

HONORING STUDENT VETERAN
AND COMMUNITY LEADER MATT
RANDLE

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize former United States Army Combat Medic and current University of Arizona student Matt Randle.

Over the course of his career in the Army, Matt received two Army Commendation Medals, three Army Achievement Medals and two Good Conduct Medals for his service.

Following his distinguished service to our country Matt returned to his hometown of Tucson, Arizona and enrolled at the University of Arizona. Once on the UA campus, Matt began working with UA President Robert Shelton and his staff to develop and implement a program to support returning veterans attending the University. I am proud to say that today the University of Arizona, located in my Congressional district, has one of the most progressive and impressive veteran education and service models in the country including a student run veteran's office.

Matt's leadership has also played an integral role in the prosperity of the UA Veterans club. This club received numerous awards on the University of Arizona's campus including the Club of the Year and Philanthropic Group of the Year for the 2009–2010 academic school year. The Student Veterans of America also recognized the club nationally, awarding it the "Club of the Year Award."

This year Matt will receive the UA's 2011 Robie Award. The award is issued to students who show personal integrity, initiative, cooperativeness, enthusiasm, humility, patriotism, well-rounded interests, active participation in student affairs and a commitment to service. Matt Randle is a model candidate for this award.

Matt Randle's ambition and leadership both at the UA and nationally will certainly be of great benefit to our returning veterans. Every day more veterans return home from the Middle East conflicts. The programs that Matt built on the University of Arizona campus support these men and women as they transition back to civilian life.

Upon graduation Matt will be attending the University Of Arizona Rogers College of Law in the fall of 2011.

I am pleased to acknowledge my constituent and friend, Matt Randle. I thank him for his leadership, service and outstanding contributions to the University and our community.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND
FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPRO-
PRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this Continuing Resolution. We must pass this bill today to begin to get this Nation on a path of fiscal stability. I want to make a

few brief remarks about the State-Foreign Operations title of the bill. State-Foreign Operations is reduced by 8.4 billion dollars from the fiscal year 2011 request. While some of my colleagues might say these funding levels mean that diplomacy and development take a large reduction, we need to keep in mind that the State-Foreign Operations bill grew by more than 33% from FY08 to FY10. We simply cannot allow these programs to continue to grow at this rate. The reductions taken in this bill are targeted, so that we can remain focused on our highest national security priorities. The bill provides critical funds for the frontline States of Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. It supports security assistance to some of our strongest allies—like Israel, Jordan, Mexico, and Colombia. It also addresses unexpected humanitarian crises around the world. I want to thank my colleague, Ranking Member Lowey, for working with me to address these high priority needs. I know we will continue to work together to address problems of bipartisan concern.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF ASHTON GENZMAN ON HER OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young woman from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Ashton Genzman of Perrysburg, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Ashton brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2015. She has served in several leadership roles: student government, Junior Induction Committee, Culinary Club and in a variety of other groups and extracurricular activities. While attending Notre Dame Academy in Toledo, Ohio, Ashton consistently achieved high honors, with an exceptional grade point average.

Throughout high school, Ashton participated in a number of athletic activities, including tennis, in which she received a varsity letter. She has also been involved in crew and track and field. I am confident that Ashton will carry the lessons of her student and athletic leadership to the United States Naval Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ashton Genzman on the acceptance of her appointment to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, where she will gain a world-class education and invaluable leadership experience. I am positive that Ashton will excel during her career at the United States Naval Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to her as she begins her service to the nation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "VET-
ERANS HOME LOAN IMPROVE-
MENT ACT"

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the bipartisan "Veterans Home Loan Improvement Act of 2011" along with Reps. TAMMY BALDWIN, BRIAN BILBRAY, SUSAN DAVIS, PETER DEFAZIO, BOB FILNER, JOHN GARAMENDI, AL GREEN, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, KURT SCHRADER, GREG WALDEN, DAVID WU, and DON YOUNG. Together we represent each of the states that would benefit from an expansion of the Qualified Veterans Mortgage Bond program.

This program was originally created after World War II to promote homeownership among our returning troops. Together, our states offer veterans mortgage loans at more favorable interest rates as a reward for their service to our Nation. As part of a comprehensive review of veterans' services in the state of Oregon, the Oregon Governor's Veterans Task Force recommended a further expansion of this highly effective program.

This Act is based on one particularly timely recommendation to expand eligibility for our state programs and bring affordable mortgages to an additional 264,000 veterans. I look forward to continuing to work on behalf of Oregon and the nation's veterans to ensure that we provide the best possible quality of care and service, and so that we can make this a true lifetime benefit for all qualified veterans.

96TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the record these remarks I gave at a Capitol Hill ceremony commemorating the 96th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

Tonight we commemorate a truly unjust and tragic chapter in human history—and just as importantly, we acknowledge that chapter as an historic fact. From 1915 to 1923, officials of the Ottoman Empire carried out a systematic campaign of massacres and forced deportations of Armenians from their historic homeland. In the end, this genocide cost the lives of one and a half million murdered men, women, and children. Another half million lost their homes.

In a July 24, 1915 cable, American Consul Leslie Davis said of the genocide, "I do not believe there has ever been a massacre in the history of the world so general and thorough as that which is now being perpetrated in this region or that a more fiendish, diabolical scheme has ever been conceived by the mind of man."

We commemorate the 20th century's first genocide not only to honor the lives of the dead, but because its effects are still very much with us. The Armenian Genocide has been a terrifying inspiration for mass murderers from Cambodia to Rwanda to the

former Yugoslavia to Darfur. As early as 1897, a French Jew named Bernard Lazare reflected on the massacres of Armenians that had already taken place and speculated that the Jew-haters of Europe might one day turn to an "Armenian solution" of their own. Four decades later—the Holocaust.

At the same time, the Armenian Genocide reminds us of our collective responsibility in the face of such crimes. In fact, it was in a statement from the Allied Powers denouncing the massacres that the phrase "crime against humanity" first appeared. The Armenian Genocide helped set a precedent that a murderous crime against a minority is a crime against us all—that there is a collective responsibility to prevent genocide.

That precedent and that responsibility came too late to save 1.5 million Armenians—along with all those killed in genocides that stopped too late. We have lived up to the responsibility first formulated in the wake of the Armenian Genocide all too imperfectly. But may this commemoration remind us of that responsibility—as the United Nations Genocide Convention tells us, a responsibility not only to address genocide after the fact, but to prevent it. We have a responsibility for action, not apathy: action to end crimes against humanity and punish the perpetrators.

We share the same goal: seeing the truth of the Armenian Genocide recognized by Congress. I hope to see a bill recognizing the genocide pass, and I wish that had happened in December. Unfortunately, by our count, the votes were not there—and in our opinion, a loss would have been a set-back cheered by genocide deniers. But I applaud the work you to do preserve the memory and the lessons of this historic truth. And I believe the day will come when Congress recognizes that truth, as well. You can count on my vote.

The evil of the first recognized crime against humanity can never be undone, and the dead cannot be restored to their families and their homeland. But may the memory of their lives inspire us to speak out and take action against crimes against humanity in our own time, and to pursue the justice that was denied to those 1.5 million.

REMEMBERING ROBERT W. WELLER

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great sadness to honor the passing of a dear friend, Bob Weller.

Bob was a retired certified public accountant who was a managing partner of the George S. Olive & Company's Richmond office in my district. Bob began his distinguished career with George S. Olive, now BKD LLC CPAs and Advisors, in Indianapolis in 1950, and he later moved to Richmond with his wife, Margie, and their young family to open a new office. He went on to serve as the managing partner there for thirty years.

But Bob was more than just a working man; he was a community man. He gave freely of his time and resources to benefit those around him. Bob served as President of the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce, President of

the Boys Club, and President of Green Acres (now Achieva). During his time at the Chamber, he was instrumental in leading efforts to rebuild Richmond, Indiana, following a devastating double explosion in 1968.

Some of Bob's other involvements included the Forest Hills Country Club, Kiwanis International, Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church, Central United Methodist Church, and the Indiana University Alumni Association. Like many Hoosiers, Bob was an avid Indiana University basketball and football fan, and he greatly enjoyed fishing, hunting, traveling, and spending time with his family.

I give my sincere condolences to Bob's loving wife of 62 years, Margie Walraven Weller; his sister Laverne; his three children Marcia Enslin, Robert Weller Jr., Mark Weller and their spouses; and his seven grandchildren. May I offer the Lord's comfort that we find in the Good Book that "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail."

HONORING MR. ABRAHAM BREEHEY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of my friend Abraham Breehey, who passed away yesterday at the young age of 35.

Abe was a champion for working men and women throughout his career. As Legislative Director for the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Abe was a leader among his colleagues representing the building and construction trades. He fought for labor and economic policies that would promote a fairer economy, and was an early leader in making the case that an energy policy to combat climate change would also be economically beneficial to those who, like boilermakers, are engaged in energy production.

I got to know Abe before coming to Congress. We served together in Albany, where I was a Member of the New York State Assembly and Abe was a legislative aide to my Western New York colleague Sam Hoyt. We bonded over our shared love of music, and Abe gave me my first lessons on the guitar, a fact he never grew tired of reminding me about.

Abe's life was tragically cut short, a victim of brain cancer. He leaves behind a wife and daughter. He had much more left to give the people he fought for, but he had already given so much. His advocacy will be missed by the labor movement, and his warm heart will be missed by his friends.

For my part, I will honor Abe by drawing inspiration from his work on behalf of those working in the building trades, and by redoubling my commitment to support cancer research.

Abe was a gentleman, a professional, an optimist and a good, kind friend. He is missed.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CREATING REAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROSPERITY (CROP) ACT

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an issue that greatly affects agricultural employment in my district and across the country. Against the backdrop of a beleaguered economy still recovering from the recession many small community banks have been unable to extend loans to farmers. Credit is needed to hire new employees, purchase seed, fertilizer, and fuel, all of which creates economic opportunity and subsequently produces jobs. The Farm Service Administration in the United States Department of Agriculture makes direct loans and loan guarantees to farmers who cannot qualify for regular credit. These loans allow farmers to continue growing rural economies and producing a safe and secure food supply.

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 1992 provided banking institutions to extend credit to farmers for a 15 year period. During the 111th Congress, the extension of term limits was allowed to expire on December 31, 2010, leaving family farmers without the ability to receive much needed operating loans to run the farm and hire employees. That is a why I am proud to introduce the Creating Real Opportunities for Prosperity Act, otherwise known as the CROP Act, which suspends the term limits and extends the period for guaranteed credit to December 13, 2013. This will provide much needed access to loans for farmers.

Farm operating loan term limits will be addressed by the next Farm Bill and this suspension of term limits will allow the members of the House Committee on Agriculture to determine what solution or changes need to be made while providing the security for community banks and farmers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House (and Senate) to support me in passing the CROP Act and bring stability to rural economies.

THE PROPOSED ELIMINATION OF LEARN AND SERVE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the proposed elimination of Learn and Serve America, the only Federal program dedicated to investing in service-learning in local schools and communities, in this budget. This decision is reckless and short-sighted, and I do not believe it reflects our values as a nation.

We live in a world full of challenges that require the collective attention and action of citizens of all ages. Through service-learning, young people across the country learn to apply knowledge and skills they pick up in the classroom to address these challenges in their community. Thanks to Learn and Serve, students have conducted energy audits in their