

serve four counties in the Central Valley and serves over 1,000 children each year through various mentorship programs.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central California's 50th anniversary. I commend the service of all past and present members of this organization, who have worked collectively to motivate, promote, support, and educate children and young adults in Central California.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 367, THE PAY
OUR COAST GUARD PARITY ACT
OF 2019

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

Mr. YOUNG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the unfortunate position the brave members of our Coast Guard were put in due to the recent shutdown. Even while they operated without pay, these courageous men and women continued to serve our country and I would like to highlight some of their stories.

On January 12th, a Coast Guard aircrew responded to two surfers in distress off the Oregon Coast who had been pushed by the surf into a cliffside cove. Once on scene, the crew was able to hoist the surfers out of the water and get them to safety. On Christmas Eve of last year, the Coast Guard interdicted a migrant boat off the coast of the Dominican Republic. Onboard, the crews found 100 kilograms of cocaine heading for the United States. On January 6th, the Coast Guard Cutter *Vigilant* assisted the Haitian government in stopping a small boat dangerously overloaded with 70 Haitian migrants. The Coast Guard worked jointly with Haiti to stop the illegal immigration and maintain the safety of life at sea, something they regularly work with international partners to accomplish.

These are just a few examples of the great work our Coast Guard does every day to protect the people in and around our waterways as well as in our country. Yet unlike the other branches in our armed forces who selflessly serve this country, our Coast Guard men and women were not getting compensated for their work during the shutdown. In 2013, Congress passed the Pay Our Military Act before a shutdown began to make sure members in the armed forces were able to collect their paychecks. I emphasize that this was done before the 2013 shutdown because we just went a little over a month in one and even with introduced legislation to make sure our Coast Guard got paid, we didn't act on it.

There were 41,000 Active Duty Coast Guard members, 6,200 reservists, and 8,500 civilian personnel affected by the shutdown. It is estimated that 31 percent of Active Duty members do not have the savings needed to cover one month's worth of expenses. Moreover, some 13 percent do not have any emergency savings at all. This is not to mention the other benefits the Service members were missing out on like child care programs, death benefits, housing allowances, and required travel costs. Meanwhile, the negative impact on recruiting and retention of members due to the instability will likely have lasting effects long after the shutdown.

My state is home to U.S. Coast Guard Base Kodiak, the largest Coast Guard base in the nation. From there, they coordinate a multitude of operations in the waters around Alaska, including north in the Arctic. They patrol our waters to ensure the proper adherence of fishing laws and regulations, coordinate search and rescue efforts, help establish and maintain aids to navigation, and conduct other missions to help save lives and strengthen national security. As the United States' only surface presence in the Arctic, their mission to ensure safe maritime activity and safeguard national security has gained importance due to the growing presence of Russia and China in the region. This mission is sure to only become even more significant as these foreign powers continue to expand their influence.

Madam Speaker, I could go on about the many great things our Coast Guard does for both the state of Alaska and the United States as a whole, but I believe it is well understood in this chamber and across the country. With the threat of another shutdown in the near future, I fear that the members of our Coast Guard will be put in the same position again. That is why I urge we move to immediately bring up and pass H.R. 367, the Pay Our Coast Guard Parity Act of 2019, to make sure they are compensated moving forward. Meanwhile, I call on all members in Congress to come to the table and work with the Administration so that we can make a long-term agreement that is beneficial for all federal employees and prevent another shutdown.

THE FLOOD INSURANCE FOR
FARMERS ACT OF 2019

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the "Flood Insurance for Farmers Act of 2019," with my colleague Congressman DOUG LAMALFA (R-CA). This bipartisan bill builds upon the "Flood and Agriculture Risk Management (FARM) Cost Reduction Act of 2017" and legislation I sponsored in the 114th Congress.

The "Flood Insurance for Farmers Act of 2019" would provide access to discounted rates under the National Flood Insurance Program to families who have farmed the Sacramento Valley floodplain for generations. This will help keep agricultural land in production, which is the best way to push back against irresponsible subdivisions in the floodplain that place lives at risk and force farms onto the auction block.

Under current law, areas designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as "Special Flood Hazard Areas" require that all new, expanded, or repaired structures be raised above potential flood level. In much of the Sacramento Valley, this would require raising barns and silos upwards of 10 feet, which is cost prohibitive for many farmers or simply inconsistent with continued agricultural land use.

Currently, FEMA assumes there is zero protection if a levee does not meet the federally mandated 100-year level of flood protection and charges full-cost rates under the National Flood Insurance Program. This effectively pre-

cludes Sacramento Valley farmers from making capital improvements on their operations or securing the necessary financing for such capital improvements. Our bipartisan bill would lift this de facto federal prohibition on new construction and repairs of agricultural structures in high flood-risk areas designated by FEMA.

Specifically, the "Flood Insurance for Farmers Act" would direct FEMA to develop a new flood mapping zone for basins in the Sacramento Valley and elsewhere nationwide protected by levees that do not currently meet the federally mandated 100-year level of flood protection. Rates charged under the National Flood Insurance Program in this new flood zone would be based on actuarial risk. This means that if levees provide a 50-year level of flood protection, FEMA would charge rates based on that discounted risk level. This ensures that farming families can get more affordable flood insurance that reflects the levees they pay to upkeep.

The "Flood Insurance for Farmers Act" is endorsed by the California Rice Commission, USA Rice Federation, American Farm Bureau Federation, California Farm Bureau Federation, Sacramento County Farm Bureau, Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau, Yolo County Farm Bureau, California Cattlemen's Association, Dairy Institute of California, and the Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency.

I thank Congressman LAMALFA for his support as the bill's original cosponsor and look forward to continuing to work together on this critical issue for Sacramento Valley farmers. I also want to thank all the California-based and national organizations that have endorsed the bill, to date.

Madam Speaker, I hope that Congress will include the "Flood Insurance for Farmers Act" in any reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program. I urge all Members to join me and Congressman LAMALFA in cosponsoring this important legislation for American farmers.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JOHN R.
MASLY AND HIS 50 YEARS OF
SERVICE IN THE ARMY RE-
SERVES

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. John Masly and his long, distinguished career spanning just over 50 years as both a civilian and as an officer in the Army Reserves. In addition to this statement of his service, he will be sent a United States flag that has been flown over our great Capitol.

On January 2 of this year, Mr. Masly formally retired from the U.S. Army Armament Research, Development, and Engineering Center at Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey. He had begun his career in 1968 in the Nuclear and Fuze Division. Over the years, he was awarded several patents and published several technical reports in support of the division mission. Mr. Masly also served as Lieutenant Colonel for the Corps of Engineers in the Army Reserve. In 1984, he took a position at the Depot Systems Command Facility in Mainz, Germany. In 1993, he returned to the