

Brenda Tristan, Laredo, Texas, 28th Congressional District of Texas.

Leslie Cepeda-Echeverria, Salt Lake City, Utah, 2nd Congressional District of Utah.

Michelle Lewis, Richmond, Virginia, 3rd Congressional District of Virginia.

Beverly Sanchez, Alexandria, Virginia, 8th Congressional District of Virginia.

Tiffany Tran, Vancouver, Washington, 3rd Congressional District of Washington.

Harpreet Singh-Gill, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 4th Congressional District of Wisconsin.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was unavoidably detained and missed the following vote: H.R. 2576—To amend title 49, United States Code, to modify requirements relating to the availability of pipeline safety regulatory documents, and for other purposes. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on this bill.

TRIBUTE TO DR. CLINTON M. PATTEA

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and passing of Dr. Clinton M. Pattea, a lifelong advocate for Native American sovereignty, president of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, and former chairman of the Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs.

As a state legislator, I worked with Dr. Pattea on issues important to our local communities, where his passion for education and providing educational resources to the underserved was renowned. Dr. Pattea tirelessly sought to fund scholarships for native peoples across the state and in my district at Arizona State University, where I am an Adjunct Professor in the School of Social Work.

Elected to the Yavapai Tribal Council in 1960, Dr. Pattea thereafter led a decade-long campaign to stop construction of the Orme Dam, which would have flooded 17,000 acres of tribal lands. The victory is celebrated annually, as is Sovereignty Day, commemorating a peaceful standoff led by Dr. Pattea against federal agents seeking to seize Yavapai property. The non-violent protest led to the negotiation with Governor Fife Symington of a pact considered a national victory for Native self-determination.

Dr. Pattea will be missed by all who knew him, and will be remembered by his family, his Nation, the state of Arizona, and Native people everywhere. I ask that my colleagues join me in posthumously recognizing Dr. Pattea for his dedicated service to his community, as well as in grieving with his family and the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation at the passing of their leader.

IN MEMORY OF ARTHUR GLATFELTER, JR.

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Arthur Glatfelter, Jr. Mr. Glatfelter was a pillar of his community, a kind and generous man, and a leader who sought to make the world a better place. In addition to his work with philanthropies, Mr. Glatfelter was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather.

Mr. Glatfelter fought for his country during World War II, serving in the United States Marine Corps in the Pacific. After the war he continued his life of service. Mr. Glatfelter was a leader in many philanthropic groups, and served on the boards of multiple organizations in his community. He was an original member of the board of directors as well as the founding director of the Congressional Fire Services Institute. Mr. Glatfelter remained an active member of the CFSI until stepping down in 2008. Other groups he worked with included the Cultural Alliance of York County, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, the York Habitat for Humanity, and the Farm and Natural Lands Trust of York County. Mr. Glatfelter was also the founder of the Glatfelter Insurance Group.

Mr. Speaker, Art Glatfelter was a shining example of community service and family values. He was not only a good friend of mine, but an outstanding friend of the emergency services and first responder communities all across America. He will be missed.

LEGISLATION TO AMEND THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 TO PROVIDE FOR OFFSETTING CERTAIN PAST-DUE LOCAL TAX DEBTS AGAINST INCOME TAX OVERPAYMENTS

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am proposing legislation to establish a program that would mirror the existing law for states. The legislation would allow certain types of delinquent local tax debt to be collected through the reduction of federal tax refunds. Providing local governments access to these needed and due funds is important both in principle and for budgetary purposes. In this challenging and uncertain economic environment, it is especially important to assist cities and counties to collect the taxes they are owed. The alternatives would be a reduction in vital services and jobs at a time when the government safety net for poor families and the unemployed has weakened significantly and increases in poverty in these hard economic times. Failure to collect what is due will impose significantly higher demands on local governments for police, housing and shelter, food, and other vital services. This bill offers a unique opportunity not just to provide hundreds of millions of dollars of desperately needed assistance at no cost to federal tax-

payers but also to protect honest taxpayers from an increase in local property taxes. Under this legislation, the only cost is to the delinquent taxpayer, who would finally be made to pay his or her outstanding tax obligation.

This proposed program would have no additional cost to the federal government. Local governments would pay the federal government the fee of \$25 for each offset refund. It would alleviate the administrative burden to Department of the Treasury by requiring the state taxing authority to act as the clearinghouse. Therefore, the client base for the Department of the Treasury would not increase.

This concept of an offset originated as a way to assist states with securing child support arrearages. It was expanded to allow states to submit other delinquent claims against an individual's federal tax return. This program has been very successful for the states. This bill would expand its successful idea and concept to local governments in all states. Doing so could potentially result in several billion dollars annually for local governments by effecting the collection of delinquent taxes. Under this legislation, the following order of priority for payment of an offset would be: (1) past-due federal income tax, (2) past-due state child support, (3) past-due federal government agency debt, (4) past-due state income tax, and (5) local government tax. The state taxing authority for each state would act as the clearinghouse for the local government tax debts, so this will not be an additional burden to Financial Management Services (which is a division of the United States Department of the Treasury and administers the Federal Offset Program). Doing so could potentially result in several billion dollars annually for local governments by improving the collection of delinquent taxes.

The bill would instruct the Secretary of the Treasury, upon receiving notice from any eligible state on behalf of a local government, that a named person owes such local government a past-due, legally enforceable tax obligation and provide, consequently, for the reduction of the federal tax refunds payable to such person by the amount of such debt. That amount would be remitted to the state for payment to the affected local government, provide for notification to the state of the taxpayer's name, taxpayer identification number, address, and the amount collected; and notification of the person due the refund that it has been reduced by an amount necessary to satisfy a past-due, legally enforceable tax obligation.

This bill offers a unique opportunity to provide hundreds of millions of dollars of desperately needed assistance at no cost to federal taxpayers. For Virginia localities, it is estimated that this bill will bring in between 65–70 million dollars in revenue during the first year in the program. From its participation in the Federal Offset Program, for FY 2008 the Commonwealth of Virginia received over \$17 million dollars in offsets of federal income tax refunds and an additional \$5 million in offsets of the tax stimulus checks. This legislation earned the official support of the National Association of Counties, the Government Finance Officers Association, the National League of Cities, the Treasurers' Association of Virginia, the United States Conference of Mayors, the Association of Public Treasurers of the United States and Canada, and the Conference of State Court Administrators.

This is a good-government bill. If the legislation is passed, it would allow federal, state and local government to work together. Good citizens, who pay their taxes, will appreciate that the federal government and the state government are assisting localities to help local government collect from the delinquents. Each citizen should share in paying his fair share of taxes.

H.R. 2667, THE AUTHORITY FOR MANDATE DELAY ACT AND H.R. 2668, THE FAIRNESS FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES ACT JULY 17, 2013

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to both H.R. 2667, the Authority for Mandate Delay Act, and H.R. 2668, the Fairness for American Families Act. Here we are once again taking another cheap shot at the Affordable Care Act (ACA), rather than working to continue providing its benefits to the American people. Both pieces of legislation are political stunts which will not help Americans get access to quality, affordable health care.

There is no need for passage of H.R. 2667 since the President has already acted to delay by one year the employer responsibility requirements under ACA. Given the fact that this type of change has long been sought by my friends on the other side of the aisle and their allies, you would think they would be praising the President for taking this action. Instead, they have done nothing but used this as another opportunity to score cheap political points, which is very telling.

Although I wish the employer responsibility provision would be implemented on time, the fact of the matter is that this delay will have very little practical impact. Over ninety six percent of large employers already offer health coverage to their employees. It is important that we take our time in getting these new reporting requirements right, which is exactly what the President is doing. Since the President has already acted in this manner, H.R. 2667 is duplicative and unnecessary.

H.R. 2668 also should be rejected by this body. The individual mandate is the cornerstone of the ACA, and the Supreme Court has affirmed its constitutionality. Simply put, delaying the implementation of the individual mandate is just a back door attempt to undermine the entire law. The Affordable Care Act has already brought many benefits to the American people. Thanks to the law, 206,000 people in my district have access to preventative services without a co-pay, and 8,500 young adults have health insurance through their parents' plan. Adopting this bill today would jeopardize this progress we have made in recent years.

Today we received news that health insurance premiums will fall by an average of 50 percent in New York once their exchanges are up and running in 2014. The individual mandate is a key reason for this. For years, New York had a prohibition on discriminating against individuals with a pre-existing condition. However, the state did not require all individuals to purchase insurance, which caused rates to skyrocket. The individual mandate,

combined with the new health insurance marketplaces, are in large part responsible for this precipitous decline in insurance rates in New York. We should ensure that these results are replicated in my home state of Michigan and across the rest of the country. Repealing the individual mandate will increase Americans' health care costs, not decrease them.

I hope we can come together and work in a bipartisan manner to improve our health care system and provide real benefits to the American people. Until that day comes, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against these two pieces of legislation, as they are nothing more than political stunts which do nothing to address the problems we face as a nation.

TRIBUTE TO BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the Blue Star Mothers of America, a national organization of military mothers devoted to supporting our nation's armed forces. Representatives LAMALFA, SWALWELL, and ROBY have joined me in introducing a resolution naming the month of August as "Blue Star Mothers of America Month."

I am proud to say that the East Valley Blue Star Mothers, a local chapter of the organization, meets in my district. They have dedicated themselves to supporting soldiers overseas, wounded warriors, families of fallen soldiers, as well as all veterans, homeless or thriving. They organize visits to VA hospitals, participate in Veteran's and Memorial Day events, and send care packages to homesick troops protecting our freedom abroad.

Founded in 1941, Blue Star Mothers of America boast 11,000 members brought together by their sons' and daughters' service. Chapters flourish in 42 states, and in all corners of my own state, Arizona. Blue Star Mothers are unsung heroes of the ongoing fight to preserve our country's safety and liberty.

The Blue Star Mothers are a truly patriotic organization and deserve our body's commendation. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the Blue Star Mothers of America for their service to their communities, to our country, and to all of us individually.

THE ADMINISTRATION MUST NOT SIDELINE HORRIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN NORTH KOREA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today the House Republican Conference and House Foreign Affairs Committee welcomed roughly 400 Korean American community leaders from across the country to Capitol Hill for the first-ever Korean American Meetup. Participants had the

opportunity to meet with key congressional leaders to discuss legislative and policy priorities for the community.

Given my own interactions over the years with the vibrant Korean American community in my district, I think it is safe to say that the abysmal human rights situation in North Korea will feature prominently among these policy priorities.

Sadly, given the amount of time and focus that the Obama Administration has dedicated to shining a bright light on this dark corner of the globe you would never know that up to 200,000 people languish in a sophisticated and horrific prison camp system in North Korea reminiscent of the most brutal regimes throughout history.

On May 21 Christianity Today featured an interview with former Washington Post reporter Blaine Harden, author of "Escape from Camp 14." Harden's book features the story of Shin Dong-hyuk, the only known prisoner who was actually born in one of regime's notorious camps and escaped alive.

Mr. Shin's personal story is remarkable. He grew up knowing nothing of life outside the camp. He turned in his mother and brother—which led to their eventual execution—based on the promise of a meal of rice. In fact it was the pursuit of food that led him to attempt a harrowing escape.

Harden spoke of the camps as analogous to "Stalin's Gulag." He continued, "The camps were set up under Kim Il-sung, an acolyte of Stalin, as a mirror of the Soviet Gulag. What is different in the North Korean case is that they seem to be crueller and have lasted twice as long."

Indeed, the longevity of these camps is striking as is the fact that some South Korean POWs are still trapped in North Korea 60 years after the armistice. The Washington Post ran a story last weekend, which I submit for the RECORD, on this rarely discussed human rights tragedy.

We have known for some time about the true nature of the cruel and inhuman system of labor camps maintained by the regime. In fact satellite images confirmed their existence more than a decade ago. And yet somehow, almost inexplicably, these horrific camps have failed to inspire collective outrage on the part of the West, and have been sidelined to the point of irrelevance in successive U.S. administrations' dealings with North Korea, including the Obama Administration.

The U.S. Committee for Human Rights in North Korea published a report 10 years ago called *The Hidden Gulag: Exposing North Korea's Prison Camps*. It contained a full description of the camps, the worst of which are called kwan-li-so, which is translated as "political penal-labor colonies," and where, according to the Committee's report, scores of thousands of political prisoners—along with up to three generations of their family members—are banished without any judicial process and imprisoned, typically for lifetime sentences of slave labor.

The report also contained prisoners' testimonies and satellite photographs of the camps, whose very existence continues to be denied by the North Korean government, which is why the committee described the gulags as "hidden."

Defector testimony, like that of Mr. Shin, satellite images and in-depth reporting have left no doubt about the camps' existence and