

them for more than 100 years of progress. As a good friend and ally of the United States, the Republic of China on Taiwan remains a peaceful and prosperous democracy, and is a model for nations around the world.

I would like to take a moment and recognize the 23 million citizens of Taiwan for their commitment to peace. As a symbol of this commitment, the Republic of China on Taiwan recently melted down artillery shells and used the metal to construct a "Peace Bell." President Ma Ying-jeou also proposed a peace initiative in the hope of easing the recent tensions in the East China Sea. The initiative calls on all parties concerned to show restraint, shelve controversies and settle disputes in a peaceful manner. It also urges all parties concerned to strive for a consensus on a code of conduct in the East China Sea, and to establish a mechanism for cooperation on exploring and developing resources in the region. We celebrate these efforts to maintain good relations with other countries, and the United States is proud to call the Republic of China on Taiwan a partner in peace.

In closing, I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking Ambassador Yuan for his service along with President Ma, Vice President Wu, and the people of the Republic of China on Taiwan for their continued commitment to peace and democracy on this anniversary of their National Day. Although I am retiring from the United States House of Representatives, please be assured that my support, commitment and friendship to Taiwan will remain strong, and will never die.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote No. 585 regarding the "Andrew P. Carpenter Tax Act" (H.R. 5044). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes".

HONORING NANCY OSBORNE

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nancy Osborne, an important public figure in the Central Valley news industry, on the occasion of her retirement.

Ms. Osborne graduated from Las Cruces High School in New Mexico and attended New Mexico State University for 3 years.

Following a five year break from her education, she returned to college in the valley at Fresno State University. She graduated in 1976 with a BA in Speech Communications and began work on a Master's degree.

After a year of graduate study, she accepted a reporting job at ABC30. As one of only a handful of women in the local broadcast industry, Nancy became a role model for many young women.

In the fall of 1977, Nancy joined the anchor team at KFSN-TV. In 1980, she produced and

anchored the valley's first locally produced news magazine show while continuing to co-anchor Action News.

In 1996, Nancy joined the Action News Management Team. While continuing her coverage of the valley's political scene and issues involving children and families, she was named Executive Producer—Special Projects. With this new assignment, she helped shape Action News around the clock.

In January 2004, after a short hiatus, Nancy returned to reporting full time, once again adding her experience and expertise to the expanding daily Action News coverage while continuing to co-anchor Action News Live at Five. She also wrote a popular blog, "The Red, White, and True", which focused on stories about the Central Valley's military personnel and families.

In 2005, Nancy was inducted into the prestigious Silver Circle by the Northern California chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for her commitment of over 25 years to the Fresno television market and broadcast news industry.

Nancy has reported on countless stories and events important to the people of Central California and she has given her time and effort to numerous non-profits and charities over the decades. Please join me in congratulating Ms. Osborne on her "award-winning and trailblazing television career," as she retires from ABC30 Action News.

IN RECOGNITION OF FORTY YEARS OF LEADERSHIP FROM CLINTON RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Clinton River Watershed Council (CRWC) as it celebrates 40 years of service to Southeast Michigan. Situated within Macomb and Oakland Counties and located in the heart of the Great Lakes region, the Clinton River watershed covers over 760 square miles that begins at the headwaters of the Clinton River in Springfield Township and stretches to its outlet into Lake St. Clair.

Water has long been an important part of our lives in Michigan and throughout the Great Lakes region—it was the means through which Michigan became a center of industry and innovation during the Industrial Revolution and remains a critical part of our economy. However, as an unintended consequence of our success, the Clinton River and its watershed became polluted by industrial runoff and untreated sewage, which threatened this important natural resource in Southeast Michigan. As a response to growing public concern, in 1972 the CRWC was founded with a mission to protect, enhance and celebrate the Clinton River, its watershed and Lake St. Clair.

In execution of its mission, the CRWC has created programs that have engaged all the sectors of the community in efforts to restore the watershed, while providing hands-on education which has instilled the value of good environmental stewardship. Among its programs is Adopt-a-Stream, which directly involves area residents in the water quality mon-

itoring process. It promotes annual events like Clinton River Day, which brings the community together in dozens of sites around the watershed to participate in projects that educate, clean and promote the importance of the Clinton River to our region. Over its 40 years, the CRWC has created a clear track record of leveraging strong partnerships with area stakeholders to remove the impairments caused by pollution.

The work of the CRWC has left a tangible impact on the communities of Southeast Michigan—riparian habitat has been restored, children have been educated on the healthy and active lifestyle that the watershed supports and recreational fishermen once again enjoy premier fisheries. Beyond these benefits to area residents, the CRWC's outreach to its stakeholders has created important synergies between local governments, institutes of higher education, area businesses and advocacy groups, that have strengthened the vitality of the Southeast Michigan region. The results have been, not just a healthier ecosystem, but also increased economic activity and increased quality-of-life for our families.

Mr. Speaker, as a proud supporter of the Great Lakes and the federal commitment Congress has made through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the CRWC for 40 years of leadership in protecting, enhancing and celebrating the Clinton River, its watershed and Lake St. Clair. While there is still a lot of work left to be done to fully restore and protect our important natural resources, we have seen great progress because of the work of the CRWC and its sister organizations across the Great Lakes region. I am confident that with the sustained dedication of the CRWC, its stakeholders and its supporters, that we will continue to see more progress made to fully restore the Clinton River Area of Concern.

RECOGNIZING THE 225TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADOPTION OF THE NORTHWEST ORDINANCE BY THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize that 225 years ago the Continental Congress of the United States enacted the Northwest Ordinance, which in 1787 established a system of government that made the territory north and west of the Ohio River the first commonwealth in the world whose organic law recognized every man as free and equal.

Encompassing 265,878 square miles, the Northwest Territory included the future states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, and part of Minnesota.

In addition to prohibiting slavery, the Northwest Ordinance guaranteed religious freedom and civil rights throughout the territory. This federal mandate preceded by several years the Bill of Rights—the first 10 Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. The Northwest Ordinance was adopted by the Continental Congress on July 13, 1787.

The Continental Congress appointed Arthur St. Clair the first governor of the Northwest