

introduced the very first pro-gun bill in the House in 2013, H.R. 35, to repeal federal gun free zones.

When the President threatened to bypass Congress and enact gun control through Executive Orders, Congressman STOCKMAN, along with Sen. RAND PAUL of Kentucky in the Senate, introduced the "Restore the Constitution Act of 2013," which would nullify any anti-gun orders.

The gentleman from Texas blue slipped both the Senate's gun control bill and their immigration bill.

Congressman STOCKMAN serves as Vice Chairman of the House Second Amendment Task Force, and also authored legislation to strip funding to the UN should that body attempt to restrict Americans' gun rights.

As a 100% pro-life supporter, STEVE authored the 2013 Sanctity of Life Act, which declares that life begins at conception, and which also limits the federal courts' jurisdiction in cases dealing with the unborn.

Congressman STOCKMAN was the first congressman to step up and introduce a bill to defend the rights of native Americans in southeast Texas. The Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas won a Federal claim against the U.S. Government for millions, if not billions, of dollars. STOCKMAN's bill, if passed, would resolve that claim without any impingement on the Federal deficit.

Congressman STOCKMAN's district is home to NASA's Johnson Space Center, the research and training facility for all human space exploration and the location of the famous Mission Control Center.

As a member of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology, Congressman STOCKMAN highlights the importance of a vigorous space exploration program and for keeping the U.S. at the forefront of space technology. He fought to save the arc jet facility at the Johnson Space Center, and advocated for defining a serious timetable and sufficient funding to actually land on and create research bases on the moon and Mars. Further, he understands the strategic necessity to remain the undisputed leader in space, and to not let non-democratic nations like China and Russia dominate the high frontier of space and high technology.

The gentleman from Texas' district has the highest number per capita of oil and gas refineries and downstream petrochemical plants in the world. STEVE has worked tirelessly for commonsense regulatory relief for the nation's oil and gas industries, which will lead to less U.S. dependence on foreign oil and more American jobs.

His tireless efforts were instrumental in expediting the building permits for state-of-the-art new petrochemical plants to be built in his district that will bring in billions of dollars in new investment. The gentleman from Texas has used his position on the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology to question the EPA's technological criteria for evaluating applications on hydraulic fracking. Also, legislation he's promoted will facilitate improvements in current technologies used in shale oil and gas production.

Congressman STOCKMAN has spoken out about the need to dredge southeast Texas ports from which many of the Gulf Coast petrochemicals are shipped. With hundreds of thousands of jobs at stake, these Ports are and will be fueling the Texas economic miracle.

At 3.5 cents per kilowatt hour, Texas has one of the cheapest power costs in the world and STOCKMAN, with fellow members of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, has pressed EPA to release its stranglehold on latest technologies that will keep power costs low in Texas. http://science.house.gov/sites/republicans.science.house.gov/files/documents/Letters/121_913_mccarthy.pdf

The National Taxpayer's Union honored Congressman STOCKMAN with the Taxpayers' Friend Award and NFIB named him "Guardian of Small Business" in recognition of his outstanding votes for legislation fostering healthy job-creating businesses. Earning a consistent "100 percent" rating by the American Conservative Union, my colleague from Texas has been honored with the "Taxpayers Best Friend Award" from Citizens for Tax Reform, and "Taxpayer's Hero Award" by Citizens Against Government Waste.

Always on the cutting edge of up and coming technologies and economic trends, Congressman STOCKMAN recently introduced a bill in Congress that would not only extend substantial protections to cryptocurrencies, but would also require that cryptocurrencies be classified as a "currency." The bill, entitled the Cryptocurrency Protocol Protection and Moratorium Act (CryptPMA), begins by placing a five-year moratorium on any state legislation concerning, or taxation on, cryptocurrencies.

STOCKMAN believes in the future. He has predicted that three technologies will change the world. He forecasts that nanotubes, 3-D printers, and cryptocurrencies will revolutionize and change the world in fundamental ways. Furthermore, Congressman STOCKMAN has called for a study of magnetic poll shifting, resultant fluctuation of magnetic fields, and their impact on the earth's climate.

With his broad knowledge of geopolitical and socioeconomic affairs, it is appropriate that Congressman STOCKMAN sits on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, where—among other important actions—he's for greater openness about what really happened in the 2012 assault on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi. He has also been a strong voice in the House in support of the Ukrainians' passion for strengthening liberties in their country.

Congressman STOCKMAN co-founded the House South Sudan Caucus, in support of the world's newest nation. South Sudan, which is a majority Christian nation, suffered decades of oppression and genocide from North Sudan, and still endures attacks, despite the existence of a peace agreement. Congressman STOCKMAN grieves the fact that now a simmering civil war is ongoing in the new nation. He has traveled to Juba, the South Sudan's capital, and led a Congressional delegation to Nigeria to investigate how the U.S. might better help that country end the brutal atrocities of Boko Harm. STEVE has also visited other parts of Africa, in support of medical missionary work.

As the 113th Congress comes to a close, the Conservative movement will lose a great friend to liberty and individual rights in Congressman STOCKMAN. I and many of our friends will miss working alongside my good friend and colleague who has been a staunch ally and supporter for life, liberty and country.

HONORING EISENHOWER ACADEMY

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Eisenhower Academy in Joliet, Illinois, which was ranked the best elementary school in Will County by the Chicago Tribune.

I would like to recognize the teachers, administrators, and students of this magnet school for their commitment to learning. The rankings were based on the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) and found that over 94 percent of students in grades three through five met or exceeded expectations.

Although 100 percent of the students at the school come from low-income families, through hard work and with the support of teachers and parents, these students have already achieved something remarkable. I look forward to following their progress.

Congratulations to Eisenhower Academy and Joliet Public Schools District 86. I would like to thank the teachers, administrators, parents and students for their hard work and dedication.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOHN DINGELL ON HIS RETIREMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the inspiring career of Congressman JOHN DINGELL, and his retirement from this institution after 59 dedicated years of public service.

Few Americans have had a bigger, more lasting impact on the United States Congress than JOHN DINGELL. After serving his country in the Army during World War II, John was first elected to Congress in 1955, and has played a vital role in almost every significant piece of legislation passed over the last half century. During his time in office, JOHN DINGELL was a statesman who always put good policy above partisanship, and who nearly lost reelection because of his support for the Civil Rights Act of 1964. His impact on landmark legislation that includes Medicare, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and Affordable Care Act will continue to be felt for years to come.

The People's House has suffered a great loss with the Congressman DINGELL's retirement and his institutional knowledge will be sorely missed. Mr. DINGELL has been an inspiration, mentor, and friend to those who were lucky enough to know him. It has been an honor to serve alongside him, and I have no doubt that his legacy will endure for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the service of Congressman JOHN DINGELL in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING RALPH BENSON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Congressman JARED HUFFMAN, to honor Ralph Benson upon his retirement as Executive Director of the Sonoma Land Trust.

For the past twelve years, Mr. Benson has worked tirelessly to guide, expand and strengthen the Sonoma Land Trust, enabling the organization to better fulfill its goal of protecting and conserving our lands for generations to come. During his time as the Executive Director, Mr. Benson increased the Sonoma Land Trust's budget from \$1 million to \$5 million, doubled its staff and more than doubled its membership. During his tenure, the Sonoma Land Trust acquired 5,630 acres in the Jenner Headlands and opened the Baylands Center at Sears Point Ranch for use as an environmental education center. Under his leadership, Sonoma Land Trust is currently working on a tidal wetlands restoration project and trail expansion along San Pablo Bay and Highway 37.

Mr. Benson's impressive work to grow his organization and take on sizable projects has bestowed tremendous benefits upon our community. The Sonoma Land Trust now protects 48,000 acres of land, up from 15,000 acres, and has attracted outside capital to the County of Sonoma that amounts to more than \$80 million.

Mr. Benson's colleagues credit his success to his ability to foster enduring and productive partnerships and connections. A true leader, Mr. Benson inspired others to believe in his vision of what the Sonoma Land Trust was capable of achieving and with hard-work and his can-do attitude, made his vision a reality.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor and thank Mr. Benson for his invaluable contributions to land conservation in Sonoma County. On behalf of a grateful community, we wish him a most enjoyable retirement.

IN HONOR OF COLONEL (RET) ROY
GEORGE PLUMMER

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding citizen, leader, pastor and inspiration to the Columbus, Georgia community, Colonel (Ret) Roy George Plummer. Colonel Plummer will be retiring as JROTC Director of Army Instruction of the Muscogee County School District in Columbus, Georgia. A retirement dinner in celebration of Colonel Plummer will be held on Thursday, December 11, 2014 at the National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning in Columbus, Georgia.

A native of Jamaica, Colonel Plummer enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in several military assignments in the United States and Germany. He completed his Active Duty Army career as Chief of Chaplains at Fort Benning.

He currently serves as the Chaplain for Rotary International District 6900, The State of Georgia.

As JROTC Director, he was responsible for eight high school JROTC programs and four other county JROTC programs. Since 1998, he has worked to create a successful district-level JROTC program which has grown from 400 cadets to an outstanding current operating enrollment of 1200 cadets. Under Colonel Plummer's leadership, the Muscogee County School District JROTC has earned GHSA State Rifle Championships, state-level awards in drill team and raider competitions, and honorable recognition in the annual JROTC Academic Bowl.

Always pressing towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, to better improve the craft of Christian ministry and discipleship, Colonel Plummer has been the Senior Pastor and CEO of Faith Tabernacle Community Church, Inc. in Columbus, Georgia since he founded the church in 1994.

A shining light in the Columbus community, Colonel Plummer has played a leading role in several other religious-affiliated and community-based organizations, including the St. Francis Hospital Foundation, Columbus Hospice, United Way, Boy Scouts of America, and the Greater Columbus Georgia Chamber of Commerce.

To top off his diverse portfolio of service, Colonel Plummer served as an Assistant Professor at Columbus State University in the Department of Counseling Graduate Studies. He has earned a baccalaureate in Biblical Literature, Master of Arts in Human Relations and Group Process, Master of Science in Guidance and Counseling, Master of Divinity in Pastoral Care, and Doctorate in Divinity. This solid educational background coupled with his compassion and leadership inspired Colonel Plummer to create the Plummer Home for homeless and disenfranchised military veterans.

Colonel Plummer has achieved numerous successes in his life, but none of this would have been possible without the grace of God and his four daughters and seven grandchildren. He lives by Psalm 27:1, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?"

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Colonel (Ret) Roy George Plummer on the occasion of his retirement as JROTC Director of Army Instruction and recognizing him for his many great contributions to the people of Columbus, Georgia and the United States and for his life of selfless service to God, the church and to humankind.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TAX
REFORM ACT OF 2014

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of H.R. 1, the Tax Reform Act of 2014. This bill—which formalizes, without modifications, the tax reform discussion draft I released publicly on February 26, 2014—reflects the years of work undertaken

on this critical issue by the Committee on Ways and Means during my time as chairman. I want to thank the members of our committee, on both sides of the aisle, for their tireless efforts and for their outstanding contributions to this legislation and to the transparent, inclusive process that produced it. While I will not be returning to the House of Representatives next year, I very much look forward to watching the ongoing work of our great committee as the tax reform debate continues to unfold in the 114th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, the urgent need to fix our broken tax code—and the incredible progress we've made toward making tax reform a reality for the first time since 1986—has already been well documented, and I will not seek to recount all of that background and history here today. But I do hope that, going forward, Congress will continue to focus on the twin goals that have guided the tax reform process thus far—strengthening the economy, and making the tax code simpler and fairer for all Americans.

When I set out to produce a comprehensive tax reform bill, I wanted to do it the right way. So, over the last four years, the Ways and Means Committee held over 30 public hearings, including the first joint hearings with the Senate Finance Committee on tax policy since World War II. Ways and Means Ranking Member SANDY LEVIN—my home state colleague—and I formed 11 bipartisan working groups to tackle different areas of the tax code. In that time, I also launched TaxReform.Gov, which received more than 14,000 public comments and suggestions, while Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT) and I left the confines of Washington, DC to talk with taxpayers all across the country. I am proud to say that we have done this in the most open, transparent, and bipartisan way—getting input from all sides. Now, the debate about whether to do tax reform is over; the only debate now is about how.

At its core, the Tax Reform Act of 2014 is about making the tax code simpler and fairer for hardworking taxpayers. I believe every taxpayer should be able to do his or her taxes without fear that someone with better accountants or lawyers is getting a better deal. This legislation does that by ensuring that virtually all taxpayers would pay the least amount of taxes without having to keep track of every receipt and record and live in fear of an IRS audit. This legislation makes the Code more effective and efficient by getting rid of narrowly targeted provisions to lower tax rates across the board. This will enable small and large businesses alike to expand operations, hire new workers, and increase benefits and take-home pay.

The proposal flattens the rate structure by reducing rates and collapsing today's seven individual rate brackets into two brackets of 10 and 25 percent for virtually all taxable income, ensuring that over 99 percent of all taxpayers face rates no higher than 25 percent. The plan also reduces the corporate rate to 25 percent.

By making America's corporate tax rate more competitive and by modernizing our anti-competitive international tax rules, which have not been reformed since the 1960s, we would encourage companies to keep their headquarters in the United States, so they can grow, invest, and hire here, instead of moving overseas in search of a better tax environment. We need a real solution to this growing problem, and I believe a significantly lower