novel, *Better Times Than These*, in 1978, he followed with *As Summers Die*, in 1980. In 1983, he co-authored with Duncan Spencer *Conversations with the Enemy: The Story of PFC Robert Garwood*. One year later he published the novel, *Only*.

His best known work would be published in 1986, but most of the world would not hear about it until eight years later when Hollywood adapted it to the silver screen. After the mov-

ie's 1994 release, Mr. Groom's novel, *Forrest Gump*, sold well over 2.5 million copies and occupied a spot on the New York Times best-seller list for 21 weeks.

The author of 14 books so far, Mr. Groom's other works include *Gone with the Sun*, 1988; *Gumpisms: The Wit and Wisdom of Forrest Gump*; and, *The Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. Cookbook*, both in 1994; *Gump & Co.* in 1995; *Forrest Gump: My Favorite Chocolate Recipes: Mama's Fudge, Cookies, Cakes and Candies*, also in 1995. *Shrouds of Glory: From Atlanta to Nashville: The Last Great Campaign of the Civil War* was also published in 1995. Such a *Pretty Girl*, published in 1999, was followed by *The Crimson Tide: An Illustrated History of Football at the University of Alabama*, in 2000.

His more recent works include *A Storm in Flanders: The Ypres Salient, 1914-1918*, in 2002; *1942, The Year That Tried Men's Souls*, in 2005; and *Patriotic Fire: Andrew Jackson and Jean Laffite at the Battle of New Orleans*, in 2007. His latest work, *Vicksburg 1863*, was published in 2009.

On behalf of the people of Alabama, I wish to congratulate Mr. Groom on the receipt of the 2011 Harper Lee Award, and I join in thanking him for his continued contributions as a great American writer, and wish all the best to him and his lovely wife, Anne-Clinton, and their daughter, Carolina.

THE BELLS OF BALANGIGA: IT IS TIME TO GO HOME

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I recently reintroduced my bill, H. Con. Res. 18, which urges the President to authorize the transfer of ownership to the Philippines of the bells taken in 1901 from the town of Balangiga in the Philippines. The bells are currently displayed at F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

In the 110 years since the taking of the bells occurred, the citizens of the United States and the Philippines have shared many historic and political ties. The Philippines was a staunch ally of the United States during World War II. Brave Filipino soldiers were drafted into service by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, fought side-by-side with American soldiers, and were instrumental in the successful outcome of World War II. Filipino soldiers also fought alongside our soldiers on the battlefields of Korea and Vietnam.

Since the independence of the Philippines in 1946, the U.S.-Philippine relationship has been largely one of friendship and cooperation. The Philippines is a republic patterned basically on our own system of government. The Philippines is a valuable trading partner of the U.S. and an ally in the war against terrorism. Approximately 2.9 million Americans are of Filipino descent and close to 250,000 United States citizens reside in the Philippines. The acts of conflict that surrounded the taking of the bells of Balangiga are not consistent with the friendship that is currently an integral part of the relationship between our two nations.

The Republic of the Philippines has repeatedly requested the return of the bells. They