

these shortcomings, I will vote for H.R. 4348. I refuse to gamble with the 3 million jobs that are at stake in this bill. Our country needs these jobs and our communities need the predictable funding this bill provides.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4348.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 382 I was absent due to personal reasons.

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

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF EASTERN NEBRASKA VETERANS' HOME

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home on its fifth anniversary.

The facility and its dedicated staff have successfully provided care to 117 members during this time in the areas of assisted living, intermediate care, skilled care and Alzheimer's care. The facility is specifically designed to meet the different mobility needs of each of its members.

The ENVH stands as a testament to Nebraska's commitment to our veterans by providing them with a state of the art facility and the services that they deserve.

I also want to point out that this facility is a result of the public and private sectors working together to meet the needs of our Nation's heroes. Multiple agencies at all levels of government worked together on this project to better the lives of these individuals.

The Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home has provided quality care for our veterans and their dependents for five years and I wish them many more years as they continue to serve our veterans and their families.

CONGRATULATING RICE UNIVERSITY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for the last one hundred years Rice University has made unique and important contributions to our Nation and the world. Despite its small size, Rice has stood as one of the most forward-thinking institutions, contributing monumental advances in science and technology, as well as to the liberal arts. It was Rice University that opened the Nation's first department of space physics and produced American business magnates like Howard Hughes. It was Rice University

that was the decades-long teaching home to Nobel Prize winners Richard Smalley and Robert Curland, and it is Rice University that continues to educate some of the brightest minds in the world. At this moment, Rice students are developing coated sand that can purify water in countries without access to clean drinking water and lithium-ion batteries that can be painted onto any surface.

In 2008, Rice University was ranked the number one institution for "industry impact." Education is the key to our Nation's future, and it is institutions like Rice University that will ensure that America's greatest days are not in the past. Please join me today in celebrating the many accomplishments that Rice has achieved over the last one hundred years, and many more surely to come.

RECOGNIZING MR. JEFFREY MEEK

HON. TIM GRIFFIN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mr. Jeffrey Meek of Hot Springs Village, Arkansas, for his dedication to preserving the stories of Arkansas's World War II veterans.

Jeff's interest in the stories and lives of World War II veterans began when his own son enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. At that time, Jeff started researching the experiences of his father and his wife's father during World War II. Then, after joining the Akansa Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Jeff's wife, Jeanne, recommended that Jeff get involved in the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project (VHP), which is preserving oral histories of our veterans. Each oral history is recorded on a DVD and, along with VHP documentation, is sent to the Library of Congress to be preserved and made accessible to researchers, educators, and the general public.

Jeff conducted his first oral history for the VHP in 2007 and started reporting some of the stories in his local newspaper, the Hot Springs Village Voice. He later published 75 accounts in his book *They Answered the Call: World War II Veterans Share Their Stories*. Jeff has spent over one thousand hours collecting the moving stories of hundreds of our World War II veterans, and he has brought them to life during three sold out programs honoring them.

Jeff's dedication to World War II veterans extends beyond recording their oral histories. He accompanied a group of veterans as they participated in the "Honor Flight" program. This program flies World War II veterans to Washington, D.C., free of charge, so they may visit the World War II memorial and some of the other memorials in Washington, D.C.

For his devotion to our veterans, Jeff has been recognized by a number of organizations, including the Akansa Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and each of Hot Springs Village's five military organizations. In addition, he received a letter of commendation from the Veterans History Project itself for his attention to detail in preserving the treasured chronicles of our nation's heroes.

Because of volunteers like Jeff, our veterans will be forever honored through the preserva-

tion of their memories. I commend Jeff for his outstanding service to Arkansas's veterans, and I would encourage other Americans to become involved with the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project by recording the stories of veterans in their own communities. I thank Jeff for giving these veterans the opportunity to tell their stories and for allowing these stories to become priceless pieces of American history.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF RICE UNIVERSITY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of Rice University. Throughout the last century, Rice has not only developed into one of the most prestigious and exemplary academic institutions in Texas, it has also matured into one of the leading research universities in the United States.

The first president of Rice University was Edgar Odell Lovett, and he set forth an ambitious vision to become a premier research university. However, since its inception in 1912, Rice has been exceptional in both academics and athletics. Rice now plays a leading role in research in many fields including nanotechnology, space, cellular technology, bioinformatics, energy, health, and the environment. Their athletic program is constantly one of the best in Conference USA and their championship win in the 2003 College Baseball World Series serves as further evidence that the Rice Owls are extraordinary across the institutional spectrum.

Rice has been ranked among the top 20 universities in the country by U.S. News & World Report every year since the rankings began in 1983. In recognition of their dedication to keeping high quality education affordable, Princeton Review ranks Rice among the top 10 best value private colleges.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the 100th anniversary of Rice University. Rice has pushed the boundaries of education and research since 1912, and this institution will undoubtedly be a leader for years to come.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5972) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 5972, the Transportation,