

From its first overseas deployment, the USS *Simpson* and her crew have distinguished themselves in combat. On April 18, 1988, along with two other navy ships, the *Simpson* responded to the Iranian mine attack on the USS *Samuel B. Roberts* by destroying an Iranian oil platform and sinking the Iranian Navy mission patrol combatant, Joshan.

Over her 30 years of service, the *Simpson* made 14 deployments. Her final deployment was for seven months to the U.S. 5th and 6th Fleet areas of operation in which she conducted theater security cooperation exercises. As in the past, the crew was called on to support various task forces and performed perfectly never missing an operational commitment. Every sailor made a difference every day. In addition, some of the newest technologies in the Navy were aboard, four Fire Scouts (MQ-8B) vertical takeoff and landing tactical unmanned aerial vehicles.

The crew on the last deployment was comprised of reservists as well as active duty individual augmented personnel with zero previous experience with UAV's. Despite the challenges, the officers aboard reported the crew achieved the highest ever recorded maintenance readiness and sortie completion rate of any Fire Scout deployment in the program's history.

The *Simpson* will be decommissioned but the friendships and camaraderie this ship established on its decks will last for ages. It is a pleasure and honor to represent the great men and women who serve in the 4th Congressional District of Florida and to see them successfully complete the mission of the USS *Simpson*. Their hard work and dedication contributes to the important missions of our Nation's defense and reiterates our community's importance as an anchor of national security.

CONGRATULATING MRS. GLORIA GALLOWAY ON HER RETIREMENT

### HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mrs. Gloria Galloway, a dedicated professional with the Department of Veterans Affairs, Congressional Liaison Service, on the occasion of her retirement. Gloria has been an exemplary public servant who has demonstrated the highest standards of professionalism on a daily basis. She has served with the Department of Veterans Affairs for more than 36 years and her career in public service has been a testament to the importance of unselfish devotion. As Gloria embarks on a new chapter in life, it is my hope that she may recall with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment the outstanding contributions she has made to the Department of Veterans Affairs, the United States House of Representatives and the people of the United States of America. I would like to send her my best wishes for continued success in her future endeavors, and may her life be filled with health and happiness.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. GLENN THOMPSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 497, I was absent during roll call number 497 (the Previous Question on H. Res. 420) the afternoon of September 17, 2015 because I was meeting with constituents from Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District. Had I been present, I would have voted YES.

### A TRIBUTE TO CARL AND DENISE JARDON

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Carl and Denise Jardon of Randolph, Iowa, for receiving the 2015 Conservationist of the Year Award presented by the Fremont County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Carl and Denise were selected for this award based on their outstanding work in incorporating terraces, no-till farming, nitrogen stabilizer, and cover crops into their 368-acre farm operation. These practices are instrumental in helping preserve clean water and soil for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Carl and Denise for earning this award. They are shining examples of how hard work and dedication to protecting the environment will benefit their property and others. I urge my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Carl and Denise for this achievement. I wish them nothing but the best moving forward.

### THE FAIR ACCESS TO EDUCATION ACT OF 2015

### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Fair Access to Education Act of 2015. This legislation would bring fairness to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form, which determines federal student aid, and currently asks eligibility questions about a student's drug conviction history.

Under this legislation, an applicant with misdemeanor marijuana possession offenses will not have to check the box when applying for federal financial assistance. It also immediately provides eligibility for grants, loans, and work assistance to those whose applications were suspended due to a marijuana misdemeanor offense.

Too often those with misdemeanor drug offenses, such as simple marijuana possession, continue to be discriminated against or stigmatized long after they've paid their fines or served their time. Such is the case when it

comes to higher education. One of our greatest opportunities as Americans to better ourselves and start anew is pushed out of reach for many because of an outdated bias built into our federal student aid application.

Under current law, the FAFSA requires applicants to disclose any drug-related offense they've had while receiving federal student aid. This outdated question is on the application because of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, which authorizes federal and state judges to deny certain federal benefits, including student aid, to persons convicted of drug trafficking or possession.

If that box is checked when a student submits an application, the application is immediately placed on hold and the student is informed that the application cannot be processed and additional steps are required to determine eligibility. This intimidating process often has the effect of discouraging students from continuing.

Public opinion and state law is shifting dramatically on questions related to marijuana. Prohibition is outdated and does not reflect how Americans think, nor how they actually behave. Nearly half of the population has smoked marijuana at some point in their lives, and now in four states and the District of Columbia, people can do so legally.

It is senseless that we would limit a student's future for any drug offense for which they have served their sentence, and even more senseless that we would do so for an offense for a drug that a majority believes should be legal.

The FAFSA question—number 23 for the 2015–16 school year—is outdated, unfair, and traps those seeking to recover from mistakes and create opportunities for themselves. Current policy is inevitably more harmful to those with the greatest need. If a student has a misdemeanor marijuana offense but is fully able to afford an education on their own, their future is not limited. But if a student has taken strides to recover from past mistakes and is seeking help in getting an education, current policy will only hold them back.

The Fair Access to Education Act would help reduce recidivism and strengthen our communities.

### RECOGNIZING THE MARINE & ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 2015*

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and applaud an organization in my state on its 25th anniversary year of studying the effects of toxic chemicals on environmental and human health.

The Marine & Environmental Research Institute (MERI)—based in Blue Hill, Maine—began in 1990 with a group of scientists concerned about the impact of pollutants on marine mammal populations that were experiencing massive die-offs and disease outbreaks. Led by Dr. Susan Shaw, the organization has done incredible work since then investigating the effects toxic exposure has on health outcomes in the marine environment.

Moreover, the group has shown that toxic exposure has significant consequences for