

Reform filed a report to accompany H.R. 3029, the Reducing the Size of the Federal Government Through Attrition Act of 2011. The purpose of the legislation is to reduce the size of the federal civilian workforce by ten percent through attrition. The bill also makes the federal government subject to a hiring freeze if the size of the workforce exceeds ninety percent of its size as of September 30, 2011. The legislation requires tough, but necessary, choices to control government spending.

As discussed in the committee report, H.R. 3029 provides the President, acting through the Office of Management and Budget and in consultation with the Office of Personnel Management, broad flexibility to achieve the necessary reduction in the size of the federal civilian workforce and to prioritize staffing needs across the federal government. The Committee cites federal law enforcement as an occupational category that meets the requirements for an exemption from both the required workforce reduction and the hiring freeze.

The Committee recognizes that the federal government's law enforcement responsibilities have expanded in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The national security and homeland security challenges our nation faces are increasingly complex, and require a dedicated workforce of federal civilian employees. In exercising the waiver authority provided in the bill, the Committee believes the President should give every consideration to members of the federal law enforcement community whose duties include (1) the investigation, apprehension, or detention of individuals suspected or convicted of offenses against the criminal laws of the United States; (2) the protection of officials of the United States against threats to personal safety; or (3) the protection of life and property, such as government institutions performing emergency work involving the safety of human life or the protection of property.

The Committee will carefully monitor implementation of H.R. 3029 to ensure the federal government's law enforcement mission is appropriately protected.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF DANIEL BUCKNER PRICE

**HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 20, 2011*

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Daniel Buckner Price and the steadfast faith and goodwill of the Price family. Daniel was brutally murdered at the age of 28 in San Francisco while trying to protect his high school sweetheart and wife, Sarah Abbott Price, from an attacker.

A native of my hometown of New Orleans, Louisiana, Daniel was a loving husband, brother, son, and friend. During his short life, in addition to being remembered as a devoted family man, we remember Daniel as a talented artist and gifted athlete.

Family, friends, and strangers alike remember Daniel for his infectious spirit and creativity.

An inspiration to all whose lives he touched, Daniel had the ability to find beauty in even the simplest pleasures.

Daniel's parents, Dr. Steve and Mrs. Catherine Price are great parents and loving members of the New Orleans community. Following his tragic death, his family created the Daniel Price Memorial Fund for Aspiring Artists to give talented fine arts graduates of the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA) an opportunity to pursue higher educational studies in the arts. Instead of giving up on the good in people and becoming jaded, they doubled down on their faith and in the future of New Orleans' best product and our future: our children. The scholarship will enable future generations of young, talented artists like Daniel Price to follow their artistic passion while obtaining a college degree. One criterion for the scholarship is that the applicant must also demonstrate an ongoing commitment to the New Orleans artistic community. This will ensure that the beneficiaries of the scholarship continue to contribute to New Orleans' future in the years ahead.

While we continue to grieve the loss of such a precious and innocent life, let us find the strength to be inspired to be kind and generous, and to live our lives with the same vitality and integrity that Daniel Buckner Price lived his life. The Price family represents the best of what New Orleans has to offer. Their dedication to the city and its future brings hope and promise to ensuring that New Orleans remains one of the most beautiful and unique places in the world.

RECOGNIZING RETIRED SERGEANT  
MAJOR CHARLES SCOTT SR. FOR  
HIS HONORABLE SERVICE TO  
OUR COUNTRY

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 20, 2011*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable veteran, Retired Sergeant Major Charles Scott, Sr., United States Army. Mr. Scott was born on August 7, 1928, in Vicksburg, Mississippi. He is the sixth of nine children born to Oscar and Evelyn Scott. His early years of education began at Cherry Street School and from there he went on to Magnolia High School.

Mr. Scott entered the U.S. Army on November 27, 1950, where he served in the Korean War with the 96th Field Artillery as an Artillery Crewman. He served four tours of duty in Germany totaling ten years. He also toured twice in Vietnam with the 101st Airborne Division; coordinating artillery fire, mortar fire, attacking enemy helicopters and close air strikes by the Air Forces.

During his last five years in service, Mr. Scott was the advisor to the U.S. Army Reserve in South Mississippi. Sergeant Major Scott retired in 1983 accumulating more than 30 years of service in the United States military. His Awards include: The Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with One Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Commendation Medal with Three Oak Leaf Clusters, Good Conduct Medal 10th Awards, Army of Occupation Medal (Germany), National Defense Service Medal with One Oak Leaf Cluster, Korean Service Medal with Two Stars, Vietnam Service Medal with Three Stars, Army Service Ribbon, NCO Professional Development Ribbon,

United Nations Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign, Presidential Unit Citation, Valorous Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, Vietnam Presidential Unit Citation, Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation, Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Unit Citation and Honorable Order of St. Barbara.

Retired Major Scott is a member of Mount Heroden Baptist Church where he is the Chairman of the Trustee Board. He is also a member of the American Legion Tyner-Ford Post 213, and the former commander of the American Legion Department of Mississippi from 2005 through 2006 with 18,000 members. He is presently the sixth district Vice Commander. On the National Level, he is the Vice Chairman of the Americanism Council for Children and Youth Department, a Life member of American Legion 101st Airborne Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disable American Veterans Post #22, the National Association for Uniformed Service, a member of the AARP and a member of the American Legion Legislative Division.

Mr. Scott is happily married to his wife of 24 years, Mrs. Lillie M. Scott and they have six children, seventeen grandchildren and six great-grandchildren and a host of nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Retired Sergeant Major. Charles Scott, Sr. for the dedication of service he's given to our country.

RECOGNITION OF COMMANDER  
DONNA SHEARN, NEWARK, CALI-  
FORNIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 20, 2011*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Commander Donna Shearn. Commander Shearn is retiring after serving 25 years as a member of the Newark, California Police Department.

Commander Shearn began her career with the Newark Police Department as a police officer on August 16, 1986. While serving as an officer, she was assigned to patrol and the Special Enforcement Unit. Additionally, she was a member of the Hostage Negotiation Team. Commander Shearn was one of the first three original D.A.R.E. officers and also worked as a School Resource Officer. To show her commitment to the citizens of Newark, Commander Shearn was active in the creation of the Newark Police Department's Vision Statement.

In July 1991, Commander Shearn was promoted to the rank of Sergeant, the first and only female to make Sergeant in the Department's history. She served as Administrative Sergeant, as well as Acting Detective Division Commander. In addition to her Patrol Sergeant responsibilities, she supervised a number of Department programs. These programs included, Field Training Officer, Acting Supervisor, Explorers, Hostage Negotiations, Trauma Response, Vehicle Abatement, Safety Patrol, and Patrol Scheduling and Staffing.

On July 1, 2004, Commander Shearn was promoted to Police Lieutenant. She was the

first female Police Lieutenant in the Department's history. During her time as Lieutenant, she served as the Administrative Lieutenant and the Patrol Operations Lieutenant. The Lieutenant position was reclassified to the rank of Police Commander on January 1, 2009. Commander Shearn is the first female Police Commander in the department's history.

Commander Shearn was named Employee of the Quarter for Fall 2003. She received this award for organizing and coordinating a Board of Corrections jail inspection. The Newark Police Department passed this inspection with significant recognition. In 2009, she received the honor of the City of Newark Employee of the Year award from Mayor Dave Smith at the annual Employee Service Awards. She received this award for her dedicated efforts to advance the Police Department, despite the limited resources allocated to the Department.

Commander Shearn was awarded the Chiefs Challenge Coin of Special Recognition for her outstanding work, loyalty to the organization, and tireless efforts in the development and promotion of the Mission, Vision, and Values of the Newark Police Department. This coin is issued only to members of the Police Department who consistently perform at exemplary levels or rise above with a single act of excellence.

I join in saluting Commander Shearn for her commitment to excellence, thanking her for her exemplary service, and wishing her well on her retirement.

CELEBRATING THE SERVICE OF  
DON L. RIDING

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 20, 2011*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Don L. Riding, Fresno Field Office Director with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). After 39 years of dedicated service, Don is retiring so he can spend more time with his family.

Don began his career in 1972 with the federal agency we then called Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). He was based in El Paso, Texas as an Immigration Inspector. In 1975, Don was transferred to the INS Baltimore, Maryland office as a Criminal Investigator, where he investigated immigration fraud. Don was promoted in 1980 to Course Developer/Instructor at the Immigration Officer Academy in Glynn, Georgia. He remained at the Academy for 2 more years before he became the Port Director at Laredo, Texas in 1982. In 1984, our community was lucky when Don was transferred to Fresno as Officer in Charge. He has remained in Fresno ever since and was promoted in September 2003 to Field Officer Director for the now U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) in Fresno. Don has been doing a tremendous job in Fresno for almost three decades.

Before the INS, Don spent two years in the U.S. Army and then two years on a church mission in Brazil. Don received his B.A. degree from Brigham Young University in 1972. I applaud Don Riding for his many years of tireless work on behalf of the United States government. I know he will enjoy more time

with his wife, Donna, his five children and four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it should be noted that in addition to his countless gifts to our community, Don has been a true champion for my constituents. In my office the majority of our constituent casework is immigration issues. These are sensitive cases that can sometimes take a great deal of time to resolve. My Fresno staff has worked closely with Don Riding on immigration issues for twenty years and proudly recollects Don always being available to discuss cases and work together on issues of concern. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the commitment, dedication and success of Don Riding and wish him well as he embarks on new endeavors.

HONORING VACLAV HAVEL

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 20, 2011*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and pay tribute to former Czech president and play-wright Vaclav Havel. He began as one of Czechoslovakia's best-known dissidents as he pushed for democratic change during the dark days of the Soviet Union. He went on to become the first president of the Czech Republic.

I submit for the RECORD an article from Monday's Washington Post where post columnist Michael Gerson, recalled Havel's message to a joint session of Congress in which he urged Americans to put "morality ahead of politics" and to foster "responsibility—responsibility to something higher than my family, my country, my company, my success." This same message could not come at a more timely moment. I commend it to my colleagues.

[From the Washington Post, Dec. 19, 2011]

HAVEL'S REVOLUTION OF TRUTH

(By Michael Gerson)

As the heroes of the Cold War walk off into the mist—Ronald Reagan, then John Paul II, now Vaclav Havel—each departure makes that world more distant and foreign. But it is too early for forgetfulness, which would also be ingratitude.

Once in a nightmare, European dissidents lived in prison, in whole nations that were prisons. They were confined to mental hospitals by governments sustained through the promotion of mass delusion. They were forced to make confessions of imagined crimes by regimes that were criminal enterprises.

And then the government of Czechoslovakia went a step too far. In 1976, it arrested a band called The Plastic People of the Universe for offenses against cultural conformity. This was a perfect symbol of communism: a system that could not tolerate the unauthorized singing of songs. The regime's stupidity undermined its capacity to intimidate. Havel—a countercultural intellectual and rock fan—co-founded the Charter 77 human rights movement. Never has bad popular music been put to better use.

In history's great refutation of historical pessimism, Europe's nightmare turned out to be a "fairy tale"—a phrase Havel used to describe his experience. On Oct. 27, 1989, Havel was sent to prison for the fourth time. That December, 300,000 Czechs turned out in

Wenceslas Square to chant, "Havel to the Castle!" By New Year's Day, Havel could declare, "People, your government has returned to you!" In February, he addressed a joint session of Congress as the leader of a free Czechoslovakia. It was four months from prisoner to visiting president.

Havel helped overthrow communism by discrediting its central tenet. Scientific socialism taught that history is the outworking of massive economic and social forces that the individual could not hope to budge. Ideals, Marx sniffed, were "phantoms formed in the human brain." As Winston Churchill might have said of Havel: Some phantom. Some brain. Havel relentlessly exposed communist ideology as a confidence game, a Ponzi scheme, dependent on broad deference to obvious lies. One ideal—a commitment to truth—proved to be a lever long enough to move the world.

Reading back over Havel's landmark 1978 essay, "The Power of the Powerless," is like wading through molasses scattered with diamonds. The intellectual jargon is thick—and then comes a crystalline phrase, a perfectly polished insight. Communist regimes require people to "live within a lie," demanding dehumanizing rituals of loyalty. He describes his country as plastered with slogans but lacking in genuine belief. "Each person," he says, "somehow succumbs to a profane trivialization of his inherent humanity." They drift together "down the river of pseudolife."

Yet in a society ruled by lies, truth gains a "singular, explosive, incalculable political power." The desire to live authentically is the equivalent of a fifth column—a revolution hidden in a whole society. Truth advances in a political speech, in a hunger strike, in a play, in a song. "It is a bacteriological weapon, so to speak," says Havel, "utilized when conditions are ripe by a single civilian to disarm an entire division." Havel was a historical prophet of the first order—and the fulfillment of his own prophecy.

"Living within the truth," according to Havel, is an inherently moral enterprise. It requires sacrifice, which presupposes a "sense of responsibility" for others—a belief in love, friendship and compassion. In the company of John Paul II and Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Havel believed that political renewal starts in moral and personal renewal. In one letter from prison he wrote, "But who should begin? Who should break this vicious circle? The only possible place to begin is with myself . . . . Whether all is really lost or not depends entirely on whether or not I am lost."

Uncomfortably, Havel also applied this moral vision to the prosperous nations of the West. He criticized "a selfish cult of material success" and "the absence of faith in a higher order of things." Consumerism and relativism, he warned, could also strip people of humanity and responsibility. Even the wealthy and powerful can live within the lie. In his speech to Congress, Havel urged Americans to put "morality ahead of politics" and to foster "responsibility—responsibility to something higher than my family, my country, my company, my success."

American intellectual Noam Chomsky called Havel's speech an "embarrassingly silly and morally repugnant Sunday School sermon"—itself a statement both silly and repugnant.

The Czech Republic had this rare advantage: Its leading intellectual believed in the ideals of Western civilization. And by his faith in civilization, he helped to save it.