

recently told the Baldwin Register newspaper that he always enjoyed his work. "People's worst days are our best days. That's when we get to do something and help people. We don't want anybody's house to burn, but we know what to do. We don't want anybody to get sick and have chest pains, but we know how to help you."

On behalf of the people of South Alabama, I wish to extend heartfelt congratulations to Chief Howard for a job well done. As he prepares to pass the reins of leadership, I wish all the best to him, his lovely wife of 45 years, Joyce, and their two children and five grandchildren.

HONORING DENNIS SISTO OF NAPA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dennis Sisto on the occasion of his retirement as President and Chief Executive Officer of Queen of the Valley Medical Center in Napa County, California. Dennis' leadership will be truly missed by his colleagues, health care providers throughout the Napa Valley, and all of us in the community who have received superlative medical care from Queen of the Valley during his tenure.

Mr. Sisto has worked for the St. Joseph Health System for 24 years, the past 13 at Queen of the Valley. During his tenure, Mr. Sisto has served as a champion for the health and quality of life of the Napa Valley community. To respond to the needs of the underserved, he has guided Queen of the Valley through the creation of new healthcare services for persons with HIV/AIDS, cancer and congestive heart failure directed at individuals without health insurance or the ability to pay. His leadership has ushered in an unprecedented era of technological growth for healthcare services in the Valley, bringing such advancements as the robotic surgical system, a state-of-the-art linear accelerator for the treatment of cancer patients, an imaging center housing the world's finest diagnostic imaging equipment and a new Outpatient Surgery and Procedure Center.

To focus on improving community health and address higher than anticipated Napa County mortality rates for heart disease, cancer, stroke and diabetes, Mr. Sisto has led the development process for the Queen of the Valley Medical Center's state of the art Wellness Center. The Wellness Center offers specialized programs directed at persons who need professional supervision to manage high health risks and chronic diseases. The creation of the Wellness Center represents a significant step forward for hospitals, allowing Queen of the Valley to expand its focus beyond acute care and offer preventive services as well as health maintenance programs.

Running a medical center in today's world can be a thankless and complex endeavor. It takes great integrity, a steady hand and a strong sense of humor to handle all of the challenges that present themselves to our hospital administrators. Mr. Sisto has all of these qualities in spades. He has been an

valuable partner in the process as we implement the Affordable Care Act on the local level.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize Dennis Sisto for his many years of service to Napa and to thank him for his contributions to wellness and health care in our community. I join his wife, Judy, his entire family and our colleagues in wishing him the best as he enters this new phase of his life.

RECOGNIZING POLAND'S PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of more than 110,000 of my constituents who are of Polish descent. It is my privilege to recognize Poland's upcoming role as the governing body of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Poland is a strong democratic ally of the United States with diplomatic relations extending over 100 years.

Last summer I had the privilege to travel to Poland and represent the United States Congress in Krakow for the Community of Democracies conference. Over 70 ambassadors from democratic and currently democratizing countries around the world attended the 10th annual conference to discuss the future of democracy, and to celebrate the progress democracy has made so far. The trip was an important moment in solidifying the already strong diplomatic relations between the United States and Poland and displayed Poland's ardent commitment to furthering democratic ideals throughout the world.

While in Poland, I was fortunate to witness democracy first hand as the nation held a special presidential election after the death of Polish President Lech Kaczyński. President Kaczyński and 95 others tragically died in a plane crash over Smolensk, Russia more than a year ago. During my trip to Krakow, I visited the Wawel Cathedral and had the opportunity to lay a wreath at the grave of President Kaczyński. I was truly humbled to experience the incredible sense of community and togetherness among the Polish people. I was also honored to deliver a flag and resolution from Speaker NANCY PELOSI on behalf of the House of Representatives to Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski expressing sympathy for Poland's tragic loss. The people of the United States stand in admiration of the strength of Poland's democratic institutions, which have persevered through three centuries filled with many hardships.

Poland's leadership at the Presidency of the European Union not only displays Poland's influence in the world's largest economy, but shows the growing respect the Nation receives as a growing voice within the global community. During its presidency, Poland hopes to successfully lead the European Union toward economic growth and an enhanced political community. Poland has set forth a "Six-Month Program" that will focus on three fundamental priorities it plans to achieve during their tenure. The first priority is to increase integration with the European Union. Poland believes that

it is essential to create an internally competitive Europe and to develop a single European market within the European Union. Additionally, Poland hopes to improve the security of the European Union primarily through an increase in economic macro-security and through the development of an external energy policy. Poland also believes that the European Union will significantly benefit from economic openness. The Presidency will fully support any European Union enlargement, as well as continued participation in the World Trade Organization.

Finally, I would like to remind my colleagues in Congress to keep in mind Poland's inclusion in the Visa Waiver Program, supported by President Obama. With Poland's strong diplomatic ties to the United States, and their growing influence in the European Union and the global community, it is important to finally include Poland in visa-free travel to the United States. It will promote increased relations with a democratic ally of the United States, as well as further encourage economic and cultural exchange between our two nations.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Poland as the upcoming governing body of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Poland is a democratic ally of the United States whose diplomatic relations will only strengthen as time goes on. I have seen first-hand their commitment to democracy and their importance as an ally.

REAFFIRMING COMMITMENT TO NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my support for House Resolution 268, which reaffirms the United States' longstanding policy of support for Israel and a fair, negotiated conclusion to the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This resolution clearly describes the final outcome that the United States has envisioned for so long: two democratic states—one Israeli, one Palestinian—living side-by-side in peace, security, and mutual recognition.

Attempts by the Palestinians to circumvent direct negotiations between the two nations, most recently through attempts to hold a U.N. vote on Palestinian statehood, have greatly undermined the peace process. The United States must continue to oppose such one-sided attempts and work to ensure that the final peace settlement is reached through fair negotiations between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

The resolution also confirms the United States' refusal to recognize any Palestinian government that has not publicly and formally renounced terrorism. This declaration is especially important in the wake of the recent union of the Fatah and Hamas factions, the latter of which the United States and the European Union deem a terrorist organization. Peace talks cannot continue until Palestinian leaders dismantle all terrorist infrastructure embodied within Hamas, take all necessary steps to counter incitements to violence, and accept

Israel's right to exist. This position is in keeping with current American policy, including statutory requirements for U.S. funding to the Palestinian Authority.

I believe strongly in the need to protect the lives of innocent civilians on both sides of the conflict, including the need to recognize and promptly address the dire humanitarian needs of Palestinians living in the Gaza strip. I strongly condemn the actions of Hamas, which has embedded its fighters and leaders in private homes and mosques as they use Palestinian civilians as human shields, target Israeli civilians, and force Israel to take decisive action in the Gaza Strip to protect its population living under the daily threat of rocket attacks. The United States should continue to pressure Hamas to abandon its reckless endangerment of both the Palestinian and the Israeli people, and to fully renounce violence so that humanitarian aid to Gaza can continue and true peace talks can proceed. It is only through such peace talks that the two countries will be able to reach a negotiated settlement that will bring peace, security, and stability to the Israelis and Palestinians.

BETTER USE OF LIGHT BULBS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2011

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2417, the so-called Better Use of Light Bulbs (BULB) Act.

H.R. 2417 would repeal the lighting energy efficiency standards set in the Energy Independence Security Act (EISA) of 2007. This would be a major setback in improving energy efficiency in homes and buildings across the country. Commercial and residential lighting consume over 20 percent of all electricity generated in the United States. The new lighting standards will help to ensure that more energy efficient light bulbs, including incandescents and LEDs, are available to consumers in order to reduce energy use.

The BULB Act would also repeal California's state standards on lighting efficiency that went into effect earlier this year. In a letter from California Senator Darrell Steinberg, President pro Tempore, Senator Alex Padilla, Chair of the Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities and Communications, and Senator Fran Pavley, Chair of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water, opposing H.R. 2417, they note that the state's standards could save California consumers \$35.6 million in electrical costs.

Mr. Speaker, the current lighting standard has generated domestic jobs as companies have created new and innovative lighting options for consumers. For example, Philips Lumileds Lighting Company has a manufacturing facility that makes LEDs for energy efficient LED light bulbs in San Jose, California. This facility creates hundreds of local jobs, while traditional incandescent light bulbs are mainly manufactured abroad. The EISA energy efficiency standard is an opportunity for the United States to build a domestic manufacturing industry, generating jobs and economic activity.

H.R. 2417 is a job killer, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting no on H.R. 2417.

HONORING THE TOWN OF EXETER

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the families who petitioned the General Court in Boston on February 16, 1811, to incorporate the town of Exeter in the state of Maine. On July 23, 2011, Exeter officially celebrates its bicentennial.

At the time of the 1810 Census, Exeter was home to 140 people comprising 40 different families. Working together to settle and clear the land, a thriving community was established. In only the second official town meeting, the community voted to raise \$200 for the purpose of building schools. The town went on to become famous for its apple orchards and its saw and grist mills, as well as the Exeter Fair, which occurred every September from 1867 to 1950, drawing families from all over New England.

Today, the people of Exeter celebrate the bicentennial of their town filled with the same local spirit and sense of common purpose that filled the founding 40 families as they petitioned to have their community recognized. These individuals embody the hardworking people of Maine who throughout our history have embraced the challenges and opportunities of living in our state.

It is an honor and a privilege to represent the people of Exeter, and I am pleased to have the opportunity to help this community celebrate its 200th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing all the citizens of Exeter well on this joyous occasion.

HONORING ELLIS COGDILL

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life of a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and veteran Ellis Cogdill.

Ellis Cogdill passed away Sunday, June 26th at the Alexander Cohen Hospice House in Hughson, CA after a devastating, albeit blessedly brief battle with cancer. Ellis was born in Stanberry, Missouri. He and his family lived and farmed in the area until Ellis enlisted in the U.S. Navy at age 17. He served 4 years as a radioman before being discharged from active duty in 1949. Ellis then returned home, where he met the love of his life, Viola Cruse, his soon to be devoted wife of over 61 years. A few months later, Ellis was called to serve again, during the Korean conflict, a duty that would last another 16 months and send him to China and the South Pacific.

In 1957 the family moved to California, settling in San Bernardino, where Ellis worked as a union meat cutter for Stater Bros. Markets for 33 years. In 1962 he was called to be a Deacon at Immanuel Baptist Church, where he diligently served the Lord for many years.

After retirement Ellis and Vi moved to Madera, and were active at the First So. Baptist Church. In 2005 Ellis and Vi moved to Modesto, living at Friendly Village MHP, and attending first, Orangeburg Ave. Baptist Church, then, the North Modesto Church of God.

Ellis loved to travel, spend time with his family and friends, help those in need, or do just about anything that was productive. Not one to play, he valued work, and never shirked a duty or a task. Those that knew him, knew his word was his bond, and as good as gold.

Ellis is preceded in death by his parents, Ellis Sr. and Mary Cogdill, and brother Tom Cogdill. He is survived by his wife and sons, Dave and Jim, and daughter Diana; daughters-in-law, Stephanie and Lisa; grandchildren David and Carrie, Meghan and Mike, Ryan and Brandon, Karma, Lauren, Joel and Moneshay; and great-grandchildren Connor, Kathleen, Xiomara, Christian, and Ashton.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Ellis Cogdill for his service to United States of America and his example of excellence to those who knew him.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, July 8, 2011 I was unable to be in Washington, DC and thus missed several roll-call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Nos. 528, 532, 533 and "nay" on Nos. 525, 526, 527, 529, 530, and 531.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained during the votes on July 7, 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 503, the Lee amendment to reduce funding for combat operations in Afghanistan.

HONORING THE TOWN OF GREENVILLE, MAINE

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the town of Greenville, Maine as it celebrates its 175th anniversary on August 27, 2011.

Nestled along the edge of the largest mountain lake in the eastern United States, the Greenville community's history in Maine precedes the establishment of the State itself. Its land, originally just 6 square miles, was granted by the Massachusetts General Court to Saco Academy in 1812. After acquiring the Academy in 1824, Nathaniel Haskell joined