

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2012*

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall votes 80–91. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted “no” on the Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule, “no” on H. Res. 566, “yes” on the journal vote, “yes” on the Thompson (CA)/Eshoo (CA) Amendment to H.R. 1837, “yes” on the McNerney (CA) Amendment (#3) to H.R. 1837, “yes” on the McNerney (CA) Amendment (#4) to H.R. 1837, “yes” on the Garamendi (CA) Amendment (#5) to H.R. 1837, “yes” on the Napolitano (CA) Amendment to H.R. 1837, “yes” on the Garamendi (CA) Amendment (#7) to H.R. 1837, “yes” on the Markey (MA)/Thompson (CA)/Matsui (CA) Amendment to H.R. 1837, “yes” on the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 1837 and “no” on Final Passage of H.R. 1837.

## CONGRATULATING AT&T VETERANS ON OPERATION HYDRATION: MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2012*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to recognize before the United States Congress the great men and women of AT&T Veterans.

This AT&T Employee Resource Group was founded in 2007 under the motto, “Serving Those Who’ve Served Our Country.” With over 300 members in Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW) and 3,300 nationwide, this group of true American patriots is doing great things for our nation’s military veterans and active duty troops.

Recently, the DFW chapter joined forces with the local USO to raise \$8,000 and provide over 1,200 cases of water for troops moving through DFW International Airport. Most of these servicemen and women were only home for two weeks of R&R before heading back overseas.

AT&T Veterans not only provided the water bottles, but volunteered to greet incoming flights and provide a hero’s sendoff for departing troops. They called this project Operation Hydration, and it’s been a real success.

To the AT&T Veterans, congratulations on a mission accomplished!

Thank you for your service—past and present—and may God continue to bless the United States of America through great folks like you.

## ST. CROIX RIVER CROSSING PROJECT AUTHORIZATION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 29, 2012*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today the U.S. House of Representatives passed the St. Croix River Crossing Project Authorization Act (S. 1134) by a vote of 339 to 80. Originally spearheaded by Congresswoman BACHMANN (MN–06), S. 1134 authorizes construction of a \$700 million mega-bridge over the protected St. Croix River between Minnesota and Wisconsin, benefiting only 18,000 cars per day.

Every policy debate has two sides and I worked hard to reflect the voices of Minnesotans in the Fourth District, as well as those Stillwater and Oak Park Heights residents who are deeply concerned about this mega-bridge project.

Congress’ passage of this \$700 million bridge bill doesn’t diminish its excessive cost, size, negative effect on Highway 36 traffic congestion, or its adverse impact on the St. Croix River.

Supporters of this legislation, including Senators KLOBUCHAR and FRANKEN, and Governor Dayton, assume responsibility for protecting communities along Highway 36 from crippling traffic congestion and the families and businesses of Oak Park Heights from property tax increases—the direct consequences of the project they so strongly championed.

I want to thank my friend and Minnesota colleague, Representative KEITH ELLISON (MN–05) for his eloquence on the floor of the House in opposition to S. 1134. I share Congressman ELLISON’s concern that replacing one bridge at a cost of \$700 million to the exclusion of more than 1,100 other structurally deficient bridges in Minnesota places too many communities and motorists at risk. I am committed to working with Representative ELLISON, Governor Dayton and all Minnesota members of Congress and state legislators to repair or replace these substandard bridges.

## RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE

**HON. ANN MARIE BUERKLE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2012*

Ms. BUERKLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 125th Anniversary of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse.

Presided over by Bishop Robert J. Cunningham, the Diocese has been a beacon of hope and sanctuary for all those seeking assistance in the Greater Syracuse area.

The diocese has 133 parishes, 9 missions, and 3 devotional chapels. In addition, the di-

ocese has three Catholic hospitals that assist 650,000. There are people and seven special centers for social services assisting over 100,000 people. The Catholic Diocese oversees 42 residential facilities that care for the disabled, 24 Catholic schools, and 264 offices. Overall, the diocese employs approximately 3,000 people.

Today, churches, schools, and community organizations of the Diocese serve much more than the Catholic population. The outreach programs established by parishes across seven counties in Central New York reach out to people of all beliefs and walks of life.

In 125 years, the dedicated volunteers and clergymen of the Diocese of Syracuse have not stopped spreading the universal messages of peace and goodwill. I commend the members of the Diocese for holding to their founding principles of Faith, Hope, and Charity for all. I congratulate the Diocese of Syracuse on their 125th Anniversary and I thank them all for their good works.

## IN APPRECIATION OF MR. RICK LOTTIE FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ON THE THIRD DISTRICT OF TEXAS, ACADEMY SELECTION BOARD

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2012*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to publicly recognize and thank Mr. Rick Lottie for his years of distinguished service on the Third District of Texas’ Academy Selection Board.

A 1969 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Mr. Lottie served his country with distinction as a Marine Corps infantry officer from 1969 to 1974, including a deployment to Vietnam from 1970 to 1971.

He then spent his civilian career working for first-rate IT services companies such as Electronic Data Systems, Perot Systems, and MCI Systemhouse.

Mr. Lottie, always a community servant, has served on the board of directors for the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation and Admiral Nimitz Foundation and is currently an advisor to the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund.

As a member of the Third District’s Academy Selection Board, Mr. Lottie has sacrificed his time and offered his guidance to help me send some of North Texas’ best and brightest young people to United States Service Academies.

It is a privilege to know this true American patriot.

To Rick, thank you for your service, and God bless you.

• 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.