

A construction project for a new interchange in my home, Hall County, was delayed because of the need to survey for the bat.

What's worse, even if no bats are found during the preconstruction bat survey, Fish and Wildlife Service requires a clearing restriction in construction contracts for prime-building months if certain factors contributing to a quality bat habitat are present. These types of restrictions increase prices and create unnecessary and burdensome delays on important infrastructure projects. Similar restrictions can also negatively affect other sectors such as forestry, ranching, and utilities.

The underlying bill takes important steps to address the problematic requirements associated with the bat's status as a threatened species. This amendment goes the extra step to prevent the current situation from getting even worse by prohibiting the use of funds to list the Northern Long Eared Bat as endangered.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY MATHIASSEN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Jerry Mathiasen of Council Bluffs. Jerry was recently named the president and CEO of the Pottawattamie County Community Foundation (PCCF). He had previously served as the interim president and CEO at PCCF before his most recent post. PCCF serves as a community builder within Council Bluffs and the surrounding area by leveraging partnerships and providing grants across the county to improve the lives of its citizens.

As a native of Council Bluffs, Jerry returned home after serving in the administration of Governor Terry Branstad for 14 years. Once home, he gave his time and talents to the Iowa West Foundation for almost 18 years. Jerry has had a long, successful career as a philanthropic leader and has earned the title of President and CEO of PCCF.

I applaud and congratulate Jerry for his recent promotion to President and CEO of PCCF. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress and I know that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Jerry and wishing him nothing but continued success in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote #417 on House Amendment 64 to H.R. 5. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

HONORING CHANCELLOR WILLIAM
"BRIT" KIRWAN

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding educator and faithful public servant, Chancellor William "Brit" Kirwan, for his years of faithful dedication to the University System of Maryland. After 46 years as an exemplary advocate of educational excellence, Mr. Kirwan retired last month. I would like to thank him for his passion, dedication, and commitment to the students of Maryland. From his 24 years as a faculty member, to his decade serving as President of the University of Maryland, College Park, and on to his 12 year tenure as Chancellor of the Maryland University System, Chancellor Kirwan has touched and contributed to the lives of countless Marylanders. In addition to his stewardship of Maryland's institutions of higher education, Chancellor Kirwan has also been a national thought leader on a wide range of topics including innovation, academic transformation and higher education's role in economic development. Among others, Chancellor Kirwan has received the Carnegie Corporation Leadership Award, the Tech Council of Maryland's Lifetime Achievement Award in Education, the Regional Visionary Award from the Greater Baltimore Committee, and the Maryland Chamber of Commerce's Public Service Award. His achievements speak for themselves. Chancellor Kirwan's services have been greatly appreciated and his efforts will be sorely missed. I congratulate Chancellor Kirwan on his many accomplishments and wish him all the best in his retirement. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Chancellor William "Brit" Kirwan for his years of leadership and excellence in the education of Maryland's students.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my district and missed recorded votes #390 through 391. Had I been present,

On Roll Call #390, Motion to Close Portions of the Conference on H.R. 1735—National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016, I would have voted YES;

On Roll Call #391, Concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 91—Veteran's I.D. Card Act, I would have voted YES.

TRIBUTE TO KNAPP PROPERTIES INC.

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Knapp

Properties, Incorporated of Des Moines, Iowa. Knapp Properties was recently recognized for their outstanding commitment to business ethics by the Better Business Bureau (BBB) and presented with a 2015 Integrity Award.

The Better Business Bureau has been developing and administering self-regulation programs for the business community for the past 75 years. The Integrity Awards were established in 1993 to recognize exemplary businesses while promoting the BBB's mission of leadership in advancing marketplace trust.

Knapp Properties has lived up to these goals and strives to treat all of their associates with the same respect and integrity that they would expect in return. This attitude spreads throughout the entire organization from their President, Gary Neugent.

I applaud and congratulate Knapp Properties for earning this prestigious award. I am proud to represent them in the U.S. Congress and I know that my colleagues join me in congratulating Knapp Properties Inc. and wishing them nothing but continued success in the future.

IRAN

HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the work of the Chairman and the Members of her subcommittee.

I rise today with grave concerns about this agreement that could very well lead to an increased likelihood of a nuclear Iran.

This outcome is unacceptable and the consequences would have harmful effects on our country and the region.

Simply put, we cannot trust a country that continues to sponsor and sanction terrorism against U.S. interests and actively promotes the destruction of our strongest ally in the Middle East—Israel.

The United States must limit opportunities for Iran to obtain nuclear weapons rather than providing avenues for the spread of such weapons.

A nuclear Iran will be very unlikely to respond to peaceful international intervention. By permitting Iran to obtain nuclear weapons capability—even after 10 years—we will increase the likelihood of future military action in the Middle East.

This will increase the burden on our already strained military and put the brave men and women of our armed forces at risk unnecessarily—while increasing the possibility of further destabilization in multiple countries in the Middle East.

Additionally, by lifting the sanctions on Iran and releasing the money held in accounts held abroad will we be promoting the further funding by Iran of terrorist activities and groups such as Hamas and the Taliban. Strengthening a regime well known for state sponsorship of terrorism goes against all reason.

Further, we can be sure that other countries are looking at this agreement with Iran as a bellwether of permissive activity. If one country in the region is allowed by the United States to obtain a nuclear weapon, surely others will look to follow suit.

It's my belief that Congress should step up the pressure and reject any agreement that