

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE VETERANS OF THE MAY 19, 2015 EASTERN IOWA HONOR FLIGHT

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, today, over eighty Iowa veterans of World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War will travel to our nation's capital. Together, they will visit the monuments that were built in their honor by a grateful nation.

For many, today will be the first time they will see the National World War II Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial and the Vietnam War Memorial. I can think of no greater honor than to be able to greet them and thank Iowa's—and our nation's—heroes for their service to our country.

That is why I am deeply honored to join them for their visit to the National World War II Memorial to personally thank these heroes for their service to our nation and to pay tribute to the incredible sacrifice they made for our country.

We owe these heroes a debt of gratitude and the Honor Flight demonstrates that we as a state and as a country will never forget the debt we owe those who have worn our nation's uniform. As a reminder of the service and sacrifice of the Greatest Generation, I am proud to have a piece of marble in my office from the quarry that was used to build the World War II Memorial. Our World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War veterans rose to defend not just our nation, but the freedoms, democracy, and values that make our country the greatest nation on earth. They did so as one people and one country. Their sacrifices and determination in the face of great threats to our way of life are both humbling and inspiring.

I am tremendously proud to welcome the Eastern Iowa Honor Flight and Iowa's veterans of World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War to our nation's capital today. On behalf of every Iowan I represent, I thank them for their service to our country.

HONORING THE TUSCUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC TEAM

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Tuscumbia High School Academic Team on its Class 1 State Championship win at the Missouri Scholar Bowl Tournament.

These students and their coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the

state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing the Tuscumbia High School Academic Team for a job well done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on account of a flight delay. Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on roll call vote 240, roll call vote 241, and roll call vote 242.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF VIRGINIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD BRIGADIER GENERAL WAYNE A. WRIGHT

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Brigadier General Wayne A. Wright for his 34 years of service to our nation and to congratulate him on his announced retirement.

Brigadier General Wayne A. Wright retires as the Chief of Staff/Air Component Commander, Virginia Air National Guard, responsible for the command and control of 1,230 Virginia Air National Guard members, representing five organizations. Provided to the Governor and Adjutant General of Virginia, Air Guard military forces protect and defend the Commonwealth, and when activated to federal military duty, provide those same forces to the President of the United States.

General Wright entered the United States Air Force and received his commission in 1981 after graduating from the University of South Carolina. He transitioned from active duty to the Georgia Air National Guard in 1992. General Wright has held various leadership and command positions at the squadron, group, wing and major command levels. His assignments involved operations and formal training of United States Air Force and allied Command and Control personnel. He also worked in the developmental and operational testing arena. General Wright is a Master Air Battle Manager with qualifications in six ground-based Command and Control systems including joint and allied systems.

General Wright has been awarded the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (with 2 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), Air Force Commendation Medal (with 2 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal (with 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), Air Force Outstanding Unit

Award (with 2 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), Air Force Organizational Excellence Award, Combat Readiness Medal, National Defense Service Medal (with 1 Bronze Service Star), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Air Force Overseas Ribbon Short Tour, Air Force Overseas Ribbon Long Tour, Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon (with 1 Silver and 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), and the Air Force Training Ribbon.

Brigadier General Wright has excelled throughout his distinguished career and I am honored to pay tribute to this Airman. I thank Wayne's wife, Jeanette, and their daughter, Jessica and son in-law, Jeremy along with their children, Noah and Haley as well as their son Justin and his wife Caitlin for the many years they have supported Wayne while he served his country. I wish Wayne and Jeanette Godspeed, and continued happiness as they start a new chapter in their lives.

HONORING JOAN ERIKSEN

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joan Eriksen, who is completing twenty-one years of service on the Mendocino Lake Community College District Board of Trustees, where she has been a leader and driving force in a multitude of valuable community projects and programs.

Ms. Eriksen has diligently guided the college district in overcoming fiscal challenges during economic downturns and has been a powerful and consistent advocate for high-quality educational opportunities for students in remote areas. She provided strong leadership to secure critical funding to develop and improve College facilities and stellar oversight in the construction of these projects. The permanent structures now housing classrooms and facilities for students in Willits and Lake County are in large part a result of her hard work.

As a skilled relationship builder with the extended community and a valuable role model for new board members over the years of her service, Ms. Eriksen's heartfelt commitment to Mendocino College and the Mendocino Lake Community College District—as well as its staff, students, and the community it serves—will leave a lasting impact for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting to honor and thank Joan Eriksen for her years of dedicated service to the students of Mendocino College and the Mendocino Lake Community College District. On behalf of the many individuals she has served, I am privileged to express deep appreciation to Ms. Eriksen for her exemplary leadership, and convey to her best wishes as she pursues new endeavors.

• 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.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S BELOVED ARTHUR MICHAEL "COACH MAC" McMILLION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and legacy of Northwest Florida's beloved Arthur Michael "Coach Mac" McMillion. For more than 30 years, Coach Mac was a fixture in Northwest Florida athletics, helping to shape the lives of countless young men and women, and the Northwest Florida community mourns his passing.

Born and raised in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, Coach Mac from a young age exemplified the hard work and dedication necessary to excel on the playing field. Following his successful playing career—during which he garnered All State honors in high school football and captained his college team, the University of Eau Claire—Coach Mac and his wife Barb moved to Texas, where he began his coaching career.

In 1985, Coach Mac and his family moved to Northwest Florida. For eight years, Coach Mac served as Head Coach in football, basketball and weight lifting at Earnest Ward High School, before moving to Milton High School. Over the next 20 years, Coach Mac coached football and basketball at Milton, as well as starting the girls first weight lifting program. For the last ten years of his tenure at Milton High, Coach Mac led the Milton High football program as head coach. Coach Mac then began the next chapter in his life, moving to Hobbs Middle School where he worked as the Dean of Students until his passing.

As anyone who has played sports can tell you, the best coaches are leaders both on and off the field, and Coach Mac epitomized these values. His goal as a coach and educator was to shape his students and players to be successful on the field and in their lives, and he has had an immeasurable influence on thousands of students over the years. Above all of the many accolades he earned as a player and coach, Coach Mac's greatest joy in life was family, and to his family and friends he will always be remembered as a loving and devoted husband, father and grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize the life and legacy of Arthur Michael "Coach Mac" McMillion. My wife Vicki and I extend our heartfelt prayers and condolences to his wife Barb; four children, Amie, Missy, Mikey, and Tommy; four grandsons, Nate, Rhett, Jon and Luke; father and step-mother, Art and Ruth; sister, Beth; and the entire McMillion family.

RECOGNIZING JIM GARRETT; FAMILY CHAMPION OF THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jim Garrett, a dedicated leader in the fight against Alzheimer's. On Wednesday,

June 10, 2015, Mr. Garrett will be honored by the Alzheimer's Association as Family Champion for his faithful leadership on the Association's Board of Directors, and for his continued commitment to supporting the advancement of research for the treatment of this terrible disease.

The Alzheimer's Association is a tremendous organization that provides professionally staffed services and critical resources for Alzheimer's patients and their families. This organization is largely funded by the altruism of people such as Jim Garrett, who in addition to being a natural caregiver is also a successful businessman, acting as Chairman of a well-known New England company, Rapid Refills. Jim Garrett's public spirit can best be seen in his spearheading of the Purple Pump Up Program, which donates a certain percentage of Rapid Refills' earnings to the Alzheimer's Association, promoting the continuation of research and treatment, and making a difference in the lives of all those affected by this disease.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Jim Garrett on this day for his tremendous contributions to the Alzheimer's Association, and his efforts in the fight against Alzheimer's disease.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
MANDIE DELL AARON NIXON

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this occasion to first of all say how much I appreciate this opportunity to address my colleagues and the Nation and to talk for just a few moments about a loving and caring woman, Mrs. Mandie Dell Aaron Nixon.

Mandie Dell Aaron Nixon passed away a few days ago. She was a special woman, and a dedicated worker for the Lord. She loved lifting up the name of Jesus, praising him with all her heart. She let her light shine.

Mandie Dell Aaron Nixon was born in Camden, Alabama, to the late Reverend Henry Aaron and missionary, Mariah Aaron. Being born in a Christian home, she accepted the Lord into her heart at a very early age. Mandie was a loving wife, sister, and mother to her five children. She is survived by two children, three sisters, and a host of five generations of grandchildren. Her entire beloved family mourns this hour.

But let me just say, Mr. Speaker, that not only her family mourns, for this caring woman touched many lives. During her journey here on Earth, Mandie loved with her whole heart. She was active in her church community, even President of the Mother's Board for many years. She always had something nice to say about everyone. When she looked at you, she always saw the best in you, and would make sure to impart words of encouragement and wisdom.

Mr. Speaker, this is a dedicated woman and one who was humble and humbled herself before God, and understood not only who she was but whose she was.

And so I just want to rise this afternoon to say these few words about this generous, loving woman, Mandie Dell Aaron Nixon. Let me

just say in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, God bless Mandie Dell Aaron Nixon. She fought the good fight, she finished her race, and she kept the faith. And most of all, she will be truly missed by many.

HONORING THE PARTICIPANTS IN
THE 2015 CONGRESSIONAL ART
COMPETITION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, once again, I come to the floor to recognize the great success of strong local schools working with dedicated parents and teachers. I rise today to congratulate and honor a number of outstanding high school artists from the 11th Congressional District of New Jersey. Each of these talented young men and women participated in the 2015 Congressional Art Competition. Their works of art are exceptional.

Fifty-seven participated. That is a wonderful response, and I would very much like to build on that participation for future competitions.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the winners of our art competition. First place was awarded to Camila Rosario from Wayne Valley High School for her Colored Pencil artwork entitled, "Joy and Innocence of Childhood." Second place was awarded to Melissa Danitz from Chatham High School for her Oil on Canvas artwork titled "Colors on a City Street." Third place was awarded to Jamlynn Rose from Hanover Park High School for her Prisma Pencil on black paper artwork titled "Sonic Boom."

Honorable Mentions were awarded to: Natalie Almonte from Boonton High School for her Acrylic artwork titled "Girl with the Silver Earrings" and Jason Levine from Livingston High School for his Digital artwork titled "Gravity."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize each artist for their participation by indicating their high school, their name, and the title of their contest entries.

BOONTON HIGH SCHOOL

Natalie Almonte, Boonton, "Girl with the Silver Earrings"
Karyn Hansen, "Art Dreams"
Perri Phelps, "Girl With Red Hair"
Carla Garcia, "As You See Me"

CHATHAM HIGH SCHOOL

Phoebe Nichols, "Scratchboard Portrait"
Melissa Danitz, "Colors on a City Street"
Sofie Michalak, "Toothbrush"

HANOVER PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Jamlynn Rose, "Sonic Boom"
Laura Romanski, "Spring"
Alexandra Eveland, "Candle Sticks"
Matt Einloth, "The Big Apple"

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

Courtney Weber, "Bryant Park"
Christopher Best, "Autumn Colonial"
Olivia Lisa, "Horseshoe Lake"

LIVINGSTON HIGH SCHOOL

Kristin Leechow, "Artistic Freedom"
Jason Levine, "Gravity"
Sorasicha Nithikasem, "July in America"
Lucas Ochoa "Wired"

MONTCLAIR HIGH SCHOOL

Hannah Brown, "Seven Turtles"
Katelyn Hall, "People Watching"

Jane Boehlert "Dorm Room"

MONTVILLE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

Rachel Higgins "Into the Sea"
Lianne Pflug, "Music to My Ears"
Leigh Deitz, "Fugitive"

MORRIS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Sabrina Huresky, "Random Items Nameplate"

Zoe Yin, "View of China"
Leo Lin, "Satellite View of Capital"

MORRIS KNOLLS HIGH SCHOOL

Raelle D'Aitilio, "Buying Time"
Olivia Kuchta, "Mirror, Mirror"
Chiyere Emili, "African Culture"

MOUNTAIN LAKES HIGH SCHOOL

Joy Xie, "Under the Sunlight"
Yian Wang, "Fish Snack"

NUTLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Deana DiLauri, "Outside the Box"
Cassandra Rebutoc, "Pop the Pink!"
Leticia Donato, "Summer Sun"
Patricia Bobila, "Among the Autumn Leaves"

PASSAIC VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Victoria Phillips, "Rule of Rose"
Lindsey Heale, "In the Studio"

PARSIPPANY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Daniel McMillen, "Coil"
Tamia McNab, "Artist Den"
Nicholas McMillen, "Soulness"
Carolina Sachno, "Go Fish"

RANDOLPH HIGH SCHOOL

Olivia Lawler, "My Childhood"

SPARTA HIGH SCHOOL

Domari Thomas, "Survival"
Mitch Coyle, "3 Seasons"
Kacey Campbell, "Self Portrait"
Madeline Abatemarco, "Fantasy Scape"

WAYNE VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Camila Rosario, "Joy and Innocence of Childhood"

Lilit Balagyozyan, "Cautionary Tale"
Lauren Valledor, "An Afternoon in Washington Square Park"

Olivia Lozy, "Still Life of Pickle Bottles"

WEST ESSEX REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Ariana Daly, "The Moment Winter Falls"

WEST MORRIS MENDHAM HIGH SCHOOL

Emma Jang, "Empty"
Ryan Corbett "I Will Work to End Racism"

WEST ORANGE HIGH SCHOOL

Arlenis Roberts, "Elephant Hand Piece"

WHIPPANY PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Eric Kahn, "Hiding Behind Feathers"
Shayna Miller, "Papilionoidea"

Each year the winner of the competition has their art work displayed with other winners from across the country in a special corridor here at the U.S. Capitol. Thousands of our fellow Americans walk through the exhibition and are reminded of the vast talents of our young men and women. Indeed, all of these young artists are winners, and we should be proud of their achievements so early in life.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating these talented young people from New Jersey's 11th Congressional District.

HONORING WORLD WAR II FIGHTER ACE DONALD MCPHERSON

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Donald McPherson of

Adams, Nebraska, on receiving the Congressional Gold Medal for his valiant service to our nation as an American Fighter Ace in World War II.

Mr. McPherson is one of two surviving fighter aces in Nebraska. These brave pilots earned the title of fighter aces after shooting down five enemies in battle. Mr. McPherson earned three Distinguished Flying Crosses and four Air Medals while assigned to fighter squadron VF-83 aboard the U.S.S. *Essex* in the Pacific. In his F6F Hellcat, Mr. McPherson directly faced our enemies in the skies to defend our country and preserve our liberty.

As Memorial Day approaches, we remember our fallen and honor those still with us who served beside them. The legacies of our selfless military heroes, including Mr. McPherson, must be celebrated and protected for future generations to understand the true cost of freedom.

On behalf of the people of Nebraska's Third District, I thank Mr. McPherson for his service to our country and congratulate him on his Congressional Gold Medal recognition this week.

A PATHWAY TO FREEDOM: RESCUE AND REFUGE FOR VICTIMS OF SEX TRAFFICKING

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I recently chaired a hearing focusing on the fight against human trafficking—an insidious human rights abuse that thrives in an environment of secrecy, of silence, and of a mindset that says that it is somebody else's problem.

The truth of the matter is that combating modern-day slavery is everybody's business. We are all in this together. Cooperation and coordination are key to mitigating—and someday ending—this pervasive cruelty.

Significant progress has been made since I authored landmark legislation—the Trafficking Victim's Protection Act of 2000, or TVPA—to combat sex and labor trafficking in the United States and globally. When I first introduced the TVPA in 1998 however, I was repeatedly told by detractors that it was a "solution in search of a problem."

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, and its 2003 and 2005 reauthorizations, which I also authored, launched a bold new strategy that included sheltering, political asylum, and other protections for the victims; long jail sentences and asset confiscation for the traffickers; and tough sanctions for governments that failed to meet minimum standards prescribed in the TVPA.

And for the first time ever, the law recognized the exploited as victims—not perpetrators of a crime. Since 2004, the TVPA has resulted in Anti-Human Trafficking Task Forces in 42 cities across the U.S. These task forces identify potential victims of human trafficking, coordinate local and federal law enforcement to rescue victims, assist with referrals for victim care, and train law enforcement.

Last week's hearing concentrated on rescue and refuge.

In January of 2000, I received actionable information that eight Ukrainian women were

being exploited by sex traffickers in two bars in Montenegro. The women had been lured there with promises of legitimate work, then forced into prostitution. One desperate victim, however, called her mother for help using the phone of one of the men exploiting her.

When informed, I immediately called the Prime Minister of Montenegro, Filip Vujanovic, who personally ordered an immediate raid on the bar. As a result, seven of the eight women were rescued and returned to their families in Ukraine. Tragically, the eighth woman was trafficked to Albania prior to the raid.

We know that organized crime, street gangs, and pimps around the world have expanded into sex trafficking at an alarming rate. It is an extremely lucrative undertaking: a trafficker can make hundreds of thousands of dollars a year off just one victim. Unlike drugs or weapons, a human being can be held captive and sold into sexual slavery over and over again. Pornography and the devaluation of women are helping to drive demand.

And while our Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security works with law enforcement abroad in sting operations to catch American pedophile sex tourists and rescue victims where there is a nexus with the United States, they cannot conduct rescue operations or run investigations that fall outside their jurisdiction.

Nevertheless, there still are victims—someone's young son or daughter being cruelly exploited. Into this gap steps non-governmental rescue operations. Some of the best are staffed by former Navy SEALs, ex-CIA agents, and even the occasional sitting member of State government. That is who we heard from last week—from witnesses that include a former CIA agent now involved in rescuing the most vulnerable, and a sitting state Attorney General.

We also heard from a former member of the Mexican Congress who has fought trafficking her entire career. And we heard from a victim of trafficking, who told us about the importance of refuge and rehabilitation following rescue.

Operation Underground Railroad has made it their business, literally and figuratively, to identify children being sex trafficked in other countries, and then to partner with the relevant foreign government entities for the rescue and rehabilitation of these children.

Operation Underground Railroad members frequently pose as American sex tourists who enlist traffickers to host sex parties for them—it is such a common occurrence in many Latin American nations that it provides the perfect cover for Operation Underground Railroad to lure the traffickers with the children for sale to a preset location, and then have the local authorities ready to bust the traffickers as well as rescue the children. Operation Underground Railroad also trains the local governments in how to conduct stings on traffickers, and on the rehabilitative needs of the trafficking victims.

Yet the magnitude of the problem remains huge.

Worldwide, in the past two years, 80,000 trafficking victims have been identified—a small percentage of the estimated 20.9 million victims in the world, but evidence that with a combination of encouragement, plus some persuasion and sustained pressure via sanctions imposed by the United States, countries are moving in the right direction.

Child traffickers cater to child predators—a crime that thrives on secrecy. In 1994, a young girl in my hometown was lured into the home of a convicted pedophile who lived across the street from her. Megan Kanka, seven, was raped and murdered.

No one, including Megan Kanka's parents, knew that their neighbor had been convicted of child sexual assault. The outrage over this tragedy led to enactment of Megan's Law—public sex offender registries—in every state in the country.

I thought up the idea for International Megan's Law to Prevent Demand for Child Sex Trafficking (H.R. 515), already passed by the House and now pending in the U.S. Senate, in a conversation with a trafficking in person's delegation from Thailand during a meeting in my office in 2007. I asked what Thai officials would do if we were to notify them of travel by a convicted pedophile. Each of the dozen officials said they would bar entry into their nation of such a predator.

A primary way to fight child trafficking is to fight demand created by sex tourists, which is what International Megan's Law does. We know from other official data that registered sex offenders are traveling disproportionately to countries where children are trafficked for sex.

A deeply-disturbing 2010 report by the Government Accountability Office entitled "Current Situation Results in Thousands of Passports Issued to Registered Sex Offenders" found that at least 4,500 U.S. passports were issued to registered sex offenders in fiscal year 2008 alone.

International Megan's Law seeks to protect children from sex tourism by notifying destination countries when convicted pedophiles plan to travel. And to protect American children, the bill encourages the President to use bilateral agreements and assistance to establish reciprocal notification—so that we will know when convicted child-sex offenders are coming here.

It is a primary duty of government to protect the weakest and most vulnerable among us from harm, but it also falls to each of us to watch for those who need the help of government, NGOs, and the faith community.

Combatting trafficking is everybody's business, and we heard from witnesses involved in the war against trafficking.

HONORING MARY ANN LUTZ

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

Whereas, Mary Ann Lutz has ably served the citizens of Monrovia as Mayor for six years (2009–2015); and also was elected and served the citizens of Monrovia as a member of the City Council for six years (2003–2009); and

Whereas, Mary Ann Lutz was a member of the Executive Committee of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments for the last four years; and provides guidance and counsel as President of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments; and

Whereas, Mary Ann Lutz has provided leadership for residents and fellow elected officials

of the San Gabriel Valley with her commitment to regional government; and is recognized for her leadership and longtime advocacy for environmental causes, energy conservation, economic development, and critical water supply issues; and

Whereas, Mary Ann Lutz has championed the concerns of San Gabriel Valley residents regarding Storm Water Compliance and Mitigation affordability while serving as a member of the United States Conference of Mayors; and has served as a representative to the Gold Line Phase II Joint Powers Authority and the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts; and

Whereas, Mary Ann Lutz has volunteered her time as a liaison to the Monrovia Unified School District and to the Monrovia Public Library to promote educational achievement and the growth of literacy; and furthered educational excellence by participating with the Youth Employment Service (YES!) and the Adult School/ROP & Santa Fe Middle School Adopt-a-School programs; and

Whereas, Mary Ann Lutz's leadership and selfless service will be missed greatly by all the cities of the San Gabriel Valley; and would be appropriate to recognize the outstanding accomplishments and longtime commitment to serving the citizens of Monrovia and the residents of the San Gabriel Valley; and now, therefore, be it

Recognized, That Mayor Mary Ann Lutz of Monrovia has had an enduring influence and given exceptional contributions to the State of California; and we applaud her selfless commitment to the well-being of Southern California families; and we encourage all to honor the leadership and service provided for San Gabriel Valley residents by this wonderful leader.

CONGRATULATING MAJOR
STEPHEN J. BONNER

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, Major Stephen J. Bonner of the U.S. Air Force, who has earned the Congressional Gold Medal for his distinguished service as an American fighter pilot with the Flying Tiger Squadron in World War II.

Growing up in the 1930's during World War I, Major Bonner had always dreamt of becoming an ace. When he graduated from flight school in 1943, his dream came true when he was assigned to fly with the 76th Fighter Squadron in China, battling Japanese fighter pilots in his P-40 Warhawk.

During his time with the Air Force, Major Bonner became a member of the American Fighter Aces, who have been renowned as our country's most distinguished fighter pilots. In both World Wars, along with the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, these individuals have not only courageously defended our nation, but have also made outstanding achievements in aerial combat.

Major Bonner, now 96, lives with his daughter, Jane, just outside Carlinville in my district. I'm proud to congratulate Major Stephen Bonner for his outstanding accomplishments as an

American Fighter Ace. The bravery and dedication he displayed as a pilot in World War II make him a very deserving recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal award, and I am proud to have such brave veterans like him in my district. Congratulations, Major Bonner.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF JAMES A. WELDON

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sadness to pay tribute to my good friend, Mr. James (Jim) A. Weldon, who sadly passed away on May 13, 2015.

Jim lived a life full of honor and compassion. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1953 and proudly served his country for six years. After his time in the Navy, he joined his family in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, where he began a career in the electrical industry and trained as an electrician. Jim went on to become a labor leader, following in the footsteps of his father, who had belonged to a painters union. For 38 years, Jim served as the leader of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 728, where he fought tirelessly for the rights of all workers, including for the right to earn a livable wage.

After 38 years leading Local Union 728, Jim retired. Of course, like so many people, we know how dedicated he was to the cause of helping others, Jim was not able to entirely retire from work that most assuredly filled his soul and his life with meaning. Therefore, in his retirement, he became the Vice President of the Florida Chapter of the Alliance for Retired Americans, where he continued to advocate for those who were in need of a voice. In addition to these immeasurable contributions to his community, Jim was also very proud to be listed on the honor roll of the Irish Cultural Institute of Florida and the Board of the Ft. Lauderdale Emerald Society. He also served his community as a Port Everglades Commissioner.

Mr. Speaker, my thoughts and prayers are with Jim's wife Gisela, as well as his two daughters, Kimberly and Kelly. I know that they are hurting, but I hope that they receive some comfort in knowing that their community grieves with them, as we all celebrate the life of a compassionate and dedicated man, Jim Weldon.

RECOGNIZING ROY A. DUMONT
FOR HIS HONORABLE SERVICE
TO THE NATION IN THE SECOND
WORLD WAR AND HIS PATRIOT-
ISM AND VALOR THEREIN

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mr. Roy A. Dumont for his honorable service in the Second World War.

Mr. Roy A. Dumont served the nation honorably in the United States Army 87th Infantry

Division, the "Golden Acorns," from 1942 through 1945. On this date, at the age of 92, Mr. Dumont traveled from his home in Flint, Michigan to Washington, D.C. in order to tour and pay homage at the World War II Memorial. To that effect, Mr. Dumont pays honor to the war to which he was a witness and remembers those known and unknown lost throughout the war. Therefore, he encourages all Americans to cherish and honor the sacrifice borne by our men and women in uniform from all theaters and eras.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Mr. Roy Dumont for his service and unyielding commitment to the nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAKE FARENTHOLD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, on roll call nos. 240 through 242 I missed these votes due to irregular flight operations on Sunday and a delayed flight on Monday. Had I been present, I would have voted Yes.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. EDNA IVANS

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Edna Ivans on her retirement after 48 years of working in the education system as a member of the West Hills Community College District Board of Trustees.

Mrs. Ivans was raised in Delano, California before going on to attend the University of Southern California's Pharmacy School. While studying for her degree, she met her husband, Nick Ivans. They would go on to settle in Avenal, California.

Beginning in June of 1967, Mrs. Ivans became an integral member of the West Hills Community College District (WHCCD) Board of Trustees. As the representative for Trustee Area 3, she was the force behind many projects that molded WHCCD into a successful, educational institution designed to serve the Central Valley's needs. WHCCD honored Mrs. Ivans for her work by naming the women's residence hall at the West Hills College Coalinga campus Edna L. Ivans Hall.

After 48 years of advocating on behalf of students and teachers alike, Mrs. Ivans retired on April 6, 2015.

Educators and students throughout the Central Valley of California have been extremely fortunate to have had someone as talented and dedicated as Mrs. Ivans working on their behalf to ensure a first rate education is within reach of everyone in the Central Valley. The Central Valley has benefitted greatly from her insight and perspective.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Edna Ivans for her 48 years of dedicated public service as a Trustee for the West Hills Community College District and congratulating her on her recent retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I want to state that on May 18, 2015, I was attending my grandson's graduation ceremony in New Jersey and missed the three roll call votes of the day. Had I been present I would have voted:

AYE—Roll Call No. 240—H.R. 91—Veteran's I.D. Card Act

AYE—Roll Call No. 241—H.R. 1313—Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business Relief Act

AYE—Roll Call No. 242—H.R. 1382—Boosting Rates of American Veteran Employment Act

RECOGNIZING ELK RIVER HIGH SCHOOL'S MOODY'S MEGA MATH CHALLENGE TEAM

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Elk River High School team that participated in the Moody's Mega Math Challenge. Joe Evans, Chase Gauthier, Zach Glasgow, Jordan Haack, Peter Jones, and Coach Curt Michener took home the third place Cum Laude Team Prize.

The Moody's Mega Math Challenge is a competition that encourages participants to use applied mathematics to solve everyday problems. This year's challenge problem required the team to create a cost-benefit analysis of higher education and degree choices.

1,128 teams with more than 6,000 students entered the competition, but Elk River's team was one of only six in the finals, and the only one from west of the Mississippi River. I am profoundly impressed by these students' hard work and their interest in mathematics. They made the 6th District proud.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body join me in congratulating Joe, Chase, Zach, Jordan, Peter, and Coach Michener on their impressive finish and on their academic accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO SGT. ERIC M. SEAMAN, USMC

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to his country are exceptional. Throughout the history of our republic we have asked young men and women to voluntarily step forward to guard and protect the freedoms we hold so dear. U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant Eric Matthew Seaman of Murrieta, California, took that step forward and assumed the duties, responsibilities and sacrifices that are required of all Americans who join the finest military in history. Today I ask

that the House of Representatives honor and remember this incredible young man who died in service to his country.

As a decorated Marine Corps helicopter crew chief, Sgt. Seaman was called upon when a devastating earthquake ravaged the impoverished nation of Nepal. The disaster has killed more than 8,500 Nepalese citizens and destroyed more than half a million homes, many of which are in remote areas that are now cutoff from medical and food supplies due to landslides. Sgt. Seaman was selected to be a member of Joint Task Force 505, which was activated to support the government of Nepal by conducting humanitarian disaster relief operations. During the mission, Sgt. Seaman and other Task Force members distributed critical supplies to rural, hard to reach communities and provided impacted Nepalese people with the life sustaining supplies they so desperately needed. Tragically, on May 12, 2015, Sgt. Seaman, along with five other U.S. Marines and two Nepalese soldiers, died when their helicopter crashed during a supply mission in the Charikot region of Nepal.

President Ronald Reagan said, "Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference. The Marines don't have that problem." Sgt. Seaman embodies that sentiment and made invaluable contributions to the cause of liberty around the globe since joining the Marine Corps in 2009. Having deployed to Afghanistan and to Nepal, Sgt. Seaman bravely put himself in harm's way in order to carry out his mission, protect his country, and save the lives of innocent civilians. Those, Mr. Speaker, are the actions of a hero.

Sgt. Seaman is survived by his wife, Samantha, as well as a young son and daughter, and his parents, Bruce and Cheryl. The burdens and grief that they are left to endure are beyond calculation, but it is my hope that they can find some solace in knowing that their husband, father, and son served our country proudly and made truly life-saving contributions to people in tremendous need. Mr. Speaker, I know you and the entire House of Representatives join me in expressing my prayers and heartfelt condolences to Sgt. Seaman's family and friends.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL MALL REVITALIZATION AND DESIGNATION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, we will kick off the fourth season of "Lunchtime Music on the Mall," which brings local and regional musicians to the National Mall to perform during the lunchtime hour, giving visitors and particularly our federal and other office workers downtown a break from the pace of business in Washington and an opportunity to enjoy their National Mall. The performances, featuring amateur and professional city and regional residents, are sponsored by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities, the D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation, the Smithsonian Institution and the National Park Service (NPS), in conjunction with my office. To preserve and enhance the National

Mall, a priceless space, I am reintroducing the National Mall Revitalization and Designation Act. Until the Trust for the National Mall was established in 2007, the National Mall was Washington's most neglected and underutilized federal property, despite being well-known and treasured. The Trust for the National Mall is already making a noteworthy and important difference, and its plan will give the Mall the majesty it deserves. In the meantime, there is much that can be done, from defining the Mall's official identity for the first time to adding low-cost basic amenities. My bill authorizes the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPCC) to expand the boundaries of the Mall where commemorative works may be located, requires NCPCC to study the commemorative works process, and requires the Secretary of the Interior to submit a plan within 180 days of passage to Congress to enhance visitor enjoyment, amenities and cultural experiences on the Mall.

I worked closely with NCPCC and other agencies in drafting the bill. The bill would give NCPCC the responsibility and necessary flexibility to designate Mall areas for commemorative works and, for the first time, to expand the official Mall area when appropriate to accommodate future commemorative works and cultural institutions.

In addition, tourists and workers downtown should be able to walk to the Mall and find attractive tables and chairs in the shade where good—not fast—food is available. Residents of the city and region should be able to find space for fun and games on the Mall, beyond the space between Third Street and the Lincoln Memorial.

Bordered by world-class cultural institutions, the Mall need not continue to be reduced to a mere lawn with a few—too few—old, ordinary benches and a couple of fast food stands until the expansive work of the Trust for the National Mall is completed. The plan by the Secretary of the Interior required by the bill would ensure chairs and tables for people who bring lunch to the Mall and the presence of cultural amenities. The NPS has my thanks for implementing and indeed sponsoring the part of the bill that calls for cultural amenities with Lunchtime Music on the Mall, which begins today. Lunchtime Music on the Mall is a good start to bringing the Mall alive during the workday. With the necessary imagination, making the Mall an inviting place with cultural and other amenities is achievable now.

The NCPCC is well on its way to meeting the bill's requirement for an expansive, 21st-century definition of the Mall, particularly now that the Trust for the National Mall is doing such important work. Frustrated by continually fighting off proposals for new monuments, museums, and memorials on the already-crowded Mall space, I asked the NCPCC to devise a Mall presentation plan. In 2003, Congress amended the Commemorative Works Act to create a reserve area—a no-build zone where new memorials may not be built. This action was helpful in quelling some but by no means all of the demand from groups for placement of commemorative works on what they view as the Mall.

However, recognizing the need for more commemorative work sites, NCPCC and the Commission on Fine Arts (CFA) released a National Capital Framework Plan in 2009, which identifies sites near the Mall that are suitable for new commemorative works, in-

cluding East Potomac Park, the Kennedy Center Plaza, and the new South Capitol gateway. Five new prestigious memorials are scheduled for such sites, including the Eisenhower Memorial and the U.S. Air Force Memorial. I appreciate that NCPCC and the CFA work closely with the District of Columbia in designating off-Mall sites for new commemorative works. The District welcomes the expanded Mall into our local neighborhoods to increase the number of tourists who visit them, enhancing the work of the District of Columbia government and local organizations such as Cultural Tourism that offer tours of historic District neighborhoods. The off-Mall sites for commemorative works also complement development of entirely new neighborhoods near the Mall, particularly with the passage of my bills that are redeveloping both the Southwest and Southeast waterfronts.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1735) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chair, I want to first thank the Chairman, the Ranking Member, and the committee staff for their hard work and effort that the bill before us represents. I particularly want to express my sincere thanks to Chairman WILSON and the members of the Emerging Threats and Capabilities subcommittee for what I believe are very fine contributions to the final bill. These initiatives span a variety of important areas, including cyberspace programs and authorities; technology transition and reauthorization of the Rapid Innovation Program; and research, development, and integration of advanced technologies such as railgun and directed energy. Also included in this legislation are critical provisions that address Special Operations, Counter-Terrorism, and Unconventional Warfare, including increasing Congressional oversight of sensitive operations, and the threats posed at home and abroad by weapons of mass destruction.

I also applaud the bill's investment in critically important undersea capabilities such as the peerless Virginia-class submarines, the Virginia Payload Module, the recapitalization of our national deterrent through the Ohio Replacement Program, and cutting-edge autonomous and unmanned systems.

These provisions demonstrate a shared, bipartisan commitment to the defense of our nation and support for our troops.

However, as we move forward with this bill, I note with great concern that it reflects a budget approach that locks in sequestration and severs that critical link between our national and economic security. I'm sure that

dedicated public servants fighting organized crime at the Department of Justice, combatting terrorist financing mechanisms at the Treasury, or securing our borders and defending our critical infrastructure in cyberspace at Homeland Security would be shocked indeed to find out that what they did wasn't a matter of national security. One could just as soon tell the brilliant scientists and engineers at our national labs, or the teachers educating future generations that what they do isn't important to the future competitiveness of our nation. National security is not just tanks, ships, and airplanes.

The one-year nature of the approach in the bill is a flagrant abuse of a system designed to fund incremental and unpredictable costs of overseas operations, not to get around politically difficult votes for Members of Congress. It's bad management and worse policy; it doesn't live up to our commitment to the troops; it undermines our capability to conduct long-term strategy; and worst of all, it sets us up to have yet another round of budgeting by brinkmanship in a matter of months. Ducking debates is not why our constituents sent us here.

While I support the important policy measures contained in the bill, and I ultimately support its passage, it is so unfortunate that the one piece of legislation that has historically been the pinnacle of bipartisanship and one of the last vestiges of regular order has been taken hostage by a refusal to address the Budget Control Act. I applaud the bill's recognition that the President's budget accurately reflects the level of investment needed, but that is true across all departments and all of the elements of national power that together make the United States great. Let's take that realization to its logical conclusion and use the seeds of bipartisanship that the Armed Services Committee has worked so hard to preserve to build a long-term agreement that can finally unshackle us from the tyranny of budgetary uncertainty.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WICONISCO HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 65TH CONSECUTIVE ANNUAL REUNION

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Wiconisco High School Alumni Association for exceptional civic activism—past and present—as reflected by the fact that the Association is hosting a 65th annual reunion. The Association has met every year since its first meeting in 1951 and has demonstrated a remarkable commitment to its members and the larger community. While the Wiconisco district designation no longer exists, the Alumni Association has remained dedicated to serving the redrawn district and the needs of its students.

When Wiconisco merged into the Williams Valley School District in 1965, the alumni did not lose their focus or commitment. Over the decades, the Wiconisco High School Alumni Association has supported the Williams Valley

Athletic Department, sponsored the local minstrel project, and actively provided scholarships to ensure the future success of area students. Since the scholarship program began in 1992, the Alumni Association has awarded over \$200,000 to local graduates, and now awards a total of five scholarships annually.

I extend my gratitude to the members of the Wiconisco High School Alumni Association for their dedication to each other, to education, and to the improvement of their community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, May 12, Wednesday, May 13, Thursday, May 14, Friday, May 15, and Monday, May 18, 2015, I was out on medical leave on account of a successful procedure to clear a blocked artery and was unable to be present for recorded votes.

Had I been present, on May 12, I would have voted "yes" on roll call no. 216, the Don't Tax Our Fallen First Responders Act (H.R. 606), "no" on roll call no. 217, the Edwards amendment to H.R. 1732, "no" on roll call no. 218, the Democratic Motion to Recommit with Instructions to H.R. 1732, "yes" on roll call no. 219, the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act (H.R. 1732), and "yes" on roll call no. 220, the Defending Public Safety Employee's Retirement Act (H.R. 2146).

On May 13, had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on roll call no. 221, the rule allowing floor debate on H.R. 1735, H.R. 36, and H.R. 2048 (H. Res. 255). On roll call no. 222, I would have voted "no" on the Democratic Motion to Recommit with Instructions, and I would have voted "yes" on roll call no. 223, passage of the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act (H.R. 36.) I also would have voted "yes" on roll call no. 224, passage of H.R. 2048, the Uniting and Strengthening America by Fulfilling Rights and Ensuring Effective Discipline Over Monitoring Act of 2015.

On May 14, had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on roll call no. 225, the rule allowing further debate on H.R. 1735 (H. Res. 260). I would also have voted "yes" on roll call no. 226, the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015 (H.R. 1191) and "yes" on roll call no. 227, the Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 (H.R. 2297).

Additionally, on amendments to H.R. 1735, I would have voted "no" on roll call no. 228, Polis amendment no. 2; "yes" on roll call no. 229, Brooks of Alabama amendment no. 5; "yes" on roll call no. 230, Walorski amendment no. 15; "no" on roll call no. 231, Smith of Washington amendment no. 16; and "yes" on roll call no. 232, McCaul amendment no. 17.

Had I been present on May 15, on amendments to H.R. 1735, I would have voted "yes" on roll call no. 233, Rohrabacher amendment no. 23; "yes" on roll call no. 234, Lamborn amendment no. 27; "no" on roll call no. 235, Blumenauer amendment no. 32; "yes" on roll call no. 236, Lucas amendment no. 38; "no"

on roll call no. 237, Nadler amendment no. 41; and "no" on roll call no. 238, the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 1735 with instruction. I would have voted "yes" on roll call no. 239, final passage of H.R. 1735, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016.

On May 18, had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on roll call no. 240, the Veteran's I.D. Card Act (H.R. 91), "yes" on roll call no. 241, the Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business Relief Act (H.R. 1313), and "yes" on roll call no. 242, the Boosting Rates of American Veteran Employment Act (H.R. 1382).

IN HONOR OF MARY COLLINS,
STATE DIRECTOR OF THE NEW
HAMPSHIRE SMALL BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT CENTER

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Collins as she retires after 18 years as the State Director of the New Hampshire Small Business Development Center. In this position, Mary oversaw the Center's state-wide, regional, and satellite offices, educational programs, and economic development initiatives. Mary was a dedicated leader and instrumental in ensuring the success of small businesses in the Granite State. Her commitment to New Hampshire small businesses has had a deep impact on our state.

The New Hampshire Small Business Development Center (NH SBDC) assists approximately 3,000 small businesses across the state each year through advising and education programs. New Hampshire's economy depends on a strong commitment to providing support for these small businesses. As State Director, Mary had a deep understanding of this and made sure the NH SBDC was a widely available resource for Granite State small businesses. With years of dedicated service as State Director, Mary has positioned the NH SBDC well for a future of continuing to assist small businesses in our state.

In addition to her position at the NH SBDC, Mary has also served on many boards and as a member of many organizations across the state and in her hometown community. She was on the board of directors of the New Hampshire High Technology Council, New Hampshire Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, and New Hampshire International Trade Advisory Board. In addition, she served as a member of the Nashua Chamber of Commerce's Advocacy Committee, the Legislative Committee for the National Association of Small Business Development Centers, and the New Hampshire Legislature's Business Regulation Commission.

Mary has received recognition on several occasions for her great service to our state and community. She received the Business Excellence Hall of Fame Award from the NH Business Review in 2007, the NH Business & Industry Award in 2009, and the Citizens Bank Good Citizens Award in 2010. This year, Mary received the Mary Dumais Memorial Fund

Award, in honor of her dedication to working with women entrepreneurs and women-owned businesses.

I feel very lucky to have had the opportunity to work alongside Mary over the past few years. I look forward to continuing to work with the NH SBDC and on behalf of small businesses in the Granite State.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, I thank Mary for everything she has done for small businesses in our state making it a better place to live, work, and raise a family. I am honored to recognize and congratulate Mary on her retirement and wish her the best of luck on her next steps.

CONGRATULATING ALL ABOUT
TREES, LLC, FOR EARNING THE
2015 SPRINGFIELD AREA CHAM-
BER OF COMMERCE SMALL BUSI-
NESS AWARD

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Noel Boyer and his team at All About Trees, LLC, in Springfield, Missouri, for being awarded the 2015 Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce Small Business Award.

Noel, who is a board certified master arborist with the International Society of Arboriculture, took over the now 22-year-old business in 2005 and has grown it into the accomplished business it is today. For more than a decade, he and his well-seasoned team have been caring for Springfield's trees, further glorifying the Queen City's "Tree City USA" designation.

All About Trees is a fine example of how careful, strategic planning and customer care leads to success. The business has not only improved the looks of Springfield area lawns, but has rooted itself as a mainstay in our local economy and community.

I congratulate Noel Boyer and All About Trees for being awarded this prestigious honor. I look forward to seeing this small business continue its great work and quality service in Springfield for many, many years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to be present for the following Roll Call votes on May 18, 2015 and would like to reflect that I would have voted as follows:

Roll Call #240: YES

Roll Call #241: YES

Roll Call #242: YES

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 2410, THE "GENERATING RENEWAL, OPPORTUNITY, AND WORK WITH ACCELERATED MOBILITY, EFFICIENCY, AND REBUILDING OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT AMERICA ACT" (GROW AMERICA ACT)

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, today I, along with many of my colleagues on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, are introducing H.R. 2410, the "Generating Renewal, Opportunity, and Work with Accelerated Mobility, Efficiency, and Rebuilding of Infrastructure and Communities throughout America Act" (GROW AMERICA Act).

This legislation represents the Administration's six-year surface reauthorization proposal. We introduce this legislation by request, as it is the policy work of the Administration. By introducing it, we are putting our stamp of approval on the vision that this proposal offers—robust funding levels in a long-term bill to provide sustainable solutions to our Nation's infrastructure crisis.

Today, the House voted on a two-month short-term extension of highway, transit, and highway safety programs. Congress has had 10 months since the enactment of the last extension in July 2014 to produce a long-term bill, or at least to make significant progress in identifying sustainable revenues to shore up the Highway Trust Fund. The Republican Leadership has produced neither. The Committee on Ways and Means could not so much as hold a hearing on this topic in the past 10 months.

It is no surprise, therefore, that this House cannot come to agreement on \$11 billion in offsets to keep surface transportation programs afloat through the end of this year, which would provide certainty to the construction industry and its workers during their busiest season. Here we are, in the middle of another construction season, and Congress is unable—or unwilling—to consider more than a short-term patch.

We can't kick the can down the road anymore. There is no road left. The revenues we collect are insufficient to meet our needs. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the shortfall in the Highway Trust Fund is \$172 billion over the next 10 years just to maintain current funding levels. If Congress passes a six-year bill, the gap is \$92 billion.

This gap only accounts for status quo funding. Finding an additional \$92 billion will not provide enough funds to make substantial improvements to our infrastructure or address the ballooning backlog in highway, bridge, and transit state of good repair. It does not provide new investments in freight.

H.R. 2410 goes beyond the status quo and will move our Nation into the 21st century. The bill provides a total of \$478 billion over six years, a 45 percent increase for highways, bridges, public transportation, highway safety, and rail programs. Over six years, the GROW AMERICA Act makes significant investments in:

Highways—provides \$317 billion for programs under the Federal Highway Administra-

tion (FHWA), an increase of 29 percent over current levels.

Freight—dedicates \$18 billion for a new dedicated multi-modal freight program.

Transit—provides \$115 billion for programs under the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), an increase of 76 percent over current levels, and significantly boosts New Starts funding.

Rail—provides \$28.6 billion for programs under the Federal Rail Administration (FRA).

Safety—provides \$6 billion for vehicle safety programs under the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), \$4.7 billion for truck and bus safety programs under the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), and \$16 billion for the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP).

Competitive Grants—provides \$7.5 billion for TIGER grants and \$6 billion for TIFIA that could support \$60 billion in loans.

Research and Innovation—provides \$3.4 billion to leverage research and innovation to move people and goods more safely and efficiently, while minimizing impacts on the environment.

Federal lands—provides \$150 million for a Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects program, to address project needs on Federal lands.

In addition to these critical investments in the Nation's intermodal surface transportation network, H.R. 2410 also includes a number of important policy provisions that ensure that surface transportation investments create good paying American jobs. These include tightening Buy America loopholes, funding workforce development, allowing local hire, and strengthening wage and hour laws for truck and bus drivers.

There are provisions in this proposal that I do not support, and may give some of my colleagues pause. Specifically, I strongly oppose eliminating the prohibition on tolling of existing free Interstate highways for reconstruction of an existing facility. The proposal also extends the deadline for Positive Train Control implementation. Given last week's tragic Amtrak crash, Congress should be coming together to find ways to fund expedited PTC implementation, not pushing the compliance date farther into the future. Other provisions, such as Buy America waivers for rail rolling stock, and elimination of statutory hours of service provisions for rail workers, also cause concern.

Nevertheless, the Administration's bill provides a great starting point—an opportunity for this Congress to come together to significantly increase infrastructure investment over the long term. I look forward to working in a bipartisan manner with Chairman SHUSTER and our colleagues on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure as we develop new surface transportation legislation.

IN HONOR OF ISSAC ROBINSON, JR. ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE WEST PALM BEACH CITY COMMISSION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today to recognize my good friend, Mr.

Issac "Ike" Robinson, Jr., on the occasion of his retirement from the West Palm Beach City Commission for District 2. Ike served with distinction as City Commissioner since 1999. He additionally served as President of the Commission from 2001–2002 and from 2006–2007. During his tenure on the Commission, he was on several key committees including the Small Business Advisory Committee and the Education Advisory Committee. His work led him to represent the City as a member and President of the Palm Beach County League of Cities. Ike eventually served as a member of the Florida League of Cities, meanwhile serving on the Governor's Taskforce for the Eradication of Methamphetamine Drug Labs. On a national level, Ike served on the National League of Cities and the National Black Caucus of elected officials.

A U.S. Army Veteran, husband to his wife Ernestine, and proud father and grandfather, Ike has dedicated his life to serving the West Palm Beach community with excellence. He also served and retired after 30 years in the Palm Beach County School District, and served 6 years with the West Palm Beach Police department as a Case Manager and a Crisis Counselor.

His dedication to the City of West Palm Beach is undeniable when looking and recognizing his contributions as an elected official and upstanding citizen. His service on the Commission for 16 years has earned him a record position as the longest serving commissioner in the history of West Palm Beach, and no doubt a legacy to be proud of. I am grateful for his honorable work, and wish Ike the best of luck and good health in the next journey in his life.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I am honored to congratulate Mr. Issac "Ike" Robinson on his retirement and for his years of service to the West Palm Beach community.

CONGRATULATING ANTHONY BRUTTO

HON. DAVID B. MCKINLEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Mr. Anthony Brutto, a 94-year-old West Virginia University Class of 2015 graduate. A passionate designer and craftsman from a young age, Mr. Brutto began his collegiate career in 1939 seeking an engineering degree.

In 1942, his studies came to an abrupt halt when he was drafted into the Army Air Corps, where he served for three and a half years. He was primarily stationed in Venice, Florida and worked on the P39 and P49 bombers. After the war, family demands and changing careers kept him from completing his degree.

Mr. Brutto never lost his passion for education, however, and he received his bachelor's degree this past weekend during WVU's Commencement.

At a time when more young people are questioning the value of a college degree, it is encouraging to witness his perseverance in attaining a degree. Young West Virginians should follow in his footsteps and equip themselves for a lifetime of prosperity, no matter what setbacks come their way. As Mr. Brutto

eloquently said, "The great thing about education is they can't take it away from you."

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I have reintroduced a resolution to honor the memory of the Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders we have lost to AIDS, and to recognize those whom are still living with HIV/AIDS the United States. The resolution supports the goals and ideals of National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and its observance, and it draws attention to the stigma and disparities that hinder proper treatment and prevention within these communities.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders comprise more than 50 different ethnic subgroups, speaking more than 100 languages and dialects. This resolution recognizes the importance of providing access to culturally- and linguistically-competent services, especially HIV testing. According to an analysis of data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders were the only racial/ethnic groups with a statistically significant increase in new HIV diagnoses. The CDC estimates that 36 percent of the HIV diagnoses among these communities progress to AIDS in less than 12 months. Additionally, the CDC estimates among people living with HIV/AIDS, 22 percent of Asian Americans and 27 percent of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders are unaware they are infected with HIV.

Yet, with increasing rates of infection, they continue to have the lowest rates of access to HIV-testing services. Although there are a number of factors that contribute to increasing rates of infections, stigma and discrimination associated with an HIV/AIDS has proved to be a leading factor in low testing rates and increased risk-taking behaviors.

The observance of National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day was established by the Banyan Tree Project, and began as a national campaign to raise awareness of the impact of the HIV/AIDS-related stigma and how it contributes to lower testing rates and greater risk-taking behaviors. Additionally, the work continues with the Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum who have worked nationally for more than 20 years, including in my home district of Guam, in helping to strengthen community-based organizations and programs responding to HIV/AIDS among Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in addressing this need and advancing the larger cause of reducing HIV/AIDS-related stigmas and disparities in access to HIV prevention, testing and treatment. I thank my colleagues, Representatives JUDY CHU, RAÚL GRIJALVA, MIKE HONDA, BARBARA LEE, TED LIEU, ALAN LOWENTHAL, JIM McDERMOTT, PEDRO PIERLUISI, AMATA RADEWAGEN, CHARLES RANGEL, ADAM SCHIFF, ADAM SMITH,

and MARK TAKANO for their support as original cosponsors of this resolution.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT RELIEF ACT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Student Loan Debt Relief Act. This legislation relieves a potential tax burden that may be imposed on student loan borrowers that use income-based repayment and income-contingent repayment programs.

This bill eliminates a tax penalty on student loan borrowers. After 20–25 years of payments on the income-based repayment or income-contingent repayment plans, student loan borrowers can have their outstanding debt balance forgiven. However, under current law, the amount forgiven is considered income payable immediately.

Programs such as the income based repayment program have helped in a small way to ensure that students can continue to pursue their dreams and get on with their lives while they responsibly pay off their student debt.

It also makes students the promise that if they hold up their end of the bargain for twenty to twenty-five years they will have their remaining debt forgiven.

Slamming students and families with a massive tax bill after they have played by the rules is just wrong. This bill is yet another step toward leveling the playing field for a generation students being devastated by the growing student loan crisis in this country.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WEST CALDWELL PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the West Caldwell Public Library, located in the Township of West Caldwell, New Jersey as it celebrates its 100th Anniversary.

The West Caldwell Public Library, founded by the request of Julia H. Potwin, is an important piece of communal life in the Township of West Caldwell. Families, friends, and students gather at the Library to conduct research, enjoy literary works, and socialize. The Library, located on the first floor of the West Caldwell Municipal Building, is at the center of West Caldwell life, and offers a myriad of books, catalogs, and reference materials. The Library holds an important public function in serving the community through literary means, and is enjoyed by many.

Originally known as the Julia H. Potwin Memorial Library, this library was created by the request of Julia Potwin, the daughter of Nathaniel S. Crane. Although Julia never saw the construction of the Library, she requested in her will that a library be built. She issued specific instructions as to how it should look and function, and also left her extensive book collection to the Library. Julia sought to create a

library that served a more integral role in her community. According to the Library's President of the Board of Trustees, her ideas were not common views of what a library should be. Julia wanted her library to be more personal than average libraries, as evident by her request for the Library to include a living room and a place for the caretaker to sleep.

The West Caldwell Public Library currently offers a variety of programs for adults, which include Friday afternoon movies, concerts, dramatic presentations, book discussions, and a Summer Reading program. These activities represent the Library's mission of upholding principles of intellectual freedom and the public's 'right to know.' Included within the Library's collection are 40,000 book titles, 200 magazines and periodicals, and a large selection of DVDs and CDs.

As part of its success in functioning as a communal gathering place for West Caldwell residents, the Library holds a teen advisory group, family story time, sing and dance events, and seminars on Social Security. The Library continues Julia Potwin's idiosyncratic vision of what a library should be by functioning as more than just a place to check out books.

To celebrate 100 successful years of offering the public a center for learning, the West Caldwell Public Library has planned several events, with the incorporation of the slogan "Celebrate the Past, Create the Future." Among these events is a concert titled "100 Years of American Music," featuring the Jane Stuart Ensemble as well as a reading from Julia Potwin's personal diary. Both of these events encompass the Library's constant dedication to acknowledging the past while also cultivating the future.

I commend the members and Board of Trustees of the West Caldwell Public Library, especially Library Manager Karen Kelly, for their dedication to serving the people of West Caldwell. The Library is a special place for all and will continue to function as a public forum for learning.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the West Caldwell Public Library as it celebrates its 100th Anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY RESOLUTION FOR THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution with my friend and colleague MARSHA BLACKBURN to honor the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) on its 40th anniversary in 2015.

Since it was established in 1975, NAWBO has allowed women entrepreneurs to collaborate and grow their businesses through 60 chapters across the country. With over 5,000 members representing a wide range of industries, NAWBO pushes for positive change to our business climate and public policy to help women entrepreneurs succeed in the American economy.

I am so pleased to have worked with Rep. BLACKBURN on this resolution, and hope that all of our colleagues will join us to celebrate NAWBO on its 40th anniversary.

IN HONOR OF DETECTIVE RICHARD P. DEVOE, SR.

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Detective Richard P. DeVoe, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the City of Boston, and to commend him for 45 years of dedicated service with the Boston Police Department.

The son of Catherine and Walter DeVoe, Richie was born on April 10, 1950, in Dorchester, Massachusetts. He attended elementary school in Dorchester, and then went on to the Grover Cleveland Middle School. Richie then attended South Boston High School, graduating in 1970. Subsequently, he attended Curry College in Milton, MA, graduating *Magna Cum Laude* in 2002.

Upon his graduation from South Boston High School, Richie went to work at the Boston Police Department. From 1970–1974, he was assigned to the cadet program, Badge #188. From there, he became a police dispatcher from 1974–1979. He served as a patrolman, Badge #2893, from 1979–1987, and then worked as a detective, Badge #550, from 1987–2015.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to his assigned duties, Richie took on several important responsibilities within the Boston Police Department: he is a director of the Boston Police Relief Association, serving as president in 1993. On May 1, 2015, Richie was appointed Chairman of the Memorial Committee. Further, Richie has been part of the Boston Police Stress Unit since 1998, and he travelled to Ground Zero in New York City in September, 2001, in order to assist the New York City Police Department in the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

Richie also serves as a vice-president of the South Boston Citizens Association, and he is a member of the Tynan Community Board. He is also a member of the South Boston Historical Society and the Boston Police Emerald Society.

Richie has had the good fortune to be married to Patricia for 39 years. They are the proud parents of three children: Richard, Jr., Suzanne, and Kristy. They are grandparents to Liam, Sophie, Lance, and Michael.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take the floor of the House today to join with Richard P. DeVoe's family, friends, and contemporaries to thank him for his remarkable service to the City of Boston.

IN RECOGNITION OF JUAN BATISTA VICINI, A DOMINICAN HERO

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and legacy of Juan Batista Vicini,

a dedicated leader, a reliable ally, and a long-standing friend who passed away on April 28, 2015. We have truly experienced a great loss not only to the Dominican Republic, but also to the international community. He was loved, respected tremendously, and we will certainly miss his spirit of leadership and strength.

Mr. Vicini was born in Genoa, Italy and became the so-called first Dominican mogul after receiving a degree in Chemical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Before his death, Mr. Vicini had led the Vicini family business for over 50 years. As Vicini Assets Management's third generation leader, Mr. Vicini laid the groundwork to transform the family company into the most important assets administrator in the Caribbean and Central America.

Mr. Vicini, the Vicini family and I all worked together on the issue of multi-lateral government investment in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. We also worked on trade in relation to the Haitian Hemispheric Opportunity for Partnership Encouragement Act of 2006 (HOPE) and the Haiti Economic Lift Program Act (HELP), signed into law by President Barack Obama in 2010. These two Acts expanded and extended existing apparel trade opportunities for Haiti, which is important as their economy continues to bounce back from the earthquake several years ago.

I have the great honor to serve a congressional district with one of the nation's largest Dominican populations. From Washington Heights to Inwood, Dominicans continue to improve our neighborhoods, with their vibrant cultural and economic contributions every day.

Mr. Vicini embodied the bright Dominican culture and enriched the lives of everyone he knew. During my visit to the Dominican Republic last year, I was very pleased to be able to visit Vicini Assets Management and see the results of Mr. Vicini's decades-long success. While the world lost a great businessman and leader, I am confident that his children will carry on his legacy for years to come.

GROW AMERICA ACT INTRODUCTION

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Grow America Act, introduced today by Congressman PETER DEFAZIO. As we prepare to vote on yet another short-term extension, it is important to reiterate the kind of investment our nation needs to build a 21st century transportation system. We cannot continue kicking the can down the road as our nation's infrastructure continues to deteriorate.

It is also clear that we cannot keep flat-funding infrastructure. The American Society of Civil Engineers has given our nation's infrastructure a D+ grade—we need significant new investment to repair structurally-deficient bridges, upgrade transit systems, and rebuild roads. The Grow America Act will increase funding for these critical needs.

While I do not agree with all the policy provisions in this Act, and believe there are some important ideas that are not included, I am proud to add my name as a cosponsor to support critical investment in transportation. I look

forward to working with my colleagues to pass a long-term, comprehensive bill this summer.

RECOGNIZING WARREN N. JACKSON FOR HIS HONORABLE SERVICE TO THE NATION IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND FOR HIS PATRIOTISM AND VALOR THEREIN

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mr. Warren N. Jackson, for his honorable service in the United States Army.

Mr. Warren N. Jackson served the nation honorably in the United States Army, 3758th Quartermaster Truck Company throughout World War II and retired from the 41st Artillery, serving from 1944 through 1966. On this date, at the age of 92, Mr. Jackson traveled from his home in Flint, Michigan to Washington, D.C. in order to tour and pay homage at the World War II Memorial. To that effect, Mr. Jackson pays honor to the war to which he was a witness and remembers those known and unknown lost throughout the war. Therefore, he encourages all Americans to cherish and honor the sacrifice borne by our men and women in uniform from all theaters and eras.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Mr. Warren Jackson for his service and unyielding commitment to the nation.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1735) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chair, I ask that the following exchange of letters be submitted during consideration of H.R. 1735:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, May 1, 2015.

Hon. WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY, Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. THORNBERRY: I write to confirm our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 1735, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016. This legislation contains subject matter within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. However, in order to expedite floor consideration of this important legislation, the Committee waives consideration of the bill.

The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology takes this action only with the

understanding that the Committee's jurisdictional interests over this and similar legislation are in no way diminished or altered.

The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment to any House-Senate conference on this legislation and requests your support if such a request is made. Finally, I would appreciate your including this letter in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 1735 on the House Floor. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
Washington, DC, May 1, 2015.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1735, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016. I agree that the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington, DC, May 1, 2015.

Hon. WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THORNBERRY: I write concerning H.R. 1735, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016, as amended. There are certain provisions in the legislation that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

However, in order to expedite this legislation for floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action on this bill. This, of course, is conditional on our mutual understanding that forgoing consideration of the bill does not prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation that fall within the Committee's Rule X jurisdiction. I request you urge the Speaker to name members of the Committee to any conference committee named to consider such provisions.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest into the committee report on H.R. 1735 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
Washington, DC, May 1, 2015.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1735, the National De-

fense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016. I agree that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, May 1, 2015.

Hon. WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. THORNBERRY: I write to confirm our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 1735, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016. This legislation contains subject matter within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means. However, in order to expedite floor consideration of this important legislation, the committee waives consideration of the bill.

The Committee on Ways and Means takes this action only with the understanding that the committee's jurisdictional interests over this and similar legislation are in no way diminished or altered.

The committee also reserves the right to seek appointment to any House-Senate conference on this legislation and requests your support if such a request is made. Finally, I would appreciate your including this letter in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 1735 on the House Floor. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

PAUL RYAN,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
Washington, DC, May 1, 2015.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1735, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016. I agree that the Committee on Ways and Means has a valid jurisdictional claim to a provision in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Ways and Means is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,
Chairman.

MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL TRACK AND FIELD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Marshall High School boys track and field team for winning the University Interscholastic League (UIL) 5A state track and field championship.

There was no stopping these Marshall Buffalos on their way to winning. The relay team of Cederian Lynch, Amere Lattin, Kendall Sheffield and Shamon Ehiemua set a 5A state record in the 800-meter relay and claimed the state title in the 1,600-meter relay. Individually, Sheffield repeated his win in the 110-meter hurdles and Ehiemua won in the 200-meter dash. The Buffalos dominated the competition. These young men are gifted athletes, and we are excited to see all they accomplish on and off the track.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations on your state championship. Thank you for bringing the gold to Fort Bend County.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1735) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chair, I ask that the following exchange of letters be submitted during consideration of H.R. 1735:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, May 1, 2015.

Hon. WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing concerning H.R. 1735, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016. That bill, as ordered reported, contains provisions within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Natural Resources Committee, including those noted in addendum A.

In the interest of permitting you to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this very important bill, I am willing to waive this committee's right to a sequential referral. I do so with the understanding that the Natural Resources Committee does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matter contained in the bill which fall within its Rule X jurisdiction. I also request that you urge the Speaker to name members of the Natural Resources committee to any conference committee to consider such provisions.

Please place this letter into the committee report on H.R. 1735 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you and your staff have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees, and congratulations on this significant achievement.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,
Chairman.

Addendum A:

PROVISIONS

TITLE	SECTION #—NAME
6	Section 601—Extension of Authority to Provide Temporary Increase in Rates of Basic Allowance for Housing Under Certain Circumstances
6	Section 611—One-Year Extension of Certain Bonus and Special Pay Authorities for Reserve Forces
6	Section 612—One-Year Extension of Certain Bonus and Special Pay Authorities for Health Care Professionals
6	Section 614—One-Year Extension of Authorities Relating to Title 37 Consolidated Special Pay, Incentive Pay, and Bonus Authorities
6	Section 615—One-Year Extension of Authorities Relating to Payment of Other Title 37 Bonuses and Special Pays
6	Section 631—Full Participation for Members of the Uniformed Services in Thrift Savings Plan
6	Section 632—Modernized Retirement System for Members of the Uniformed Services
6	Section 633—Continuation Pay for Full TSP Members with 12 Years of Service
6	Section 634—Effective Date and Implementation
10	Section 1083—Navy Support of Ocean Research Advisory Panel
28	Section 2841—Withdrawal and Reservation of Public Land, Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, California
28	Section 2851—Renaming Site of the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, Ohio
28	Section 2852—Extension of Authority for General Francis Marion establishment of Commemorative Work in Honor of Brigadier
28	Section 2862—Protection and Recovery of Greater Sage Grouse

AMENDMENTS

Mark	Log	Sponsor	Description
RDY	089	Bishop	Provision would permanently extend the land withdrawals for certain military reservations.
RDY	092	Wilson	Amend existing law to allow an agency to object to the inclusion of certain property on the National Register or its designation as a National Historic Landmark for reasons of national security.
ROY	324	Knight	The provision would add a new section to title 10, United States code to provide for the conservation needs of the Southern Sea Otter while continuing the protections for military readiness activities at important offshore islands in the Southern California Bight.
MPL	181r2	Takai	This amendment would prohibit per diem allowance reductions for civilian employees on TDY.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 1, 2015.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
House of Representatives, Longworth House
Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1735, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016. I agree that the Committee on Natural Resources has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Natural Resources is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,
WILLIAM M. “MAC” THORNBERRY,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS,
Washington, DC, May 1, 2015.

Hon. WILLIAM M. “MAC” THORNBERRY,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House
of Representatives, Rayburn House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THORNBERRY: I am writing to you concerning the bill H.R. 1735, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016. There are certain provisions in the legislation which fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Small Business pursuant to Rule X(q) of the House of Representatives.

In the interest of permitting the Committee on Armed Services to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this important bill, I am willing to waive the right of the Committee on Small Business to sequential referral. I do so with the understanding that by waiving consideration of the bill, the Committee on Small Business does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill which fall within its Rule X(q) jurisdiction, including future bills that the Committee on Armed Services will consider. I request that you urge the Speaker to appoint members of this Committee to any conference committee which is named to consider such provisions.

Please place this letter into the committee report on H.R. 1735 and into the Congress-

sional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this issue and others between our respective committees.

Sincerely,
STEVE CHABOT,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 1, 2015.

Hon. STEVE CHABOT,
Chairman, Committee on Small Business, House
of Representatives, Rayburn House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1735, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016. I agree that the Committee on Small Business has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Small Business is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,
WILLIAM M. “MAC” THORNBERRY,
Chairman.