

and organizations to improve the health of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. As the largest national Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander advocacy organization in the country, they maintain strategic relationships to move sound policy forward that benefit our communities.

Founded in 1986, the organization came together in response to the federal government's first groundbreaking report on minority health. "The Secretary's Report on Black and Minority Health" erroneously concluded that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders were healthier than other minorities despite the "paucity of data." Community leaders, advocates and medical providers who served Asian American populations came together to challenge this "model minority" myth and formed the Asian American Health Forum, solidifying the visionary idea of a national organization that would grow into the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum. Working out of a basement of the old Chinese Hospital in San Francisco Chinatown with few staff, the organization has now grown to be a national organization with over 30 staff headquartered in San Francisco, an office in Washington, DC, and a national network comprised of more than 15 groups.

Over the years the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum has reached several milestones. In the early '90s, the organization received funding from the Department of Health and Human Services to implement innovative outreach programs targeting chronic disease issues in the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, like HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis B. As the number of API individuals in the U.S. increased, the organization continued to grow to do work to improve the health of the community by developing tobacco cessation programs, cancer education and outreach programs and reducing domestic violence. In 2006, the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum received the largest ever philanthropic investment in Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities through a \$16.5 million grant by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation which has helped build capacity across the country through the Health Through Action Program. Today the organization continues to advocate on behalf of our communities as the Affordable Care Act is implemented.

As the Chairwoman of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I have had the privilege of working with the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum to eliminate health disparities in this country. Their analysis and research have informed the work of policymakers for many years at the local, state and national level. The work produced by its programs and divisions are valuable resources for community groups, legislators, agencies and researchers in understanding the unique health issues that affect Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander populations.

On behalf of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I would like to once again congratulate the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum on their 25th anniversary and wish them the best in their work to achieve health justice over the next 25 years and beyond.

OPPOSING GIVEAWAYS TO BIG OIL AND DRILLING OFF THE CALIFORNIA COAST

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to allowing drilling off the California Coast and dismantling basic oil drilling safeguards.

Barely a year after the worst environmental disaster in our history, Republicans have brought legislation (H.R. 1231) to the floor that shows they are suffering from amnesia. This legislation, when coupled with the two earlier drilling bills—H.R. 1229 and H.R. 1230—would mandate that vast swaths of the East and West Coasts be open to drilling, while fast-tracking new leases without sufficient safety or environmental review.

Under H.R. 1231, the Interior Department would have to make at least half of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) available to leasing, including the California Coast, regardless of state objections or safety, economic, or environmental concerns. This is on top of the two earlier bills that would actually make drilling safeguards weaker than they were before the BP Spill while destroying judicial review of leasing decisions.

This legislation does nothing to bring down gas prices. It is nothing more than a gift-wrapped handout to the oil industry. Republicans are not working to end the \$4 billion in yearly taxpayer subsidies that go to the largest oil companies. They are not working to crack down on the speculation that we know is driving up the price of oil and gas. Instead, they are pushing legislation that would give these companies free reign over our oil reserves and put our coastlines and the jobs that rely on them at risk. The Energy Information Agency has estimated that even if the entire OCS were exploited for oil, gas prices would drop by only three cents—and not until 2030. The U.S. accounts for just 7% of world oil production and we have only 3% of the world's reserves. Despite the bumper sticker slogan of "drill baby drill," we cannot drill our way out of high gas prices.

I urge all of my colleagues to oppose this misguided bill and focus on sustainable and responsible solutions to rising gas prices.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL BRANDON JOSEPH LONG

HON. MARLIN A. STUTZMAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero, Lance Corporal Brandon Joseph Long of the 3rd battalion, 5th Marines, "Darkhorse" Lima Company from my district in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. On September 27, 2010, while out on point in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, Brandon stepped on a pressure plate which nearly cost him his life. He died four times on that day. He said the thought of Nicole and his child Clair kept him alive and that he left his body, but when he rose up to Heaven they told him that

it was not his time. He has been part of one of the most courageous units, losing over 150 United States Marines. In a few short months he has come so far and a large part is due to his family. His lovely supportive wife and new born child have put a smile on his face and given him something to live for. Some people are put upon this earth to teach us and inspire us. Well, Brandon is one of those people. In honor of Brandon, I ask that this poem, penned by Albert Caswell, be placed in the RECORD.

U . . . B . . . LONG!

U . . .
U . . . B . . .
U . . . B . . . LONG!
As Brandon, as is your fine life's song. . . .
With but the greatest of all Americans, so very strong. . . .
All in our nation's history, who now so belong. . . .
Belong, to the defenders of the free!
As there is but such a list of most magnificent Americans, so indeed!
Who all for our Country Tis of Thee, would so die and bleed!
Ooo . . . rah Jar Head, As a United States Marine we see!
As Freedom Fighters, who but bring our liberty!
All to leave, a better world for you and me. . . .
Men and women, of such magnificent grace. . . .
Who one and all, the darkest of all evils so face. . . .
With tears in eyes, as they so watched their fine brothers die as still they kept pace. . . .
And still so valiantly marched onward, as their most heroic hearts so raced. . . .
The ones, such men of The Dark Horse who came home without arms and legs. . . .
All in their most amazing grace, teaching us all the meaning of courage and faith. . . .
And now comes another honored name. . . .
Lance Corporal Brandon Long, of Lima Co. as one in the same. . . .
For in our nation's history, have but come such Hoosiers so indeed. . . .
Such fine patriots of peace, sons and daughters who so believe. . . .
Who are a part of one of the greatest fighting machines, The United States Marines!
Who once upon battlefields of honor seen, so courageously fought all in green. . . .
As Brandon, as was your sheen!
And when, all out on point as an IED explosion almost took your life. . . .
Dying four times, but for his daughter and wife. . . . somehow your strength ignited!
At Heaven's gate, you said you were told it's not your time yet. . . .
As when you Marine, your new battle had just begun. . . .
As . . . The Walls . . . came tumbling down . . . tumbling down, you Indiana's son!
All in your most magnificent shades of green, all in what must be won!
As when you awoke, and you did not just step . . . but began to run. . . .
Running to recovery, as deep down inside . . . your fine heart shone like the sun!
Bringing you back from the dead, as you lifted up your head. . . .
And saw what you had left, take the hill Marine . . . as all of our lives you so bless!
As You So Teach Us . . . and So Beseech Us . . . and So Reach Us, oh so yes!
All with what that you so had left, as your courage began to crest!
All for his beautiful daughter Claire and his lovely wife Nicole so yes. . . .