

SLAIN SANTA CRUZ POLICE  
OFFICERS

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2013*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I had planned to be on the floor this morning to talk about the 52nd Anniversary of the founding of the Peace Corp.

However, something very unpeaceful happen in my district in Santa Cruz, CA recently that I need to speak about instead—Tuesday afternoon, two police officers were shot and killed, and a suspect was later killed by police.

When other officers arrived at the scene, they found the two detectives, Sgt. Loran “Butch” Baker, a 28-year veteran, and detective Elizabeth Butler, a 10-year veteran, shot and killed outside a residence.

Sgt. Baker and Detective Butler are the first officers to be killed in the line of duty in the city’s history.

Sgt. Baker leaves behind a wife, two daughters and a son, who is a community service officer with the Santa Cruz Police Department.

Detective Butler leaves behind her partner and two young sons.

This is a horrible tragedy, and I join with all residents of the Central Coast, to mourn this loss and to pay our respects to these two outstanding officers.

Our prayers and sympathies are with the families and loved ones of the officers who gave their lives in the line of duty.

While the words of comfort we offer today are sincere, our actions and deeds will be the true test of our resolve. If we are truly committed to ending gun violence in our communities, we must be willing to find real solutions to prevent this type of senseless shooting from occurring again.

We owe that much to the brave men and women who put on a police uniform every day.

We must be willing to protect those who so bravely protect us.

As a community, we promise that the sacrifices of Sgt. Baker and Detective Butler will not be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DAVID P. ROE**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2013*

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 46, had I been present, I would have voted “Yea.”

TO RECOGNIZE VFW POST 7327 AND  
THE 2013 AWARD RECIPIENTS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2013*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Springfield Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7327 and the recipients of its 2013 Annual Awards.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) traces its beginnings to 1899 when veterans of the Spanish American War established local organizations to bring awareness to their service and to advocate for veterans retirement benefits and improved medical care. Today, with membership of 2.2 million at approximately 8,100 posts worldwide, the VFW continues its efforts to support the men and women who have served our great country in uniform and their families.

The VFW has a distinguished record of service to the broader community. The VFW and Ladies Auxiliary contribute more than 13 million hours of volunteerism every year. In this field of champions, the Springfield VFW Post 7327 stands out for the depth of its commitment to our community.

Often called “The Friendliest VFW Post in Virginia,” Post 7327 has one of the most aggressive ADOPT-A UNIT programs in the entire VFW organization to support our service members stationed overseas. VFW Post 7327 visits the VA hospital at least quarterly; bringing along goodie bags for our Wounded Warriors. Each Thanksgiving and Christmas, VFW Post 7327 adopts military families in need through the USO and provides them with meal baskets for each holiday, Christmas gifts for all the children, commissary cards for the parents, and a Christmas party where the children can meet Santa and receive a gift filled stocking. The Ladies Auxiliary members collect, sort, and distribute more than 2,000 pieces of clothing each month to various charitable organizations. VFW Post 7327 is a strong supporter of local youth organizations including the Boys Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Little League Baseball that contribute greatly to the education and well being of our children.

Each year, VFW Post 7327 bestows awards to outstanding local citizens in recognition of their extraordinary actions and dedication. I congratulate the following individuals on receiving these 2013 Awards:

Teachers of the Year: Erin Poppe and Michael Walser.

Voice of Democracy: 1st Place: Michael D. Marriott, 2nd Place: Kathryn Cummins.

Patriot’s Pen: 1st Place: Shane David King, 2nd Place: Sion Kim, 3rd Place: Rishon A. Elliott.

Police Officer of the Year: George Joca.  
Emergency Medical Technician of the Year: Kayla Thompson.

VFW Post 7327 has also recognized JW & Friends Restaurant and the Northern Virginia Surgery Center for their continued support to the Post and its Ladies Auxiliary.

I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the 2013 Awardees and in thanking the members, Ladies Auxiliary, and supporters of VFW Post 7327 for their continued service to our country and our community.

HONORING GERALD MCKINSEY

**HON. LUKE MESSER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2013*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of one of my constituents, Gerald McKinsey of Greensburg, Indiana.

Gerald was a life-long resident of Greensburg, working in manufacturing at the local

Honda automotive facility and, before that, at Gecom. On a personal note, my brother Rich and I have very fond memories of summer days spent on sports, bikes, and video games with Gerald and his brother, Jeff. Their friendships, and the friendship of their entire family, were a very important part of our childhood. Those memories will never be forgotten.

I ask the entire 6th District to keep Gerald’s mother, Faye, his daughter, Kayla, and son, Keegan, along with the entire extended McKinsey family in your thoughts and prayers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RICHARD L. HANNA**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2013*

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 49, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to Academic Competition Resolution of 2013, I was unable to successfully cast my vote by electronic device.

Had I been able to vote, I would have voted “yes.”

THE COST OF INACTION WILL BE  
STAGGERING

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2013*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I submit this letter, which is an example of an opportunity for a bipartisan climate action.

THE COST OF INACTION . . .

The effects of climate change in the world’s most vulnerable regions present a serious threat to American national security interests. As a matter of risk management, the United States must work with international partners, public and private, to address this impending crisis. Potential consequences are undeniable, and the cost of inaction, paid for in lives and valuable U.S. resources, will be staggering. Washington must lead on this issue now.

Countries least able to adapt to or mitigate the impacts of climate change will suffer the most, but the resulting crises will quickly become a burden on U.S. priorities as well. Both the Department of Defense and the State Department have identified climate change as a serious risk to American security and an agent of instability. Without precautionary measures, climate change impacts abroad could spur mass migrations, influence civil conflict and ultimately lead to a more unpredictable world. In fact, we may already be seeing signs of this as vulnerable communities in some of the most fragile and conflict-ridden states are increasingly displaced by floods, droughts and other natural disasters. Protecting U.S. interests under these conditions would progressively exhaust American military, diplomatic and development resources as we struggle to meet growing demands for emergency international engagement.

It is in our national interest to confront the risk that climate change in vulnerable regions presents to American security. We must offer adaptive solutions to communities currently facing climate-driven displacement, support disaster risk reduction measures and help mitigate potential future