

INTRODUCING THE “HONORING
OUR FALLEN HEROES WITH DIG-
NITY ACT OF 2013”

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2013

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Honoring Our Fallen Heroes with Dignity Act of 2013.

This act protects the rights of families to leave small keepsakes at the gravesites of servicemembers buried in Section 60 of Arlington National Cemetery, many of whom bravely served their country in Iraq and in Afghanistan.

During the summer of 2013, officials at Arlington National Cemetery came through Section 60 and, without providing advance notice to families, threw away mementos left behind for the heroes buried in Section 60.

Teresa Arciola, a mother whose son was killed in Iraq in 2005, cried when she found out that the mementos she left at her son's gravesite had been removed. “It was like no one cared anymore,” she told The Washington Post.

The act would allow mementos to be left on the top of and immediately next to grave markers in Section 60 of Arlington National Cemetery as long as they did not interfere with normal operations and maintenance procedures, such as mowing the grass.

The items can not be a health or safety hazard, be permanently affixed to gravestones, and can't interfere with normal operations of the Section 60 of Arlington National Cemetery. At end of each month, items left on the grave stone will be collected, cataloged, and stored.

HONORING JAMES BRYON ADAMS,
JR.

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2013

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the life my dear friend James “Jim” Bryon Adams, Jr.—an exemplary American citizen, husband, father, and grandfather.

On November 10, Jim passed away peacefully at his home in Greensboro, North Carolina at the age of 70.

Born and raised in Atlanta, Jim was the oldest son of the late James Byron and Marie Black Adams. After graduating from Druid Hills High School, he attended Georgia Institute of Technology and joined Sigma Nu fraternity, where we became friends. Jim was a reliable friend and fraternity brother. And on top of that, he was a dedicated leader in whatever organizations he joined. While I knew him, he was a Rush Chairman of our fraternity, Captain of the Varsity baseball team, President of the Rambling Wreck Club, and a member of the ANAK honorary society.

After finishing his degree and a short stint with the Chicago Cubs minor league team in Washington State, Jim joined Deering Milliken—presently Milliken & Company—in New York City which began a long and successful career in the textile industry. He was

an executive at many companies in the industry and eventually became President of Flynt Amtex, where he retired at age 65, but continued serving on their board of directors.

Jim's friends and family will remember him as a level headed and dispassionate man who could bring a lighthearted sense of humor to every situation. He took pride in his profession, cared deeply about his family, and enjoyed golfing with his friends.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my deepest condolences to Jim's wife Daryl, his son James, his daughter Jill, his great grandson Brayden, his brother David, and his nephew James in this time of difficulty. It saddens me to know that the world is missing an honorable and dedicated man, but I am humbled to know that he is now in a better place.

LAWSUIT ABUSE REDUCTION ACT
OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2013

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2655, the so-called “Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act.”

This is a misleading title and a misleading bill. A plaintiff courageously seeking to stand up to civil rights violations, equal protections violations, or voting rights infringement IS NOT abusing anything: she's exercising her rights enshrined in the Constitution.

When I practiced law in California, I know that those I represented—from victims of workplace discrimination to women athlete scholars looking for equal opportunities—would have been hurt by this bill, and their cases may never have been heard.

Ordering sanctions should be at the discretion of the judge, not Congress. This bill would reverse the good judgment and counsel of the Judicial Conference of the United States and the Supreme Court, both of which recommended the change twenty years ago.

Our Courts are a great equalizer; the courtroom is often the only place that a plaintiff can find a fair and equal footing with employers, corporations, and even their government.

This bill would have a chilling effect on the ability of Americans to find justice for civil rights violations, employment discrimination claims, privacy suits, equal protection violations, voting rights claims, consumer protection claims, and so much more.

The changes proposed in this bill would negatively impact cases where the bulk of the evidence rests with one party, disproportionately impacting plaintiffs in civil rights and consumer protection litigation.

This bill would also negatively impact civil cases that involve new legal theories, meaning that landmark cases in our nation's history may never have made it to the Supreme Court; cases like *Brown v. Board of Education*, *Griswald v. Connecticut*, *Massachusetts v. EPA*.

If my colleagues are serious about reforming the legal system, I would be very interested in working with them. There are abusive litigation tactics by both plaintiffs and defendants, and we could work in a responsible, bipartisan manner to address those. But this bill

is not a serious attempt to level the playing field or to curb real abuses. Instead, it puts Congress' thumb on one side of the scale of justice.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill.

HONORING RIVERDALE HIGH
SCHOOL AND H2O FOR LIFE

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2013

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to take a moment to honor an individual who, for the last four years, has been inspiring the next generation of global water activists.

Riverdale High School teacher Laurie LePore began teaching the “H2O for Life” course as a way to introduce a service-learning component to her students' education.

At the beginning of each H2O for Life course, students select one or two schools currently lacking a proper, healthy, water source. The class is then divided into five student-led groups, each tasked with their own jobs to do, working together to raise funds for the building of wells, water purification systems, and restrooms for schools in need. Laurie also educates students about water issues in my home state of Oregon, including dam breaching, overfishing, and the impact of bottled water.

This year, her class is assisting two elementary schools in South Africa to raise \$5,000 to bring water, sanitation, and hygiene projects and practices to their schools—benefiting a total of 2,086 students. At the end of the year, eight schools from Africa, the Philippines, and India will have first-time access to water and sanitation facilities thanks to the H2O for Life class and Mrs. LePore's dedication.

Bringing water and sanitation into schools is an essential part of having an effective education system. Without adequate sanitation facilities, young girls are embarrassed to attend school and too often stay away as a result. If there isn't water in their place of learning, many children are forced to choose between providing water for themselves and their family or their education. When it's a matter of life and death or learning, school always loses out.

As the lead sponsor of the 2005 “Water for the Poor Act” and the current “Water for the World Act of 2013,” I applaud local efforts to highlight this ongoing challenge and am deeply appreciative of the impact this program has and will have not only on her students, but for the thousands of children they've helped around the world.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2013

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, on November 12, 2013, I missed rollcall votes No. 571 and 572 for district business. Had I been present I would have voted “yes” on both.

WORLD DAY OF REMEMBRANCE
FOR ROAD TRAFFIC VICTIMS

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2013

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims.

This Sunday around the world, millions will pause to remember those who have died or been injured in road crashes. Every year, the list of those injured and suffering as a result of road crashes grows. This tragedy is increased by the fact that many of these deaths and injuries could have been prevented. This is a growing global epidemic predominantly impacting young people. More than 40 percent of all road traffic deaths occur among individuals under 25 years old and road crashes are the second leading cause of death for young people aged 5–25 years.

Promoting global road safety requires a focus on education, advocacy and support for targeted road safety projects in low and middle income countries where the problem is more prevalent. That is why I have been a long supporter of the Association for Safe International Road Travel (ASIRT).

ASIRT encourages governments in developing nations to reduce road traffic deaths and injuries through dialogue, research and advocacy. ASIRT encourages and promotes U.S. government involvement in road safety abroad by emphasizing the importance of sharing U.S. technical assistance and injury treatment expertise with other nations and international organizations. ASIRT also works closely with the Congressional Global Road Safety Caucus to raise awareness among members of Congress about this urgent problem and with U.S. embassies abroad to promote road safety initiatives in host countries.

I want to congratulate ASIRT for being selected to participate in the new Bloomberg Global Road Safety Initiative. This initiative will devote \$125 million over five years to fund road safety interventions in 10 target countries around the globe. ASIRT is the only non-governmental organization among the Bloomberg partners on this project. ASIRT will work to strengthen NGO capacity in target countries through grassroots programs and is currently working on programs in Egypt, Kenya, and Turkey with plans of expanding to other countries.

World Remembrance Day is a time for the public to think about the devastating loss and suffering that still occurs because of road crashes and reminds us of how much more we must still do to bring this suffering to an end.

HONORING NANCY ELLEN VOILS-FIELD

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2013

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in honor of Nancy Ellen Voils-Field of Salem, Virginia, who went to be with her Heavenly Father on November 8, 2013.

Nancy met her husband, Robert Field, as a teenager. They moved to Salem in 1972, following 20 years of Army life. Nancy, a devout Latter-Day Saint, spent much of her time working to serve her Heavenly Father and assist those in need.

Those who knew her are well aware of her long-time participation in 4-H and Extension Homemakers, and of her involvement in Scouting. I had the pleasure of working with Nancy for a number of years in the Boy Scouts of America, Blue Ridge Mountains Council, Catawba District. Whenever a task needed to be done, Nancy would wait to see if anyone else would step forward. If no one else volunteered, we could always count on Nancy to say, "Well, I could probably do that." It was widely known in the community that Nancy Field was a quiet leader who would get the job done.

Nancy loved music, gardening, and quilting. Over the years, I always enjoyed looking at her many award-winning entries in the Salem Fair.

Nancy leaves behind her husband of 62 years, Robert, and a sister, Mary Lou Voils. Also surviving are four children David Field and his wife Marianne of Columbus, Mississippi, Sharon Crenshaw of Roanoke, Robert (Brian/Rob) Field, of Naples, Florida, Charles (Rich) Field and his wife Dawn, of Salem; and four grandchildren.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Nancy's family and loved ones. She will be greatly missed. Her love for her family, friends, and community will always be remembered and cherished in Salem.

CONGRATULATING AND HONORING
THE LOUISIANA BUSINESS AND
TECHNOLOGY CENTER

HON. BILL CASSIDY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2013

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Louisiana Business & Technology Center (LBTC), located on Louisiana State University's South Campus in Louisiana's Sixth Congressional District. It is indeed a great honor and privilege to join with the LBTC in commemorating and celebrating 25 years of dedicated service to the business community in the State of Louisiana.

Over the past 25 years, the LBTC has partnered with small businesses and entrepreneurs to help them reach their goals of longevity and self-sufficiency. Under the leadership of Executive Director Charles D'Agostino and his team, the LBTC has created over 10,000 jobs and helped start up companies raise \$172 million in loans and equity investments. Additionally, the LBTC has been instrumental in providing Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant assistance to over 2,500 companies amounting to \$77 million in awards. Finally, the Center has enlisted the support of LSU's student body in creating a Student Incubator which has spawned 28 full time businesses with 97 jobs and has raised over \$3 million in capital since 2010.

Based upon the LBTC's long record of accomplishment and achievement, they have obtained the reputation of being known as one of the best entrepreneurial launchpads in the

State. On behalf of the residents of Louisiana's Sixth Congressional District, I congratulate the Louisiana Business and Technology Center on the tremendous contribution it has had in fostering and developing small businesses which are a vital component to our Nation's economy.

HONORING LEBANON ON ITS 70TH
INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2013

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, one week from today, on November 22, 2013, the Lebanese people will come together to celebrate the 70th Independence Day of Lebanon. As a proud Lebanese-American, I extend my congratulations on this momentous occasion to President Sleiman, Caretaker Prime Minister Mikati, Speaker Berri, and all citizens of Lebanon and those around that world who proudly claim Lebanese heritage.

For seventy years, Lebanon has exemplified its rich history of multiethnic heritage and cohesion through its ability to bring together populations that enjoy the freedom to show their diversity in areas such as their religious practices while remaining bound together through their love for a unified and sovereign Lebanese nation. The National Pact that set the foundation for the Lebanese state in 1943 established a framework of independence, diversity, inclusion, and unity that have endured through these last seventy years as the keystones of a strong and lasting sovereign nation.

The Lebanese people have not only contributed to outstanding and continuing achievements within Lebanon and the Middle East, but all around the world. Here in the United States of America, the early Lebanese Americans who arrived in the 19th century quickly established strong communities built on the foundation of strong work ethic, ingenuity, and cultural integration. Those characteristics continue to define today's generation of Lebanese Americans who make up the largest demographic of Arab Americans at 26.9 percent according to the U.S. Census Bureau's most recent American Community Survey. I am honored that many of these Lebanese-American families have chosen to call New York—and especially Upstate—home. I embrace all of the positive contributions that they continue to make every day in our society.

Today, the role that Lebanon plays within the world and the Middle East is as important as ever, and it is of upmost importance that it endure as a beacon of hope and a truly independent ally and nation free from the instability, foreign influence, and war that have engulfed its Syrian neighbor. The strength of the people of Lebanon and their leaders has been demonstrated through their ability to remain resilient and united even in the midst of a regional crisis that has displaced 814,002 Syrian refugees as of November 12, 2013, into more than 1,400 Lebanese communities. It is imperative that the United States continue to support Lebanon as it grapples with these difficult times and maintains its strength through whatever may lie in the days and years ahead.

Given all that Lebanon has been through these past 70 years, it is important that this