

As a senior Member of both the Judiciary and Homeland Security committees, I have worked tirelessly to ensure the safety and integrity of those who are members of the judiciary. The Ethics in Government Act requires judges, like Members of Congress and other high ranking public officials to file annual financial disclosure reports. This requirement serves to bolster the confidence of the public in the professional integrity of individuals who serve their community.

Although the intent of the Act is to bolster public confidence in the judiciary it has an unintended consequence inherent in full public disclosure. Full financial disclosure impacts the personal safety of judges, particularly the safety of judges who sentence criminals. Some of the information contained in financial disclosure reports could reveal information which pertains to the schools, workplaces, and homes of judges and their families. This type of information provides easy access to personal information that could be used by an individual to intimidate or harm a judge or her family. In order to mitigate these risks, section 7 of the Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act of 1998 allows the Judicial Conference to redact information found in financial disclosures that would place a judge or their family at risk.

This legislation does not exempt judicial employees and judges from filing financial disclosures. The Judicial Conference's Committee on Financial Disclosures works in coordination with the U.S. Marshals Service to determine the merit of requests for redaction. The Judicial conference reports that between 2007 and 2010, of the 17,658 financial disclosure reports filed, there were only 750 redaction requests, or 4.2 percent of the reports filed. There were 645 redaction requests that were fully granted, and 70 that were partially granted.

This legislation protects judges and their families from those that may seek to harm or intimidate the judge. The majority of redaction requests that were approved contained information that indicated the whereabouts of the filer's family on a regular basis, or the residence at which the filing party lived. H.R. 1059 does not exempt anyone from fulfilling their requirement to file a financial disclosure.

In the 110th Congress, my colleagues and I extended the authorizing section of the Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act twice to ensure continued protection of our judges and their families. The last extension will expire on December 31, 2011, leaving thousands of dedicated public servants and their loved ones vulnerable to harm or harassment.

I applaud my friend from Michigan, the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee for introducing this important legislation to protect judges and judicial employees. I urge my colleagues to lend their support to the bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GLENN THOMPSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I was not in attendance on Friday, September 9, 2011, due to catastrophic flood-

ing in Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District. My presence was needed at home, on the ground, with my constituents, first-responders, and recovery teams. While back in Pennsylvania, I met with local officials and constituents to help assist in disaster recovery efforts. I also toured many of the town's in the 5th District of Pennsylvania that were most affected by the floods. Consequently, I missed the vote on the Carney Amendment to H.R. 1892, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year, 2012.

Had I been present for rollcall vote number 696, my vote on Amendment #7, offered by Mr. Carney of Delaware, to H.R. 1892 would have been "yes."

CELEBRATING THE SERVICE OF LINDA S. ADAMS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Linda S. Adams on the occasion of her retirement as the State of California's Secretary for Environmental Protection. More than thirty years of service to California and its residents make her most deserving of this honor.

Linda was appointed as Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2006, by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Her appointment was historical, as she was the first woman to ever be appointed to this position. As California's EPA Secretary, Linda had a number of responsibilities which helped ensure the well-being of the people of California. During her time as secretary, Linda oversaw the activities of the Air Resources Board, State Water Resources Control Board, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, Department of Toxic Substances Control, Department of Pesticide Regulation, and approximately 5,000 employees.

Upon her appointment, Linda began to do innovative work to address climate change and global warming. She was selected by Governor Schwarzenegger as the lead negotiator on Assembly Bill 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. She was instrumental in launching the Green Chemistry Initiative, which calls for a more comprehensive look at California's chemical policies, as well as California's biomonitoring program which seeks to find links between environmental contaminants and human health. She has since continued to work closely with a number of states and countries to develop climate initiatives to achieve the greatest global reductions.

Before her service as Secretary of California's EPA, Linda functioned as the director of the California Department of Water Resources and as a member of Governor Gray Davis' staff. Prior to becoming a member of Governor Davis' staff, Linda served Californians for 20 years as a staff member for the California State Legislature. Of note was her time as chief consultant to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Water Resources. During her time as a legislative staffer, she worked diligently on assisting the passage of Proposition 204, the Safe, Clean, Reliable Water Supply Act.

Linda has spent her life working on behalf of the people of California and has been a long-time friend of California's Central Valley. She has worked on several air quality issues—a deeply important issue to the Central Valley, and most recently served as a member of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board.

I applaud Linda for her many years of diligent work on behalf of all of the people of California and the Central Valley. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Linda on her retirement and thanking her for her innovative approach to enriching the lives of all Californians.

IN MEMORY OF JUDGE FRANK SCROGGINS

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

Mr. ROSS of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true, dedicated public servant who left us much too soon. On Saturday, August 28, 2011, Frank Scroggins, county judge for Lafayette County, Arkansas, died unexpectedly at the too-young age of 62.

Throughout my term in Congress, I have had the distinct pleasure of working with Judge Scroggins and I have long admired and respected him. He was a very good friend.

The people of Lafayette County first elected Judge Scroggins of Stamps, Ark., in 1991 and he had served as county judge ever since. For 20 years, Judge Scroggins gave his all and fully embodied what it meant to be a public servant.

Judge Scroggins was so much a part of his community that, upon his passing, a newspaper proclaimed Lafayette County government had "lost its cornerstone." Indeed, there is a deep absence in the heart of south Arkansas.

Judge Scroggins always worked tirelessly on behalf of the people of Lafayette County, never losing sight of what he was elected to do. From city council to the quorum court to the U.S. Congress, anyone who had the privilege of working with Judge Scroggins can attest to the sincerity, honesty and ferocity in which he served as county judge.

My thoughts and prayers are with his wife of 42 years, Brenda, and the rest of his family and friends during this very difficult time.

Today, I ask all Members of Congress to join me as we honor the life and legacy of Judge Frank Scroggins, who will be deeply missed in Lafayette County and throughout the state of Arkansas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GLENN THOMPSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I was not in attendance on Friday, September 9, 2011, due to catastrophic flooding in Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District. My presence was needed at home, on the ground, with my constituents, first-responders, and recovery teams. While back in