

school and decreases the amount of electricity that must be generated by other means, reducing pollution. While serving as a clean energy resource, the photovoltaic system is also used as an accessible, educational resource with students participating in an energy workshop using the new photovoltaic installation and online data logger. The system's connections to the science curriculum in areas of energy, electricity, and the environment serve as great additions to the school.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the partnership of Rachel Carson Middle School and Dominion Power. Together, they have succeeded in taking a great step towards cleaner energy for the future. I extend my congratulations to the school and thank Rachel Carson Middle School and Dominion Power for their valuable efforts.

EASTERN WASHINGTON HONORS
RETIRING WASHINGTON FARM
BUREAU PRESIDENT STEVE
APPEL

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the extraordinary career of one of Eastern Washington's most exemplary leaders, Mr. Steve Appel. After devoting over 37 years of service to the Farm Bureau—the last 17 of which have been as Washington Farm Bureau's esteemed President—Steve has decided to retire. His career comes to an end with a long list of distinguished accomplishments and a record of success for the state of Washington.

As a third-generation family farmer, Steve grew wheat and barley in southeast Washington state and worked for decades to promote U.S. agriculture interests at home and abroad. A Washington State University alumnus, Steve leaves behind a distinguished career in Washington's agriculture community.

Steve was elected as Washington Farm Bureau president in 1994 and represents the longest-serving state President in the organization's history. His vision for the organization's growth was tremendous. In fact, in just the last five years, the Bureau experienced an 85 percent increase in membership alone. Under his leadership, Washington Farm Bureau pioneered the first-ever association health plan and industrial insurance safety and health program, which provide health insurance to rural Washingtonians in areas where such services were previously unavailable.

In addition to serving as the Bureau's President, Steve served as Vice President of the American Farm Bureau Federation—the world's largest general agriculture organization with over six million members—from 2001 through 2007. As the Pacific Northwest's first farmer to serve as an officer in the AFBF, he directed and implemented the organization's grassroots development process. Steve has also served on the Whitman County Planning Commission, Whitman County Soil Conservation Board, and the Eastern Washington Advisory Committee for the Washington Policy Center.

But his leadership extends far beyond his elected and appointed positions. He has testi-

fied on many congressional committees and remains extremely engaged in domestic and international trade issues. In his capacity as chairman of AFBF's trade advisory committee, Steve partook in a trade mission to Cuba and Mexico to advocate for advanced trade opportunities between the United States and Latin America.

While Steve is retiring as President of the Washington Farm Bureau, he will continue to serve as a vocal leader and member of the WFB Health Care Trust Board of Directors and the Board of Directors for Farm Bureau Bank. He leaves behind an indelible legacy in the agriculture community and will continue to play an instrumental role in the years to come.

Steve has been more than just a leader for the Farm Bureau; he's been a model for the state of Washington. When asked how he managed his success, he often says, "I live by something my dad said a lot: 'You do the best job you know how to do and leave the rest to the man upstairs.'" I congratulate Steve on his remarkable leadership and thank him for the profound differences he made—and will continue to make—in the state of Washington.

IRAN THREAT REDUCTION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, let's start with what we know:

First, Iran is actively seeking nuclear weapons, and the international community has ratcheted up sanctions to prevent Tehran from getting the bomb.

Second, Iran is attempting to circumvent these sanctions, with Iranian nationals establishing front companies in other countries to get around U.N. restrictions.

Just this year, a grand jury indicted a firm established by Iranians but operating in Istanbul for allegedly procuring materials for Iran's ballistic missile program.

Third, we must be vigilant about companies that deliberately hide their ties to Iran.

But what about companies that don't even try to conceal their Iranian connections?

In October, this Congress passed H.R. 1904, the Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act. This bill will allow Rio Tinto, a foreign company that does business with Iran, to obtain public land in Arizona so that it can mine for copper here in the United States.

But when Republicans in this chamber had a chance to join Democrats to ensure these business ties between Rio Tinto and Iran were severed as a condition of doing business on our land, every single member of the Republican majority voted no.

With the threat of nuclear weapons landing in the hands of Ahmadinejad, the stakes are simply too high to change the rules when the majority sees fit.

Vote yes on H.R. 1905 today, and we must insist on strong nuclear nonproliferation conditions in H.R. 1904.

DAVID MARVIN BLUMBERG'S 60TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker I rise today to honor the celebration of David Marvin Blumberg's 60th birthday.

David was born on December 26, 1951 in Jacksonville, Florida. He is the fourth of five children born to Marvin Bernard and Mary Louise Blumberg. David obtained his Masters Degree of Public Administration in 1994 from the University of North Florida.

He was honorably discharged from his service in the USAF in 1974 after having worked as an instrument mechanic on the Minute Man 1, 2, & 3 missiles at Vandenberg AFB, CA.

David worked alongside his father at Marvin Blumberg and Sons from 1974–1982. He was certified as an FAA Air Traffic controller and worked in that capacity from 1982–2006.

Presently he is serving as an Air Traffic Safety Risk Management Facilitator and Instructor nationwide.

David is the proud father of Lauren, Will, Olivia, Nathan and Natalia. He has one grandchild, Walker Brooks Haas.

David plays the drums in a band comprised of other Air Traffic Controllers who raise money for charities and to date they have raised over \$650,000 for local and national charities.

David will be moving to Fort Worth, Texas to supplement the Federal Aviation Administration's Safety Risk Management staff.

His band Aire Traffic will be playing future benefit concerts to raise money for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation and for the Joseph Sam's School for Special Needs Children in Fayetteville, GA.

Please join me in wishing David Blumberg a very happy 60th birthday.

PIPELINE SAFETY, REGULATORY CERTAINTY, AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2011

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker. I support the Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act. This bill has been improved since it was marked up by the Energy and Commerce and Transportation and Infrastructure Committees. I know that there are residual issues that some in the industry and some in the environmental community still have. No legislation will make everyone happy all the time, but I think my colleagues Representatives UPTON and DINGELL, have worked hard to come as close as possible with the legislation before us today. I thank them for their leadership and I am pleased that they have set an example of bipartisan legislating that we should all follow.

Pipeline safety is one that is particularly important to me. I represent parts of Houston and East Harris County, where virtually everyone either lives on, or in close proximity to, a