

for his dedicated work in expanding access to health care and his innovative efforts to strengthen public health for the people of Illinois and congratulating him on his nomination for the Wave Maker Award.

SUPPORTING AMERICA'S CHARITIES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5806, a bill that seeks to extend three tax provisions that I strongly support.

Despite my interest in seeing the tax provisions before us extended permanently, I am concerned that doing so in a package without so many other important tax provisions might jeopardize our ability to achieve comprehensive reform of our tax code next Congress. Across the district I represent, my constituents support changing the tax code to make it fair and simple. This will be a difficult process that will require significant work and compromise. Accordingly, I am opposing the bill before us today, but I will seek a permanent extension of these provisions through broader tax reform next Congress.

I am committed to policies that support our social safety net, particularly as our constituents continue to recover from the effects of the economic downturn. But by passing individual extensions, we are leaving important provisions on the table that will benefit our middle-class families. What they need is comprehensive tax reform that levels the playing field and allows everyone to have a fair opportunity to succeed.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

FAREWELL TO THE HONORABLE ENI FALEOMAVAEGA

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to say a fond farewell to our esteemed colleague, the Honorable ENI FALEOMAVAEGA.

Since 1989, ENI has honorably represented the people of American Samoa in this chamber with a no-nonsense attitude and approach to legislating.

He brought the issues that affect Asia and the Pacific regions here to Congress.

He led the first delegation of Asian American members of Congress to Asia. There he saw firsthand the devastating impact that the Vietnam War's unexploded ordnances had on Southeast Asia, especially Laos where about 2.5 million tons of bombs were dropped between 1964 and 1973.

As the Chair of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, this experience led him to chair the first-ever hearing on UXOs.

As a Vietnam veteran himself, ENI takes pride in being a strong voice for his fellow Samoans who serve in our military.

This passion led his efforts to help establish the first VA clinic in Samoa.

American Samoa, the Asian Pacific Region, Congress, and all of America have been well served by Congressman ENI FALEOMAVAEGA. Today, I say "thank you" for your work, and your friendship. We will miss you. Tofa soifua.

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF CHARLES HUTTON "BULL" RIGDON, JR.

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise today to recognize the life and service of my friend, Northwest Florida's beloved Charles Hutton "Bull" Rigdon, Jr. Throughout his long and distinguished life, Bull was a devoted family man, a patriotic veteran and civil servant, committed civic leader, an exceptional elected official, and a great friend. The entire Northwest Florida community mourns the passing of a truly remarkable man.

Bull Rigdon was born in Portland, Florida on September 29, 1929, and he spent the majority of his childhood years growing up in beautiful Northwest Florida. A true patriot, Bull served with honor and distinction in the United States Army, where he served in both World War II and the Korean War. After leaving the Armed Forces, Bull continued his service to our Nation as a civil engineer working at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. Thanks to his hard-work and commitment to excellence, Bull's 43-year career as a civil servant at Eglin Air Force Base was marked with wide-spread success and acclaim.

Both during and after his extremely successful civil service career, Bull was also deeply involved as a leader in Northwest Florida's civic society. He was an active member of First Presbyterian Church, where he served as a church elder, as well as a Mason and Shriner, serving as Past Potentate of Hadji Temple and Master Mason of Alpha Lodge #172. In these capacities, he helped touch the lives of countless individuals in Northwest Florida, and he served as a true example of selfless community service.

Bull was also a dedicated local official, serving for decades in various electoral capacities. In 1964, he won a seat on the Fort Walton Beach City Council, where he served until 1981. During this stint on the City Council, Bull also served numerous times as Mayor Pro-Tem of Fort Walton Beach. Bull rejoined the City Council briefly in 1985, when he was asked to fill a temporary vacancy, before returning to the City Council full time in 2010, where he continued to serve the people of Fort Walton Beach until his passing.

In addition to his exceptional service on the City Council, Bull also served for three decades on the Okaloosa County Gas Board, representing the people of Okaloosa County. He played an integral role helping to attract businesses and promote economic development in Northwest Florida, as evidenced by his election to serve as the first Chairman of the West Florida Regional Planning Council, as well as his service on the Tourist Development Council Board. On top of these impressive civic duties, Bull also served as CEO of the Northwest Florida Fair until his death. In recognition of

his impressive leadership and dedication, the Fort Walton Beach City Council voted in 2009 to name the fairgrounds in his honor.

To some, Bull Rigdon will be remembered as a patriot, who answered the call to serve this great Nation with honor and distinction, first in the Armed Forces and then for more than four decades of exceptional civil service at Eglin Air Force Base. To others, he will be remembered as a man of great faith, who took on important positions at his church, and as a long-time elected official who went above and beyond the call of duty to serve the residents of the community that he called home. To his family and those of us who were fortunate enough to get to know him, Bull will always be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the life and legacy of Charles Hutton "Bull" Rigdon, Jr. My wife, Vicki, and I extend our deepest prayers and condolences to his wife Helen Hunt Rigdon; children, Karen Rigdon Hughes and Charles William Rigdon; grandchildren Charles William Lamkin, Lauren Ashley Rigdon, Blake William Rigdon and Montana Dodson; sister, Ouida Rigdon Miller; stepson, Michael B. Dodson; and the entire Rigdon family.

RECOGNIZING ORLANDO REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER AIR CARE TEAM

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Orlando Regional Medical Center's Air Care Team as they celebrate 30 years of critical-care service.

Since 1984, the helicopter transport team has flown nearly two million rescue miles and transported more than 29,000 patients to Orlando Regional Medical Center (ORMC) and other Central Florida medical facilities. The elite crew's service area encompasses a 100-mile radius that includes Orange, Lake, and Polk counties. Highly trained and experienced medical personnel, communications specialists, pilots and mechanics comprise the team that provides emergency medical care on the scene and in flight. The commitment and expertise that the team brings to Central Florida truly saves lives, reaching patients within the critical first hour of injury.

I thank the Air Care Team for their extraordinary work in providing care for the people of Central Florida.

HONORING MS. SARAH DEER

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Sarah Deer to congratulate her on receiving the 2014 MacArthur Foundation Fellowship. This grant is given to individuals who show extraordinary dedication and originality in their field, as well as exceptional promise for continuing their work in the future. Ms. Deer demonstrated these qualities through her advocacy and knowledge of tribal and federal