

Due to his combined passions for water and for the residents and communities of Southern California, Ben also volunteers his time throughout the region on additional Boards of Directors. Since 1995, Ben has held a seat on the Meeks and Daley Mutual Water Company Board of Directors, working as its President since 2001. The Association of California Water Agencies Region 9 Board of Directors also utilizes Ben's talents as he represents all of the water agencies in San Bernardino, Imperial, and Riverside counties in the advancement of legislative and regulatory priorities. Ben has always emphasized working with officials throughout the state to develop plans that would effectively manage one of our most important natural resources—water.

In light of all that Ben Wicke has done for the community of Lake Elsinore, it is only fitting that he be honored for his many years of dedicated service. Ben's tireless passion for conservation and public service has contributed immensely to the betterment of our community. I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF CAPT.
MARK EDWARD DREILING

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Mark Edward Dreiling, who is retiring from the United States Air Force. He is a third generation Airman who comes from a family with a long history of military service to this nation.

Capt. Dreiling entered the United States Air Force through ROTC Detachment 465 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He then began his career as a Missile Warning Crew Commander where his crews provided warning and battle space awareness to deployed personnel engaged in both Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. With over 2500 error free hours of operations and five Highly Qualified Evaluation ratings, his crew earned the Air Force Space Command Crew Member Excellence Award. During this time, he was selected to serve as both the Chief of Crew Force Management and the Chief of Operations Training.

Under his leadership in Crew Force Management, his team secured the first-ever error free Space Command Inspector General assessment for the office, earning the Professional Team Award during the 2008 operational readiness inspection. During his tenure in Operations Training, Capt. Dreiling's leadership helped his team garner the 2010 Air Force Space Command Operational Readiness Inspection operations group "excellent" rating. By leading the instruction and war fighting proficiency efforts for over two hundred missile warning crew members, he ensured the technical accuracy and effectiveness of training materials and operational procedures for the entire crew force.

Capt. Dreiling's next assignment was to the Joint Functional Component Command for Space, where he was the first DoD representative to complete certification on one of the

government's newest overhead sensors. During this time, he completed over five hundred error free hours providing unprecedented indications and warning for nine high interest events.

Most recently, Capt. Dreiling served as the Test Director for the family of Advanced Beyond Line-of-sight Terminals at the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center Detachment 4. During his final assignment, his work on a \$3.9 billion military satellite communication terminal program directly informed a Secretary of Defense Milestone decision critical to the maturation of the future Presidential and Air Force Strategic Nuclear Command and Control System.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing Capt. Dreiling and his family a heartfelt thanks on behalf of a grateful nation for their dedication and service to our country.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF THE HONORABLE JOHN H.
LAND

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American, the former City of Apopka, Florida Mayor and a wonderful friend, John H. Land. John passed away Saturday, November 20, 2014. I have had the honor to work with Mayor Land for over four decades during his public service as Mayor.

As Mayor of Apopka for 61 years, John was one of the longest-tenured public officials in the nation. He proudly served his community and was committed over the decades to make a positive difference in the lives of all those he was elected to serve.

Mayor Land was born in Plant City, Florida. He attended the University of Florida until World War II, when he signed up for the Army, serving under Gen. George S. Patton in Europe.

Following his return, John worked in his family's mill, Consumers Lumber and Veneer Company, and later won election in 1949 as Mayor of Apopka, a small Florida city that boasted a mostly rural population of 2,254. Over the next six decades as mayor, Apopka grew to a population of over 45,000 with a diversified tax base.

Over his many years in Public Service, faith was always deeply important in the life of Mayor Land. He loved his family, community and country. He was a spiritual leader and deacon at the First Presbyterian Church. I, and many others, sought his council.

American history was another passion that Mayor Land and I shared. As a fitting tribute to Mayor Land, the Tri-County League of Cities renamed its Lifetime Achievement Award, on the evening before his passing on November 21, 2014, as the Mayor John H. Land Award, of which he was the first recipient.

For his tireless work on behalf of thousands of Central Floridians, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Apopka Mayor John H. Land. What a great privilege it has been to work with him. I extend my deepest sympathies to his wife, Betty; their children, Suzanne Larkin, Cathy Waters and John Land, Jr.; and John's many grandchildren.

Mayor John H. Land's final resting place is Greenwood Cemetery in his beloved city. He will always be remembered as one of the key architects who helped lay the foundation for Apopka's growth and success. I asked my colleagues today to join me in paying tribute to John H. Land.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO PROTECT MULTI-EMPLOYER
PENSION PLANS

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, on January 1, the laws governing the pension plans for over 10 million Americans will expire, threatening the retirement security for these families and causing great uncertainty for their employers who sponsor these retirement vehicles.

These pension plans, known as multi-employer pension plans, are traditional pension plans that have provided millions of Americans a secure retirement for several generations.

Multi-employer pension plans are retirement plans negotiated by a union with a group of employers, typically in the same industry. Collective bargaining contracts say how much the employers must contribute to the plans for their employees. The plans are run by trustees selected by the union and the employers. The trustees typically determine the amounts that the plans will pay in lifetime monthly benefits.

While fewer workers may be utilizing these traditional pensions than in the past, Congress should be taking steps to bolster these traditional pension plans and help to expand their availability between businesses and workers, not slow walking their demise by allowing important funding rules to expire.

While this bill is a simple one-year extension of the expiring rules, these rules provide needed certainty to businesses who offer pension plans to their workers. Without this certainty, businesses will be subject to outdated, unfamiliar rules that could threaten not only their employees' pensions, but also the basic sustainability of their business operations.

Specifically, current multi-employer pension funding rules stipulate that if a pension plan becomes underfunded, or unable to meet its negotiated obligations, the trustees of the pension plan are given a set amount of time to create a restructuring plan to ensure that negotiated benefits can be paid out over the long term to employees. These pension plan trustees, who are appointed by both labor and management, can use this time to create a long-term framework to ensure all obligations are met. This works to the benefit of employers and employees.

But if these funding rules are allowed to expire on January 1 and a pension plan becomes underfunded, instead of giving labor and management the tools to create a sustainable path forward, the law would demand excessive cash payments and excise fees from employers. Forcing companies to make massive cash infusions into their pension plan while also facing new government-levied excise taxes will not guarantee a fully funded pension plan for their workers. Rather, it increases the likelihood that the employer will be forced to abandon their pension plan.