

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING SARAH ELISABETH ENGLAND ON THE OCCASION OF HER BAT MITZVAH

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2014

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the thirteenth birthday and Bat Mitzvah celebration of Sarah Elisabeth England. In the company of her parents Lori Slass and Bill England, as well as her grandparents, uncles, classmates, and numerous friends and neighbors, Sarah celebrated her Bat Mitzvah at Congregation Kol Ami in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, on December 13, 2014, her thirteenth birthday. Sarah is a wonderful young lady, and the ceremony she led with Rabbi Elliot Holin was rich in both tradition and meaning. Sarah's thoughtful, articulate, and touching comments during the ceremony were a particular highlight of the celebration, and I would like to share them here so everyone can become familiar with this promising young lady.

SARAH ENGLAND'S DVAR TORAH

I enjoy being Jewish because of the feeling that everyone is friends and family. I am proud to be part of a tradition that has been going on for thousands of years. And I am glad that I am learning about the tragedies that have happened to our people. Don't get me wrong, I hate the idea that this stuff has happened to us, but I am glad that we are not trying to hide them from our younger generations. These are things that cannot be allowed to forget. For if the world is to forget, it will be much easier for it to happen again.

My favorite holy day is Tu b'Shevat, the New Year of Trees. Even though it's not as popular as say, Rosh Hashanah, it is an entire holiday wrapped around something I love, nature!

My Mitzvah Project is helping women get business clothing so they can get back up on their feet to find jobs and other opportunities. I have done a drive to collect clothing and I will be volunteering to separate clothing in the coming months.

A particularly transforming personal experience I have had was when I realized how poorly the LGBTQ community is treated, and I was appalled. I could not believe that people would treat each other like this. People complain about something that is racist or sexist, but they overlook how people treat people who just love each other. When I found out that my family members were part of the LGBTQ community, I couldn't stop smiling. I am so proud of them and everyone who keeps fighting. I hope that marrying someone you truly love is soon legal in all states.

I chose to chant verses from Genesis 37:5-8 and 19-24 of my Torah Portion. It is about Joseph telling his brothers his dream, and their plans for revenge. The narrative warns us not to talk about something, even a dream, that shows you overpowering someone. It could make them mad and ruin your relationship with them. It also shows that the response of hatred could make you do

things that you might not mean to do, but in the heat and anger of the moment, might make you do crazy things.

My two favorite prayers are the Avote v'Imahote and the G'vurote. Even though my beliefs in god have changed, I think these prayers truly help us understand how he tries to use his powers for good.

If I were to re-write the Avote, it would read, "Thank You, God, for our mothers and fathers from the beginning. Thank You for creating us. Thank You for being You. Thank You for Your love and kindness. We are forever grateful. Blessed are You, God, helper and shield of Sarah."

If I were to re-write the G'vurote, it would read: "Thank You, God, for life. Thank You for creation. Thank You for freedom. Thank You for Your many mighty acts. Thank You for everything. Who is like You: creator and destroyer of life? Who is like You, all-powerful being?"

As for my relationship with God, it's not that I don't believe in something, it's just that if God really cared about all of their creations, then why are people starving and going to war and committing mass murder? I don't think that God functions in the way that some people think God does. I think that God just created us and said, "Have fun!" To quote Rabbi in a note he left me during our time in writing this speech: "the interesting and fascinating thing about free will is that we make the choices and bear the responsibility, but it is always easier to point our finger outward to blame God or others, rather than inward to take responsibility for what we have done wrong as individuals/community/society".

I was motivated to study for my Bat Mitzvah by my mother. She has helped me so much during my studies, and even made sure I was listening to the recordings of my portion during my concussion. The idea of being able to say that I have had my Bat Mitzvah is awesome! And I don't mind having my thirteenth birthday party on the same day. Thank you mom, Rabbi, and everyone who has ever helped me with my Hebrew, you are the truly amazing people in this world.

Rabbi Holin asked me to talk about some of the greatest challenges facing our country or the world, and I think it is the need for greater gun control. The idea that someone can obtain a weapon capable of murdering men, women, and children with great futures to be had, just makes me sick. It is wrong that people can acquire guns so easily. I would pass a law that states, "To own a gun, you must undergo multiple mental and physical tests administered by a higher force". A police member or maybe a new job could be created specially trained in this task. I would also ask that anyone who owns a gun at the moment to also take the test so that we know if they are able to have one.

Some personal goals I have are being able to fully recover from my concussion, being able to see the LGBTQ community fully accepted as who they are, seeing gun violence stopping, and getting into a good college.

I would like to take a moment now to thank all of the people that have helped me to be where I am today, my mom and dad, Rabbi Holan, Rebecca Schwartz, Mrs. Holtzman, Mr. Monblatt, and anyone else who helped me during this journey and during my concussion.

THANKING KATHLEEN THERESE MEANY FOR HER SERVICE AS PRESIDENT OF THE MWRD BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2014

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kathleen Therese Meany who will retire from her position as President of the Board of Commissioners of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) of Greater Chicago.

Commissioner Meany is a former professor of Political Science. She taught at Harold Washington College, one of the City Colleges of Chicago. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Roosevelt University and her Master's Degree from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Commissioner Meany was elected to the Board of Commissioners in 1990 and served as Vice President for 16 years. Her eight fellow Commissioners then unanimously elected her to serve as President in January 2013. She also serves as Chairman of the Ethics Committee and the Pension, Human Resources and Civil Service Committee, as well as Vice Chairman for the Federal Legislation Committee, the Finance Committee and the Maintenance and Operations Committee.

One of her accomplishments on the MWRD Board was the introduction of a program to collect and properly dispose of household hazardous waste, which had previously been discharged indiscriminately into the sewage system. I commend Commissioner Meany for always looking out for the best interests of the people she represents and hope that future commissioners will look to her as a fine example.

Commissioner Meany has made it her duty to keep the communities of the Chicago area connected to the MWRD's operations. She is truly a dedicated public official and it is only appropriate that the Kathleen Therese Meany Presidential Garden was dedicated to her on June 20th in Cicero, Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Commissioner Meany for all she has done for the Chicago area and wish her all the best as she moves forward after retiring from the Board.

IN HONOR OF CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER MANUEL "MANNY" REAL

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2014

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Probation Officer Manuel "Manny" Real on the occasion of his retirement from the County of Monterey. On December 12,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

2014 Chief Real will relinquish his position and retire after 39 years of exemplary public service.

Manny has served as the Chief Probation Officer of Monterey County since February 12, 2004 and has overseen a staff of approximately 300 along with an all administrative budget, operational aspects of the Probation Department's Divisions of Administration, Adult Juvenile Hall and Youth Center and Alternative Programs. At the time of his appointment, Chief Real was already a 30-year veteran of the Monterey County Probation Department having worked in various capacities in both the adult and juvenile divisions. He worked in investigations and field supervision. At various times "Manny" served as a juvenile traffic hearing officer, a child custody investigator and a court officer. His tenure as Chief began in the middle of a series of financial crises. Chief Real worked tirelessly to with the CAO's budget office to mitigate any negative side effects, preserve the progress made, and ultimately restore balance between available resources, community needs and effective interventions.

Chief Real has worked hard in strengthening relations and collaborations County Social Services, Behavioral Health, education, law enforcement, criminal justice, behavioral health and community organizations. Chief Real was integral in securing the use of the old Natividad Hospital to establish the Silver Star Gang Prevention and Intervention Program a one-stop gang prevention and intervention program. The program is unique as it combines probation supervision, educational, vocational and job training, counseling services and truancy abatement, along with mentoring and community outreach strategies to help decrease gang activity. It was a pleasure having worked with Chief Real at the federal level to bring in \$1.5 million dollars to assist with anti juvenile violence and the programs at the Silver Star Resource Center continues to serve many families in Monterey County.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in extending our most sincere gratitude for Chief Real's service. I want to wish Chief Real the best as he embarks on a new chapter in his life and know he will enjoy spending more time with his wife, children and grandchildren.

IN OPPOSITION TO THE FY15 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION (NDAA) CONFERENCE REPORT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Conference Report for the FY2015 National Defense Authorization Act.

For the last 53 years, Congress has passed—and the President has signed into law—an annual Defense Authorization bill to provide critical resources our Armed Forces need to maintain the best military in the world. While I recognize that there are many important programs that are authorized in this legislation, this NDAA also contains many major policy decisions affecting our country and our armed forces. Unfortunately, Congress was

not allowed to consider a single amendment dealing with very consequential policy issues to this 1648-page bill.

The NDAA Conference Report also authorizes funding to deploy an additional 1,500 troops to Iraq. I support the core pillars of the President's plan to fight ISIS, including the use of American surveillance, intelligence assets and air power against ISIS targets in Iraq and Syria and the arming and training of the Iraqi Army and Kurdish forces to stop the ISIS advances in Iraq. I also believe we should supply weapons to those groups in Syria, such as the Syrian Kurds, who have consistently fought ISIS, and whose priority is to defeat ISIS. However, I believe the Congress should make it clear that American ground troops should not be used in a combat role in Iraq or Syria.

The President has asserted that the 2001 Authorization to Use Military Force (Public Law 107-40) provides the Executive with broad authority to take all military action necessary in both Iraq and Syria to degrade and ultimately destroy ISIL. While the President has indicated that he does not intend to deploy U.S. ground forces into combat, there is nothing in current law to prevent him from doing so. Congressman MCGOVERN, Congressman JONES, and I asked the House Rules Committee to allow us to offer an amendment to ban the use of U.S. forces in ground combat in Iraq, with the exception of rescue operations for Americans. Unfortunately, this request was denied.

The NDAA Conference Report also provides a two-year authorization to deploy American troops to train and equip the so-called "moderate" Syrian rebels. In September, a majority in Congress voted to temporarily authorize preparation for such a mission for a short period ending December 11th. This bill extends that authorization for two more years and is written so that the four defense committees can exclusively decide how much funding should be allocated for this mission. Congressman DENT and I led a bipartisan letter to Speaker BOEHNER urging him to give us the opportunity to vote on that provision. We also presented an amendment to the House Rules Committee which would have presented this authority. Once again, we were not provided the opportunity to vote on this measure.

My primary concern with the proposal to arm the so-called "moderate" Syrian opposition is that it will have unintended negative consequences that will not serve our ultimate goal of defeating ISIS.

First, the primary objective of these Sunni Islamist fighters is the defeat of Assad and his Alawite dominated regime—not the defeat of ISIS. Since the start of the war there have been shifting alliances among these Sunni Islamist forces that include the al-Qaeda affiliate, Jabhat al-Nusra, different elements of the Free Syrian Army, the Islamist Front, Ahrar al-Sham and ISIS, among others. Their common cause and overriding objective is defeating Assad. Indeed, the commander of the Syria Revolutionaries' Front, Jamal Maarouf, one of the most militarily proficient commanders of the FSA, recently said that, "It's clear that I'm not fighting against al-Qaeda. This is a problem outside of Syria's border, so it's not our problem. I don't have a problem with anyone who fights against the regime inside Syria."

While there is no doubt that Assad is a brutal dictator, he does not pose the same threat to the United States as ISIS, and his forces

have recently been battling ISIS. At this point, arming fighters whose primary purpose is to weaken Assad has one unintended result—strengthening ISIS. Indeed, I fear that the arms we provide to the so-called Syrian opposition are more likely to end up in the hands of ISIS or al Nusra.

I also have significant concerns about other measures in the NDAA Conference Report. I was disappointed that it includes a provision to continue funding restrictions on the construction or modification of detention facilities in the United States to house Guantanamo detainees. It also removes the prohibition on transfers of Guantanamo detainees to Yemen that was included in the SASC-reported bill.

Despite my overall opposition to this legislation, it does authorize many important programs. I was pleased that the Women's Small Business Procurement Parity Act, S. 2481, was included in the final Conference Report. This language provides much needed guidance to assist federal agencies in reaching the goal of awarding 5 percent of federal contracts to women-owned small businesses.

Today's bill also restores more than \$818 million in cuts made to military readiness accounts. This will allow our military to invest in critical repairs and upgrades to many mission-critical facilities such as electrical and fire protection system upgrades.

I am also encouraged that this bill builds on a number of provisions passed in last year's NDAA and continues to address the problem of sexual assault in the military. In particular, it would eliminate the so-called "good soldier defense" in court-martial proceedings, prohibiting a soldier from using good military character as a defense in a sexual assault case. These proceedings should be based on the specific evidence presented in the case.

Finally, I am pleased that the bill contains many long-delayed public lands conservation measures to protect more than one million acres of public land, including 245,000 of new wilderness.

While I support each of these measures, the fact remains that without the amendments I proposed, the bill could create a very slippery slope that would drag American troops even more deeply into Syrian war and renewed conflict in Iraq. For those reasons, I regretfully am unable to vote in favor of this year's NDAA Conference Report.

CONGRATULATING FYFFE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2014

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Fyffe High School Football Team on winning the Alabama High School Class 2-A Championship on December 5, 2014.

Coach Paul Benefield, his players, and staff achieved the very difficult task of a 15-0 record during the 2014 season. I would officially like to congratulate them on their victory.

Coach Benefield has spent 34 years in the coaching and teaching profession, winning many games and awards. In 18 years as the head coach at Fyffe, Benefield has won more than 200 games and 13 region and area

championships. Now he can add to that list a state championship.

I want to commend the fine young men who make up this championship team at Fyffe. They set a goal at the beginning of the season to take the Red Devils to the state championship, and that's exactly what they did. These players worked in the scorching heat of late summer and on many cold nights in the late fall, but they never lost sight of their goal.

By beating Elba High School 28–17 in the championship game, the Fyffe Red Devils saw their goal realized and did much more. The win, and the hard work it took to get there, taught life-lessons these young men will carry with them for the rest of their lives. While the winning is certainly an important accomplishment, the struggle to get there will prove to be just as valuable.

Again, I want to congratulate the Fyffe Red Devils on this great achievement. They have brought pride to their school, community, DeKalb County and to the Fourth Congressional District. I wish them continued success in the seasons to come.

TRANSATLANTIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP

HON. STEVE STOCKMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2014

Mr. STOCKMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit today important information regarding the proposed trade deal between the United States and the European Union. The following article was written for Roll Call by my Legislative Assistant Zachary Leshin. During his time as my Legislative Assistant, Mr. Leshin has conveyed a profound understanding of the issue at hand, and has been an important asset to my office.

[From Roll Call, Oct. 22, 2014]

(By Zachary Leshin)

SHOULD CONGRESS RECONSIDER TTIP?— COMMENTARY

Recently there has been discussion over whether the United States should enter into a free trade agreement with the European Union known as the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership. There are several major issues with TTIP that make it not in the interest of the United States to enter into the agreement.

One major issue is non-tariff barriers to free trade that are not addressed by TTIP. In the European Union there are certain classes of product known as Protected Designation of Origin and Protected Geographical Indication. One example of a PDO is Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese, which legally can be made only in a certain region of northern Italy. Currently, American dairy farmers are not allowed to sell Parmesan cheese in the European Union because the name sounds too similar to Parmigiano-Reggiano. In all of the European Union's trade agreements, PDO and PGI protection has been extended to include the products in the other countries who are party to such agreement and the European Union has stated its intent to include that in TTIP under the guise of "intellectual property rights."

There are many examples of how arbitrary and nonsensical the designation process is. Newcastle Ale had to request that its PDO status be revoked so it could move its factory just across a river. Stilton cheese is not

allowed to be made in the English village of Stilton from which it derives its name, but only in three neighboring villages. Feta cheese is allowed to be produced only in Greece, but not in Cyprus or other areas where ethnic Greeks may be living.

Another major issue with TTIP is that automatically having a free trade agreement with the United States would provide a major incentive for more countries to join the European Union. The European Union has increasingly become more of a centralized government over its member states, especially since the signing of the Treaty of Lisbon in 2009. In some areas (such as rules regarding the standardization of driving licenses) the European Union government has more control over its member states than the United States federal government has over US states.

Encouraging further expansion of the European Union is bad for the people of Europe, as the European Union has been eroding the sovereignty of its member states. The European Union has been imposing many absurd and burdensome regulations. One regulation requires all projects that receive funding from the European Regional Development Fund to fly the flag of the European Union. Another regulation states that prepackaged products are allowed to be sold only in certain sized packages, and packages that deviate from the proscribed size dimensions are prohibited from sale.

What also needs to be considered is not only what these regulations are, but how they are established. In the United States, the heads of the federal executive agencies, which are responsible for establishing regulatory policies, are nominated by an elected president and confirmed by elected senators. The European Union has no such accountability mechanism.

Another issue that needs to be considered is discriminatory trade policies imposed by the European Union. In May 2014, the European Union put in place a ban on the import of poultry and eggs raised by Jews in Judea and Samaria, but still permits import of poultry and eggs raised by Arabs in that same region. The European Union has also been considering implementation of discriminatory meat labeling policies where meat products slaughtered using religious methods are required to label the method, but meat products slaughtered using other methods are not.

Supporting TTIP may impact the proposed referendum on United Kingdom membership of the European Union that is planned for 2015, skewing the outcome in favor of maintaining membership in the European Union. Instead, the United States should seek to establish a free trade agreement with a free and independent Britain. This will encourage other European Union member states to leave the European Union as well and will hopefully serve as a catalyst for the dissolution of the European Union. It is not in the strategic interests of the United States, nor in the interests of the people of Europe, for the European Union to become a more centralized institution.

BATTLES WORTH FIGHTING

HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2014

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, a war is raging for the soul of America. It is not a war of steel and cartridge. It is a conflict of ideas, fought not in trenches, jungles or a desert; in-

stead, it is played out in town halls, roundtables, tea party and Liberty groups all across the nation. Instead of cannonades, there are editorials; instead of bombs, there are speeches; instead of rifle volleys, there is education on the benefits of Liberty ordained by God protected by a United States Constitution.

There is a genuine feeling today, especially among people who attend the various Tea Party and Liberty Groups that we, our country more specifically, may not make it. Many people consider these folks, the common everyday people who attend the Tea Party meetings 'fringe, ring wing nut cases and extremists'. Many of the people who attend the Tea Party meetings, sometimes weekly, most commonly monthly, and more attend intermittently, sense something is drastically wrong. For the most part, they sense it and yet cannot firmly point their finger and claim what exactly is the cause of their discontent, the uneasiness; the fear danger is lurking just around the corner. It is not necessarily a feeling of doom from a nuclear, biological or chemical attack on our country from some foreign enemy or terrorism either. It is more serious than any violence a bad actor can bring. It is something more innate, a sense that they somehow lost something but can't remember what it was, like when you know you lost something important, an item you need to accomplish a task but can't remember what it is and where you placed it. You know it's around somewhere and if you looked hard enough you'll see it and you can continue with your task.

What is missing, what they are looking for, is our capacity for governing. Today, in Washington, D.C. we have a President inept in offering any sort of cooperative government. According to the President the House of Representatives is a non-entity. As President he has a pen and a phone to make the changes he sees as necessary to move his political agenda and the People's house has no say in the matter. But, the great threat to our country, our Constitutional government, is not entirely the President. It is easy to blame him for our dysfunctional government. Rather, the blame lies entirely with the system itself. We have created by our apathy a system that has normalized a process that distorts the will of the people by an economy of influence. A system designed to make those most connected rich. Our system of government created a class of rich whose wealth does not come from innovation, creativity or hard work, instead a new class of rich who secured their wealth through the manipulation of politicians and government agencies. The great new classes of wealth are a breed of financial politicians who could not secure their power by traditional methods that instead turned to the massive wealth directed by our government as the means to secure wealth and power for themselves and their circle of supporters.

Our enemy is not simply a Democrat or a Republican; it is a new breed in thousand dollar suits. They have changed laws agreeable to their business interests, bought and paid for politicians, judges, the media and skirted criminal laws and for the most part they are engaged in bad government and fail to actively track the will of the people. To them Democracy is a charade, only rhetoric for political messaging of a lost ideal to placate the masses still engaged in the political process while they make money for themselves and

their friends. That voice is often louder than the voice of the people, the middle class, the very people who as the backbone of the American economy, who join our armed services to serve rather than take, our middle class carries the burden and suffers the most, silenced and placated by promises of a better life, the hope and change for the future that never really comes.

There are battles to be fought on the way we spend our taxpayer dollars, how we handle immigration and border security issues, religious freedom, education, veterans, and our National Defense. There is a major battle on protecting the rights of our citizens because it is Congress' principle duty to protect our rights not take them away. Together, we must strive valiantly and dare greatly and fight these battles.

Through these past 24 months in Congress my convictions were tested and clarified. And they will continue to be tested in the weeks and months to come.

I want to tell you the fight is just beginning.

I WENT TO Congress an average person with certain and specific values I learned as a young man and a soldier in the military. The principles of leadership I hold dear;

And a lifelong motto;

To STRIVE VALIANTLY and DARE GREATLY

These are not simply words on a page for me. Or rhetoric for an election campaign to get votes.

They run deeper.

LEADERSHIP is living a life BY EXAMPLE.

And NEVER asking a soldier or a constituent to do something you would not do.

As one of the most CONSERVATIVE members of Congress I passed 3 important pieces of legislation with 100% Bi-partisan support.

It bothers me when someone says they wish I would comprise and be more moderate.

Rated as the number #1 most transparent congressman out of 84 freshman members of Congress, and rated in the top 30% out of the 435 members of congress with an extensive record of working with the other side.

I know there are issues needing our attention and that working together we can accomplish great things. There are issues and work to be done, as a team, not as adversaries.

There are battles yet to be fought.

I know there are children who deserve a quality education and not getting it. K-12 education has been largely stagnant. College costs have risen as federal subsidies have ballooned. Graduates indentured to college debt have lesser prospects for future employment than any time in our history.

I once gave a speech to a Conservative Group on the issues in Education. As a former private and public school teacher, certified and highly qualified in both vocational and general education, I think I am well suited to offer suggestions. My presentation was well received by the Conservative audience.

During the question and answer portion of my presentation a lady asked me how I felt being a Conservative teacher, in a public school and a member of the Liberal Teacher's Union.

Madam, I said, "I think I feel the same way Jane Fonda would feel at a VFW Convention!"

This is a battle worth fighting. I want to tell you that all across the country there are people of all ages struggling with health issues and their health insurance.

The Unaffordable Health Care Act undermines the doctor-patient relationship, limits patient choice, centralizes government control of our health care administered by bureaucrats NOT your family doctor. The administration was not transparent. They lied and deceived the American people into thinking they could keep their doctor, their hospital, their insurance and insurance premiums would be less expensive. Mr. Gruber admitted in testimony before the Oversight and Government Reform Committee he helped direct this deception.

No matter your political party affiliation, promises were made and broken. Facts speak for themselves, Obamacare is unpopular, unworkable, and unaffordable and should be stopped and repealed in its entirety.

Together we can discuss and find alternatives that produce affordable health care BEFORE it becomes law.

Remember the lady speaker who said, "We must pass it before we can see what's in it?" The last time I heard that was when my doctor asked for a stool sample. And in both cases he got the same thing!

Look what "We must pass it Before we can see what's in it" has brought upon us!

Division, not unity!

This is a battle worth fighting.

I want to tell you within our country there are people who have given up looking for work and lost hope in ever finding the American dream.

Obamacare, and the Obama administration have increased annual regulatory costs by nearly \$70 Billion dollars. Unnecessary regulatory dictates hinder job creation and innovation while undermining America's fundamental freedoms.

Passing legislation that ensures a congressional check on Governmental regulators as well as the accountability of Congress is a good idea. This will help get America back to work and restore the American dream.

This is a battle worth fighting.

I want you to know that right now while some are very skittish on issues like immigration and trying to figure it out, this country's borders are worth protecting.

This is a battle worth fighting.

FRIENDS, Since the attacks of September 11, 2001 more than fifty terrorist plots against the United States have been foiled because of domestic and international cooperation. Yet, many of the intelligence tools to combat terrorism are controversial and many unconstitutional. Each and every one of these tools should be reexamined carefully to guarantee that America liberties are protected. At the same time we must ensure our defense agencies have legal tools at their disposal to PROTECT and DEFEND our great country.

THIS is a battle worth fighting.

Mr. Speaker, I want you to know America needs a reformed tax code that facilitates, not inhibits, economic growth and job creation.

Taxes and the cost of doing business are higher. Part-time work is replacing full time work. Wages are stagnant. An uncertain future is the norm rather than the exception.

The tax code has become an enormous chain around the neck of a stagnate economy.

You do not need to have a Ph.D in economics to know Investment goes where it is welcome and stays where it is appreciated.

Tax rates on families, businesses, and investment are too high. Our tax code needs to be hassle free, simpler, and fair. Our present

tax system prevents the economy from reaching its potential and further suppresses wages.

This is a battle worth fighting.

I want to tell you Religious liberty in this country is not merely the "freedom to worship." Individuals should be free to work, speak, and serve according to their deeply held beliefs seven days a week.

Religious freedom is under assault at every corner, in every form of media, especially from burdensome government policies and efforts to undermine marriage, a religious, not a government blessing.

I want to tell you about how GOD not government, determines life.

And how that LIFE shall have liberty to pursue dreams and opportunity.

This is a battle worth fighting.

I want to tell you about our basic freedoms of speech, our 2nd Amendment protections and our rights to due process.

Basic rights given us by God are gradually stolen from to us by government regulators, executive orders, and YES even members of the media spread the propaganda undermining these freedoms.

This is a battle worth fighting.

I want to tell you that our most personal and confidential financial and health information is viewed and administered by political appointees whose interests are more political than helpful in improving your life.

I want to tell you about how Government websites are unprotected.

That these Federal Websites lack basic and sound security protocols exposing your most confidential personal financial and health information to criminal hackers and bad actors both foreign and domestic.

I am pleased the House unanimously passed my bill H.R. 3635, The Safe and Secure Federal Websites Act, it had 126 original cosponsors, a record for a GOP freshman member of Congress. Thank-you.

This is a battle worth fighting.

I want to tell you there are people in Washington who want to rob our senior citizens of the monies they paid into programs like social security and renege on the promises to our veterans.

As a veteran I have firsthand knowledge of the abuse and neglect inflicted on members of our armed services when they returned home from Afghanistan and Iraq as well as the treatment my fellow Vietnam veterans and I received coming home.

Our VA hospitals are under additional and justifiable scrutiny.

There are long wait times at VA hospitals . . . and instead of addressing the issues, they threw a convention for VA employees spending almost \$1 million and an additional \$350,000 for souvenirs because they had extra money . . .

Many government bureaucrats receive millions of dollars in bonuses when they are neither accountable nor transparent to taxpayers when found abusing their authority. Rather than properly address our veterans . . .

The suicides . . .

The homelessness . . .

The wait times . . .

The healthcare . . .

The hypocrites are the first to demand war and are the last if at all to send their own son or daughter to fight it!

And yet, they are responsible for policy failures making us vulnerable to our enemies. Domestic policies and actions that weaken not

strengthen our country. The list of harmful policies and actions is a long and growing. There are the lies and hidden cost of Obamacare that are undermining the quality and availability of healthcare; the rapid growth of welfare that is putting an additional strain on our economy; Distortions in presenting the real unemployment numbers; bailouts that did not work; irresponsible investments in alternative energy sources that can provide minimal benefits at best; encouragement of an entitlement mentality; no leadership on immigration so that our borders are open to ISIS and other terrorist groups; a burgeoning list of costly regulations; poor handling of the pullout from Iraq and the draw down in Afghanistan; a lack of leadership in dealing with Iran's nuclear threat; the projection of weakness in Benghazi, Crimea, Ukraine, and containment of the civil war in Syria; the haphazard, too-little-too-late approach to ISIS in Iraq; meekly referring to terrorist attacks against American soldiers as work place violence instead of calling it what it is—terrorism; swapping terrorist leaders for an American deserter; and the list goes on.

Big government is stealing the American dream and future prosperity from our children by enslaving them to more than \$18 trillion dollars of debt not of their own choosing. Congress did not ask permission from our children to borrow the money, nor receive it as a gift. The money is stolen from future generations and this is selfish and immoral.

Our military and the defense of our nation is top priority and yet, no help for Benghazi, an unsecure border, veterans issues, military training and equipment to defend us in the years to come is languishing in media hype, misinformation and political propaganda.

I want to tell you Washington's blatant disregard for a responsible fiscal policy, their wasteful over spending and continued borrowing weakens our country's ability to respond to future unexpected challenges.

And those challenges will come.

They will come. And they will come very soon.

My friends these are battles worth fighting.

It is a time to choose whether we want a big bloated Nanny government telling us what light bulbs we can purchase, how much water we can flush down a toilet, what our children can and cannot eat in school or what we can teach them and to what standards?

Do we want our Federal government to tell us who we can call doctor and what hospital we can visit in an emergency?

Do we want our Federal government to regulate who and who cannot voice opposition to abusive authority and the moral corruption of God given liberties?

Do we want a dismantled national defense leaving us defenseless?

Our country is broken, bankrupt morally and financially.

There it is. Plain and simple.

As a member of the United States House of Representatives, I swore an oath to defend the Constitution and as a soldier to defend the people of this great nation.

Before I close I want to tell you the reason I served both in the military and here in Congress.

I began in the neighborhood where I grew up as the eldest of four sons. My grandfather served in WWI and my father and uncles served in the 1940's. The gentleman who lived

in the house across the street was a former sailor in WW2. He was on an aircraft carrier that was hit by a kamikaze. Our next door neighbor was Charles Parker senior. As a Marine, he received a purple heart on Iwo Jima. His son, a few years older than me, was my best friend, Chuck Jr. His name is inscribed on the Vietnam War Memorial on the Mall in DC. Down the street a few houses was another neighbor who fought in the Korean War, his daughter, Cookie gave me my first kiss. Near him was another veteran who served in the Navy on a destroyer and there were two men across the street from him who served together in Gen Patton's Third Army and were part of the force that relieved the 101st Airborne at Bastogne. I can still see their faces. Their examples of service all played a part in why I served in the Armed Forces. Perhaps, they were the reason why the words of our President Kennedy, "Ask not what your country can do for you but rather what you can do for your country" rang so true.

I don't think John Kennedy would recognize his party today.

I think my understanding of service can be best summed up by the message of the movie, "Saving Private Ryan." I hope some of you have seen it. If you haven't let me tell you what it's about. The movie begins with an elderly man walking through the cemetery off the beach at Normandy, down a sidewalk with his family behind him.

The scene then shifts to a landing craft heading for the beaches of Normandy on D-Day. Tom Hanks plays the part of Cpt Miller, 2nd Rangers. The landing craft hits the beach and the soldiers, and well, they experience the horrors of battle. Many of his fellow soldiers are killed and wounded in the scenes that follow.

After securing the beach head, Cpt Miller receives new orders. His new mission is to locate and bring home Private Ryan, played by Matt Damon, who's in the 101st Airborne because Ryan's three brothers were recently killed within weeks of each other and the Army thinks that no family should lose four sons to war. Cpt Miller, with a small contingent of soldiers set off to locate Ryan.

In the course of several days Cpt Miller loses several soldiers in the quest to locate Ryan. Eventually, they find him in a small village in France, but alas, he decides to stay with his fellow soldiers—his brothers in arms—to defend a small bridge in the village.

They fight the Germans and in the course of the battle most all of Miller's soldiers are killed. Only two remain. Cpt Miller receives a mortal wound and sits gasping his last breaths, his back against a motorcycle, looks up at young Private Ryan says, with his last breaths, "earn this . . . earn this." The scene changes to a close up of Matt Damon, his face changes from young Ryan to the older man we met at the beginning of the movie, he's overlooking a gravestone that reads, "Captain Miller, 2nd Rangers."

Old Ryan falls to his knees in front of the gravestone and says, "Not a day goes by that I don't remember what you all did for me. I tried to live my life the best that I could. I hope that was enough. I hope that, at least in your eyes, I've earned what all of you have done for me."

Let me tell you something: Not a day goes by I do not remember what the fathers of my childhood friends and playmates did for us to

protect the American dream. No matter where your family hails from, no matter what cultural or religious background, as citizens we are all fundamentally equal and self-governing because the generation before us stood up to do what's right and to protect our nation's exceptional principles.

We are supposed to have a limited government, outlined in the Constitution, which gives us the liberty and opportunity to live our lives, control our fate, and pursue our happiness. Everyone here has a right to the rewards of his or her labor. These ideas challenge the notion that life is a zero sum game where if I win you lose. We have created a society in which every member can work hard, achieve success, and advance in life to the benefit of all. Because of this our economy produces almost a quarter of the world's wealth and our military forces are the most powerful on the globe.

It is the potent combination of liberty under the rule of law, the endless creativity of the marketplace, and the enduring moral character of the American people that assures opportunity for all and fuels the unlimited promise of America.

That is the "this" in the phrase "earn this" from "Saving Private Ryan."

Americans have been told by the Administration that prosperity requires more spending, more government, and more taxes. Liberals constantly want people to believe that if one American does well that means another one isn't. They have continued down this phony path even though most Americans think government does too much. Only the House of Representatives has served as a brake, trying to divert us from this dangerous road ahead.

Some argue that conservatives should accept the liberal premise. They say we must be resigned to permanent economic stagnation, give up our firearms and our religious values; submit to bureaucratic rule, and national decline. Many of my friends in the House and I disagree.

The time is now to champion the ideas of opportunity and upward mobility and to redouble our efforts to change America's course, heading back down the path created by our forefathers. We will meet the demands of the moment and address the magnitude of the challenges before us. We will fight whenever possible, constantly pointing out the false promises of liberalism, and offering conservative alternatives at every turn.

We will take our arguments to all Americans: To middle-class families struggling in a bad economy; to young people worried about their prospects; to retirees worried about their grandchildren; to job creators seeking to expand prosperity; to those who are stuck in poverty grasping for that first rung on the ladder of opportunity—conservatism is for everybody. This is what our founding fathers, our grandfathers and fathers, our uncles and neighbors, our friends struggled to protect.

The moment has arrived. It will take courage to stop the government from growing out of control while self-interests are pulling the levers of power. You don't need a uniform to fight for our freedoms. I am asking every American to stand side by side and explain to our friends and neighbors that while this is the easy way to live; it's a hard way to be free and prosperous. It's our time to "earn this", to keep the promises of our forefathers and earn what they gave us. Freedom.

Never let it be said that this generation stood idle and let liberty slip from our fingers, never let it be said we let a day go without remembering what our forefathers did for us.

I have honored that promise on the battlefields in Vietnam, in Iraq and in the halls of Congress.

My number one mission, as always, is to protect our God given rights. Not take them away!

Today, not tomorrow, we must decide whether we want to manage our own destiny, in our states, in our cities and towns as individuals or whether we want a Washington bureaucrat locked away in some distant Federal building spying on us, telling us how to manage our own lives, families, doctors and our schools!

Do we determine our own destiny or let government bureaucrats run our lives?

The time for choosing is once again upon us.

Mr. Speaker, my dear Patriots, friends and neighbors, the battle is here now, today, not in some distant jungle or desert, and we must decide whether or not we want a brighter future for ourselves and our children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, We, together, today, must decide whether our uniquely American culture made up of people respectfully representing every cultural, religious, and ethnic background on earth is a nation divided or united in a common cause for freedom and the opportunity liberty offers each of us.

We must choose whether we will join our friends and neighbors defending liberty and opportunity or become grease for the wheels of big government.

In respectful civil disobedience, I for one will not submit to the chains of tyranny. I fly the Stars and Stripes in my yard not the red hammer and cycle!

I choose to continue the fight for a smaller, non-intrusive, fiscally responsible, constitutional government. I choose Freedom for America! I choose prosperity for America!

Mr. Speaker, I pledged to the citizens of my State, and to the American people, that as their elected representative I will work to: Restore liberty, not restrict it; Shrink government, not expand it; Reduce taxes, not raise them; Abolish programs, not create them; Promote the freedom and independence of citizens, not the interference of government in their lives; and Observe the limited, enumerated powers of our Constitution, not ignore them. I trust I honored that pledge.

I praise God for my American roots and pray that HE may continue to Bless all of us and this great nation.

I want to thank my fellow citizens and members of Congress for the privilege, honor and experience to serve in the 113th Congress these last 24 months. And lastly, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to wish the 114th Congress my very best wishes.

Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 9, Wednesday, Decem-

ber 10, and Thursday, December 11, 2014, I was out on medical leave continuing to recover from surgery and unable to be present for recorded votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted: "yes" on roll call vote No. 552 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 5781); "no" on roll call vote No. 553 (on passage of H.R. 5781); "no" on roll call vote No. 554 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 775); "yes" on roll call vote No. 555 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 1000); "yes" on roll call vote No. 556 (on approving the journal); "yes" on roll call vote No. 557 (on passage of S. 2244); "yes" on roll call vote No. 558 (on the motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 4681); "yes" on roll call vote No. 559 (on the motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 2719); "yes" on roll call vote No. 560 (on the motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 1204); "no" on roll call vote No. 561 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 776); "no" on roll call vote No. 562 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 5806); "no" on roll call vote No. 563 (on the motion to concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 83 with an amendment); and "yes" on roll call vote No. 564 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 5699, as amended).

URGING NOMINATION OF HARRY CHAPIN IN THE SONGWRITERS HALL OF FAME

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2014

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of Harry Chapin, and to urge the Songwriters Hall of Fame to nominate him for induction. Harry Chapin is known not only for his powerful songwriting but also for his philanthropy and activism, as he spent his life fighting hunger and poverty in his Long Island community and around the world. His eminence as a songwriter and as an activist proves that he is deserving of this honor. I am also submitting for the record my letter to the Songwriters Hall of Fame as well as a letter from Sandy Chapin, Harry's wife.

Though his musical career lasted only a decade, Harry Chapin's talent lives on through his timeless songs and powerful storytelling. He wrote over 400 songs in that time, including classic songs like "Taxi" and "Cat's in the Cradle;" released nine albums; and wrote a Broadway musical, "The Night That Made America Famous." He also wrote songs for television and film. He was inducted into the Long Island Music Hall of Fame in 2006.

Furthermore, Harry's humanitarian work serving the people of Long Island deserves to be remembered and honored. He donated half of his concert revenue to charity and founded various organizations that continue to fight hunger and poverty on Long Island and around the world. Harry co-founded WhyHunger, a grassroots organization that supports over 8,000 community groups nationwide in their efforts to develop innovative programs to eliminate hunger and provide sustainable, health food sources. He founded New York City's Hunger Hotline and Long Is-

land's first food bank, Long Island Cares, which today distributes more than six million pounds of food every year. Long Island Cares also provides community members with nutrition education, job training, and veterans' services, because Harry understood that ending hunger requires addressing the root causes of poverty. In 1977, he lobbied Congress and President Carter to establish a Presidential Commission on World Hunger, on which he served as an active member. For all of his humanitarian work, Harry posthumously received a Congressional Gold Medal in 1987. His legacy lives on with the Harry Chapin Foundation, which continues to support charities that fight hunger and poverty, as well as organizations that support arts education.

Harry Chapin's contributions to music and to the world should not be forgotten, and again I encourage his nomination to the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

STEVE ISRAEL,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
December 16, 2014.

BOARD MEMBERS,
Songwriters Hall of Fame, New York, NY.

TO THE BOARD MEMBERS OF THE SONGWRITERS HALL OF FAME: I write today to ask for full and fair consideration for Harry Chapin, a Long Island treasure, as a nominee for induction into the Songwriters Hall of Fame. In his life, Harry Chapin was known not only for writing songs that resonated but also for his philanthropic efforts and activism to combat hunger and poverty both in his Long Island community and around the world. His eminence as a songwriter and as a leader in the fight against poverty and hunger proves him truly deserving of this honor.

Though his musical career lasted only a decade, Harry Chapin's enduring legacy ensures that his talent will live on through his timeless songs that reverberate across generations. During that brief period, Harry wrote over 400 songs, including classics like "Taxi" and "Cat's in the Cradle;" released nine albums; and wrote a Broadway musical, "The Night That Made America Famous." He also wrote songs for television and film. He was inducted into the Long Island Music Hall of Fame in 2006.

Harry's unparalleled humanitarian work serving the people of Long Island also deserves recognition. Along with donating half of his concert revenue to charity and founding various organizations to fight hunger and poverty on Long Island and around the world, Harry also served as a powerful voice lobbying Congress and President Carter to establish a Presidential Commission on World Hunger, on which he served as an active member. For all of his humanitarian work, Harry posthumously received a Congressional Gold Medal in 1987. His legacy lives on with the Harry Chapin Foundation, which continues to support charities that fight hunger and poverty, such as Long Island Cares, as well as organizations that support arts education.

Today, I'm proud to give much deserved recognition to Harry Chapin's contributions to music and to the world in the House of Representatives. Harry's legacy is timeless and should not be forgotten. I once again ask for full and fair consideration for his nomination to the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,
STEVE ISRAEL,
Member of Congress.

SEPTEMBER 15, 2013.

BOARD MEMBERS,
Songwriters Hall of Fame, New York, NY.

BOARD MEMBERS OF THE SONGWRITERS HALL OF FAME: I am writing to ask that you might consider Harry Chapin as one of your

next recipients for the Songwriters Hall of Fame Award. While reading your news letter about the recipients for 2008 Awards I couldn't help but think that Harry is long overdue for a honor such as this.

Harry Chapin earned a devoted audience during the '70s, through his music and his charity work as a social activist. Harry wrote and recorded a reasonably large body of work before his death in 1981. Though many may not know all of Harry's songs (he wrote over 400), his legion of fans continue to buy his CD's, as well as attempt to unearth lost recordings by the man to this day.

Harry Chapin is remembered by a generation of music fans as one of America's greatest musical storytellers and troubadours, but as Ralph Nader said, "to talk about Harry Chapin only as a singer-composer is like viewing Theodore Roosevelt as a state assemblyman or Babe Ruth as a pitcher. More that any other entertainer in his generation, Harry was a citizen-artist."

Harry's albums, musical plays and TV contributions are listed as follows:

Chapin Music (1966, Rock-Land Records) Harry's early years with brothers Tom and Steve.

Heads and Tales (1972, Elektra) Harry's first album with Elektra, was released in the summer of 1972 and became a success thanks to the hit single "Taxi," which soon became the songwriter's signature tune. Taxi became the most requested song in America for ten weeks in a row and earned Harry a Grammy nomination as best new artist.

Sniper and Other Love Songs (1972, Elektra)

Short Stories (1973, Elektra) This album it spent 23 weeks on the charts due to the success of the single "W.O.L.D.," a story about the life of a disc jockey.

Verities & Balderdash (1974, Elektra) This album became his biggest hit, becoming a gold record. The album's success was benefited by the number-one single "Cat's in the Cradle," a song about an inconsiderate, career-oriented father that was based on a poem written by Sandy Chapin, his wife. He earned another Grammy nomination as best male vocal performer.

Portrait Gallery (1975, Elektra) his follow-up to Verities and Balderdash. The album performed respectably, peaking at number 53.

The Night That Made America Famous In the mean time, Harry had been working on his musical which opened on February 26, 1975. The show earned two Tony nominations.

Make a Wish Harry won an Emmy award in the spring for his contributions of songs to ABC television's children's series Make a Wish, which was hosted by his brother Tom. At that time Harry also co-founded World Hunger Year, a charity designed to raise money to fight international famine; the organization earned over \$350,000 in its first year.

Greatest Stories Live (Double Album, 1976, Elektra) This double album, became the singer/songwriter's second gold album, peaking at number 48. Chapin was becoming more politically active throughout 1976, as evidenced by his role as a delegate at that summer's Democratic Convention.

Dance Band on the Titanic (Double Album, 1977, Elektra) This album was also on the charts.

Living Room Suite (1978, Elektra) The following year, Harry Chapin met with President Jimmy Carter, discussing the need for a Presidential Commission on Hunger; he also released Living Room Suite that summer, which peaked at number 133.

Legends of the Lost and Found (Double Album, 1979, Elektra) His second live album.

Sequel (1980, Boardwalk Records) Harry signed with Boardwalk Records, releasing

Sequel; the title track of the album was a sequel to his first hit single, "Taxi," and became his last Top 40 hit before his death.

Mothers & Daughters: The Loving War (1980, ABC Friday Night Movie) Harry wrote the music for this TV production.

Cotton Patch Gospel (1981) The off-Broadway premiere of Cotton Patch Gospel, original score by Harry Chapin received praise as "The best music Harry Chapin ever wrote" by—David Marsh, Rolling Stone Magazine. This was his last after a career as one of the great American folk singers and one of the great humanitarians having raised over 5 million dollars for World Hunger.

Anthology of Harry Chapin (1985, Elektra) Remember When the Music (1987, Dunhill Compact Classics)

The Gold Medal Collection (1988, Elektra) The Last Protest Singer (1988, Dunhill Compact Classics)

Harry Chapin Tribute (1990, Relativity Records)

The Bottom Line Encore Collection (1998, Bottom Line/Koch)

Story of a Life (1999, Elektra)

VHI Behind the Music The Harry Chapin Collection (2001, MTV Networks)

Sequel (2001, re-mastered and re-released on CD Chapin Productions LLC)

Sniper and Other Love Songs (Re-mastered and re-released on CD 2002, Wounded Bird Records)

The Last Protest Singer (2002, re-mastered and re-released on CD Chapin Productions LLC)

Harry Chapin Songwriter (2002) Originally produced in 1975 for the educational series Pipeline, this CD closes the distance between listener and performer. A real treat for any aspiring musician, who, regardless of his status as a Harry Chapin fan, will no doubt gain a clear and simple outline for writing a successful song. The disc is broken down into five parts: a short, friendly introduction, the second part, a soulful, acoustical version of a previously unrecorded gem called "Too Many Miles." The third part is the meat of the disc. Harry talks of the difference between "attitudinal" songs and his own unique style of story songs. He then goes through the process of building a chorus and its verses, discussing the pitfalls of first-time songwriter, strategies for successful rhyming, and finding a "zinger." In the fourth part Harry plays a short upbeat track off the Portrait Gallery album, "Stop Singing These Sad Songs." In the fifth and final part, he conveys easily such concepts as tonal consistency and "architectural constants." The conversation closes with Harry talking about what is plainly evident throughout Songwriter, his "joy of doing it."

Heads and Tales/Sniper and Other Love Songs (2004, Elektra. Double CD re-release of first two albums with bonus tracks)

Legends of the Lost and Found (Double Album, 2005, re-mastered and re-released on CD, Chapin Productions LLC)

Introducing. Harry Chapin (2006)

Harry Chapin Cat's In the Cradle and Other Songs (2008, Elektra)

Harry performed more than 250 concerts every year, and donated the proceeds for half of them to charity. After his concerts, he would go into the lobby and sign autographs and sell records, T-shirts and song books. And every penny he took in would go to charity, especially the battle to end world hunger. He spent four months nearly single-handedly successfully lobbying both Congress and President Carter to form a Presidential Commission on Domestic and International Hunger and Malnutrition, activity serving as a member of the commission.

On Sunday July 26, 1981, Ralph Nader wrote in the Sunday New York Times: "We hope that Taxi is sung as long as there are

taxi and lovers with long memories. And we hope as well that Harry Chapin's legacy will include not only his music but his citizenship, so that others may learn of his example and emulate it. For he was a model of what Justice Felix Frankfurter once referred to as the highest position in a democracy—the office of citizen. That was no third-rate folk singer (as he called himself), only a first rate American."

Harry Chapin was inducted into the Long Island Music Hall of Fame on October 15, 2006.

I have enclosed a copy of the CD, Harry Chapin Songwriter as a gift to you, thinking that you may find it an appropriate piece considering my request. May you enjoy it!

Sincerely,

SANDRA CHAPIN,
Chapin Productions LLC.

70TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF
ATLEY A. KITCHINGS AND
BETTY JANE LANGLEY

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2014

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 70th anniversary of a very important occasion. On December 16, 1944, two special people, Atley A. Kitchings and Betty Jane Langley, were married in Miami, Florida. So, today I would like to congratulate, pay tribute to, and honor these two great Alabamians.

I first had the occasion to meet Atley Kitchings when I was a student at the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama in the late 1980's. Atley was an adjunct professor teaching communications law. We became friends while I was a student of his. In 1995, I was working as Assistant Legal Advisor to then-Governor Fob James, and Atley was doing some legal work in Montgomery when our paths crossed again. It was at that time that our friendship began to bloom. It wasn't long before my wife, Caroline, and I met his lovely wife Betty Jane.

Atley A. Kitchings, Jr. was born in Louisville, KY on June 10, 1925. Betty Jane Langley was born on February 13, 1925 in Jackson, MS. Atley moved with his parents to Clinton, MS when he was 3 years old. He met Betty Jane in high school in Clinton, MS, and they began dating at Mississippi College, in Clinton, MS where they were both college students. World War II was ongoing, and Atley joined the Navy, participating first in the V-12 program at Mississippi College, and then earning a commission as an Ensign in the Navy after completing midshipman's school at Northwestern University in Chicago on November 22, 1944.

Atley was assigned to Miami for further training, and on December 16, 1944 (the day the Battle of the Bulge began in Europe), he and Betty Jane were married at a Baptist Church in downtown Miami, FL. Atley shipped out a week later to lead the crew of a sub-chaser out of San Juan, Puerto Rico to hunt Nazi U-Boats, although they never found any. Atley left active duty in 1946, but he remained in the Navy reserves until 1978, when he retired with the rank of Captain.

Atley graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law and has had a distinguished legal career, including: a time in the US Attorney's office in Birmingham, AL, a 25

year career with AT&T, and time with several law firms in Birmingham, including his current firm of Wallace, Jordan, Ratliffe and Brandt. He still practices law at the age of 89!

Betty Jane was an elementary school teacher in the early years of their marriage. Wanting to spend more time as a homemaker, she stopped teaching to raise the couple's two children, Jane Marlea and Atley Langley Kitchings.

Both Atley and Betty Jane are individuals who have touched thousands of lives over the years and have been an inspiration to all those who have known them and that continues even today. So today, December 16, 2014, I would like to wish Atley and Betty Jane a sincere congratulations on 70 years of marriage. On Sunday afternoon, December 21, they plan to celebrate this momentous occasion with their family and friends in Birmingham, Alabama.

May God grant them many more years together.

CONGRATULATING VOICE OF
AMERICA, UKRAINE SERVICE ON
THE OCCASION OF THEIR 65TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2014

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Voice of America, Ukraine Service on the occasion of their 65th anniversary. For 65 years, from the dark days of Stalin's rule to Putin's current aggression against their country, VOA's Ukrainian Service has been a crucial source of news and information for the people of Ukraine. Throughout the Euromaidan revolution and Russia's campaign of aggression against Ukraine, VOA's Ukrainian Service has served an essential role as a unique and comprehensive source of news, information and discussion about the year-long crisis and the U.S. response.

Nearly every moment of television airtime has been devoted to U.S. official and expert commentary and analysis regarding the

Ukrainian people's drive to overthrow authoritarian rule and integrate with the West, Russian President Vladimir Putin's determination to stop them by any means, and American and European efforts in support of Ukraine. This surge in Ukraine-related content was accompanied by an expansion of broadcasts, and both initiatives, combined, resulted in remarkable ratings, with the Service reaching more than 18 percent of the adult audience in Ukraine in a given week and maintaining VOA Ukrainian's position as the most popular Western international broadcaster in Ukraine.

VOA began broadcasting in Ukrainian on December 12, 1949. Throughout the Cold War, it was a beacon of freedom for the citizens of Soviet Ukraine, who were living under repressive rule. With the collapse of the U.S.S.R., VOA Ukrainian took advantage of new opportunities offered by Ukraine's declaration of independence. After decades of jamming, VOA was able to sign contracts with the government broadcast channel and local FM stations for transmission of VOA radio programs on Ukrainian airwaves. In 1993, the agency launched VOA's first television program, a weekly Ukrainian-language TV magazine, *Window on America*.

Every week, VOA's Ukrainian Service reaches millions of people in Ukraine, a strategically located country of 45 million with a persistent Soviet legacy but with strong European aspirations. Ukrainian news organizations have a very limited reporting presence in the United States, thus VOA provides viewers in Ukraine with a unique, thoughtful and revealing window on America life, and remains the leading international broadcaster in the country. Through its daily reporting on U.S. politics, foreign policy, social issues, business, culture and the arts, VOA provides comprehensive, accurate and authoritative information that Ukrainians can employ in strengthening their nascent democracy, market economy and independent statehood.

This past year, perhaps more than any other, the service of VOA Ukraine has been a crucial lifeline between the people of the United States and Ukraine. It is with great pride that I warmly congratulate VOA Ukraine and their highly capable staff, notably chief Adrian Karmazyn, on this extraordinary mile-

stone and wish them another 65 years of success in the public service.

IN HONOR OF LEONARD R.
SENDELSKY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of the life of Mr. Leonard R. Sendelsky. Mr. Sendelsky, a longtime resident of the Colonia section of Woodbridge, New Jersey, passed away on December 6, 2014 after a life filled with numerous professional and personal accomplishments.

Mr. Sendelsky was a fixture of the building industry. His commitment to high quality and standards set him apart as a leader and advocate in the industry. He earned several honors and accolades, including the New Jersey Builders Golden Hammer Award and the New Jersey Builders Association inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award.

Not only was Mr. Sendelsky a prominent representative of the building industry, he was also an active member of the community and the Hungarian Reformed Church of Carteret. His work with the Thomas Edison Council of the Boy Scouts of America, the Raritan Bay YMCA and the Middlesex County College Foundation exemplify his commitment to service and support of the community.

Born and raised in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, Mr. Sendelsky lived in Colonia for over 50 years with his wife Judy. He and Judy were married for 60 years and together had two sons, Leonard Drew and Guy Sean. Mr. Sendelsky is remembered by his loving family, including his wife and sons, daughter-in-law Susan, granddaughter Christine Marie, sisters Joan Maher and Jean Muni, as well as many other relatives and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring Leonard Sendelsky for his dedication to his family and community and his immeasurable contributions to the building industry.