

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT STEVE MARTIN

**HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent Steve Martin, who has unselfishly given over 35 years of exceptional service to the nation as a steward of our national parks.

During his years as a park ranger and superintendent, Mr. Martin has championed the mission of the National Park Service in protecting the nation's many natural and cultural resources, has resolutely defended parks from degradation and harm, and has generously nurtured new generations of park employees and managers to serve as park stewards.

His career encompassed exemplary service in leadership positions at Grand Teton, Denali and Gates of Arctic National Parks, and in staff positions at Yellowstone and Voyageurs National Parks, where he persistently fostered Americans' deep love for their parks.

In his time as superintendent of Grand Canyon National Park, Mr. Martin served as a tireless advocate for the park, its staff, and its many visitors. Through his efforts to initiate and complete extensive upgrades to the crumbling infrastructure at the Grand Canyon, he helped improve the quality of life for the Havasupai tribe and for park employees, as well as enriching the experiences of the 4.5 million people who visit the Grand Canyon each year.

Mr. Martin fought to protect the South Rim of the Canyon and the Grand Canyon watershed from the toxic threat of uranium mining, which would have polluted the lifeline of the west, the Colorado River, and put at great risk the wildlife and people that call this area home.

He has provided crucial leadership in establishing science as the decisive tool in policy decisions, particularly in his tenacity in demanding Colorado River flow rates that benefit the riparian ecosystem found at the heart of the Grand Canyon.

Serving as the Intermountain Regional Director and the Deputy Director for the National Park Service, Mr. Martin was instrumental in preserving critical management policies which will continue to guide the National Park Service as it prepares to celebrate its centennial.

Madam Speaker, it is fitting that we honor the 35 years of service that Steve Martin has given to the National Park Service, and that we recognize his passion and advocacy to protect and preserve our National Parks.

HONORING TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE JERRY MADDEN—2010 PUBLIC OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize before the United States House of Representatives Governing magazine's 2010 Public Official of the Year, and my good friend from the great state of Texas, Jerry Madden.

State Representative Madden has faithfully served the people of the 67th district since his election to the Texas Legislature back in 1992. In his nine consecutive terms, he has held honored roles on twelve committees, including four years as the Chairman of the House Committee on Corrections where he is sitting Vice Chair.

While Madden is the recipient of countless awards, including being named to Texas Monthly's 10 Best Legislators list and the University of Texas at Dallas' Distinguished Alumni group, this top-notch legislator's latest accolade comes as national recognition for turning the State of Texas into a shining model of corrections reform.

A West Point trained engineer by trade, Madden tackled corrections reform with facts and statistics. He found that targeting a relatively small amount of state funds toward treatment, mental health, and rehabilitation programs, rather than spending billions on new prisons, would yield a decrease in the prison population. With that in mind, Madden and his colleagues on the Committee on Corrections formulated public policy that worked. They turned a projected 15,000 inmate rise in the Texas prison population into a population decrease, saving taxpayers money and, more importantly, rescuing lives along the way.

I have known Representative Madden for over a quarter of a century. I have seen him rise from a local leader to the national spokesperson for Texas on Criminal Justice. I can vouch for the testimony he has given Congress and know the respect that national organizations have for his work. In fact, just this month Jerry served as a guest speaker at my Congressional Youth Advisory Council meeting where he shared his extensive knowledge of state government with local high school students.

For his service to America in the United States Army, his service to Texas in the State Legislature, and his priceless contribution to our society through innovative corrections reform, it is with pride and gratitude that I commend State Representative Jerry Madden for a job exceptionally well done.

To my good friend—congratulations, God bless you, and I salute you!

A TRIBUTE TO TESSIE CECIL

**HON. BRETT GUTHRIE**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Tessie Cecil, who has dedicated her career to the citizens of New Haven and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Cecil served for 20 years as the Mayor of New Haven, Ky., in Nelson County, where she consistently gave her all to the community.

A native of the Philippines, Cecil met and married her husband, Don, while he was stationed with the U.S. Navy in her native country over 30 years ago. She and Don moved to New Haven to raise a family and in 1979, shortly after the move, she was hired as the New Haven city clerk.

Cecil is known for her work to improve the water and sewer systems, sidewalks and parks. She is also proud of her involvement with the veterans' monument in front of City Hall and the Kentucky Railway Museum.

Cecil is a person of integrity and has demonstrated a strong passion for making her community a better place. I join with the citizens of New Haven in thanking her for her years of relentless service.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Tessie Cecil for her commitment to the citizens of New Haven, Nelson County and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I was not present for votes on Tuesday, December 14, 2010 and morning votes on Wednesday, December 15. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 628, "yes" on rollcall vote 629, "yes" on rollcall vote 630, "yes" on rollcall vote 631, "yes" on rollcall vote 632, "yes" on rollcall vote 633, "yes" on rollcall vote 634.

IN MEMORY OF DR. JAMES  
EDWARD BYRD

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and remember my friend, Dr. James Edward Byrd. He was kind and generous and a man of great character that deeply loved God and country. Dr. Byrd passed away on November 23, 2010 after suffering complications from heart surgery.

• 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.

Born and raised in Arkansas, Dr. Byrd was a proud graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, where he was a ROTC student during his tenure and the recipient of the Distinguished Military Student Award. Upon graduation, he received his commission in the Army as a Second Lieutenant and proceeded to serve as the Executive Officer, 2MTB 67 Armor and then as the Accountable Officer, 9th Quartermaster Battalion in Germany. Dr. Byrd also earned a Masters in Psychology and a Ph.D. from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Most recently, he served as the Vice President for the Texas Baptist Missions Foundation where he traveled around the State of Texas raising money for missions, ministering to local churches, and emphasizing the importance of sharing the gospel. His love for people and winning them to Christ was evident in his actions; I know Dr. Byrd touched countless lives.

I had the distinct privilege and pleasure of having Dr. Byrd serve on my U.S. Academy Selection Board for thirteen years. He proudly served our country as a member of the Arkansas National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserves, with his military career spanning over twenty-three years. His record of exemplary military service and background in education made him well-suited to serve on my Board. He was deeply committed to selecting the best candidates for our military academies; these students who would go on to serve as the next leaders of our military in the generations to come. There are no words that are capable of fully expressing my heartfelt gratitude for his dedicated service to our great Nation.

Dr. Byrd is survived by his loving wife of fifty-one years, Wencie; his sons, Scott, Lance, and Bart; his brother Bill; sisters Alice and Lela Mae; and grandchildren Daniel, Lauren, Blakely, Ryland, and Margaret.

I am honored to have known him and called him my friend. He will be greatly missed. May the peace of God be with those he loved and sustain them through this hour of sorrow.

IN HONOR OF DRS. ROBERT G.  
GARD AND JANET WALL

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Robert G. Gard, Jr. and his spouse Dr. Janet Wall of Monterey, California, as the Philanthropists of the Year chosen by the Monterey Institute for International Studies for their commitment to enriching the lives of the Institute's scholars.

Retiring after 31 years in the United States Army, Dr. Gard became President of the Monterey Institute for International Studies. He has been awarded the Defense Distinguished Flying Cross and the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, and the Bronze Star. Dr. Robert Gard has served our country proudly and it is with great enthusiasm that he continues to contribute to the community.

Dr. Janet Wall, an author and expert on career development and educational review continues to donate her skills to the Institute's Yellow Ribbon program, which offers scholarships and career advice to returned military veterans. Her kindness and guidance has led

many veterans to graduate from the Institute and attain successful careers.

Dr. Gard and Dr. Wall established the Gard 'n' Wall Scholarship in Nonproliferation Studies to assist ambitious candidates to excel in the field of Nonproliferation Studies. The esteemed couple has also donated generously to the Robert Gard Scholarship, set up by the Institute to honor the work of Dr. Gard. I am proud to be a part of honoring Drs. Gard and Wall and that I am able to associate myself with the Monterey Institute of International Studies.

Madam Speaker, it is a tremendous honor to recognize Dr. Robert Gard and Dr. Janet Wall for their continued support of the Monterey Institute for International Studies. The Institution is a jewel of higher education on the Central Coast and I offer my sincerest congratulations to this accomplished couple.

### HONORING CONGRESSMAN JIM OBERSTAR

SPEECH OF

### HON. BETSY MARKEY

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 14, 2010*

Ms. MARKEY of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to add my voice to those of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to honor Congressman JIM OBERSTAR. I was privileged to serve with Chairman OBERSTAR on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure as a freshman member from Colorado. There is no other person in this country, and perhaps in the world, who is more knowledgeable and well known on transportation, transit and aviation issues as Chairman OBERSTAR. Committee hearings were always settled in a deep appreciation of history. There was no better session in which to serve in Congress than under the Chairmanship of Mr. OBERSTAR.

I was proud to welcome Chairman OBERSTAR to Fort Collins, Colorado, for a field hearing on distracted driving. For the Chairman, safety of the travelling public was foremost in his mind and his presence at our hearing brought much needed attention to the issues and dangers of texting and use of cell phones while driving.

It has been an honor to work with Mr. OBERSTAR and I thank the Chairman for his many years of service and leadership to Congress and the American people.

### HONORING BARBARA A. STINNETT

### HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Barbara A. Stinnett, a Member of the Calvert County Board of Commissioners from 1986 through 1990; 1998 through 2002; and most recently from 2006 to 2010. It is my distinct honor to show our appreciation for her commitment, dedication and public service to Calvert County, to our great State of Maryland and to our Nation.

Commissioner Stinnett was born in Chicago, Illinois, graduated from Calvert High School

and has been a resident of Calvert County for 60 years. Commissioner Stinnett is the mother of 4, a grandmother of 11 grandchildren, and a great-grandmother of 7.

In addition to serving three terms as a County Commissioner, Mrs. Stinnett was employed by State Senator Roy Dyson for 14 years, serving as legislative and administrative assistant in his Congressional Office and his State Senate office. She is the owner-operator of an income tax and accounting service and was previously employed at Wayson's Amusement Company in a financial management position for 17 years.

Calvert County has been well served by Commissioner Stinnett's more than 20 years of dedicated public service. She is an active member of the community in a variety of capacities. She served on the Calvert County Democratic Central Committee, as President of the Calvert County Democratic Women's Club, and as Secretary of the Maryland State Democratic Women's Clubs. In addition, Mrs. Stinnett has been a director of the American Red Cross, Calvert Hospice, the Special Olympics, and the Northern High School Boosters. She has held memberships in numerous organizations ranging from the Calvert Farmland Trust and Calvert Historical Society to the Calvert County Fire and Rescue Commission and the Calvert County Farm Bureau. In addition, Mrs. Stinnett has been Director of the Calvert County Fair Board, Charter President of Ducks Unlimited and a charter member of Stallings-Williams American Legion Auxiliary, Unit #206.

Through her years of service she has been an advocate of maintaining Calvert County's rich agricultural heritage and assuring that those without a voice are heard. Her energy, frank and realistic approach and ability to connect with people have made her an outstanding public servant who has an unwavering respect for those she represents.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Commissioner Barbara A. Stinnett for her years of public service, dedicated work and commitment to excellence on behalf of the people of Calvert County.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I would like to state my position on the following votes I missed.

On Tuesday, December 14, 2010, I missed rollcall votes 628, 629, 630. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 628, "nay" on rollcall No. 629, and "yea" on rollcall No. 630.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast recorded votes on Tuesday, December 14, on rollcall votes 628, 629, and

630. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on all three of these measures:

S. 1405, which designates the Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site; S. 3167, the Census Oversight Efficiency and Management Reform Act of 2010; and H.R. 6510, which allows the Military Museum of Texas to purchase the property on which it operates.

IN HONOR OF SERGEANT VINCENT  
WAYNE ASHLOCK

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of United States Army Staff Sergeant Vincent Wayne Ashlock, who died on December 4, 2010, while serving in Khost Province, Afghanistan. Wayne, as he was known to his family and friends, was a loving father, husband, brother, and son who devoted his life in equal measures to his family and our nation. Public service was his calling, and while his death leaves a void in the lives of his family, friends, and comrades, Staff Sergeant Ashlock's patriotism, loyalty, and love, will remain an example to all who had the privilege to know him.

Wayne was born in San Jose, California on May 10, 1965. He grew up in the small farming and military town of Merced in the heart of California's San Joaquin Valley. He enjoyed a small town childhood surrounded by brothers and sisters playing little league baseball and exploring Bear Creek.

Wayne began his military career by enlisting in the Army at age eighteen. He served for ten years on active duty before leaving the Army for civilian life. Following the 9/11 attack, his sense of duty and patriotism led Wayne to enlist in the California National Guard. As a Guardsman, Wayne deployed to Iraq, where he drew on his military experience to help train Ugandan troops. He later sought deployment to Afghanistan. To accomplish this, he transferred from the California National Guard, which had no imminent Afghanistan deployments scheduled, to the Mississippi National Guard which did. Once in there, Wayne served with the 287th Engineer Co., 176 Engineer Bde., 101st Airborne Div. (Air Assault). His unit was assigned to help clear home-made bombs and discover ambushes in front of other units. During his military service, Wayne earned many awards and commendations, among them the Army Commendation Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with a Bronze Service Star, and the Iraq Campaign Medal with a Bronze Service Star.

Wayne is survived by his wife, Angela, and five children, Kali, Jesse, Steven, Erica and Christopher, two grandchildren, Addison and Brady, brothers Ryan, Lonnie, and sister Dawn, his mother Margot, and grandmother Bonnie.

Madam Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in expressing our heartfelt condolences to Staff Sergeant Ashlock's family. Their loss is our nation's loss. Their pain is our nation's pain. Public service was his calling, and while his death leaves a void in the lives of his family, friends, and comrades, Staff Sergeant Ashlock's patriotism, loyalty, and

love, will remain an example to all who had the privilege to know him.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JIM  
OBERSTAR

SPEECH OF

**HON. ERIK PAULSEN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 14, 2010*

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my distinguished colleague from Minnesota, the Dean of our delegation, Chairman JIM OBERSTAR. For nearly four decades, Chairman OBERSTAR has been faithfully serving the Eighth Congressional District of Minnesota in this great body.

From humble beginnings, Chairman OBERSTAR worked to put himself through college in the Minnesota Iron Range mines. After graduating Summa Cum Laude from the college of St. Thomas, he began his tenure in Congress as a congressional staff member. To his final post in Congress as Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Chairman OBERSTAR has committed his life to public service and serving the great State of Minnesota.

A native of Chisholm, Minnesota, Congressman OBERSTAR has proudly served the people of Northeast Minnesota for 18 terms, the longest serving Member of Congress from Minnesota.

In his four years as Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Chairman OBERSTAR has been instrumental in keeping America moving. From his efforts to create more cycling and hiking paths to his work on aviation and aviation safety, Chairman OBERSTAR has done remarkable work in Congress. His knowledge of transportation issues will be a great loss to this body.

He leaves a strong legacy as his name will be forever tied to important highway, airline and rail safety legislation. His passion for intermodalism is unmatched.

As Chairman OBERSTAR departs, I will miss his knowledge of all things historical and his linguistic talent, specifically his love for French Creole, a language which he picked up while studying in Haiti after college.

In the few short years I have been in Congress, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve alongside Chairman OBERSTAR as a fellow Minnesotan. Chairman OBERSTAR is leaving some large shoes to fill. His wisdom, guidance and expertise will be greatly missed and I thank him for his service to our great State.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I was not able to be present for the following rollcall votes on December 14, 2010, and would like the RECORD to reflect that I would have voted as follows: rollcall No. 628: "yes"; rollcall No. 629: "yes"; rollcall No. 630: "yes".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to explain my absence from votes cast on December 14, 2010. My voting percentage is over 95% for the 111th Congress, and I rarely miss votes, but due to a prior commitment scheduled before we knew the House would be in session on Tuesday, I was unable to make it back to Washington in time for votes.

On the three votes I missed: to approve S. 1405, the Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site Designation Act, had I been present, I would have voted "aye;" to approve S. 3167, the Census Oversight Efficiency and Management Reform Act of 2010, had I been present, I would have voted "aye;" to approve H.R. 6510, To direct the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Houston, Texas, to the Military Museum of Texas had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JIM  
OBERSTAR

SPEECH OF

**HON. KEITH ELLISON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 14, 2010*

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to stand with colleagues to honor a Minnesota icon, dean of the Minnesota Congressional Delegation and my good friend, JIM OBERSTAR. When I was first elected to Congress in 2006, JIM was one of my first mentors, always there with helpful advice and counsel.

JIM was also there on the sad evening of August 1, 2007, when the Interstate 35W Bridge in Minneapolis, Minnesota collapsed into the Mississippi River, killing 13 people and injuring nearly 100 more.

I worked closely with JIM that evening and the days following along with my fellow colleagues in the Minnesota Delegation to immediately respond to horrific bridge collapse and then, with JIM's help, the House passed the next day a bill to provide funds to rebuild the bridge.

This story that I share with you tonight about JIM's work on the Interstate-35W Bridge is just one of many that I have from my four short years here in the House.

So JIM, let me say on behalf of my constituents from the Fifth District and the entire state of Minnesota, thank you for your incredible service to Minnesota and the entire nation for the past 36 years.

Your contributions will not be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING BEULAH B. ROMAN

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Beulah B. Roman as she celebrates her 105th birthday on December 19. A

party will be held in her honor in Burton Michigan to celebrate the occasion.

Born in 1905 at Mandate Ohio, Mrs. Roman relocated to Flint Michigan and worked at the Fisher Body Plant for 35 years retiring in 1961. She has been an active member of Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, joining the congregation in 1928. She has worked with the Missionary Society, the Ada Barry Bible Class, and the Mother's Board. She still attends church services every Sunday. She is also an avid golfer, bowler, reader and likes to solve crossword puzzles.

Mrs. Roman has one son, a daughter-in-law, two grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, many nieces, nephews and numerous friends.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Beulah B. Roman as she celebrates her 105th birthday. I wish her the best for the day and the coming year.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I regrettably missed rollcall votes on December 14. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: Rollcall No. 628: "yea"; Rollcall No. 629: "yea"; and Rollcall No. 630: "yea."

IN HONOR OF PHILIP MARK  
CONIGLIO, SR.

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Philip Mark Coniglio, Sr. who recently passed away at the age of 85. I am honored that I have this opportunity to recognize this great man as a prominent community businessman and a wonderful friend.

Philip was born and raised in Monterey, California. He attended Monterey High School and Hartnell College. After serving in the Army from 1943 to 1945, Philip worked with his uncles growing grapes. This led Philip to take an interest in grapes and thus, the wine industry. He owned and operated Mediterranean Market for 41 years which was known as a landmark for gourmet food and wines.

Philip was heavily involved in the community; he was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Italian Catholic Federation, Paisano, Sierra Club, and the Compare Club. He also maintained a long-standing tradition of entertaining and cooking dinner for family and friends on Sundays.

I will always remember Philip as a traveler. He had been around the world several times and frequently visited the big island of Hawaii.

Philip is survived by his wife of 59 years, Carla Lepori-Pacini Coniglio; his daughter Cara Mia Coniglio and granddaughter, Tiana Marie Lagemann; daughter, Lisa Paula Kaufmann and son-in-law, Mark Kaufmann and grandsons, Michael Colin and Patrick Joseph Kaufmann; son, Philip Coniglio Jr., and daugh-

ter-in-law Star Bullock Coniglio and granddaughter Margaux Isabella Coniglio; and his brother, Peter Coniglio.

Madam Speaker, Philip Mark Coniglio, Sr. touched the lives of many people in the community. He will be missed and I know I speak for the whole House in honoring the life of this dedicated and loving man.

#### SENIORS PROTECTION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 14, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5987, the Seniors Protection Act of 2010.

Earlier this year, the Social Security Administration announced that for the second year in a row, Social Security beneficiaries would not be receiving a Cost of Living Adjustment, COLA, increase for the second year in a row. This legislation provides seniors with an additional \$250 payment, equivalent to about a 2 percent COLA, to Social Security beneficiaries next year.

A COLA increase is imperative for seniors who rely on their benefits to support themselves and their families. According to the Economic Policy Institute, 3.5 million seniors are below the poverty level. The Department of Labor estimates that almost half of the 2 million workers over the age of 55 have been unemployed for 6 months or longer. Yet as more seniors experience poverty as a result of the economic downturn, the calls for privatizing and cutting Social Security in the name of fiscal responsibility have grown louder. Privatizing Social Security will hurt the most vulnerable Americans such as women, minority communities and children—those Americans that are currently experiencing disproportionately the effects of the recession. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the program is fiscally sound for another 40 plus years.

It is our responsibility to guarantee seniors an adequate income after a lifetime of paying into Social Security. We must shift the focus from cutting vital programs such as Social Security to reviving our domestic manufacturing sector as a means to put Americans back to work.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING "BUDDY" FRANK  
DIPAULO, JR.

### HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today for the purpose of recognizing "Buddy" Frank DiPaolo, Jr. Earlier this year, Buddy Frank retired at the age of 103 from his position as the doorkeeper at the Rhode Island House of Representatives, where he served for the past 32 years.

Not only has Buddy been an exemplary public servant for the State of Rhode Island,

but I have been fortunate enough to have known him as a friend and mentor throughout my adult life. I first met Buddy Frank over 25 years ago when he owned the Castle Spa restaurant and I was an undergraduate at Providence College. Throughout my career, dating back to when I first sought elected office in the Rhode Island General Assembly in 1988, I have turned to Buddy to be one of my most trusted and reliable advisors. I've been honored to be his "number one buddy," but even more blessed to be treated as his "third son."

I consider Buddy's family to be my own; his wife, Eugenia, his four children, Thomas, Claire, Evelyn, and Richard, his sixteen grandchildren, Susan, Steven, Robert, Kathleen, Cheryl, John, Erin, Robin, Kevin, Paul, Pamela, Mark, Claudia, Kristen, Lynn, and Laura, and eighteen grandchildren, Catherine, Michael, Abigail, Katelyn, Jessica, Bryan, William, Tyler, Zackery, Gillian, Seamus, Campbell, Rory, Damian, Gian, Jacqueline, Nicholas, and Timothy. They are all truly blessed to have a patriarch in the truest sense in Buddy Frank, and I thank them for the opportunity to share him as a positive influence in my life.

Buddy Frank will be turning 104 years old on December 24, 2010, and I wish him a happy birthday. I also wish him all the best in his future endeavors. He will continue to carry my own admiration, and that of all who have had the privilege to work with him.

#### HONORING FRANKLIN COUNTY 4-H

### HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Franklin County 4-H for 75 years of excellence.

The Franklin County 4-H organization originated with 10 members in 1935, and has grown into the largest 4-H organization in the state, with 20 4-H clubs and 700 members. The members are led by over 300 adult and teen volunteer leaders. 4-H engages youth to reach their fullest potential, while advancing the field of youth development in four different areas of focus: head, heart, hands, and health. During the 75 year history, 52 adult volunteers have served for 20 or more years, 9 of whom have served for 30 or more years, a true testament to this important program. In its 75th year, the tradition of 4-H still remains strong throughout Franklin county.

I would like to take this time to commend Franklin County 4-H for all their hard work, and I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing them for a job well done.

#### HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EAST BAY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 20th anniversary of The East

Bay Economic Development Alliance, known as East Bay EDA. On December 2, 2010, East Bay EDA recognized their partnerships, collaborations and achievements, and highlighted the organization's future initiatives and endeavors.

East Bay EDA is a public-private partnership serving the San Francisco East Bay. Its mission is to establish the East Bay as a well-recognized location to grow businesses, attract capital and create quality jobs. It serves as a pivotal point for workforce development, and provides regional initiatives for housing and land use, goods movement, and the development of water infrastructure. It promotes collaboration on regulatory policy between local businesses and government agencies. The organization also promotes business retention best practices among East Bay cities, and has coordinated the Bay Area's efforts to prepare an economic recovery plan to increase the competitiveness of the region.

I congratulate East Bay EDA on 20 years of exemplary service as the organization continues to evaluate and modify its work plan to adjust to changes in the workforce, economy, and State and local governments. I send best wishes for many more years of exemplary service.

IN HONOR OF DR. DICK B.  
"COACH" LAWITZKE

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise to remember the life Dr. Dick B. "Coach" Lawitzke, who passed away at the age of 84. I am honored to recognize this great man who lived his life helping others.

Dick graduated from Humboldt State College in 1950. Shortly after, he was drafted into the U.S. Army and married his college sweetheart, Millicent. They soon named the beautiful Monterey Peninsula home. He became Superintendent, Principal, teacher, and bus driver of Carmelo Elementary School from 1956 to 1958. Dick was also a sports enthusiast which is why many remember him simply as "Coach". He was Athletic Director at Carmel High School and coached championship teams in basketball and football.

I believe that every community needs a person like Dick; he was always involved in programs positively influencing kids and adamant about adult education. We were close and remained in close contact until recently.

Dick leaves his wife, Millicent; children Loree Burroughs, Amy Consul, and Milton "Mo" Lawitzke; grandchildren Travis Fluegge, Edward Lee Lawitzke, Cayden and Ian Burroughs, and Margo and Nina Consul.

Madam Speaker, I know that the Carmel area community will continue to benefit from the work that Dick "Coach" Lawitzke did and that he is a shining example to those who were inspired to continue his work.

HONORING SERGEANT DENNIS  
OSTERMAN

**HON. ADRIAN SMITH**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Sergeant Dennis Osterman for his forty-five years of dedicated service to the Grand Island Police Department and to the people of Grand Island, Nebraska.

Osterman retired on August 27, 2010, as the longest-serving active police officer in the State of Nebraska. For nearly fifty years Sergeant Osterman has embodied what it means to give back to one's community.

One year after completing his service to the United States Army, Osterman continued to defend and protect his country—only this time in a different uniform. Throughout his incredible tenure, he had held several different roles and accepted various responsibilities without hesitation. The police department and the Grand Island community have changed considerably since that June in 1964 when Osterman joined the force but he has never failed to be an invaluable role model and trusted leader to the incoming generations of police officers and the Grand Island community at large.

I am impressed by Dennis' life-long dedication to the protection of the Grand Island community and I appreciate the sacrifices he has made over the years. I wish him all the best as he starts his retirement and I hope he takes the time to enjoy the community which he spent a lifetime protecting.

HONORING DECEASED AMBASSADOR  
RICHARD HOLBROOKE

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ambassador Richard Holbrooke and his diplomatic career which lasted the better part of five decades. Ambassador Holbrooke's decorated career spanned the globe from Asia to Europe with stops at the U.S. State Department, United Nations, and most recently, as Presidential envoy on Afghanistan-Pakistan policy. His service shaped American foreign policy in such troubled areas as the Balkans and most recently in leading the U.S. in Afghanistan. I concur with the sentiments of many of my colleagues in that his stellar service is deeply appreciated and held in the highest esteem. As co-chair of the Afghanistan Caucus, I especially appreciate his promotion of a civil, democratic society for the people of Afghanistan. Ambassador Holbrooke will be deeply missed.

I would like to express my condolences to his wife, Kati, his two sons, and two stepchildren along with the rest of the Holbrooke family. My thoughts and prayers are with his family at this difficult time.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MR. TOM  
HINZ

**HON. STEVE KAGEN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to Mr. Tom Hinz as our superior Brown County Executive retires. During his time in office, Mr. Hinz has served the people and interests of Brown County to the highest degree, and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this remarkable individual.

Tom Hinz has dedicated his life to public service. Well before he assumed his role as Brown County Executive, Tom served in the Army for three years followed by a long career in local law enforcement. Viewed as a leader by his peers, Mr. Hinz was encouraged to run for and was elected to be Brown County's Sherriff after more than 30 years with the police force. His service to the public continued as a member of the Brown County Board of Supervisors, where he served for two years before taking on the responsibility of being Brown County's Executive during what would become the most challenging economic environment in decades.

Community leaders, lawmakers and servants of the public across Northeast Wisconsin hold Tom Hinz in no less than the highest regard. A diplomatic problem solver and skilled manager, Tom has been an extraordinary asset to the community surrounding Green Bay and the 8th Congressional District of Wisconsin's largest county.

Among his many accomplishments, Mr. Hinz launched the LEAN initiative in Brown County in 2009. This implemented techniques that have for years produced impressive results in manufacturing environments, and adapted them to county government. As a result county employees are involved in an effective process that improves quality, reduces costs, and strengthens customer service.

Tom was also a key player in the construction of the Brown County Community Treatment Center, the new 911 Communications Center and the ratification of a long-overdue service agreement between Brown County and the Oneida Tribe of Indians.

Madam Speaker, as Mr. Tom Hinz celebrates his retirement, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting this exemplary citizen and his lifetime of service to the nation and the communities of Northeast Wisconsin.

HOUSTON, TEXAS, PROPERTY  
CONVEYANCE

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 14, 2010*

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6510. First, I would like to thank Ron Kendell, Elliot Doomes, Ward McCarrington, Johanna Hardy, Major Keithen Washington and Shashrina Thomas for their tireless efforts in moving this bill. I would also like to thank the co-sponsors of this bill and my colleagues: Representatives: MARIO DIAZ-BALART, TED POE, ILEANA

ROS-LEHTINEN, CHARLES GONZALEZ, HENRY "HANK" JOHNSON and RALPH HALL. I introduced this bill requesting that the Administrator of General Services convey land to the Military Museum of Texas.

The Military Museum of Texas was formed to create, maintain and operate an institution to honor and perpetuate the memories of all men and women who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America. The President of the Military Museum of Texas, Ed Farris, a former Marine sergeant, and a 22-year veteran of the Houston Police Department's motorcycle patrol and bomb squad, has worked tirelessly to preserve the memories of the men and women of the armed forces. They paid with their lives and their youth to ensure that the United States remains a free and prosperous nation. It is important that we support Mr. Farris and the board members of the Military Museum of Texas to honor and recognize the men and women, living and dead, who have served in the armed forces of the United States. The museum provides a way to hold them up as the heroes they are.

Mr. Speaker, our freedom is intertwined with the sacrifices of our Veterans, whose devotion to our way of life is unparalleled. I am privileged to honor their sacrifices and the role they play in our nation by introducing House Resolution 6510.

Our nation and veterans from the great State of Texas have a proud legacy of appreciation and commitment to the men and women who have worn the uniform in defense of this country. We must be united in seeing that every soldier, sailor, airman, marine, and coast guardsman has a place of memory, pride and honor, in which the Military Museum of Texas provides.

Today, we continue to be engaged in hostilities in Afghanistan, and young men and women will pay the ultimate price while wearing the uniform of our nation. Let us honor the memory of the 4,400 Americans who have died in Iraq and more than 1,300 who have died in Afghanistan. We also honor the sacrifices of our wounded: nearly 32,000 U.S. troops in Iraq and 9,000 in Afghanistan.

Throughout the Military Museum of Texas, Americans will learn from the surviving World War II veterans to the veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In the words of President John F. Kennedy, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." It is not simply enough to sing the praises of our nation's great veterans; I firmly believe that we must demonstrate by our actions how proud we are of our American heroes. Join me and support H.R. 6510. I firmly believe that we should celebrate our veterans after every conflict, and I remain committed to both meeting the needs of veterans of previous wars, and to provide a fitting welcome home to those who are now serving.

Currently, there are 23 million veterans in the United States. There are more than 1,626,000 veterans living in Texas and more than 32,000 veterans living in my Congressional district alone. H.R. 6510 will allow Congress to express our appreciation to those who have answered the call to duty. As the great British leader Winston Churchill famously stated, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

Our nation is founded on the principles, laid out in the Declaration of Independence, that "all men are created equal," "that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights," and "that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." At various points in our history as a nation, we have found need to send our sons and daughters, our most precious resources, overseas to fight in defense of these great principles. At times when the need is greatest, America's soldiers have always stepped up to protect our nation.

And so, today, I hope we will all take time from our daily lives to reflect upon the sacrifices made by those who serve in our armed forces, and to resolve together that we will provide returning veterans with the welcome, services, care, and compassion that they deserve—a Museum of reflection. As we consider H.R. 6510, let us all remember the one thing that makes our nation truly great are the young men and women willing to fight to defend it, to defend us, and to defend our way of life. Join me and support H.R. 6510.

Memories fade all too quickly, and we are losing about 1000 WWII veterans every day. It is important that we record and preserve the memories of these veterans so that future generations can understand the sacrifices of our veterans. The Museum is a place for preservation of military memorabilia, personal stories, artifacts and the history of past wars to remember American veterans and their sacrifices.

It is remarkably easy for succeeding generations to forget why we enjoy the freedoms we do in our country. The Museum seeks to educate the public about the sacrifices of our veterans that gave us those freedoms.

It is difficult for those who have not served in combat to understand the horrors our veterans endured and the trauma that still affects their lives. Veterans themselves conduct tours and convey their personal experiences to visitors.

The Museum provides a place where veterans can congregate and discuss their experiences, and in the process, heal. It also permits them to talk about their experiences with museum visitors.

Soldiers currently serving in places such as Iraq and Afghanistan need to know that the people back home in the great state of Texas support them. Volunteers at the Military Museum of Texas prepare and send care packages to troops who are serving overseas and are patients in military hospitals recovering from wounds. The Military Museum of Texas also hosts reunions, participate in parades and other events in the Houston, Texas area.

The Military Museum is a pillar in the community, and a benefit to schools, veterans and military related groups. It provides educational programs, live reenactments from military personnel as well as interactive exhibits. Furthermore, the Military Museum provides internships in military history and preservation, and a research database available for education and historical institutions and the public.

Let us continue to preserve and honor the memory of those who defend our freedom and liberty.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 6510, and ask for its immediate adoption.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on December 14, 2011. If I was present, I would have voted on the following: S. 1405—rollcall No. 628: "yea"; S. 3167—rollcall No. 629: "yea"; and H.R. 6510—rollcall No. 630: "yea."

## RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF LORRAINE DARWIN

**HON. JOHN BOOZMAN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lorraine Darwin for her outstanding contributions to Arkansas students. Lorraine's efforts in the classroom earned her the highest recognition that can be bestowed upon our Nation's kindergarten through 12th grade mathematics and science teachers for outstanding teaching, the Presidential Awards for Excellence for Mathematics and Science Teaching.

As the Pre-AP Precalculus/Trigonometry and AP Calculus Teacher and the Mathematics Department Chairperson at Cabot High School in Cabot, Arkansas, Lorraine exemplifies what it means to be an outstanding educator. Her techniques to engage students in math and improve their understanding of this discipline have been noticed by her students, their parents and her colleagues.

Lorraine's teaching is held in high regard, one of 103 teachers chosen for this award and one of only 51 mathematics teachers. This truly is a major accomplishment in her career. Her passion for teaching not only helps her students, but also inspires those who work with her to do their best to encourage further development in the classroom.

I would like to offer my appreciation for the work of Lorraine Darwin and her determination to provide her students with the best math education as we work to keep America competitive in an increasingly high tech and science oriented global economy.

## ON WELCOMING THE RELEASE OF BURMESE DEMOCRACY LEADER AND NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LAUREATE AUNG SAN SUU KYI

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a House resolution welcoming the release of Burmese democracy leader and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest on November 13, 2010. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi had been imprisoned in Burma for 15 of the last 21 years. She was first put under house arrest on July 20, 1989, and was offered freedom if she left the country, but refused.

Even under house arrest, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi demonstrated unwavering and determined political leadership, provided inspiration, and garnered respect from the people of Burma and democracy-loving people around the world.

As one of the world's only imprisoned recipients, she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991 for her nonviolent struggle against oppression, with the Norwegian Nobel Committee citing her as "one of the most extraordinary examples of civil courage in Asia in recent decades."

Today, however, we must not rejoice. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has called on all world leaders to stay focused on the plight of each one of the millions of Burmese struggling against the military rule, on the over two thousand two hundred political prisoners suffering unjustly in Burmese prisons, and the thousands of women and children being systematically raped and taken as sex slaves and porters for the military whose rule they suffer under.

Aung San Suu Kyi was awarded both of the highest civilian awards in the United States: the Presidential Medal of Honor in 2000 which recognizes those individuals who have made "an especially meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of the United States, world peace, cultural or other significant public or private endeavors" and, in 2008, the Congressional Medal of Honor for her "courageous and unwavering commitment to peace, nonviolence, human rights, and democracy in Burma."

In one of her most famous speeches, she poignantly conveyed: "It is not power that corrupts but fear. Fear of losing power corrupts those who wield it and fear of the scourge of power corrupts those who are subject to it." Even Aung San Suu Kyi herself freely notes that her release does not constitute a change in the military junta regime's choices in leadership. Six days before her release were the highly-contested November 7th Burmese elections, which were clearly based on a fundamentally flawed process and demonstrated the regime's continued preference for repression and restriction.

Aung San Suu Kyi's freedom must not be restrained. She must be able to travel freely without fear of her recapture at any given moment. Furthermore, this resolution calls for the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in Burma, including Aung San Suu Kyi's supporters in the National League for Democracy and ordinary citizens of Burma, including ethnic minorities, who publicly and courageously speak out against the regime's many injustices.

The ruling junta in Burma must be denied hard currency to continue its campaign of repression and we can do that by working with governments around the world to strengthen sanction regimes against Burma. And, it is time for the Administration to appoint a United States Special Coordinator for Burma.

Madam Speaker, today the House of Representatives has the opportunity to celebrate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's freedom. And, yet, we celebrate with a heavy heart for all of the millions still suffering in Burma. I urge my colleagues to stand firmly in solidarity with Aung San Suu Kyi and the people of Burma with your support of the passage of this resolution, human rights, an end to the junta-imposed vio-

lence, democratic progress, and for the release of all prisoners of conscience in Burma.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ENACTMENT OF NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE

**HON. CHELLIE PINGREE**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the District of Columbia for its recent enactment of the National Popular Vote bill, which would guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District.

Just a few weeks ago, Mayor Fenty signed this important legislation, which was passed by unanimous consent by the D.C. Council. National Popular Vote is now law in 7 jurisdictions, and has been passed by 30 legislative chambers in 21 states.

The shortcomings of the current system stem from the winner-take-all rule. Presidential candidates have no reason to pay attention to the concerns of voters in states where they are comfortably ahead or hopelessly behind. In 2008, candidates concentrated over two-thirds of their campaign visits and ad money in just six closely divided "battleground" states. A total of 98 percent of their resources went to just 15 states. Voters in two thirds of the states are essentially just spectators to presidential elections.

Under the National Popular Vote, all the electoral votes from the enacting states would be awarded to the presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and DC. The bill assures that every vote will matter in every state in every Presidential election.

I look forward to more states, all across the country passing this important piece of legislation.

PRIVATE ISAAC T. CORTES POST OFFICE

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 14, 2010*

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6205, to honor Private Isaac T. Cortes, a Bronx native who was killed in combat in Iraq.

This legislation would rename the post office in his hometown in his honor.

Private Cortes was a son of the Bronx—he grew up in the Parkchester neighborhood, attending local public schools and Christopher Columbus High School.

His love for his hometown led him to work as a security guard at Yankee Stadium, a job that he was so proud to hold and that inspired him to a lifetime of service. While planning to become a New York City Police Officer, he decided to strengthen his skills and serve his country by joining the U.S. Army in 2006.

Private Cortes knew that this choice was dangerous. He also knew he would likely be sent to Iraq.

His family worried for him, but he knew what he had to do.

After training at Fort Benning and Fort Drum, Private Cortes was sent to Iraq in September of 2007. As a rifleman in the Infantry Squad with Charlie Troop, 1-71 Cavalry Squadron, Private Cortes performed weapons searches and humanitarian aid missions to help the local Iraqi people.

He loved the Army, and was prepared to make it his career. His family has described how proud he was to protect his country. He said the military was his "calling."

On November 27, 2007, just after Thanksgiving, Private Cortes was out on one of his combat patrols when an improvised explosive device was detonated near his vehicle in Amerli, Iraq—about 100 miles north of Baghdad.

Private Cortes was killed instantly, along with Specialist Benjamin Garrison, in the roadside attack. He was only 26 years old.

His awards and honors include the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Army Service Ribbon.

The Bronx, the Congress and the Nation will always remember Private Cortes as a decorated soldier. But, I would also like to take a moment to ensure we forever remember Isaac, the man.

Isaac lived by the motto "Go big or go home." He was known for his big heart and his loving ways, which his family continues in his honor through blood donation events and clothing, food and toy drives.

He was known to his neighbors as a smiling face and a helpful hand, always willing to help carry groceries.

Even while overseas, his family was always in his heart, including his parents, grandparents, brother, nieces, aunts, uncles and cousins. And above all, he loved the little girl that he raised as his own daughter.

His family has kept his memory alive, and today we take the next step in honoring this Bronx native and his service to the United States.

Renaming the post office in the neighborhood where he grew up after him will serve as a reminder to us all of his courage, integrity and sacrifice. This legislation will ensure that his service and his spirit will never be forgotten.

WILL CHRISTIANITY SURVIVE IN IRAQ?

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I submit for the RECORD a letter I received from the Chaldean Assyrian Syriac Council of America regarding the plight of Iraq's ancient Christian community, which is increasingly under assault and facing near extinction from the lands they have inhabited for centuries. The Wall Street Journal just yesterday noted on its editorial page that "some still speak the Aramaic, the ancient language of Jesus Christ."

The Journal further noted that of "the 100,000 Christians who once lived in Mosul, Iraq, only some 5,000 are still there."

While the situation in Iraq is perhaps the most glaring, it is but representative of a larger trend in the Middle East where religious minorities face growing discrimination, repression and outright persecution. The Journal continued, "In Egypt, Coptic Christians have been brutalized. Assaults on churches increase around Easter or Christmas, as worshippers attempt to observe holy days."

During this season of Advent as millions around the world anticipate Christmas, let us be mindful of the fear gripping these communities and commit ourselves to prioritizing their protection and preservation throughout the Middle East. We have a moral obligation to do nothing less. For as the famed abolitionist William Wilberforce once said, "Having heard all this, you may choose to look the other way, but you can never again say that you did not know."

I close with the solemn warning of the Chaldean Assyrian Syriac Council of America to President Obama, in a letter sent this November, in which they noted that the current situation in Iraq "promises more innocent Christian blood in Iraq, more turmoil in that country, and more shame for America."

CHALDEAN ASSYRIAN SYRIAC  
COUNCIL  
OF AMERICA,

Southfield, MI, December 6, 2010.

Congressman FRANK WOLF,  
House of Representatives, Cannon Building,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WOLF: We are witnessing a tragic and historic event: The end of Iraq's native Christian community. And, even more tragically, this has happened due in part because of failed U.S. Policy, with the majority of congressional members taking little or no notice of the destruction of an ethnic and religious identity few know about.

The Christians of Iraq are also known as Assyrians, Chaldeans, Syriacs or Arameans (or even ChaldoAssyrians or Chaldean Syriac Assyrians). They are the heirs of the ancient and pre-Christian civilization of Mesopotamia, the descendants of the Assyrians and Babylonians of old. They are also the descendants of the first Semitic-speaking Christians, whose churches spanned the entire Middle East and reached China and Japan. At one time, what is today known as the Assyrian Church of the East had more adherents than the Catholic and Protestant Churches combined. Their language is Aramaic, the language of Jesus Christ.

Mesopotamia holds a special place in Biblical history. It is the land from which Abraham left his home, 'Ur of the Chaldees;' where the Hebrew people lived their captivity and survived into the modern era; where the fall of Nineveh was foreseen by the Prophet Nahum, whose grave lies in Alqush, in Nineveh, the ancient capital of Assyria visited by the Prophet Jonah; where Nebuchadnezzar rebuilt the glorious Babylon where the Prophet Daniel lived.

During the Abbasid Caliphate in Baghdad (758-1258 AD), Mesopotamia's Christians contributed greatly to the advancement of Islamic civilization through their literary and scientific accomplishments, including the translations of important Greek works into Syriac (Aramaic) and Arabic. It was through such accomplishments that the West came to know of the "Golden Age" of Islamic civilization and the Caliphate of Baghdad. Indeed, the very existence of the "House of Wisdom," an institution dedicated to the translation and documentation of all knowledge on philosophy, mathematics, astronomy, and other sciences into Arabic at the time owes itself to the Christians of Iraq.

As a result of the turbulence caused by a pattern of religious persecution and ethnic intolerance, the Christians of Iraq maintained themselves in the area of northern Mesopotamia or Assyria, also known as the Nineveh Plain. Here, and in the surrounding areas, they maintained their religious and ethnic identity and lived in hundreds of villages that dotted the landscape around the Tigris River until the coming modernity, at which time they suffered massacres and genocides at the hands of the Ottomans and their supporters. The First World War saw the uprooting and destruction of hundreds of Aramaic-speaking Christian villages in what is today Southeastern Turkey, Northwestern Iran, and Northern Iraq. Still, the Christian population survived, with its ethnic and religious identity intact.

The formation of the Kingdom Iraq resulted in further tragedy for Christians, with the most infamous being the Semele Massacre; where thousands of women, children, and unarmed men were slaughtered in cold blood, after being given assurances of protection by the Iraqi government. Crowds in Baghdad streets jubilantly welcomed Iraqi soldiers in what may be one of the most shameful displays in Iraqi history.

Despite the tragedies, the Christian population recovered and helped usher in an age of education and enlightenment for Iraq. Christians made up the most prominent doctors, engineers and scientists in Iraq. As any knowledgeable Iraqi would attest, they constituted, as a group, the most valuable human asset Iraq had. And despite the regime of Saddam Hussein, though politically repressed, Christians excelled in business and science.

Today, this minority may not be so lucky. The massacre that took place in the Lady of Salvation Church on Sunday, October 31, 2010, and the subsequent targeted killings afterwards, has many Christian leaders speaking of leaving Iraq for good. Recently, Archbishop Athanasios Dawood of the Syriac Orthodox Church is saying, "I say clearly and now—the Christian people should leave their beloved land of our ancestors and escape the premeditated ethnic cleansing," he told BBC. "This is better than having them killed one by one."

Scholars Eden Naby and Jamsheed Chosky recently wrote in *Foreign Policy* that the end of Christianity in Iraq is near. In a letter to President Obama, the Chaldean Assyrian Syriac Council of America, an organization serving this community in the United States, noted that the current situation "promises more innocent Christian blood in Iraq, more turmoil in that country, and more shame for America."

As members of the world community, and as Americans, we bear a responsibility not to allow the disintegration and destruction of this community. Clearly, our entry into Iraq has caused consequences that we cannot walk away from.

Iraq's Christians have a unique heritage whose loss will be mourned by not only Iraq, but the United States and the World. Some have proposed a wholesale evacuation of this community in order to save it. Yet, there are other viable options; such as the recognition of an autonomous zone to be protected and monitored by the United Nations and the United States. It is time to consider the plight of this community seriously and propose action.

Regards,

ISMAT KARMO,  
Chairman.

H.R. 4173, THE DODD-FRANK WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT—CLARIFICATION OF INTENT WITH RESPECT TO TITLE V, SUBTITLE B

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, as a House conferee for H.R. 4173, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act ("Dodd-Frank Act"), and the chief sponsor of the Nonadmitted and Reinsurance Reform Act (NRRRA) that was included as Title V, Subtitle B of the Dodd-Frank Act, I rise to reaffirm these important provisions. The President signed the Dodd-Frank Act into law earlier this year (P.L. 111-203).

The NRRRA seeks to address an issue that most people have never heard of. But it is an issue that we in this House have successfully addressed a number of times in the past few years, and one that affects the lives of millions of Americans, individuals and businesses large and small.

Non-admitted insurance, or surplus lines, is specialty insurance you cannot purchase in the traditional, admitted market. Often called the "safety net" of the insurance market, surplus lines provides for coverage when the traditional market is not available. This is insurance for satellites, toxic chemicals, new inventions, or insurance on homes and businesses in a scarce market.

With my distinguished colleague from New Jersey, Mr. GARRETT, I sponsored the Non-admitted and Reinsurance Reform Act to fix the fragmented, cumbersome regulation of this important marketplace. The goal of the NRRRA was not to eliminate regulatory protections, but to streamline the regulatory regime to enable insurers and brokers to more easily and efficiently comply with state rules and provide much-needed insurance protections to consumers. The law accomplishes this by giving sole regulatory authority over a surplus lines transaction—including the authority to collect premium taxes—to the home state of the insured.

The NRRRA passed the House four times—three times as a stand-alone measure and, finally, as part of the Dodd-Frank Act. With the law's enactment, the responsibility for implementation moves to the states. I'm told that the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) is moving swiftly to draft a model agreement and statutory language to enable the states to collect and share surplus lines premium taxes. This sounds like a promising start, but only if the agreement and authorizing legislation are in keeping with the letter and spirit of the NRRRA: to provide a simpler, uniform tax reporting and payment process with a single payment, to the insured's home state, for each transaction.

Premium tax simplification, while important, is but one part of the NRRRA's goals. The broader intent of the law is to provide a comprehensive, uniform solution to the current regulatory mess by addressing the full spectrum of surplus lines regulation: declination and reporting requirements, broker licensing requirements and electronic processing, insurer eligibility standards, and treatment of sophisticated commercial purchasers. Most of

the provisions of the law will become effective next July without state action—as I mentioned, the rules of the insured's home state govern multi-state transactions and the insurer eligibility requirements and sophisticated commercial purchaser standards are set forth in the federal law.

Having said that, however, in order to truly realize the promise of the new law, the states need to take this opportunity to adopt a single set of uniform surplus lines regulatory requirements—requirements that are not just similar but the same in every state. I have no stake in how this is accomplished—by individual state laws based on NAIC or NCOIL models, through a standard-setting compact (which is authorized under the NRRRA), or in some other manner. But it can and should be done—and the states should realize that now is the time to do it.

I urge the Congress to continue closely monitoring the full implementation of these important provisions.

#### A TRIBUTE TO JOHN ARNOLD

### HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John Arnold, the Executive Director of the Feeding America West Michigan Food Bank. After working tirelessly for 28 years to help feed the hungry, John is retiring due to his advanced, inoperable cancer. My prayers and heartfelt thanks go to John and his family.

As the Executive Director for the West Michigan Food Bank for the past 21 years, John has run one of the most innovative food banks in the entire country. During his career, John has helped secure and distribute more than 300 million pounds of food aid across Michigan.

In an ambitious effort to end hunger throughout Michigan, John's food bank took on the challenge of adding the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to their service area. In addition to extending service to remote rural areas, John has developed more than 1,300 outlets for food, to ensure that every person in their 40-county service area has reasonable access to food aid.

The West Michigan Food Bank is so successful that it is able to provide food for less than a tenth of what it would cost at a grocery store. In 2010, the food bank expects to hit the 25 million pound mark for distributed food.

In 1994, under John's leadership, the food bank launched their "Waste Not, Want Not Project" with Michigan State University, to determine how communities in America can adequately address their hunger problems. This project has won international awards and has allowed the food bank to meet its goal of 15 percent growth per year until all needs are met.

As a participant in my church's food distribution program in Grand Rapids, I recognize full well the dramatic impact a little food aid can make in the lives of struggling families.

Although John's life may regrettably be cut short by his aggressive cancer, he should take comfort in knowing that his efforts have helped save and improve the lives of thousands of hungry people across Michigan. We are most

grateful for and appreciative of all that John Arnold has done to aid the poor and hungry people in Western and Northern Michigan. He serves as a model for all food bank directors and executives across our Nation.

#### TRIBUTE TO AIR FORCE SENIOR AIRMAN MARK ANDREW FOR-ESTER

### HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, one of the most somber and humbling duties of our jobs is when we attend the funerals of our fallen soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines. On October 7, 2010, I attended such a funeral for a fallen airman who not only was my constituent, but was a family I had grown up with.

I would like to pay tribute to this American Patriot from my hometown of Haleyville, Alabama, who was killed in action on September 29, 2010, in the Uruzgan Province of Afghanistan.

Air Force Senior Airman Mark Andrew For-ester paid the ultimate sacrifice to defend our great nation. Mark was assigned to the 21st Special Tactics Squadron at Pope Air Force Base, North Carolina. He served as an Air Force Combat Controller and was embedded with a Special Forces Unit in Afghanistan.

When I think of a young man like Mark, I think of words like; honor and bravery. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."—John 15:13. Mark died while protecting his friends and fellow service members.

In the fall of 1864, President Abraham Lincoln, wrote the following message to the mother of a fallen soldier. "I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom." President Lincoln's words ring more powerful today than ever before.

Mark earned numerous awards during his service including a Bronze Star with Valor and a Purple Heart.

It is an honor to be able to say that I was associated with Mark and his family over the years. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Mark's family and all those who knew and loved him.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, on December 9, 2010 I missed rollcall vote No. 627 because I was attending a White House signing ceremony for the Animal Crush Video Prohibition Act of 2010—legislation which I helped author. Had I been present I would have voted in favor of H.R. 6412, the Access to Criminal History Records for State Sentencing Commissions Act of 2010, legislation which will help improve criminal sentencing procedures in states throughout the country.

#### 99-YEAR TRIBAL LEASE AUTHORITY ACT

SPEECH OF

### HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 14, 2010*

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, S.1448 is identical to legislation that I introduced in the House of Representatives with Representative SCHRADER in March. The bill accomplishes two things: 1) it corrects a disparity between federally recognized tribes in Oregon in how these tribes lease land held in trust, and 2) it incentivizes long term investment that will attract businesses and create jobs for Oregon tribes and nearby communities.

Currently, four of the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon are able to lease land held in trust by the federal government for up to 99 years without going through a maze of bureaucracy and red tape at the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The 99 year lease authority is crucial to attracting and retaining long-term investment, incentivizing economic development projects on trust land, and creating jobs for communities that need them the most.

But five of Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes—the Coquille, the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz, the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw, the Klamath, and the Burns Paiute do NOT have this important authority. These tribes are limited to 25 year leases or must rely on a lethargic BIA to approve longer leases on an individual basis.

S.1448 fixes this disparity and gives all nine federally recognized tribes the same authority to pursue economic development and job-creating activities on land held in trust.

The bill enjoys bipartisan support, has no opposition in the state of Oregon, and passed the U.S. Senate without amendment and by unanimous consent. This is a no-brainer. It's good for the Tribes. It's good for rural and tribal communities. The bill will create jobs and incentivize financial investment. I ask my colleagues to pass this bill today on suspension and send it to President Obama for his signature.

#### HONORING SERGEANT MATTHEW THOMAS ABBATE

### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Matthew Abbate, Sergeant of the United States Marine Corps. Loved and respected by his family, friends and fellow Marines, Sergeant Abbate was killed in the line of duty in Afghanistan on December 2, 2010. It was his second tour of duty.

At just 26 years of age, Sergeant Abbate had already accomplished many things—including his life-long dream of joining the Marine Corps. He had traveled the world, started a family, and achieved satisfaction and recognition in his military career.

Sergeant Abbate grew up in Piedmont, California with his father Sal Abbate, a local business owner, and his stepmother Jane

Whitfield. He attended Beach Elementary School, Piedmont Middle School and Piedmont High School for his freshman year, before residing with his mother and stepfather, Karen and James Binion, in Fresno, California. As a youth, Matthew Abbate was charming, athletic, independent and free-spirited. After graduating from high school in 2002, he moved to Hawaii in search of work that would support his interest in world travel.

As an employee on the Norwegian Star cruise ship, he enjoyed adventures throughout Asia and the Pacific, including Thailand, Australia, Fiji and the Panama Canal. Following those travels, he attained his goal of enlisting in the Marine Corps, and, by the age of 20, was training for his first 10-month tour of duty in Iraq.

Sergeant Abbate's passion and steadfast dedication to the Corps led him to re-enlist after finishing his first tour, and to spend a year in sniper training. Just three months into his mission in Afghanistan, Sergeant Abbate's commitment to service resulted in the ultimate sacrifice.

Among the many sources of pride Sergeant Abbate found in being a Marine, the brotherhood he had with his fellow troops was foremost. He was a stalwart team member and a leader who inspired his peers to vote him as the Marine they'd most like to be.

As we gather in remembrance, we celebrate the life of a man who took great pride in being a loving father, a good person and a brave Marine. Sergeant Abbate leaves behind an extended network of loved ones, including his wife, Stacie Rigall, his two-year-old son, Carson, his parents, stepparents and four siblings.

His contributions to our nation will be remembered for generations to come, and his legacy continues in the hearts of those whose lives he touched in remarkable ways.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors United States Marine Corps Sergeant Matthew Thomas Abbate. His exemplary spirit and sense of public duty will continue to guide others toward courage, fortitude, selflessness and service. Sergeant Matt Abbate was truly a great man and he will be deeply missed. May his soul rest in peace.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent for votes in the House Chamber yesterday. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 628, 629 and 630.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH OF MATAWAN'S 120TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Second Baptist Church of

Matawan, New Jersey as the parishioners gather to celebrate the church's 120th anniversary. Members of the congregation enthusiastically dedicate their time to religious service in Matawan and its surrounding community. Their actions are undoubtedly deserving of this body's recognition.

The Second Baptist Church of Matawan was founded in 1890 and continues to build upon its rich history. Under the leadership of Reverend Stephen Moore, Reverend Jeffrey Gray, Deacon Willie Kiah and the Church Board of Officers, the Second Baptist Church of Matawan provides a harmonious environment for members of the congregation and the community to build upon their faith. Faithfully serving the members of its congregation, the Second Baptist Church of Matawan adheres to their principles of individual freedom in matters of faith. They continue to welcome new members to their congregation. They have implemented numerous ministries and continue to assist ailing members of the community. Their humble actions and service to the community are commendable.

Madam Speaker, please join me in leading this body in acknowledging the Second Baptist Church of Matawan, as the parishioners celebrate their 120th anniversary. The Second Baptist Church of Matawan community is tremendously valued in my district and the State of New Jersey.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$13,852,589,330,911.83.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$3,214,163,584,618.03 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

#### HONORING HOMER C. FLOYD UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

### HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, Homer C. Floyd, a champion of civil rights and human relations in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the past four decades, is concluding a remarkable career. Since February 1970, Mr. Floyd has served as Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission. He has an impressive record of accomplishments in civil rights, and has received numerous awards from organizations including the Pennsylvania NAACP, the International Association of Official Human Rights Organi-

zations, and most recently the Talk Magazine 2009 Person of the Year.

Even before attaining his executive position in Harrisburg, Mr. Floyd amassed a wealth of experience and accomplishment that spans North America. A graduate of the University of Kansas, Homer Floyd played Canadian professional football for the Edmonton Eskimos. He worked as a recreation supervisor in Kansas City, Missouri, and directed a civil rights commission with jurisdiction across the Dakotas, Missouri and Kansas. He consulted with the government of the Virgin Islands and worked with the U.S. Equal Opportunity Employment Commission in Washington. Since his arrival in Harrisburg he has donated his time to a long list of boards and committees and has volunteered on behalf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and numerous community, sports, youth and civil rights organizations in central Pennsylvania. He was married to the late Mattie Longshore and has three children and three grandchildren.

Now Homer C. Floyd is retiring, although it is bound to be a busy retirement based on his high-energy career. His family, friends, colleagues and admirers are gathering for a Retirement Celebration of Audacious Service on Monday December 20, 2010, at the African American Museum in Philadelphia. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join with me in honoring and congratulating Homer C. Floyd for a valuable and achieving life on behalf of his fellow citizens.

#### H.R. 4173, THE DODD-FRANK WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT—CLARIFICATION OF INTENT WITH RESPECT TO SECTION 625

### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, as a House conferee for H.R. 4173, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act ("Dodd-Frank Act"), I rise to reaffirm the intent of section 625 of the Dodd-Frank Act, which the President signed into law earlier this year (P.L. 111-203).

For years, many federal mutual holding companies have waived receipt of dividends in reliance on current Office of Thrift Supervision ("OTS") regulations which permit waivers of such dividends. These regulations also provide that such dividend waivers would not affect the exchange ratio in the event of a full conversion to stock form.

Section 625 of the Dodd-Frank Act seeks to maintain the current OTS regulation regarding dividend waivers for federal mutual holding companies which, prior to December 1, 2009, had waived the receipt of dividends pursuant to current OTS regulations permitting such dividend waivers. Section 625 authorizes that these mutual holding companies may continue to do so as long as they provide proper notice beforehand and no finding is made that such dividend waivers constitute a safety and soundness violation. Section 625 also provides that such dividend waivers shall not affect the exchange ratio in the event of a later full conversion by the mutual holding company to stock form. The OTS's regulations (which

remain unaltered from when the Dodd-Frank Act was being debated and became law) define a mutual holding company as the top-tier company and includes any mid-tier stock holding company. Therefore, regardless of what level of the federal mutual holding company had or continues to waive the receipt of dividends, the clear intent behind Section 625 is to preserve the current OTS regulations with respect to these institutions.

I commend Chairman FRANK for his leadership in drafting the Dodd-Frank Act, as well as his assistance in working with me to fully preserve and protect the thrift charter, including the dividend treatment of federal mutual holding companies. I also urge the Congress to carefully oversee the implementation of the Dodd-Frank Act, including provisions like Section 625, to ensure the regulators implement them in such a way as Congress intended.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MR. TOBY  
PALTZER

**HON. STEVE KAGEN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to Mr. Toby Paltzer as he retires from his distinguished career as Outagamie County Executive. For 11 years, Mr. Paltzer managed Wisconsin's sixth largest county in a manner that always best served its entire people, and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this dedicated public servant.

Toby Paltzer's service to Outagamie County goes well beyond his time as Executive. Prior to assuming his current role, Toby served as an Outagamie County board supervisor for 5 years, chairman of Agriculture, Extension Education, Zoning and Land Conservation Committee for 3 years, and was an active member of the Local Emergency Planning Committee for 12 years.

In addition to his government service, Mr. Paltzer has further demonstrated his commitment to the communities in and around Outagamie County, Wisconsin through his 45 years as a member and president of Grand Chute Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department, and his involvement as a mentor in the Outagamie Youth Leaders program.

Widely respected by business leaders and elected officials alike, citizens across Outagamie County will certainly miss Toby Paltzer's effective, efficient and clear-cut leadership. Despite having to weather one of the worst economic storms of our time, he leaves his Executive post having placed Outagamie County on a path to prosperity that will continue to be realized long after his departure.

Madam Speaker, as Mr. Paltzer steps down from his post as Outagamie County Executive, I ask the members of this chamber to join me in paying tribute to this valued member of our community.

TRIBUTE TO JEANETTE ROGERS-  
ERICKSON

**HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jeannette Rogers-Erickson, a community leader from Kern County in the State of California.

Mrs. Rogers-Erickson holds board positions in many local organizations, such as the Kern Valley Hospital Foundation, the Kern Valley Hospital Auxiliary, the Kernville Chamber of Commerce, the Kern River Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Kern River Revitalization group, the Exchange Club, the Rotary Club of the Kern Valley, the South Fork Women's Club, the Kern Valley Women's Club, and the Kern Valley Collaborative. Mrs. Rogers-Erickson also belongs to the Kern River Valley Art Association and for many years has had her art "worn" throughout the valley on the annual Whiskey Flat Days official shirts.

In addition to her membership in many local organizations, Mrs. Rogers-Erickson is a board member of the Kern Community Foundation and is on the organizing committee of the newly formed Kern River Valley Community Foundation Fund. She has been active with the Women's and Girls' Fund of Bakersfield as well as a board member of the Probation Auxiliary County of Kern, PACK, which oversees the Kernville-based Camp Erwin Owen for Boys.

For her many great works in the community, Mrs. Rogers-Erickson was selected by Assemblymember Jean Fuller to be the 2007 Woman of the Year for the 32nd California State Assembly District. She is also the recent recipient of the Exchange Club 2010 Book of Golden Deeds given to a local resident who has high integrity, honesty, generosity, great work ethic, and high moral values. An ordained minister, Mrs. Rogers-Erickson is the South Fork Club's Inspirational Chairman and organizes several Pastor Prayer Events throughout the year. She is very active in the Exploring Careers in Health Occupations Academy, which is a local high school program that partners with the Kern Valley Healthcare District and Cerro Coso College.

I am thankful to Jeanette for all of her service to our community and I hope that she and her husband Charley enjoy her retirement.

**HON. ADRIAN SMITH**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to recognize the Western Nebraska Community College volleyball team who late last month claimed the school's second ever National Junior College Championship title. The Cougars' win over San Jacinto College in five sets capped a wonderful season.

The Cougars came out strong—winning the first two sets—and holding off a spirited challenge to win in a five-set thriller. I am proud of the Cougars and Coach Giovana Melo—who has guided her team to top-three finishes in all three of her seasons as coach.

Debora Araujo led the way for WNCC with 22 kills in the final match. Kuulei Kabalis was named to the all-tournament team after totaling a school-record 34 digs against San Jacinto and Fernanda Goncalves was named Most Valuable Player of the national tournament.

The WNCC Cougars earned the right to be called national champions. I offer my congratulations to the team, their fans, and their community, who made the season such a memorable one.

CONGRATULATING THE  
GASCONADE COUNTY 4-H

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Gasconade County 4-H for 75 years of excellence.

The original Gasconade County 4-H organization started with the ideas and planning of only 10 individuals. Since its inception in 1935, the Gasconade County 4-H has expanded and now includes 11 4-H clubs, 230 members, and 107 volunteers.

The Gasconade County 4-H engages youth to reach their fullest potential, while advancing the field of youth development in four different areas of focus: head, heart, hands, and health. Through their hands-on learning, these young members build their leadership capabilities and expand their skills which enable them to be proactive forces in their communities and prepare for their future endeavors. In its 75th year, the tradition of 4-H still remains strong throughout Gasconade County.

I congratulate the men and women who continue to advance this important cause, which has had such a positive effect on our youth and on our community. I am extremely proud. I also encourage more youth to participate in 4-H and other such programs that empower them to reach their full potential. I join the rest of the 9th Congressional District when I wish you all continued success and another 75 years of excellence!

I would like to take this time to commend Gasconade County 4-H for all their hard work, and I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing them for a job well done!

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 8, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3082, Making Further Continuing Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2011 and the Food Safety Enhancement Act of 2010. I support the underlying purpose of this bill: to keep the government running through September 30, 2011 and I support a number of provisions in it.

H.R. 3082 contains the Food Safety Enhancement Act, a bill that would greatly

strengthen the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) ability to demand recalls of tainted foods, increase inspections on domestic food facilities, and secure accountability from food companies. It also allows the FDA to create new regulations governing the sanitary transportation of food. I applaud the inclusion of a program to develop a nationwide food emergency response laboratory network to better monitor dangers to our Nation's food supply. While I regret that this bill has been weakened relative to the version that passed the House earlier this year, I welcome the overall improvements to the FDA's authority to protect public health.

I strongly support the funding included for the National Space and Aeronautics Administration (NASA). I am concerned, however, about the possible neglect of NASA's research centers, such as the NASA Glenn Research Center (NASA Glenn) located in my congressional district, as a result of the distribution of funds under this bill. The allocation of funding reflects the significant changes made to NASA's programs as requested by the President. The language in this bill makes vulnerable funds for in-house research and development (R&D) programs such as the Life Science, Human Research and Exploration Technology Development under the Technology Demonstration and Space Technology Missions. Ensuring NASA Glenn's health is vital to the workers at NASA I represent, as well as to the economic health of the State of Ohio. Adequate support of the agency's research centers is key to protecting NASA's legacy as the premier aeronautics R&D agency in the world.

However, I cannot support the \$159 billion contained in this legislation to continue the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. We have heard about fake negotiations between the Karzai government that we prop up and a fake Taliban leader; this, while we conduct a record number of airstrikes to wipe out Taliban leadership. We know that millions of dollars—some believed to be U.S. taxpayer money—have gone and are going unaccounted for as Karzai and his cronies purchase villas in Dubai. We also know that our night raids and airstrikes only foment hatred toward the U.S. and our presence in the country, further endangering our troops and allies. And yet as reasons to get out of Afghanistan continue to mount, so do the calls for a prolonged presence in the country beyond the initial proposed 2011 withdrawal date. The war in Afghanistan, like the war in Iraq, is taking place in a world where facts and common sense seem to have no place.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF  
BISHOP JOHN T. STEINBOCK

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. CARDOZA, and Mr. NUNES to pay tribute to Bishop John T. Steinbock who passed away on December 5, 2010 at the age of seventy-three in Fresno, California. Bishop Steinbock was a key figure in the Diocese in Fresno

which serves more than one million parishioners in eight counties from as far north as Merced County to as far south as Kern County.

Bishop John T. Steinbock was born on July 16, 1937 in Los Angeles, California. He was one of three boys born to Leo and Thelma Steinbock. As a child, the Bishop learned to read from racing forms at the horsetracks and learned to count by playing blackjack. The Bishop's decision to turn towards the priesthood came after his two brothers had joined the seminary. He attended a rigorous college preparatory high school designed for young men considering the priesthood and graduated in 1955. After spending the summer of 1958 learning Spanish at a boardinghouse in Mexico City, he decided that he wanted to become a priest.

On May 1, 1963, Bishop Steinbock was ordained into the priesthood. Upon his ordainment, Bishop Steinbock was assigned to Resurrection Parish located in the Hispanic barrio in Los Angeles, California. During Bishop Steinbock's time in Resurrection Parish, he developed his reputation as a great administrator, a valued skill which would lead his promotion within the Catholic Church. In 1973, Bishop Steinbock was transferred to St. Vibiana's Catholic Cathedral near Skid Row in Los Angeles. During the Bishop's time in East Los Angeles, he ministered to the poor and homeless, often dealing with individuals suffering from mental illness, drug and alcohol addiction, and physical abuse. Bishop Steinbock also became a police chaplain for the Los Angeles Police Department. When reflecting on his time in East Los Angeles, Bishop Steinbock wrote, "The greatest suffering was the loneliness and despair I found in the lives of so many."

Bishop Steinbock would have been content to stay a priest; however he was informed by the late Cardinal Timothy Manning that the late Pope John Paul II had named him to be a Bishop. Bishop Steinbock was hesitant to accept the honor, but was convinced by Cardinal Manning's message that the Pope was simply acting in accordance with God's will for Bishop Steinbock's life. His first assignment as Bishop was in Orange County serving from 1984 to 1987. He would later serve in Santa Rosa, California until he arrived in Fresno, California in 1991. Bishop Steinbock arrived in Fresno to lead a diocese and quickly rose to the occasion, solving several inherited challenges such as a \$3 million deficit. In addition, during the Bishop's first decade in Fresno the diocese undertook seventy major building or renovation projects on churches, parish halls, offices, and school classrooms.

Bishop Steinbock's style of ministry was uniquely his own. He sought out technology and innovation as a means for communication, evangelization, teaching, and formation. The Bishop also recognized the need for personal and genuine love and concern for his brother priests who were never far from his thoughts and prayers. Bishop Steinbock personally celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation for virtually every young adult in the Diocese, except in a handful of all the eighty-eight diocesan parishes. Bishop Steinbock's pastoral messages, homilies, and Masses often addressed immigrants, farm workers, the unemployed, the imprisoned, those without health care, restorative justice and love for one's neighbor. Despite the Bishop's busy schedule,

he made time to visit each office in the Pastoral Center to spend time with staff and volunteers. On October 23, 2009, Bishop Steinbock celebrated his Silver Jubilee as Bishop of the Diocese of Fresno.

Madam Speaker, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. NUNES, and I ask our colleagues to join us in honoring the life of Bishop John T. Steinbock as we offer our condolences to his family and celebrate his memory and service to the Diocese of Fresno and California.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF JOHN  
LENNON

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of John Lennon, a musician, songwriter, entertainer, international icon, and father, who will be remembered as one quarter of The Beatles—on the 30th Anniversary of his death. His contributions as a songwriter, musician, and artist span every facet of the musical industry and his work is beloved around the world.

John Lennon was born on December 9, 1940 in Liverpool, England and was killed on December 8, 1980 outside of his apartment in New York City. During his lifetime, John was passionate about making the world a better, safer place. He had strong convictions that war was always wrong and that peace was achievable. The ideals he held still resonate today. His music, whether produced alone, with the Beatles, or with Yoko Ono continues to be played on the radio.

John Lennon was a passionate man whom millions of people have come to admire. His death still weighs deeply in the hearts of millions of those who loved his music. He has been the recipient of many awards and honors, including an appointment as a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) with the other Beatles in 1965. Numerous albums that he had a hand in crafting have been listed on Billboard charts. They have helped put him on lists of the greatest musicians and songwriters of all time. John Lennon was posthumously inducted to the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1987 and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1994.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honor and recognition of John Lennon. Mr. Lennon's brilliant artistry, unwavering activism and spirit continue to lighten hearts and enlighten minds by bringing enjoyment and hope to millions. His influence spans continents and generations. Thirty years after his death, his fans are still grieving. John Lennon and his legacy have made and continues to make our Nation and our world a better place.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND  
DEDICATION OF GREG HOLYFIELD

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lt. Wayland

Gregory Holyfield for his contributions to the Sixth District of Tennessee while serving on my Washington, DC staff. As any member of Congress knows, our legislative achievements and successful constituent services programs would not be possible without a cadre of great staff working behind the scenes. They work long hours—often for little pay or recognition—and their service is simply invaluable to those of us who serve in this esteemed chamber. Throughout my 26 years in Congress, I have been fortunate to have many bright, able staff members with an interest in serving their country by working in this body. Today, I'd like to single out those who are serving my constituents as my tenure comes to a close.

Greg is one of a distinguished group of staff members who have served a second term on my staff after leaving to pursue graduate degrees and other work. Greg first came to my office as a Legislative Correspondent in 2003, having gained Capitol Hill experience in the office of Senator MARK PRYOR. His hard work soon earned him a promotion to my Legislative Assistant for foreign affairs, immigration, agriculture and other issues, Greg was a valuable resource to me and to constituents with concerns in these policy areas. Greg also lent special expertise to issues related to the music and recording industry, having grown up in a family in Nashville's songwriting business.

Public service came naturally to Greg. Prior to working in my office, he served in the Peace Corps, spending more than two years overseeing agricultural projects in Mali. In 2005 he left my office to join the inaugural class at the Clinton School of Public Service at the University of Arkansas. After graduating from the Clinton School, Greg made the decision to join the Armed Forces and serve his country in the U.S. Army Reserves. We are extremely proud of his service and honored to count him as an alumnus of the office.

When Greg decided to return to Washington, DC, to pursue his love of politics, his timing could not have been better. Greg took on the gargantuan and unenviable task of preparing my official papers to be archived at the Albert Gore Research Center at my alma mater, Middle Tennessee State University. Greg attacked this mountain of paper with impressive organization and patience. Analyzing and cataloging 26 years worth of legislative records, invitations, correspondence and press files is no small feat, and the process of closing my office would not have gone as smoothly without Greg's dedication to the project. Greg's work made it possible for me and my staff to continue at full throttle with the office's legislative work through the end of my term this year. In addition, it has helped to establish a historical record of the district and the legislative process that I hope will be valuable to MTSU students and Middle Tennesseans for generations to come.

It has been wonderful to have Greg on the team once again. Those who worked with him before welcomed the return of his dry sense of humor and natural charm, and the newer members of my staff have developed an appreciation for his passion for the Georgia Bulldogs, enthusiasm for war movies, and love of both types of music—country and western.

Madam Speaker, Greg Holyfield has done great work in the service of the Sixth District of Tennessee. He comes from a good Tennessee family, and I know they are very proud of him. Greg, thank you for your help to my of-

fice and your service to our country. I wish you all the best in the future.

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HONORING WOLFGANG HERZOG

**HON. TIM HOLDEN**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. HOLDEN. Madam Speaker, on the evening of December 17, 2010, hundreds of friends and colleagues, as well as state and local officials in southwest Germany, will gather to honor one of the most unique business leaders that that I have had the privilege to encounter—Wolfgang Herzog. He serves as the director of utility services for the city of Kaiserslautern, Germany. He has emerged as a leader in German programs designed to further promote and enhance critical host-nation relations with the huge American military components in the region. Kaiserslautern, a city whose U.S. military and business profile is so pronounced that it is now called The American City in Germany, is the home to nearly 55,000 Americans, making it the largest U.S. military outpost overseas.

The cooperation of the U.S. military with the leaders of the community is an essential component of overseas forces activities. It is the host-nation city that makes possible the logistical, social, cultural, and infrastructure that provide for workable and meaningful relations between our troops and the people of a foreign nation which surrounds them.

Over the last two decades Mr. Herzog has escorted numerous city officials and associates to Washington. He has met with multiple Senators and Representatives to profile the extent of Kaiserslautern's commitment to its American neighbors.

Mr. Herzog has also been welcomed at the Pentagon by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as well as the Army and Air Force Chiefs of Staff. He has often worked with military staff in providing efficient energy services and protecting environmental standards.

Mr. Herzog has received tributes from senior American military leaders in Kaiserslautern. General Roger Brady, Commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe presented him with the Medal of Distinction. Army Major General Patricia McQuiston, Commander of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command, decorated him with the Soaring Eagle Award.

The Lord Mayor of Kaiserslautern, Dr. Klaus Weichel and all of the residents of the region join with me in saying to Mr. Herzog: *Ad Multos Annos!*

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HONORING THE SERVICE AND DEDICATION OF EMILY PHELPS

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Emily Phelps for her contributions to Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District. As any member of Congress knows, our legislative achievements and successful constituent services program would not be possible without a cadre of

great staff working behind the scenes. They work long hours—often for little pay or recognition—and their service is simply invaluable to those of us who serve in this esteemed chamber. Throughout my 26 years in Congress, I have been fortunate to have many bright, able staff members with an interest in serving their country by working in this body. Today, I'd like to single out those who are serving my constituents as my tenure comes to a close.

Emily Phelps has served as my communications director throughout this last year of my term. Even though I announced a year ago that I was retiring, my staff and I have not slowed down one bit since then. My legislative efforts have continued, and Emily has done a tremendous job of ensuring my constituents know how new laws will affect their families and their communities.

Emily has put in long hours and hard work to manage outreach on Congress' actions on health care reform, the controversy surrounding failing brakes in some Toyota models, and my efforts to ban imports of foreign-generated nuclear waste. After floods ravaged Tennessee this spring, Emily provided up-to-the-minute reports about disaster assistance through my website and outreach to local media. While the Science and Technology Committee's communications director was out on maternity leave, Emily split her time, assisting with hearing, managing a press conference related to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, and preparing for House consideration of the America COMPETES Act.

Madam Speaker, Emily has a bright, continued future ahead of her in communications. She is thoughtful, offers good ideas and insight, maintains ease and comfort with reporters, and, as all good staff does, advocates an alternative opinion rather than just agreeing with the status quo.

My staff and I have enjoyed getting to know Emily and having her in the office. Her easy-going nature, with a touch of endearing quirkiness, is a pleasant counter to the clamor of Congress. Emily, I thank you for helping me accomplish so much this year, and I wish you all the best.

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HONORING THE SERVICE AND DEDICATION OF CHRISTOPHER RACKENS

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Christopher Rackens for his contributions to the Sixth District of Tennessee while serving on my Washington, DC staff. As any member of Congress knows, our legislative achievements and successful constituent services programs would not be possible without a cadre of great staff working behind the scenes. They work long hours—often for little pay or recognition—and their service is simply invaluable to those of us who serve in this esteemed chamber. Throughout my 26 years in Congress, I have been fortunate to have many bright, able staff members with an interest in serving their country by working in this body. Today, I'd like to single out those who are serving my constituents as my tenure comes to a close.

Chris Rackens joined my office during the final week of House consideration of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, a bill that sparked public interest exceeding anything I have seen during my time in Congress. It was a week of unprecedented call volumes that sometimes crashed the House phone system. Although he had just joined us days before, Chris helped to staff the office over the weekend to provide updates to constituents in Middle Tennessee who were following the debate. It was an exciting and challenging time for even the most veteran staffers. Unfazed, Chris jumped right into his staff assistant duties with professionalism under pressure, a great attitude, and a pride in his small-town upbringing that endeared him right away to his colleagues in Washington and Tennessee.

Chris was always eager to tackle any task, which served him well as he was promoted from staff assistant to legislative aide. Chris has covered legislation in the areas of education and government reform, answering constituent concerns and assisting Tennessee universities and state entities that needed assistance working with federal agencies. In addition, he also took on the role of systems administrator for the office, an often thankless and time consuming job.

During the last months, Chris has shown real leadership in the move from our Rayburn office to transition space in preparation for closing my Washington and Tennessee offices. He has handled many of the major logistical challenges of helping the staff relocate, all while staying on top of a full load of correspondence and legislative work. Our office transition would not have been as successful without him.

Madam Speaker, Chris Rackens has done great work in the service of the Sixth District of Tennessee. He has tremendous charisma and an unfalteringly good attitude that has led him to believe no task is too big or too small to undertake. I know I will continue to hear good things from and about Chris, and I wish him all the best in the future.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND  
DEDICATION OF DANA  
LICHTENBERG

### HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dana Lichtenberg for her contributions to the Sixth District of Tennessee while serving on my Washington, DC staff. As any member of Congress knows, our legislative achievements and successful constituent services programs would not be possible without a cadre of great staff working behind the scenes. They work long hours—often for little pay or recognition—and their service is simply invaluable to those of us who serve in this esteemed chamber. Throughout my 26 years in Congress, I have been fortunate to have many bright, able staff members with an interest in serving their country by working in this body. Today, I'd like to single out those who are serving my constituents as my tenure comes to a close.

Dana joined my staff in 1999 already a seasoned Hill staffer with experience in three con-

gressional offices. After proving herself to possess incredible policy knowledge, she became my Legislative Director in 2007. She manages my legislative staff, oversees my legislative agenda and advises me on issues before the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Many congressmen would count themselves lucky to have a Legislative Director as knowledgeable in one policy area as Dana is in ten. Although telecommunications policy has been her first love, her understanding of health care policy and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is second to none. Her work in my office has taken her deep into small business, consumer protection and intellectual property policy. She will be leaving my office with 15 bills under her belt, notably the NET 911 Improvement Act that helped modernize 911 systems for Internet-based phones and the SPARTA sports agents law that cracks down on unscrupulous sports agent activity at the college level.

In the nearly 12 years since she joined my staff, Dana has seen major changes, from the excitement surrounding three presidential elections and two power shifts in the House, to the heartbreaking and frightening period surrounding the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Throughout it all, Dana has managed a tight legislative team and mentored a number of great legislative staffers who have thrived under her tutelage and now work have successful careers elsewhere in Congress. Most importantly, Dana has never forgotten who she is working for. No matter how long her list of accomplishments grows, she is never too busy to help a Tennessean who has a concern related to federal legislation and walk them through it with patience and candor. Dana politely discusses legislation point-by-point with constituents who call with concerns, leading to many conversations ending with appreciation and understanding after beginning with angst and opposition. Dana always manages to keep herself busy both in the office and out with her gardening jobs, appreciation for good wine and trips home to her native California.

Madam Speaker, it has been wonderful to have Dana to rely on as my Legislative Director. Dana, thank you for all your help and dedication over these many years. Your hard work has helped to make me a better congressman.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND  
DEDICATION OF GRAHAM  
SCHNAARS

### HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Graham Schnaars for his contributions to the Sixth District of Tennessee while serving on my Washington, DC staff. As any member of Congress knows, our legislative achievements and successful constituent services programs would not be possible without a cadre of great staff working behind the scenes. They work long hours—often for little pay or recognition—and their service is simply invaluable to those of us who serve in this esteemed chamber. Throughout my 26 years in Congress, I have

been fortunate to have many bright, able staff members with an interest in serving their country by working in this body. Today, I'd like to single out those who are serving my constituents as my tenure comes to a close.

Graham comes to Capitol Hill from the field of engineering. He earned a BS from the University of Virginia and a Master's in Structural Engineering from Lehigh University. After working on structural engineering projects from Louisiana to Alaska, and fitting in time to complete a cross-country bike trip to raise awareness for Habitat for Humanity, Graham followed his interest in public policy to Washington, DC.

He began his Hill career with an internship at the House Committee on Science and Technology, which played well to his engineering background and research skills. A native Tennessean himself, Graham volunteered to help my personal office staff handle the overwhelming volume of calls that came in during the health care debate this spring. When the staff put in extra time over the weekend to keep constituents up-to-date, Graham surprised us by showing up and volunteering his services. He surprised us even more by staying with us until the final vote was tallied near midnight.

With his dedicated work ethic, firsthand knowledge of Middle Tennessee and stellar research skills, Graham's was the first name mentioned when a position opened on the legislative staff. As my legislative aide for agriculture, housing and Interior Department issues, Graham has been a valuable resource to me and to constituents with concerns in these areas. He has managed a difficult correspondence load and facilitated meetings with local interest groups on complex issues.

In addition to being a snappy dresser, Graham has been a great member of the team. He has a wry sense of humor, a wonderful attitude and an eagerness to pitch in as needed. At times when the office has been understaffed during the final months of my term, he held down the fort for senior legislative staff—and brought in his now-famous spinach and artichoke dip to help us through.

Madam Speaker, Graham has done stellar work for Middle Tennessee. He has a bright future ahead of him as a policy wonk, and I wish him all the best.

BOEHNER: EYE-OPENING REPORT  
DETAILS GOV'T MORTGAGE COMPANIES' ROLE IN FINANCIAL MELTDOWN

### HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I submit the following for the RECORD:

BOEHNER: EYE-OPENING REPORT DETAILS GOV'T MORTGAGE COMPANIES' ROLE IN FINANCIAL MELTDOWN

WASHINGTON, DC.—House Speaker-designate John Boehner (R-OH) issued the following statement in response to a report released by the Republican commissioners on the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission (FCIC) regarding the causes of the financial crisis:

“This eye-opening report details how government mortgage companies played a pivotal role in the financial meltdown by handing out high-risk loans to families who

couldn't afford them. After years of being coddled and enabled by Washington politicians, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are now on life support, kept afloat by taxpayers fed up with unending bailouts. Through the Pledge to America, Republicans have proposed saving billions for taxpayers by ending government control of Fannie and Freddie, shrinking their portfolios, and establishing minimum capital standards. I appreciate the Republican commissioners' efforts to get to the bottom of what happened and ensure the American people have the full story about the financial crisis. This is a report every taxpayer should read."

Note: Former Rep. Bill Thomas, Keith Hennessey, Douglas Holtz-Eakin, and Peter Wallison are the Republican commissioners on the FCIC. As the Republican commissioners state in their introduction, "these findings and conclusions do not constitute the Commission's report."

#### INTRODUCTION

On May 20, 2009, Public Law No. 111-21, the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act of 2009, was enacted into law, creating the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission (FCIC). According to the Act, the FCIC was established to "examine the causes, domestic and global, of the current financial and economic crisis in the United States." The law requires that today, December 15, 2010, the FCIC submit "to the President and to the Congress a report containing the findings and conclusions of the Commission on the causes of the current financial and economic crisis in the United States." This primer contains preliminary findings and conclusions released by Vice Chairman Bill Thomas, Commissioner Keith Hennessey, Commissioner Douglas Holtz-Eakin, and Commissioner Peter J. Wallison, and represents a portion of the findings and conclusions resulting from our work on the FCIC. As the transmission of the report of the FCIC to the President and Congress requires a majority vote of the Commission, these findings and conclusions do not constitute the Commission's report. Rather, this document is an effort to reflect the clear intention of our enabling legislation. Our views have been shaped, in part, by our knowledge of economics and financial markets generally. In the course of our examination, we have studied and drawn from the extensive work already available on the financial crisis. This crisis that we were tasked to study is neither the first nor likely the last of its type, and thus our examination of similar, previous episodes also informed our findings and conclusions. To that end, we see this document as a part of an already rich discussion of the causes of financial crises, both in the United States and around the world. This document adds to that conversation rather than closing it. The two seminal works on the causes of the Great Depression, Milton Friedman and Anna Schwartz's—*A Monetary History of the United States, 1867-1960* and Ben Bernanke's—*Nonmonetary Effects of the Financial Crisis in the Propagation of the Great Depression*, were published in 1963 and 1983, respectively, many decades after the crisis had ended. We anticipate that future generations will continue to provide additional insights into the causes of this financial crisis as well.

Further, we want to stress the extent to which our views have been influenced by the research and investigations conducted by the FCIC since our first meeting in September 2009. The work included conversations with economic historians, finance experts, and other academics, and hundreds of interviews with market participants, regulators, and government officials. While we may have organized and conducted some of these inves-

tigations differently given the choice, we have found many elements to be useful. We thank the FCIC staff for their hard work.

We have tried to distill those issues that we think are most important into a series of questions and answers. Different questions were included for different reasons, including those topics that, in our view, are commonly mischaracterized and those most relevant to future policy discussions. Certainly, this is not an exhaustive list.

Our framework reflects a central premise that the financial crisis was distinct from other recent important economic events, including the housing bubble and the prolonged economic recession. We believe that the financial crisis was, at its core, a financial panic that was precipitated by highly correlated mortgage-related losses concentrated at large financial firms in the United States and Europe. While the housing bubble, the financial crisis, and the recession are surely interrelated events, we do not believe that the housing bubble was a sufficient condition for the financial crisis. The unprecedented number of subprime and other weak mortgages in this bubble set it and its effect apart from others in the past.

We look forward to continuing to participate in the ongoing dialogue on the causes of the financial crisis and providing our additional views as they develop.

Vice Chairman Bill Thomas  
Commissioner Keith Hennessey  
Commissioner Douglas Holtz-Eakin  
Commissioner Peter J. Wallison

A copy of the report can be found at the following link: [http://republicanleader.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Financial\\_Crisis\\_Primer\\_Final.pdf](http://republicanleader.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Financial_Crisis_Primer_Final.pdf)

#### HONORING THE SERVICE AND DEDICATION OF JACQUELINE FREDERICK

##### HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Jacqueline Frederick for her contributions to Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District. As any Member of Congress knows, our legislative achievements and successful constituent services programs would not be possible without a cadre of great staff working behind the scenes. They work long hours—often for little pay or recognition—and their service is simply invaluable to those of us who serve in this esteemed chamber. Throughout my 26 years in Congress, I have been fortunate to have many bright, able staff members with an interest in serving their country by working in this body. Today, I'd like to single out those who are serving my constituents as my tenure comes to a close.

Jackie Frederick joined my Washington office as staff assistant after impressing me and my staff throughout her internship as she completed her final semester at American University this spring. During college, she studied political science and studied abroad in Spain. Her research and organizational skills and deep interest in politics and foreign affairs made her an excellent candidate for the staff assistant position when it became available.

During her time with us, Jackie has managed an exceptionally warm and friendly front office. From VIP dignitaries to very young con-

stituents, Jackie has welcomed all with total grace and Southern hospitality. She has helped hundreds of Middle Tennesseans secure passports and schedule tours around Washington, all while providing valuable support to my legislative staff and correspondence program. Her sense of humor, pride in her Miami Cuban heritage and unshakable optimism have made her a great addition to the office.

In the short time she has been with us, Jackie has shown tremendous initiative in conceiving and implementing projects, notably her Constitution Day project. After noting that my Washington office had an abundance of pocket Constitution booklets, Jackie took it upon herself to distribute them. By reaching out to public schools in my district, she was able to put 2,500 Constitutions in the hands of Tennessee students on Constitution Day in September. It was an inspired idea, and it really did our office proud.

Madam Speaker, it has been a pleasure having Jackie with us. In January, she will join the staff of the Embassy of Sri Lanka, where she will serve as executive assistant to the Ambassador. My staff and I are thrilled about this newest chapter in her career and are confident she will do great work there. Jackie, I and your colleagues wish you all the best in the future.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE AND DEDICATION OF ELIZABETH KELSEY NEVITT

##### HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Elizabeth Kelsey Nevitt for her contributions to the Sixth District of Tennessee while serving on my Washington, DC staff. As any Member of Congress knows, our legislative achievements and successful constituent services programs would not be possible without a cadre of great staff working behind the scenes. They work long hours—often for little pay or recognition—and their service is simply invaluable to those of us who serve in this esteemed chamber. Throughout my 26 years in Congress, I have been fortunate to have many bright, able staff members with an interest in serving their country by working in this body. Today, I'd like to single out those who are serving my constituents as my tenure comes to a close.

Elizabeth Nevitt came to my staff last fall with stellar references from the office of my colleague Congressman ZACK SPACE of Ohio and a background that has made her well-suited for the halls of Congress. She studied communications and political science at Muhlenberg College before taking a position with the University of Michigan. Eventually, her love of politics brought her to our Nation's capital, where she earned her Master's degree in Political Management at The George Washington University and worked in government affairs prior to beginning her service on the Hill. Elizabeth's strong principles, diligent work ethic and appreciation for policy nuances have made her a natural for her chosen career.

In her role as my senior legislative assistant, Elizabeth helped me advance key legislative

priorities in the areas of energy, trade and transportation by working with the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Science and Technology Committee. She successfully oversaw House passage of the Radioactive Import Deterrence Act and worked with committee staff to address my concerns and add language to the Home Star Energy Retrofits Act and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Elizabeth has also worked with stakeholders in my district to see several major local initiatives through the appropriations process. With a great sense of diplomacy and attention to detail, she has been a tireless advocate for the people of the Sixth District of Tennessee and the universities in my district.

Elizabeth is a consummate professional and has been a great addition to my office. She is bright, possesses excellent writing and editing skills, and a curiosity and depth of knowledge that made her an invaluable member of the team. She applies all of her talents to her efforts, whether it's her work as a founder of the Women's Congressional Staff Association or her well known karaoke pursuits.

Madam Speaker, it has been a pleasure having Elizabeth on my staff. I look forward to following her successful career, wherever it takes her, and wish her and her husband, Jason, all the best in the future.

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HONORING THE SERVICE AND  
DEDICATION OF ERIC FINS

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Eric Fins for his contributions to Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District. As any member of Congress knows, our legislative achievements and successful constituent services programs would not be possible without a cadre of great staff working behind the scenes. They work long hours—often for little pay or recognition—and their service is simply invaluable to those of us who serve in this esteemed Chamber. Throughout my 26 years in Congress, I have been fortunate to have many bright, able staff members with an interest in serving their country by working in this body. Today, I'd like to single out those who are serving my constituents as my tenure comes to a close.

Eric attended American University and graduated Cum Laude in 2008. Following a successful internship with his hometown representative, Congressman JIM MCGOVERN,

Eric joined my office as a staff assistant. He maintained a friendly front office and handled every task set in front of him, including the daunting job of ticket distribution for the overwhelming number of constituents who wanted to attend President Obama's inauguration. Eric's hard work earned him a promotion to the role of Legislative Correspondent and then Legislative Assistant.

As a Legislative Correspondent, Eric managed a heavy volume of constituent concerns on a number of issues, ensuring all received prompt and thorough responses. As a Legislative Assistant, Eric brought a thoughtful approach and an impressive depth of knowledge on a broad range of issues, from immigration to defense to homeland security to financial services. Eric shepherded House passage of the Combat Methamphetamine Enhancement Act, which was signed into law this fall. Meth production continues to be a serious problem in my district, and many Tennesseans will see benefits from Eric's hard work.

Eric should also be commended for his work with my internship program. His patience and good attitude made him such a good fit for the job of intern coordinator that he returned to it even after taking on a full legislative portfolio. By recruiting, training and mentoring an excellent group of interns, Eric did a service both to my staff and to the young people he worked with.

Madam Speaker, it has been a pleasure working with Eric. His dedication and great sense of humor have made him an integral part of the team in Washington and endeared him to his coworkers in Tennessee. We consider him an honorary Tennessean and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

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RECOGNIZING KATHY LUND

**HON. TOM McCLINTOCK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Kathy Lund of Rocklin, California.

Since her first election to the city council in 1985, Kathy has provided invaluable contributions to the city. She worked to develop a strong fiscal position for the city: formulating a General Plan for Rocklin and assuring that it was followed while also establishing and protecting an emergency fund and setting aside funds to meet the city's future retirement and health-benefit obligations. Kathy also provided much-needed support for numerous school

and education initiatives, including Safe Routes to School improvements throughout Rocklin, the development of joint facilities for the Rocklin Unified School District and the construction of the Sierra College interchange. Her passion for serving her community was further displayed through her work to ensure the safety and well-being of its people. She was instrumental in the creation of the Anti-Gang Task Force, for the development of a city-wide park system, the creation of the six-city Placer County Transportation Agency and for working to guarantee the continuation of essential ambulatory service for Rocklin residents.

Madam Speaker, I can offer no better commendation to Kathy than that which the people of Rocklin have already conferred upon her by continuously reelecting her over the last 25 years to serve on the city council and to six terms as mayor. At a time when cities across our country find themselves struggling financially and desperate to find capable and honorable officials, Kathy Lund has been a sterling example of all that ought to be meant by the designation "public servant." I am proud today to congratulate Kathy on her numerous accomplishments and to thank her for a quarter century of commitment, dedication and service to the people of Rocklin.

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SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, December 16, 2010 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.