

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2018

SPEECH OF

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3354) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes:

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Chair, as the co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Parkinson's Disease and a member of the Congressional Multiple Sclerosis Caucus, I'm proud of the collective work of the 114th Congress in enacting 21st Century Cures—a bipartisan undertaking to help our healthcare innovation infrastructure thrive and deliver more hope for all patients.

Personally, I have family members who have suffered with Parkinson's—I witness this debilitating disease through them. It's hard to watch. Few things in America are truly universal—diseases, sadly, are one of those things.

Currently, we do not have accurate information about how many people are living with neurological diseases like Parkinson's and Multiple Sclerosis, geographic location, or even basic attributes like gender, ethnicity, etc. Lack of accurate information slows critical research while erecting new and reinforcing existing barriers to health care services that these vulnerable patients need.

21st Century Cures addressed this issue by statutorily developing the necessary infrastructure to collect data on neurological diseases so key health stakeholders could better understand the patient population, facilitate research, and proactively plan for health care needs—saving lives while controlling costs. This infrastructure is the National Neurological Conditions Surveillance System.

Information provided by the National Neurological Conditions Surveillance System will provide a foundation for understanding factors, such as clusters of diagnoses in certain geographic regions, variances in the number of men and women diagnosed with neurological diseases, and differences in health care practices among patients. Unfortunately, funds were not appropriated to formally establish this database at CDC.

Mr. Chair, I understand that we must practice fiscal discipline and exercise fiscal constraint. I understand difficult decisions must be made in this appropriation bill. I understand the fiscal environment in which we now find ourselves due to our low budget caps here in the House. However, as the budget caps are higher in the Senate, I ask that should the measure we are considering be put before a conference committee, that funding be made available for the National Neurological Condi-

tions Surveillance System so that we can realize the mission of 21st Century Cures—to accelerate medical product development and bring new innovations and advances to patients who need them faster and more efficiently. I hope you will work with me to find funding for this critical system for patients.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2018

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3354) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes:

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of Amendment No. 66, offered by Representative JAYAPAL, to strike the \$535 million increase for ICE enforcement and instead add \$30 million to ICE's Office of the Inspector General and \$10 million to DHS's Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. This additional oversight funding would support investigations of sexual assault in immigration detention as mandated by the Prison Rape Elimination Act.

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was passed in 2003 as a result of a remarkable bipartisan effort led by Congressman Frank Wolf and myself in the House and Senators Jeff Sessions and Ted Kennedy in the Senate.

Ten years after passage of PREA, in 2014, DHS finalized regulations to comply with PREA. This year, 2017, is the first in which DHS is instituting those regulations by auditing its facilities for compliance.

We must aid DHS in its efforts to investigate and prevent sexual abuse. According to the Office of Inspector General (OIG) at DHS, during the two-year period from May 2014 to July 2016, it received over 1,000 complaints from detainees reporting sexual abuse or assault. The Office of Inspector General investigated only 24 of those complaints—that is 2.4 percent of the total complaints that were made by detained immigrants.

Immigrant detainees also face barriers to reaching the Inspector General's telephone hotline for reporting abuse, because, according to a 2013 report from the Government Accountability Office (GAO), approximately 14 percent of calls placed to that hotline did not go through because, for example, the call was not answered.

This Amendment is an essential step to giving DHS resources to comply with PREA and protect immigrants from sexual abuse and assault in detention facilities.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2018

SPEECH OF

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3354) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes:

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of an amendment I've offered to provide the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) an additional \$9 million. The purpose of this amendment is to enable the agency to focus on connected and automated vehicles by expanding its workforce to validate the safety of these transformative vehicles, defining new testing protocols as the technology advances, and to better collaborate with industry, and state and local governments to conduct adequate oversight of their deployment on our roads.

Connected and automated vehicles are a rapidly emerging technology with the potential to improve safety and mobility, decrease congestion, and increase the overall efficiency of our nation's transportation network. But along with this progress comes a number of pressing policy challenges. The federal government can, and must, play a role in maximizing the societal benefits of these technologies.

In a time when the technology that enables automated vehicles is rapidly advancing, I firmly believe that we must continue to promote U.S. leadership in this industry, with the goal of full deployment of automated vehicles on our roads and highways. Policies that balance consumer protection while facilitating innovation will ultimately benefit our manufacturing and transportation industries and their workers.

As Co-Chair of the Unmanned Systems Caucus, I have been holding periodic roundtables around the country on connected and autonomous transportation policy for the past two years. I have listened to experts from O.E.M.s, tier 1 suppliers, information technology companies, transportation planners, and tech start-ups.

Part of this interest is from my background as an engineer, and my work as the Ranking Member of the House Science Committee's Research Subcommittee. Last Congress, I introduced the Future TRIP Act to promote automated vehicle research. Key provisions of that bill passed into law in the FAST Act.

NHTSA has done an admirable job of working with the industry in developing policy guidance while allowing enough flexibility to promote innovation for an industry that is constantly evolving. It is exactly this kind of consensus-based incremental change that will

• 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.

their safety on the road. NHTSA needs the ability to review and process vehicle exemptions, conduct testing, and review safety standards.

Earlier today, we passed H.R. 3388, the SELF DRIVE Act, which expanded NHTSA's authorities in this area. That bill is an important step toward defining the federal government's role in regulating automated vehicles. The bill supports the testing and deployment of automated vehicles through the waiver process, preempts a patchwork of differing state and local regulations to provide certainty to industry and vehicle operators, and ensures consumer confidence by improving safety standards.

My amendment provides the initial financial resources needed to carry out the directives authorized in the SELF DRIVE Act, and subsequently appropriates the resources to give NHTSA the ability to examine these ongoing challenges.

I appreciate the support of Chairman DIAZ-BALART, and I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

RECOGNIZING SENIOR DETECTIVE ARLENE CURRIER

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Senior Detective Arlene Currier for nearly a decade and a half of serving and protecting the community in Salinas, California.

Detective Currier obtained a law enforcement certificate from Gavilan College in Gilroy, California, and continued her education at Evergreen Valley College and San Jose City College. In 2003, she transitioned from a career in sales and marketing to a position in the Salinas Police Department's Patrol Division. Patrolling assigned areas in the city of Salinas, she embraced her role as both an enforcer of the law and as a leader in her community. Officer Currier investigated criminal activity with efficiency, provided assistance and first aid, and fostered a strong relationship with residents. In 2005, as a Field Training Officer, she instructed new recruits in proper procedure, and helped the Salinas Police Department maintain its standard of excellence.

As of 2007, Officer Currier became a robbery and homicide detective. In this capacity, she took an active part in nearly every aspect of law enforcement—from the crime scene to the courtroom. Detective Currier also served on the board of directors of the Filipino-American Law Enforcement Officers Association, an organization dedicated to promoting, "fraternal relationships and cultural awareness among all law enforcement personnel and the communities [they] serve."

I stand with the City of Salinas, and the entirety of California's 20th District, in expressing our gratitude for Arlene Currier's many years of meritorious service. I wish her well in her retirement and future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALL- EN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY SERGEANT (SGT) MATTHEW LEE INGRAM

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army Sergeant. (SGT) Matthew Lee Ingram who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our great nation on August 21, 2009, during Operation Enduring Freedom. SGT Ingram was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle in Kunar Province, Afghanistan. The blast occurred while his unit was under small arms fire from enemy forces. SGT Ingram was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colorado.

SGT Ingram grew up in eastern Mississippi, where he attended Newton High School. He played wide receiver on the school's football team. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 2003 and completed his basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia. Following basic training, SGT Ingram was assigned to South Korea, where he spent 10 months before his entire brigade was deployed to Iraq from 2004 until 2005. In 2006, SGT Ingram married his wife, Holly, while stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado. They had one daughter, Chloe. That same year, SGT Ingram deployed to Iraq for a second tour. In May 2009, SGT Ingram deployed to Afghanistan.

Mississippi lawmakers recognized SGT Ingram for his service and sacrifice. The Resolution was adopted by the Senate and the House during the 2010 regular session. It states that, "SGT Ingram was a loving father, husband and son who is counted among America's heroes, committed to our nation's safety and security." It further states that, "Mississippians understand the costs of conflict because we have paid them in the past."

SGT Ingram's earned the Purple Heart, Army Commendation medal, Army Achievement medal, two Army Good Conduct medals, National Defense Service medal, Korea Defense Service medal, Afghanistan Campaign medal with Campaign Star, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary medal, Global War on Terrorism Service medal, and the Combat Infantry Badge.

In 2009, Representative GREGG HARPER (R-MS) introduced a bill to name the United States Post Office at 7464 Highway 503, Hickory, Mississippi in SGT Ingram's honor. H.R. 4139, the "Matthew L. Ingram Post Office" Designation Act, passed by unanimous consent in the House and the Senate and was signed into law by President Barack Obama in 2010.

SGT Ingram is survived by his wife, Holly; his daughter, Chloe; his parents, James and Patricia Ingram; and his older brother, Jamie.

SGT Ingram's commitment to protect America will always be remembered.

CELEBRATING THE ANNUAL SARA- TOGA COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING SENIOR PICNIC

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the Annual Saratoga County Office for the Aging Senior Picnic.

Since its inception, the Saratoga County Office for the Aging Senior Picnic has brought our community together to celebrate our senior citizens. The Senior Picnic features food and entertainment for people of all ages, highlighting the Office's year-round work for Saratoga County seniors. As with many of the Office's programs, the Senior Picnic depends on the dedication and tireless efforts of volunteers from our community.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I want to thank the Saratoga County Office for the Aging for its vital service to our seniors. The Office provides programs and information to help our seniors in key areas like healthcare, employment, and legal services. We are grateful to the Office for their continuing commitment to our elderly population, and wish them all the best on their Annual Senior Picnic.

RECOGNIZING U.S. ARMY MASTER SERGEANT JOHN DORVAL MINATRA

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, there are no greater heroes than our veterans and active military. In worldwide campaigns, they courageously and selflessly serve and protect our nation from foreign and domestic threats. Their efforts have never failed us.

Today, I would like to recognize and honor U.S. Army Master Sergeant John Dorval Minatra for his extraordinary heroism and exceptional valor in operations during Indo China, Korea, and Vietnam warfare. In the Republic of Vietnam, he was cited several times for valor in combat with U.S. and Vietnamese awards—most notably the Purple Heart, Distinguished Service Cross, and three Bronze Stars. For his Ranger spirit in three voluntary tours of duty, three assignments training the Vietnamese Battalion with the Mountain Ranger Committee, service as Ranger Advisor to the Vietnamese Airborne Battalion, and third voluntary tour with the IV Corps HQ, he received the Ranger Hall of Fame medallion—a validation of "Rangers Lead the Way."

MSG Minatra's tactical knowledge, initiative, high standards, and unswerving desire to train and produce the best possible warrior made him an inspirational model for Rangers. His ability to rally and direct soldiers under fire, while wounded, reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.

Leadership is not as it appears, but as it performs. We join his children Barry, Larry and Melissa, nine grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren in gratitude for his guidance, heroism, and devotion through 20 years of military service.

TRIBUTE: ALPHA DELTA KAPPA INTERNATIONAL HONORARY ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN EDUCATORS

HON. MO BROOKS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Alpha Delta Kappa International Honorary Organization for Women Educators on sixty-nine years of dedicated service, and proclaim October 2016 as Alpha Delta Kappa Month. Established in 1947, Alpha Delta Kappa's goals are to institute high standards of education, recognize outstanding educators, build a fraternal fellowship among educators and promote educational and charitable projects, enriching the lives of individuals everywhere.

With a membership of more than 33,000 educators representing all fifty U.S. states, Puerto Rico, Canada, Mexico, Jamaica, and Australia, Alpha Delta Kappa is committed to educational excellence, personal and professional growth, and collectively channeling their energies toward the good of their schools, communities, the teaching profession, and the world.

Women in education constitute a great portion of America's workforce and are constantly striving to serve their communities and America in educational, cultural, and charitable programs leading to harmony, happiness, and peace among all people.

Since 2014, members of Alpha Delta Kappa have altruistically given to the communities they serve by raising nearly \$12 million dollars and volunteering more than two million service hours. Alpha Delta Kappa members biennially award more than a quarter million dollars through eleven scholarship programs and have contributed more than \$1 million dollars to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee.

I congratulate Alpha Delta Kappa International Honorary Organization for Women Educators on their many years of unparalleled success and wish them well as they continue to educate our children.

RECOGNIZING HENSEL PHELPS CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hensel Phelps Construction Company for receiving the 2017 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. This prestigious award is given to only a handful of firms out of over 3,000 applicants in order to recognize their support of National Guard and Reserve employees. This is truly a remarkable achievement that speaks to Hensel Phelps' care for our service members.

Hensel Phelps is a thriving, international corporation that was founded in Greeley, Colorado in 1937. Over the last 80 years, this company has grown from a local commercial construction company to the prosperous international business it is today. They have cre-

ated thousands of jobs and have made notable contributions to improve the communities around their operations, as well as their employees' livelihoods.

Hensel Phelps is an excellent example of what enterprising and forward thinking businesses can accomplish in America's great economy. As a former executive there, I have experienced firsthand what a remarkable company it is. The skills I learned and experiences I had while at Hensel Phelps still help me to this day as I work to represent the people of Colorado's fourth district. The care given to their staff is exceptional, and they should be commended for their innovative spirit, employee ownership model, and commitment to supporting our troops. Hensel Phelps' inspiring success confirms that the American Dream is alive and thriving in Colorado and the United States.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Hensel Phelps Construction Company for receiving the 2017 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on September 6, 2017, I was unavoidably detained, and absent for Roll Call votes 445 through 456. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: No on Roll Call vote 445, on passage of amendment 15; No on Roll Call vote 446, on passage of amendment 17; No on Roll Call vote 447, on passage of amendment 25; No on Roll Call vote 448, on passage of amendment 32; No on Roll Call vote 449, on passage of amendment 33; Yes on Roll Call vote 450, on passage of amendment 38; No on Roll Call vote 451, on passage of amendment 39; No on Roll Call vote 452, on passage of amendment 46; No on Roll Call vote 453, on passage of amendment 51; No on Roll Call vote 454, on passage of amendment 54; No on Roll Call vote 455, on passage of amendment 56; and No on Roll Call vote 456, on passage of amendment 58.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, on September 5, 2017, I was not present for the recorded votes on roll call no. 439 and 440. Had I been present, I would have voted:

On Roll Call vote no. 439, the motion to suspend the rules and pass, the Financial Stability Oversight Council Insurance Continuity Act, I would have voted YEA.

On Roll Call vote no. 440, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, to direct the securities and Exchange Commission to allow certain issuers to be exempt from registration requirements, and for other purposes, I would have voted YEA.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT JOHN D. LYNN

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant John D. Lynn of the Salinas Police Department for over 25 years of dedication to the residents of the city of Salinas.

After leaving active duty in the U.S. Army at Fort Ord, John Lynn opted to serve his community by entering an officer training program for law enforcement in 1990. Upon completion, he was assigned as a patrol officer in the city of Salinas, California. In 1993 he became a D.A.R.E. instructor, educating the students in Salinas High School and Washington Middle School about the dangers of drug abuse. Over the ensuing years, as a community service resource office, Officer Lynn coordinated neighborhood watch meetings and organized crime prevention presentations. Sergeant Lynn also conducted the Salinas Police Department's first ever National Night Out event, in which neighbors and police convene for a night of community conversation, casual dining and community festivities.

In 2000, Sergeant Lynn became a traffic motorcycle officer, tasked with leading major traffic collision investigations. Over the years, he was promoted to sergeant, served with various capacities in the Salinas Police Department, including the personnel and training unit, patrol, supervision of the traffic unit, internal affairs, and a role coordinating a DUI enforcement campaign.

In a dramatic episode in November 2015, Sergeant Lynn and two fellow officers successfully prevented an attempted suicide by hanging of a man. He is a hero and was honored as Monterey County Officer of the Year.

For the past six years, Sergeant Lynn has been the S.P.D. representative for the Special Olympics of Northern California. Only a few weeks ago, a golden torch passed through Salinas, escorted by several local officers, an event that raised more than \$13,000 for the program. It is yet another example of Sergeant John Lynn's dedication to this community. On behalf of California's 20th District, I thank him for his many years of service, and I wish him the best of luck in his well-earned retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FALLEN U.S. ARMY MAJOR (MAJ) GREGORY JOHN FESTER

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of U.S. Army Major (MAJ) Gregory John Fester who died while defending our great nation on August 30, 2005, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated near his dismounted patrol in Iskandariyah, Iraq. MAJ Fester was assigned to the U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, while serving with the 155th

Armored Brigade Combat Team from Mississippi.

MAJ Fester, a native of Westerville, Ohio, attended Ohio State University. He enlisted in the Army in 1984, where he served as an administrative specialist in the Ohio National Guard. MAJ Fester received his Army ROTC commission in 1987, when he graduated from Ohio State University. As a second lieutenant, MAJ Fester served on active duty with the 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment. He was promoted to first lieutenant in May 1989, while serving with the 3rd Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment. In 1990, MAJ Fester served with the Battery Charlie, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery (Multiple Launch Rocket System) in Wertheim, Germany. His unit deployed to parts of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Iraq during the initial ground phase of Operation Desert Storm. MAJ Fester's service during Operation Desert Storm earned him a number of awards including the Bronze Star medal.

In August 1991, he attended the Officer Advanced Course at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and was promoted to captain. MAJ Fester's next assignment was at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he took command of the Battery Charlie, 3rd Battalion, 27th Field Artillery. After MAJ Fester completed his service at Fort Bragg, he was assigned to New Cumberland Army Depot outside of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

In 1996, MAJ Fester departed active duty and became a sales representative for Pfizer Inc. He was reclassified as a member of the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR). At the time, MAJ Fester served as a tactical intelligence officer in the New York Air National Guard's Engineer Brigade, 42nd Infantry Division. In December 1999, MAJ Fester joined the U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne), where he was assigned to the 402nd Civil Affairs Battalion, Tonawanda, New York. He completed the Civil Affairs Officer Advanced Course in 2001, and was promoted to major. In April 2002, a presidential executive order called MAJ Fester and other reservists back to service for a tour that was scheduled to last until 2006.

After MAJ Fester's death, his duties in Iraq were described in an online post at arlingtoncemetery.net. It was MAJ Fester's job to talk with mayors of Iraqi communities and Islamic clerics in the dangerous Sunni Triangle. MAJ Fester secured contractors to rebuild high schools and elementary schools. His wife, Julie, was proud of her husband's devotion to every project. "He believed in what he was doing," Mrs. Fester said. "The schools over there were rubble. He felt they were making a difference."

When MAJ Fester's body was returned to the United States for burial, more than 650 people came to the memorial service. It was held at the Ada Bible Church in Ada, Michigan. On the day of the service, flags throughout Michigan were lowered to half staff. Reverend Bob King, Ada Bible Church pastor, said MAJ Fester wanted to serve America. "He was very concerned about his family," Rev. King said. "But as a soldier, he was ready to step up and do his duty. He truly had the desire to make the world a better place."

MAJ Fester was transported to the Arlington National Cemetery where the Army Horseman of the Caisson Platoon carried him to his final resting place. His coffin was draped with an

American flag. At the end of the service, a military band played "America the Beautiful" as flags were presented to his family.

MAJ Fester's awards and decorations include two Bronze Star medals, the Purple Heart medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, two Army Commendation medals, the Army Achievement medal, the Army Reserve Components Achievement medal, the National Defense Service medal, the Southwest Asia Service medal with three bronze service stars, the Iraq Campaign medal, Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Kuwaiti Liberation medal, the Combat Action Badge, the Parachutist Badge and a Valorous Unit Award.

MAJ Fester is survived by his wife, Julie, his two daughters, Jenni and Megan; his son, Peyton; and his parents, William Fester and Virginia Piccoro.

MAJ Fester will always be remembered for his courage and bravery. He sacrificed his life to protect the freedoms we all enjoy.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HARRY MESHEL

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Harry Meshel who died on September 4, 2017. Mr. Meshel was a native of Youngstown, Ohio and "known for his remarkable civic, cultural, and educational contributions to the community."

Well-known for his colorful stories, sharp wit, and keen memory, Meshel had a successful political career in the Ohio Democratic Party. Throughout his career, he had the opportunity to meet iconic political leaders, including President John F. Kennedy and President Lyndon B. Johnson. Meshel's break came in late 1963 when Youngstown Mayor-elect Anthony B. Flak selected him to be his administrative assistant. Meshel served in that capacity for more than five years. When a seat in the Ohio Senate opened, Meshel won a seven-person Democratic primary in 1970 and then the general election. He spent more than 22 years in the Ohio Senate, and the majority of that time was spent in leadership positions, including president for two years. After resigning from the Senate in 1993, Meshel served as state Democratic party chairman. He later went on to serve a nine-year term as a trustee on the board of Youngstown State University."

Harry was one of the original sponsors of legislation to establish the Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED) in Rootstown. Additionally, he was instrumental in the creation of the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine and the Wright State University School of Professional Psychology. He was a relentless advocate of Youngstown State University as a student, a legislator, and as a Trustee. In addition to all the achievements of this able leader, I remember Harry as a Greek American who valiantly fought our nation's battle at Leyte Gulf in the Philippines. He was a dedicated supporter of our veterans and a frequent participant at many veterans' events.

Harry was a respected and beloved member of the community who influenced countless

lives. He was a dear friend and mentor to me when I was just starting out my career in public service. His legacy is represented all over the Mahoning Valley and Youngstown State University. He will be deeply missed by our community and by all of those fortunate enough to know him. I extend my deepest condolences to his family and friends.

CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CRANDALL PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the 125th Anniversary of the Crandall Public Library in Glens Falls, New York.

Since its establishment in November of 1892, the Crandall Public Library has remained true to its mission of serving and educating our community. Acting as the central library for the Southern Adirondack Library System, the Crandall library holds an extensive and diverse collection of books and materials. The library's historical collections preserve the rich history of the region, while its Folklife Center Program showcases the cultural traditions of the upper Hudson Valley and southern Adirondacks. By offering thoughtful and engaging opportunities for people of all ages, the Library has provided our community with an excellent place to come together and learn.

In New York's 21st District, we are grateful for the Crandall Public Library's work on preserving our history, educating our people, and bringing our community together. I would like to thank the library's employees for their dedicated service, and congratulate them as they celebrate this historic occasion.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FALLEN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIER CAPTAIN (CPT) LOWELL T. MILLER, II

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Michigan Army National Guard soldier Captain (CPT) Lowell T. Miller, II who died while defending our great nation on August 31, 2005, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. CPT Miller and his military training team came under attack by enemy forces using small arms fire in Iskandariyah, Iraq. They were conducting military operations with the Iraqi Army. CPT Miller was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry Regiment, Mississippi Army National Guard, McComb, Mississippi.

According to the Associated Press, CPT Miller was a member of Calvary Christian Church in Flint, Michigan. He accepted Jesus Christ as his savior and was baptized at the age of eight. He was active in his church's youth group, youth choir, and the Bible Quiz Bowl. CPT Miller attended Carman-Ainsworth High School where he lettered in track. He also

held the school record in the 4X100 meter for six years. CPT Miller graduated from high school in 1988. In 1993, CPT Miller graduated from Virginia Military Institute where he earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. He was commissioned Second Lieutenant upon graduation and was transferred to the Michigan Army National Guard. In January 2005, CPT Miller volunteered with the 1–155th Infantry Regiment, McComb, Mississippi in order to deploy to Iraq. At the time of his deployment, CPT Miller was employed as an electrical engineer for Yazaki North America, Inc.

CPT Miller's father, Lowell Thomas, wrote about his son's death on a memorial website. "It was a night mission that they said was too dangerous for American soldiers and they called on the group of Iraqi soldiers he had been training for six weeks," Mr Miller wrote. "He didn't want them to go alone, so he went with them. He was a soldier's soldier. He always took care of his men and never gave a thought for his own safety."

CPT Miller was remembered by a fellow soldier on a memorial website. "My brother in arms, you were more than just an officer, more than just a soldier, and more than just a leader," Specialist (SPC) Rickland L. Scholz, II wrote. "You were a true friend. I will never forget the missions we had been on together nor the long conversations and sound advice that you have given me. You will never be forgotten and I will always remember the time in Egypt that we were able to have long discussions. Rest in peace now, my fallen brother."

During the funeral service, at the Swartz Funeral Home in Flint, Michigan, Eric Leszczynski, CPT Miller's supervisor at Yazaki North America, Inc., said he was a man who knew how to get his coworkers motivated. "If you gave him something to do, it would get done," Leszczynski said.

In September 2005, family and friends attended the burial service at the Arlington National Cemetery Columbarium Complex in Arlington, Virginia. During the service, an honor guard held an American flag over the urn containing CPT Miller's ashes. A folded flag was presented to his wife, Angela.

CPT Miller is survived by his wife, Angela; his daughters, Danielle and Alexandra; his siblings, Patrick and Jennie; and his parents, Lowell and Linda Miller.

CPT Miller's commitment to protect America earned him the Bronze Star medal, the Purple Heart medal, the National Defense Service medal, and the Armed Forces Expeditionary medal. His sacrifice will not be forgotten.

HONORING DR. KENNETH K. LEE

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Kenneth K. Lee, a combat-injured Operation Iraqi Freedom and Army veteran, who has been named by Disabled American Veterans (DAV) as its 2017 Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year.

Dr. Lee, who deployed as the commander of the Army's Company B, 118th Area Support Medical Battalion, was injured in November 2004 by a suicide car bomber in Iraq. The ex-

plosion resulted in an open head traumatic brain injury and severe shrapnel wounds to his legs, leading to his evacuation back to the states, where he would later be diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.

While recovering from his injuries, Dr. Lee, a rehabilitation specialist, saw how long and difficult recovery could be, often leaving lasting changes. Dr. Lee, who resides in Brookfield, Wisconsin, is a volunteer physician at the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, which the Department of Veterans Affairs and DAV co-host, so he was no stranger to using adaptive sports as therapy. Through his own recovery, Dr. Lee propelled himself into the world of adaptive sports to help him deal with the psychological and physiological effects that can often times cause an individual to hit bottom.

Within a year of Dr. Lee's retirement in 2013, he formed the Milwaukee Wheelchair Lacrosse team and is now the president of the Wisconsin Adaptive Sports Association, which runs numerous adaptive sports programs.

On July 29, 2017, DAV National Commander David W. Riley presented Dr. Lee with the Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year award at the organization's 96th National Convention.

In his statement, Riley praised Dr. Lee as a shining example of everything that is good about our nation and its veterans. He noted that the compassion Dr. Lee shows for other veterans and his work to help them find success is truly the hallmark of the award, and DAV is very proud of what he's doing for this community. Given the importance and therapeutic effectiveness of adaptive sports, it is vital to have experienced leaders like Dr. Lee involved and carving out a path forward.

Despite his injuries and the constant pain in his lower extremities, Dr. Lee speaks with gratitude about his time in the Army. He will tell you that he got a lot more from the Guard than he put into it, and that he joined the military with his eyes wide open and has no regrets.

Dr. Lee and his wife Kate currently live in Brookfield with their two children. In 2014, his daughter Leah earned a \$10,000 scholarship by volunteering for the DAV at the Milwaukee VA Medical Center. On the same day that Dr. Lee was honored as DAV's Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year, his son Jonathan earned the charity's largest scholarship of \$20,000, and was honored the same morning. They both hope ultimately to serve veterans as physicians through the VA.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE MADE BY MARINE CORPORAL DAVID SONKA

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and sacrifice made by Marine Corporal David Sonka.

Corporal David Sonka was a devoted son, husband, and Marine. He grew up in Parker, Colorado and knew at a young age he wanted to serve his country. Corporal Sonka enlisted in the United States Marine Corps immediately following his high school graduation in 2008.

He completed Military Police school, K9 School, and in 2012 was selected to become a dog handler for the Marine Special Operations Command (MARSOC) at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina where he was paired with his faithful canine companion, Flex.

On March 31, 2013, Corporal Sonka and Flex were deployed with Marine Special Operations Team 8223 to Farah Province, Afghanistan. While on watch during a meeting between Afghan military personnel and Marine Special Operations Forces on May 4, 2013, an Afghan soldier opened fire and fatally injured both Corporal Sonka and Flex. Corporal Sonka has since been recognized for his bravery and sacrifice. He received a Combat Action Ribbon, the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, the Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and the Purple Heart. Additionally, the town of Parker, Colorado named their dog park after Corporal Sonka as did the MARSOC K9 Training Facility in Camp Lejeune.

Our nation owes no greater debt of gratitude than the one we owe our veterans. It is the heroic bravery and incredible sacrifices made by individuals like Corporal Sonka that have helped secure the freedoms that we as Americans hold dear. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my deepest gratitude to Corporal Sonka for his service and sacrifice for our nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Marine Corporal David Sonka for his sacrifice in defending the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN SOLDIER ARMY SPECIALIST (SPC) BRIAN KEITH DERKS

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army Specialist (SPC) Brian Keith Derks who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our great nation on August 13, 2005, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SPC Derks was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated while he was on mounted patrol in Baghdad. SPC Derks was assigned to the 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Irwin, California, which was attached to the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team from Mississippi.

SPC Derks, a White Cloud, Michigan native, graduated from White Cloud High School in 2003. According to the Associated Press, SPC Derks was the captain of the Quiz Bowl Team and was credited for bringing the team to a national competition. Tony McHattie, one of SPC Derks' high school teachers, said he had an astute mind. "Consistently, Brian would buzz in before a question was even half done," McHattie said. "He just had vast knowledge in all sorts of areas."

According to the memorial website FindAGrave.com, SPC Derks played football and baseball in high school. SPC Derks was an active member of the White Cloud Boy Scouts Troop #1137. He became an Eagle Scout and briefly served as an assistant scoutmaster. SPC Derks enjoyed hunting, fishing, computers, and spending time with his family. SPC Derks' sense of humor always kept people laughing.

SPC Derks was determined to join the Army, so in order to meet the weight requirements, he worked to lose 100 pounds. Captain (CPT) Jarrod P. Wickline, an Army recruiter, said SPC Derks accomplished his goal. "He took that as a personal challenge," CPT Wickline said. "He lost the weight in three months. There is no doubt to me that by sheer willpower alone, he would be anything he wanted to be."

The memorial service was held at First Christian Reformed Church in Fremont, Michigan. SPC Derks was laid to rest at White Cloud Cemetery.

SPC Derks was awarded the Purple Heart, the Good Conduct medal, the National Defense Service medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary medal, the Global War on Terrorism medal, the Army Service Ribbon, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

SPC Derks is survived by his parents, Keith and Peggy Derks; sister, Sally Derks; maternal grandparents, Emery and Ester Wilson; paternal grandparents, Vernon and Evelyn Derks; and fiancée, Nikki Crans.

SPC Derks' sacrifice to protect the freedoms we all enjoy will not be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, on September 6, 2017, I was not present for the recorded votes on roll call no 442, 443, and 444. Had I been present, I would have voted:

On Roll Call vote no. 442, H. Res. 500, on ordering the previous question, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3354) making appropriations for the Dept. of the Interior; providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules; and waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, I would have voted NAY.

On Roll Call vote no. 443, on agreeing to the resolution, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3354) making appropriations for the Dept. of the Interior; providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules; and waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, I would have voted NAY.

On Roll Call vote no. 444, on approving the Journal, I would have voted YEA.

IN RECOGNITION OF RAIL SAFETY MONTH AND RAIL SAFETY WEEK

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as Rail Safety Month and September 24–30, 2017 as Rail Safety week, and to commend the efforts being made across our country to improve railroad crossing safety.

An accident involving a train occurs every 3 hours in the United States and California

ranks No. 1 in the nation in both trespassing and grade crossing deaths. Last year in California there were a total of 148 highway grade-crossing incidents, including 98 trespasser fatalities and 32 highway-rail crossing fatalities, all of which could have been avoided if both trespassers and drivers were taking the necessary safety precautions. There are more than 10,000 highway rail-grade crossings located within 52 counties and more than 400 cities in California to service the BNSF Railway, Union Pacific Railroad, other freight trains, and Amtrak passenger trains running through California.

September is historically back to school month for most children and college students. Many must cross railroad tracks to attend school and it is important to reinforce rail safety with both children and their caretakers. California Operation Lifesaver, the Federal Rail Administration, the California Department of Transportation, the California Public Utilities Commission and freight and passenger railroads are working together to improve railroad safety and educate children and adults about the dangers of not obeying the signs and signals around railroad property. The "See Tracks? Think Train" campaign by Operation Lifesaver and its federal partners aims to help reduce pedestrian and driver injuries and fatalities around railroad tracks by highlighting behaviors that put people at risk, and by conducting on-the-ground law enforcement trainings, safety presentations, and public awareness activities. Railroad operators, motor vehicle operators, and pedestrians will benefit from a combined effort by local, state, Federal, industry, and citizen efforts to promote safety around railroad tracks and crossings.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize September as Rail Safety Month and September 24–30, 2017 as Rail Safety week. I ask all my colleagues to join me in commending efforts being made to improve railroad crossing safety.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY MASTER SERGEANT (MSG) COATER BERNARD DEBOSE

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of fallen Mississippi soldier Army Master Sergeant (MSG) Coater Bernard DeBose. MSG DeBose gave his life while in service to our great nation on August 19, 2008, during Operation Enduring Freedom. MSG DeBose died in Spin Boldak, Afghanistan, of wounds he received from small arms fire while conducting security force assistance operations. MSG DeBose was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 351st Infantry Regiment, 158th Infantry Brigade, First Army Division East, Camp Shelby, Mississippi. MSG DeBose was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart medals.

According to the Associated Press, MSG DeBose, a State Line, Mississippi native, joined the Alabama National Guard in May 1983. He transferred to the Army Reserves in 2008. He was deployed in April 2004 to Af-

ghanistan, where he served as a communications specialist. It was his job to train Afghan police in the Kandahar region.

There have been many memorials posted in MSG DeBose's honor on Legacy.com, including one that appeared on September 1, 2012 from Master Sergeant (MSG) Maranda McCorvey. "As I sign this guest book, no words can explain the loss of a true soldier," MSG McCorvey said. "He was a leader, mentor, motivator, and trainer to many lives in and out of the uniform."

Rebecca Lewis of Moss Point wrote, "May God continue to watch over you and your family at this time," Mrs. Lewis said. "Deacon DeBose will certainly be missed by all of us including his Greater First Baptist Church in Escatawpa, Mississippi, under the leadership of Richard Young. Deacon DeBose was a great man and touched many hearts."

Christopher DeBose, MSG DeBose's son, wrote about the pain of losing his father in an August 30, 2012. "I pray that there is a military up in heaven," Christopher said. "I know Master Sergeant DeBose would be in charge of something. No matter what it is, I'm sure God will trust you with any task because he knows you will get it done."

Caronica DeBose-Jackson, MSG DeBose's daughter, paid tribute to her father in a September 6, 2012 post. "I hear your voice telling me to keep moving and live life to the fullest," Caronica said. "I will go on because that's what you would want. I will honor your life and legacy forever."

MSG DeBose is survived by his wife, Juanita, his three sons, Latravis DeBose, Christopher DeBose, and Broderick DeBose; and two daughters, Caronica DeBose-Jackson, and Nekeshia Raybon.

MSG DeBose demonstrated the qualities of an American hero. His 27 years of military service will always be remembered.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUDGE JOHN L. APOSTOLOU

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I along with my colleague, Representative MORGAN GRIFFIN rise to honor the life of Judge John L. Apostolou, a native of Salem, Virginia Born on August, 16, 1930, Judge Apostolou passed away on Monday, August 21, 2017, at the age of 87.

Judge Apostolou was a widely respected member of the local legal community and well-known in the Roanoke Valley as a "law-and-order judge." He was loved by the bar because he was a lawyer's judge, one who would help a young lawyer learn the craft of practicing in the courtroom, and was always fair to everyone who came before him, whether they were represented by a lawyer or not.

Following his graduation from the College of William and Mary and the Marshall-Wythe School of Law, he worked in a private law practice and later worked as an assistant commonwealth's attorney in Roanoke. He also served as acting judge of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court on two occasions during the 1960s. In 1985, he began full-time service as a General District Court judge in

the 23rd Judicial District, which includes Roanoke, Roanoke County, and Salem. He served on the bench for more than a decade before retiring in 1996.

Like many that he met over the years, we will remember Judge Apostolou as a fine man and a very fair judge. We thank him for his service to our country in the United States Army and to the Roanoke community in the courtroom. We offer our condolences to his wife of 43 years, Brenda, as well as their children, Cynthia, Laura, and Jay, and four grandchildren. Our prayers are with the Apostolou family as they mourn this loss. May God give them comfort and peace.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF CIVILIAN CONTRACTOR CARL T. CARROLL

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of fallen civilian contractor Carl T. Carroll who gave his life while in service to our great nation on August 20, 2005, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Mr. Carroll died from injuries he suffered during a roadside attack in Iraq. Mr. Carroll was in Iraq for six months working for the Titan Corporation, where he was the Kalsu Site Manager with the linguist operation. Through his obituary, Mr. Carroll, a U.S. Army Veteran, was remembered by his colleagues at Titan as a man of conviction, character, and integrity.

Mr. Carroll retired in 2000 from Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania as a helicopter pilot instructor, earning the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 4. He worked as a helicopter pilot for Geisinger Medical Center, Danville until he joined the Titan Corporation.

Mr. Carroll was a member of the Williamstown United Methodist Church, life member of the American Legion, and a life member of the National Rifle Association (NRA). He also served as a volunteer with the Williamstown Ambulance Association in Williamstown, Pennsylvania.

The Dimon Funeral Home's online condolences page included a comment from a former coworker. "I was impressed with Carl as a true gentleman the very first time we met," Robert Humphries wrote. "Even for those of us who knew Carl for only a short time, his passing leaves us all at a loss." Mr. Carroll was also remembered in a post written by a fellow veteran. "I knew Carl for a short time as we served together at the Eastern Army National Guard Training site," retired Master Sergeant (MSG) Robert Humphries wrote. "I knew him to be a man of strong moral conviction and dedication to not only duty, but to his fellow man."

Mr. Carroll was buried with full military honors at Williamstown Methodist Cemetery in Williamstown, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Carroll is survived by his wife, Karen L. Hay Carroll; his daughter, Brandy M. Carroll-Duncannon; his two sons, Jason Carroll, and Justin R. Welker; and his brothers, David Carroll and Brian Carroll.

Mr. Carroll's service to our country will always be remembered.

IN HONOR OF TOM WAGNER, SUPERVISOR OF THE WHITE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tom Wagner as he retires after 15 years supervising the White Mountain National Forest and nearly four decades with the United States Forest Service. We are grateful for his dedication to protecting one of New Hampshire's most prized assets: the White Mountains. Through his excellent stewardship of over three-quarters of a million acres that comprise the forest, he has ensured that all will continue to be able to enjoy this national treasure. In so doing, he also improved the lives of thousands in the Granite State who rely on the White Mountains for both their livelihoods and recreation.

I want to applaud Tom for his leadership and advocacy. During his tenure, Tom oversaw the acquisition of 15,000 acres to the White Mountain National Forest and brought numerous stakeholders together to update the long-term strategic plan for the forest. He has been an invaluable resource, and his continuous commitment to New Hampshire's iconic and precious environment is truly inspiring.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, I thank Tom for his many years of dedicated service to the Granite State. His achievements will continue to benefit our state and its incredible natural landscape. I am honored to recognize and congratulate Tom on his retirement and wish him the best of luck in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY SPECIALIST (SPC) JOSHUA ISAAC BUNCH

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of fallen Mississippi soldier Army Specialist (SPC) Joshua Isaac Bunch who gave his life while in service to our great nation on August 6, 2004, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SPC Bunch was killed when Iraqi insurgents firing small arms and rocket-propelled grenades ambushed the Humvee he was riding in near Baghdad. SPC Bunch was assigned to the 91st Engineer Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

SPC Bunch, the son of Bill and Karen Bunch, grew up in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. He graduated from North Forrest High School in 1999. He decided to join the U.S. Army in 2001. He was deployed to Iraq in 2004. Mrs. Bunch said her son wanted to serve in the Army because he wanted to do his part. "I'm very proud," Mrs. Bunch said. "I'm proud he did what was in his heart to do." Mr. Bunch said his son was a genuine person who was known for his kindness. "He had a good personality," Mr. Bunch said. "He would do anything for you."

At the time of SPC Bunch's death, Johnny Dupree was the mayor of Hattiesburg. Accord-

ing to the Associated Press, when he learned of the soldier's death, he ordered flags lowered to half staff at city buildings. Mayor Dupree also called for a day of mourning.

James Moore, a Hattiesburg businessman, asked the community to pay their respects by lining the streets from Moore Funeral Home to Highland Cemetery, the final resting place for SPC Bunch.

SPC Bunch's family was presented with his awards which include the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. Members of the American Legion Post No. 24 presented the family with a Gold Star Banner which signifies the death of a family member who is killed in action.

SPC Bunch is survived by his parents, Bill and Karen Bunch; his sister, Michelle Cardin; his brother-in-law, Bobby; his nieces, Bella and Jacey Bain; and his nephew, Joey Lee.

SPC Bunch paid the ultimate sacrifice to protect the freedoms we all enjoy.

LOCAL POLICE HEROES

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the heroism of six local law enforcement officers, who selflessly risked life and limb to protect their fellow citizens.

On Monday, June 22, 2015, a number of Pittsburgh police officers were dispatched on a call for shots fired shortly after 10 a.m. near the intersection of Knox Avenue and Orchard Place in the City of Pittsburgh's Knoxville neighborhood.

As the units were responding, calls came in reporting that this was an "active shooter" incident and the suspect was firing an AR-15-style semi-automatic rifle. The suspect moved around the neighborhood, shooting a male taxi driver on Rentz Way, firing shots at vehicles and into occupied homes near a children's day care facility, and carjacking a white Buick from Rochelle Street. As the reports continued to come in, all available units responded to the area in search of the suspect, with reports that the suspect had driven towards Brownsville Road.

Sergeant Kevin Faulds of the Allegheny County Sheriffs Office responded to the call for all available units. Turning onto Brownsville Road from Knox Avenue, he spotted the Buick on Brownsville Road and did a u-turn to pursue. As he made the u-turn, the suspect stopped his vehicle and fired his assault rifle from within the car, striking Sergeant Faulds' vehicle multiple times. Sergeant Faulds took cover and radioed in his situation. When the suspect began driving again, Sergeant Faulds again followed him. The suspect again stopped his vehicle and started shooting. One round went through the top of the windshield on the passenger side of the cruiser. The car's visor and windshield frame deflected the bullet down and towards Sergeant Faulds, ripping through the headrest of his seat inches from his head and shattering the back window. Sergeant Faulds maneuvered his patrol car behind a bus for protection. When the suspect stopped shooting and drove away, Sergeant Faulds pulled out and followed the suspect at a distance of 50 to 100 feet, all the while continuing to call in information on the suspect's location and his own.

Officer Joseph DelSole of the Port Authority Police Department heard radio calls regarding an active shooter in a stolen vehicle in the Knoxville Area. Based on Sergeant Faulds' report on his location, Officer DelSole, working the South Zone of the Port Authority service area, proceeded from the South Busway and took up a firing position on Route 51.

At the same time, City of Pittsburgh Police Sergeant James Vogel stopped traffic on Route 51, trapping the suspect in the traffic jam. Then, Sergeant Vogel made his way on foot through the stopped vehicles and confronted the suspect, who was still sitting in the stolen car. The suspect fired at him using the semi-automatic rifle.

City of Pittsburgh Detectives William Friburger and David Honick, along with City of Pittsburgh Sergeant Anthony Palermo approached the suspect's vehicle on foot. Officer DelSole, Sergeant Vogel, Detectives Friburger and Honick, and Sergeant Palermo fired at the vehicle in order to neutralize the suspect, who was firing at them. The officers and suspect continued to exchange shots from close range until the suspect was hit and succumbed to his injuries.

Mr. Speaker, I think we can all appreciate the courage and dedication it takes to consciously place oneself in danger by entering a hostile gunman's field of fire. Not one, not two, but six law enforcement officers in our county did so that day, and continued to risk their lives until the gunman posed no further threat to the community. I can't begin to express my deep respect and admiration for these brave law enforcement officers or my gratitude to them for their exemplary actions that day. I also want to point out that they, like all of our first responders, go to work each day not knowing what challenges they will face or what risks they will run. The fact that they get up and go to work every day despite the risks inherent in the job speaks volumes about the depth of the commitment they have to protecting their community. They are outstanding public servants, and they deserve recognition here in our Nation's Capital.

I'm very proud of Sergeant Faulds, Officer DelSole, Sergeant Vogel, Detective Friburger, Detective Honick, and Sergeant Palermo, and I want my colleagues and the Nation to take comfort in the knowledge that real heroes still live among us. I hope their actions that day will be an inspiration to all of us to always do what's right, no matter what the cost.

HONORING LT. T. JAMES CROTTY,
USCG

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and heroism of Lt. Thomas J. Crotty of the United States Coast Guard. A decorated veteran of the Second World War, Lt. Crotty will finally be laid to rest in the hallowed grounds of Arlington National Cemetery, 75 years after going missing in action in the Pacific Theater.

Lt. Crotty was born in Buffalo, New York in the year 1912, and grew up on the city's South Side. The youngest of seven siblings, Crotty stood out as a natural athlete and lead-

er. In 1929, he coached his American Legion baseball team to a national championship.

After graduating high school, Crotty applied to the United States Coast Guard Academy. A standout cadet, Crotty excelled at basketball, football, and served as class president during his tenure. In 1944, the United States Coast Guard Academy honored Lt. Crotty's legacy by dedicating their football season to his memory.

Upon graduation in 1934, Lt. Crotty went into active duty with the United States Coast Guard, quickly demonstrating his leadership capabilities and skills. He became the Coast Guard's leading expert on demolition, explosives, and mines. In 1941, his unique skillset earned him orders to report to the Philippines to assist with defensive efforts, a decision that would put Lt. Crotty on a crash course with history.

On December 10th, Japanese forces overran the Philippines just days after their surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. Under brutal assault from air and land, Lt. Crotty helped assemble a resistance with his fellow servicemen. Together, they launched daring raids in broad daylight against Japanese forces in order to secure supplies, ammunition, and fuel. His rag-tag band of heroes was instrumental in the defense of Manila, Corregidor, and American supply lines.

At the Battle of Bataan, Lt. Crotty served with distinction. Manning the artillery against oncoming forces, he fought until American forces were eventually surrounded on April 9th, 1942. From there, Lt. Crotty was made a prisoner of war in the infamous Cambatuan prison camp. It was there, after so many months of sacrifice, that he tragically fell ill to disease. On July 19, 1942, his brothers-in-arms administered last rites. He was then buried outside the camp; it was there in an unmarked grave that his remains laid for three-quarters of a century.

In coordination with the United States Coast Guard, we were able to locate Lt. Crotty and bring him back home to the United States. Lt. Crotty exemplified the qualities and virtues of heroism and service. His service need not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to honor Lt. Thomas J. Crotty and help bring his family some amount of closure. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring and remembering the countless American men and women who answered the call to duty. We must do whatever we can to support families who have loved ones missing in action by assisting in efforts to bring our heroes home.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY SERGEANT FIRST CLASS (SFC) GEORGE STANCIEL

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army Sergeant First Class (SFC) George Staniel who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our great nation on August 19, 2008, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SFC Staniel died of wounds he suffered during a mortar attack at Forward

Operating Base Garry Owen, Iraq. SFC Staniel was assigned to the 370th Engineer Company, 54th Engineer Battalion, 18th Engineer Brigade, Bamberg, Germany.

SFC Staniel graduated from Greenwood High School in 1989. Following graduation, SFC Staniel joined the U.S. Army. He served 19 years. He was awarded the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, and the Mississippi Medal of Honor.

Family members shared memories of SFC Staniel on a memorial website called FindAGrave.com. They said he was an ideal protector, provider, and an inspiration to the entire household.

In 2009, the Mississippi State Senate passed S.R. 529, a concurrent resolution, which commends SFC Staniel for his service. It stated that SFC Staniel was a loving son and husband who is counted among America's heroes committed to our nation's safety and security.

According to the Associated Press, SFC Staniel's memorial service was held at Locust Grove Baptist Church in Greenwood, Mississippi. During the service, Brigadier General (BG) James O. Barclay, III presented an American flag to SFC Staniel's widow, Shequita Staniel. SFC Staniel was buried with full military honors at the Hudson Park Cemetery.

SFC Staniel is survived by his wife, Shequita, his maternal grandmother, Annie B Smith, and five children, Giovanni Staniel, Kortney Staniel, Kiana Staniel, Mehn Staniel, and Jamera Staniel.

SFC Staniel's service and sacrifice will always be remembered.

DR. ANDREW TUTTLE

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mourn the loss and celebrate the life of my dear friend and colleague, Dr. Andrew C. Tuttle. I met Andy upon my arrival at UNLV where he served as member and chair of the Political Science Department from 1968 until his retirement in 2008. Dr. Tuttle was a beloved teacher, a respected scholar, and a valued colleague. He was a specialist in national security policy and was often sought out by policy makers and the press alike for his analysis of world events. He had a great Irish sense of humor and was a loyal and loving family man, who put his wife Helen and sons Mark and Matt above all else. I will miss his wise counsel and that twinkle in his eye.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY SPECIALIST (SPC) PATRICIA LEE HORNE

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army Specialist (SPC) Patricia Lee Horne who died while defending our great nation on August 24, 2012,

during Operation Enduring Freedom. SPC Horne died in Bagram, Afghanistan. SPC Horne was assigned to the 96th Aviation Support Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

According to the Associated Press, SPC Horne always made good grades in school. She ranked third in the Greenville High School graduating class of 2010. Percy Powell, one of SPC Horne's teachers, said she was an impeccable student throughout high school. "Everything she wanted to do, she wanted to do it perfect."

SPC Horne enlisted in the U.S. Army in 2009. She was stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky prior to her deploying. SPC Horne served as a human resource specialist. It was her job to make sure soldiers' records were accurately maintained and updated. SPC Horne planned to attend college after completing her second tour of duty with hopes of becoming a physician.

Betty Horne, SPC Horne's mother, said her daughter was intelligent and driven. "She was a very smart, knowledgeable lady," Mrs. Horne said. "I am so proud of her." Sydney Horne, one of her brothers, said SPC Horne was the big sister every brother should have. "She was an outgoing person," Sydney Horne said. "She loved children. She loved me a lot." Carolyn McAdams, mayor of Greenwood, expressed remorse over the loss of the 20-year-old soldier. "You know the war is going on, but until something like this happens, it hits home dramatically," Mayor McAdams said.

When SPC Horne's body arrived at the Greenwood-Leflore Airport, more than 200 people came to pay their respects. SPC Horne's flag-draped casket was met by an Army Honor Guard. Terry Fields, a U.S. Army veteran from Greenwood, came to support a fallen comrade. "It's an honor to honor somebody that gave the ultimate sacrifice so that we can enjoy the freedoms that we have today," Mr. Fields said. Members of the Patriot Guard led the procession from the airport to the Century Funeral Home.

The funeral service for SPC Horne was held at the Providence Missionary Baptist Church in Greenwood. Reverend Robert Williams Jr, pastor of the Community Baptist Church, said SPC Horne had a higher calling than serving our country. "Patricia has fulfilled her purpose. Now, she's gone home," Rev. Williams said. "Her purpose was to be a good soldier in the Lord's army." Brigadier General (BG) William B. Hickman, the division's deputy commander, praised SPC Horne's commitment to the Army. He said SPC Horne was an exemplary soldier who embraced the Army's values of duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and courage. SPC Horne received the Army Commendation medal, the Army Good Conduct medal, and the NATO International Security Assistance Force medal.

SPC Horne was buried with full military honors at Hudson Park Cemetery in Greenwood. SPC Horne is survived by her mother, Betty L. Horne, her three sisters, Aleisha Horne, Chaileta B. Horne, and Angelique Willis; and her two brothers, Ronald A. Horne and Sydney J. Horne.

SPC Horne's commitment to protect our nation will not be forgotten.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE INVESTITURE OF JUDGE MARIAM SAAD BAZZI

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mariam Saad Bazzi on her investiture as Judge of the Third Circuit Court of Wayne County. Judge Bazzi has served Wayne County and southeast Michigan with distinction and honor throughout her involvement in community organizations and previous judiciary service.

After graduating from Wayne State University Law School in 2005, Judge Bazzi began her legal career as a law clerk at the Law Offices of Hamood, Runco & Fergestrom. A year later, she was hired at the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, where she most recently served as the lead attorney on the Deed and Mortgage Fraud Task Force. During her 11 year tenure at the Prosecutor's Office, Judge Bazzi also oversaw a unit that prosecutes financial crime, with a focus on complex mortgage and property related fraud, and earned respect for her commitment to the law and to the southeastern Michigan community. Her work as an assistant prosecuting attorney brought her years of experience in complex and diverse parts of the law as well as a respect and deep understanding of the role of the judiciary.

Judge Bazzi has also distinguished herself through her outstanding record of community service. She served as president of the Dearborn Board of Education and chair of Henry Ford College's Board of Trustees until Governor Snyder appointed her as Wayne County Circuit judge, where her leadership was integral to the district's high graduation rates and top national ranking. Additionally, Judge Bazzi is a member of the Michigan Middle Eastern Affairs Commission, the Governor's Environmental Justice Task Force, and the Arab American Political Action Committee. Judge Bazzi has been an impactful leader and involved citizen, and it is my hope that she continues to build on her success and involvement in the coming years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Judge Mariam Bazzi for her appointment to Wayne County's Third Circuit Court. Her commitment to the rule of law and exemplary service to Wayne County will surely continue in her new role.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIER FIRST LIEUTENANT (1LT) MATTHEW RYAN STOVALL

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Mississippi Army National Guard soldier First Lieutenant (1LT) Matthew Ryan Stovall who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our great nation on August 22, 2004, during Operation Iraqi Free-

dom. According to the Associated Press, 1LT Stovall was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated near the vehicle he was riding in. At the time of his death, 1LT Stovall was taking part in a humanitarian aid and convoy mission in Mosul, Iraq. 1LT Stovall was assigned to the 367th Maintenance Company, 298th Corps Support Battalion, Mississippi Army National Guard, Philadelphia, Mississippi.

1LT Stovall joined the Mississippi Army National Guard prior to his 1997 graduation from Neshoba Central High School. He completed Officer Candidate School in 2001 and later completed the Officer Basic Course in Fort Eustis, Virginia in 2002. That same year, 1LT Stovall married his wife, Natalie. Together they had one son, Walker Stovall.

In September 2003, 1LT Stovall deployed to Mosul, Iraq. While in Mosul, he was chosen to lead the 1st Platoon of the 401st Transportation Company, known as the "A Team." During his deployment, 1LT Stovall stayed in contact with his cousin, Robin McClellan, a teacher at Philadelphia Elementary School. He regularly communicated through e-mails with the students in her fifth grade class. The students would get excited every time his e-mails were read aloud to them.

Two months before 1LT Stovall was to return home from Iraq, he was fatally wounded. According to the Associated Press, approximately 500 people attended the memorial service held at McClain-Hayes Funeral Home. Mississippi National Guard Major General (MG) Harold Cross presented 1LT Stovall's family with awards including the Purple Heart and the Mississippi Magnolia Cross for Meritorious Service. "He made people want to follow him," MG Cross said "He is the kind of person that doesn't come along for generations." Hundreds of Neshoba County residents lined the nine mile route from the funeral home to the Coldwater Baptist Church cemetery where he was laid to rest. He was buried with full military honors.

In August 2004, 1LT Stovall's aunt, JoAnn Carney, wrote about her nephew in a post on Iraqwarheroes.com. "I loved him so very much," Mrs. Carney said. "My nephew was a remarkable man that touched everyone he met. We are going to miss him so very much."

Following the death of 1LT Stovall, Stovall's Sacrifice for Soldiers was founded. The Stovall Foundation offers financial assistance to military men and women defending our nation and to carry on the memory of 1LT Stovall.

1LT Stovall is survived by his son, Walker; his parents, Buck and Ellon Stovall; his sister, Marsha Stovall Vance; and his brother, Mark Stovall.

This young, courageous soldier paid the ultimate sacrifice to protect the freedoms we all enjoy. 1LT Stovall will not be forgotten.

SUPPORT FOR THE URBAN AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION ACT

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Urban Agriculture Production Act of 2017.

Across America, too many of our urban neighborhoods are absent of stores where

community members can purchase fresh, healthy foods. There are more than 23 million individuals residing in these so called “food desert” neighborhoods, where there are no stores within one mile in which they can buy healthy food.

Without healthy options, people are forced to eat unhealthy, processed, junk food, because that is all that is available and affordable. This bill is a step to correct this unacceptable trend.

I am pleased to recognize and support the growing resurgence of locally grown and produced product. I see it in my own district at places like the Toledo Farmers Market, the Robert J. Anderson Urban Agriculture Center and Farm, and the Old Brooklyn Cheese Company in Cleveland, Ohio.

Individuals, non-profits, and co-ops are stepping up and taking action to address the challenge of access to healthy food, by developing local food sources like community gardens to provide fresh, affordable produce throughout underserved communities. Not only are they growing product to provide to communities though, they are engaging and encouraging community participation all throughout the process. They are teaching community members how to farm.

The Urban Agriculture Production Act encourages economic development in undernourished, underserved communities by furthering the mission of local farming. It shore ups the Department of Agriculture and their programs to support urban farmers and inspire communities to create self-sufficient food production systems that stimulate development and healthy eating options.

All throughout our urban communities, there is an abundance of unused land and space that are conveniently located in neighborhoods that are ripe for agriculture development. We must support and encourage the means to develop these plots so they become local sources of wholesome food options.

Community gardens, Greenhouses, Farmers' Markets, and other local agriculture initiatives have tremendous power to help diversify American food production. They can also help the nation rely less on foreign imports and create American jobs that cannot be outsourced.

Moreover, communities that lack access to fresh, nutritious affordable foods are facing growing epidemics of obesity related diseases. We must get serious about addressing nationally recognized increases in preventable disease in all our communities, but especially in those communities that have limited food options. Prevention is paramount, and encouraging a balanced diet while also providing access to healthier foods, through agriculture, is an obvious solution.

The Urban Agriculture Production Act of 2017, therefore, sets out to spur the development and expansion of community agriculture in typically non-traditional agricultural production areas, like our cities and towns who face food insecurity, access, and nutrition challenges.

Mr. Speaker, urban farming, and food production should be part of our solution to support healthier dietary options and improve the overall health of urban communities. The Urban Agriculture Production Act is the appropriate means to further develop alternative, urban agricultural production and to help meet communities' food production needs for the future.

TRIBUTE TO PATH HILL, SHERO FOREVER

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, activism is often described as a theory or practice based on militant action, a state of being active, engaged, participating, dedicated consistent, promoting change, never-ending, always going. All of these words describe teacher, policewoman, law enforcement expert, college professor, friend, humanitarian and much more. I could keep on writing for hours and would not adequately describe what Pat Hill has meant to me and countless others. She was an inspiration, a role model, a serious fighter for freedom, equality, and justice. Pat, has fought the good fight, has earned the victory and may her soul rest in peace.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3354) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise to express my strong and unwavering support of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA) and unyielding opposition to the President's decision, announced by the Attorney General, to rescind a policy that liberated 800,000 young persons—124,000 of them in Texas—from the shadows of life, welcomed them into the mainstream, and encouraged them to realize their potential and achieve the American Dream.

At the heart of the Trump Administration's cruel, and heartless, and misguided decision to rescind DACA is the specious claim that President Obama lacked the constitutional and statutory authority to take executive actions to implement the DACA policy.

That is why I offered an amendment to Division C of Rules Committee Print 115–31 that would prohibit the Administration from using appropriated funds to implement its decision to rescind DACA.

Specifically, that Jackson Lee Amendment provided the following section at the end of Division E of the bill:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to finalize, implement, administer, or enforce the Memorandum of September 5, 2017, from the Acting Secretary of Homeland Security pertaining to “Rescission of the June 15, 2012 Memorandum Entitled “Exercising Prosecutorial Discretion with Respect to Individuals Who Came to the United States as Children.”

Regrettably, this Jackson Lee Amendment was not made in order by the Rules Committee.

There was no need for the President to make any decision about DACA right now; there was pending no real deadline, no actual court case, no legal requirement.

Florida is bracing for the impact of Hurricane Irma and Houston is still struggling to recover and rebuild in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, one of the most catastrophic weather events in the nation's history.

And in my congressional district, we are mourning the loss of the heroic DREAMER, Alonso Guillen, who came to the U.S. from Mexico as a child, and died here his boat capsized while he was rescuing survivors of the flooding caused by Hurricane Harvey in the Houston area.

The President and Attorney General should have focused on the crisis at hand and not created another one because of a made up deadline.

There is no heart in ending DACA and leaving the fate of 800,000 young persons in limbo and at the mercy of a Republican Congress that has passed no major legislation and has no guarantee that the President would even sign a bill if they do.

Republicans in Congress need to bring H.R. 3440, the Dream Act of 2017, to the floor right now and vote for it so it can pass both houses of Congress with a veto-proof majority.

Mr. Chair, now let me briefly discuss why the executive actions taken by President Obama are reasonable, responsible, and within his constitutional authority.

Pursuant to Article II, Section 3 of the Constitution, the President, the nation's Chief Executive, “shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed.”

In addition to establishing the President's obligation to execute the law, the Supreme Court has consistently interpreted the “Take Care” Clause as ensuring presidential control over those who execute and enforce the law and the authority to decide how best to enforce the laws. See, e.g., *Arizona v. United States*; *Bowsher v. Synar*; *Buckley v. Valeo*; *Printz v. United States*; *Free Enterprise Fund v. PCAOB*.

Every law enforcement agency, including the agencies that enforce immigration laws, has “prosecutorial discretion”—the inherent power to decide whom to investigate, arrest, detain, charge, and prosecute.

Thus, enforcement agencies, including the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), properly may exercise their discretion to devise and implement policies specific to the laws they are charged with enforcing, the population they serve, and the problems they face so that they can prioritize our nation's resources to meet mission critical enforcement goals.

Mr. Chair, deferred action has been utilized in our nation for decades by Administrations headed by presidents of both parties without controversy or challenge.

In fact, as far back as 1976, INS and DHS leaders have issued at least 11 different memoranda providing guidance on the use of similar forms of prosecutorial discretion.

Executive authority to take action is thus “fairly wide,” and the federal government's discretion is extremely “broad” as the Supreme Court held in the recent case of *Arizona v. United States*, 132 S. Ct. 2492, 2499

(2012), an opinion written Justice Kennedy and joined by Chief Justice Roberts:

"Congress has specified which aliens may be removed from the United States and the procedures for doing so. Aliens may be removed if they were inadmissible at the time of entry, have been convicted of certain crimes, or meet other criteria set by federal law. Removal is a civil, not criminal, matter. A principal feature of the removal system is the broad discretion exercised by immigration officials. Federal officials, as an initial matter, must decide whether it makes sense to pursue removal at all. If removal proceedings commence, aliens may seek asylum and other discretionary relief allowing them to remain in the country or at least to leave without formal removal." (emphasis added) (citations omitted).

The Court's decision in *Arizona v. United States*, also strongly suggests that the executive branch's discretion in matters of deportation may be exercised on an individual basis, or it may be used to protect entire classes of individuals such as "[u]nauthorized workers trying to support their families" or immigrants who originate from countries torn apart by internal conflicts:

"Discretion in the enforcement of immigration law embraces immediate human concerns. Unauthorized workers trying to support their families, for example, likely pose less danger than alien smugglers or aliens who commit a serious crime. The equities of an individual case may turn on many factors, including whether the alien has children born in the United States, long ties to the community, or a record of distinguished military service.

Some discretionary decisions involve policy choices that bear on this Nation's international relations. Returning an alien to his own country may be deemed inappropriate even where he has committed a removable offense or fails to meet the criteria for admission. The foreign state may be mired in civil war, complicit in political persecution, or enduring conditions that create a real risk that the alien or his family will be harmed upon return.

The dynamic nature of relations with other countries requires the Executive Branch to ensure that enforcement policies are consistent with this Nation's foreign policy with respect to these and other realities."

Exercising thoughtful discretion in the enforcement of the nation's immigration law saves scarce taxpayer funds, optimizes limited resources, and produces results that are more

humane and consistent with America's reputation as the most compassionate nation on earth.

Mr. Chair, a DREAMER (an undocumented student) seeking to earn her college degree and aspiring to attend medical school to better herself and her new community is not a threat to the nation's security.

Law abiding but unauthorized immigrants doing honest work to support their families pose far less danger to society than human traffickers, drug smugglers, or those who have committed a serious crime.

President Obama was correct in concluding that exercising his discretion regarding the implementation of DACA enhances the safety of all members of the public, serves national security interests, and furthers the public interest in keeping families together.

Mr. Chair, according to numerous studies conducted by the Congressional Budget Office, Social Security Administration, and Council of Economic Advisors, the DACA generates substantial economic benefits to our nation.

For example, unfreezing DAPA and expanded DACA is estimated to increase GDP by \$230 billion and create an average of 28,814 jobs per year over the next 10 years.

That is a lot of jobs!

Mr. Chair, in exercising his broad discretion in the area of removal proceedings, President Obama acted responsibly and reasonably in determining the circumstances in which it makes sense to pursue removal and when it does not.

In exercising this broad discretion, President Obama did nothing was novel or unprecedented.

Let me cite a just a few examples of executive action taken by American presidents, both Republican and Democratic, on issues affecting immigrants over the past 35 years:

1. In 1987, President Ronald Reagan used executive action in 1987 to allow 200,000 Nicaraguans facing deportation to apply for relief from expulsion and work authorization.

2. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter exercised parole authority to allow Cubans to enter the U.S., and about 123,000 "Mariel Cubans" were paroled into the U.S. by 1981.

3. In 1990, President George H.W. Bush issued an executive order that granted Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) to certain nationals of the People's Republic of China who were in the United States.

4. In 1992, the Bush administration granted DED to certain nationals of El Salvador.

5. In 1997, President Bill Clinton issued an executive order granting DED to certain Haitians who had arrived in the United States before Dec. 31, 1995.

6. In 2010, the Obama Administration began a policy of granting parole to the spouses, parents, and children of military members.

Mr. Chair, because of President Obama's leadership and visionary executive action, 124,000 undocumented immigrants in my home state of Texas have received deferred action.

91 percent of these immigrants are employed or in school and contribute \$6.3 billion annually to the Texas economy and \$460.3 billion to the national economy.

Mr. Chair, let me note that DACA was and is a welcome development but not a substitute for undertaking the comprehensive reform and modernization of the nation's immigration laws supported by the American people.

Only Congress can do that.

America's borders are dynamic, with constantly evolving security challenges.

Border security must be undertaken in a manner that allows actors to use pragmatism and common sense.

Comprehensive immigration reform is desperately needed to ensure that Lady Liberty's lamp remains the symbol of a land that welcomes immigrants to a community of immigrants and does so in a manner that secures our borders and protects our homeland.

Instead of wasting time scapegoating DREAMERS, we should instead seize the opportunity to pass legislation that secures our borders, preserves America's character as the most open and welcoming country in the history of the world, and will yield hundreds of billions of dollars in economic growth.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS A. GARRETT, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend Floor votes due to the expected birth of my child.

Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Rollcall No. 441.