

from prosecution there. Thousands of people, mostly young men, have disappeared in Kashmir. Some went to be trained as militants in the Pakistan-controlled portion of Kashmir and were killed in the fighting. Many others were detained by Indian security forces. The wives they left behind are known as half-widows, because the fates of their husbands are unknown. Parents keep vigil for sons who were arrested two decades ago.

Parveena Ahanger's son Javed was taken away by the police on Aug. 18, 1990, and never seen again. An investigation found that he had been killed by security forces, but they have not been prosecuted, she said.

"I never got any response from the government," she said. "I never got his dead body."

After years of fighting in the courts to find out what happened to Javed, Ms. Ahanger was skeptical that the human rights report would get her son's body back, or bring her justice.

"If the high court doesn't give any justice on this issue, what will the state human rights commission do?" she said.

Zahoor Wani, an activist who works with the families of people who disappeared during the insurgency, said that the report was a welcome first step but that the government must identify the dead and allow families to bury their relatives.

"It is a very good thing that they acknowledge it," Mr. Wani said. "These families have been living in a hope to see these people again."

"They are neither dead nor alive," he said. "We need to move them to one pole or the other."

Hari Kumar contributed reporting.

IN RECOGNITION OF MATTEO
RIZZO

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay tribute to Matteo Rizzo, a life-long educator who is retiring as Superintendent of the Jefferson Elementary School District, serving the communities of Daly City and Colma, California.

In his tenure as Superintendent, Mr. Rizzo has been known for his personal involvement with all the stakeholders in his district, from teachers, to parents, to administrators and, most importantly, the students themselves. He served as the District's representative in staff contract negotiations, oversaw budget decisions, coordinated the recruitment, selection and assignment of teachers, principals and other personnel and put his imprint on every aspect of life and learning in the Jefferson Elementary School District.

As is the case in school districts across our country, Superintendent Rizzo was asked to do the impossible—educate a diverse student population in an environment of dwindling financial resources, all the while staying focused on preparing them to achieve to their utmost ability in an increasingly competitive world.

To do this, Matteo relied heavily on the skills he gained as an Assistant Superintendent, Principal, Vice-Principal and teacher—all within the Jefferson Elementary School District. His unsurpassed institutional knowledge and commitment to bettering the lives of

young people will be sorely missed and not easily replaced. Fortunately, he leaves his successor with a legacy of excellence and community involvement that can be built upon in future years.

Mr. Speaker, Matteo Rizzo is a living example of the benefits of public education and the fruits of hard work. A product of local schools, he is a graduate of San Francisco State University, where he received a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics, his California Teaching Credential and two Masters of Arts—one in Education and another in Educational Administration.

He has been honored at every step of his career, including earning a "California Distinguished School" award for Fernando Rivera Middle School in 2001, while serving as the school's principal.

Mr. Speaker, Superintendent Rizzo has certainly earned his retirement. On behalf of the Congress of the United States of America, I wish to thank him for his exceptional service to our nation and wish him only the best as he now has time to travel with his amazing wife, Clydie, play a lot more golf, do a little more duck hunting and, as rumor has it, learn to play the guitar.

Matteo Rizzo, simply put, is a good man who spent his entire professional career doing good for his community. There's no need to tell that to the thousands of children he educated, or his son, Matthew, and daughter-in-law, Jill, but the rest of America can benefit from knowing that extremely capable and committed professionals like Matteo Rizzo show up at school districts across this country every day with no other goal than to move our country forward, one student at a time.

It is for these reasons and more that I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Superintendent Matteo Rizzo for his service.

SURFACE AND AIR TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS EXTENSION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. MICK MULVANEY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, I have serious concerns about the policies of H.R. 2887, Transportation Extension, and the procedures the House used to pass it.

First, I applaud the House Leadership's numerous statements and actions on working towards fiscally responsible policies that begin to close our deficit and balance our budget. Achieving those two goals will certainly help create an environment for the private sector to create jobs. H. Con. Res. 34, the House Budget for Fiscal Year 2012, laid a solid blueprint for leaders in this Congress to follow towards that end.

Unfortunately, the actions taken yesterday fail to follow the spending plan that 235 members of the House agreed upon earlier this year. The House Budget calls for a transportation policy that puts the bankrupt Highway Trust Fund and the insolvent Airport Improvement Program back operating within their means. Unfortunately, the bill we passed today sacrifices fiscal sanity for continued chaos.

Unlike the House Budget, the policies of this Transportation Extension would continue current spending levels that, without the aid of previous bailouts, would leave the Highway Trust Fund and the Airport Improvement Program completely bankrupt. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office estimates the current policy embraced by this "clean" Transportation Extension would require future billion dollar bailouts in 2013 and every year thereafter over the next decade. Unlike the FY2012 plan called for in the House Budget, the action we took yesterday simply avoids the necessary dirty work associated with making sound fiscal decisions.

Second, I was appalled by the procedure the House used in passing this bill. While I recognize the need to quickly move this bill by the start of Fiscal Year 2012, October 1, 2011, I do not believe that justifies suspending the House rules to move a bill that will cost tens of billions of dollars over six months without any opportunity to offer amendments either in the Rules committee or on the House floor. While such action does not technically violate our House or Conference rules, it certainly flies in the face of the higher standards those rules and protocols promote. Most notably, this multi-billion dollar Transportation Extension was only available for no more than a 24-hour review period, as opposed to the three-day review standard. Also, the bill failed to include a Congressional Budget Office cost estimate. Finally, it was unexpectedly voice voted without the opportunity for Representatives to record the collective voice of their constituents. As a result, we are left to less desirable means to record their vote.

Ultimately, yesterday's action is a missed opportunity to "advance policies that promote greater liberty, wider opportunity, . . . and national economic prosperity," as well as, "to make government more transparent in its actions, careful in its stewardship, and honest in its dealings." Had I the chance yesterday to vote, I would have voted against this Transportation Extension.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on the afternoon of Tuesday, September 13, 2011, I recorded an erroneous vote on Final Passage of the bill H.R. 2218. I intended to vote "no" on rollcall vote No. 705, on passage of H.R. 2218, the Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF THOMAS
MOHR

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the tireless public service of Thomas Mohr, who is retiring as President of Cañada College in Redwood City, California.