On rollcall vote No. 237, H. Amdt. 247 offered by Representative POLIS of Colorado, I would have voted ''no.''

On rollcall vote No. 238, H. Amdt. 248 offered by Representative MARKEY of Massachusetts, I would have voted ''no.''

On rollcall vote No. 239, H. Amdt. 249 offered by Representative RUSH of Illinois, I would have voted ''no.''

On rollcall vote No. 240, H. Amdt. 250 offered by Representative DOYLE of Pennsylvania, I would have voted ''no.''

On rollcall vote No. 241, H. Amdt. 251 offered by Representative KIND of Wisconsin, I would have voted ''no.''

On Thursday, April 7, the House considered H. Res. 206, offered by Representative FOXX of Virginia, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1363) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes; and waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules. On rollcall vote No. 242, on Ordering the Previous Question, I would have voted ''yes.''

On rollcall vote No. 243, on Agreeing to the Resolution, I would have voted ''yes.''

On rollcall vote No. 244, on Approving the Journal, I would have voted ''yes.''

Also on April 7, the House considered H.R. 1363, the Department of Defense and Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011, introduced by Representative ROGERS of Kentucky. On rollcall vote No. 245, Table Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair, I would have voted ''yes.''

On rollcall vote No. 246, on Motion to Recommit with Instructions offered by Representative OWENS of New York, I would have voted ''no.''

On rollcall vote No. 247, on Passage, I would have voted ''yes.''

Then the House completed consideration of H.R. 910. On rollcall vote No. 248, on Motion to Recommit with Instructions offered by Representative MCNERNY of California, I would have voted ''no.''

On rollcall vote No. 249, on Passage, I would have voted ''yes.''

On Friday, April 8, the House considered H.J. Res. 37, Disapproving the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission with respect to regulating the Internet and broadband industry practices, introduced by Representative WALDEN of Oregon. On rollcall vote No. 250, On Consideration of the Joint Resolution, I would have voted ''yes.''

On rollcall vote No. 251, Table Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair, I would have voted ''yes.''

On rollcall vote No. 252, on Passage, I would have voted ''yes.''

On Saturday, April 9, the House considered H.R. 1363, Making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes, introduced by Representative ROGERS of Kentucky. On rollcall vote No. 253, on Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment, I would have voted ''yes.''

REMEMBERING THE TRAGIC GULF OIL SPILL AND WORKING TO PREVENT FUTURE SPILLS

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a tragic event. One year ago, next Wednesday, an oil rig explosion in the Gulf of Mexico resulted in eleven families losing their loved ones. The explosion started what soon became the largest oil spill in United States history. It took far too long to stop this spill and the environmental and economic impacts will be felt for years to come. Twelve months later, Congress has not enacted any legislation to address the policy and management issues that contributed to the severity of last year's spill. This is unacceptable. We owe it to those who perished in the explosion, as well as those whose lives and businesses were impacted in the months that followed, to address the deficiencies in current federal policy.

That is why I am reintroducing the SAFEGUARDS Act, legislation I drafted last year to prevent and respond to future oil spills. I was not surprised that a report by the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling (Oil Spill Commission) highlighted the need for the changes I recommend, as the measure was developed following a series of meetings and regular phone calls with the on-the-ground incident commanders, local research teams and community emergency response personnel. It is my hope that the solutions put forth in this measure will be included in a wider legislative response to ensure that we impose rigorous safety standards on any off-shore platforms, while also establishing a fully thought out plan to respond to future disasters.

As I said last Congress, an uncontrolled discharge of oil is truly a worst-case scenario that oil companies and the federal government should be required to have an established plan for. While the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) has established specific safeguards to take into account the effects that drilling has on our environment, BP was permitted categorical exclusions from these requirements. No oil company should be exempt from addressing the environmental impact that their drilling activities impose. The SAFEGUARDS Act will ensure that NEPA requirements are not ignored again by, first, prohibiting categorical exclusions from NEPA, and second, extending the time period regulatory agencies have to review oil explorations proposals. Regulatory agencies currently have only a 30-day period to review extensive and intricate drilling proposals, however this bill will give regulatory agencies up to 150 days to ensure exploration plans are properly reviewed.

Not only was BP granted exemptions from environmental standards, they were also allowed to move forward without a prepared response plan for the failure of the blowout preventer. As recommended by the Oil Spill Commission ''oil spill response plans should be required to include detailed plans for source control [which] demonstrate that an operator's containment technology is immediately deployable and effective.'' The SAFEGUARDS Act would require all oil spill response plans to account for a true worst possible scenario, including the uncontrolled discharge of oil resulting from the failure of a blowout preventer or other containment devices.

The oil disaster in the Gulf has also brought much attention to the leadership and organization of the response and containment efforts currently in place. While the Coast Guard is ultimately responsible for leading the government's response to an oil spill in America's coastal waters, they are not required to approve oil spill response plans submitted by oil rigs. Instead, each rig was only required to submit their spill response plans to the now disbanded Minerals Management Service, an agency with many well-documented problems administering rig safety standards. The Oil Spill Commission notes that ''oil spill response plans, including source-control measures, should be subject to interagency review and approval by the Coast Guard.'' The SAFEGUARDS Act will make this a requirement for all current and future oil rigs, as well as establish the Commandant of the Coast Guard as the National Incident Commander to oversee the federal government's response to large oil spills in coastal waters.

Finally, the SAFEGUARDS Act will address some of the inadequacies in federal response efforts highlighted by last year's spill. The framework of the National Contingency Plan, which is the federal government response plan for all oil spills, has not been updated since 1994. The SAFEGUARDS Act will require the response plan to be updated at least every five years and to have unique plans for responding to oil spills in our coastal waters. Further, this bill will require the EPA to begin monitoring water quality within forty-eight hours after an oil spill is discovered. It is important for the public to have accurate information about how our water, our wildlife and our beaches are being affected as quickly as possible.

After finally stopping the flow of oil we now need to address the systematic breakdowns that led to the BP Deepwater Horizon catastrophe. The SAFEGUARDS Act presents commonsense solutions to help prevent a disaster of this magnitude from ever happening again, and improves the federal response in the event it ever does. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this measure. The Congress must get to work on oil spill response legislation; we owe it to the American people and the entire Gulf Coast.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAPTAIN RAY MARTINI

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ray Martini, a World War II veteran and distinguished resident of Half Moon Bay, California.

Mr. Martini entered the European theater of war at age 23. In his five months of deployment, this young plumber accomplished extraordinary achievements. He arrived as a lieutenant in the Air Force and left as a Captain. He won an Air Medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross and eleven Oak Leaf Clusters.

He flew over 50 bombing and strafing missions as a one-man crew of a Thunderbolt