

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REMEMBERING ARMY NATIONAL
GUARD SPECIALIST SERGIO
EDUARDO PEREZ

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with immense sadness and great respect that I rise to remember Army National Guard Specialist Sergio Eduardo Perez for his bravery and willingness to fight for his country. Specialist Perez was a member of the Indiana National Guard 713th Engineer Company, headquartered in Valparaiso, Indiana. While Specialist Perez was on a route clearance patrol in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, he was killed in an attack that involved rocket-propelled grenade fire and small arms fire. His sacrifice will forever be remembered by those he fought to protect.

A native of East Chicago, Indiana, Sergio graduated from Lake Central High School in 2010. Sergio's high school principal recalls that Sergio was a quiet, reserved young man and a hard worker. His classmates speak of his kindness, respect, and willingness to help others. Shortly after graduating, Specialist Perez joined the National Guard, and his company mobilized at the end of September 2011. Sergio is remembered by friends as an all-around great guy who made a strong impression on those who knew him. According to loved ones, Sergio was a person who genuinely cared about everyone around him. He had a gentle spirit and a deep devotion to his family. In Sergio's own words, "It takes a lot to make me mad, and when I am, I can't be mad for long. I get along with almost everyone. I work way more than I should and I'm starting to realize how short life is." For his remarkable courage and selfless commitment to the Army, Specialist Perez is worthy of the highest praise. His life was taken from us far too soon. He will be greatly missed and forever cherished by those who loved him.

Specialist Perez leaves behind a beloved host of family and friends. He is survived by his adoring parents: Sergio E. Perez, Sr. and Veronica Orozco. Sergio also leaves to cherish his memory three loving sisters: Candice Perez, Andrea Jimenez, and Karyme Jimenez, and his half brother, Axel Perez Martinez. He will be greatly missed by his maternal grandparents, Alicia and Charles Orozco, and his paternal grandparents, Severo and Ramona Perez. Specialist Perez also leaves behind many other dear friends and family members, as well as a grateful, yet deeply saddened community.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in honoring a fallen hero, United States Army National Guard Specialist, Sergio E. Perez. Specialist Perez sacrificed his life in service to his country, and his passing comes as a great loss to our nation, which has once again been shaken by the realities of war. Specialist

Perez will forever remain a hero in the eyes of his family, his community, and his country. Thus, let us never forget the sacrifice he made to preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall votes 499–503. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted "no" on No. 499, "no" on No. 500, "yes" on No. 501, "no" on No. 502, and "no" on No. 503.

RECOGNIZING THE 302ND AIRLIFT WING'S REDEDICATION OF THE SUMIT 38 MEMORIAL

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the rededication of the 302nd Airlift Wing's SUMIT 38 memorial.

On Saturday, May 13, 1995 a C–130 with call sign SUMIT 38 assigned to the Air Force Reserve Command's 302nd Airlift Wing based at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, crashed near Bliss, Idaho. SUMIT 38 had flown 15 support personnel to Boise, Idaho for firefighting training and crashed during its return flight to Colorado. Six Air Force Reservists lost their lives that day.

Lieutenant Colonel Robert R. Buckhout, 1st Lieutenant Lance Dougherty, Captain Geoff Boyd, Chief Master Sergeant Jimmie D. Vail, Master Sergeant Jay Kemp and Staff Sergeant Michael L. Scheideman perished in the crash. The men and women of the 302nd Airlift Wing, their families and the community will continue to mourn the loss.

Let us always remember the crew of SUMIT 38, and never forget the sacrifice they made in the service of our Nation. On Saturday, August 4, 2012, the 302nd Airlift Wing will rededicate the memorial to the fallen crew at Peterson Air Force Base in its new location. The memorial will become the centerpiece of the new Total Force Integration C–130 squadron operations facility.

I ask the Members of Congress to join me in remembering and honoring the crew of SUMIT 38.

H.R. 5856

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, last week the House of Representatives passed H.R. 5856,

the Department of Defense Appropriations Act. While I strongly oppose some provisions of H.R. 5856, I voted in favor of this legislation in order to support our troops, military families, and veterans, and to advance other important priorities for our national defense.

I applaud the leadership of Chairmen ROGERS and YOUNG and Ranking Member DICKS in crafting a bill that provides an increase to service members' pay, strengthens health care services, and advances critical research for cancer, Traumatic Brain Injury, and other conditions. H.R. 5856 supports a continued investment in small businesses through the Rapid Innovation Program, provides for the production of two Virginia-class attack submarines, advances the Iron Dome program, and seeks to hold Pakistan accountable by ensuring they are cooperating with the United States in counterterrorism efforts, including dismantling and disrupting the manufacture of improvised explosive devices—an issue that I specifically addressed through two successful amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act offered earlier this year.

However, I must also note my strong disappointment that this legislation breaches the Budget Control Act of 2011—the bipartisan, bicameral agreement enacted into law last year, which was designed to help rein in spending and stabilize our nation's finances. Despite the fact that over \$1 billion in spending was reduced through the successful adoption of an amendment offered by Representative MULVANEY and Representative FRANK, effectively freezing defense spending in the bill at current levels, H.R. 5856 still exceeds the budgetary cap set by last year's Budget Control Act by several billion dollars. An additional amendment was offered by Representatives LEE, VAN HOLLEN, and SMITH that would have brought the bill's spending in line with the levels set by last year's Budget Control Act. Unfortunately, while I voted in favor of this amendment, it was not adopted by the full House. Moreover, I offered an amendment to H.R. 5856 to strike funding for the Afghanistan Infrastructure Fund (AIF). As originally presented in the full House of Representatives, H.R. 5856 proposed \$375 million in spending over the next fiscal year for large-scale water, power, transportation and other projects in Afghanistan through the AIF while our national infrastructure is crumbling here in America and in my home state of Rhode Island. While my amendment did not pass, I did vote in favor of a successful amendment offered by Representative COHEN to reduced AIF funding by \$175 million.

With President Obama's announcement of the U.S.-Afghanistan Strategic Partnership Agreement in May 2012, our nation took another step toward the end of combat operations in Afghanistan and the transition of military and security operations to the Afghans by 2014—a timeline that had not yet been identified in 2011 during consideration of the FY 2012 Department of Defense Appropriations Act. I, and many of my colleagues in Congress, would prefer an accelerated drawdown

• 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.

of U.S. combat troops—one that allows for the safe, orderly, and expedited withdrawal of our combat forces. During consideration of H.R. 5856, I voted in favor of amendments offered by Representative LEE and Representative GARAMENDI that would have helped bring our troops home from Afghanistan sooner. Unfortunately, these amendments did not pass. As the White House has affirmed in reference to the Partnership Agreement, the decisions regarding future troop levels and funding will need to be made in consultation with Congress.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and Senate in a bipartisan fashion to reach an agreement in the coming weeks that advances the important priorities I have identified while also fulfilling our commitment under the Budget Control Act, ending the War in Afghanistan as quickly and safely as possible, and recognizing the urgent need to reinvest in our own economy and our own infrastructure right here at home.

RECOGNIZING THE NAMING AND
GROUNDBREAKING OF THE
MICHAEL N. CASTLE TRAIL AT THE
C&D CANAL

HON. JOHN C. CARNEY, JR.

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, the Delaware delegation recognized the vision and tireless efforts of former Congressman Mike Castle of Delaware to develop a recreational trail along the Chesapeake and Delaware (or C&D) Canal by breaking ground for construction of the trail.

The C&D Canal, managed by the Philadelphia District of the Army Corps of Engineers, has been in operation since 1829. Today, it is one of the busiest working waterways in the world, with over 25,000 vessels passing through it each year. The canal is a critical commercial waterway serving the Ports of Wilmington, Baltimore, and Philadelphia. The C&D Canal is bordered by a 16-mile stretch of flat, uninterrupted land, perfect for a trail, and surrounded by more than 7,500 acres of public land, creating a unique and safe environment for recreationists. In 2004, Congressman Castle saw these assets as an ideal opportunity to enhance the canal's existing resources by adding a recreational trail.

Under Congressman Castle's leadership, a working group was formed in 2004 with representatives from the State of Delaware, New Castle County, the Army Corps, Delaware City, Chesapeake City, the State of Maryland, and recreation groups. In 2005 and 2006, public workshops were held to solicit ideas and comments from local residents regarding potential recreational uses along the C&D Canal. In March 2006, a concept plan was completed by the working group, recommending the creation of a recreational trail along the canal to be used by walkers, joggers, cyclists, and equestrians. In 2007, design work for the trail began and environmental assessments were completed, and in 2009 trail design was completed.

Congressman Castle was instrumental in obtaining resources for the trail. In addition to supporting efforts to acquire state and local

funding, he also secured a total of \$2.2 million in Public Lands Highways Discretionary awards in fiscal years 2008, 2009, and 2010 from the Federal Highway Administration to go toward planning and construction of the trail.

Congressman Castle's vision and years of work to build a trail along the C&D Canal was not forgotten when he left office. Recognizing the tremendous benefits that could be realized by the trail, the delegation picked up the project where Castle left off. Since then, the delegation has worked with the Federal Highway Administration, the State of Delaware, New Castle County, the recreation community, and others to reinvigorate the working group and secure additional funding to build the first phase of the recreational trail along the banks of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal.

The recreational trail along the C&D Canal will provide a common link to communities across the States of Delaware and Maryland from Chesapeake City to Delaware City. It will create a safe and inviting recreational opportunity along the canal and will bring families and other groups to hike, bicycle, jog, skate, or ride horseback along the trail. Local business, including restaurants and shops, will reap the benefits of this increased tourism to the area. The C&D Canal trail will also support healthy lifestyles through outdoor recreation. The trail will improve safety along the canal and increase the appeal and land value of residential developments in the area. The C&D canal recreation trail will be an attractive asset for the Middletown, Odessa and Townsend region that will draw new residents to the area.

Congressman Castle long ago embraced the notion that the C&D Canal is like an emerald necklace draped across the northern portion of our beautiful state, and we are so very pleased that this jewel will be named after our dear friend.

On July 9, the Delaware Department of Transportation broke ground on Phase I of the recreational trail. This first phase will complete approximately nine miles of the trail from Delaware City to just beyond Summit Marina in Delaware, including the construction of two trail heads, parking areas, and comfort stations.

Honoring Congressman Mike Castle's long-time support of recreational and commuter-oriented greenways and trails in Delaware and across the nation, as well as his vision, leadership, and steadfast support of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal trail, the Delaware delegation hereby dedicates the trail to him, and officially recognizes the name as the "Michael N. Castle Trail at the C&D Canal."

CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF MT. VERNON BAP-
TIST CHURCH

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 175th anniversary of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church in West Monroe, La.

The church began when a small band of early settlers in southwest Ouachita Parish established a place of worship. These pioneers initially held services in homes, and it is believed the first building of the Mt. Vernon Bap-

tist Church was a simple one-room log house. While the building has changed many times over the past century to accommodate the ever-growing membership, the church has continued to provide spiritual guidance to the Ouachita Parish community since its inception. Today, the sanctuary comfortably seats 600, and the average Sunday school attendance is over 400.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mt. Vernon Baptist Church for its dedication to providing a steadfast place of worship. Countless Sunday morning services, baptisms, and weddings have been held there, and I am confident it will be a strong source of Christian love, comfort and fellowship for well over the next 100 years.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5856) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in reluctant opposition to H.R. 5856, the FY2013 Department of Defense Appropriations Act.

Last summer, Congress and the President enacted the bipartisan Budget Control Act, BCA, a difficult compromise by both Democrats and Republicans. As a result, caps on both discretionary and defense spending were significantly tightened for Fiscal Year 2013 appropriations. Because this bill fails the test of balance and funds billions of dollars of unnecessary programs within the Defense Department, while disregarding the caps set forth by the BCA, I cannot support it in its current form. I hope to support this bill when it returns from the Senate.

I would refer my colleagues to the Budget Control Act and to Section 302, enforcement of budget goals. It's right there in plain English what the defense appropriation number will be. That was the Budget Control Act that was supported and voted on by the Chairman of the Budget Committee, the Chairman of the Armed Services Committee, the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee and the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee.

In fact, the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Mr. ROGERS, said last year when we passed it, and I quote: "Tough choices will have to be made, particularly when it comes to defense and national security priorities, but shared sacrifice will bring shared results." He went on to say, "The Appropriations Committee has already started making tough decisions on spending and will continue under the spending limits and guidelines provided in this bill," meaning the Budget Control Act. That was August 1st of last year.

The Chairman of the full Committee was right last year but the bill that's before us violates that bipartisan agreement. As a result of that violation, the Defense Appropriation Bill exceeds significantly what was requested by

the Defense Department. The reality is the other bills that are coming through the Appropriations Committee are taking much deeper cuts—cuts to education, cuts to affordable health care, cuts to public safety—because of the funding increases in this defense bill. In other words, our investment in jobs, and the economy, and our kids future is being slashed as a direct result of the fact this defense bill exceeds the spending level set in the Budget Control Act agreement.

Mr. Chairman, I would refer our colleagues to the statements made by Admiral Mullen, who served as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Admiral Mullen pointed out that our military strength depends on our economic strength and our economic strength depends on our long-term fiscal health. Admiral Mullen said, "Our national debt is our biggest national security threat." He went on to say, "with the increasing defense budget, which is almost double, it hasn't forced us to make the hard trades. It hasn't forced us to prioritize. It hasn't forced us to do the analysis." We can no longer go along with business as usual if we are going to get our fiscal house in order.

That is why this House agreed to the Budget Control Act last summer, and it's unfortunate that this bill comes to the floor in violation of the agreement, in violation of an understanding that in order to get our fiscal house in order, we had to make tough decisions on defense and non-defense alike. And by violating the agreement in this regard, what the Committee is saying is they are not willing to make really tough decisions. In fact, they're making irresponsible decisions with respect to the nondefense domestic spending.

I agree with Admiral Mullen who said we all need to share in this responsibility. I agree with what my Republican Colleagues said last year when we passed the Budget Control Act. Let's stick to an agreement and let the American people know that when this body comes to an understanding after a hard fought compromise, we stick with it for the public good.

The Defense Appropriations bill provides \$606 billion in defense spending in FY13. It includes \$518.1 billion in funding for non-war related expenses. It also provides an additional \$13.7 billion for Military Personnel Programs and \$63.5 billion for Operation and Maintenance Programs. I am also pleased that the bill provides a requested pay raise for military personnel and supports critical funding for the DoD Peer-Reviewed Prostate Cancer Research Program and the DoD Breast Cancer Research Program.

However, the bill provides billions of dollars in funding that the Department of Defense says it neither requested nor needs. For example, it continues to fund unnecessary aircraft programs that the Defense Department did not allot for in its budget this year, and spends \$138 million to resurrect C-27J contracts that the Air Force decided not to renew. Many other wasteful items that are unnecessary to our national defense are included at the expense of national funding priorities that directly impact our country's future economic growth, including investments in education, seniors, and research and infrastructure.

During this difficult fiscal period we have to be much smarter and more efficient about how we shape our defense budget. Throughout this debate, I have made clear that we must take a balanced approach to cutting the budget including eliminating unnecessary spending.

There is no doubt that Congress has a responsibility to pass a Defense Appropriations bill which reflects a commitment to the millions of dedicated men and women and their families who sacrifice to keep our country safe. However, as testimony before the Budget Committee and House Armed Services Committee has made clear, we can reduce defense spending even as we continue to provide for our men and women in uniform, for our veterans and for their families, without compromising national security.

Unfortunately, the FY13 Defense Appropriations bill upends the balance painstakingly designed by the BCA and appropriates funds unnecessarily to some programs at the expense of other high-priority programs. The unrequested funding provided in this legislation will result in direct cuts to such national priorities as education, health care, research and development, and vital job training. I am also concerned that this bill deprives deserving employees of the Department of Defense of a modest cost-of-living adjustment by not providing for a civilian pay raise of .5 percent, as proposed by the Administration.

Mr. Chair, there is no higher priority than providing for the security of our country. However, during these difficult economic times, we have to be smarter and more efficient in how we shape our defense budget. In the end, the strength of our military depends on the strength of our economy. If we don't reduce our long-term deficit and get our fiscal house in order, we will weaken our capacity to fund a strong military. At the end of the day, this bill falls short of accomplishing that objective.

IN RECOGNITION OF SANDRA UPTAGRAFFT PARTICIPATING IN THE 2012 OLYMPICS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Sandra Uptagrafft. Sandra will participate in the 2012 Olympics in London.

Uptagrafft, of Phenix City, Alabama, is a Petty Officer 1st Class in the United States Navy Reserves. This will be her first time as an Olympic athlete when she shoots in the women's 25m sport pistol and 10m air pistol events.

Uptagrafft's husband, Eric, will also be participating in the 2012 London Olympics. The couple will celebrate their anniversary while in London on August 5th.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my congratulations to Sandra and best wishes to her and her husband in the Olympics and a happy anniversary.

THE ADVANTAGES OF HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight some innovative health care pro-

grams being implemented by Applied Extrusion Technologies in Terre Haute, Indiana. AET Films is a leading supplier of specialized oriented polypropylene films in North America.

In 2005, while being faced with ever increasing insurance premiums, they chose to take the path less traveled, empowering their employees through a high deductible health plan coupled with a health savings account. Over time they further implemented healthy employee incentives and education programs to help employees make better consumer-driven health decisions. The results of these programs have been irrevocable, as AET Films has seen near 0 percent premiums increases since implementation.

With the Supreme Court's recent ruling, and our vote this week to repeal the Affordable Care Act in its entirety for the 4th time, it is important to understand the creative steps being taken in the private sector that lower health care costs, and incentivize better health outcomes—all without government control or interference. I commend AET for their innovation, and encourage the Senate and the President to join the House in repealing the Affordable Care Act, which dismantles innovative programs pursued by AET Films and job creators across the United States, and replace it with private sector reforms that lessen the cost of health care for all Americans.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN DOUGLAS S. BORREBACH

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Douglas S. Borrebach of the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO), who will be departing after four years of outstanding service. Originally from the 18th congressional district, which I represent, Captain Borrebach's significant contributions at JIEDDO have contributed to tremendous success in countering the threat of improvised explosive devices.

Upon Captain Borrebach's arrival to JIEDDO in June 2008, his actions significantly contributed to resource planning, programming, budgeting and execution management to maximize JIEDDO's investments in the Joint Warfighter Counter-Improvised Explosive Device (C-IED) capabilities. A financial management expert and trusted steward of our taxpayer dollars, Captain Borrebach was critical in developing programmatic estimates, with JIEDDO managing a \$10 billion budget for C-IED requirements.

After nearly three years as JIEDDO's Controller, Captain Borrebach was handpicked to lead the Requirements and Resources Directorate at JIEDDO in April 2011, a testament to his keen analytical capabilities and ability to identify current and future resourcing opportunities. The confluence of his superb leadership, operational background, and expert knowledge in acquisition and financial management was instrumental in fulfilling one hundred percent of Combatant Command Counter-IED Joint Urgent Operational Need Statements. Over the past four years his efforts to collaborate with academia, industry, and the whole of government has led to the

development and validation of critical C-IED solutions ahead of the threat.

As a father of a West Point Cadet from the Class of 2013, Captain Borrebach has worked tirelessly to improve the protection of those Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines downrange as if they were his own. Over his tenure, he has contributed significantly to the improvement of the IED found and clear rate and correspondingly has helped prevent casualties and loss of life.

I am proud to share in the celebration of Captain Borrebach's remarkable accomplishments that have served this nation well in Afghanistan and Iraq. As he departs for his alma-mater, the United States Naval Academy, for his final assignment in his thirty-year career, I ask my colleagues to recognize his leadership and distinguished service.

CONGRATULATING JORDAN
BRITTON, MISSOURI TRACK AND
FIELD STATE CHAMPION

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Hollister High School's Jordan Britton for winning the Long Jump and the Triple Jump State Titles at the Class 2 Missouri Track and Field Championships.

Jordan worked hard throughout the season to achieve his state championship titles. After districts he was ranked first in Long Jump. Upon reaching the state competition Jordan found himself struggling to match his previous best jumps. With help from Head Coach Tucker Pierce and Jump Coach Greg Brown, Jordan was able to recover and found himself in fourth place before his second to last jump. It was then that Jordan put forward his best performance with a leap of 21 feet and 10 inches, which was just enough to give him the top prize in the Class 2 finals.

Jordan also took the Triple Jump with a leap of 43 feet and 6 inches, gaining his second title at the state championship. Having entered the state competition in third place, Jordan knew he would have to jump a personal best to even medal. Competing against the number one seed in the final, Jordan overcame a 43 foot leap to secure first place by 6 inches, again giving his best performance in the second to last jump.

The Hollister School District as well as the track and field staff are proud to have such a fine young man representing their school. He truly represents his family, school and the state of Missouri in a positive manner.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jordan on his State Track and Field Championship Titles.

CANCER-FREE LABEL ACT

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, exposure to cancer-causing agents increases every American's risk of cancer, and they are found in everyday products and in the environment.

Since only 5% of cancer is caused by genetic factors, people can reduce their risk of getting cancer by the other 95% of causes by reducing their exposure to carcinogens.

We all know that we can reduce our risk of getting cancer by wearing sunscreen, quitting smoking, and steering clear of asbestos. But what about everyday products? Which make-up has carcinogens? Which pesticides? Which air fresheners, carpet cleaners, flea collars, and yes, food items, increase your family's risk of cancer? Which baby shampoos?

The reality is consumers do not know. Even if our constituents memorized the list of known and probable carcinogens, many substances in consumer products remain hidden. Words like "fragrance" and "artificial flavoring" are used in place of specific ingredients to protect companies' trade secrets, and they should. But there is no denying that this protection makes it harder for consumers to make fully informed choices.

And even if known carcinogens were not part of a product's ingredient list, certain manufacturing or storage practices can result in the introduction of carcinogens into a product, which then can pass into your body.

Today, I am introducing legislation called the "Cancer-Free Label Act." Under this bill, manufacturers who would like to market their products as being completely free of all known carcinogens would be allowed to seek a "cancer-free" label. By submitting a confidential application to be evaluated by the agency that regulates their specific product, a manufacturer could provide consumers assurance that the product is free of known carcinogens without having to divulge valuable trade secrets. The voluntary application would protect manufacturers' hard-earned intellectual property and could not be used by any agency of government for any reason other than determining the product's "cancer-free" status.

The application would simply include a full list of substances and a demonstrated adherence to best carcinogen-avoidance practices in manufacture, storage, and transportation. In addition, this program would not mandate any new bureaucracy to evaluate carcinogens; it simply creates a process for agencies to compare ingredients lists against existing government lists of known and probable carcinogens.

Unlike other well-intentioned efforts to get carcinogens out of consumer products, this legislation would not rely on mandates or bans. If a manufacturer does not choose to apply, there is no penalty. The labeling program is 100% voluntary. It would simply harness the power of the free market, enabling consumers to choose safer products for themselves and their families. We all remember the most recent example of this—it was consumer selection, not government intervention, that got BPA out of baby products.

I urge my colleagues to pass this market-driven legislation and give consumers and families across America the power to opt-out of cancer-causing substances in everyday products.

COMMEMORATING THE 38TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH OCCUPATION OF CYPRUS

HON. SHELLY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call my colleagues' attention to the 38th anniversary of Turkey's unlawful and tragic invasion of Cyprus. Turkey's occupation, which began on July 20, 1974, left thousands of innocent Greek Cypriot civilians without their homes, their land, and their families. It is crucial for us to commemorate this unfortunate situation and assist the people of Cyprus in reaching a solution.

Many of the Cypriot generation who suffered the invasion have not lived to see justice or a resolution to this conflict. Although many of the survivors have had the opportunity to return to their homes on the northern side of the island, it was only to discover them occupied by Turkish settlers.

Only Turkey recognizes the occupied northern side of the country as a Turkish Cypriot state, but it does not even provide a valid standard of living to their own citizens. This was made evident through the recent demonstrations by Turkish Cypriots who have displayed their own dissatisfaction with the Turkish occupation. More recently, Turkey has threatened the use of force to stop Texas-based Noble Energy from drilling for oil and gas off the shores of Cyprus and to blacklist any businesses that work with Cyprus for natural resource extraction.

Meanwhile, the Turkish government has begun to sow instability throughout its region. Turkey recognizes the terrorist Hamas government in Gaza and even received its leader in the Turkish parliament earlier this year—disturbing hypocrisy from a state that receives US support for its own fight against terrorism. Turkey also demands that Israel end its naval blockade of Gaza, despite the deadly security threat Hamas poses to Israel. Turkey's repeated, flagrant criticism of Israel is particularly troubling and potentially destabilizing.

Turkey continues to deny the Armenian Genocide during which 1.5 million Armenians perished and has threatened punitive measures against the United States if Congress recognizes this tragic event. Since 1993, Turkey has maintained a destabilizing blockade of Armenia.

The time has come for Turks to end their threats and denials, withdraw their troops, and return the territory that is not rightfully theirs. That way, the Cypriots—and the Cypriots alone—can make the decisions affecting their future.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5856) making appropriations for the Department of Defense

for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 5856, Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2013. H.R. 5856 provides \$519.2 billion for the base budget of the Defense Department in fiscal year 2013 which is \$3.1 billion above the President's request and \$1.1 billion above the fiscal year 2012 level.

In addition, the Department of Defense (DOD) appropriations bill provides \$88.5 billion in fiscal year 2013 contingency funding for ongoing military operations in Afghanistan, at the President's request and \$26.6 billion below the fiscal year 2012 level. The contingency funding being \$26.6 billion below the fiscal year 2012 level reflects the continued drawdown of U.S. activities in Iraq and Afghanistan.

I support this bill for three reasons:

(1) Provides all service members a pay raise of 1.7 percent, the level included in the President's request;

(2) Provides \$33.9 billion, \$334 million above the President's request, for Defense health care programs for our troops, their families, and retirees; and

(3) Provides \$1.6 billion for measures to counter improvised explosive devices in Afghanistan.

I would like to thank Chairman YOUNG and Ranking Member DICKS for ensuring that there were no reductions in the number of C-17s that are in use by our Armed Services in the Fiscal Year 2013 Defense Appropriations bill. The C-17 is the Air Force's premier strategic transport aircraft and remains the military's most reliable and capable airlift aircraft. The C-17 has proven capable of delivering more cargo, troops, and non-war humanitarian missions than any other aircraft. The C-17 delivered needed relief supplies and search and rescue teams immediately in the aftermath of the destruction in Japan. The C-17 also delivered over 10,005 tons of disaster relief supplies and carried 13,812 passengers in response to the earthquake that struck Haiti in 2010.

Mr. Chair, in my remaining time let me briefly highlight additional key provisions. This legislation provides increased funding of \$246 million for cancer research, \$245 million for medical facility and equipment upgrades, \$125 million for Traumatic Brain Injury and psychological health research, and \$20 million for suicide prevention outreach programs. Also, provides \$2.3 billion for family support and advocacy programs.

This bill provides \$181 million in additional funds not requested by the President to keep open production lines for the M-1 Abrams tank and the Bradley Fighting Vehicle. As our nation goes through an Armed Forces reduction, protecting critical industries such as U.S. combat vehicle is imperative. Maintaining a modest and continuous Abrams production line is necessary to persevering superior battlefield capabilities. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Martin Dempsey said, "capability is more important than size." I agree. In April, I signed onto a letter to Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta expressing that sentiment.

H.R. 5856 maintains our military superiority by continuing the research and development of current and future military equipment. This bill provides \$5.9 billion for procurement of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. Provides \$2.6 billion

for procurement of modified F-18 Super Hornets, which is \$562 million and 11 aircraft more than the President's request. Also, provides \$1.8 billion to develop the KC-46A, the Air Force's next-generation aerial refueling aircraft.

This bill also provides \$250 million above the President's request for the Rapid Innovation Fund. This will continue the efforts started by the Armed Services Committee in fiscal year 2011 to promote innovative research in defense technologies among small businesses. H.R. 5856 includes \$519 million for the Cooperative Threat Reduction program, known as Nunn-Lugar, to assist in the denuclearization and demilitarization of the states of the former Soviet Union.

Finally, let me note my opposition to a number of provisions in this bill. This bill provides no funding for the Medium Extended Air Defense Systems (MEADS) program, which is a joint U.S.-German-Italian effort planned to replace Hawk and Patriot systems worldwide by 2018. Provides \$118 million less than the President request for necessary F-22 warplane modifications. Reduces the Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund (DAWDF) by \$224 million from the fiscal year 2013 budget.

Mr. Chair, this bill is based upon a \$1.028 trillion discretionary spending cap for fiscal year 2013, which is \$19 billion below the \$1.047 trillion discretionary spending cap agreed to in the bipartisan Budget Control Act. With my colleagues across the aisle squeezing our discretionary spending, they are hampering our ability to support many key national security priorities.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support and join me in voting for the bill on final passage.

A TRIBUTE TO MASTER POLICE OFFICER JEREMIAH GOODSON

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Master Police Officer Jeremiah Goodson of Lumberton, North Carolina, had his life taken from him while protecting his community on July 17, 2012. Officer Goodson had served on the City of Lumberton Police Department since 2006, and is the first Lumberton Police officer to be killed in the line of duty in 76 years. Officer Goodson will be remembered by all those whose lives he touched as the finest example of bravery, honor, and public service.

Officer Goodson, a native of Lumberton, worked selflessly to make a positive difference in his community. In addition to his service with the Lumberton Police Department, Officer Goodson was also a member of the police force's Gang Unit and served as a Resource Officer at Lumberton High School. Officer Goodson's colleagues at the Police Department spoke of Goodson as a personable officer and a great person who never met a stranger. Students at Lumberton High School recall Goodson as a good, loving, gentle person who will be remembered for doing his work diligently and cheerfully.

Over his lifetime, Officer Goodson earned countless friends because of his readiness

with a lighthearted joke or kind word. Because of his six years of service with the police department and his friendly personality, Officer Goodson had one of the most respected and recognizable faces in his community.

He was so widely admired within his community that the celebration of his life was held at Lumberton High School to better serve the huge amount of people attending to honor and remember him. The outpouring of grief from the Lumberton community is a testament to a life well-lived, and one that ended too soon.

Above all, Officer Goodson will be missed by his family and friends. He was the son of Bettie and Jerry Goodson, a brother to Isis and Joshua Goodson, the loving husband of Lametria Goodson and father to their children, Jurnee Amiah Goodson, Tyrin Hueston, and Josiah Malachi Goodson. Though their sorrow must run deep, we hope they may take comfort in knowing that this man is a hero to his community and he will rest in peace with his Savior. May God bless his family, and may we always keep in remembrance the life of Master Police Officer Jeremiah Goodson.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, on roll-call No. 503 had I been present, I would have voted "no."

RECOGNIZING PATRICK VAN GRINSVEN

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Patrick Van Grinsven, a vital member of my staff for over the past 3 years.

Friday, July 20th was Pat's last day serving the people of the Illinois Fifth Congressional District. He has served with distinction since June 2008 when he joined the staff of my predecessor in office, the Honorable Rahm Emanuel. In April 2009, after I was sworn in, Pat joined my staff as a Legislative Correspondent and now departs as a Legislative Assistant.

Pat began his career in public service when he became an intern in the office of his hometown Congressman, the Honorable Rahm Emanuel. Pat quickly moved up and in late 2008 he was promoted to Staff Assistant. After Congressman Emanuel left to become President Obama's Chief of Staff and I was elected as his successor, Pat joined my office as a Legislative Correspondent to continue serving the Fifth District. Pat managed all my constituent correspondence—an exceptionally difficult task amidst the controversy of the 111th Congress. In 2010, I promoted Pat to Legislative Assistant and since then he has handled some of my highest priority issues including transportation, veterans, postal, and labor. As the longest-tenured staff member serving the Fifth District in Washington, DC, Pat will be sorely missed.

It has been a pleasure to work with Pat over the past 3 years. He is passionate and serious about his work and he has a great sense of humor, an underrated trait in Congress. As a native Chicagoan, Pat is an ardent supporter of the Cubs, Bulls, Blackhawks, and Bears. We will also miss his devotion to soccer or, as I like to call it, weed hockey.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Pat the best of luck as he begins a master's program at the School of Advanced International Studies at the Johns Hopkins University. I thank him for his service to the Illinois Fifth Congressional District.

SEMINOLE HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to join with the students, faculty, staff and past graduates of Seminole High School in celebrating its 50th anniversary.

Located in Seminole, Florida, Seminole High is an institution with students who excel, not only in the classroom, but in the arts and sports as well. It was established in 1962 to meet the pressing need for a high school in the rapidly growing Seminole area. Now, 50 remarkable years later, this comprehensive public school, that I have the privilege of representing, has quite a history, which would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of the students, teachers, and faculty alike, who have devoted their time and energy into making Seminole High School what it is today.

Home to several National Merit Scholars and the three-time winner of the "St. Petersburg Times' All Sports Award" for best athletic programs in the Tampa Bay area, it is no wonder that Seminole High is a seven-time winner of the Florida Department of Education's Five Star School Award, which is presented to schools that have "shown evidence of exemplary community involvement." Seminole High School's academic record also has received special attention as it exceeds the state average with a higher graduation rate than most other schools, not only in its district, but in the entire State of Florida.

With such a gifted student body, this school has many famous alumni ranging from professional football players, Olympic swimmers, a Miss America, and my wife, Beverly. The Seminole Warhawk marching band has performed in famous events such as the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City, as well as the Rose Bowl Parade, which they are due to participate in for the second time this New Year's Day.

With half a century of history and a record of sterling accomplishments, it is no surprise that Seminole High School has progressed from what was once only a simple two-building complex in the 1960s, to a superior academic and athletic high school that it is today. It is due to the extraordinary faculty, and of course, the talented student body that has allowed Seminole High School to excel for 50 years. Certainly, Seminole High has much to be proud of and I look forward to seeing what successes they will achieve over the next 50 years.

IN MEMORIAM AND REMEMBRANCE OF SYLVIA WOODS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness, but also great pride, that I rise today to share a few words about Sylvia Woods, founder of Sylvia's Restaurant in Harlem, who passed away on Thursday, July 19, 2012. Ms. Woods was a local hero and a world renowned restaurateur, but also a dear personal friend; her death marks a devastating loss to Harlem and the greater New York City community, and she will be sorely missed. On behalf of the Harlem community, my wife Alma and I extend our sincere and heartfelt support, love, and sympathy to Ms. Sylvia's entire family.

Ms. Sylvia was an exceptional woman whose extraordinary work ethic and wonderful character should serve as a model for all Americans. Her life epitomized the American dream. Growing up on a farm in Hemingway, South Carolina, she began working in the field as a young girl and then made her way to New York in search of opportunity. After working as a teenager in a Queens hat factory for several years, she began working as a waitress at a luncheonette in Harlem.

This would mark the beginning of her fortuitous journey to the center of Harlem society. Ms. Sylvia would eventually purchase that luncheonette and, with hard work and patience, transform the small restaurant into a commercial empire boasting a catering service, banquet hall, and a nationally distributed line of prepared foods. Her farm to fame journey should remind us all of the great opportunity this country represents, and the hard work necessary to achieve it.

But Ms. Sylvia's success was as much a result of her charming personality as it was of her work ethic. She was a dynamic, warm, and kind woman who greeted every customer with a friendly and inviting smile. Her incredible hospitality and personable nature were symbolic of Harlem's rich communal character, and for that she was beloved. Her energetic personality attracted local and national politicians, international celebrities, tourists, and ordinary neighborhood residents, and created an environment so comfortable that it naturally became the social center of our community.

I want to thank Ms. Sylvia for her decades of service to our community, and for the many personal memories that I will cherish forever. Thank you for creating such a special, magical place at the soul of Harlem. Nothing can replace you, but your legacy will live on forever in our hearts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in mourning Ms. Sylvia Woods' passing. It is my hope that her example will serve as a testament that, with hard work and genuine character, we can achieve our greatest dreams.

FEDERAL RESERVE TRANSPARENCY AND POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, in response to the recession and financial crisis, the Federal Reserve had to take a variety of unorthodox measures to stabilize our credit markets and resuscitate the economy. Many in Congress have felt uneasy as the Fed took emergency actions to rescue individual companies and launched a variety of new credit facilities for an increasing number of banks, financial institutions and even investors. I share this unease and I believe that Congress should have the ability to gather information about the Fed's actions. That is why I voted in favor of H.R. 459, the Federal Reserve Transparency Act.

However, I do want to register my caution about opening up the Fed's monetary policy deliberations and actions to a government audit as it could erode the Fed's political independence. Even the appearance of politicians gaining some measure of influence over monetary policy decisions could have disastrous consequences. Political independence is not simply a luxury for our central bank. It is a core principle of good economic policy that yields real benefits for the American people. A number of empirical studies have shown that countries with independent central banks tend to have steadier economic growth and low and stable rates of inflation. This is not surprising. Just as politicians involved in fiscal policy have a bias toward greater spending, monetary policy influenced by politics would have a bias toward looser credit over the short term and therefore higher rates of inflation over the longer term. Financial markets would immediately recognize this and push up our borrowing rates and weaken our currency.

Congress should strive for robust oversight of the Fed, but it must guard against political interference. In the end, an independent Federal Reserve with a clear and focused mandate is the best way to achieve the desirable ends of sustainable economic growth, job creation, and low inflation.

FEDERAL RESERVE TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, while I fully believe that the Federal Reserve is in need of greater transparency and accountability, I rise in opposition to this bill, which I believe approaches the issue in a problematic way. I want to be clear that the Fed should not take my vote against this bill as a vote of confidence.

In order for the Federal Reserve to function properly as an independent central bank, I believe that its monetary policy functions must be independent of pressure from Congress, which would be jeopardized by a GAO audit of

the Fed's monetary policy. We've seen recently the harmful impact that congressional pressure can have on the Fed's monetary policy even without this audit, such as Republican members of Congress urging the Fed to take no further actions to rescue the economy, which is why I bring to my colleagues' attention the below column by former Federal Reserve Vice Chairman, Alan Blinder, in which he points out additional options for the Fed to tackle the elevated unemployment rate that are not being used.

That said, it is clear that cultural change is needed at the Federal Reserve, which has too often put the needs of America's biggest banks ahead of the interests of the American public. As just the latest example, JP Morgan Chase CEO, Jamie Dimon, has refused to resign from the board of the New York Federal Reserve Bank, despite the fact that the New York Fed is investigating misbehavior at JPMorgan Chase's Chief Investment Office that contributed to its recent multi-billion dollar trading loss.

Furthermore, I strongly supported a provision in the Dodd-Frank Act that has increased transparency at the Fed, providing for an audit of the emergency financial assistance provided by the Fed during the financial crisis, as well as requiring the Fed to release information going forward about parties participating in emergency lending programs and the details of those transactions. The bill also importantly limited the power of bankers like Mr. Dimon who serve on the boards of regional Federal Reserve Banks.

There is one aspect of today's bill that I strongly support, the provision of this bill added in committee by Mr. CUMMINGS, which provides for an audit of the Independent Foreclosure Review, which has been grossly mismanaged by the Fed and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and does not appear to be on track to provide appropriate compensation to homeowners who were abused. I believe that the Fed needs to know that their role is to look out for the American public, and I hope they hear that loud and clear today.

HOW BERNANKE CAN GET BANKS LENDING AGAIN

(By Alan S. Blinder)

If the Fed reduces the reward for holding excess reserves, banks will have to find something else to do with their money, like making loans or putting it in the capital markets.

The U.S. economy could use another boost, and it won't come from fiscal policy. Can the Federal Reserve provide it?

Chairman Ben Bernanke keeps insisting that the central bank is not out of ammunition, and in a literal sense he is right. After all, the Fed has not yet exhausted its bag of tricks. It is still twisting the yield curve. It can purchase more assets. It can tell us that its federal funds target interest rate will remain 0-25 basis points beyond late 2014. It can even nudge the funds rate down within that range. The operational question is: How powerful are any of these weapons?

Let's start with Operation Twist, which was recently extended through the end of this year. The Fed seeks to flatten the yield curve by buying longer-term Treasuries and selling shorter-term ones. And it's probably succeeding—a bit. But Federal Reserve activity in the Treasury markets is modest

compared with the vast volume of trading. Realistically, the U.S. yield curve is probably influenced far more by daily developments in Europe. In any case, the Fed will be out of short-term Treasuries to sell by December.

The logical next step would be more quantitative easing—QE3—or, as the Fed likes to call it, more large-scale asset purchases. Purchases of what? There are two main choices. One is Treasuries. But does anyone really think that lower U.S. Treasury rates are what this country needs?

Mortgage-backed securities (MBS) are a better choice, the idea being to reduce mortgage rates by shrinking the spread between MBS and Treasuries. But mortgage rates are already falling toward 3.5%. With 10-year expected inflation around 2.1%, can a 1.4% real interest rate be deterring many prospective home buyers? No, they are shut out of the market by the unavailability of credit. Posted rates are low, but try getting a mortgage.

The third available weapon is what the Fed calls “forward guidance”—that is, indicating (please don't say promising!) that the 0-25 basis points funds rate will be maintained for years to come. The Fed's current guidance (please don't call it a pledge!) extends “at least through late 2014.” While that's pretty far into the future, the Fed could stretch it to 2015, 2016 or 2025 for that matter.

In rational models, the yield curve should flatten a bit every time the Fed pushes that date out further. But the key words here are “rational” and “a bit.” To most bond traders, two and a half years is already an eternity. Would they really respond much if 2015 replaced 2014?

This brief analysis paints a pretty grim picture: The Fed has three weak weapons, one of which will be exhausted by year's end.

Fortunately, there is more the Fed can do. I have two out-of-the-box suggestions to make, one in today's column and another in a companion piece soon.

The simpler option is one I've been urging on the Fed for more than two years: Lower the interest rate paid on excess reserves. The basic idea is simple. If the Fed reduces the reward for holding excess reserves, banks will hold less of them—which means they will have to find something else to do with the money, such as lending it out or putting it in the capital markets.

The Fed sees this as a radical change. But remember that it paid no interest on reserves before the 2008 crisis and, not surprisingly, banks held practically no excess reserves then. In early October of that year, Congress gave the Fed authority to pay interest on reserves, which it promptly started doing. When the Fed trimmed the federal funds rate to its current 0-25 basis-point range in December 2008, it also lowered the interest rate on reserves to 25 basis points, where it has been ever since.

My suggestion is to push it lower in two stages. First, test the waters by cutting the interest on excess reserves (in Fedpeak, the “IOER”) to zero. Then, if nothing goes wrong, drop it to, say, minus-25 basis points—that is, charge banks a fee for holding their money at the Fed. Doing so would provide a powerful incentive for banks to disgorge some of their idle reserves. True, most of the money would probably find its way into short-term money-market instruments such as fed funds, T-bills and commercial paper. But some would probably flow into increased lending, which is just what the economy needs.

The Fed has steadfastly opposed this idea for years. Why? One objection is true but silly: Lowering the IOER might not be a very

powerful instrument. No kidding. Are there a lot of powerful instruments sitting around unused?

The other objection is that making the IOER zero or negative would push other money-market rates even closer to zero than they are now, thereby hurting money-market funds and otherwise impeding the functioning of money markets. My answer two years ago was that we have more important things to worry about. My answer today is that it has mostly happened anyway: U.S. money-market rates are negligible.

It is noteworthy that the European Central Bank just jumped ahead of the Fed by cutting the rate it pays on bank deposits to zero—and European money markets did not die. Denmark's National Bank went even further, dropping its deposit rate to minus 20 basis points. Yet the Little Mermaid still sits in Copenhagen harbor.

The Fed's hostility toward lowering the interest on excess reserves is almost self-contradictory. When Mr. Bernanke lists the weapons the Fed plans to use when the time comes to tighten monetary policy, he always gives raising the IOER a prominent role. His reasoning is straightforward and sound: If the Fed makes holding reserves more attractive, banks will hold more of them. Why doesn't the same reasoning apply in the other direction?

But suppose it doesn't work. Suppose the Fed cuts the IOER from 25 basis points to minus 25 basis points, and banks don't lend one penny more. In that case, the Fed stops paying banks almost \$4 billion a year in interest and, instead, starts collecting roughly equal fees from banks.

That would be almost an \$8 billion swing from banks to taxpayers. There are worse things.

Mr. Blinder, a professor of economics and public affairs at Princeton University, is a former vice chairman of the Federal Reserve.

ELEANOR LOGAN, LONDON 2012
OLYMPIC ATHLETE

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to highlight the outstanding accomplishments of a young woman from Maine's First District.

Eleanor Logan has been rowing since 2003. She has shown true dedication to the sport in her training and competition, and has won numerous awards for her rowing, both nationally and internationally. After winning gold in the 8-person shell at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, she set her sights on completing her undergraduate degree from Stanford University while also training for the 2012 U.S. Olympic Team. And now, within weeks, she will be representing our nation in the London Olympics.

I'm very proud to highlight Eleanor's success. She is a shining example of what can be accomplished with opportunity and commitment. Successfully balancing education and training, she has worked tremendously hard to achieve her Olympic dreams.

As Eleanor continues on her journey as an athlete and a leader, she is enabling Maine to shine on the international stage, as well.

Go Team USA!

HONORING DEBRA MALINA, PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Debra Malina, CRNA, DNSc, MBA. Ms. Malina will soon complete her year as national president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA). I am very pleased that Ms. Malina was tapped as the 2011–2012 President of this prestigious national organization.

Founded in 1931, the AANA is the professional organization that represents more than 44,000 practicing Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) and Student Nurse Anesthetists who will become CRNAs. CRNAs are advanced practice registered nurses who administer approximately 32 million anesthetics to patients each year. They work in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered, including hospital surgical suites and obstetrical delivery rooms, ambulatory surgical centers, and the offices of dentists, podiatrists, and all types of specialty surgeons. They also provide acute and chronic pain management services to patients in need of such care. CRNAs provide anesthesia for all types of surgical cases and, in some states, are the sole anesthesia providers in 100% of rural hospitals, ensuring that these facilities can offer their communities obstetrical, surgical, and trauma stabilization services.

The American Association of Nurse Anesthetists is headquartered in my district, and President Malina has served the association extremely well and helped to improve health care for all Americans. A CRNA for 15 years, Ms. Malina received her doctorate in nursing science from the University of Tennessee in Memphis, Tennessee, and her master's degree in business administration from Madison University in Gulfport, Mississippi. Additionally, she earned her master's degree in anesthesiology from Barry University in Miami Shores, Florida and a bachelor's degree in nursing from Florida International University in Miami.

In addition to her current service as AANA President, Ms. Malina has held various leadership positions in the AANA, including President-elect, Treasurer, Region 2 Director, and member of the Finance Committee. Ms. Malina has also served as the AANA Association Management Services director. In addition, she is a former president of the Tennessee Association of Nurse Anesthetists and has served on numerous committees on the state and national levels. She was also an advanced practice nursing member of the Tennessee Board of Nursing.

Adding to her professional accomplishments, Ms. Malina has effectively used her experience in education and CRNA practice to inform the public about the safety, value and cost-effectiveness of CRNA care. During her AANA Presidency, Ms. Malina has played important roles in advocating for the practice of nurse anesthesia and its patients before Medicare and other federal agencies and with members of the Congress of the United States. She has worked tirelessly to promote the facts that CRNAs help make healthcare work better and cost less.

Let me give just two examples of her leadership. The Institute of Medicine reports that 100 million Americans suffer from chronic intractable pain, which costs more than two-thirds of a trillion dollars each year in medical and economic costs. Ms. Malina has demonstrated leadership in urging Medicare to restore direct reimbursement for pain management services provided by CRNAs—a move that will improve care for patients and reduce unnecessary costs. Ms. Malina and her national organization were also crucial in supporting provisions included in the recently-enacted Food and Drug Administration user fee reauthorization to combat critical shortages of anesthesia and other drugs.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the outgoing President of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, Ms. Debra Malina, CRNA, DNSc, MBA, for her notable career and outstanding achievements.

SOUTHERN PINES IS AN ALL-AMERICA CITY

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, we are excited to report that a city in the Sixth District of North Carolina has been nationally cited for its efforts to promote literacy. This is a prime example of where hard work pays off for Southern Pines, North Carolina. The plan to improve reading through the resources of a coalition of business, government and civic leaders has resulted in Southern Pines being named as an All-America City.

Due to Southern Pines' development of a sensible and sustainable plan to increase grade-level reading proficiency by the end of the third grade, the National Civic League presented Southern Pines with the prestigious All-America City award on July 2, 2012, during the Grade-Level Reading Communities Network Conference and All-America City Award celebration. Southern Pines Library Director Lynn Thompson and her husband Bob Howell, Boys and Girls Club Executive Director Caroline Eddy, as well as PineStraw Magazine's Cos Barnes, accepted the award while representing Southern Pines during the conference in Denver.

With the efforts of leaders in the community such as The Country Bookshop, Southern Pines Public Library, and Boys and Girls Club expanding their summer reading programs, they have renewed the enthusiasm for elementary literacy. "I think the award recognizes what a great community this is to live in," Mayor David McNeill told The Pilot. "I congratulate everyone who has worked so hard on this project, but the kids are the real winners. The efforts that they will put forth to improve their reading skills will benefit them for a lifetime."

Deserving thanks and credit for their hard work and effort towards elementary literacy include Southern Pines Public Library, Boys and Girls Clubs of Sandhills, Moore County Chamber of Commerce, Moore County Literacy Council, Moore County NAACP, Partners for Children and Families, Sandhills Children's Center, and United Way of Moore County.

Also deserving recognition for this prestigious award is Southern Pines Town Manager Reagan Parsons.

On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate Southern Pines for being named as an All-America City. The city called its campaign, "Southern Pines Grows Great Leaders," and we are thrilled that the National Civic League agrees with us that Southern Pines is a great place to learn and live.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$15,882,491,122,065.69. We've added \$5,255,614,073,152.61 to our debt in just over 3 years. This is debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN RECOGNITION OF ERIC UPTAGRAFFT PARTICIPATING IN THE 2012 OLYMPICS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Sgt. 1st Class Eric Uptagrafft. Eric will participate in the 2012 Olympics in London.

Uptagrafft, of Phenix City, Alabama, is the rifle instructor for the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit. He competed in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics finishing 30th. Uptagrafft spent seven years engineering a new rifle with gunsmiths and through the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit's custom firearms unit.

Uptagrafft's wife, Sandra, will also be participating in the 2012 London Olympics. The couple will celebrate their anniversary while in London on August 5th.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my congratulations to Eric and best wishes to him and his wife in the Olympics and a happy anniversary.

DR. JOHN EVANS ATTA MILLS

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Dr. John Evans Atta Mills, President of the Republic of Ghana. I was saddened to hear about the untimely death of President Mills. My thoughts, prayers and condolences go to his wife, family and the people of Ghana. The World has lost a leader, visionary and champion for democracy.

President Mills pledged his life to education and the betterment of his beloved Ghana. He

was born in July 1944 in the Western Region of Ghana. He was a master student who began his schooling at the revered Achimota Secondary School in Accra. He later went on to earn his bachelors and law degrees from the University of Ghana at Legon in 1967. Upon the completion of his PhD in African and Oriental Studies from the University of London, President Mills was selected as a Fulbright Scholar at Stanford University School of Law.

After setting a strong foundation he returned home to educate and impart his lessons on the youth. President Mills dedicated nearly twenty five years to higher academia as a professor in numerous areas such as law, tax and African studies. He was passionate about teaching and politics. First serving in the capacity of Vice President from 1997 through 2001, Dr. Mills was sworn in as President and Commander in Chief of the Republic of Ghana in January of 2009.

I join with President Obama and various world leaders as we remember President Mills, who was often referred to as a calm politician and gentle giant. In 2009, President Obama and the First Family traveled to Ghana in his first presidential visit to Sub-Saharan Africa. President Obama praised President Mills for making Ghana a "good news story" that had good democratic credentials. Under the leadership of President Mills, the United States and Ghana deepened our partnership in the promotion of good governance and economic development.

President John Evan Atta Mills is credited with leading Ghana through a period of stability and economic growth in the midst of unforeseen global circumstances. He is quoted in saying "Every Leader has a period of service". Though his service has come to an unexpected end, as we reflect upon his life and legacy, we can appreciate his tireless efforts that have come to fruition. A shining star in West Africa, Ghana was and still remains a trailblazing nation for the region and continent, with its strong tradition of democracy.

SHINING STARS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last month I had the honor and the privilege to be among our community's proudest at the Kingwood Fallen Heroes Memorial Golf Tournament. Folks teed off to honor three of our local fallen heroes from the Kingwood community: Sergeant William Meeuwsen, Lance Corporal Luke Yepsen and Sergeant Brandon Bury. The money raised at the tournament goes back to veterans through the local Houston Area Chapter of the Blue Star Moms as well as several other military related organizations. This was the first year friends and family organized a golf tournament and they were able to raise \$80,000; donating \$30,000 to our local Blue Star moms. What a way to give back to those who have sacrificed so much—including the Blue Star mom.

The Blue Star Mothers Organization began as a Veteran Service Organization to provide care packages to military serving overseas and offer assistance to their families here at

home. In 1960, the United States Congress chartered the Blue Star Mothers of America as a Veterans Service Organization and they have dutifully kept this organization going strong by supporting families awaiting their child's safe return or consoling those whose sons or daughters who gave their lives for our freedom.

All mothers have that special sparkle about them when they talk about their children, but there is something different in the twinkle when you talk to a mother whose child has gone off to war. One of the toughest parts of being your Congressman is to talk to moms and dads that have lost a child in action. It is a grief I cannot fully relate to and one we all pray we never know. But their courage and their understanding of their child's sacrifice is powerful and inspiring. Every Blue Star mother knows that in a split second their lives can change forever and their Blue Star banner can turn to Gold.

During World War I, if a son had gone off to war in the War to End All Wars, as it was called, a banner was hung in front of the home in the window for each son in the military. This banner had a blue star in the center of it. If the son was killed, a gold star was superimposed over the blue one.

This concept was created by Grace Seibold on Christmas Eve 1918 upon learning that her aviator son was killed in aerial combat in France. Ms. Seibold directed her grief and sorrow to helping the wounded in local D.C. hospitals and formed the Gold Star Mothers to give support for other such moms.

During World War II, my Grandmother Poe hung such a banner with a blue star in the front window of her home in the country. My dad went off to war when he was just 18. When my grandmother died, it was one of the few items she had saved. That banner never had to have a gold star placed on it because my dad returned safely. These banners have been carried throughout all of America's wars since World War I.

As a father of four, I can think of nothing worse than to lose one of my children. No parent wants their son or daughter killed in unknown foreign lands. No parent wants their child to predecease them and no parent wants their child to die in their youth. But it happens, and the grief can only be understood by other such parents.

Mothers are special, particularly the mothers of those who wear the American uniform. It seems to me the strongest bond in all of creation is the bond between a mother and her child. The good Lord made it that way on purpose, and when that bond is broken by the loss of a child, that wound just never heals.

One out of every ten people in the military is from the State of Texas. Roughly 10 percent of the total killed in Iraq and Afghanistan has been Texans. Yet sons and daughters throughout America, and especially Texas, continue to join our military knowing that they will no doubt go into the desert of the sun and the valley of the gun, and they leave behind their parents, their mothers.

So as we show honor and respect to America's children who serve, let us show American compassion and ultimate gratitude for the mothers of those troops who display the Blue and Gold Star sacrifice from their windows. And the next time we pass a house with one of these stars maybe we should stop and say a prayer and say "thank you" because of that

special mother who gave that child for the rest of us.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRESSIONAL REPLACEMENT OF PRESIDENT OBAMA'S EN- ERGY-RESTRICTING AND JOB- LIMITING OFFSHORE DRILLING PLAN

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6082) to officially replace, within the 60-day Congressional review period under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, President Obama's Proposed Final Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Leasing Program (2012-2017) with a congressional plan that will conduct additional oil and natural gas lease sales to promote offshore energy development, job creation, and increased domestic energy production to ensure a more secure energy future in the United States, and for other purposes:

Mr. STARK. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 6082, the so-called "Congressional Replacement of President Obama's Energy-Restricting and Job-Limiting Offshore Drilling Plan." This bill opens up nearly every last piece of our public lands to drilling, giving even more to Big Oil. The bill would require oil and gas leasing off the East Coast, from Maine to South Carolina, off of Southern California and in the important fishery of Bristol Bay off Alaska. It opens up California's coastline to oil and gas companies as early as 2013. If this bill were to become law, areas that have previously been deemed off limits to oil development by state governments would be put up for lease.

This bill also fails to secure safety reforms for offshore drilling, nor does it ensure that oil companies are paying their fair share to drill on public lands. The California Coastline is an international treasure and is one of the primary drivers of our state's economy. We must protect our coastlines and the vital ecosystems they embody. We cannot place it at risk of an oil spill or give it away to reckless, profit-seeking oil companies. We cannot and will not drill our way to energy independence. Continuing to make our cars more efficient, investing in clean and renewable energy, ending subsidies and tax breaks for the fossil fuel industry, and putting a price on carbon emissions is how we can obtain a secure and sustainable energy future.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this senseless and harmful legislation by joining me in voting "no."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE REOPEN- ING OF ST. JAMES CHURCH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of St. James' Church, one of the 11

Cleveland Catholic Diocese parishes that will be reopening this year.

In 2009 it was announced that several of the Cleveland Catholic Diocese's area churches, including St. Barbara's, were to close. However, just months ago, the Vatican overruled this decision and St. James' will be reopening its doors on Wednesday, July 25, 2012.

St. James Church was founded in 1908 as the founding parish for the cities of Lakewood and Rocky River. For more than a century, St. James has been a house of worship and gathering for the Catholic residents of Lakewood, Ohio.

After Bishop Lennon's 2009 announcement parishioners gathered together and formed Friends of Saint James/Save Saint James in an effort to stop the closing of their church. The members of Friends of Saint James/Save Saint James are committed to the preservation of Saint James as a parish and an architecturally significant structure in the City of Lakewood. They have dedicated themselves to the development of a long range financial plan for capital improvements and maintenance of the church and its programs.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the reopening of St. James' Church, a beloved parish that has returned to the City of Lakewood.

HONORING DR. JOHN EVANS ATTA
MILLS

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Dr. John Evans Atta Mills, President of the Republic of Ghana. I was saddened to hear about the untimely death of President Mills. My thoughts, prayers and condolences go to his wife, Ernestina Naadu, son, Samuel Kofi Atta Mills and the people of Ghana. The world has lost a leader, visionary and champion for democracy.

President Mills pledged his life to education and the betterment of his beloved Ghana. He was born in July 1944 in the Western Region of Ghana. He was a master student who began his schooling at the revered Achimota Secondary School in Accra. He later went on to earn his bachelors and law degrees from the University of Ghana at Legon in 1967. Upon the completion of his PhD in African and Oriental Studies from the University of London, President Mills was selected as a Fulbright Scholar at Stanford University School of Law.

After setting a strong foundation he returned home to educate and impart his lessons on the youth. President Mills dedicated nearly 25 years to higher academia as a professor in numerous areas such as law, tax and African studies. He was passionate about teaching and politics. First serving in the capacity of Vice President from 1997 through 2001, Dr. Mills was sworn in as President and Commander in Chief of the Republic of Ghana in January of 2009.

I join with President Obama and various world leaders as we remember President Mills, who was often referred to as a calm politician and gentle giant. In 2009, President

Obama and the First Family traveled to Ghana in his first presidential visit to Sub-Saharan Africa. President Obama praised President Mills for making Ghana a "good news story" that had good democratic credentials. Under the leadership of President Mills, the United States and Ghana deepened our partnership in the promotion of good governance and economic development.

President John Evan Atta Mills is credited with leading Ghana through a period of stability and economic growth in the midst of unforeseen global circumstances. He is quoted as saying "Every leader has a period of service". Though his service has come to an unexpected end, as we reflect upon his life and legacy, we can appreciate his tireless efforts that have come to fruition. A shining star in West Africa, Ghana was and still remains a trailblazing nation for the region and continent, with its strong tradition of democracy. Epitomizing humility in leadership, President Mills was a calming and stabilizing force for not only his people but the continent as a whole.

HONORING MAYOR BETTY ANN
MATTHIES

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retiring Mayor of the City of Seguin in Texas, Betty Ann Matthies. She was elected Mayor of the City of Seguin in 2004 and is ending her tenure in 2012. Her tireless efforts have improved the community and served to better the development and progress for the City of Seguin.

Mayor Matthies was born in Guadalupe County, Texas on September 23, 1934. She graduated from Seguin High School in 1953 and pursued her higher education degree at the University of Texas at Austin. Mayor Matthies graduated from Seton School of Nursing in Austin, Texas three years after graduating high school. As a registered nurse she was employed at the Nix Hospital for five years as an Operating Room Registered Nurse. By 1961, she moved to Seguin where she worked at the Guadalupe Valley Hospital until 2004—serving the patients and health care community for 41 years. As Director of Nursing, she was promoted to Associate Administrator by 1978, the same year she received her certificate in Health Care Administration from Trinity University in San Antonio.

By 2000, Matthies was elected to the Seguin City Council and re-elected for a four year term in 2002. After resigning from her council position she was elected as Mayor in 2004 and is currently on her second term in office, which expires in November 2012. I had the pleasure of working with the Mayor on various projects, such as securing over \$850,000 in federal funding on landscape improvements throughout Seguin on Interstate Highway 10, US 90 and SH 123. The transportation improvement project started in 2009 and is nearly complete.

Along with helping the city in her work as Mayor, she was active in the community as serving on the Seguin Area Chamber of Commerce, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and American Legion Auxiliary. She was also a

member of the First United Methodist Church and Seguin Shakespeare Club. Mayor Matthies was married to her late husband C.H. Matthies Jr. in 1957 until his passing in 2000. C. Henry Matthies III, Elizabeth Kelly and Wesley Matthies are their children.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Ms. Betty Ann Matthies, retiring Mayor of the City of Seguin. Her years of dedication and commitment to our community have truly impacted the quality of lives for the people of the city.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on July 23, 2012, I was in California attending to family obligations. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On rollcall vote No. 499, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall vote No. 500, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall vote No. 501, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
CAPTAIN STANTON E. COPE IN
THE UNITED STATES NAVY

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I have the distinct privilege of rising to honor an outstanding Hoosier for his patriotism and military service. CAPT Stanton E. Cope served with honor in the United States Navy from 1989–2012, where he served in the Medical Service Corps as entomologist for 20 years.

Captain Stanton Elijah Cope was born January 5, 1954 in Huntington, Indiana. In 1976, he graduated from Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania with a B.A. degree in Biology and received a Master of Science degree in Entomology from the University of Delaware in 1981. In 1988, he completed his Doctorate in Public Health at the University of California, Los Angeles, and was commissioned in the United States Navy.

Captain Cope's first assignment, in 1989, was to the Navy Disease Vector Ecology and Control Center, Jacksonville, Florida, where he served as the Head of the Operations Department. In June 1992, he reported to the Naval Medical Research Unit No. 3, Cairo, Egypt, where he served as Head, Medical Zoology Division and Head, Risk Assessment Branch. In July 1994, Captain Cope reported to the Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit No. 6, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, as Assistant Head, Department of Entomology and became Head in August 1995. He also served as Special Assistant to the Officer in Charge for Operational Issues. In August 1997, he reported to the Navy Environmental Health Center in Norfolk, Virginia as Entomology Department Head. In January 2000, he was selected to be Executive Assistant to the Assistant

Chief for Operational Medicine and Fleet Support, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Washington, DC. Captain Cope served as the Executive Officer, Naval Institute for Dental and Biomedical Research, Great Lakes, Illinois from September 2001–August 2004, at which time he fleeted up to Commanding Officer. He also served as the Surgeon General's Specialty Leader for Navy Entomology August 2002–May 2004. In August 2006, Captain Cope reported to the Armed Forces Pest Management Board as Research Liaison Officer. In August 2008 he took over as Director.

During his tenure as the Director, Captain Cope distinguished himself by superior service. He organized his workforce into three divisions: Operations, Research and Information Services, aligning the AFPMB to increase efficiency and enhance direct warfighter support. He was directly responsible for superior improvements to installation pest management and insect-borne disease prevention programs resulting in increased readiness and warfighter protection. During this period, he demonstrated the highest levels of leadership, initiative and dedication to duty. As a result, his leadership of DoD pest management received international recognition for contributions to the global public health community for their work on the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI).

Furthermore, in support of U.S. allies, Captain Cope reestablished liaison with North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) counterparts to foster effective and efficient multi-national medical entomology, preventive medicine and pest management collaborations during contingency operations. Through NATO's Force Health Protection Working Group, he secured updates in the U.S. section to Standardization Agreement 2048, Chemical Methods of Insect and Rodent Control, which provided NATO members with information on pesticides that the U.S. may use during NATO operations.

Captain Cope's passion stayed with him after he left the service, as he maintains membership in the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, the American Mosquito Control Association and the Society for Vector Ecology. He is currently serving as the Director of the AMCA, Mid-Atlantic Region and serves on the board of Armed Forces Pest Management in Silver Spring, MD. In addition, he has presented at meetings, authored or co-authored over 70 scientific publications and holds an Adjunct Assistant Professorship at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

Captain Cope is married to infectious disease epidemiologist Amyanne N. Keswani of St. Peter, Minnesota. They have a daughter, Kemmer Keswani and a son, Stanton Elijah.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me now to thank Captain Stanton E. Cope for his service and sacrifices for our country.

13TH DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL FIRE AND RESCUE AND EMS AWARDS (CFREA)

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize fire and rescue and EMS per-

sonnel who have provided distinguished service to the people of Florida's 13th Congressional District.

As first responders, fire departments and emergency medical service teams are summoned on short notice to serve their respective communities. Oftentimes, they arrive at scenes of great adversity and trauma, to which they reliably bring strength and composure. These brave men and women spend hundreds of hours in training so that they are prepared when they get 'the call.'

This year, I established the 13th District Congressional Fire and Rescue and EMS Awards to honor officers, departments, and units for outstanding achievement.

On behalf of the people of Florida's 13th District, it is my privilege to congratulate the following winners, who were selected by an independent committee comprised of a cross section of current and retired fire and rescue personnel living in the district.

Lieutenant Timothy Geer of the Bradenton Fire Department received the Career Service Award.

The Englewood Area Fire Control District received the Community Safety Awareness Campaign Award.

Captain Tom Sousa of the West Manatee Fire Rescue District received the Career Service Award.

Training Officer Timothy Hyden of the East Manatee Fire Rescue District received the Career Service Award.

Firefighter Deborah Schuster of the Sarasota County Fire Department posthumously received the Dedication and Professionalism Award.

I offer my sincerest appreciation for the service and dedication of these exceptional individuals. I thank the fire departments that made such worthy nominations and the panel that reviewed them.

These awards truly are a necessary reminder of the men and women who risk their safety on a daily basis, bound to their duty to ensure our own.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 23 and Tuesday, July 24, 2012, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted:

"No" on vote No. 499 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2362, as amended);

"No" on vote No. 500 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 2039);

"Aye" on vote No. 501 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3477);

"No" on vote No. 502 (on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 738); and

"No" on vote No. 503 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 738).

HONORING UNITED STATES MARINE CAPTAINS MARK SILVERS AND SEAN GOBIN

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor U.S. Marine Captains Mark Silvers and Sean Gobin for their tremendous efforts on behalf of our nation's wounded warriors.

Everyday our men and women in uniform place themselves at great personal risk in order to defend our nation's freedom and security. Captain Silvers and Captain Gobin are two such heroes who decided to continue serving their fellow soldiers after their tours had ended. Moved by the number of service members returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan with debilitating injuries, the two men pledged their efforts to improve the lives of our nation's wounded warriors.

On March 15, 2012, Captain Silvers and Captain Gobin commenced a 2,180 mile hike of the Appalachian Trail to raise funds and awareness of the debilitating injuries our soldiers have suffered while in service to our country. Their journey will come to an end next week at the summit of Mount Katahdin in Baxter State Park. As they travelled through 14 states, Captain Silvers and Gobin have hosted a number of fundraisers at separate VFW posts on behalf of Operation Military Embrace; a nonprofit that advocates on behalf of wounded servicemembers. All of the proceeds from these events will be used to purchase adaptive vehicles for veterans who have sustained multiple amputations in the course of their service in Iraq or Afghanistan.

These men have set a remarkable example for what it means to serve our country. Operation Military Embrace and Warrior Hike remind us all of our enduring responsibility to honor and care for those who have sacrificed so much in defense of our freedom. As the Ranking Member on the Health Subcommittee of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I am pleased to join the chorus of congratulations celebrating the completion of these men's impressive journey.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Captain Silvers and Captain Gobin on achieving so much on behalf of our wounded veterans.

INTRODUCTION SAFETY AND FRAUD ENFORCEMENT FOR SEA- FOOD ACT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, in my home state of Massachusetts, commercial fishermen take pride in the product they bring to the dock. Whether they harvest cod, lobster, or scallops, these hardworking Americans provide consumers with superior quality seafood. Unfortunately, getting a fair price for this seafood has become a challenge. Competition from low quality imported fish and shellfish drives down prices, especially when these imports are passed off on consumers as higher value species.

Unfortunately, this occurs far too frequently. Last fall, an investigation by the Boston Globe found that 48 percent of the seafood it sampled from grocery stores and restaurants in the Boston area was not the species that was advertised. Subsequent investigations in Los Angeles and Miami this year produced similar results. These shocking revelations of seafood fraud have exposed a severe shortcoming in the ability of our nation to ensure the integrity of seafood products offered for sale, especially the 85 percent of those products that come from abroad.

In addition to problems with seafood fraud uncovered by these recent reports, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) reported last year that we are doing a terrible job ensuring that seafood imported into this country is safe for people to consume. GAO found that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which is responsible for ensuring seafood safety, inspects only 2 percent of seafood shipments, and that failure to coordinate with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Seafood Inspection Service has led to hundreds of redundant inspections. This unnecessary duplication of effort is unacceptable, especially as difficult fiscal circumstances have squeezed the budgets of both agencies.

The Safety And Fraud Enforcement for Seafood Act, or SAFE Seafood Act—which I am introducing today along with Mr. FRANK and Mr. KEATING of Massachusetts, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, and Mr. COURTNEY of Connecticut—addresses the seafood safety problem by ensuring that FDA and NOAA work together to maximize the frequency and effectiveness of seafood inspections, and to prevent unsafe seafood from entering the United States. In addition, it combats seafood fraud by requiring that information such as harvest location, production method, and species name of the seafood stays with that product from sea to sale. The SAFE Seafood Act accomplishes these goals by holding violators accountable with fines and import restrictions if they don't play by the rules.

American consumers have an expectation that the seafood they buy for their families is, in fact, the seafood that is advertised, and that it is safe for them to eat. Similarly, American fishermen, who comply with the most rigorous conservation and quality control standards anywhere in the world, should know they are competing on a level playing field, and not being undercut by an inferior foreign product. Fraudulent and unsafe seafood takes money from consumers and puts their health at risk. The SAFE Seafood Act is an important step toward reducing seafood fraud and increasing seafood safety. We owe it to American families and fishermen to address these problems immediately.

PUBLIC BROADCASTING FUNDING

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I understand that these are tough budget times and we have to make a lot of cuts if we're going to balance the budget. However, I also believe that we have to make every possible

effort to retain adequate levels of funding for public broadcasting.

This March, I signed letters to two Appropriations Subcommittees in an attempt to protect funding for public broadcasting. For decades, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) has aired educational programs and helped our children to learn to read, to understand basic math, and to engage in the study of science. It would be a shame to deny the next generation beneficial programs like Reading Rainbow, Sesame Street, and Bill Nye the Science Guy because of budget problems.

Public broadcasting is more than education though. Even as newspapers are sputtering, trying to compete with the internet, 38 million people still listen to National Public Radio (NPR) every week. In Alaska, many communities rely on public broadcasting. The majority of our state can be described as remote and many Alaskans get their news exclusively from a single radio or television station. Fourteen stations, nearly half of those in Alaska, are critically dependent on federal funding and would likely close their doors if they lost that money. This would effectively strand numerous Alaskan communities, leaving them cut off from any form of news or even emergency communications.

I support the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, National Public Radio, and the Public Telecommunications Facilities Program. Funding these programs is not just good for the country, it is vital.

THE TRUE COST OF COAL ACT OF 2012

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the True Cost of Coal Act of 2012 that protects the American taxpayer from bearing the costs of transporting coal for private companies to sell. If you were to listen to the coal companies, you would hear them decry the decline in domestic coal consumption. And while it is true that our domestic appetite for coal is waning, much of the rest of the world is still hungry for it.

U.S. coal producers and suppliers are considering the construction of up to 9 coal export terminals in Washington and Oregon. These terminals will have a combined annual export capacity of 170 million tons of coal. To put this in perspective, the U.S. exported just 26 million tons of coal in 2011. This sharp increase in coal exports will be transported primarily through Oregon and my home State of Washington. Without question, this staggering increase will have serious implications on the Northwest's environment, safety, commerce, and public health.

But what does it take to ship 170 million tons of coal through the Pacific Northwest annually? We're talking about a 1.5 mile long train packed with coal travelling thousands of times a year next to pristine waterfronts and through cities along the Puget Sound—each train spewing up to 500 pounds of toxic coal dust into the environment while increasing traffic on already congested rail tracks. These trains will run straight through the heart of my district, the city of Seattle, wreaking havoc on

people's health, the environment, commerce and shipping, and traffic. All of these costs will be endured for the sake of transporting coal that we get no benefit from.

And who will pay for this added cost? Without legislation like this, the taxpayers will pay the costs of mitigating the negative impacts of coal. As traffic increases, and public health risks are exacerbated, coal companies will continue to reap the profits of cheap coal, mined from public lands, and remain largely free from responsibility for any of the negative impacts. This means that States and local governments will need to raise taxes to pay for the additional crossings, the environmental cleanup, and increased health costs. It is time we opened our eyes to the true cost of coal.

This legislation would impose a 10 dollar per ton excise tax on all extracted coal. This money will go to mitigating the negative impacts of coal transportation, and ensure the true cost of coal is paid for by the responsible parties, and not the taxpayers. The money is allocated to the affected States, who are in the best position to determine how best to use their funds.

Make no mistake, these coal exports are not about jobs, they are about profits. The U.S. Energy Information Agency (EIA) estimates that it costs about \$20 per ton to ship coal mined from the Powder River Basin to the Pacific Northwest. The EIA also has data that shows the average price per ton of coal exports is \$148 per ton. I cannot emphasize enough that none of the profits will go to helping the affected communities.

It's time we shine a light on the true cost of coal and protect the American taxpayer from the negative impacts of transporting coal through our States. I have dedicated my career to keeping Washington and the Northwest a place where the environment, public health and efficient transportation do not get trumped by narrow interests. In 1980, I led the successful "Don't Waste Washington" initiative, to keep Washington from becoming the country's nuclear waste dumping ground, and 30 years later I remain just as committed to keeping it that way.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF WILLIAM A. SILVERMAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of publicist, William A. Silverman.

Born in Toledo, Ohio, Bill was the son of an editor at the Cleveland News. Upon graduating from Centre College of Kentucky and the University of Madrid, he wrote for the Army's Stars and Stripes publication during the Korean War. He also spent five years covering the police beat, and worked for several different public relations firms before opening his own firm, Silverman and Co.

In the 1960s, Bill worked on the mayoral campaigns of Ralph Perk and Seth Taft; his work on Taft's campaign earned him a public relations position with Mayor Stokes and a grant from the nonprofit Greater Cleveland Associated Foundation. Soon after beginning work with Stokes, Silverman opened the Silverman and Co. public relations firm in downtown Cleveland, OH. Together with Stokes, he

helped pass a clean water bond issue, and created Cleveland: NOW!

Throughout the years, Silverman and Co. grew and opened branches in Toledo, Columbus, and Charleston, West Virginia. By 1996, the PR firm was the third largest in the region and ranked 40th in the country. Throughout Silverman's career, some of his clients included Blue Cross; Don King; BBC Industries; Mayor George Voinovich; and Democratic Council President George Forbes. After more than 30 years in business, Bill retired and the firm closed in 1997 and 1998 respectively.

I offer my condolences to his wife, Sandy; children, Alexander, Beth Ann, Frances, William, Jeffrey, and Jenny; and sixteen grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the life and accomplishments of Mr. William A. Silverman.

IN RECOGNITION OF ARETHA THURMOND PARTICIPATING IN THE 2012 OLYMPICS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Aretha Thurmond. Aretha will participate in the 2012 Olympics in London.

Thurmond, of Opelika, Alabama, qualified for her fourth Olympic team, becoming 16th U.S. woman to do so. Aretha is known as one of the most consistent American throwers over the past decade.

In 2007, she returned to compete only 18 days after giving birth to her son, Devon Theopolis. Thurmond will be participating in the 2012 London Olympics discus throw.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my congratulations to Aretha and best wishes in the Olympics.

CONGRESSIONAL REPLACEMENT OF PRESIDENT OBAMA'S ENERGY-RESTRICTING AND JOB-LIMITING OFFSHORE DRILLING PLAN

SPEECH OF

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6082) to officially replace, within the 60-day Congressional review period under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, President Obama's Proposed Final Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Leasing Program (2012-2017) with a congressional plan that will conduct additional oil and natural gas lease sales to promote offshore energy development, job creation, and increased domestic energy production to ensure a more secure energy future in the United States, and for other purposes:

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chair, I rise today to express my continued support for the restrictions placed on oil and gas leasing in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006. I am

pleased that H.R. 6082 continues this moratorium and recognizes an area not only critical to the protection of Florida's beautiful beaches and unique environment but to the training of our nation's sailors, Marines and pilots who conduct training exercises there on a regular basis.

As you know, I have been working on the issue of drilling in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico since 1983, when the oil industry proposed drilling off the Gulf Coast of Florida. That year, I offered an amendment to a 1983 supplemental appropriations bill to create the first buffer zone to protect Florida's Gulf Coast from offshore oil drilling. Congress did not implement this buffer zone only to protect the economic or environmental interests of the State of Florida; rather we also recognized the potential conflict that exists between drilling and naval and aviation military activities.

The importance of this area to our military training was affirmed in 2000, when the Department of Defense requested that no above-surface structures be built in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, officially establishing the Military Mission Line within which no drilling can occur. This decision proved timely when the Air Force and Army were forced to end training exercises in Vieques, Puerto Rico and had to find a new site to undertake these specialized training activities. The Eastern Gulf of Mexico was the only site available where this training could continue because this naval and aviation training is incompatible with drilling platforms and drilling ships.

Since the first amendment in 1983, I negotiated with my colleagues to include this moratorium in appropriations bills year after year, until a bipartisan compromise was reached in 2006 that balanced increased domestic energy production with the critical military activities conducted in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico. This carefully crafted agreement opened 8.3 million acres south of the Florida Panhandle to drilling, an area previously under a ban, while barring new oil and gas leases off Florida's coastline until June 30, 2022, and codifying the ban on drilling within the Military Mission Line.

Prior to the enactment of the current moratorium, then Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld stated that "in those areas east of the Military Mission Line, drilling structures and associated development would be incompatible with military activities, such as missile flights, low-flying drone aircraft, weapons testing and training." By maintaining the drilling ban in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, H.R. 6082 continues to protect an area that holds the U.S. military's largest training and testing area.

Mr. Chair, I am pleased to support this measure that will responsibly increase our domestic oil production while maintaining the important protections against drilling in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, in order to ensure that our military readiness and training capabilities are not compromised.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S PROPOSED OFFSHORE DRILLING LEASE SALE PLAN

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss today's vote on the bill to approve

and implement the Obama administration's offshore drilling plan. Holding this vote today was a political stunt by the Republican majority—nothing more. No committees have reviewed the plan, and it was brought to the floor without any consideration.

The Obama Administration's plan would supplant the Bush Administration's plan which is currently in place and I voted for the bill today, not wanting to play political games with our environment. Despite any reservations I have with the details of the Obama Administration's plan, the current administration correctly excluded lease sales in the Atlantic, Pacific or North Aleutian Basin. The Republicans offered an alternative plan that would, without question, cause significant harm to the environment. Voting yes today on this better package was the right thing to do.

Protecting our environment is not a game. Today I voted to move us forward from the terrible environmental policies of the previous administration, and I will continue to advocate and vote for stronger environmental protections.

RECOGNITION OF THE FIRST LADY'S VISIT TO BIRMINGHAM, AL ON WEDNESDAY JULY 18, 2012

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the visit by First Lady Michelle Obama to Camp Noah at the McAlpine Recreation Center in Birmingham, Alabama on Wednesday July 18, 2012.

I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to my dear friend and our First Lady, Michelle Obama, who traveled a long way last week to honor her commitment to return to Alabama to see our recovery efforts from the devastating tornadoes of April 27, 2011. President Obama and the First Lady visited Alabama two days after the storms to witness first-hand the destruction. They promised federal assistance and that we would not be forgotten. On July 18, 2012, the First Lady held true to her promise to return to Alabama to see our recovery and rebuilding progress.

We will never forget the tremendous losses suffered by the April tornadoes which claimed the lives of 253 Alabamians. Yet out of that devastation, we found hope and showed great resilience in working together to rebuild our communities. The First Lady's visit gave us the opportunity to show our progress as she witnessed the healing spirit of the children affected by the tornadoes.

During her visit to Birmingham, First Lady Michelle Obama surprised a crowd of nearly 100 kids, grades first through sixth, at McAlpine Recreation Center participating in Camp Noah. The summer camp is sponsored by Ascension Lutheran Church in Huntsville, AL and is part of a national project designed to help kids heal from their disaster experience through music, life-skill training and arts and crafts.

The First Lady greeted the children with a smile and words of encouragement. She graciously took the time to hug each and every one of the children. The kids' excitement and joy when the First Lady entered the room was

exhilarating. Their expressions and comments said it all. Kiara Cherry remarked, "Oh my God! The First Lady is at the McAlpine—I am so excited!" She added that meeting the First Lady was on her list of things to do before she turned 15 and now she could check it off her list. Devonte Harris, 12, of Forestdale, agreed, saying, "I'm just really happy right now." Lastly, Rakya Holmes, 8, whose godmother's home was destroyed in the storms, noted "She smelled good, and I love her." These reactions by the children at Camp Noah expressed our sheer excitement and gratitude to the First Lady. The faces of the children were priceless. The First Lady's visit was a life-changing event for the kids and a morale boost for our community.

It takes tremendous coordination, hard work and organization to make a visit by the First Lady of the United States a reality. The fact that our First Lady Michelle Obama would take the time to visit with us in a tornado affected community in Birmingham is a real testament to her dedication and commitment to helping us overcome this disaster.

I want to commend the City of Birmingham, the extraordinary staff of McAlpine Recreation Center and Camp Noah, as well as UAB's MHRC Healthy Happy Kids program for making the First Lady's visit a huge success. As the Representative of the 7th Congressional District of Alabama, I was extremely proud of all of the efforts made by our community working together to leave a lasting impression on the First Lady. The excitement and joy on the children's faces at Camp Noah made it all worthwhile. Thank you First Lady Michelle Obama!

CONGRESSIONAL REPLACEMENT OF PRESIDENT OBAMA'S ENERGY-RESTRICTING AND JOB- LIMITING OFFSHORE DRILLING PLAN

SPEECH OF

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6082) to officially replace, within the 60-day Congressional review period under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, President Obama's Proposed Final Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Leasing Program (2012-2017) with a congressional plan that will conduct additional oil and natural gas lease sales to promote offshore energy development, job creation, and increased domestic energy production to ensure a more secure energy future in the United States, and for other purposes:

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Chair, I oppose H.R. 6082, the Congressional Replacement of President Obama's Energy-Restricting and Job-Limiting Offshore Drilling Plan.

This is the current Majority's 12th giveaway for Big Oil in the last 18 months. I've consistently opposed these prior 11 measures on the House floor. The Senate has failed to pass any of the prior bills, and President Obama has consistently stated his intention to veto those measures.

The majority claims that this bill is about lowering energy prices and creating jobs.

Let's be clear—this is a bill against President Obama's offshore drilling plan.

Today, more than 75 percent of the offshore oil and gas resources are available for drilling under that plan. We have 50 percent more floating drilling rigs operating in the Gulf of Mexico than we did prior to the BP spill and have more total rigs operating in the United States than does the rest of the world combined. Domestic oil production is at an 18 year high and oil and gas companies continue to enjoy substantial profits—all on top of tax breaks totaling over \$4 billion per year. In addition, this year the U.S. became a net exporter of oil for the first time since 1949.

My home state of Hawaii relies on imported oil from both foreign and U.S. sources for 90 percent of our primary energy. We use oil to generate our electricity and to fuel our vehicles. We also pay three times the average price that the mainland pays for that electricity and our gas prices are constantly the highest in the nation—despite all of the drilling that is currently happening.

That's why this attack on President Obama's comprehensive approach to energy—producing more oil and boosting clean energy—is especially troubling.

It's also troubling that the majority seem to be consciously ignoring key safety recommendations and preventing proper environmental reviews.

We all remember April 20, 2010. That is the date that the Deepwater Horizon oil rig exploded. This accident killed 11 crew members and injured numerous others. Over 4 million barrels of oil gushed into the Gulf of Mexico, and the spill could not be contained for almost 3 months.

In response President Obama created the bipartisan National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling. The commission concluded that if more effective oversight of safety and environmental protection had been conducted—by both the government and the industry itself—the disaster could have been avoided. The commission then made a series of recommendations to prevent another spill from occurring.

Representative MARKEY introduced these recommendations as legislation in January of 2011. I'm proud to be a cosponsor of this bill, H.R. 501. However, I'm disappointed that there has not even been a committee hearing on this important legislation.

That's not all. On July 24, 2012, the U.S. Chemical Safety Board released a report which found that at the time of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon blowout, BP and other companies involved in that accident had failed to implement safety recommendations made by the Board in 2007.

The 2007 recommendations stemmed from the investigation of a March 2005 explosion at BP's Texas City Refinery.

These are real disasters with real consequences for workers and communities.

At the same time, the facts and record are clear: These disasters are preventable and Congress can and should do something to address them.

The bill also undermines a series of laws intended to ensure that we are good stewards of our natural resources—including the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and Clean Water Act. Ensuring compliance with these laws protects public health,

communities, and the environment. These environmental reviews are also necessary to avoid costly and time-consuming litigation for all parties.

More than that, this is a matter of ensuring that the resources we have can be utilized responsibly to support jobs and economic growth in industries other than drilling, like tourism for example.

The bill also opens huge areas on the East Coast, stretching from Maine to South Carolina, off of Southern California, in the Alaska Arctic and in the area around the important fishery of Bristol Bay off Alaska. Opening these areas ignores concerns raised by nearly every stakeholder other than oil and gas companies.

These include significant issues raised by states and local communities, concerns about important fishing areas, and even concerns raised by our military will go unheeded if this bill were to become law.

Finally, H.R. 6082 would require that the Department of Interior conduct a single multi-sale Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Atlantic, Pacific and Bristol Bay. Combined EIS documents are usually done for lease sales in areas where the conditions are well known and similar. However, these are three wildly different environments that merit their own considerations.

Just to be clear, those who stand to lose under this bill include: states, localities, fisherman, the military, average citizens and small businesses that currently rely on these areas for recreation, tourism, and other purposes.

The winners under this bill: the oil and gas drilling industry.

Hawaii is a case study for why we must end our reliance on fossil fuels and work harder to support the development of a broad range of clean, renewable, locally-produced fuels. Drilling more won't decrease the global competition for oil, and it won't do anything to reduce energy prices in the long-term. High energy prices act as a tax on all of us and an anchor on our economy, so if we are truly going to have the most competitive economy in the 21st century we need to develop affordable alternatives. Developing these alternatives will give the U.S. the upper hand both in terms of costs to our economy, and in developing new industries that can create jobs for the next century.

Instead, the bill before us keeps us on the same path of dependence we've been on. This bill is a failure for our economy in the long term, fails to address the safety reforms for offshore drilling that numerous experts have advocated for, and seeks to give oil companies another windfall without ensuring that they are paying their fair share to drill on public lands.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this terribly shortsighted and ill-advised legislation.

SUPPORTING A MOMENT OF SILENCE DURING THE 2012 OLYMPIC OPENING DAY TO COMMEMORATE THOSE KILLED IN THE MURKIN MASSACRE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Amb. Ido Aharoni, Consul General of Israel

in New York, who will meet with New York City's Jewish and other community leaders and elected officials on Friday morning to honor the 11 Israeli Olympians who were killed by a terrorist group during the 1972 Munich games.

As the new Olympians march in the opening ceremonies of the 2012 games, these community groups and elected leaders will gather together for their own minute of silence, hearing the firsthand account of 1972 Israeli Olympian Avi Melamed. The Munich Massacre, as it has come to be known, occurred during the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich, Bavaria in southern West Germany, when members of the Israeli Olympic team were taken hostage and eventually killed by the Palestinian terrorist group Black September. Eleven Israeli athletes and coaches and a West German police officer were killed.

On this 40th anniversary of the horrendous act of terror, we are not only reminded of the importance of our special relationship with Israel but also of the existence of evil in this world.

Recently, we witnessed another terrorist attack on an Israeli tour bus in Bulgaria that left at least 7 dead and more than 20 wounded. These kinds of attacks against innocent people are horrifying and reprehensible. Such violence targeting people for their ethnicity, nationality or religion has absolutely no place in our world.

Whenever and wherever we witness the taking of innocent lives for whatever reason, the voices of the concerned people must be heard. While terrorist attacks on the people of Israel were once viewed as a regional problem, today we know that the entire world is no longer safe from the warped minds of those who have no regard for the lives of children and people who do no harm. We must fight against those who choose to recklessly use the fear of terrorism against innocent victims to achieve their own evil political objectives. We must remain vigilant and outspoken.

So I join the New York community this Friday as we come together to condemn such acts of terrorism and to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the massacre in Munich. Whether or not the International Olympic Committee agrees to pay tribute to the fallen, we will observe a moment of silence to pray for the victims and their loved ones.

38TH YEAR COMMEMORATION OF INVASION AND OCCUPATION OF CYPRUS

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 38th year of Turkey's invasion, occupation and colonization of the Republic of Cyprus.

On July 1, Cyprus assumed the six-month presidency of the European Union. Turkey, an EU candidate country, refuses to recognize the Cypriot presidency and has acted to "freeze" its communications with the EU. While Turkey refuses to recognize Cyprus, the international community has repeatedly called upon Turkey to withdraw from its occupation of the island republic.

In 1974, Turkey invaded the island citing its purported authority to intervene under the Treaty of Guarantee, a treaty meant to guarantee the independence, sovereignty, constitution and territorial integrity of Cyprus. Turkey asserts that the Constitution of Cyprus is "null and void," yet it justifies its invasion and decades' long occupation of Cyprus upon the Treaty of Guarantee, a treaty which obligates Turkey as a guarantor power to uphold the Cypriot Constitution and preserve the country's independence and territorial integrity.

During Turkey's 38 year occupation of the northern third of Cyprus, it has engaged in the systematic destruction of the island's Hellenic, Christian and Turkish Cypriot heritage. Turkey is extinguishing the voice of the Turkish Cypriots, the community that co-existed with Greek-Cypriots for nearly 500 years until Turkey invaded and forcibly divided the two communities. Turkey's treatment of the indigenous peoples of Cyprus betrays a broader impulse which is manifest in discrimination against Christian and other minorities in territories under its control. Turkey's conduct is so egregious that this year the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom designated it as "a country of particular concern."

Turkey, a nation of nearly 80 million people, has with each passing day altered the cultural heritage and demographics of Cyprus, a country of 1 million people. In 1974, Greek Cypriots numbered 506,000 and Turkish Cypriots numbered 118,000. Since then, Turkey has engaged in a radical alteration of the island's demographics. Turkey has resettled nearly 200,000 mainland Turks and garrisoned 45,000 Turkish soldiers in the occupied areas. Turkey's forced colonization of the occupied areas is eradicating the native Turkish Cypriot community and supplanting it with a Turkish community whose culture and national consciousness is foreign to the indigenous and unique Greco-Turkish culture of Cyprus.

The presence of Turkish troops is justified by the pretext that Turkey is protecting Turkish Cypriots. Yet 58,000 Turkish Cypriots voluntarily carry Republic of Cyprus passports, Turkish Cypriots utilize health care facilities and other services in the Republic of Cyprus, and more than 18 million crossings over the green line have occurred without incident. The reality is that each day Turkish Cypriots are forced by the presence of 45,000 Turkish troops to idly watch as their culture and identity is overtaken by mainland Turkish colonialists.

Recent discoveries of natural gas off the coasts of Cyprus and Israel have seen these two democracies engage in a cooperative and productive manner for the development of the only Western, democratically controlled energy source in the region. Where Israel and Cyprus have conducted themselves as peaceful democracies, Turkey is using its presence in occupied Cyprus to challenge Israeli interests in the region. It was not so long ago that Turkey held itself out as an ally of Israel.

Cyprus is the canvas that reveals the true face of Turkey—occupier, colonizer and foe of Western democratic values. It is time for this Chamber and the United States to stand with the people of Cyprus and demand that Turkey withdraw its troops and "cease and desist" from its unlawful colonization of this small and peaceful country.

CONGRESSIONAL REPLACEMENT OF PRESIDENT OBAMA'S ENERGY-RESTRICTING AND JOB- LIMITING OFFSHORE DRILLING PLAN

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6082) to officially replace, within the 60-day Congressional review period under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, President Obama's Proposed Final Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Leasing Program (2012-2017) with a congressional plan that will conduct additional oil and natural gas lease sales to promote offshore energy development, job creation, and increased domestic energy production to ensure a more secure energy future in the United States, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Chair, while the American people are asking Congress to help create jobs and stabilize the economy, the House Majority would rather spend valuable time on handouts to big oil and gas. For the 11th time this Congress, Members are being asked to support giveaways to big producers and polluters. It is ironic that this bill is being debated at the same time the U.S. Chemical Safety Board released its report that the Deepwater Horizon disaster was caused by a lack of adherence to safety guidelines. Instead of thoughtful efforts to ensure health and safety of workers and the public, as well as the protection of the environment, H.R. 6082 ignores any lessons from that tragedy while opening huge portions of our coasts to drilling. In addition, as someone who has fought to make sure the American taxpayer is properly compensated for energy resources extracted from federally leased lands, I am disturbed that this bill would not ensure oil companies pay their fair share for drilling on public lands. This bill does nothing to help our country build a strong energy future or get Americans back to work. I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

HONORING THE LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, today I commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Leadership Alliance. The Leadership Alliance, established in 1992, is a national academic consortium of leading research universities and minority serving institutions with the mission to develop underrepresented students into outstanding leaders and role models in academia, business, and the public sector.

Through an organized program of research, networking and mentorship at various critical transitions along the entire academic training pathway, the Leadership Alliance prepares young scientists and scholars from underrepresented and underserved populations for

graduate training and professional apprenticeships. Leadership Alliance faculty mentors provide high quality, cutting-edge research experiences in all academic disciplines at the nation's most competitive graduate training institutions and share insights into the nature of academic careers.

Chaminade University, located in Honolulu, Oahu, has been a member institution of the Leadership Alliance since 2007. In the past five years, 16 students have participated in the Summer Research Early Identification Program—performing research at Brown, Harvard, Tufts, Yale, and other universities.

Nearly 70 percent of Leadership Alliance early identification students enroll into a graduate level program and, of that 70 percent, 25 percent enroll into PhD programs. Chaminade students have had transformative summer research experiences, encouraging their pursuit of graduate degrees, particularly in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

One Chaminade student, Natasha Flores, was able to do research at Yale University. Since graduating, she has conducted cancer research at the National Cancer Institute and has just completed her second year in a Cancer Biology Ph.D. Program at Stanford University. Joseph Tillotson, a 2011 Chaminade graduate, completed two summers of research through the Leadership Alliance and will be beginning Ph.D. studies in Pharmacology and Toxicology at the University of Arizona this fall.

Leadership Alliance Doctoral Scholars are diversifying the academy at research-intensive institutions and are engaging in career positions in government and industry.

Congratulations to the Leadership Alliance on two decades of committed service to supporting a diverse and competitive research and scholarly workforce in the United States.

HONORING MRS. GLORIA
LANGSTON OF ROCHESTER, NEW
YORK

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a constituent in my district who, along with her late husband and family, has made a positive impact in the Rochester, New York area. I am profoundly appreciative of this monumental opportunity to pay homage to Mrs. Gloria Langston.

In July 1960, Mrs. Langston, along with her now-deceased husband, Andrew, relocated from the State of Georgia to Rochester, New York. From the time Gloria and Andrew Langston arrived in Rochester until today, the Langston family has made positive and substantial contributions to the Rochester area.

Among their many extraordinary contributions, perhaps one of their most transformational is the establishment of the Monroe County Broadcasting Company and the subsequent birth of WDKX-FM radio station. WDKX is named in honor of Frederick Douglass, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X, and the Monroe County Broadcasting Company was the first ever African American corporation to apply for a frequency with the Federal Communications Commission.

WDKX-FM began its service to the Rochester community on April 6, 1974, and today—38 years later—the station continues its service to our community, 24 hours a day and seven days a week. It is the only independently owned and operated commercial radio station in Rochester, New York.

Gloria Langston has an unwavering commitment to uplifting and enhancing the Rochester community, and she exudes a deep sense of community awareness and pride. These admirable characteristics are reflected in the management and staff of WDKX-FM radio. The station is far more than a source of entertainment. It is an invaluable community partner; one that promotes philanthropy for good causes, provides information to enhance health and wellness and provides platforms and opportunities for Rochester area residents to learn about important community activities and initiatives that improve our quality of life.

Because of the countless contributions Mrs. Gloria Langston has brought to Rochester, it is my great pleasure to salute her today. It can be truthfully said that Rochester, New York is a better place because Gloria Langston has walked among us.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF IBEW
LOCAL 110

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 100th anniversary of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local Union 110 in Saint Paul, Minnesota, and the hundreds of working families the union represents.

IBEW Local 110 has earned an honored place in the Minnesota labor tradition. From the earliest days of the union, even before its formal charter on July 29, 1912, Minnesota electrical workers began banding together to form an organization that would help protect workers and their families. These efforts provided a voice for workers and began the roots of a new local union.

Membership in the new Local 110 proved valuable for workers and their families. The union set a standard for all workers in our state and provided much needed resources for safety, skills training, fair wages and retirement security. This support became even stronger through Local 110's decision to affiliate with the allied unions of the Saint Paul Building Trades Council.

Times were at once exciting and challenging for early Minnesota electrical workers. From 1910 to 1913, sixty of their fellow brothers died due to illness and accidents caused by frequently dangerous work environments. In order to combat the alarmingly high number of deaths within the industry, Local 110 began its first apprenticeship program to educate its members, and made sure that they were properly protected in the field. During June of 1913, the first test for those members that worked with electricity was held, and all members were required to take the examination. Through the efforts of the local union, every member passed the test.

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 110 has always made sure their

members were given the highest standard of care and consideration. Today, this band of brothers now includes sisters too. Local 110 has grown to represent 2100 members in 13 counties of Minnesota. The union remains focused on creating positive relationships between workers and their employees as well as elevating the standards within the industry.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to submit this extension of remarks to honor the members and families of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 110 on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of this proud union.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mr. PETERS. On Monday, July 23, 2012 I unfortunately missed two votes due to a delay in my flight to Washington, DC. Had I been present I would have opposed both bills.

H.R. 2362, the Indian Tribal Trade and Investment Demonstration Project Act of 2011 benefits one particular country, and is redundant to H.R. 205 the HEARTH Act which has passed both the House and Senate and is waiting to be signed by the President. S. 2039 would undermine an important policy in place to protect federal taxpayer dollars and prevent wasteful spending. While I was not able to cast my vote against these bills, had I been present I would have voted "no." I was happy to see that both were defeated.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GIVE
WORKPLACE GENDER VIOLENCE
VICTIMS THEIR DAY IN COURT
ACT OF 2012

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, when at work, most employees feel safe from violent behavior; however, violence in the workplace is not uncommon. The Bureau of Justice Statistics estimates that in 2008, 12,633 rapes and sexual assaults occurred while U.S. employees were working or on duty. When sexual violence happens at the workplace, women are often traumatized again when learning that the remedy is workers compensation. This downgrades the crime to an 'on-the-job occurrence' and prevents victims from suing employers when the crime occurred due to lack of safeguards and protections by employers.

Workers compensation systems were designed to create accident-free workplaces and allow employees hurt on the job to receive payment for medical expenses and lost wages. Using workers compensation as a way for employers to avoid lawsuits stemming from their own negligence is offensive to victims of this terrible crime. When sexual violence occurs on the job, employers should not be allowed to hide behind a system intended to compensate for job-related accidents. This is why I am reintroducing the Give Workplace

Gender Violence Victims Their Day in Court Act, which will prevent employers from invoking workers compensation when employer negligence results in the sexual assault and rape of an employee. This bill will help empower victims of workplace sexual assault to have their day in court instead of being subject to the exclusive remedy of workers compensation.

Rape is not an accident and should never be regarded as an everyday, regular occurrence on the job. This legislation will enable victims and encourage employers to create a work environment free of sexual violence and send the message, loud and clear, that rape is not all in a day's work.

FEDERAL RESERVE
TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2012

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I believe that transparency in the activities of government is extremely important and that we should endeavor to let in more sunlight, not less. Therefore, I am proud to support H.R. 459, the Federal Reserve Transparency Act.

The financial crisis of 2007–2008 cost nearly \$6.5 trillion in household wealth. That's home equity and savings for retirement and college that millions of people will likely never get back. Between December 2007 and early 2010 8.7 million jobs were lost—including a record-breaking 779,000 in January of 2009 alone.

I raise these frightening numbers to illustrate a point—the impact of the financial crisis was disastrous, widespread, and occurred very quickly.

As a result, unprecedented steps were taken to halt the disastrous decline in our economy. These included the Federal Reserve (the Fed) stretching its emergency lending authority farther than it ever had to before. This, along with the legislative actions of Congress and the efforts of the Bush and Obama Administrations, helped to prevent the “Great Recession” from instead becoming “The Great Depression Redux.”

The Obama Administration and Congress have worked to rebuild our economy. Over 4.4 million jobs have been created over the past 28 consecutive months. The American automobile industry has been saved and is prospering. Communities across the nation benefitted from investments in transportation, energy, and other vital areas from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Fed has also contributed to this effort by keeping interest rates low and other measures.

But progress has not been fast enough. We are all frustrated by the current state of affairs. We are also rightly frustrated at the conduct of banks and bankers—private sector bankers and central bankers alike.

I recognize that the actions of the Fed are subject to Congressional oversight and audits by the Government Accountability Office. I was proud to support the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, which included needed reforms of the Fed's emergency lending authority, and required that the Government Accountability Office conduct an audit of the Fed's emergency lending programs.

These are much needed steps. While I don't share the view that we should abolish the Fed, or that the Fed's activities are necessarily malicious, I do believe that the American people have a right to know how decisions about interest rates and other policies that impact their day-to-day lives are made.

The recent revelations that major international banks colluded to set the London Inter-Bank Offered Rate (LIBOR), which is an influential global interest rate, indicate that it is in the public interest to more closely scrutinize the activities of both financial market players as well as those that are supposed to be the unbiased referees like the Fed.

Today's bill is a positive step toward doing that and I am proud to support H.R. 459.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, July 26, 2012 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 31

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), focusing on a review of the semi-annual report to Congress.

SD-538

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine S. 3385, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior

to use designated funding to pay for construction of authorized rural water projects.

SD-366

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the state of Federal privacy and data security law.

SD-628

2:15 p.m.

Foreign Relations

Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps and Global Narcotics Affairs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine doing business in Latin America, focusing on positive trends but serious challenges.

SD-419

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SR-253

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

AUGUST 1

9 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine MF Global, focusing on accountability in the futures markets.

SR-328A

10 a.m.

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine an update on the latest climate change science and local adaptation measures.

SD-406

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Housing, Transportation and Community Development Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine streamlining and strengthening Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) rental housing assistance programs.

SD-538

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine rising prison costs, focusing on restricting budgets and crime prevention options.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Finance

To hold hearings to examine the taxation of business entities, focusing on tax reform.

SD-215

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine marketplace fairness, focusing on leveling the playing field for small businesses.

SR-253

Foreign Relations

European Affairs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the future of the eurozone, focusing on the outlook and lessons.

SD-419

AUGUST 2

2:30 p.m.

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219