

Tony served as a staff member for Congressman Bernie Sisk for 13 years, ultimately becoming his Chief of Staff. As staff, Tony honed his political skills and his knowledge of water and agricultural issues in the Central Valley. When Congressman Sisk announced his retirement, Tony ran to succeed him and won the seat in 1978.

After serving just one term in office, in 1981, Tony was selected to be chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee whose main job was to help get Democrats elected to Congress. He professionalized the campaign committee raising more money than had ever been raised before from traditionally Republican interests as well as Democratic interests to support worthy Democratic candidates. He also developed the permanent infrastructure comprised of pollsters, speech writers, and fundraising staff to enable Democrats to be competitive in races. Due to his success, in 1986, Tony was the first-elected House Majority Whip, third in line to the House Speakership. As Majority Whip, Tony secured the votes needed to pass the Democratic legislative agenda.

One of Tony's greatest accomplishments in Congress was serving as the primary sponsor of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This legislation has provided people with disabilities equal access to employment, public facilities, and transportation and has made it possible for them to become a full participating member of society. Since the passage of the law in 1990, millions of Americans have found employment that had previously known only discrimination. It is considered the most important piece of civil rights legislation in the past 30 years.

Although Tony resigned from Congress in 1989, he continued to dedicate time to public service and has remained deeply committed to his work in the disabilities movement. For many years, Tony has worked closely with the Epilepsy Foundation of America, serving as a national spokesperson, Board President, and fundraiser. He was appointed by President Bill Clinton to serve as Chairman of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, and Vice Chair of the National Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities as well as Co-Chair to the U.S. Census Monitoring Board. Tony also served as the U.S. Commissioner General to the 1998 World Exposition in Lisbon, Portugal.

Tony also has stayed very active politically. In 2000, he served as chairman of the Gore presidential campaign and continues to serve as an informal adviser to numerous Members of Congress and elected officials at all levels of government.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize a mentor and friend to many of us, Tony Coelho. He has made a lasting difference in our nation, and we must thank him for his unwavering commitment and service.

## RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA

**HON. PATRICK MURPHY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 28, 2014*

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the centennial anniversary of the City of Stuart, Florida, which I am so proud to have located in my Congressional District.

The City of Stuart, with its ideal location bordering the St. Lucie River and West of the Indian River, has long been a key destination for those looking to connect with the water, whether through fishing, boating, or other activities. Famed for its Sailfishing and other types of sport fishing, Stuart is known as the "Sailfish Capital of the World." The city offers a scenic and historic downtown, with museums, live music, and numerous dining and shopping options.

For the past 100 years, the City of Stuart has worked to promote and advance the interests and well-being of its residents and of the environment. Stuart has played a leading role in protecting and restoring local waterways from pollution, understanding that this issue impacts the community's entire way of life. Stuart's water treatment facility has received numerous awards for its efforts and dedication to protecting our waters, including the Operations Excellence Award from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Medium Public Water System of the Year award from the Florida Rural Water Association.

I am incredibly honored to represent the City of Stuart in Congress. This is a city whose beauty is paralleled only by the work ethic and dedication of its people, creating jobs and boosting economic growth. This is a city that knows the importance of protecting our environment, and is working to preserve it for our children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I again congratulate the City of Stuart on their centennial anniversary, and I wish them many more milestones to celebrate.

## THE DALLES READINESS CENTER

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 28, 2014*

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to take the opportunity to recognize the newly completed Fort Dalles Readiness Center in The Dalles, Oregon. For the past fifteen years, the Oregon Military Department, Columbia Gorge Community College, The Dalles Outreach Team, and other local, state, and federal officials have worked tirelessly to bring this innovative project to life. The Readiness Center will be home to the Oregon National Guard's Alpha Company, 3-116 Cavalry and replaces the original unit armory built in 1951. What makes this building so unique is its dual-use capability and its state-of-the-art construction. Situated on the campus of the Columbia Gorge Community College, the Readiness Center complex will host not only the unit's 150 soldiers during regular monthly drills, but

also share a large portion of its nearly 63,000 square foot space with the college for use as a lecture hall and workforce training center for students, and flexible rental space for the community at large. The Readiness Center is likely the first armory in the country to achieve "net zero" energy consumption, meaning it will produce as much energy on site as it uses, and will serve as an example of efficiency for Oregon Military Department's future armory projects. The building's solar panels, sod roof, and geo-thermal heat pump system also will serve as a working classroom for the college's Renewable Energy Program.

I would be remiss to not point out the Center's special relationship with Columbia Gorge Community College. Throughout his tenure as college president, Dr. Frank Toda, a 30-year veteran of the Air Force, has maintained his commitment to his fellow veterans and the local citizen-soldiers of the Oregon National Guard. This dedication was reflected in Columbia Gorge Community College being recognized as among the top fifteen percent of schools nationwide in helping returning veterans acquire needed job skills.

The Fort Dalles Readiness Center will be officially dedicated to the public on April 17, 2014. While I cannot be there to help the community celebrate its success, I believe it fitting to recognize the years of hard work and steadfast devotion by all of those involved.

## OPPOSE THE PAUL RYAN BUDGET

**HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 28, 2014*

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in opposition to the severely regressive Paul Ryan Budget Proposal a "slash and burden" bill written on the backs of programs and tax cuts that grievously affect low-income and middle-class Americans.

The Ryan plan proposes a pathway to American prosperity by attempting to balance our nation's budget through vicious cuts to programs that working people rely on, paired with cuts to taxes for the wealthy. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, sixty-nine percent of Ryan's cuts would come from low-income programs while the richest one percent of Americans would enjoy nearly a fifty percent tax cut.

One of the many low-income programs that would feel the sharp effects of the Ryan Budget proposal is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also referred to as SNAP. SNAP funding would be cut by \$137 billion over ten years effectively starving millions of families and children and furthering the economic instability of Americans.

These cuts would force states to decide whose benefits to reduce or terminate. They would have no good choices; the program already provides an average of \$1.40 per person per meal primarily to poor children, working-poor parents, seniors, people with disabilities and others struggling to make ends meet.

These proposed cuts rest on inaccurate claims about how the SNAP program discourages work and encourages waste, fraud and abuse. Chairman Ryan claims that SNAP doesn't encourage recipients to work. Yet, among SNAP households with at least one