

Mr. Griffin had held steadfast to the dream of owning his own business since he was a teenager. After leaving the job because of a failed promise for a raise, he found himself unemployed and married with two children. It was at this point he began to give his dream serious thought—an auto repair business. He was not exactly sure how to start or where to begin. Mr. Griffin said he was led by God to go to the bank and ask for a loan. Once there, he was informed that chances of him getting a loan were almost impossible since he was no longer employed nor did he have any kind of collateral. However, Mr. Griffin said the loan officer decided to “give him a chance” and grant him a loan for \$17,000 because he “looked like an honest man that would keep his word”. In 1998, Griffin obtained a small lot and built a building which would serve as his shop. He did not have any tools, so he began purchasing tools a few at a time.

Mr. Griffin relied on what he learned from books and what his grandfather taught him about working on cars. His first big job was the repair of an engine in which he earned \$600.00. As time went on, he gained more customers, and was able to buy more tools than he could imagine, which lead him to be an established self taught mechanic.

After his business grew, he decided to go to the bank to apply for a second loan in order to purchase a tow truck. This time, using his mother's land as collateral, he obtained an \$8,000 loan. He purchased a used tow truck for \$6,000 from a dealership in Greenwood, Mississippi and used the remaining \$2,000 to make necessary repairs to the truck. He was now an auto shop owner with his own tow service.

Now, fourteen years later, Griffin Auto Repair Shop is still a thriving business. Griffin credits the success and longevity of his business to it being “built and ran on faith” from its beginning to now. “I kept my word and provided fair prices and that kept me with good customers from all around and they've been good customers for many years, said Griffin.”

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Griffin Auto Repair Shop for its dedication and passion for serving its customers.

DHS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2012

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5913, the “DHS Accountability Act of 2012,” which establishes an independent advisory panel in the legislative branch to: (1) comprehensively assess the management structure and capabilities related to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and (2) make recommendations to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of DHS management.

Moreover, the advisory panel is tasked with directing the panel to examine: (1) the efficiency and effectiveness of the management structure and capabilities (2) the extent to which unnecessary duplication exists in such management structure and capabilities and how any such duplication negatively affects

the mission of protecting the United States; (3) the extent to which management of key homeland security missions is centralized under DHS; (4) options to reduce or eliminate harmful waste and duplication of effort in DHS; and (5) measures to evaluate DHS's progress in reducing and eliminating waste and duplication from its management structure and capabilities.

As the Ranking Member of Homeland Security Subcommittee on Transportation, I am familiar with the challenges facing the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as the various agencies within the Department work to ensure the safety of all Americans. Like most other agencies, DHS and the agencies within it are facing budget cuts amidst the rising cost of ever present threats.

I want to recognize the outstanding work and progress that this body, in cooperation with the United States Senate and the executive branch, has made in learning from the events of 9/11. Together, we have taken steps toward the implementation of policies that have made our nation more secure from terrorism, including the creation of the Department of Homeland Security in 2002.

With over 200,000 employees and encompassing numerous agencies and various other components, DHS is the 3rd largest cabinet level department.

There were certain flaws in our security apparatus that failed us on 9/11 which include the lack of information-sharing between agencies charged with determining who should and should not be permitted to enter our borders, as well as friction and difficulties that resulted from some of the overlapping responsibilities of those agencies.

DHS was created to resolve some of those difficulties, and although it has made great strides, more work remains to be done.

The advisory panel created by the H.R. 5913 will be instrumental in assisting Congress and the Department of Homeland Security in achieving missions vital to America while trimming waste and improving its efficiency and efficacy.

It is essential that this Congress work in tandem with the Department of Homeland Security to ensure that the nation is protected from threats to our homeland. Because it will help to facilitate this important process, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5913, the “DHS Accountability Act of 2012.”

IN TRIBUTE TO VENTURA COUNTY'S LAW ENFORCEMENT

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2012

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to the dedicated and professional members of the law enforcement community with whom I have had the privilege to serve during my more than 30 years of public service.

It's impossible to name them all. When I was mayor of Simi Valley, California, I rode with patrol officers to see first-hand the challenges our men and women in uniform face on a daily basis. Those on the front lines of public safety deserve our enduring thanks and respect.

But over the years, I have established partnerships with certain extraordinary people, in-

cluding Ventura County District Attorneys Greg Totten and Mike Bradbury and Sheriffs Al Jalaty, John Gillespie, Larry Carpenter, and Bob Brooks.

Al Jalaty was Sheriff when I was first elected to the Simi Valley City Council. He set the standard for those to come after him, demanding compassion and common sense from those under his command. John Gillespie began the technological modernization of the department. Larry Carpenter helped lead the charge to change the California Constitution to ensure that the first function of government is to protect the public, and in passing a county ordinance to ensure proper funding. Bob Brooks continued to modernize the department, particularly after 9/11, and instituted Six Points of Honor that established the foundation for the department's core values.

I worked closely with each and every one of these distinguished lawmen to ensure they had support from the federal government to provide the tools and training necessary to keep Ventura County safe. But it was their dedication, service, and vision that has kept Ventura County ranked among the safest counties in the nation.

In addition to their role in prosecuting criminals, District Attorneys Mike Bradbury and Greg Totten are responsible for legislation I introduced that became federal law. Mike Bradbury was presented with a problem of prosecuting the makers of videos showing the killing of small animals. Because of jurisdictional issues, it was hard to prove a crime on a local level. I introduced a bill making the interstate distribution of such videos a federal crime. It sailed through the House and Senate and was signed by the President in December of 1999. Prior to it becoming law, about 3,000 different videos were sold over the Internet. The next day, virtually none were available.

Because of a 2004 law, DNA matches in cold cases skyrocketed, creating a huge backlog for prosecutors Greg Totten and I discussed the problem and I introduced a bill to provide federal grants to local prosecutors to help prosecute DNA cold cases. My bill was included in the Children's Safety Act of 2005 and signed into law the following year. Greg Totten not only tirelessly championed funding the grants, he also worked diligently to make the program a success. Consequently, murderers have paid for their crimes.

Mr. Speaker, public safety is the number one responsibility of government. I have been honored to know and work with dedicated law enforcement professionals who I believe are among the best in the nation. I am honored not only to call each of them District Attorney and Sheriff, but friend. I know my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Ventura County District Attorneys Greg Totten and Mike Bradbury and Sheriffs Al Jalaty, John Gillespie, Larry Carpenter, and Bob Brooks, and all those in law enforcement who make our communities safe.

DAN DWYER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Dan Dwyer for