

States in Indonesia from 1982 to 1985, and again from 1990 to 1994. He also served in Burma from 1987–1990.

While operating in Indonesia, Col. Haseman provided the Department of Defense with substantial information regarding numerous human rights violations. This vital information greatly influenced the decision making process concerning the policy that was to be implemented towards that country. Col. Haseman also functioned to cultivate healthy relationships with allied nations and to improve their military defense capabilities.

Col. Haseman first joined the US Army in 1963 from the University of Missouri Reserve Officer Training Corps. Throughout his career, having made the seven Army values a part of his daily life, Col. Haseman served our country with dignity and honor.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincerest pleasure to recognize Col. John Haseman, a native of Grand Junction, Colorado. The United States and the State of Colorado owe him our undying gratitude for his selfless service over the past 48 years. I thank him very much and wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

CORRESPONDENCE SUPPORTING
THE AFGHANISTAN/PAKISTAN
STUDY GROUP

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit correspondence regarding the Afghanistan/Pakistan Study Group and provide the following examples of support for this important initiative from David Abshire, president of the Center for the Study of the Presidency, and a moving letter from a constituent and mother whose children have served in the military in recent years.

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE
PRESIDENCY AND CONGRESS,
Washington, DC, June 1, 2011.

Hon. FRANK WOLF,
*House of Representatives, Cannon House Office
Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR FRANK: To say that the May 2, 2011 targeted elimination of Osama bin Laden by a team of U.S. Navy SEALs was welcome news would be the understatement of the 21st century. The death of a terrorist icon that had directed the murder of thousands of American, European, and Muslim civilians has also caused almost immediate speculation as to what his demise will mean for the international mission in Afghanistan.

Within hours of President Obama's announcement of bin Laden's death, pundits and politicians from both the Right and Left are calling for a speedier withdrawal in the wake of the al-Qaeda leader's demise. However, many are concerned that such a move would risk reversing the gains that have been made by our nearly ten-year military effort and could cause Afghanistan to once again remerge as a destabilizing pariah that violates human rights and threatens international security.

As the country becomes increasingly divided over the issue of our involvement in Afghanistan, many questions have been raised regarding our relationship with Pakistan. Despite spending billions in aid and security assistance, America's approval rating in Pakistan is a mere 17%. Furthermore the

discovery of Osama bin Laden in a compound located less than a mile from the Pakistan Military Academy has dramatically amplified concerns that elements of the Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence service may be maintaining links with al-Qaeda and other violent extremist organizations. While many understand that cutting off or reducing aid to Pakistan would be risky, the American public is unlikely to tolerate continued perceived double-dealing on the part of the Pakistani security services. New creative and independent thinking is needed to overcome the current deadlock.

As the country struggles to find the appropriate way forward in Afghanistan and Pakistan, I am heartened by your efforts to establish a bipartisan and independent Afghanistan-Pakistan Study Group that will take a comprehensive look at America's current and future role in the region.

I had the privilege of helping organize the Iraq Study Group (ISO), which the proposed Af-Pak Study Group would be modeled after, and feel that a similar such effort would be of great help today.

Such a group can provide an effective unifying rallying point that will enable the country to come together in support of a comprehensive strategy that will guard our interests in the region and foster a more stable and secure world.

With warm regards,
Sincerely yours,

DAVID ABSHIRE.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WOLF: I have read your proposal for the formation of an Afghanistan/Pakistan Study Group with deep personal interest and approbation. I applaud its respectful, well-reasoned, bipartisan approach to rethinking the war in Afghanistan. The following are my personal thoughts regarding this war. Please accept them as the insights of an average American mother.

It has been troubling to me how distant this war is for so many Americans. Many are only vaguely aware of the events taking place, other than perhaps the recent increase in the number of casualties. Even gathering information of what is daily happening in Afghanistan hasn't been easy. I comb the internet daily searching many different online news sources in an attempt to be informed. Our country is at war and yet so often the top news items contain nothing regarding it. Often it is the local papers in towns with soldiers, sailors and marines serving in Afghanistan that contain the most news. Other times it is the news stations with an embedded reporter who will have a flurry of articles while the reporter is there but then nothing once they return.

The War on Terror is not just impersonal news but it is a war that strikes very close to home. My father has a dear friend whose son-in-law died in the Twin Towers. I have a friend who lost a son in Iraq during the battle for Fallujah. A student of mine lost her fiancée in the war. My children and son-in-law have served in both Iraq and Afghanistan and have buddies injured or killed in action.

One of my daughters is currently serving in Afghanistan in a Combat Support Hospital. She arrived in time to experience first hand the peak number of casualties in June and July. In a recent news interview her Commanding Officer said they are seeing an almost constant stream of casualties; something that none of them were prepared for, but will remember the horrors of the rest of their lives.

It has sometimes appeared that the efforts in Afghanistan have trudged along, with success measured in part by the areas in which we have gained some measure of control versus the price paid in human lives both civilian and military. The casualties suffered

aren't just numbers to me; each name, each face, represents a family who is paying the ultimate price, the loss of a son or daughter, brother or sister, father or mother; a family that will never be the same. Therefore, I wholeheartedly support the formation of an Afghanistan/Pakistan Study Group in the hope that it will help to turn the tide of this war and lessen the number of casualties as well.

I, too, have a deep respect and confidence in Gen. Petraeus and would not want my comments to be construed as being critical of the leadership of our military. I have no formal training in political science or history so please accept these comments as simply the perspective of an American mother with children glad to serve our country.

God bless you and give you wisdom as you serve in the leadership of our country.

Sincerely,

PS It meant so much to see my sons receive a standing ovation when introduced during last weeks luncheon. It is these very Lance Corporals, Corporals and Sergeants who are almost daily listed among the casualties. My son, _____, remarked that listening to your speech "restored his faith in the republic". Thank you again for recognizing their service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. PASCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I want to state for the record that on September 22, 2011, my vote was not recorded for rollcall vote No. 723.

I would like to state for the record that my vote should have been recorded as "nay" on rollcall vote No. 723, on providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2401) to require analyses of the cumulative and incremental impacts of certain rules and actions of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes.

RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER AS
CHILDHOOD OBESITY AWARE-
NESS MONTH

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of September as Childhood Obesity Awareness Month. According to the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, thirty-two percent of children and adolescents in the U.S. are overweight. According to this study, sixteen percent of children and adolescents in the U.S. are obese, meaning they have a body mass index in the ninety-fifth percentile. In my home state of Missouri, almost thirty-four percent of children are obese and overweight. Sadly, the childhood obesity rate is growing, doubling over the last two decades, while the obesity rate for adolescents has nearly tripled over the last two decades.

These staggering increases in obesity are leading to a number of health problems among America's youth. Incidents of type two

diabetes and hypertension are on the rise, and more children today are at risk of heart disease, cancer, and stroke. It has been estimated that one out of three males, and two out of five females born in the year 2000 will eventually suffer from type two diabetes.

The obesity epidemic hits some communities harder than others, greatly impacting our more vulnerable communities. Studies have shown that these children are more likely to suffer from obesity and the related health problems. Low income areas have far fewer parks and sidewalks than wealthier communities, and children from these neighborhoods have less opportunity to play ball, ride bikes, or run outside. Children who live in lower income neighborhoods also have less access to fresh produce and healthy foods. Children living in food deserts are not able to consume healthier foods as often as they should, relying more on processed and high calorie foods for their meals.

Mr. Speaker, it is essential that this Congress work to improve access to healthy food for all Americans. We need to teach our young healthy eating habits, promote physical activity, and increase access to fresh foods by encouraging supermarkets to open in the urban core, and embracing farmers markets and urban farming. Obesity is a costly epidemic. Not only does it drastically increase health care spending, totaling fourteen billion dollars a year, but it greatly reduces the health and prosperity of our children. I would also like to commend the hard work being done by Children's Mercy Hospital in bringing awareness to this issue. I urge my colleagues to stand with me in support of Childhood Obesity Awareness Month.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND REDUCING UNEMPLOYMENT ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Economic Growth and Reducing Unemployment Act, to address perhaps the two greatest workforce tragedies resulting from today's economy—our long-term unemployed and our unemployed young people—and to spur economic growth. Since Republicans took control of the House of Representatives, many Democrats have tried to get them to shift from their one-sided, cuts-only fiscal policy to taking some steps to more quickly reduce stubborn unemployment throughout the country. Republican austerity policies, as predicted by history and Economics 101, have driven the economy into another ditch, with the possibility of a double-dip recession. We need to reduce the country's budget deficit and debt in the long term, but as virtually every economist and the Federal Reserve chair himself have said, we must also create jobs and stimulate the economy now, before it is too late. While 14 million Americans are unemployed, my bill targets those particularly hard hit by unemployment. In August 2011, the number of long-term unemployed (those jobless for 27 weeks or more) was six million, which accounted for 42.9 percent of the total unemployed population. In

July 2011, the number of unemployed youth 16 to 24 years old was 4.1 million.

To make matters even worse, the unemployed now face employment discrimination and employers are reluctant to hire the long-term unemployed because of the length of their unemployment. My bill would give employers a \$5,000 tax credit against their payroll tax liability for each (net) new long-term unemployed person they hire. The tax credit is large enough to give employers an incentive to increase hiring and wages, which would inject demand into the economy. The credit would be available to the broadest base of employers because every employer—government, non-profit and for-profit—pays payroll taxes, and employers could claim the credit on a quarterly rather than annual basis. According to the independent, non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, the proposal would “increase both output and employment,” through four mechanisms: (1) with lower employment costs, employers would reduce the costs of their products and services, which, in turn, would first boost sales and then hiring and hours worked; (2) employers would pass on some of the tax savings to employees in the form of higher wages or other compensation, which, in turn, would increase employees' purchasing power; (3) higher profits would lead to higher stock prices for public companies, increasing shareholders' wealth and therefore their willingness to spend; and (4) with lower employment costs, employers would increase hiring. The bill has safeguards to prevent employers from gaming the system, including denying a credit to an employer that fires one employee and hires a replacement.

Particularly disappointing as well is the high unemployment rate for young people who heeded our advice to graduate from high school and college, only to try to enter the workforce in the worst economy in generations. By significantly expanding AmeriCorps, my bill, without needing a new administrative structure or bureaucracy, would allow unemployed young people to earn a stipend sufficient to support themselves and to obtain work experience and a good work history to help them obtain future employment. The net cost of the expansion would be low, because these young people would be providing urgently needed local services that are being dropped or curtailed because of federal, state, and local budget cuts, such as after-school programs, tutoring, and assistance for the elderly.

The bill would significantly expand job opportunities for young people who have played by the rules but find themselves unemployed in this economy. The bill would increase the number of participants in the AmeriCorps State and National program from approximately 78,000 to 500,000 full-time participants. Participants receive a living allowance, which most find sufficient to meet their basic needs, and are also eligible for an education award equal to the value of a Pell grant, for school-loan forbearance, health care benefits and child care assistance. By expanding the program, we would reduce the number of unemployed young people, provide them with the work skills and experience they would not get while unemployed, and help cash-strapped states and local governments provide services that they would otherwise have to cut.

For some time, it has been clear that policies to address today's unusually stubborn unemployment need to be targeted in order to be

effective. The long-term unemployed and unemployed young people are the two groups that have been hardest to reach in prior measures. Without significant targeting, the long-term unemployed are in danger of becoming permanently unemployed and young graduates will face their first years as adults without jobs and with no way to acquire work experience. Both groups deserve better. I ask the House of Representatives to support this bill because it targets both of these neglected groups of Americans.

RECOGNIZING CONSTITUTION DAY

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because of my full commitment and support of the values of equality, respect, and freedom fortified within the creation of the Constitution of the United States of America.

Today is a day set aside to recognize the importance the Constitution has provided throughout its evolution to the continued principles of democracy our Founding Fathers championed.

I would like to highlight both the 13th and 15th Amendments for the equality each ensures to American minorities.

The 13th Amendment abolished slavery and started a revolution of social progress for blacks subject to slavery, and also for women and laborers.

The 15th Amendment ensures the right to vote to all citizens, regardless of one's race, color, or previous condition of servitude. I personally respect the struggle that ensued after this Amendment was ratified. It took until the 1965 Voting Right Act until this right was protected with vigorous enforcement—a vote I remember voting for passage as a newly elected Representative of the United States Congress.

These two Amendments perhaps best show the injustices that can be righted by Congress and the Nation when we recognize that we are a united people of equal bearing who are each entitled to equality under the Constitution and the help of our brethren.

HERBERT F. KOETHER TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Herbert F. Koether for his service to the state of Colorado, his active pursuit of conservative ideals, and his love for serving others.

Before World War II, Mr. Koether served on the war production board in Washington, D.C., later joining the United States Air Force and attaining the rank of 2nd Lieutenant.

In 1952, Mr. Koether arrived in Denver, Colorado, actively working in the Colorado political arena for conservative causes. During Senator Barry Goldwater's 1964 presidential campaign, Mr. Koether served as the chair of the Colorado Goldwater effort, tirelessly promoting the ideals Senator Goldwater represented. In 1989, he also helped Gale Norton