

Dowd, a native of Oswego, Illinois who has devoted more than half of his life to serving Aurora's homeless.

After 14 years of service, Friday, September 20th will be Ryan's last day serving as the executive director of Hesed House, the second largest shelter in the State of Illinois, and the largest shelter outside of the city of Chicago. Under his leadership, Hesed House ministries have tripled in effectiveness, housing more than 1,000 individuals annually.

Ryan began volunteering at Hesed House when he was just 13 years old and started working at the shelter during college. Upon graduating from Northern Illinois University's College of Law in 2003 with a dual JD and MPA degree, Ryan accepted a position as the associate director of Hesed House and would eventually become executive director in 2004.

I am humbled by Ryan's commitment to serve our community. While Ryan's work in Aurora is sadly coming to an end, I know he will continue to serve his fellow man and make the world a better place as he begins a career in international human rights.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ryan Dowd and his service to the community. His tireless commitment and dedication will be missed, and I wish him and his family the best of luck in all of their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE SAN LUIS  
CANAL COMPANY

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2013*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the San Luis Canal Company (SLCC) during their centennial celebration. SLCC serves hundreds of landowners throughout Merced County, and we thank them for all of their hard work.

In 1913, SLCC was established as a private mutual water company. SLCC is comprised of 45,000 acres between Los Banos and Dos Palos. They strive every day to protect the land by managing water resources efficiently and effectively. Currently, SLCC is working diligently to resolve the land subsidence issues throughout the Central Valley.

SLCC has a long standing history of working with the neighboring water districts as well as communicating with the landowners in the area. Keeping the farmers involved and informed is extremely important to SLCC, so that all stakeholders can work to come up with solutions to the significant water issues.

SLCC's focus on sustainable irrigation practices is both impressive and commendable. The conservation techniques undoubtedly contribute to maintaining the Central Valley's status as an agricultural leader. Farmers in the Valley feed our great nation, and SLCC is a vital component to ensuring the success of farmers throughout Merced County.

In addition, SLCC manages some of the most substantial water projects in the State of California including the San Luis Canal. It is the largest earth-moving project in the Bureau of Reclamation's history. The Canal ranges from 8,350 to 13,100 cubic feet per second and extends 102.5 miles.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the San Luis Canal Company

as they celebrate this momentous occasion. Their outstanding service and dedication to the farmers and residents in our Central Valley must be honored.

HONORING ALEXANDRA BOSTIC

**HON. LUKE MESSER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2013*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alexandra Bostic of Aurora, Indiana, and her parents, Noel and Jennifer Bostic, on Alexandra being selected as one of two national scholarship winners by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (the NIAAA). The NIAAA is an organization founded in 1977 to promote the educational value of interscholastic athletics through the professional development of its member athletic administrators. Alexandra was awarded the scholarship, from among entries from all 50 states, based on her academic achievement, athletic accomplishments, and her essay on how participation in high school athletics impacted her life. In Alexandra's essay, she talked about leadership, teamwork, and time management. She also discussed the value of work ethic, not only on the playing field, but also in the classroom.

These are all important skills that will give Alexandra an opportunity to become a very successful person, but Alexandra's thoughts about the word "sportsmanship" were most touching to me. A rival high school lost one of its players in an ATV accident, and Alexandra's team faced their rival the next game after the accident. However, that day, it was about more than sports. It was about coming together to honor the life of their fellow player, not as opponents, but as friends. As Alexandra said, "this to me is the perfect example of sportsmanship."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Alexandra's achievement and the accomplishments of all her fellow student athletes.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "NUCLEAR  
REGULATORY COMMISSION RE-  
ORGANIZATION CODIFICATION  
AND COMPLEMENTS ACT"

**HON. LEE TERRY**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2013*

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, one of our most important responsibilities here in Congress is oversight of executive branch agencies. Such oversight illuminates flaws either in the structure or the conduct of these agencies that sometimes requires legislative action. Today, I am speaking for just such a reason.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission had operated with acceptable performance for quite some time until a few years ago when a new chairman took over the leadership of the agency in 2009. Unlike his predecessors, this chairman did not seek to work collegially with his fellow Commission members, but sought to consolidate and expand his authority as chairman. This abuse of power led to multiple in-

vestigations by Congressional committees and the NRC's Inspector General.

In 1980, during Congress' consideration of President Carter's proposal to reorganize the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Members raised concerns about the potential for just such an abuse by a rogue chairman: namely that the President's plan concentrated too much authority in the chairmanship of the agency.

I believe it is incumbent upon us, as Members of Congress, to exercise our legislative responsibility and address this situation.

For that purpose, my colleagues Mr. Barton, Mr. Burgess and Mr. Kenzinger, and I are introducing the "Nuclear Regulatory Commission Reorganization Plan Codification and Complements Act."

Following the Three Mile Island accident in 1979, the President and the Congress saw the need to improve the NRC's ability to respond to an accident. President Carter responded by proposing the "Reorganization Plan of 1980" to strengthen the power of the chairmanship by consolidating administrative and emergency authorities. A little known artifact of this history is that the 1980 Plan was subsequently approved by Congress as a resolution, not enacted as a law. Our bill would correct that artifact by seeking to codify a modern version of the 1980 Plan while limiting the potential for a chairman to abuse his authority as I described a moment ago.

While the Fukushima accident happened on foreign soil, the then-NRC chairman exercised emergency authority—authority reserved for emergencies within the NRC's jurisdiction—without making a declaration and without adequate reporting of his actions. Clearly, there must be clear operating authority and accountability in an emergency, including a declaration and termination of any special authority. This bill clarifies those requirements.

If the NRC chairman is the subject of an investigation by the Inspector General as a result of allegations of wrongdoing, the Inspector General should not remain under the chairman's supervision. This bill would require delegation of that supervisory responsibility to another member of the Commission.

These are just a few examples of the provisions in this bill. This is about good government. While the current NRC chairman worked to reestablish collegiality at the Commission, I believe we must act to preclude future leadership breakdowns akin to her predecessor. These are common sense changes to ensure the proper conduct of the people's business at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. I look forward to working with my colleagues in a bipartisan fashion toward passage of this bill into law.

HONORING THE FRIENDS OF THE  
MISSISSIPPI RIVER 20TH ANNI-  
VERSARY

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2013*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the vital work of the Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) on the 20th anniversary of its founding. Since its inception in