

community has been immense, and his efforts to protect Colorado's outdoor beauty contribute to its pristine state.

HONORING WILLIAM F. ALLEN, JR.

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize William F. Allen, Jr. William is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 388, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

William has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years William has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, William was the first in his troop to earn the Conservation Badge. William has also joined the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and joined the Order of the Arrow.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending William F. Allen, Jr. for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately this week I was unable to participate in several votes. Had I been here I would have voted the following way:

H.R. 1213—Repeal mandatory funding provided to States in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to establish American Health Benefit Exchanges—AYE

H.R. 1214—Repeal mandatory funding for school-based health center construction—AYE
H.R. 3—No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act—AYE

H.R. 1230—Restarting American Offshore Leasing Now Act—AYE

A TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT
GABRIEL HAUGLAND

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievement of Lieutenant Gabriel Haugland of Clear Lake, Iowa who recently received the Combat Infantryman Badge for his service in the Iowa Army National Guard during Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) was established on October 7, 1943 by the U.S. War Department. It is awarded to those sol-

diery who personally fought in ground combat while assigned to either an infantry or a Special Forces unit.

Lieutenant Haugland, a graduate of the University of Iowa and Drake University Law School, joined the Army National Guard in May of 2004. He recently returned from serving a deployment in Afghanistan with Bravo Company, 168th Infantry Battalion. His unit's mission was to secure the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan, which consisted primarily of stopping the flow of foreign fighters, drugs, and guns into Afghanistan.

On January 8, 2011, Lieutenant Haugland's unit came under fire from the Taliban. He engaged in the fight, and thankfully was not wounded. However, he broke his leg three days later in a non-combat related accident and was sent stateside to recover. Lieutenant Haugland plans to resume his military career after his recovery.

Lieutenant Haugland is a true patriot and a true hero. I know my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in thanking him for his service to our great country and in congratulating him for receiving the Combat Infantryman Badge. I wish him, his wife Carolyn, and their children the best of luck in the future.

RECOGNIZING MR. PHILLIP C.
HOUSTON IN HONOR OF HIS RE-
TIREMENT FROM THE GREENE
COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF DE-
VELOPMENT

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Ohio's seventh congressional district, I am honored to recognize Mr. Phillip C. Houston for his 32 years of dedicated service to Greene County and congratulate him on his recent retirement.

Phil Houston grew up in the Akron area. He received his Bachelor's Degree from Olivet Nazarene College and a Master of Public Administration from Central Michigan University.

Throughout his 23 years as Director of the Department of Development for the Greene County Board of Commissioners, Phil has seen the department form into a full-service economic development organization that provides services in: small business loan assistance, structured retention and expansion, tourism, and housing down-payment assistance and education.

Originally, Greene County hired Phil to direct its annual \$3 million comprehensive Employment and Training Act Program, funds that were in jeopardy of being revoked by the U.S. Department of Labor. Within two years, Phil had remedied all the problems and his department was acknowledged for having taken appropriate steps to course-correct.

Thanks to Phil's stewardship, the county generated a fundamental Economic Development Plan, and worked with the four cities, six villages and 12 townships throughout Greene County to consolidate their efforts to improve the county. In just the past few years, more than 40 projects ranging from infrastructure improvements to community building renovations and code enforcement have been accomplished through Greene County's Commu-

nity Development Block Grant Program with Phil's oversight and direction.

Though he has made a career for himself in public service, Phil still managed to give back to his community as a volunteer. He has been involved with the American Economic Development Council, the Small Business Administration, and the Dayton Area Technology Network. He has served as a member of the County Budget Review Committee, County Adult Day Care Board, County Jail Advisory Committee, Greene County Board of Education Business Advisory Committee, and the Adult Education Committee for Greene County's Career Center.

Phil's efforts have not gone unnoticed, and he has received numerous awards throughout the years. Some of these include the Governor's Excellence Award for Innovative Economic Development and the Ohio County Superintendent's Association's Outstanding Leadership award in 1992. He was also named Greene County Adult Education Volunteer of the Year in 1990 and NAIOP Public Official of the Year for Dayton in 1991. Additionally, Phil has received five National Association of Counties, NACO, achievement awards for: increasing sales opportunities; intergovernmental cooperative efforts; cutback management; accessibility for the disabled; and assistance to the homeless.

Phil and his wife, Teresa, have two children, Erika and Brooke, two grandchildren and a third on the way.

Phil's decades of service have proven him to truly be the epitome of selflessness and commitment. He has demonstrated sincere dedication to providing prosperity and knowledge to Greene County. It is his exemplary efforts that assist the progress of our nation in fairly and efficiently protecting our citizens.

Thus, with great pride, I commend Mr. Phillip C. Houston for his commendable service to the community and extend him the best throughout his hard-earned retirement.

NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR
ABORTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, since coming to Congress in 2001, I have strongly supported the longstanding policy that prohibits federal funding of abortion. However, I cannot in good conscience support H.R. 3, the No Taxpayer Funding of Abortion Act, which goes far beyond current policy by using the tax code to punish families and small businesses for the private insurance that they already have.

The thirty-year precedent to restrict the federal funding of abortion, commonly known as the Hyde Amendment, has rightfully served as a guarantee to citizens that the federal government shall not use taxpayer dollars to pay for abortions beyond the unique exceptions of rape, incest, or life endangerment of the mother. The Hyde Amendment is a common sense measure to prevent the federal funding of something that many oppose on moral or religious grounds. I am certainly one of those people. However, this bill does much more than make this policy permanent federal law.

For the first time ever, H.R. 3 would expand the definition of federal funding to include tax deductions and credits of private income or expenses. In other words, current restrictions on government spending would also be applied to the private dollars families and small businesses decide to spend on health coverage. This is an unparalleled reinterpretation of federal funding that could have far-reaching consequences for families, businesses, and even religious institutions.

This bill explicitly prohibits individuals and small businesses that elect a private insurance plan with abortion coverage from claiming certain tax deductions, credits and exclusions for health care expenses, even if that abortion coverage is never used but happens to be part of a plan that otherwise works best for a particular family. Such a substantial change in federal policy would raise taxes on families and small businesses for private coverage that they are already struggling to afford.

This prohibition is also not equally applied to large employers, who can continue offering abortion coverage, creating an uneven and unjust application of abortion policy within the tax code. Further, since the IRS is charged with enforcing taxpayer compliance, this bill raises serious concerns over how the government might audit "questionable" benefit claims by women who receive an abortion as a result of sexual assault or legitimate life-threatening medical conditions.

It is also important to note that taking the unprecedented step of redefining "federal funding" to include the benefit of a tax exemption could raise political and legal questions for churches and other religious organizations which operate under similar restrictions as current law. Many religious institutions either receive segregated federal funds or tax exemptions to run activities such as adoption services, homeless shelters and food banks. This precedent challenges the very pro-life activities that these churches promote.

Although this bill contains many provisions that I do support, it simply goes too far by redefining the very meaning of federal funding.

Finally, we must not lose focus on the truly urgent priorities of Americans right now, namely economic security and deficit reduction. We are five months into this session and Republicans have yet to offer a single bill to help create jobs. I urge my colleagues to oppose the current version of this bill, stop allowing divisive social issues to dominate our time, and turn our attention to the true economic and fiscal challenges in front of us.

HONORING THE FIFTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

HON. RICHARD B. NUGENT

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, our communities must place the highest value on preserving the role of prayer in our society and government, so that all Americans can continue to enjoy the benefits that our faith has bestowed upon us; and

Whereas, an appreciation for our history encourages dedication to the values and ideals which have enriched our nation; and

Whereas, in the highest traditions of our country, the Fifth Congressional District of

Florida has provided an exceptional example of the power of faith in our society; and

Whereas, on this day, the citizens and leaders of the community are gathered to partake in a non-denominational day of prayer.

Therefore, I, Richard B. Nugent, Member of Congress representing the Fifth Congressional District of Florida, do hereby recognize the district's observance of the 60th National Day of Prayer.

A TRIBUTE TO JACOB POMEROY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jacob J. Pomeroy for the rank of an Eagle Scout. Jacob is a 10th grade student from South Hardin High School in Eldora, Iowa.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about 5% of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance based achievement whose standards have been well-maintained over the years. To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Jacob's project was to construct a barn-themed sun shelter for the Joyful Noise Preschool and the Waukee United Methodist Church. Jacob also went above and beyond the requirements by completing more than the minimum required number of merit badges.

Jacob has been involved in scouting since he became a Tiger Cub more than 11 years ago. Jacob's father, John Pomeroy, is also an Eagle Scout and current assistant Scout Master to Troop 178 from Waukee, Iowa.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Jacob Pomeroy and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues will join me in congratulating him on earning an Eagle Scout ranking and will wish him continued success in his future education and career.

CELEBRATING MAURA MCNIEL'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 90th birthday of Mrs. Maura McNiel, a leading women's rights activist whose legacy impacts women in Dallas and all over the United States.

Maura McNiel was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota on April 4, 1929 and grew up inspired by integration in Minneapolis-area schools. She moved to Dallas in 1953 and, dedicated to improve the lives of people and the world around her, became involved in the civil rights movement and environmental issues. Soon

after, Ms. McNiel immersed herself in the feminist cause, for which she is applauded today.

The list of Ms. McNiel's activities to improve the lives of others are endless: She spoke to reporters, politicians, organization leaders, and others and had a strong impact wherever she went. She founded Women for Change in 1971, the first women's center in Dallas, and then helped organize the Rape Crisis Center, the National Organization of Women and People for the American Way, Women's Coalition, Family Place (for battered women), the Southwest Credit Union, The Dallas Commission on the Status of Women and the Women's Issues Network.

But it was the personal touch she brought to her efforts that made each one a success.

She famously informed the all-male Rotary Club that just as birds flew better with two wings, marriages worked better as a partnership where both husband and wife shared responsibilities and demands. As her dialogue indicates, her approach was not antagonistic; rather, it was based upon building relationships. And that she did, with the Dallas City Hall, news organizations, and many, many others.

It was this both passionate and rational approach to women's rights that enabled her to successfully fight for Title IX in 1972, which expanded women's education opportunities. She understood that the success of a movement lies not just on its present, but also its future.

More importantly, she knew the importance of following words with action and personal sacrifice. As founding president of Women for Change, which created the first sanctuaries for family abuse victims, Maura took the lead by hosting the first woman in her own home.

A wonderful mother, Sunday school teacher, community leader, effective activist, Maura McNiel's work has led to achievements in women's studies, modern social work, advocacy on behalf of abused women, promotion of the Equal Rights Amendment, and passage of Title IX.

As her representative in Congress, it is my distinct pleasure to honor her today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives. I ask my colleagues to join Maura McNiel's family and friends in wishing her a blessed 90th birthday and continued health and happiness in the years to come.

SUPPORT PASSAGE OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 244, EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT A PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT WHICH INCLUDES HAMAS MUST BE PROHIBITED FROM RECEIVING UNITED STATES AID UNTIL THAT GOVERNMENT PUBLICLY COMMITS TO THE QUARTET PRINCIPLES

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my strong support for House Resolution 244, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a Palestinian government which includes Hamas must