

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### 21ST CENTURY CURES ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 9, 2015*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6) to accelerate the discovery, development, and delivery of 21st century cures, and for other purposes:

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Chair, today, I stand in strong support of the 21st Century Cures Act. This bipartisan bill gives our nation's best and brightest the tools they need to understand—and eventually defeat disease—and reauthorizes both the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The 21st Century Cures Act has the potential to accelerate the discovery of drugs for life-threatening illnesses; repurpose drugs found ineffective for one condition and test them on another; promote an interoperable health system; enhance telehealth practices; and advance the development of more targeted, personalized treatments.

My district, the 7th Congressional District of Alabama, is home to the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the Southern Research Institute, and the University of Alabama. NIH funding is critical to the continuing vitality of these three leading institutions, as well as to the region.

The prospect of this act alone provides hope. Hope that cures can be discovered, hope that one day no diagnoses indicate inevitable ailment or death, and hope that one day treatments will yield more reward than risk.

Despite the potential of this bill, there are two amendments that threaten that hope and essentially aim to inhibit the health of several Americans. First, the Hyde Amendment has reared its ugly head yet again. It is a harmful and discriminatory bill that prevents women from making their own healthcare decisions. Further, it serves as a stark contradiction to efforts geared toward providing health positive resources for all.

Second, the Brat amendment aims to convert the federal funding of the NIH and the FDA from mandatory to discretionary. Such a transaction would stifle the progress both federal agencies have already made and will continue to make. It will singlehandedly reverse the trajectory of medical progress and halt further research efforts.

I am particularly supportive of the 21st Century Cures Act because of its inclusion of provisions for the pediatric and rare disease community. This bill will allow Children's of Alabama, ranked among the nation's best children's hospitals for six years in a row, to finally be able to participate in a national pediatric research network and therefore, save more lives.

With only 5 percent of rare diseases having an FDA-approved treatment, it would be a

gross understatement to say our medical systems have failed to keep pace. Gabe Griffin from Birmingham and Houston Sides from Montgomery are two young Alabama boys who asked me to support the 21st Century Cures Act because it modernizes the FDA and spurs development of pediatric and rare disease treatments. Gabe and Houston have a rare and deadly muscle-wasting disorder called Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. This disease takes the lives of children as young as 9 or 10. Very few children with this disease will ever reach the age of 25. But the 21st Century Cures Act provides hope for these families. It promotes 'precision medicine,' modernizes the clinical trial system, and expands access to investigational drugs.

Viruses and diseases will not wait for us to catch up; they will mutate, grow ever more virulent, and continue to impact our public health. We need to leverage our investments to make potentially game-changing strides in treatment. We need 21st century solutions for 21st century threats.

An investment in health affects more than our physical well-being, and the 21st Century Cures Act reflects this. H.R. 6 is not only a health bill; it is a jobs bill. Our country has been the leader in both the medical device and biopharmaceutical industry for decades, helping us reach the core of global medical innovation. This puts a target on our backs, as China and other countries have attempted to attempt to claim this role and thus, our jobs. U.S. medical device-related employment totals over 2 million jobs, and the U.S. biopharmaceutical industry is responsible for over 4 million U.S. jobs. NIH funding currently supports over 400,000 jobs at research institutions across the country, including jobs for young and upcoming scientists. Without this funding, our jobs are out there for the taking. Without this funding, the thousands of jobs in my district provided by the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the Southern Research Institute, and the University of Alabama are not safe. The policies in this legislation will help us fight off foreign competitors and allow us to continue innovating, so we can all protect medical jobs in our districts and add more.

We must get serious about addressing the unmet medical needs of the American people. I urge my colleagues not to deprive the American people of the cures they deserve. Vote against these poison pill amendments because when it comes to the health of our constituents, there is no place or time for partisan politics. I urge my colleagues to oppose the Brat amendment, support the Lee amendment and I urge them to support H.R. 6.

RECOGNIZING COL. RICHARD J. MURASKI, JR.'S SERVICE TO FORT WORTH AND AMERICA

**HON. KAY GRANGER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 15, 2015*

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Deputy Commander of the Southwestern Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Colonel Richard J. Muraski, Jr.

Colonel Muraski is retiring after a long and impressive career in the Army. In Fort Worth we are particularly grateful for his work on the Trinity River Vision, which is a vital part of Fort Worth's future.

He played a critical role in the implementation of the highest standard of Flood Risk Management. His programmatic approach and respect for others fostered excellent communication and solutions.

Colonel Muraski led the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fort Worth District Staff in the planning, engineering and design of the existing Fort Worth floodway and the new Central City Project.

Colonel Muraski is a native of Kansas City, MO, and earned a Bachelor's degree in Geology from St. Mary's University in San Antonio and a Master of Science degree in Geodetic Sciences from Purdue University.

During his career he has served in a variety of operational, command and staff assignments in the United States and overseas. He deployed with a National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency support team to Afghanistan and Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Colonel Muraski assumed command of the 588th Engineer Battalion in June 2004. Under the Army's modular reorganization, he transformed the 588th into the Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade. The battalion deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom in November 2005 and was responsible for the majority of Babil Province, conducting combat operations along with training Iraqi security forces.

The City of Fort Worth and our country owe Colonel Muraski a debt of gratitude for his work.

HONORING SERGEANT JAMES R. STEPHENSON

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 15, 2015*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Sergeant James R. Stephenson as he prepares to retire from the Petaluma Police Department on July 31, 2015. With over twenty-five years of exemplary service as a police officer, twenty-one of these have been with the City of Petaluma where Sergeant Stephenson has been instrumental in building

• 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.

positive relationships with local residents and ensuring the overall safety of the Petaluma community.

Sergeant Stephenson joined the Petaluma Police Department on August 9, 1994 and quickly distinguished himself as an outstanding street officer, often detecting criminal activity from subtle clues. In 1999, he was named as the Sonoma County Law Enforcement Officer of the Year in recognition of his exceptional work. One noteworthy example was Sergeant Stephenson's skillful arrest of an armed, drug induced and mentally unstable man. Rather than resorting to stronger measures, he physically restrained the man, ultimately protecting both the individual and the broader community from more serious consequences after an arsenal of firearms and thousands of rounds of ammunition were discovered in the citizen's home.

Throughout his career, there have been many other instances when Sergeant Stephenson's calm demeanor and sharp instincts have helped to prevent crime. In his most recent assignment as Supervisor of the Traffic Safety Unit, his leadership has been important in helping officers to develop efficient action plans for responding to and investigating many serious accidents.

Sergeant Stephenson's legacy is one of dedicated service to the people of Petaluma. Please join me in congratulating Sergeant James Stephenson and expressing deep appreciation for his long and exceptional career and outstanding contributions to the City of Petaluma.

CONGRATULATING TONY IOVINELLI ON HIS 40TH ANNIVERSARY AT TURANO BAKERY

**HON. PETER J. ROSKAM**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 15, 2015*

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Tony Iovinelli on his recent 40th anniversary at Turano Baking Company, a nationwide leader in baked products.

Tony started his career at Turano at the ripe old age of 16, in an ominous-sounding set of circumstances. You see, Mr. Speaker, Tony was dating the owner's daughter-in-law, and a job he had lined up at a printing company fell through. But contrary to the stories fathers tell the boyfriends of their daughters, this is not a story that has a bad ending. It is a story that has a good ending. Over many years, Tony and the Turano family have worked together and supported each other and ultimately achieved a remarkable thing, and that is the growth of a small-time family business into a leading national brand.

For Tony, it all started during high school, when he began working after class cleaning the bakery. In the summers, he would work full-time, cleaning and helping out in the packaging department. After graduating high school, he went on to attend a local college, where he was able to continue working at the bakery in the evenings. As his years at the bakery piled up, Tony took on more senior roles. He became shipping supervisor. After expressing an interest in learning the production side of the business, and through a lot of hard work and dedication, Tony was eventu-

ally promoted to plant manager, supervising the day-to-day operations of Turano's Berwyn, Illinois production facility. For 40 years, Tony has worked in many roles at the bakery. As he wistfully recalls, "I came for the summer and never left."

In Tony's 40 years of service, Turano has grown tremendously. Long gone are the days of the original 1,000 square foot facility. Turano has established new product lines, expanded into new plants in Bolingbrook, IL, Villa Rica, GA, and Orlando, FL. They now offer delivery across the United States. In today's economy, it is easy to overlook the significance of a successful, 40 year long career with one employer. But I want the House to pause for a moment and reflect on the incredible loyalty and commitment Tony's journey shows. And by the way, after 40 years, he's still going strong.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in congratulating Tony Iovinelli on his remarkable 40 years of service at Turano Baking Company and wishing him every success for the years to come.

RECOGNIZING MR. CARLOS ALEMANY

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 15, 2015*

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize one of my constituents, Mr. Carlos Alemany of Windermere, Florida, for his acceptance to the People to People World Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C. Mr. Alemany was selected for his academic excellence, leadership potential and exemplary citizenship.

The mission of People to People Leadership Ambassador Programs is to bridge cultural and political borders through education and exchange. To this end, People to People offers domestic and international educational programs that promote cooperation, cross-cultural understanding and leadership. It is my hope that Mr. Alemany benefitted greatly from his participation in the World Leadership Forum, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL

**HON. MIKE KELLY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 15, 2015*

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of Kiwanis International.

Founded on January 21, 1915, in Detroit, Michigan, Kiwanis International has become a global organization with dedicated, hard-working volunteers from 96 different countries who work tirelessly to improve our communities and better the lives of children.

Guided by six permanent "Objects of Kiwanis," Kiwanis Club members acquire personal and professional connections while having fun, making friends, and helping others.

Kiwanis initiatives put an emphasis on children, including pediatric trauma, child safety, child care, early development, and infant and child health nutrition. Kiwanis has continued to support impressive service leadership programs such as K-Kids, the Aktion Club, the Key Club International, Circle K, and the Builders Club.

In my home state of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania District of Kiwanis International consists of more than 200 Kiwanis Clubs and 400 members throughout the commonwealth who have developed a partnership with the Pennsylvania Early Learning Investment Commission to foster early educational opportunities for our kids.

For all of these reasons, I am incredibly pleased that the Keystone State has officially declared this August to be "Kiwanis Month."

I commend and thank all Kiwanis for their long participation in the honorable work of improving our communities. It is with tremendous pride and appreciation that I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Kiwanis International for their 100th anniversary. God bless them for all that they do.

RECOGNIZING DONNA CHAMBERS ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 15, 2015*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Donna Chambers, executive director of the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District, on her retirement.

Donna's service to Humboldt County and her efforts on behalf of the Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project have been exemplary. Since she began working with the Resource Conservation District, Donna has overseen vital agreements, funding and permitting, and construction of one of the most significant estuary restoration and agricultural improvement projects in California. Located at the mouth of the Eel River, the Salt River project is crucial to salmon and steelhead, wildlife, and agricultural production.

After graduating from Humboldt State University in 1996 with a bachelor's degree in social work and a minor in business management, Donna worked for the Humboldt Access Project, the Humboldt Community Access and Resource Center, and the Area 1 Agency on Aging. When she joined the Resource Conservation District in 2008, Donna became known as a champion for agricultural producers. Donna helped develop nutrient management plans, projects to handle dairy waste, and helped producers upgrade facilities like roof and gutter structures and concrete slabs and ramps to improve efficiency and protect water quality. She also helped dairy and beef ranchers reduce the impacts of Aleutian cackling geese on private lands. Donna helped bring more than \$20 million in funding to the Resource Conservation District and the local community since she began working with the district.

Mr. Speaker, Donna Chamber's commitment to agriculture and environmental protection is commendable and worthy of recognition. I urge my colleagues to join me in extending our congratulations to her.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED  
SERVICE OF PENSACOLA CHIEF  
OF POLICE CHIP W. SIMMONS

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 15, 2015*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Pensacola Chief of Police Chip W. Simmons on the occasion of his retirement after nearly 30 years on the force serving the people of Florida's Gulf Coast.

Shortly after his graduation from Pine Forest High School, in Pensacola, Chief Simmons started his career in law enforcement at the Escambia County Sheriff's Department as a Corrections Officer. Upon his graduation from the Pensacola Police Academy, Chief Simmons joined the Pensacola Police Department in October 1986. Like so many other dedicated law enforcement officers, he entered the force looking to serve the community that he loved, and after less than 10 years on the force, during which Chief Simmons served on numerous state and federal task forces and completed both Bachelors' and Masters' degrees, he received a promotion to Sergeant. This promotion, a reflection of Chief Simmons assiduous work ethic and unquestioned commitment to excellence, would portend many future promotions to come.

In 1997, Chief Simmons was appointed the city's SWAT Commander, a position he held for four years, and in 1998 he received yet another promotion to Lieutenant. During this period, Chief Simmons also graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA, while also serving as a member of the U.S. Customs Blue Lighting Strike Force. In 2002, Chief Simmons was promoted to Captain, before being appointed Assistant Chief of Police in 2005. Following the retirement of his predecessor, Chief John W. Mathis, Chief Simmons was nominated and chosen to serve as the Chief of Police for the Pensacola Police Department.

During Chief Simmons' years at the helm, the Pensacola Police Department has worked tirelessly to protect and serve the local citizens, and Chief Simmons has overseen several impressive accomplishments. Most importantly, under his leadership, the City of Pensacola has recorded the lowest crime rate in recorded history, while also pursuing a rigorous accreditation process from the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, Inc. certifying the department's professional excellence.

Given Chief Simmons' dedication to his community and the department, it should come as no surprise that he is one of the most decorated officers in Pensacola Police Department history. While his full list of awards and commendations is too numerous to mention, he has received the department's highest award for heroism—the Gold Medal of Valor—and numerous merit awards from both the department and the city. In addition, Chief Simmons has been recognized by state and local law enforcement bodies on several occasions, receiving both the Drug Enforcement Administration's Achievement Award and induction into the Police and Firefighters Heroes Hall of Fame.

Chief Simmons is also a true leader in the Northwest Florida civic community, and, in ad-

dition to his service as a police officer, he has also served in many leadership capacities at civic organizations. Among these positions, he currently serves on the Board of Trustees of Pensacola State College, a position appointed by the Governor of Florida, and he has served on the Board of Directors of Ronald McDonald House, Favorhouse of Northwest Florida, the Community and Alcohol Commission, as well as the Pensacola Chamber of Commerce's Military Affairs Committee.

As a former Deputy Sheriff, I understand the important and sometimes underappreciated role of law enforcement officers. Each and every day, dedicated law enforcement officers put themselves in danger to protect and serve their community as an officer of the law. Chief Simmons exemplifies all of the qualities of a world-class law enforcement officer, and his decades of service are a testament to his commitment to our Nation and the law enforcement community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Chief Simmons for his service to the people of Northwest Florida. My wife Vicki and I congratulate him on his retirement and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE  
NONPROFIT FAIRNESS ACT OF 2015

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 15, 2015*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, over two years ago the House came together in the wake of Superstorm Sandy and overwhelmingly supported and passed the Federal Disaster Assistance Nonprofit Fairness Act. Because the Senate failed to take action before the close of the 113th Congress, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has continued to deny houses of worship access to otherwise generally available disaster relief funds.

Today, along with my colleagues GRACE MENG and PETE KING, I am reintroducing this important legislation to achieve fairness and nondiscrimination in the manner by which FEMA distributes federal disaster assistance.

Houses of worship are foundational pillars of our communities. In the aftermath of disasters, they help feed, comfort, clothe, and shelter thousands of victims—yet when it comes to federal relief, they continue to be left out and left behind. While FEMA has a policy in place to aid nonprofit facilities damaged in disasters, it has excluded houses of worship from such support. This policy is patently unfair, unjustified, and discriminatory and may even suggest hostility to religion.

Plain and simple, it is wrong—and it is time that Congress ensures fundamental fairness for these essential private nonprofits. The bipartisan Federal Disaster Assistance Nonprofit Fairness Act of 2015 will ensure that houses of worship are eligible for federal disaster aid administered by FEMA. It is important to note that FEMA's discriminatory policy of exclusion is not prescribed by any law. There is nothing in the Stafford Act that precludes funds to repair, replace, or restore houses of worship.

Further, congressional precedent favors enactment of this legislation, as there are several

pertinent examples of public funding being allocated to houses of worship. In 1995, federal grants were explicitly authorized and provided to churches damaged by the Oklahoma City terrorist attack. The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) provides funding to houses of worship for security upgrades. The Department of the Interior (DOI) proves funding to grants for historically significant properties, including active churches and active synagogues. The Small Business Administration (SBA) provides low-interest loans to houses of worship.

A controlling Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) memorandum explains in detail the legal principles that make the Federal Disaster Assistance Nonprofit Fairness Act constitutional. In a 2002 written opinion, the OLC concluded it was constitutional for Congress to provide disaster relief and reconstruction funds to a religious Jewish school, along with all sorts of other organizations, following a devastating earthquake. The same principles apply to protect religious organizations following other natural disasters, such as devastating hurricanes or tornadoes.

As the OLC memo concluded, "we believe that provision of disaster assistance to the religious school cannot be materially distinguished from aid programs that are constitutional under longstanding Supreme Court precedent establishing that religious institutions are fully entitled to receive generally available government benefits and services, such as fire and police protection."

This bipartisan legislation exhibits no government preference for or against religion, or any particular religion, as it merely permits houses of worship to receive the same type of generally available assistance. It not only passes the test of constitutionality, but the test of basic decency—permitting houses of worship to receive the same type of generally available assistance as many other similarly situated nonprofits in picking up the pieces after devastation.

As Professor Alan Dershowitz of Harvard Law School concluded in his 2013 analysis of the bill, "once FEMA has the policy in place to aid various nonprofit organizations with their building repairs, houses of worship should not be excluded from receiving this aid on the same terms. This is all the more appropriate given the neutral role we have witnessed houses of worship play, without regard to the religion of those affected, in the wake of Sandy and countless previous disasters. Federal disaster relief aid is a form of social insurance and a means of helping battered communities get back on their feet. Churches, synagogues, mosques, and other houses of worship are an essential part of the recovery process."

Similarly, Professor Douglas Laycock of the University of Virginia School of Law concluded that "charitable contributions to places of worship are tax deductible, without significant controversy, even though the tax benefits to the donor are like a matching grant from the government. These deductions have been uncontroversial because they are included without discrimination in the much broader category of all not-for-profit organizations devoted to charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes. The neutral category here is equally broad. To include houses of worship in disaster relief is neutral; to exclude them would be affirmatively hostile. There is no constitutional obstacle to including them."

This legislation is supported by a broad coalition of organizations who believe that the recovery of houses of worship is essential to the recovery of neighborhoods, towns, and States. Houses of worship are critical public institutions within our communities, and they must not be denied the equal treatment they deserve. I urge my colleagues to move swiftly and pass this much needed legislation.

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RECOGNIZING SAMANTHA MOEN

**HON. DUNCAN HUNTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 15, 2015*

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Samantha Moen, of Santee, California, who qualified for the USA Shooting's National Junior Olympic Championship in International Trap. Samantha's hard work and dedication to the sport of trap shooting have earned her the distinct honor of representing not only the City of Santee, but the State of California in this month's Championship, taking place in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Since 1995, USA Shooting has operated as the National Governing Body for the sport of shooting in the United States. The nonprofit organization represents all shooting athletes who go on to represent the United States in the Olympic and Paralympic games, meaning that only the nation's most qualified and distinguished shooters have the opportunity to train and compete at their Colorado Springs headquarters.

For many, the invitation to the National Junior Olympic Championship is the first opportunity young shooters have at realizing their dream of representing the United States on the international stage of shooting. In the case of Samantha, who took home the Silver Medal in the California Junior State Olympics, the sport of shooting has offered her something more than the opportunity to compete at the national level—it's paved her way to compete at the top collegiate shooting program in the nation, at Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri.

In order to realize her dream of representing the United States in the Olympics, Samantha will have to continue honing her trap shooting abilities in the coming years. And I have no doubt that the experience of competing later this month in Colorado Springs will only further instill a desire in Samantha to strive for the best.

I'm honored to wish Samantha Moen the best of luck at the USA Shooting's National Junior Olympic Championship. I am sure Samantha will represent our community and state well, and am hopeful she will one day represent our nation on the international stage.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MARK POCAN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 15, 2015*

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, on July 14, 2015 I missed the first recorded vote, Roll #435. On Roll Call #435, I would have voted YEA (Passage of H.R. 251).

HONORING STERLING SMITH

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 15, 2015*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and accomplishments of Sterling Smith, an extraordinary civic leader who will be remembered for his invaluable contributions to the community.

Sterling graduated from the University of Washington in 1963. From there, he secured a position teaching at Chinook Junior High, where he became chair of the English Department, and then later at Tyee High School. Sterling was well known as a beloved teacher with a high standard of excellence for his students. On top of his success as an educator, he was also known for his compassion, good humor, and the significant influence he had on the lives of his students.

During my own time as a student at Tyee, I was fortunate to have Sterling as a teacher. I am grateful for the positive impact that Sterling had on my life and my decision to pursue a career in public service. Sterling continued to teach language arts at Tyee until he retired in June 1994.

Sterling was an incredible educator and treasured community member dedicated to serving others in various capacities. He served on several boards that interviewed candidates running for office, including candidates for the Washington State Governor's office. Moreover, Sterling spent countless hours volunteering at the Kubota Gardens, one of Seattle's beautiful Japanese gardens and a cultural center for the region. Along with his partner, Jem, Smith was the caregiver to 37 patients living with AIDS over a 22 year span. On numerous occasions, Sterling and Jem also opened their Federal Way home and gardens to community activities, including events for the Federal Way Symphony Orchestra and the South End Social Group picnic.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize the life of Sterling Smith, an individual whose unrelenting and quiet dedication to his students and community serves as an example of the tremendous impact one person can have.

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HONORING THE SERVICE OF MR. MICHAEL GODBEY

**HON. ANDY BARR**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 15, 2015*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding educator, Michael Godbey. Mr. Godbey leads Frankfort High School as its principal. Mr. Godbey's career as an educator spans twenty years. In this time he has served as an instructional assistant, bus driver, mathematics teacher, assistant principal, director of curriculum and instruction, and principal. Under Godbey's leadership, Frankfort High School has earned the classification of a Proficient and Progressing High School based on Kentucky's Next Generation Learner Accountability system. Frankfort High School was also ranked the Twelfth Best High School in the Commonwealth of Kentucky by U.S. News and World Report in 2014.

Mr. Godbey was recently selected as the 2015 Principal of the Year for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. This Award was presented by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP). Godbey earned this award by his accomplishments in the education field over the years. His dedication to the education of his students is evident.

Godbey earned his B.A. in Secondary Education from the University of Kentucky and his M.A. in Education from Eastern Kentucky University. Prior to his tenure at Frankfort High School, Godbey worked in the Danville, Kentucky Independent School district. He and his wife Claudia reside in Nicholasville, Kentucky with their sons Jared and Hayden.

Education of our nations' young men and women is critically important. Mr. Godbey has exemplified strong leadership and innovation and is very deserving of the recent Principal of the Year award. Mr. Speaker, I applaud his creative talents and dedication in the education field.

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STATE BOARD OF NURSING APPOINTMENT

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 15, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Dr. Doris Jackson, DHA (ABD) for being appointed to the Texas Board of Nursing by Governor Greg Abbott.

Dr. Jackson, a Pearl and resident, is a registered nurse and a professor at Lone Star College's associate degree nursing program in Kingwood. She is also a member of the Society of Pediatric Nurses, Texas Nurse Association, American Nurse Association and the Student Nurse Association Faculty Advisor. Dr. Jackson has used her role to care for others and to help future nurses become the best that they can be. Her appointment is well-deserved.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to Dr. Doris Jackson on her appointment to the Texas Board of Nursing. Governor Abbott made a great decision in selecting you.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 15, 2015*

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, on July 14th, 2015, I was unavoidably detained in a caucus event with several of my colleagues. Had I been present and voting on Roll Call No. 435, I would have voted yea.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 15, 2015*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, during the week of July 6th I was unable to travel to Washington, D.C. for health reasons.

Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes:

July 7

Roll Call 390—yes

Roll Call 391—yes

July 8

Roll Call 392—no

Roll Call 393—yes

Roll Call 394—yes

Roll Call 395—yes

Roll Call 396—yes

Roll Call 397—yes

Roll Call 398—yes

Roll Call 399—yes

Roll Call 400—yes

Roll Call 401—yes

Roll Call 402—yes

Roll Call 403—yes

Roll Call 404—yes

Roll Call 405—yes

Roll Call 406—yes

Roll Call 407—no

Roll Call 408—no

Roll Call 409—no

Roll Call 410—no

Roll Call 411—yes

Roll Call 412—yes

Roll Call 413—yes

Roll Call 414—yes

Roll Call 415—yes

Roll Call 416—yes

Roll Call 417—yes

Roll Call 418—yes

Roll Call 419—no

Roll Call 420—no

Roll Call 421—yes

Roll Call 422—yes

Roll Call 423—no

July 9

Roll Call 424—no

Roll Call 425—no

Roll Call 426—no

Roll Call 427—yes

Roll Call 428—no

Roll Call 429—no

Roll Call 430—no

July 10

Roll Call 431—no

Roll Call 432—yes

Roll Call 433—yes

HONORING ANGEL GOMEZ AND  
OPERATION H.O.P.E.

**HON. BETO O'ROURKE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 15, 2015*

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the tireless work and service to El Paso of Angel Gomez.

Angel Gomez is a lifelong El Pasoan, graduate of Bowie High School, and a Veteran of the United States Navy. After serving our nation in uniform, Angel continued his life of service by making a difference in the lives of El Pasoans.

Angel Gomez founded Operation H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People Endure) with long-time friend Ron Standing in November of 2009. With the continuous loving support of his wife, Patricia, and their daughter, Rubi, Angel has been able to bring a smile to the faces of thousands of families in need within the El Paso community.

Whether it is school supplies, clothing, blankets, toiletries, toys, food, or funeral services,

Angel Gomez and Operation H.O.P.E. have consistently provided assistance and charitable work every Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, and throughout the year.

His commitment to helping others is truly inspiring and is an example for all Americans. I thank Angel Gomez and Operation H.O.P.E. for their passion for service and for helping so many in our community.

IN OPPOSITION TO H.R. 5021

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 15, 2015*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following statement I made last year on H.R. 5021:

I am pleased that Congress is finally acting today, not with a looming crisis, but one that is already upon us. This is entirely predictable.

I have been arguing for months that Congress needs to act because the stopgap measure we did last Congress was designed to create precisely this Congress at precisely this time.

Sixty-two groups may have signed on a letter of support, but they prefer us to act meaningfully for long-term funding. They accept this because it is the only alternative to shutting down activities this summer.

My Republican friends are unwilling—not unable—but unwilling to resolve the funding contradictions. Revenues have failed to keep pace with the demands of an aging growing Nation, making no change for 21 years, as our infrastructure ages and falls apart, our Nation continues to grow and transportation patterns change. It is guaranteed that we should change as well.

This Congress has refused to address its responsibilities. The House Ways and Means Committee has not had a single hearing on transportation finance. One of our most important responsibilities, uniquely ours, one that is unlike so many other items we deal with, it is possible to resolve. We haven't had a hearing in the 43 months that the Republicans have been in charge of Congress.

Now, I understand there are conflicts within the Republican Caucus. There are some that appear satisfied with locking us into a slow, steady decline called for in the Republican budget—no new projects until October of 2015 and a 30 percent reduction over the next decade, at exactly the time the Federal partnership should be enhanced, not reduced.

There are others in the Republicans whose answer is to just abandon ship, to give up on the Federal partnership, slash the Federal gas tax, and abandon any hope of a national transportation policy and partnership to help States with projects that are multistate in nature or that need to be done whether economic times are bad.

That would be tragic and wrong to abandon the partnership that has meant so much, but it is part of what is driving some of our Republican Tea Party friends. Just because there may not be a majority in the Republican ranks for either approach does not mean that we should continue to dither.

Because Republicans friends are unwilling or unable to resolve this, we have frozen the Transportation Committee in place. They don't have a bill. They are not going to have a bill unless we resolve what the budget number is: increase, continue the downward slide, or abandon it altogether.

We will be no better off next May to resolve this question. In fact, we will be worse

off because we will be in the middle of a Presidential campaign, with a new Congress, maybe new committee lineups.

We should reject this approach to hand off our responsibilities. We should resolve the resource question, and we should commit that this Congress is not going to recess for August vacation, not going to recess to campaign in October, until we have worked to give the American people a transportation bill they need—deserve—to jump-start the economy, create hundreds of thousands of family-wage jobs, and strengthen communities and families across the Nation.

American infrastructure used to be the best in the world and a point of pride bringing Americans together. It is now a source of embarrassment and deep concern as we fall further and further behind global leaders.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 15, 2015*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,151,890,180,391.62. We've added \$7,525,013,131,478.54 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN HONOR OF MR. WOODROW R.  
PACKER, SR.

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 15, 2015*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding educator and respected community leader, Mr. Woodrow R. Packer, Sr. Mr. Packer departed to his eternal reward on Saturday, July 11, 2015. A funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, July 17, 2015 at St. Paul's Memorial Chapel in Lawrenceville, Virginia, where Mr. Packer's family will be surrounded by friends and loved ones paying their respects to a man who touched many lives, including my own.

Mr. Packer was born in Wilcox County, Alabama, on March 11, 1919 as the eleventh of twelve children born to the late Hal and Lucy Packer. Over the course of his lifetime, Mr. Packer exemplified the meaning of servant leadership. In 1942, Mr. Packer left his family in Alabama to serve his country in World War II, spending time in North Africa and Italy. Following his service in the war, he was honorably discharged as a Staff Sergeant in 1945.

Throughout his life, Mr. Packer always demonstrated a passion for knowledge. He earned a Bachelor of Science and Master of Education degree from Alabama State University in Montgomery, Alabama. He studied further at Carnegie-Mellon Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut; the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia; Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia; and the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia.

During his lifelong pursuit of knowledge, Mr. Packer strove to impart this knowledge upon his students. In 1948, he began his career as an educator at Choctaw County High School in Butler, Alabama. Mr. Packer later became principal of Blount High School in Anniston, Alabama and then of Chickasaw Terrace School in Prichard, Alabama. In 1964, Mr. Packer moved to Farmville, Virginia to teach at R.R. Moton High School, now a historic landmark of the Civil Rights Movement.

Mr. Packer then went on to serve Saint Paul's College in Lawrenceville, Virginia for 27 years, first as an instructor, then as a Dean, before retiring as Vice President for Student Affairs. His dedication to Saint Paul's College was evident in the number of students he recruited, many from his home state of Alabama, which led to his being deemed "The Alabama Dean."

After retiring from education in 1991, he continued to contribute to the community by helping numerous friends and neighbors in Brunswick County. Mr. Packer served in countless leadership roles with organizations such as the Alberta Family Health Service, Brunswick Chamber of Commerce, Lawrenceville Rotary Club, and the Lawrenceville Town Council.

George Washington Carver once said, "No individual has any right to come into the world and go out of it without leaving behind distinct and legitimate reasons for having passed through it." We are all so blessed that Mr. Woodrow Packer passed this way and during his life's journey did so much for so many for so long. He leaves behind a great legacy in education to the thousands of students, teachers, and administrators whose lives he touched and brightened.

On a personal note, Mr. Packer and his family were close personal friends of my family, as well as a role model and mentor to me. I have truly been blessed by his friendship, counsel and inspiration throughout the years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and my wife, Vivian, in paying tribute to Mr. Woodrow R. Packer, Sr. for his dedication to educating young people, his passion for his country, and his deep commitment to his family and his community. We extend our deepest sympathies to Mr. Packer's family and friends during this very difficult time. May they be consoled and comforted by their abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

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RECOGNIZING MICHAEL F. COLLEY

**HON. STEVE STIVERS**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 15, 2015*

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my mentor and friend Michael F. Colley, who passed away at the age of 78 on June 20, 2015.

Michael Colley was born in Youngstown, Ohio and grew up in Columbus, Ohio. After graduating from St. Charles Preparatory School, Michael attended the Ohio State University where he served as President of his fraternity, Kappa Sigma, and was a member of the baseball team. Michael continued his education at Ohio State after graduation in law school, where he earned his Juris Doctoral degree in 1961.

Following his graduation from law school, Michael served in the Ohio National Guard and as an Assistant Prosecutor in the Columbus City Attorney's Office. Soon after, he went into private practice where he had an extremely successful career for his clients in personal injury, medical malpractice and product liability. Throughout his career, Michael served as president of state and national legal organizations: Ohio Academy of Trial Lawyers, the Franklin County Trial Lawyers Association, the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, and the American Board of Trial Advocates. Michael is distinguished as the only person to serve as president of both the Association of Trial Lawyers of America and the American Board of Trial Advocates.

Outside of the courtroom, Michael remained involved in his community and his alma mater. In 1968, Michael helped form the Direction for Youth and Families to help struggling youth and families in central Ohio. In 1991, Michael was appointed to the Board of Trustees for Ohio State and later served as Chairman of the Board. Michael rarely missed a Buckeye football or basketball game throughout his lifetime.

Michael showed an incredible dedication to his community and public service throughout his life.

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HOMETOWN BASKETBALL STARS

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 15, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Harrison twins from Richmond, TX in Fort Bend County for their outstanding performance and success in their young basketball careers.

Together, they won a basketball state championship for Travis High School, competed in two NCAA Final Fours and were prospects in the 2015 NBA draft. Andrew Harrison was selected by the Phoenix Suns to play in the NBA before being traded to the Memphis Grizzlies. Aaron Harrison has the opportunity to play in the NBA summer league for the Charlotte Hornets. These young men have made their parents, coaches, and the rest of Fort Bend County proud.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to the Harrison twins on all of their achievements. We look forward to hearing more about their continued success on and off the court.

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HONORING THE LIFE OF  
JONATHAN ROSADO

**HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 15, 2015*

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, Jonathan Rosado, senselessly murdered in the Cayuga section of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania late last year, was a model citizen who generously shared his strong character and kind spirit through the act of teaching tennis to disadvantaged children. Jonathan's commitment to his students was moti-

vated by far more than the perfection of the game's technique, though; he was deeply committed to serving as a thoroughly positive role model for his pupils. Jonathan fostered the Legacy Youth Tennis program's presence in the Hunting Park community, a groundbreaking addition to youth programming for this North Philadelphia neighborhood.

Jonathan's ingenuity and steadfast commitment to community service has served as a tremendous benefit to the many lives he has touched. Jonathan's sense of responsibility and dedication was instilled in him by his own childhood participation in the Legacy Youth Tennis program, and he chose to contribute those attributes right back into the program as he ascended into adulthood. His selflessness helped to cultivate the potential of the children in his community, who will in turn grow up to follow Jonathan's constructive example.

Although he is sorely missed by all, Jonathan's bright spirit will continue to be felt in Hunting Park long into the future. I submit this statement so that Jonathan's example can be more widely witnessed across the nation and across time.

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IN HONOR OF THE 70TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF TRINITY TEST

**HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 15, 2015*

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of those who have fallen ill or passed on due to radiation exposure from the Trinity test. On this day 70 years ago, rural New Mexico became ground zero for the detonation of the first nuclear bomb. While it would usher in the start of the atomic age, it also marked the beginning of sickness and suffering for generations of people who lived and grew up in the Tularosa Basin and other areas downwind of the test site.

Today, we remember those who continue to bear the costs of nuclear testing decades later and recommit to seeking recognition and compensation for the men and women who have been gravely impacted. As a nation we have a responsibility to act and acknowledge the pain that so many New Mexicans and other downwinders have experienced following the Trinity Test. The legacy of that moment in our nation's history is still alive and continues to be felt to this very day by all those battling cancer and other diseases as a result of radiation exposure.

It is long past time for Congress to take action and pass legislation expanding the Radiation Expose Compensation Act so that these individuals are no longer left behind, and so that we can come to terms with the full impact of the nuclear age.

Though we can never fully compensate these Americans for what they have lost, they deserve to be recognized and receive just compensation that will help generations of families who have gotten sick because of uranium mining or nuclear testing. The men and women who have suffered from radiation exposure must not be forgotten.

IN OPPOSITION TO THE RULE ON  
H.R. 5021

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 15, 2015*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following statement I made last year on the Rule on H.R. 5021:

I listened carefully to what you said, and you are right—this closed rule is a disaster. My respected friend from Florida, I think, is just wrong.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a solution, and it is not a deliberate, thoughtful process. We have not had a single hearing on transportation finance in the Ways and Means Committee all year. We didn't have one the year before that. We haven't had a hearing in the 43 months that Republicans have been in charge.

This is a perfectly predictable problem that was created by the halfhearted bill that they passed last Congress. We knew this was coming for months. Now we are here.

With all due respect, I, too, am disappointed that we have a rule that does not make in order broad discussion and amendment. We have been unable in this Congress to deal meaningfully with the looming transportation crisis.

The gentleman is on the Transportation Committee. He doesn't have a bill. We are almost through this Congress, and we don't have a bill. America is falling apart. America is falling behind. We have failed to give America's communities the resources and a robust 6-year reauthorization plan.

We have done it before under the chairmanship of Bud Shuster and Ranking Member Jim Oberstar, and I was happy to have played a small role. That bill made a difference.

If we fail to come to grips with the funding level and, instead, in approving this rule and the underlying bill, this Congress is giving itself a ticket out of town to adjourn and pass it on to not just the next Congress but to the Congress after that. Make no mistake. In May 2015, you are not going to be in any different a place. It is going to be May 2017.

Congress has legitimate policy differences. I appreciate my friend from New Jersey. Some people think that the Federal Government should get out of the partnership that we have had and reduce or eliminate the Federal gas tax.

They are willing to give up on the successful partnership and let each State decide what to do, when it wants to do it, or what it is able or not able to do. They would abandon all sense of a national vision and the ability to shape transportation policies. That is rejected by the mayors, rejected by county commissioners, rejected by State transportation officials. They want that partnership.

Frankly, there are some people who feel the gas tax ought to be adjusted to deal with inflation and increased fuel economy as well as the demands of a growing Nation with an aging infrastructure.

Some people are comfortable with the Republican budget, which will have no new projects for 15 months and will doom us to a 30 percent reduction over the next 10 years.

Those are legitimate policy differences, but we are not dealing with them here on the floor. We are shrugging our shoulders, passing them on to the next Congress and, frankly, to the Congress after that.

I agree with the people who build and maintain and use our transportation infrastructure. We should address this infrastruc-

ture question head on. American infrastructure used to be the best in the world and a point of pride, bringing Americans together. It is now a source of embarrassment and deep concern as we fall further and further behind global leaders.

We ought to reject this rule. We ought to allow full debate and, by all means, resolve the funding question now so we can go forward. America deserves no less.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMISSION ON AMERICANS LIVING ABROAD ACT OF 2015

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 15, 2015*

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, there are an estimated 6–8 million constituents scattered across the world who promote our culture and values while strengthening our nation's global influence as they live and work abroad. For years I have worked to ensure that overseas Americans can fully exercise their rights as U.S. citizens by having their voices heard loud and clear by Congress. Eight years ago, I formed the Congressional Americans Abroad Caucus because I wanted to bring awareness and focus to the concerns of those residing abroad. U.S. citizens remain just that, citizens, regardless of where they choose to live and should not be ignored by virtue of residence.

Our constituents living and working abroad have consistently voiced concerns about the impact federal policies have on the issues directly affecting them like voting, immigration, access to financial institutions, and taxation. The time has come to take a look at the importance of federal policies for our overseas community rather than continuing to ignore the calls from our abroad constituents. That is why today I am introducing the Commission on Americans Living Abroad Act, which creates an Executive Commission with the main purpose of examining those concerns. The Commission creates a 10 member panel to examine the impact of federal policymaking on U.S. citizens abroad. The resulting study would then be used by Congress and the Executive Branch when considering the best steps we can take to engage the abroad community and ensure their voices are heard. This process will ensure clearer awareness of the federal issues impacting Americans abroad and will open a path for coordination with those communities towards more robust representation.

We must take a real and comprehensive look at how we, as Members of Congress, respond to U.S. citizens living abroad. Each of our constituents has a right to have their interests represented and to have a role in the political process. The Commission on Americans Living Abroad would establish a foundation from which we can work to better serve the needs of our global constituents. I welcome and urge my colleagues to lend their support to this bill.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NORMAN  
BUCHERT

**HON. TED LIEU**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 15, 2015*

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Norman Buchert, a loving family man and successful engineer. Upon graduating from the University of Florida, Norman began working in a nascent aerospace industry at the Kennedy Space Center, contributing to the development of the Apollo 11 launch and other space shuttle launches. Throughout his life he loved to tell stories about his time working in the space program.

While Norman's career as an engineer is remarkable, his role as a loving family man is what he will be remembered for most. I have had the privilege of working closely with his daughter, Genelle, who truly embodies his caring spirit. He has left a positive mark on our world and that his legacy will live on through his family.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues will join with me in honoring the life of this special man. We should all be so fortunate to live such a full life. I submit his obituary:

Norman Charles Buchert was born in Cincinnati, Ohio on May 13, 1942. He graduated from Port St. Joe High School, Port St. Joe, Florida; and from the University of Florida with a BS and MS in Electrical Engineering.

His career began at Kennedy Space Center on January 27th, 1967 with North American Aviation (NAA) as an RF and Telemetry Engineer working on the Apollo/Saturn Launch Vehicle second stage. He then worked on the Saturn V moon launches including the Apollo II launch to the moon (and back) and worked in the Saturn V Launch Control Center Firing room at the RF and Telemetry console. He later transferred to the Apollo Command and Service Module (CSM) organization to work on the experiments that the CSM carried to the moon and the Lunar Sounder experiment searching for water on the moon. Their first daughter, Genelle, was born shortly after man's first walk on the moon. Twenty two months later their second daughter, Charisse, was born.

In 1972, he began work as a Space Shuttle design integration engineer in Downey, California for NAA. In 1975, their third daughter, Felicia, was born. That same year he transferred back to KSC to help design, manufacture and install the Orbiter Processing Facility Communications and Tracking checkout station. In 1984, they welcomed their youngest daughter, April. Promoted to Supervisor of the NAA Communications and Tracking group, he supervised the checkout of the first Shuttle launch Orbiter Communications and NavAids Systems eventually becoming the Director of Advanced Programs and Business Development for Rockwell (formerly NAA) at KSC. After Boeing purchased the Space Division portion of Rockwell in 1996, Norman became the Director of Advanced Engineering for the Space Shuttle Program finishing his career in this capacity. Norman received many awards and recognitions including the Astronaut Snoopy award for his work on the Apollo Program presented by Apollo astronaut, Hank Hartsfield.

Norman worked for Boeing for over 44 years; was an avid University of Florida Gator sports fan; enjoyed talking about his experiences in the space program as a KSC



docent; was active in his church; was a dotting grandfather, and devoted owner of his prized mutt, Mars Rover.

He is survived by Carol, his wife of 47 years, daughters, Genelle Buchert, Charisse Buchert, Felicia Kai (Sam) and April Walters (Cameron); brother Jerry Buchert (Laurie), sisters, Margie Vogt (Jim) and Carole Pille (Skip), half sister Chris Haley (Pat) and step sister Marlene Guerrieri (Bruno); beloved grandchildren Annabella Kai, Graciella Kai and Serenity Kai (with a fourth grandchild in progress) and many nieces and nephews.

Norman was welcomed into Heaven on May 9, 2015, after a brave and courageous battle with cancer. He was preceded in death by his father Robert Valentine Buchert and mothers, Erlene Buchert and Norma Riester Boehl. He will be in our hearts always.

#### HONORING APHRODITE LOUTAS

#### HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 15, 2015*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank my constituent Aphrodite Loutas, who is retiring after a distinguished 28-year career of public service. Ms. Loutas has been District 14 Chief of Staff for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) since her appointment in 2009 and is currently the Acting District Director.

Ms. Loutas started her federal government service with Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) in 1987 as a Supervisory Legalization Officer for the Legalization Program. She became an Immigration Examiner in 1990, and was a supervisor in Citizenship from 1991 through 1997. In 1997 she served as Central Regional Coordinator for the Headquarters Office of Naturalization Operations.

Ms. Loutas was then appointed as Special Assistant to the District Director in the Chicago district in 1999 and served in that capacity until 2005. From 2005 to 2009, she was the Assistant Director for Mission Support.

Ms. Loutas was honored in 2011 with the USCIS Director's Heritage Award for her outstanding service.

My staff and I have had the pleasure of working closely with Ms. Loutas since 1999. She is compassionate, efficient, effective, and an exemplary public servant. She will be greatly missed.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose

of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, July 16, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 21

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of General Mark A. Milley, USA, to be Chief of Staff of the Army.

SH-216

10 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Administration's immigration enforcement policies.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Paul Wayne Jones, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Poland, Hans G. Klemm, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to Romania, Kathleen Ann Doherty, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus, and James Desmond Melville, Jr., of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Estonia.

SD-419

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety

To hold hearings to examine the Department of Labor's investment proposal for American families and retirees.

SD-430

JULY 22

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Financial Stability Oversight Council designation process.

SD-538

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Marie Therese Dominguez, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation.

SR-253

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine reauthorizing the Higher Education Act, focusing on exploring barriers and opportunities within innovation.

SD-430

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine protecting the electric grid from the potential threats of solar storms and electromagnetic pulse.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of John Michael Vazquez, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, Wilhelmina Marie Wright, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota, Paula Xinis, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, and Cono R. Namorato, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice.

SD-226

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine targeted tax reform, focusing on solutions to relieve the tax compliance burden for America's small businesses.

SR-428A

1:30 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Oversight, Agency Action, Federal Rights and Federal Courts

To hold hearings to examine Supreme Court activism and possible solutions.

SD-226

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine safeguarding the integrity of Indian gaming.

SH-216

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine combating medicare provider enrollment fraud.

SD-562

JULY 23

10 a.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine health information technology, focusing on information blocking and potential solutions.

SD-430

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Denise Turner Roth, of North Carolina, to be Administrator of General Services, General Services Administration.

SD-342

AUGUST 4

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the back-end of the nuclear fuel cycle and related legislation, including S. 854, to establish a new organization to manage nuclear waste, provide a consensual process for siting nuclear waste facilities, ensure adequate funding for managing nuclear waste.

SD-366