

paper each morning, checking the fax machine so it works properly, knowing the right contacts in the Superintendent's office when something needs fixing—these sometimes seemingly little things are of big importance. Julie had a keen eye for catching those little things and always looked after them to ensure that everyone else could do their job better. She is ever dependable, ever reliable. When Julie gets an assignment, you know it will get done and get done right.

I know I speak on behalf of the entire Rahall staff, as well as the staffs of the Natural Resources and Transportation and Infrastructure Committees who have had the pleasure of working with her, when I say that Julie will be deeply missed. We wish her a most enjoyable retirement. We won't ever forget her and neither will scores of citizens who have benefited from her service to the Nation.

H.R. 674 AND H.R. 2576

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to vote in support of H.R. 674, which would repeal the onerous requirement that federal, state, and local government entities withhold three percent of payments to government contractors. Although never put into effect, the requirement would constitute a significant burden on all levels of government, which are presently sorely lacking in resources. Withholding three percent of payments was unsound policy when enacted by the Republican Congress in 2005, and I gladly will help my colleagues on the other side of the aisle correct their mistake.

I am less disposed to be helpful on H.R. 2576, a bill to adjust the definition of "modified adjusted gross income," MAGI, so that fewer Americans qualify for tax credits under the Affordable Care Act. This strikes me at best as a solution in search of a non-existent problem. To add insult to injury, H.R. 2576 will cause American families, seniors, and those with disabilities to pay more for their healthcare at a time when they can least afford it. I have spent my entire career fighting to ensure working American families have access to affordable, good-quality healthcare. Supporting H.R. 2576 would be in direct contravention of that goal, and I cannot in good conscience do so. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on it.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude by noting the rascality underlying the rule for H.R. 674 and H.R. 2576. It allows separate votes on both bills—one non-controversial and the other very controversial—and then requires they be merged for consideration by the Senate. I oppose this sort of legislating and believe each chamber should be allowed to work its will on separate items, rather than forced to accept bad policy in the guise of procedural tricks and faux compromise. This is skullduggery at its finest, Mr. Speaker, and an unnecessary affront to regular order, which your side so consistently claims to cherish.

TRIBUTE TO USS "CALIFORNIA"

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of the California Delegation, to honor and pay tribute to the USS *California* (SSN-781), a Virginia-class submarine and the first submarine to be named after the Golden State. On the occasion of the submarine's commissioning, we could not be more proud to have one of the world's most modern and sophisticated nuclear-powered attack submarines named for the state of California.

The contract to build her was awarded to Northrop Grumman Newport News (now Huntington Ingalls Industries Newport News Shipbuilding) in Newport News, Virginia, on August 14, 2003. Construction began in December 2006. *California's* keel was laid down on May 1, 2009. She was christened on November 6, 2010, sponsored by Donna Willard, wife of Admiral Robert F. Willard. The *California* was launched eight days later, on November 14, 2010. The commissioning has been scheduled for October 29, 2011 by the Secretary of the Navy. USS *California* will be homeported at Groton, Connecticut.

Designed to meet the Navy's requirements in a post-Cold War era, Virginia-class submarines use advanced technologies to increase firepower, maneuverability and stealth. Along with other Virginia-class submarines, the *California* is tailored to excel in a wide range of warfighting missions with several innovations that significantly enhance its warfighting capabilities, especially in the littoral environment. The ship has a fly-by-wire ship control system that provides improved shallow-water ship handling. The class has special features to support special operation forces and prolonged deployments. Advanced technology is employed to provide the ship's company enhanced situational awareness and is designed to remain state of the practice for its entire operational life through rapid introduction of new systems and payloads.

Previous ships bearing the USS *California* name have a long and storied history. The first USS *California*, a screw propelled frigate, was christened in 1869. In 1941, the USS *California* (BB-44) was the flagship of the U.S. Pacific fleet stationed in Pearl Harbor. She was badly damaged by Japanese torpedoes, and partially sunk. The three crewmen serving aboard the battleship that day were posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for acts of bravery in saving the lives of their shipmates. A few months later, the *California* was salvaged and repaired, and served in the Pacific theater during the final two years of World War II. She was present at several crucial battles in the Pacific theater, including the Battle of Surigao Strait—the last naval engagement fought by opposing battleships.

The most recent USS *California* (CGN-26) was the lead ship of her class of nuclear powered guided missile cruisers and was also a vital part of the U.S. fleet from her launch in 1971 to her retirement in 1999. She was known as the "Golden Grizzly," in recognition of the grizzly bear on the California state flag. We are pleased that the USS *California* (SSN-781) will follow in the footsteps of previous ships that have served this great country so proudly.

California is a state with a long naval history and strong naval tradition. The entire California Delegation is proud to welcome the USS *California* as the eighth U.S. Navy ship named after our home state. We have no doubt that she, and her crew, will serve our country honorably.

The following are the names of the Members of the California Congressional Delegation in support of the USS *California*:

MIKE THOMPSON, WALLY HERGER, DANIEL LUNGREN, TOM MCCLINTOCK, DORIS MATSUI, GEORGE MILLER, JOHN GARAMENDI, JERRY MCNERNEY, JACKIE SPEIER, PETE STARK, ANNA ESHOO, MIKE HONDA, ZOE LOFGREN, SAM FARR, DENNIS CARDOZA, JEFF DENHAM, JIM COSTA, DEVIN NUNES, KEVIN MCCARTHY, LOIS CAPPAS, ELTON GALLEGLY, HOWARD "BUCK" MCKEON, DAVID DREIER, BRAD SHERMAN, HOWARD BERMAN, ADAM SCHIFF, HENRY WAXMAN, XAVIER BECERRA, JUDY CHU, KAREN BASS, LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, MAXINE WATERS, JANICE HAHN, LAURA RICHARDSON, GRACE NAPOLITANO, LINDA SANCHEZ, EDWARD ROYCE, JERRY LEWIS, GARY MILLER, JOE BACA, KEN CALVERT, MARY BONO MACK, DANA ROHRBACHER, LORETTA SANCHEZ, JOHN CAMPBELL, DARRELL ISSA, BRIAN BILBRAY, BOB FILNER, DUNCAN HUNTER, and SUSAN DAVIS.

HONORING THE PALMYRA HIGH SCHOOL LADY PANTHERS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Palmyra High School Lady Panthers softball team for winning the Class 2 Missouri State Championship on October 22, 2011.

The young women and their coaches should be commended for all their hard work throughout the regular season and bringing home the state softball championship to their school and community.

The Lady Panthers were hungry for a win and proudly demonstrated that competitive spirit by beating the undefeated Pleasant Hope High School Pirates softball team for the title. This is their fourth softball title in just six years.

I ask that you join me in recognizing the Palmyra Lady Panthers for a job well done.

HONORING TED WELCH

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, the true greatness of our state and country lies in the creativity, integrity, and passion of its people, and we are fortunate to be surrounded by mighty examples of dedication to leadership, service, and support of the arts. I rise today to honor Ted Welch as he receives the Applause Award. Given each year to those who devote their time, talents, and treasures to the performing arts and arts education in Middle Tennessee, Ted Welch joins Tim McGraw as this year's deserved recipients.