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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We come to the end of a week during which some Members of this people's House have come to complete their service in the Congress, and others have come to prepare for their opportunity to serve this great Nation. It is a time of tremendous transition, a time fraught with trepidation and some uncertainty.

Send Your spirit of peace and calm, that all might have confidence in Your faithfulness to us, and that no matter what lies ahead, Your grace is abundantly available.

Now we approach a week during which all Americans will gather to remember who we are: a Nation generously blessed by not only You, our God, but by courageous ancestors, faithful allies, and the best good wishes of people everywhere who long for freedom, who would glory in the difficult work of participative government, and who do not enjoy the bounty we are privileged to possess.

Bless the Members of this assembly, and us all, that we would be worthy of the call we have been given as Americans. Help us all to be truly thankful and appropriately generous in our response.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCNERNEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five 1-minute requests on each side of the aisle.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE ANSWERS REGARDING BENGHAZI

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, led by Chairwoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, heard testimony regarding the terrorist attack on our United States consulate in Benghazi, Libya. This resulted in the death of four American heroes. Sadly, no substantial information was revealed.

The American people have legitimate questions and deserve answers as to what happened on the evening of September 11, 2012. Why did the administration not make an immediate response in the area of the consulate as requested during the 6-hour attack? Why did the administration place blame on a video rather than reveal that it was an organized terrorist attack? Why has the administration failed to provide answers to valid questions after 2 months of inquiry, as requested by House Armed Services Committee Chairman BUCK MCKEON?

It's my hope that the appropriate officials of this administration will appear before Congress and provide answers the American people deserve.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the global war on terrorism.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, earlier this week, our Nation observed Veterans Day. As we honor all the brave men and women who have worn the uniform of the United States Armed Forces, we're especially mindful of all those who have laid down their lives in defense of our freedoms. In just the past year, Rhode Island families were forced to say goodbye to two loved ones taken from us while serving our country in Afghanistan. Sergeant Dennis Weichel and Lance Corporal Abraham Tarwoe are American heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice for a country they loved.

So now it falls to those of us privileged to serve in this Chamber to keep the commitments and promises that have been made to our veterans. For all the bravery and dedication that they have shown us, our veterans deserve to know that they will be able to support their families, send their children to college, and retire with economic security. As we continue discussing ways to reduce the size of our Federal deficit, it is absolutely critical that we maintain programs important to veterans and their families.

ISRAEL UNDER ATTACK—AGAIN

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, sirens wailed the warning as over 300 rockets from Hamas in Gaza rained down on Israel this week. Israelis were

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injured—and at least one was killed. But ensuring its absolute right of self-defense, Israel responded to defend its people. Prime Minister Netanyahu said it best:

> The terrorists are committing a double-war crime. They fire at Israeli citizens and they hide behind Palestinian civilians.

But the new Muslim Brotherhood government in Egypt, which was backed by the administration, has condemned Israel, not Hamas. The terrorist group Hamas doesn't want peace with Israel. It wants war. Hamas is the aggressor here. It kills Israeli citizens and then hides behind the skirts of Palestinian women. The world should condemn Hamas, not Israel. Israel has the moral right and legal duty to defend itself from the attacks by the barbarians Hamas. The United States should be bold in its total support of Israel, our ally. The United States should be bold in its condemnation of Hamas. And the United States should be bold in denouncing this continuing war by terrorists like Hamas on civilized nations.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING DR. JAMES BILLINGTON

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Perhaps one of the best parts of serving in Congress is the access to our Library, the Library of Congress, the dedicated staff at CRS, and the magnificent Members Reading Room. The Library of Congress is truly a national treasure; and leading the Library of Congress is another national treasure, Dr. James Billington, who had a long and distinguished career as scholar and institutional leader before assuming leadership of the Library of Congress 25 years ago.

As chair of the Library of Congress Caucus, it's been a great pleasure to work with Dr. Billington and his outstanding staff on a variety of issues and activities for Members of Congress. The caucus urges you to join Speaker BOEHNER today in the Rayburn Room at 11 a.m. as he honors Dr. James Billington and his exemplary quarter century of leadership as the Librarian of Congress.

CONGRATULATING MR. WADE MARTIN OF MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP

(Mr. LANCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Wade Martin of Montgomery Township, New Jersey, for being awarded the 2012 Land Trust Alliance's prestigious National Conservation Service Award for his significant contributions to the advancement of land conservation.

Using his position as a financial adviser, Mr. Martin is educating his clients to the benefits of land preservation. He's provided land trusts and landowners across New Jersey with financial advice and estate planning for the benefit of land conservation. Wade Martin has taken his model nationwide to help other financial advisers and their clients explore various options in preserving their land and their families' legacies, increasing the pace of land conservation.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring Wade Martin as one of the Nation's land conservation leaders and this year's National Conservation Service Award winner.

MATHEMATICS OF PLANET EARTH

(Mr. MCNERNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring your attention to an exciting new project, Mathematics of Planet Earth, which begins in 2013. More than 100 different organizations from around the world have come together to outline mathematics' integral role in solving real-world issues, including energy freedom, medical challenges, and weather events. As someone who has earned a Ph.D. in mathematics and went on to work in the renewable energy sector for two decades, I know mathematics can be an essential feature to finding solutions to many challenges facing humanity.

The Mathematics of Planet Earth projects will spotlight the importance of mathematics. A national focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education will ensure the United States remains a competitive force in the global marketplace. People across our Nation are working together to create a better world, and it is important that their efforts be recognized and supported. I encourage my colleagues to join me in recognizing the benefits and goals of the Mathematics of Planet Earth project.

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SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

(Mr. MEEHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MEEHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues here in the House of Representatives and citizens all across the United States to join in an unambiguous message of support for Israel in this time of great and dramatic concern and rising tensions in the Gaza Strip.

Look, the facts are clear: The 400 rockets that have been launched from Gaza into Israel over the last 48 hours represent a dramatic provocation of Israel and its people. Second, the use of long-range missiles—for the first time reaching into population centers like Tel Aviv—represents an irresponsible escalation of the acts of terrorism that have been generated by Hamas and underscored by Iran.

Today, we must send an unambiguous signal that we stand with Israel in the right to defend itself and make sure that we simultaneously call on those who are coming into Gaza from Egypt with a message that they have a responsibility to begin the process immediately of deescalating this conflict, standing shoulder to shoulder for peace, and making sure that this escalation does not lead to further provocation.

FARM BILL

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, how does $7 for a gallon of milk sound? Well, that's where we're headed on January 1 if we don't pass a farm bill.

Why haven't we passed a farm bill? Because the House Republican leadership has refused to bring it up for a vote on this floor despite the fact that the Senate, on June 19, passed a bipartisan farm bill that protects a safe, stable food supply for this country and saves $23 billion for the Federal budget deficit.

In the meantime, we've had 13 weeks of recess, the 2008 bill has expired, and for dairy farmers who are facing record feed and fuel costs, they have had their complete market collapse beneath their feet. And we're going to have $7 a gallon milk on January 1 if we don't act.

Madam Speaker, let's look at the example of dairy farmers who get up every single day and engage in the hardest work in our economy. Let's get this House to work between now and December 16. Pass a farm bill. Provide a horizon for rural America.

FARM BILL

(Mr. WALZ of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I, too, echo the sentiments of my friend from New England. Those of us on the Great Plains out in Minnesota ask to pass a farm bill also.

The American people spoke last week and they were very clear. I didn't run into a single voter—and I don't know if you did, Madam Speaker—who said: What I want you guys to do is mess around some more, not do anything, and kick the can down the road; that's what we really enjoy. What they said was: Compromise, get something done, give us stability, and move forward.

As my colleague said, 6 months ago the Senate passed a bipartisan farm bill. They couldn't agree today was Friday in the Senate, and they passed a farm bill. We passed it out of the Ag Committee, 35–11. We have now sat and waited for 4 months to have a chance to vote ''yes'' for stability in rural America, ''yes'' for rural communities, ''yes'' for stable food prices, ''yes'' for

support for drought-stricken farmers, or to sit here and do more of the gridlock, more of the do nothing.

When they spoke last week, they were very clear. They were not saying we're all for Democrats, we're all for Republicans. They said we're all for this country doing its business and moving forward.

I encourage our colleagues, get a farm bill on the floor, pass it, move on.

RUSSIA AND MOLDOVA JACKSON-VANIK REPEAL AND SERGEI MAGNITSKY RULE OF LAW ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2012

Mr. BURTON OF Indiana. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 808, I call up the bill (H.R. 6156) to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to products of the Russian Federation and Moldova and to require reports on the compliance of the Russian Federation with its obligations as a member of the World Trade Organization, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Pursuant to House Resolution 808, the amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 112–33 is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 6156

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Russia and Moldova Jackson-Vanik Repeal and Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—PERMANENT NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS FOR THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Sec. 101. Findings.

Sec. 102. Termination of application of title IV of the Trade Act of 1974 to products of the Russian Federation.

TITLE II—TRADE ENFORCEMENT MEASURES RELATING TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Sec. 201. Reports on implementation by the Russian Federation of obligations as a member of the World Trade Organization and enforcement actions by the United States Trade Representative.

Sec. 202. Promotion of the rule of law in the Russian Federation to support United States trade and investment.

Sec. 203. Reports on laws, policies, and practices of the Russian Federation that discriminate against United States digital trade.

Sec. 204. Efforts to reduce barriers to trade imposed by the Russian Federation.

TITLE III—PERMANENT NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS FOR MOLDOVA

Sec. 301. Findings.

Sec. 302. Termination of application of title IV of the Trade Act of 1974 to products of Moldova.

TITLE IV—SERGEI MAGNITSKY RULE OF LAW ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2012

Sec. 401. Short title.

Sec. 402. Findings; Sense of Congress.

Sec. 403. Definitions.

Sec. 404. Identification of persons responsible for the detention, abuse, and death of Sergei Magnitsky and other gross violations of human rights.

Sec. 405. Inadmissibility of certain aliens.

Sec. 406. Financial measures.

Sec. 407. Report to Congress.

TITLE I—PERMANENT NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS FOR THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

SEC. 101. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Russian Federation allows its citizens the right and opportunity to emigrate, free of any heavy tax on emigration or on the visas or other documents required for emigration and free of any tax, levy, fine, fee, or other charge on any citizens as a consequence of the desire of those citizens to emigrate to the country of their choice.

(2) The Russian Federation has been found to be in full compliance with the freedom of emigration requirements under title IV of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2431 et seq.) since 1994.

(3) The Russian Federation has received normal trade relations treatment since concluding a bilateral trade agreement with the United States that entered into force in 1992.

(4) On December 16, 2011, the Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization invited the Russian Federation to accede to the World Trade Organization.

SEC. 102. TERMINATION OF APPLICATION OF TITLE IV OF THE TRADE ACT OF 1974 TO PRODUCTS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

(a) PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATIONS AND EXTENSION OF NONDISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT.—Notwithstanding any provision of title IV of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2431 et seq.), the President may—

(1) determine that such title should no longer apply to the Russian Federation; and

(2) after making a determination under paragraph (1) with respect to the Russian Federation, proclaim the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to the products of the Russian Federation.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT.—The extension of nondiscriminatory treatment to the products of the Russian Federation pursuant to subsection (a) shall be effective not sooner than the effective date of the accession of the Russian Federation to the World Trade Organization.

(c) TERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY OF TITLE IV.—On and after the effective date under subsection (b) of the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment to the products of the Russian Federation, title IV of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2431 et seq.) shall cease to apply to the Russian Federation.

TITLE II—TRADE ENFORCEMENT MEASURES RELATING TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

SEC. 201. REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION OF OBLIGATIONS AS A MEMBER OF THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS BY THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE.

(a) REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the effective date under section 102(b) of the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment to the products of the Russian Federation, and annually thereafter, the United States Trade Representative shall submit to the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives a report assessing the following:

(A) The extent to which the Russian Federation is implementing the WTO Agreement (as defined in section 2 of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3501)) and the following agreements annexed to that Agreement:

(i) The Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (referred to in section 101(d)(3) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3511(d)(3))).

(ii) The Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (referred to in section 101(d)(15) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3511(d)(15))).

(B) The progress made by the Russian Federation in acceding to, and the extent to which the Russian Federation is implementing, the following:

(i) The Ministerial Declaration on Trade in Information Technology Products of the World Trade Organization, agreed to at Singapore December 13, 1996 (commonly referred to as the ''Information Technology Agreement'') (or a successor agreement).

(ii) The Agreement on Government Procurement (referred to in section 101(d)(17) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3511(d)(17))).

(2) PLAN FOR ACTION BY TRADE REPRESENTATIVE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If, in preparing a report required by paragraph (1), the Trade Representative believes that the Russian Federation is not fully implementing an agreement specified in subparagraph (A) or (B) of that paragraph or that the Russian Federation is not making adequate progress in acceding to an agreement specified in subparagraph (B) of that paragraph, the Trade Representative shall, except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, include in the report a description of the actions the Trade Representative plans to take to encourage the Russian Federation to improve its implementation of the agreement or increase its progress in acceding to the agreement, as the case may be.

(B) CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—If any information regarding a planned action referred to in subparagraph (A) is classifiable under Executive Order 13526 (75 Fed. Reg. 707; relating to classified national security information) or a subsequent Executive order, the Trade Representative shall report that information to the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives by—

(i) including the information in a classified annex to the report required by paragraph (1); or

(ii) consulting with the Committee on Finance and the Committee on Ways and Means with respect to the information instead of including the information in the report or a classified annex to the report.

(3) PUBLIC COMMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In developing the report required by paragraph (1), the Trade Representative shall provide an opportunity for the public to comment, including by holding a public hearing.

(B) PUBLICATION IN FEDERAL REGISTER.—The Trade Representative shall publish notice of the opportunity to comment and hearing required by subparagraph (A) in the Federal Register.

(b) REPORT ON ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS TAKEN BY TRADE REPRESENTATIVE.—Not later than 180 days after the effective date under section 102(b) of the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment to the products of the Russian Federation, and annually thereafter, the United States Trade Representative shall submit to the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives a report describing the enforcement actions taken by the Trade Representative against the

Russian Federation to ensure the full compliance of the Russian Federation with its obligations as a member of the World Trade Organization, including obligations under agreements with members of the Working Party on the accession of the Russian Federation to the World Trade Organization.

SEC. 202. PROMOTION OF THE RULE OF LAW IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO SUPPORT UNITED STATES TRADE AND INVESTMENT.

(a) REPORTS ON PROMOTION OF RULE OF LAW.—Not later than one year after the effective date under section 102(b) of the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment to the products of the Russian Federation, and annually thereafter, the United States Trade Representative and the Secretary of State shall jointly submit to the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives a report—

(1) on the measures taken by the Trade Representative and the Secretary and the results achieved during the year preceding the submission of the report with respect to promoting the rule of law in the Russian Federation, including with respect to—

(A) strengthening formal protections for United States investors in the Russian Federation, including through the negotiation of a new bilateral investment treaty;

(B) advocating for United States investors in the Russian Federation, including by promoting the claims of United States investors in Yukos Oil Company;

(C) encouraging all countries that are parties to the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, done at Paris December 17, 1997 (commonly referred to as the ''OECD Anti-Bribery Convention''), including the Russian Federation, to fully implement their commitments under the Convention to prevent overseas business bribery by the nationals of those countries;

(D) promoting a customs administration, tax administration, and judiciary in the Russia Federation that are free of corruption; and

(E) increasing cooperation between the United States and the Russian Federation to expand the capacity for civil society organizations to monitor, investigate, and report on suspected instances of corruption; and

(2) that discloses the status of any pending petition for espousal filed with the Secretary by a United States investor in the Russian Federation.

(b) ANTI-BRIBERY REPORTING AND ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce shall establish and maintain a dedicated phone hotline and secure website, accessible from within and outside the Russian Federation, for the purpose of allowing United States entities—

(A) to report instances of bribery, attempted bribery, or other forms of corruption in the Russian Federation that impact or potentially impact their operations; and

(B) to request the assistance of the United States with respect to issues relating to corruption in the Russian Federation.

(2) REPORT REQUIRED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the effective date under section 102(b) of the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment to the products of the Russian Federation, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Commerce shall submit to the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives a report that includes the following:

(i) The number of instances in which bribery, attempted bribery, or other forms of corruption have been reported using the hotline or website established pursuant to paragraph (1).

(ii) A description of the regions in the Russian Federation in which those instances are alleged to have occurred.

(iii) A summary of actions taken by the United States to provide assistance to United States entities pursuant to paragraph (1)(B).

(iv) A description of the efforts taken by the Secretary to inform United States entities conducting business in the Russian Federation or considering conducting business in the Russian Federation of the availability of assistance through the hotline and website.

(B) CONFIDENTIALITY.—The Secretary shall not include in the report required by subparagraph (A) the identity of a United States entity that reports instances of bribery, attempted bribery, or other forms of corruption in the Russian Federation or requests assistance pursuant to paragraph (1).

SEC. 203. REPORTS ON LAWS, POLICIES, AND PRACTICES OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION THAT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST UNITED STATES DIGITAL TRADE.

Section 181(a) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2241(a)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

''(3) INCLUSION OF CERTAIN DISCRIMINATORY LAWS, POLICIES, AND PRACTICES OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.—For calender year 2012 and each succeeding calendar year, the Trade Representative shall include in the analyses and estimates under paragraph (1) an identification and analysis of any laws, policies, or practices of the Russian Federation that deny fair and equitable market access to United States digital trade.''.

SEC. 204. EFFORTS TO REDUCE BARRIERS TO TRADE IMPOSED BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

The United States Trade Representative shall continue to pursue the reduction of barriers to trade imposed by the Russian Federation on articles exported from the United States to the Russian Federation through efforts—

(1) to negotiate a bilateral agreement under which the Russian Federation will accept the sanitary and phytosanitary measures of the United States as equivalent to the sanitary and phytosanitary measures of the Russian Federation; and

(2) to obtain the adoption by the Russian Federation of an action plan for providing greater protections for intellectual property rights than the protections required by the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (referred to in section 101(d)(15) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3511(d)(15))).

TITLE III—PERMANENT NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS FOR MOLDOVA

SEC. 301. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Moldova allows its citizens the right and opportunity to emigrate, free of any heavy tax on emigration or on the visas or other documents required for emigration and free of any tax, levy, fine, fee, or other charge on any citizens as a consequence of the desire of those citizens to emigrate to the country of their choice.

(2) Moldova has been found to be in full compliance with the freedom of emigration requirements under title IV of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2431 et seq.) since 1997.

(3) Moldova acceded to the World Trade Organization on July 26, 2001.

SEC. 302. TERMINATION OF APPLICATION OF TITLE IV OF THE TRADE ACT OF 1974 TO PRODUCTS OF MOLDOVA.

(a) PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATIONS AND EXTENSION OF NONDISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT.—Notwithstanding any provision of title IV of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2431 et seq.), the President may—

(1) determine that such title should no longer apply to Moldova; and

(2) after making a determination under paragraph (1) with respect to Moldova, proclaim the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to the products of Moldova.

(b) TERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY OF TITLE IV.—On and after the date on which the President extends nondiscriminatory treatment to the products of Moldova pursuant to subsection (a), title IV of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2431 et seq.) shall cease to apply to Moldova.

TITLE IV—SERGEI MAGNITSKY RULE OF LAW ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2012

SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012''.

SEC. 402. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States aspires to a mutually beneficial relationship with the Russian Federation based on respect for human rights and the rule of law, and supports the people of the Russian Federation in their efforts to realize their full economic potential and to advance democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

(2) The Russian Federation—

(A) is a member of the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Council of Europe, and the International Monetary Fund;

(B) has ratified the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the United Nations Convention against Corruption; and

(C) is bound by the legal obligations set forth in the European Convention on Human Rights.

(3) States voluntarily commit themselves to respect obligations and responsibilities through the adoption of international agreements and treaties, which must be observed in good faith in order to maintain the stability of the international order. Human rights are an integral part of international law, and lie at the foundation of the international order. The protection of human rights, therefore, particularly in the case of a country that has incurred obligations to protect human rights under an international agreement to which it is a party, is not left exclusively to the internal affairs of that country.

(4) Good governance and anti-corruption measures are instrumental in the protection of human rights and in achieving sustainable economic growth, which benefits both the people of the Russian Federation and the international community through the creation of open and transparent markets.

(5) Systemic corruption erodes trust and confidence in democratic institutions, the rule of law, and human rights protections. This is the case when public officials are allowed to abuse their authority with impunity for political or financial gains in collusion with private entities.

(6) The Russian nongovernmental organization INDEM has estimated that bribes by individuals and businesses in the Russian Federation amount to hundreds of billions of dollars a year, an increasing share of the country's gross domestic product.

(7) Sergei Leonidovich Magnitsky died on November 16, 2009, at the age of 37, in Matrosskaya Tishina Prison in Moscow, Russia, and is survived by a mother, a wife, and 2 sons.

(8) On July 6, 2011, Russian President Dimitry Medvedev's Human Rights Council announced the results of its independent investigation into the death of Sergei Magnitsky. The Human Rights Council concluded that Sergei Magnitsky's arrest and detention was illegal; he was denied access to justice by the courts and prosecutors of the Russian Federation; he was investigated by the same law enforcement officers whom he had accused of stealing Hermitage Fund companies and illegally obtaining a fraudulent $230,000,000 tax refund; he was denied necessary medical care in custody; he was beaten by 8 guards with rubber batons on the

last day of his life; and the ambulance crew that was called to treat him as he was dying was deliberately kept outside of his cell for one hour and 18 minutes until he was dead. The report of the Human Rights Council also states the officials falsified their accounts of what happened to Sergei Magnitsky and, 18 months after his death, no officials had been brought to trial for his false arrest or the crime he uncovered. The impunity continued in April 2012, when Russian authorities dropped criminal charges against Larisa Litvinova, the head doctor at the prison where Magnitsky died.

(9) The systematic abuse of Sergei Magnitsky, including his repressive arrest and torture in custody by officers of the Ministry of the Interior of the Russian Federation that Mr. Magnitsky had implicated in the embezzlement of funds from the Russian Treasury and the misappropriation of 3 companies from his client, Hermitage Capital Management, reflects how deeply the protection of human rights is affected by corruption.

(10) The politically motivated nature of the persecution of Mr. Magnitsky is demonstrated by—

(A) the denial by all state bodies of the Russian Federation of any justice or legal remedies to Mr. Magnitsky during the nearly 12 full months he was kept without trial in detention; and

(B) the impunity since his death of state officials he testified against for their involvement in corruption and the carrying out of his repressive persecution.

(11) The Public Oversight Commission of the City of Moscow for the Control of the Observance of Human Rights in Places of Forced Detention, an organization empowered by Russian law to independently monitor prison conditions, concluded on December 29, 2009, ''A man who is kept in custody and is being detained is not capable of using all the necessary means to protect either his life or his health. This is a responsibility of a state which holds him captive. Therefore, the case of Sergei Magnitsky can be described as a breach of the right to life. The members of the civic supervisory commission have reached the conclusion that Magnitsky had been experiencing both psychological and physical pressure in custody, and the conditions in some of the wards of Butyrka can be justifiably called torturous. The people responsible for this must be punished.''.

(12) Sergei Magnitsky's experience, while particularly illustrative of the negative effects of official corruption on the rights of an individual citizen, appears to be emblematic of a broader pattern of disregard for the numerous domestic and international human rights commitments of the Russian Federation and impunity for those who violate basic human rights and freedoms.

(13) The second trial, verdict, and sentence against former Yukos executives Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev evoke serious concerns about the right to a fair trial and the independence of the judiciary in the Russian Federation. The lack of credible charges, intimidation of witnesses, violations of due process and procedural norms, falsification or withholding of documents, denial of attorney-client privilege, and illegal detention in the Yukos case are highly troubling. The Council of Europe, Freedom House, and Amnesty International, among others, have concluded that they were charged and imprisoned in a process that did not follow the rule of law and was politically influenced. Furthermore, senior officials of the Government of the Russian Federation, including First Deputy Prime Minister Igor Shuvalov, have acknowledged that the arrest and imprisonment of Khodorkovsky were politically motivated.

(14) According to Freedom House's 2011 report entitled ''The Perpetual Battle: Corruption in the Former Soviet Union and the New EU Members'', ''[t]he highly publicized cases of Sergei Magnitsky, a 37-year-old lawyer who died in pretrial detention in November 2009 after exposing a multimillion-dollar fraud against the Russian taxpayer, and Mikhail Khodorkovsky, the jailed business magnate and regime critic who was sentenced at the end of 2010 to remain in prison through 2017, put an international spotlight on the Russian state's contempt for the rule of law. . . . By silencing influential and accomplished figures such as Khodorkovsky and Magnitsky, the Russian authorities have made it abundantly clear that anyone in Russia can be silenced.''.

(15) The tragic and unresolved murders of Nustap Abdurakhmanov, Maksharip Aushev, Natalya Estemirova, Akhmed Hadjimagomedov, Umar Israilov, Paul Klebnikov, Anna Politkovskaya, Saihadji Saihadjiev, and Magomed Y. Yevloyev, the death in custody of Vera Trifonova, the disappearances of Mokhmadsalakh Masaev and Said-Saleh Ibragimov, the torture of Ali Israilov and Islam Umarpashaev, the near-fatal beatings of Mikhail Beketov, Oleg Kashin, Arkadiy Lander, and Mikhail Vinyukov, and the harsh and ongoing imprisonment of Mikhail Khodorkovsky, Alexei Kozlov, Platon Lebedev, and Fyodor Mikheev further illustrate the grave danger of exposing the wrongdoing of officials of the Government of the Russian Federation, including Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov, or of seeking to obtain, exercise, defend, or promote internationally recognized human rights and freedoms.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the United States should continue to strongly support, and provide assistance to, the efforts of the Russian people to establish a vibrant democratic political system that respects individual liberties and human rights, including by enhancing the provision of objective information through all relevant media, such as Radio Liberty and the internet. The Russian Government's suppression of dissent and political opposition, the limitations it has imposed on civil society and independent media, and the deterioration of economic and political freedom inside Russia are of profound concern to the United States Government and to the American people.

SEC. 403. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) ADMITTED; ALIEN.—The terms ''admitted'' and ''alien'' have the meanings given those terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

(3) FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—The term ''financial institution'' has the meaning given that term in section 5312 of title 31, United States Code.

(4) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term ''United States person'' means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States; or

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or of any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity.

SEC. 404. IDENTIFICATION OF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DETENTION, ABUSE, AND DEATH OF SERGEI MAGNITSKY AND OTHER GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a list of each person who the President determines, based on credible information—

(1) is responsible for the detention, abuse, or death of Sergei Magnitsky, participated in efforts to conceal the legal liability for the detention, abuse, or death of Sergei Magnitsky, financially benefitted from the detention, abuse, or death of Sergei Magnitsky, or was involved in the criminal conspiracy uncovered by Sergei Magnitsky;

(2) is responsible for extrajudicial killings, torture, or other gross violations of internationally recognized human rights committed against individuals seeking—

(A) to expose illegal activity carried out by officials of the Government of the Russian Federation; or

(B) to obtain, exercise, defend, or promote internationally recognized human rights and freedoms, such as the freedoms of religion, expression, association, and assembly, and the rights to a fair trial and democratic elections, in Russia; or

(3) acted as an agent of or on behalf of a person in a matter relating to an activity described in paragraph (1) or (2).

(b) UPDATES.—The President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an update of the list required by subsection (a) as new information becomes available.

(c) FORM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The list required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form.

(2) EXCEPTION.—The name of a person to be included in the list required by subsection (a) may be submitted in a classified annex only if the President—

(A) determines that it is vital for the national security interests of the United States to do so;

(B) uses the annex in such a manner consistent with congressional intent and the purposes of this Act; and

(C) 15 days prior to submitting the name in a classified annex, provides to the appropriate congressional committees notice of, and a justification for, including or continuing to include each person in the classified annex despite any publicly available credible information indicating that the person engaged in an activity described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subsection (a).

(3) CONSIDERATION OF DATA FROM OTHER COUNTRIES AND NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.—In preparing the list required by subsection (a), the President shall consider information provided by the chairperson and ranking member of each of the appropriate congressional committees and credible data obtained by other countries and nongovernmental organizations, including organizations inside Russia, that monitor the human rights abuses of the Government of the Russian Federation.

(4) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The unclassified portion of the list required by subsection (a) shall be made available to the public and published in the Federal Register.

(d) REMOVAL FROM LIST.—A person may be removed from the list required by subsection (a) if the President determines and reports to the appropriate congressional committees not less than 15 days prior to the removal of the person from the list that—

(1) credible information exists that the person did not engage in the activity for which the person was added to the list;

(2) the person has been prosecuted appropriately for the activity in which the person engaged; or

(3) the person has credibly demonstrated a significant change in behavior, has paid an appropriate consequence for the activities in which the person engaged, and has credibly committed to not engage in the types of activities specified in paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (a).

(e) REQUESTS BY CHAIRPERSON AND RANKING MEMBER OF APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after receiving a written request from the chairperson and ranking member of one of the appropriate congressional committees with respect to whether a person meets the criteria for being added to the list required by subsection (a), the President shall submit a response to the chairperson and ranking member of the committee which made the request with respect to the status of the person.

(2) FORM.—The President may submit a response required by paragraph (1) in classified form if the President determines that it is necessary for the national security interests of the United States to do so.

(3) REMOVAL.—If the President removes from the list required by subsection (a) a person who has been placed on the list at the request of the chairperson and ranking member of one of the appropriate congressional committees, the President shall provide the chairperson and ranking member with any information that contributed to the removal decision. The President may submit such information in classified form if the President determines that such is necessary for the national security interests of the United States.

(f) NONAPPLICABILITY OF CONFIDENTIALITY REQUIREMENT WITH RESPECT TO VISA RECORDS.—The President shall publish the list required by subsection (a) without regard to the requirements of section 222(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1202(f)) with respect to confidentiality of records pertaining to the issuance or refusal of visas or permits to enter the United States.

SEC. 405. INADMISSIBILITY OF CERTAIN ALIENS.

(a) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS.—An alien is ineligible to receive a visa to enter the United States and ineligible to be admitted to the United States if the alien is on the list required by section 404(a).

(b) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—The Secretary of State shall revoke, in accordance with section 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i)), the visa or other documentation of any alien who would be ineligible to receive such a visa or documentation under subsection (a) of this section.

(c) WAIVER FOR NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State may waive the application of subsection (a) or (b) in the case of an alien if—

(A) the Secretary determines that such a waiver—

(i) is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, or other applicable international obligations of the United States; or

(ii) is in the national security interests of the United States; and

(B) prior to granting such a waiver, the Secretary provides to the appropriate congressional committees notice of, and a justification for, the waiver.

(2) TIMING FOR CERTAIN WAIVERS.—Notification under subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) shall be made not later than 15 days prior to granting a waiver under such paragraph if the Secretary grants such waiver in the national security interests of the United States in accordance with subparagraph (A)(ii) of such paragraph.

(d) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of State shall prescribe such regulations as are necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 406. FINANCIAL MEASURES.

(a) FREEZING OF ASSETS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall exercise all powers granted by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) (except that the requirements of section 202 of such Act (50 U.S.C. 1701) shall not apply) to the extent necessary to freeze and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of a person who is on the list required by section 404(a) of this Act if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to persons included on the classified annex under section 404(c)(2) if the President determines that such an exception is vital for the national security interests of the United States.

(b) WAIVER FOR NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS.—The Secretary of the Treasury may waive the application of subsection (a) if the Secretary determines that such a waiver is in the national security interests of the United States. Not less than 15 days prior to granting such a waiver, the Secretary shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees notice of, and a justification for, the waiver.

(c) ENFORCEMENT.—

(1) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of this section or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out this section shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of such section.

(2) REQUIREMENTS FOR FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe or amend regulations as needed to require each financial institution that is a United States person and has within its possession or control assets that are property or interests in property of a person who is on the list required by section 404(a) if such property and interests in property are in the United States to certify to the Secretary that, to the best of the knowledge of the financial institution, the financial institution has frozen all assets within the possession or control of the financial institution that are required to be frozen pursuant to subsection (a).

(d) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall issue such regulations, licenses, and orders as are necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 407. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on—

(1) the actions taken to carry out this title, including—

(A) the number of persons added to or removed from the list required by section 404(a) during the year preceding the report, the dates on which such persons have been added or removed, and the reasons for adding or removing them; and

(B) if few or no such persons have been added to that list during that year, the reasons for not adding more such persons to the list; and

(2) efforts by the executive branch to encourage the governments of other countries to impose sanctions that are similar to the sanctions imposed under this title.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 90 minutes, with 60 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means and 30 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 30 minutes. The gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I'm very happy to yield to the very competent leader of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for such time as she may consume.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I thank the gentleman from Indiana for the time.

I plan to vote for this bill, H.R. 6156, even though I remain strongly opposed to granting Russia permanent normal trade relations, or PNTR, at this time, and I would like to explain the reasons why.

Those who argue for granting Russia PNTR, which has, until now, been prevented by what is known as the Jackson-Vanik amendment, focus on the supposed bilateral trade benefits; but the issue that concerns me and many Members is not trade, but human rights.

Advocates of repeal say that the Jackson-Vanik amendment is outdated and purely symbolic and, therefore, should be disregarded. But in the area of human rights, Madam Speaker, symbols can have a very great importance.

Over the years, Jackson-Vanik has become a sign of the continuing U.S. commitment to human rights in Russia and elsewhere. Repealing the amendment could very well be interpreted as an indication that our commitment is now weakening. This would be a terrible signal to send at a time when Vladimir Putin is in the process of imposing ever-tighter restrictions on all opposition to his regime, especially democratic activists and any others who dare to defy the authorities.

I also oppose granting Russia PNTR at this time because it is but one more concession by the United States in pursuit of the President's failed reset of relations with Moscow, which among other measures includes the one-sided New START Treaty, the retrenching of NATO's planned missile defense system against Iranian missiles, and Russia's entry into the World Trade Organization. And now Moscow is being given PNTR even as it pursues policies in Iran and elsewhere that undermine U.S. interests.

Nevertheless, despite my objections, I will vote for the bill because it is the only way of securing passage for H.R. 4405, the Magnitsky Act, which has been incorporated into this bill as title IV.

By requiring the President to publicly identify and impose sanctions on human rights violators in Russia, especially those involved in the death of Sergei Magnitsky and the subsequent coverup, this legislation will make clear that the U.S. remains fully committed to advancing democracy and human rights in that country. These are more than just symbolic steps. The proof comes from the threats by the

Kremlin of retaliation if Congress dares to act because the regime fears that senior officials will be publicly implicated.

The administration tried very hard to prevent the Magnitsky Act from moving forward and gave way only when faced with overwhelming bipartisan support for it in both the House and the Senate, making it a precondition for passage of PNTR.

In particular, the administration has tried to remove a requirement that the list of officials and others be made public and has pushed hard to be allowed to keep some of those names classified. But keeping the names secret is exactly what the Kremlin hopes to do. Therefore, although the legislation does allow the President to put the names of some violators on a classified list, this exception can only be used when the President determines that it is vital to U.S. national security interests, and he must justify such action to us in the Congress.

So, to erase any doubt, let me state for the record that the clear intent of Congress is that this exception will be used only in rare cases, and that misuse by the administration will quickly prompt a strong response.

□ 0920

Let me close by saying, Madam Speaker, that on this third anniversary of the death of Sergei Magnitsky, while in police custody, we in Congress are united in our support for those fighting for democracy and human rights in Russia, and will stand with them in this time of repression until they have triumphed and their country has taken its rightful place among the democracies of the world.

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 4 minutes.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6156, the Russia and Moldova Jackson-Vanik Repeal and Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012.

The Jackson-Vanik amendment is a good example of the power of legislation to promote positive change. In 1974, when it was adopted, the right to emigrate was being denied to many people in many non-market countries, most notably the Soviet Union.

By limiting normal trade relations, Jackson-Vanik helped pressure countries to change their restrictive immigration policies, and in the case of the Soviet Union, to allow the immigration of Soviet Jews and many other groups previously precluded from leaving to go to the United States to Israel and to other countries.

We continue to have very serious concerns about the human rights situation in Russia, but as the specific root causes of Jackson-Vanik no longer exist, it has been waived for Russia every year since 1989.

The important piece of legislation we are considering today repeals the Jackson-Vanik amendment with respect to Russia and Moldova, grants Russia permanent normal trade relations, and includes an important new provision to address human rights violations in Russia. Adherence to accepted standards of both trade and human rights are important to America and to a fruitful U.S.-Russia relationship.

Russia joined the WTO in August of this year, and is now subject to WTO fair-trade disciplines and dispute resolution procedures. Enactment of this bill is necessary for U.S. exporters to benefit from the WTO rules and the enhanced market access in pursuing trade with Russia. It will also afford us an additional mechanism to protect intellectual property rights, including over the Internet.

Although Russia once was a small player in world trade, its imports have shot up by 80 percent since 2005, 20 percent just last year. If we don't pass this bill, American companies will be operating at a disadvantage and have a harder time tapping into this growing market.

This is also an important step for strengthening democratic norms in Russia. Over the past several years, the Russian people have demonstrated a new-found confidence in questioning their government. We hope that increased trade with Western nations, including the U.S., will bring greater transparency to the Russian economic system, and it will help grow the middle class, which is at the forefront of demanding improved democratic governance and the rule of law.

Regrettably, Russia remains one of the least free countries in Europe, and it is important that we continue to raise serious concerns about its dismal record on democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

In addition to Sergei Magnitsky's tragic death, we are deeply concerned about a range of human rights violations including extrajudicial killings, detention, torture of those expressing opposing views, the serious irregularities in elections, and legislation enacted by several city councils, including Saint Petersburg, to restrict the rights of Russia's LGBT community.

The Magnitsky provisions would place restrictions on the financial activities and travel of Russians connected to various human rights violations. The names of these human rights violators would be publicly available, unless the administration determines that the individual must be placed on a classified list.

The intent of these provisions is for the administration to use the classified list only under the prescribed set of circumstances outlined in the bill, and our expectation is that the use of the classified list will be the exception, not the rule.

Madam Speaker, I support this legislation and encourage my colleagues to support it as well.

I reserve the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 6156.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I yield whatever time he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), a leader on the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, please excuse my voice today, but I did want to rise in support of this legislation, and also to associate myself with the observations made by my colleague, Congressman BERMAN, and certainly with Congressman BURTON.

The legislation here that was originally enacted in 1974, Congressman HOWARD BERMAN is quite correct, this, during the Cold War, did play a very key role with respect to immigration. But today, that is long over. And with Russia joining the WTO in August, we have a problem here in the United States, and that is, Russia, in doing so, made tariff cuts for every country in the world except the United States. This bill would correct that. And of course, without this legislation, exporters here in the United States would lose.

I've never viewed Jackson-Vanik as an impediment to Russian relations today. But neither do I see it as very helpful in pressing Russia on issues like Iran or their conduct toward Syria. Russian opposition level leaders, however, and Russian civil society, and the Russian press, what free press remains in Russia today, really support this legislation.

I think what this legislation intends is sort of a mutually beneficial relationship with Russia, based on the rule of law, based on human rights. That's the hope. It includes the Sergei Magnitsky legislation that came out of the Foreign Affairs Committee, of which I'm an original cosponsor, and I do think we owe a debt of gratitude to Chairman ROS-LEHTINEN for her determination to have that provision in the legislation.

I think if we reflect on the words of the Russian opposition in their Parliament, one said recently, this provision is very pro-Russian. It helps defend us in Russia from criminals. It helps defend us from criminals who kill our citizens, who steal our money and then hide it abroad. And that's the point. That's what we're trying to do in that provision.

And this bill, liberalizing trade while at the same time staying true to human rights, should have passed months ago. Sometimes we have a debate with the administration, in this particular case it was over the question of sort of quiet diplomacy with Russia, or whether we were going to speak out forcefully on these human rights provisions. I do not prefer silence on issues such as this.

I think that the systemic corruption we're seeing today in Moscow, and the abuse of power we're seeing from the regime, really demand inclusion of these provisions. And I think, thankfully, a bipartisan group in Congress, including HOWARD BERMAN, including Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN and others, stuck it out, came together on this and insured the inclusion in this bill of these provisions in memory of Sergei Magnitsky, in order to take a stand. And I think that is the right course. I encourage all my colleagues to pass this legislation.

□ 0930

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 15 seconds.

The gentleman from Massachusetts is the cochair of the Tom Lantos Commission on Human Rights; but I think particularly I want to recognize him because, in addition to everyone named so far, a very key player in all of this has been this gentleman from Massachusetts, and he has made tremendous efforts on these Magnitsky provisions.

So as we now move this bill to passage, I recognize chairman of the Tom Lantos Commission on Human Rights, a gentleman who has worked on this bill for 3 years and who has been a leader on human rights issues all over the world. With thanks for his efforts and passion over this part of the legislation, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN).

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the distinguished ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee for all of his efforts and support on this and on so many other issues. It is a privilege to serve with him. I also want to thank the chairwoman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN. Both of these individuals are responsible for making sure the final version of the Magnitsky Act included in this bill is strong, workable, and precedent-setting. It is a major piece of human rights legislation, and I am very, very grateful for their leadership.

Madam Speaker, today is the third anniversary of the death of Sergei Magnitsky, in whose honor title IV of this bill is named. He died on November 16, 2009, after enduring torture and beatings while being imprisoned for blowing the whistle on the largest tax fraud in Russian history. He did the right thing, and he paid for it with his life at the hands of brutal and corrupt Russian officials. His case remains in impunity.

Yet, under title IV of this bill, the United States will not stand by silently and let his killers and abusers and those who covered up these crimes get away with it. Those identified as responsible for these crimes will be named, their assets frozen, and a visa ban imposed.

We won't be acting alone. On September 26, the European Parliament unanimously adopted a resolution recommending that the European Union establish a common list of officials responsible for the death and cover-up of Sergei Magnitsky and to impose an EU-wide visa ban on these officials and freeze any financial assets they may hold inside the European Union.

Let me be perfectly clear. This bill is not simply about the case of Sergei Magnitsky. It applies to all of those who engage in gross human rights violations or corruption. It is precedent-setting human rights legislation. The House should be proud of what it is accomplishing today for human rights and the rule of law for the Magnitsky family, for the Russian people, for honorable Russian officials, and for human rights defenders inside and outside Russia.

Because this bill includes the Magnitsky Act, I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 6156 and would like to insert the European Parliament's report and an article from the American Enterprise Institute in the RECORD at this point.

REPORT WITH A PROPOSAL FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RECOMMENDATION TO THE COUNCIL ON ESTABLISHING COMMON VISA RESTRICTIONS FOR RUSSIAN OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN THE SERGEI MAGNITSKY CASE

PROPOSAL FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RECOMMENDATION TO THE COUNCIL ON ESTABLISHING COMMON VISA RESTRICTIONS FOR RUSSIAN OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN THE SERGEI MAGNITSKY CASE (2012/2142(INI))

The European Parliament, having regard to Article 215 of the TFEU, having regard to the proposal for a recommendation to the Council by Guy Verhoefstadt and Kristiina Ojuland, on behalf of the Aide Group (B7–0196/2012), having regard to its resolution of 17 February 2011 on the rule of law in Russia, having regard to its resolution of 16 December 2010 on the Annual Report on Human Rights in the World 2009 and the European Union's policy on the matter, having regard to its resolution of 14 December 2011 on the upcoming EU-Russia Summit on 15 December 2011 and the outcome of the Duma elections on 4 December 2011, having regard to its recommendation of 2 February 2012 to the Council on a consistent policy towards regimes against which the EU applies restrictive measures, having regard to the adoption of the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act by the US Senate's Foreign Relations Committee on 26 June 2012, seeking to impose visa bans and asset freezes on Russian officials allegedly involved in the detention, abuse and death of Sergei Magnitsky, having regard to the draft resolution entitled 'Rule of law in Russia: case of Sergei Magnitsky', which was presented to the 2012 annual session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, calling on national parliaments to take action to impose visa sanctions and asset freezes, having regard to Rule 121(3) of its Rules of Procedure, having regard to the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (A7–0285/2012),

A. whereas the arrest, conditions of detention and subsequent death in custody of Sergei Magnitsky represent a well documented and substantial case of disrespect for fundamental human rights;

B. whereas the posthumous prosecution of Sergei Magnitsky is a violation of international and national laws and clearly shows the malfunctioning of the Russian criminal justice system;

C. whereas the Russian Federation, as a member of the Council of Europe and of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, has committed itself to fully respecting fundamental rights and the rule of law, and whereas the European Union has repeatedly offered additional assistance and expertise to help the Russian Federation modernise, and abide by, its constitutional and legal order;

D. whereas, despite the 2011 conclusions of the inquiry conducted by the Russian President's Human Rights Council on the illegality of Sergei Magnitsky's arrest, detention and being denied access to justice, the investigations are stalled and the officials involved have been exonerated and even assigned to the posthumous case; whereas such actions on the part of the authorities demonstrate the politically motivated nature of Magnitsky's prosecution;

E. whereas the European Union has urged the Russian authorities on many occasions and formats, from regular human rights consultations to summit-level meetings, to conduct thorough independent investigations in this special, well documented case, and to put an end to the current climate of impunity;

F. whereas the case of Sergei Magnitsky is only one but the most prominent and well documented case of abuse of powers by the Russian law enforcement authorities, heavily violating the rule of law; whereas a multitude of other juridical cases exist using systematically the pretext of economic crimes and alleged corruption for eliminating business competitors or political rivals;

G. whereas visa restrictions and other restrictive measures are not traditional judicial sanctions per se, but constitute a political signal of the EU's concern to a larger target audience and thus remain a necessary and legitimate foreign policy tool;

H. whereas EU sanctions on the Magnitsky case could prompt the Russian authorities to make genuine and fresh efforts to address, in a more concrete and convincing manner, the question of the rule of law in Russia and the current climate of impunity;

I. whereas several national parliaments of EU Member States—among them Italy, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Sweden and Poland—have already passed resolutions urging their governments to introduce sanctions on the Magnitsky case, while several other national parliaments, such as those in Portugal, France, Spain and Latvia, are at the initial drafting stage for such resolutions;

1. Addresses the following recommendations to the Council:

(a) to establish a common EU list of officials responsible for the death of Sergei Magnitsky, for the subsequent judicial cover-up and for the ongoing and sustained harassment of his mother and widow;

(b) to impose and implement an EU-wide visa ban on these officials and to freeze any financial assets they or their immediate family may hold inside the European Union;

(c) to call on Russia to conduct a credible and independent investigation encompassing all aspects of this tragic case, and to bring all those responsible to justice;

(d) to urge the Russian authorities to put an end to the widespread corruption and to reform the judicial system, and bring it into line with international standards, by creating an independent, just and transparent system that cannot, under any circumstances, be misused for political reasons;

(e) to raise, in the course of bilateral meetings with Russian authorities, this issue as well as the issue of intimidation and impunity in cases involving human rights defenders, journalists and lawyers, in a more determined, resolute and result-oriented manner;

2. Encourages the Council to take a coherent and proactive stance on other serious

human rights violations in Russia, on the basis of well documented, converging and independent sources and convincing evidence, and to introduce similar restrictive measures against offenders as a last resort measure;

3. Underlines that the commitment of the Russian authorities to basic values such as the rule of law, and respect for human rights and basic freedoms, remains the main prerequisite for EU-Russia relations and for the development of a stable and reliable partnership between the two parties;

4. Instructs its President to forward this recommendation to the Council and, for information, to the Commission, the Member States, the Russian State Duma and the Government of the Russian Federation.

PROPOSAL FOR A RECOMMENDATION B7–0196/2012

The European Parliament, having regard to Article 215 of the TFEU, having regard to the European Parliament recommendation to the Council on a consistent policy on restrictive measures, adopted on 2 February 2012, having regard to the decision by the United States to impose travel restrictions on 60 officials involved in the Sergei Magnitsky case and to similar considerations in a number of other countries, having regard to Rule 121(1) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas the arrest and subsequent death in custody of Sergei Magnitsky represents a well documented and substantial case of disrespect for fundamental human rights in Russia, and serves as a chilling reminder of the many documented shortcomings in the respect shown for human rights and fundamental freedoms in Russia;

B. whereas Russia, as a member of the Council of Europe, has committed itself to fully respecting fundamental rights and the rule of law, and whereas the European Union has repeatedly offered additional assistance and expertise to help Russia modernise, and abide by, its constitutional and legal order, in line with Council of Europe standards;

C. whereas there is an increasing need for a firm, robust and comprehensive EU policy towards Russia, offering support and assistance backed up by firm and fair criticism, including sanctions and restrictive measures when needed;

D. whereas visa restrictions and other restrictive measures are not traditional judicial sanctions per se, but constitute a political signal of the EU's concern to a larger target audience and thus remain a necessary and legitimate foreign policy tool;

1. Addresses the following recommendations to the Council:

(a) to establish a common EU list of officials responsible for the death of Sergei Magnitsky, for the subsequent judicial cover-up and for the ongoing and sustained harassment of his mother and widow;

(b) to impose and implement an EU-wide visa ban on these officials and to freeze any financial assets they or their immediate family may hold inside the European Union;

(c) to call on Russia to conduct a credible and independent investigation encompassing all aspects of this tragic case;

2. Instructs its President to forward this recommendation to the Council and, for information, to the Commission, the Member States, and the State Duma and Government of Russia.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	20.9.2012
Result of final vote	+: 62 −: 2 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Franziska Katharina Brantner, Elmar Brok, Jerzy Buzek, Tarja Cronberg, Arnaud Danjean, Mário David, Michael Gahler, Marietta Giannakou, Ana Gomes, Andrzej Grzyb, Liisa Jaakonsaari, Jelko Kacin, Ioannis Kasoulides, Nicole Kiil-Nielsen, Evgeni Kirilov, Maria Eleni Koppa, Pawel Robert Kowal, Eduard Kukan, Vytautas Landsbergis, Krzysztof Lisek, Sabine Lösing, Ulrike Lunacek, Francisco José Milán Mon, María Muñiz De Urquiza, Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck, Norica Nicolai, Pier Antonio Panzeri, Ioan Mircea Paşcu, Alojz Peterle, Bernd Posselt, Hans-Gert Pöttering, Cristian Dan Preda, Libor Rouček, Tokia Saïfi, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Nikolaos Salavrakos, Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, György Schöpflin, Werner Schulz, Marek Siwiec, Sophocles Sophocleous, Laurence J.A.J. Stassen, Charles Tannock, Inese Vaidere, Johannes Cornelis van Baalen, Geoffrey Van Orden, Sir Graham Watson, Boris Zala
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Laima Liucija Andrikiene, Elena Băsescu, Marije Cornelissen, Jacek Protasiewicz, Teresa Riera Madurell, Carmen Romero López, Marietje Schaake, Helmut Scholz, Alf Svensson, Indrek Tarand, Traian Ungureanu, Ivo Vajgl, Luis Yañez-Barnuevo García, Joachim Zeller, Janusz Wladyslaw Zemke
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote.	Maria Badia i Cutchet, Ivari Padar

[From the American Enterprise Institute, Nov. 15, 2012]

THREE CHEERS FOR THE MAGNITSKY ACT AND AMERICAN VALUES

(By Leon Aron)

In the next few days, the House and the Senate will almost certainly vote on and pass the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act. The bill is named after a 37-year-old lawyer who was tortured to death in a Moscow prison after he uncovered an elaborate scheme that had defrauded the Russian treasury of $230 million. November 16th will be the third anniversary of his death.

The Magnitsky Act would deny entry to the United States and freeze the assets and property of those individuals responsible for this embezzlement, the death of Sergei Magnitsky, and its cover up, as well as any current or future abuse of human and political rights.

The anti-Putin opposition in Russia has overwhelmingly supported the Magnitsky Act. Even leftists and nationalists have been ardently in favor. Just as vehemently, the Kremlin has denounced the legislation, crying ''interference in its internal affairs'' and threatening an ''appropriate response.''

The ''interference'' objection has not a leg to stand on. The legislation is directed not against Russia but against those who torment and defraud it. Moreover, Russia and the Soviet Union—to which Russia is the legal successor—are party to multiple agreements, most notably the Helsinki Act of 1976 and its subsequent iterations that explicitly make human and political rights subject to international scrutiny.

As for the Kremlin's response, Russians on the internet have had tons of fun with it: ''No more shopping trips to Moscow by the wives of US officials!'' ''No more Black Sea vacations for them!'' ''US officials will be prohibited from keeping their money in Russian banks and their children denied admissions to Russian colleges!''

Although it might precipitate a petty tit-for-tat, the Magnitsky Act is part of something far larger than mere ups and downs in US-Russian relations. It is a long overdue step reaffirming the core values that guide US foreign policy and advancing what is—or ought to be—one of its key, overarching geostrategic objectives: The emergence of a stable, free, and democratic Russian state at peace, in the long last, with its own people and the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BERMAN. I yield the gentleman an additional 2 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I would like to enter into a colloquy with the majority and minority floor managers—the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN)—just to clarify the congressional intent regarding the use of the classified annex mentioned in section 404(c)(2) of H.R. 6156.

Section 404 of the bill would hold accountable Magnitsky's killers and other human rights violators by placing targeted sanctions on them. In particular, the bill imposes a visa ban and asset freeze on individuals responsible for participating in or for covering up Sergei Magnitsky's detention, abuse and death, and on individuals responsible for certain other gross violations of human rights. As part of that accountability, section 404 requires the President to publish a list of the people responsible for those particular abuses.

It is my understanding that the congressional intent behind title IV is for people subject to sanctions to be placed on an unclassified list in a transparent manner and that any classified annex may be used only as an exception and not the rule. The administration may list a person in the classified annex only if the President determines that it is absolutely vital to the national security interests of the United States and provides Congress with prior notice and justification.

I yield to the floor manager for the majority, Mr. BURTON, such time as he requires to clarify his own understanding.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Yes, Madam Speaker, I share in the gentleman's understanding of congressional intent as reflected in the text of section 404(c). The list of sanctionable individuals is meant to be unclassified, and any classified annex should be used only as an exception.

Mr. MCGOVERN. In reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman.

I yield to the floor manager for the minority, Mr. BERMAN, such time as he requires to clarify his understanding.

Mr. BERMAN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, that is also my understanding. The intent of Congress is to place people in the classified annex only if the President determines and justifies to the relevant committees that it is vital for the national security interests of the United States.

Mr. MCGOVERN. In reclaiming my time, I thank the gentlemen for their assurances and clarifications.

I want to thank this Congress for their bipartisan support of this Magnitsky Act, which, I think, makes it clear that, if the United States of America stands for anything, we stand out loud and foursquare for human rights.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I am very happy to yield 2 minutes to one of the real leaders on the Foreign Affairs Committee, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, almost 40 years ago, this body heard the cries of the Jewish refuseniks trapped behind the Iron Curtain, and it passed the Jackson-Vanik amendment, which brilliantly linked the free movement of goods with the free movement of people. It was a congressional initiative, opposed by the White House, which sought ''reset'' at all costs—at that time it was called ''detente''—with Russia.

It's a sad commentary on what the Russian people continue to suffer that now, more than 40 years after the collapse of the Soviet Union, we meet in the same House Chamber to struggle with similar issues.

Russia is now a market economy and permits emigration, but human rights and the rule of law are trampled with impunity and often violence. Since Jackson-Vanik—a marvelous tool for promoting human rights in the seventies and eighties—doesn't address Russia's current problems, we need a new tool. The need for one should be evident to anyone who follows the news. Madam Speaker, the Magnitsky provisions of the trade bill we are considering provide such a tool.

These tools couldn't be timelier as some lament a perceived decline in American influence abroad. The Magnitsky sanctions shouldn't cost us a dime—and the howls from the Kremlin suggest we are on to something. While threats like cutting off aid or military cooperation mean nothing to the Russians, its kleptocratic elite deeply value access to the West. The privilege of a U.S. visa affords a measure of respectability as well as a quick exit for those who worry daily that somebody may be held to account for the crimes against their countrymen. Further, corrupt Russian officials know better than to keep their fortunes inside Russia, risking confiscation by other corrupt officials.

The penalties imposed by Jackson-Vanik applied to the entire Russian economy, but those envisioned by the Magnitsky legislation look to personal responsibility and target the individual bad actor. What this bill is saying is that murderers and torturers are not welcome in this country. I would certainly hope that we are not so compromised in our security and commercial relations that to publicly name and shame these individuals would be seen to hurt our interests. It is a great bill, and it will have, hopefully, good, strong bipartisan support.

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time both sides have.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has 6¾ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Indiana has 4½ minutes remaining.

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the ranking member of the Europe and Eurasia Subcommittee, my friend from New York (Mr. MEEKS).

Mr. MEEKS. I want to first thank ranking member HOWARD BERMAN for his leadership on this, as well as to thank Chairwoman ROS-LEHTINEN.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6156, the Russia and Moldova Jackson-Vanik Repeal and Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012. Granting permanent normal trade relations with Russia and Moldova is long overdue; and with this vote we look to the future and put aside some longstanding vestiges of the Cold War.

I strongly endorse granting permanent normal trade relations to Moldova. Since 2001, when Moldova entered the World Trade Organization, the United States has been in noncompliance with WTO rules because Congress has failed to repeal the Jackson-Vanik amendment. Moldova is a Western-oriented, fully democratic country, and Moldova deserves to be treated as an economic partner so we can strengthen our ties to her further.

We will hear lots today about the economic, human rights, and foreign policy implications of this bill; and Russia will be at the center of the debate.

□ 0940

But I hope that we do not lose sight of this most basic point. At its core, today's vote on Russian PNTR is about an evolving relationship. The U.S.-Russia relationship has been at the top of our foreign policy agenda for more than half a century. The fact that the House has deliberated for so long to bring H.R. 6156 to the floor is an indication that this is still an important relationship.

In 1974, when the Jackson-Vanik amendment was enacted, there was a Soviet Union, and the purpose of the amendment was to end the Soviet Union's policy that prevented the immigration of Jews. The objective has long since been met, and since 1991, Russia terminated fees on Russian immigrants. This is why, since 1992, the United States has certified that Russia complies with Jackson-Vanik and we have normal trade relations with Russia.

The bill before us today simply makes that policy permanent. It also replaces the human rights policy of a bygone era with a more appropriate one for the issues in Russia today. In so doing, we allow U.S. businesses to take advantage of the many rules-based market opening and tariff reducing commitments that were part of the Russians' WTO accession package, and we uphold our longstanding commitment to protecting human rights and human dignity.

Madam Speaker, we are nearly 3 months behind our biggest global competitors. The U.S. is the only one of the over 150 WTO members that did not immediately benefit from Russia joining the WTO. We are the only one. Only until we repeal Jackson-Vanik, Russia has a right to suspend all agreed upon WTO trade concessions with regard to the U.S. We're talking about losing out on hundreds of millions of dollars in just tariff cuts alone. Passage of this bill will expand our engagement with Russia and better facilitate the exporting of our goods.

But trade is never just about the movement of goods and services. It is also about the transformative flow of people, ideas, best practices, and values. Increased trade may be the most efficient way yet to promote rule of law, fight corruption, support human rights, and inspire a civil society in Russia.

With passage of H.R. 6156, we get beyond the Jackson-Vanik amendment, a Cold War relic, and level the playing field for American businesses and provide encouragement for whistleblowers. Therefore, I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I'm very happy to now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California, a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. ROHRABACHER.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. The Soviet dictatorship collapsed over two decades ago. Being someone who spent a considerable time of my life opposing Soviet communism, I have been disappointed to see that many of my own colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, have never gotten the Cold War out of their mind. So many of us in this body have been treating democratic Russia as if it is still the Soviet Union.

Over the years, we should have established this level of cooperation, especially the economic cooperation that we're codifying today. This should have been established long ago. Instead, what happened was the people stuck in the Cold War kept vilifying the Soviet Union and exaggerating every shortcoming while at the same time ignoring similar flaws, for example, in China. The human rights abuses in China are outrageous, but yet we have moved forward time and again to expand their ability to make money on us, even to steal our technologies with a one-way free trade policy with China.

We need to make sure that the people of Russia know what we're saying today: that the Cold War is over, that we need to march forward together to meet the challenges of both of our countries, and that we will open up our economy in economic cooperation with you so that we can stand together and prosper and so that we can also deal with the challenges of an ever more powerful and aggressive China and radical Islam, which is as great a threat

and kills as many Russians as they do Americans. The Russian people have to know that after today we have left the Cold War behind; we will quit vilifying the Soviet Union and holding them to a different standard than we do other countries simply because in the past they were our enemies.

Madam Speaker, I gladly step forward to endorse this expansion of freedom of trade between our peoples.

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time and simply need time to close.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. I reserve the right to close, so I yield to my colleague.

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I think this is a very historic piece of bipartisan legislation. Just as Jackson-Vanik became a tool to deal with one aspect of a horrible set of policies by the Soviet Union during the Cold War, we now, using the Magnitsky legislation, deal with some very serious human rights issues remaining in Russia, but not in the context of restricting trade but in the context of deepening our economic relationship with Russia. I think what this legislation does altogether, in combination, is promote both that economic relationship and shared adherence to common standards of human rights democracy and the rule of law.

I urge its support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Russia joined the World Trade Organization this year. Russia's accession will bring 140 million new consumers into the WTO's international rules-based system. This will help U.S. companies who have been at a disadvantage in competing with their European and Asian counterparts in Russia.

In order to join the WTO, Russia has been required to make substantial reforms to open its economy to international investment. These reforms include significant cuts on tariffs impacting manufactured goods and agricultural products, as well as a pledge to cut farm subsidies in half by 2018. Russia must also allow 100 percent foreign ownership of companies in a diverse group of industries, including banking, telecommunications, and retail. More importantly, Russia will be bound to respect the WTO's intellectual property protections and will participate in the organization's system for settling trade disputes.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Europe and Eurasia, I've visited Moscow and have met with representatives of the American Chamber of Commerce and many American businesses that are already active in Russia. Whether we pass this bill or not, these companies will remain in Russia, and the Russian market is too big to ignore. However, let's make it easier for U.S. companies to do business in Russia.

In addition, the Peterson Institute, a prominent economic think tank, estimates that if we pass this bill and Russia receives PNTR, U.S. exports to Russia will double over the next 5 years from $9 billion to $19 billion. This increased trade could support upwards of 50,000 new jobs here in the United States.

This legislation requires the Secretary of State and the trade representative to provide Congress with a number of reports that explain the steps that they've taken to ensure that Russia is in compliance with the WTO. These reports must include updates on what the administration is doing to advocate for American investors in Russia, including those investors in the Yukos Oil Company, who suffered about $12 billion in losses when the Russian Government expropriated the company.

Regarding Moldova, this former state of the Soviet Union joined the WTO in 2001. However, because Jackson-Vanik applies to Moldova as well as Russia, the U.S. has not been able to offer that country PNTR, and this bill will fix that.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, Moldova and Russia are now going to be able to participate with the United States in more free trade. I think this is a great bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 6570. An act to amend the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to consolidate certain CBO reporting requirements.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill and agreed to a concurrent resolution of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1440. An act to reduce preterm labor and delivery and the risk of pregnancy-related deaths and complications due to pregnancy, and to reduce infant mortality caused by prematurity.

S. Con. Res. 60. Concurrent Resolution providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and an adjournment of the House of Representatives.

□ 0950

RUSSIA AND MOLDOVA JACKSON-VANIK REPEAL AND SERGEI MAGNITSKY RULE OF LAW ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2012

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) is recognized.

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I urge passage of this bipartisan legislation to ensure that American companies, workers, farmers, and ranchers benefit from Russia's accession to the World Trade Organization. Almost three months ago, Russia became the 156th member of the WTO. Since then, exporters from every WTO member but one—the United States—have been guaranteed the benefit from the concessions that Russia made to join the WTO. These benefits include increased access to Russia's growing market in goods and services, improved protection of intellectual property rights in Russia, Russian animal and plant health rules based on international standards and science, and binding dispute resolution if Russia does not live up to its WTO obligations. If U.S. exporters want to be guaranteed these benefits as well, we must pass this bipartisan legislation and establish permanent normal trade relations with Russia.

This bill would allow us to gain important rights and powerful new enforcement tools with respect to one of the world's largest economies without giving up a single tariff or other concession. We could double or even triple U.S. exports to Russia within 5 years. But until we do, these benefits will go to our foreign competitors while our exporters fall further behind.

With our high unemployment, we cannot afford to pass up any opportunity to increase our exports and create jobs. And the longer we delay in passing this legislation, the more ground our exporters will lose.

I don't dispute that our relationship with Russia has many challenges. On the commercial front, we face weak enforcement and protection of intellectual property rights, as well as discriminatory standards for U.S. agricultural products. Russia's recent adoption of the WTO's rules should address many of these issues, but this bill goes farther by requiring the administration to stay focused on Russia by making sure that it lives up to its WTO obligations, resolves outstanding trade issues with Russia, and improves the rule of law in Russia.

Many of us also have significant concerns with Russia's foreign policy. Much as I believe that Russia does not always act responsibly, I also believe that this legislation cannot be seen as rewarding Russia. Instead, any benefit that is conferred is on U.S. job creators. I also fully share the concerns of many of my colleagues on Russia's abysmal human rights record, and that's why I support adding the Magnitsky legislation to this bill, on the third anniversary of the murder of Sergei Magnitsky while imprisoned.

For all of these reasons, we urgently need to pass this important bipartisan legislation. I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to make a number of points, but first to join with the chairman of

the committee. We have worked hard on this legislation on a bipartisan basis, and also with the Senate.

I think these are the important points, if I might say so. First of all, I urge that we take each trade agreement very much on its own, maybe not completely looking at other agreements but assessing the merits of each particular agreement. And when you look at this agreement on its merits, it's clear, I urge, we should be supportive.

If you look at the flow of trade that will be enhanced by this legislation, it's clear that it will be beneficial to our country. The major exports from our country to Russia are machinery, motor vehicles, and aircraft. These are products made in America by American companies and by American workers. So essentially, this will enhance our ability. Russia, in terms of taking this on its own, is already in the WTO, and the question is whether we will be able to access their markets.

The next point: there is also a question of enforcement. Trade agreements by themselves will not be enough. There has to be built in strong enforcement and a willingness to enforce. And this agreement, with the help of colleagues, some of whom will be here to speak today, this agreement has strengthened enforcement provisions. Those were worked out with the Senate, and I want to thank the Senators for working with us. So there is within this agreement not only a guarantee of more flow, but also a guarantee that we have access to the instrumentalities so that we can hold Russia's feet to the fire, if I might say so, in terms of their meeting their obligations.

The next point is this: we've been working on trade issues for a long time. For some of us, trade is more than the flow of goods; it's the structure within which the flow occurs and looking at the benefits of that flow so that we're sure that the impact is a positive one for our businesses and our workers.

Also, it's important to remember that the rule of law in another country is vital, otherwise investment is perilous. The Magnitsky legislation was added here in part in recognition that when you talk about trade, you have to look at a fuller picture. And I want to salute, if I might say so, especially JIM MCGOVERN for his work on this issue. And I also want to thank Mr. CAMP, our chairman. I also want to thank those in the Senate for working with us to make sure that this is in this bill, the chair of our Foreign Relations Committee, and also especially Mr. CARDIN, who once served on our committee and is now in the Senate and has made this a dedicated effort on his part.

This is a bipartisan effort. I hope that it will set the stage for a successful effort to deal with trade issues now and beyond on a bipartisan basis.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1000

Mr. CAMP. I thank the gentleman for his comments. Also, I would yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY), the distinguished chairman of the Trade Subcommittee.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, this is a jobs bill, pure and simple. It levels the playing field in Russia for American energy, agriculture, manufacturing, services, and our growing technology industry to be able to compete on a level playing field in that country with our competitors: China, Europe, Brazil, and others.

This bill means more sales to the ninth largest economy in the world and more jobs here at home as a result. America gives up nothing in this legislation, but it stands to gain much. Creating that leveled playing field is important to job creation.

But this bill also holds Russia accountable to live up to its obligations, to play by the same trade rules everyone else in this world does as well. That means a chance to protect and the means to insist that our intellectual property rights be protected, to insist that sound science be used on food safety, to insist, again, that there are not artificial barriers either at the front door or the back to American products and services being sold in Russia.

This legislation also creates important new tools to continue to pressure Russia to make progress on the important issue of human rights. For Texas, our State, this is an important issue because Russia is our fastest growing trade partner. We are the number one exporter. Our growth and sales grew by almost a third last year alone.

But it is broader than that. It's important to every State in the United States. It's important to our trading relationship. And again, the fact that we are able to hold Russia accountable should they violate their commitments, we have in law a process to resolve those disputes and re-create a level playing field.

I want to credit and thank Chairman DAVE CAMP of Michigan for his long leadership on trade. This is, by my account, the seventh bipartisan trade measure to pass this House, and we hope it will move to the President's desk. And I thank Ranking Member LEVIN for his outstanding work on this as well.

Mr. LEVIN. I now yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from the great State of Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT), the ranking member on Trade.

(Mr. MCDERMOTT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this bill to grant permanent normal trade relations to Russia and Moldova.

Let's begin with Russia. Russia joined the WTO this summer. Congress does not have veto power on that. All we can do here is decide whether to allow U.S. businesses and workers to see the benefits of Russia's WTO obligations.

Will Russia always honor these obligations on its own initiative? Probably not. But Russia's WTO membership means we can at least hold them to those obligations, and we must be prepared to enforce those obligations. That is a lesson we've learned the hard way over the last few years. This bill actually does that. This bill has strong antibribery and anticorruption provisions. It has mechanisms to help strengthen our intellectual property rights.

But that's not all. Another critical piece of this bill is the Magnitsky Act, placing real sanctions on those individuals who are complicit in human rights violations. This is a serious policy upgrade and a big win for human rights.

At the end of the day, Russia's entry into the WTO can be expected to create real jobs here in the U.S. by reducing tariffs and other barriers to U.S.-made goods and services. The tariffs on information technology products are completely eliminated. Russia's aircraft, chemical, and pharmaceutical tariffs are heavily reduced. This means real job growth around the country in the coming years.

In many ways, this agreement is one-sided to our benefit. Our tariffs are not going down, but Russia's are. Russia is a WTO member regardless of what we do today, but with this bill, we can make sure that American businesses and workers get the benefits of Russian commitments.

Finally, this bill gives permanent normal trade relations to Moldova, a country that joined the WTO more than a decade ago. The Moldovans want closer ties with their friends in the United States and Europe. This bill demonstrates that we share that interest with our Moldovan partners.

I urge the passage of this bill unanimously by the Members here. Everyone in this country will benefit from it.

Mr. CAMP. At this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. NUNES), a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, the 1974 Jackson-Vanik amendment effectively pressured the Soviet Union over its appalling human rights record. It was an important part of America's decades-long effort to contain and ultimately bring down an evil empire.

Times have changed. The Cold War is over, and the USSR has given way to the Russian Federation. Its ruler, Vladimir Putin, presides over an authoritarian regime that closely controls the key economic sectors, shackles the media, stamps out most dissent, and stage-manages the political process. Nevertheless, Putin's Russia is not the Soviet Union, and we should update our laws accordingly.

The Jackson-Vanik amendment addresses problems from a different era. By joining the WTO, Russia has undertaken new obligations to adhere to the

rule of law. As we approve normal trade relations with Russia, we must verify that it adheres to its new responsibilities.

Furthermore, by approving the Magnitsky Act, we will signal that corrupt thugs who attack whistleblowers and human rights activists will be held to account—in America, if not Russia. That is why, Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this bill.

Mr. LEVIN. I now yield 9 minutes to the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD) for a colloquy, a gentleman who has worked so hard on trade issues.

Mr. MICHAUD. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Representative DELAURO of Connecticut and I introduced legislation to increase the specifics and the strength of U.S. enforcement efforts of Russia's WTO membership. As our experience with China has shown, if there isn't a robust enforcement mechanism, American jobs will be lost.

I am pleased that the bill being debated today includes similar language to strengthen our enforcement of Russia's WTO membership, but I do have lingering concerns that USTR may be reluctant to fully implement these provisions, both in letter and in spirit.

First, I am worried that USTR may not interpret the bill's reporting requirements in a way that will make it possible for Members of Congress or American businesses to fully understand Russia's WTO commitment. The Working Party Report, alone, is hundreds of pages and is hard to decipher. In addition, I'm concerned that USTR may not include in their report when they decide not to take action against Russia, even when they are not in compliance.

Can you assure me that you will work with me to ensure that Members of Congress and our businesses are made aware of all of Russia's WTO commitments and whether or not they are in full compliance?

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. LEVIN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I very much agree with my colleague from Maine that it's vital to monitor and fully enforce our trade agreements, and I will work with USTR to keep you and other Members of Congress informed when Russia has not fulfilled its commitment, regardless of whether or not the administration has taken formal notice.

Mr. MICHAUD. I thank the gentleman for his answer.

My next concern is that USTR's report that Congress may not give sufficient attention to Russia's compliance with their manufacturing-related commitments. I know you and I share a deep commitment to American manufacturing. Will my friend work with me to ensure that USTR reports to Congress include assessments on their compliance with manufacturing-related obligations?

Mr. LEVIN. As my colleague knows, today's legislation includes reporting requirements on all of Russia's commitments they made prior to joining the WTO, including the reduction of tariffs and other commitments related to manufacturing sectors. I will work with my colleague to make certain that USTR's reports include an evaluation of Russia's manufacturing-related commitments.

□ 1010

Mr. MICHAUD. I thank my friend for his response. And I know it will come as no surprise that I have approached this legislation and debate with skepticism. Since China joined the WTO more than 10 years ago, nearly 2 million U.S. jobs have been shipped overseas. Although I have advocated for and supported U.S. enforcement efforts at the WTO, these actions have not been enough to counter China's persistent trade violation, including their currency manipulation. I do not want us to repeat this mistake with Russia.

I think the enforcement provisions in this legislation are a good start, but it will take a proactive Congress to make sure our businesses benefit from this agreement. Can my friend assure me that he will work with me to use all the tools at our disposal, including section 301 authority, if needed, to make sure that Russia lives up to the WTO commitment?

Mr. LEVIN. I very much agree with you that we must enforce our trading partners' commitments so that our American workers can compete on a level playing field, and I really believe that Mr. CAMP, our chairman, and others concur in that. I, too, have been concerned about the effect China's trade relations have had on the U.S. economy.

I will work with you to monitor Russia's compliance and to ensure that U.S. manufacturers get the full benefits of Russia's WTO membership, and I can assure you we will continue to work together to address China's violations as well. This administration has been active in that regard.

As for section 301, I wish to note that I and the ranking member on our Trade Subcommittee, Mr. MCDERMOTT, exchanged letters with the U.S. trade rep in July, confirming our rights to request action under section 301. Under section 301, USTR is required to respond to our requests within a fixed timeline. That exchange of letters has already been incorporated into the legislative history of the bill before us today.

Mr. MICHAUD. I appreciate the gentleman's comment, and I look forward to working with him on these issues. You and I have worked closely together on trade enforcement over the past few years, and I sincerely hope this effort between our offices will further strengthen our dialogue and collaboration on trade policy going forward. It will be even more important that we work together to make sure that TPP is a good deal for American workers and that its implementation legislation as well, should it ever reach the floor, include strict enforcement measures.

This legislation represents an unprecedented step towards improving enforcement of our trade agreements. I want to thank you for working with us to improve this legislation and for agreeing to work with me on my outstanding concerns that we currently have. As a result of these improvements and the strong human rights language in the bill, I'll be supporting this legislation when the House votes on it today. And I want to thank the gentleman from Michigan very much for his efforts in that regard.

Mr. LEVIN. I want to thank you, Mr. MICHAUD, for your arduous efforts.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. I yield 2 minutes to a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER).

Mr. HERGER. Thank you, Chairman CAMP.

Madam Speaker, the bill before us is about economic growth and job creation. It's about expanding U.S. exports to the ninth largest economy in the world. It's about making sure U.S. businesses receive the same treatment in Russia as their competitors in Europe. It's about ensuring we have the tools to hold an unreliable trading partner accountable.

This legislation is not a handout or gift to Russia. Maintaining Jackson-Vanik does not give us any leverage, as Russia is already a WTO member. A vote against this bill is a vote against U.S. employers. It's a vote against small businesses. It's a vote against farmers and a vote against ranchers.

I urge my colleagues to support legislation to give Americans fair access to an important market.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield 2 minutes to another Member who's been so active on trade policy, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL).

Mr. NEAL. Thank you, Mr. LEVIN.

Madam Speaker, after more than 18 years of negotiations, Russia joined the World Trade Organization this past August. WTO membership will require Russia, for the first time, to play by the same rules of trade as the United States and virtually every other nation in the world. This is a significant development, and it's critical that Congress approve permanent normal trade relations with Russia so that U.S. companies can benefit from these reforms.

Russian PNTR also is a jobs bill. The President's Export Council estimates that U.S. exports of goods and services to Russia would double or triple once Russia joins WTO. Greater exports mean more jobs, and that's exactly what our economy needs right now. A reminder: Last year, the fastest growing part of the American economy was exports, which grew by almost 6 percent.

Let me conclude by expressing my support for important provisions in the

PNTR legislation that address the Russian Government's expropriation of the large oil company, Yukos.

When Russian authorities dissolved Yukos and took over its assets, Yukos investors, including 20,000 individual American investors, many from my home State of Massachusetts, received nothing. I'm pleased that PNTR legislation requires USTR and the State Department to provide an annual report to Congress on the steps they are taking to advocate for American investors in Yukos. This reporting requirement is critical because Russia must be pressed to make good on the money it owes American investors.

Madam Speaker, I actually, for a long period of time, had a bracelet that I wore and kept in my office—and still have—based upon one of the issues at the time that led to Jackson-Vanik, and it was the ability and right of Soviet Jewry to emigrate from Russia if they so desire, and we are addressing that issue today. It was one of the human rights champions that we're witnessing today that allowed this to happen. And I think that you can see how far diplomacy can extend when it's beneficial to the United States, but also on the issue of emigration at that particular time. It was America and the American dimension that helped to transform that particular moment.

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, how much time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) has 22 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) has 14½ minutes remaining.

Mr. CAMP. Thank you.

I yield 2 minutes to a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee, the gentleman from Washington State (Mr. REICHERT).

Mr. REICHERT. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I'm speaking in favor of granting Russia and Moldova permanent normal trade relations. I would like to emphasize this will hold only benefits, as was said, for the United States. There is no down side for us in this agreement, unless we fail to act.

Now the time has come for us to come together and pass this legislation. As the sponsor of the Moldova PNTR, I'm pleased that the long overdue graduation of Moldova from the Jackson-Vanik amendment is included in this bill. JIM MCDERMOTT and I have worked hard on the Moldovan agreement and are very proud and pleased to see that it's included in this bill.

Passing this bill will increase America's exports of goods and services substantially and will serve as a no-cost job creator. Currently, exports to Russia support over 1,400 jobs in my home State. In fact, in 1 year, exports from Washington State to Russia grew by 80 percent. If, however, we fail to act, U.S. companies, farmers, and workers will not receive the benefits of the Russian membership, nor will the United States Government have authority to hold Russia accountable to its WTO commitments.

So, Madam Speaker, it's my sincere hope that we can pass this legislation and grant Russia and Moldova permanent normal trade relations.

Mr. LEVIN. It is now my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to a gentleman who has served so long with distinction on our committee, the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL).

(Mr. RANGEL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RANGEL. I rise on the floor because there have been so many people in my constituency that are wondering about why did I vote in support of China going into the WTO, and at the same time we all are complaining about our failure to abide by the rules.

□ 1020

I want to make it abundantly clear that we're in the same situation. SANDY and I, it was a profile in courage almost to support China, and we have consistently supported our position as most people are supporting the committee's position and the Congress' position as relates to allowing Russia to assume the responsibilities of joining the WTO. While we have no guarantees that she will abide by the rules, at least we do have that she recognizes that there are international rules.

For those people that are just monitoring the behavior of the People's Republic of China, we have to realize that in order to get people to cooperate and to find some discipline in international trade, they have to join. This goes a long way in making certain not only that we create the jobs and improve commercial trade with Russia, but also it encourages the administration now to see what works for the great United States, what really works to improve the quality of trade between all nations, and it gives us another tool to work with.

So I want to thank SANDY and the chairman of the committee for working together as closely as they have, and Mr. MCDERMOTT. And I do hope that we will be able to join these countries to say that even in America it's possible to work even with Communists and not sell out our principles of the great qualities of democracy that are prevalent with most people.

Mr. CAMP. At this time I yield 2 minutes to a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN).

Mr. PAULSEN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I'd like to speak in favor of this legislation but also just talk a little bit about why this bill is so important to my home State in Minnesota.

Minnesota's economy has a stake in extending permanent normal trade relations with Russia. Last year, Minnesota exported about $71 million worth of goods to Russia, directly supporting hundreds of jobs for Minnesotans. Now, with the world's ninth-largest economy and a growing middle class, the Russian marketplace holds great future potential for increased exports and more Minnesota jobs.

This August, Russia gained membership to the WTO, giving member economies around the globe increased access to nearly 142 million potential customers. But our failure to pass permanent normal trade relations with Russia means American job creators, American employers can't take advantage of these new opportunities. There are large Minnesota job creators like Cargill, 3M, T&M Marine, TSC Container Freight, and Massman Automation that have all expressed their interest and how important it is that PNTR be extended for increased competition and job growth.

One great example of an industry that will benefit from extending PNTR to Russia is our Nation's medical device innovators. We understand the immense size of the Russian population, but only 20 percent of Russians currently have access to quality health care, and nearly two-thirds of Russia's medical equipment is becoming obsolete. There is an incredible opportunity, Madam Speaker, for U.S. medical technology. And now with its accession to the WTO, Russia has agreed to substantial tariff reductions for imported medical equipment, again, creating a great opportunity for American medical device innovators to increase exports, grow their businesses, and create many new jobs. But unless we pass this legislation, unless we move forward, our competitors will continue to have a distinct and unnecessary advantage.

We need to pass PNTR with Russia not only for countless Minnesota businesses trying to compete and win in today's marketplace, but also, more importantly, for 60,000 Minnesota jobs that are tied to a robust trade agenda.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I now yield 1½ minutes to another member of our committee from the great State of Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), who is so active on trade issues.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy.

You have heard and you will continue to hear how important it is to pass this legislation to level the playing field for the United States and our businesses that seek to do business with Russia, one of the 10 largest economies in the world. This provides us an additional tool to make sure that our friends in Russia play by the rules.

Now, while one of the Presidential candidates talked about Russia being the greatest geopolitical threat to the United States, I think it's clear that times have in fact changed. The relationship between the United States and the former Soviet Union has been dramatically altered. Russia is an opportunity for us—it's a challenge. We have differences of opinion. There are issues

that we, frankly, need their cooperation. There are others that we're pushing back a little bit. But it is far better to be engaged in economic competition and cooperation to help build those bridges.

Speaking of bridges, I think it's encouraging to watch the debate on this floor today. It's been my pleasure to be involved with a variety of them over the years, but this is one where there is commonality, where there's consensus, where we're working together to move forward. I hope this forms a pattern by which we will be able to have future success in critical, thoughtful trade policy crafting in the future. The American economy needs it.

Mr. CAMP. At this time I yield 2 minutes to a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM).

Mr. ROSKAM. I thank the chairman.

Madam Speaker, a couple months ago I pick up the phone and I'm talking to one of your constituent companies in Naperville, Illinois. It's a company that you've represented well for the past 14 years. I was talking to the manufacturer, talking about Russian PNTR, and I posed a simple question: How much business are you doing now, and what kind of business would you be able to do in Russia if we normalize the trade relationships? Without batting an eye he said, currently, Congressman, we do $15 million worth of exports into Russia. If Congress changes this and we regularize this status, that number overnight would jump to $30 million.

Now, the State of Illinois currently is one of the largest States as it relates to exports to Russia—$70 million worth of business, Madam Speaker, coming out of our home State. So we've got a chance today to do something great, and to do something great is to allow worldwide American companies to get a sure footing in a growing marketplace that's only going to get bigger, and to do it in a thoughtful way.

This helps to meet President Obama's goal of doubling exports in 5 years—this is inextricably linked to that goal—and this is an opportunity for us to create jobs where we want to create them, that is, here at home, exporting into markets abroad.

Mr. LEVIN. I now yield 1½ minutes to another active member of our committee on trade and every issue that comes before us, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND).

Mr. KIND. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I want to first commend the chairman and the ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. CAMP and Mr. LEVIN, for the work they did in getting this legislation to the floor.

I rise in strong support of extending permanent normal trade relations with Russia and Moldova. I also want to commend the chair and the ranking member of the subcommittee, Mr. BRADY and Mr. MCDERMOTT, for the work that they've done, as well as a gentleman who's not on the floor today—we're going to miss his leadership, he's retiring at the end of this session—Mr. DREIER from California. He's been a great leader on trade policy. He's been a great colleague. We will miss that leadership, and I commend him for his one last lift that he made into making this legislation possible.

In a lot of ways I wish we had passed this before the August recess because every day we delay right now we are losing market share in a large and expanding marketplace in Russia. Our goods, our services, our products, the Made in America goods that we should be exporting right now, we're not until we're able to pass this bill. Russia has already agreed to lower their trade barriers and other nontariff barriers for the entry of our goods.

Just as one example, Great Britain alone over the last couple of years has expanded their exports into the Russian market by over 80 percent. But this legislation will also allow us to enforce rules and have dispute resolution mechanisms that are available through the World Trade Organization, higher rules that Russia now has to comply with.

As another example from my home State of Wisconsin, Russia has, since 2010, shut out all dairy exports that we could make from our country into Russia due to phytosanitary concerns that we view as highly suspect and highly questionable. Now we'll have a mechanism in order to resolve that dispute through the WTO.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. KIND. Something that is not available to us until we're able to move this legislation here today.

Now, as was pointed out earlier, Governor Romney indicated that Russia, in his view, is America's greatest geostrategic adversary in the 21st century.

□ 1030

I don't know if that's true or not, but I do know that when goods and products cross borders, armies don't. This gives us another tool of diplomatic engagement with Russia, economic engagement with Russia, as well as another piece to what we need to do to get our economy fully functioning and creating the good-paying jobs that we need right here in America at this time.

So I encourage my colleagues to support this. Hopefully, we will have a wide bipartisan vote, and I thank the leadership on this issue.

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, at this time I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. GRIMM).

Mr. GRIMM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on H.R. 6156, Russia and Moldova Jackson-Vanik Repeal Act of 2012. And I'm very, very proud to join my friend and colleague, Congressman GREG MEEKS, and stand with him in strong support of this legislation. I look forward to serving with him as the cochair of the Congressional Russia Caucus in the 113th Congress.

Madam Speaker, Russia, as we've heard, is one of the largest economies in the world, and passing permanent normal trade relations with Russia is a move that would greatly benefit the United States.

The World Bank has estimated that more than half of Russia's 140 million-plus people are middle class consumers. This legislation creates great opportunities for Americans and New York companies. It creates jobs for small businesses in Staten Island and Brooklyn. It increases maritime jobs at the Port of New York and creates more jobs in the manufacturing and services sector in New York City.

New York and Russia have a special relationship. Last year, New York exported $497 million worth of goods to Russia, which directly supported an estimated 1,400 jobs. Additionally, New York City is home to one of the largest Russian communities in the United States and that, I'm very proud to say, I represent.

So I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of American jobs and vote ''aye'' on H.R. 6156.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, could you verify how much time there is on both sides.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) has 9 minutes, and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) has 15½ minutes.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I think I'll proceed.

It's now my pleasure to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL), another vigorous member of our committee on all issues. We wish your State the best, by the way.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. CAMP, Mr. LEVIN, great job in putting this together. I didn't drink the Kool-Aid when I came to Ways and Means on trade, I can tell you that; but I think that this is a major effort on both sides of reconciliation and putting together a good trade deal, so I want to congratulate both of you sincerely.

I want to congratulate Mr. MICHAUD for seeking the inclusion of tough enforcement provisions. You can have all the trade deals in the world; but if you do not have tough enforcement, then they mean very, very, very little.

I'm very concerned about the imbalance in trade with Russia, which is trying to be our partner here. I mean, imports in 2011 were $34.5 billion, and exports were only $8.3 billion. I hope we reverse that, or we can change that dramatically, with so many items being reduced in terms of what the rates will be.

In New Jersey, it's very important for us. We export auto parts and medical equipment to Russia, for example; and by them joining the WTO, Russian

tariffs will be lowered for our exports, and that helps our workers get to work.

This has always been the major issue in any trade deal: Does it hurt our jobs or does it help our jobs? And I'm convinced that this legislation will be of great help to get our trade imbalance down to where we want it to be.

But, Mr. Chairman and SANDY, I'm very concerned about using trade as leverage. The Russians have stuck their finger in our eye on the subject of Syria, and I'd like to use trade as leverage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman an additional 10 seconds.

Mr. PASCRELL. I want to make sure that Russia does toe the line. This is very serious business. So if we can't get them to move on Syria, the situation only gets worse. Maybe it's hopeful that we have a coalition which was formed just a few days ago. So I hope that we will use trade as leverage not only in Russia.

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY).

Mr. KELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support. Listen, this is what the country expects us to do; and today, you don't have to have on a red shirt or blue shirt. These are red, white, and blue jobs that we're talking about. And we're talking about our opportunity now to compete, and not just compete and not just participate, to actually dominate the world market.

I want to just read from a note from a friend of mine, Rick McNeel, who's the president and the chief executive officer of Lord Corporation. He says that outside our borders are markets that represent 80 percent of the world's purchasing power, 92 percent of the economic growth, and 95 percent of its consumers. One in three American manufacturing jobs depends on this.

In Lord Corporation alone, they increased their sales from $67 million in 2001 to $158 million in 2011.

Listen, this makes sense for America. This makes sense for the world. And when it talks about us not just participating, but dominating the world market, my goodness, does this give us a voice at the table when it comes to the discussion of human rights and personal liberty. We can be the strongest voice in the world, and we need to be that strongest voice in the world. There is no other place to look to now for leadership other than the United States. We can do that.

And by passing this today, we send a strong message not only to the world, but to our country, that we have joined hands, we are joining arm-in-arm, and we are going to dominate in the world markets and regain our position as the leader when it comes to human rights and personal freedoms and liberty.

I thank the gentleman, and I'd urge all our colleagues on both sides to pass this bill today.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), with his passion on all issues.

Mr. DEFAZIO. I thank my friend, the gentleman, for the time.

We could, today on the floor, just replay the debate from 11 years ago in the lame-duck session about China. It's about exporting U.S. goods to China. Just get them in the WTO, give them permanent normal trade relations, and they'll follow the rules. Well, when we adopted that, our trade deficit with China was $84 billion. Today it's $295 billion.

The issue isn't the tariffs the Russians have. The issue wasn't the tariffs that the Chinese had. It's all of their manipulation and nontariff barriers that go into these nonmarket economies. How is it going to be any difference with Russia?

The debate is disconnected from the reality. We're concerned about Syria, so let's reward them with permanent normal trade relations. You can't go to the WTO and complain about the Russians supporting a thug who's killing his people in Syria. That's not something you can use the WTO for.

We are giving up the tools we have to try and push Russia on economic issues; and we're binding ourselves to this international body, which has a secret dispute resolution process with unelected bureaucrats who have no conflict-of-interest rules. Now, that's a powerful tool we're going to use against those Russians. It worked real well against the Chinese. It doesn't work against the way the Chinese are manipulating their markets to keep out our goods, to steal our international property, and all the host of other unfair trade practices there that the Russians can just duplicate very easily. The WTO is not the solution to these issues.

We have more power today with a bilateral agreement. We have more power today with the capability of depriving them of a normal trade relation status with the United States. If we want to use our clout, we should vote this bill down.

And it's not just about Syria and human rights and a host of other abuses in Russia. It's about American jobs. Today, the biggest export under the WTO for the last 15 years has been American jobs. How is that going to change by binding us, one more time, to the WTO with one more nonmarket, essentially dictatorial economy with a corrupt regime running the country?

□ 1040

How is that going to work any differently than it has worked with China? It won't. This is a recipe for more job loss. It's not about saying, Oh, the terrorists will go away, and they're just going to start buying all our goods. No, it's not going to happen. All the same abuses that we have seen in China will be replicated by the regime in Russia, and it will become, yet again, another large addition to the deficit side of our ledger on trade. I urge Members to oppose this.

Mr. CAMP. I yield 2 minutes to a distinguished gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LONG).

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, we are trading with Russia right now. This doesn't hurt Russia. This is to prevent hurting us. This is to help our manufacturers and our farmers. If you took manufacturing and farming out of the United States of America, you wouldn't have a whole lot left; and since Russia is in the World Trade Organization, we need to move past that. I support permanent normal trade relations with Russia because permanent normal trade relations is a great opportunity to create new jobs here in America.

American workers produce some of the highest-quality manufactured and agricultural goods in the entire world. PNTR will allow our workers to compete on a level playing field—and that's what I'm after—in a new market, and it will give people who are out of work new opportunities to get back on the job. Americans work hard, and they can compete with any nation in the world if given the chance; but there has got to be a fair playing field. PNTR will provide that chance for those to compete fairly in the Russian market. We shouldn't be hamstringing our Nation's workers over a technicality stemming from the Cold War.

Americans are suffering right now. They want jobs right now so that they can pay their mortgages and send their children to college and plan for retirement. Expanding opportunities for Americans to sell products in foreign markets is one of the best ways that we can help relieve Americans from the economic hardships that they are now facing.

Good jobs for Americans right here in America is not impossible to accomplish. We can make America the best place in the world to do business if we will remove unnecessary bureaucratic burdens off the backs of American workers. Passing PNTR will be a very good first step.

Mr. LEVIN. It is now my pleasure to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia who is deeply involved in trade issues, Mr. MORAN.

Mr. MORAN. I thank my friend from Michigan. I thank him for his very genuine concern over the jobs and labor rights for American workers and for his support of this legislation.

Madam Speaker, today, countries all over the world are enjoying preferential treatment versus the United States with Russia. They have better intellect property protections; they have lower tariff barriers; they have other open-market concessions. And many of them are our allies, but all of them are our competitors.

Now, clearly, parts of Russia's economy is little better than a kleptocracy—with serious violations of human and political rights. Yet the

Jackson-Vanik bill is in place today. This would repeal it, which needs to be done, and it would impose the Magnitsky bill, which would support human rights and political rights in Russia. I should share with my colleagues that Charlie Vanik, after he retired, became a constituent of mine. He wrote a letter to me, saying that the time for the Jackson-Vanik bill has passed and that, in fact, in many areas it's counterproductive.

We are doing the right thing—the right thing for America's workers and the right thing for America's economy in supporting this legislation today.

Mr. CAMP. I yield 2 minutes to a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee, the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED).

Mr. REED. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for yielding time to me today.

I rise, Madam Speaker, in support of the proposed legislation to repeal Jackson-Vanik.

To me, what this represents is an opportunity for American manufacturers and American farmers to have access to the Russian market so that we can go about the number one priority of this Congress and the next Congress—getting people back to work. This represents an opportunity to potentially increase U.S. exports by doubling or even tripling those export levels over the next 5 years with PNTR status in place for Russia.

I strongly support the proposed legislation, and I take a point of disagreement with my good friend from Oregon, who was referencing his comments in opposition to the proposed legislation.

The fact is that Russia is now part of the WTO. They are a member after 18 years of negotiation, some of the negotiations being led by the United States in the most aggressive manner to hold them accountable to the rules of the WTO. By not supporting this legislation, we are handcuffing American manufacturers and farmers by not allowing them to take advantage of this opportunity that is there.

So I urge all of my colleagues to support the proposed legislation, and I urge our moving forward with expanding job opportunities for generations of Americans to come.

Mr. LEVIN. It is now my pleasure to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

Mr. COHEN. I rise in strong support of this legislation because it will mean jobs in Memphis and will make Russia, which is potentially our most important bilateral relationship, a stronger one. I also rise as a cosponsor of the Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act. We must hold Magnitsky's killers accountable as well as others who have been responsible for human rights abuses in Russia.

I am particularly concerned about the case of an all-women's punk rock band that staged an unauthorized concert in a church to protest President Putin. They were arrested and charged with hooliganism, motivated by religious hatred. They were sentenced subject to a trial that was little more than a farce. They were not allowed to testify and weren't allowed testimony by witnesses on their side. They were sentenced to a 2-year prison sentence in a penal colony far away from their families and far away from Moscow.

I recently met with their legal team and with the husband of one of their members, and I found their story troubling as they are the latest victims of the Russian Government's brutal crackdown on dissent. Those responsible for this miscarriage of justice should be held accountable, which is why this bill is important. The band was prevented from exercising First Amendment rights and also from having a fair trial.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman an additional 15 seconds.

Mr. COHEN. These are exactly the sorts of victims contemplated in this legislation. I hope the State Department will give strong consideration to their case when compiling the list called for in this legislation. Russia should be a partner and friend, but we cannot stand by while they continue to violate the rights of their people with these abuses.

I thank Mr. LEVIN, and I also want to thank the head of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. BERMAN—a great Congressman. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. CAMP. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. It is now my pleasure to yield 1 minute to a gentleman who has just been sworn in, a colleague of ours from Michigan (Mr. CURSON).

This is your maiden speech, and it is my special pleasure to yield to you.

Mr. CURSON of Michigan. Today, I will vote in favor of H.R. 6156 and to change Russia's trading status from conditional to permanent normal trade relations. By doing so, we will ensure that American businesses, workers, and farmers will receive the same competitive access to Russia's markets that all other countries receive in the WTO. It is my hope that H.R. 6156 will provide growth opportunities for American businesses and will create jobs for our workers here at home. However, while expanding trade with Russia, we must not lose sight of our American values and our commitment to human rights.

H.R. 6156 has been updated and significantly improved by the adoption of the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012. Sergei Magnitsky was a 37-year-old Russian lawyer and father of two, who was tortured to death after he exposed an elaborate tax fraud scheme—the largest in Russian history—that defrauded the Russian people of $230 million. November 16 will be the third anniversary of Sergei's death; and, to date, no one has been punished for this crime.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. CURSON of Michigan. The act will finally hold those responsible for the embezzlement and Sergei's death accountable by denying them entry into the United States and by freezing their assets. The bill would also hold accountable anyone believed to be responsible for killing, torturing, or committing other human rights violations against anyone seeking to expose corruption or to expand human rights and freedoms.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has again expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman an additional 15 seconds.

Mr. CURSON of Michigan. The act requires the executive branch to publish a list of people who are to be punished under its sanctions, and it gives key Members of Congress the ability to request that the names of other human rights violators be added to the list. Diligent enforcement of the provisions of this act is critical for its success, however, and the State Department must do what is right and hold human rights violators accountable. H.R. 6156 is a powerful statement of support for freedom and democracy. It is a good bill for Americans and Russians alike.

□ 1050

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) has 10½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) has 15 seconds.

Mr. CAMP. At this time, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. LEVIN. I would ask Mr. CAMP if you would yield me an additional 1½ minutes.

Mr. CAMP. Yes, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I wanted Mr. CURSON to finish his statement because of his roots in the labor movement and beyond. We're proud to have you here, and we welcome your statement.

As I close, I want to congratulate everybody who worked on this to try to strengthen it. I also want to say just a word about Jackson-Vanik because this terminates that provision that was a part of the trade bill.

I want to salute everybody over the years who worked to implement what Senator Jackson and Congressman Vanik undertook. Many of us, my late wife and myself, and so many others went to Russia to try to make real that amendment. It showed that trade is more than the flow of goods. We have to look at the structure within which trade operates.

So I close again by attributing so much to people who worked so hard to try to make sure that those who wanted to leave Russia, the Jewish community and beyond, had a chance to live elsewhere and to pursue their lives with dignity.

This is an important moment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. I yield myself the balance of my time.

I too want to thank Mr. LEVIN for his work on this legislation and for his long-time work on Jackson-Vanik. Those were very different times. His leadership there, I think, has paved the way for the effort that we're going to see today—I think a very large bipartisan vote. I appreciate the bipartisanship on this bill.

I also want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), who will be retiring at the end of this Congress, who is the chairman of the Rules Committee, who has been a leader on trade, trade issues, and has really been a mentor to me on these issues since I came to Congress. His leadership will be missed both in the Rules Committee and his intelligent contribution to debate on the floor, as well as his leadership on trade issues.

This truly is, as Mr. LEVIN said earlier, a bipartisan effort, and many brought it forward: Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. CARDIN, a former member of the Ways and Means Committee now in the Senate. This is the seventh bipartisan trade bill we've had this Congress. Also, not to be forgotten, this moves Moldovan PNTR. Moldova joined the WTO 11 years ago. Finally, we're seeing a resolution and some movement there.

As others have said, Russia is and will be a member of the WTO, regardless of whether or not the United States grants Russia PNTR. The commercial benefits, the jobs that will be created here in the United States because of Russia's accession, are significant if we do grant PNTR. As a WTO member, Russia will be subject to rules and regulations that the WTO creates that they're not subject to now. They must comply with all of their rules and regulations. It helps level the playing field for our workers, our employers, our exporters, and particularly in the areas of discriminatory practices, intellectual property rights, more transparency, implementing uniform rules and customs, all the things that are needed to have a viable economic—a dynamic and equal relationship are important there.

Also, it's important to note that our employers, workers, farmers, ranchers, and employees will not get any benefits of having Russia into the WTO unless we grant this.

This is an important step. It will bring us big gains. As has been said, this establishes tools that will help us ensure Russia's enforcement. And I think particularly also in the area of human rights, it's important that the Magnitsky legislation is a part of this legislation.

I urge support for this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6156, which would extend to the Russian Federation and the Republic of Moldova permanent normal trade relations (PNTR). While Russia completed its ascension to the World Trade Organization (WTO) earlier this year, U.S. businesses are currently at a competitive disadvantage to world competitors and we cannot utilize WTO dispute mechanisms because of a Cold War-era law that has outlived its purpose. The Jackson-Vanik amendment rightly restricted trade relations with the former Soviet Union until it allowed Jews to emigrate freely—and it accomplished that objective.

Now, it is important that we extend PNTR to Russia to allow our businesses to compete in the Russian market and to make use of WTO mechanisms that will force Russia to play by the rules. There are enormous opportunities for American exporters in the Russian market, especially for manufacturers of machinery, aircraft, and computer and electronic parts.

While this bill is not perfect, it sets strong enforcement procedures by requiring the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) to report annually to Congress on Russia's implementation of its WTO obligations (including food safety issues, intellectual property protections, and implementation of the WTO Information Technology Agreement and Agreement on Government Procurement). This legislation also requires the USTR and State Department to report on Russia's promotion of the rule of law, which must improve to provide certainty to investors, curb bribery and corruption, and most importantly improve human rights.

That is why I am pleased that this legislation also includes provisions from the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act, which hold accountable those responsible for the detention and death of Russian activist Sergei Magnitsky. This sends a message to Russia that ascension to the WTO comes with responsibilities, including compliance with international trade agreements, enforcement of the rule of law, and protection of human rights—especially those of political dissenters.

Again, this bill is not perfect and could have included stronger enforcement provisions to ensure the protection of labor groups in Russia. Unfortunately, it was considered under a closed rule and no amendments were permitted. It is essential, however, that we extend PNTR to allow our businesses to compete and WTO enforcement mechanisms to function.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to strongly oppose this legislation. Unfortunately, Congress has ruined an opportunity to overturn an anachronistic impediment to free trade with Russia by attaching to it an interventionist and provocative "human rights" bill that will worsen U.S./Russia relations.

With Russia's recent accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) Congress is obligated to repeal the "Jackson-Vanik Amendment," a 1974 era piece of legislation that sought to condition normal trade relations with the Soviet Union (which no longer exists) upon liberalization of emigration rules for Soviet Jews. WTO members are obliged to eliminate trade barriers with other members. So the repeal and extension of normal trade relations simply should have been a formality. Unfortunately Congress instead took this as an opportunity to meddle in the internal affairs of Russia, which will worsen US/Russian relations and have a negative economic impact on the United States.

By attaching the so-called "Magnitsky" bill to the Jackson-Vanik repeal, Congress will direct the State Department to draw up a list of Russians it believes are responsible for human rights abuses. These people will be denied entry into the United States and have their assets seized by the U.S. government. The implications of this reckless move are stunning.

What is even more dangerous is that the bill directs the U.S. government to also consider "evidence" provided by international non-governmental organizations when it determines who should be sanctioned by the U.S. government. Non-governmental organizations are not legal tribunals, and in fact many are politically-motivated pressure groups. Many are funded by governments or political parties and in exchange do their bidding. This ironically reminds one of the "people's tribunals" set up under the Soviet system, where evidence was considered irrelevant.

These sanctions in this bill against individuals are the economic equivalent of President Obama's "kill list." Individuals will be placed on this list under dubious and ill-defined criteria, without due process or sound evidentiary requirements.

If this bill becomes law, we should expect a response from Russia and perhaps other of our trading partners—particularly as many of our colleagues have suggested that the Magnitsky bill should serve as a model for our relations with the rest of the world. We might imagine the Russians or the Chinese passing similar legislation, banning Americans from entry and seizing the assets of Americans allegedly involved in "human rights violations." What if they considered the U.S. bombing of Libya, which resulted in the death of thousands of civilians from NATO bombs, such a violation?

If Congress really is concerned about the human rights of prisoners, perhaps they might take a look at the terrible treatment of U.S. Army Private Bradley Manning while incarcerated and awaiting trial. Last year Amnesty International wrote to then-Defense Secretary Robert Gates that Manning's "inhumane" treatment while in custody "undermines the United States' commitment to the principle of the presumption of innocence." Congress remains silent.

In reality, this bill is about politics more than human rights. Listening to the debate it is obvious that many supporters of this legislation simply do not like the democratic choices that the Russian people made in recent elections. Therefore they do what they can to undermine the Russian government and encourage "regime change." Again, how would we react?

I encourage my colleagues to join me in opposing this legislation in its current form and to push for a bill that simply extends normal trade relations with Russia without meddling or provoking. When it comes to human rights, the United States should most definitely lead the world by its own example. On that measure, we still have a lot of work to do.

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Russia and Moldova Jackson-Vanik Repeal Act, which strengthens U.S. trade and helps American businesses stay competitive in a challenging global economy. The bill accomplishes these goals by granting permanent normal trade relations, or PNTR, with one of the leading economies in the world. Texas, in particular, stands to benefit.

First, granting PNTR grows new markets. In Texas, my State exported $1.6 billion worth of

goods to Russia in 2011. That makes Texas the leading State in the country that trades with Russia. PNTR will allow Texas, and all U.S. businesses, to further expand into emerging markets.

Second, PNTR helps create jobs. In 2011, trade with Russia directly supported over 4,000 jobs in Texas. That number will only grow as new markets create new business opportunities.

Third, PNTR ensures U.S. businesses get equal protection with Russia under WTO obligations. Our foreign competitors can already use WTO mechanisms to enforce Russia's trade commitments. With this bill, so can America.

Madam Speaker, this bill promotes free trade, creates new jobs, and ensures protections for American workers. I proudly support this bill and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I support H.R. 6156, the Russia and Moldova Jackson-Vanik Repeal Act of 2012, with some reservations. Russia became a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in August of this year. If the United States is to benefit from the non-discriminatory treatment of goods and services required by Russia's membership in the WTO, we must grant permanent normal trade relations with Russia. The WTO provides a forum and process for requiring Russia to comply with its trade obligations.

Russia is currently the United States' 20th largest trade partner. My concern is that Russia might not live up to its trade commitments and here enforcement is key. This bill does have provisions that will strengthen our ability to make sure Russia complies with its obligations and directs the U.S. Trade Representative to pay special attention to Russia's compliance. Congress also has a role; we must exercise robust oversight to ensure that Russia lives up to its obligations and that we use all the enforcement mechanisms available to us.

I am also supporting and have cosponsored H.R. 6149, which would further strengthen requirements on the U.S. Trade Representative to monitor and pursue enforcement of Russian commitments under the WTO.

I am also supporting this bill because it includes the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act, which strengthens the ability of the U.S. government to hold Russian nationals who have engaged in human rights violations accountable for their crimes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate on the bill has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 808, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE SENATE AND AN ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following privileged concurrent resolution:

S. CON. RES. 60

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day from Thursday, November 15, 2012, through Friday, November 16, 2012, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until 12:00 noon on Monday, November 26, 2012, or such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Friday, November 16, 2012, through Friday, November 23, 2012, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 27, 2012, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the Senate and House, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 11:30 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 58 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1130

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) at 11 o'clock and 30 minutes a.m.

RUSSIA AND MOLDOVA JACKSON-VANIK REPEAL AND SERGEI MAGNITSKY RULE OF LAW ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2012

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 6156) to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to products of the Russian Federation and Moldova and to require reports on the compliance of the Russian Federation with its obligations as a member of the World Trade Organization, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 365, nays 43, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 608]

YEAS—365

Ackerman
Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Amash
Amodei
Andrews
Austria
Bachmann
Bachus
Baldwin
Barber
Barletta
Barrow
Barton (TX)
Bass (CA)
Bass (NH)
Becerra
Benishek
Berg
Berkley
Berman
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boswell
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chandler
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curson (MI)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeGette
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garamendi
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Honda
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Kelly
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Loebsack
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marino
Markey
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Moore
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson

Olver
Owens
Palazzo
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quayle
Quigley
Rangel
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Reyes
Ribble
Richardson
Richmond
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Van Hollen
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Watt
Waxman
Webster
Welch
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NAYS—43

Baca
Capuano
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
DeFazio
DeLauro
Doyle
Fudge
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hahn
Hinchey
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kildee
Kucinich
LaTourette
Lee (CA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
McCollum
Nadler
Napolitano
Pallone
Paul
Pingree (ME)
Rahall
Rogers (MI)
Ryan (OH)
Serrano
Stark
Sutton
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Upton
Velázquez
Visclosky
Waters
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—25

Bartlett
Bishop (GA)
Boren
Brady (PA)
Costello
Filner
Fitzpatrick
Forbes
Gallegly
Heinrich
Holden
Holt
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Maloney
Miller, George
Pence
Rothman (NJ)
Rush
Shuler
Sullivan
Towns
Wolf
Woolsey
Yarmuth

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1159

Messrs. UPTON, ROGERS of Michigan, STARK, KEATING, TIERNEY, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. HASTINGS of Florida and CUMMINGS changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, regretfully I was out of town due to a family funeral. If I had been present to vote I would have voted "yea" on final passage of H.R. 6156—Russia and Moldova Jackson-Vanik Repeal and Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, due to a long-scheduled obligation in northern Virginia this morning, I was unable to be present for the vote on the Russia and Moldova Jackson-Vanik Repeal and Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012. I would have voted "yea" for this legislation if I was present because the Magnitsky Rule of Law provisions are essential to hold those who violate human rights and freedom of speech accountable.

Stated against:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 608, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, on November 15, 2012, I was unavoidably detained and missed roll Nos. 605, 606, and 607. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on roll Nos. 605 and 606 and "yea" on Roll No. 607.

On November 16, 2012, I was unavoidably detained and missed Roll No. 608. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" to approve H.R. 6156.

EXPRESSING VIGOROUS SUPPORT AND UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO THE WELFARE, SECURITY, AND SURVIVAL OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL AS A JEWISH AND DEMOCRATIC STATE WITH SECURE BORDERS, AND RECOGNIZING AND STRONGLY SUPPORTING ITS RIGHT TO ACT IN SELF-DEFENSE TO PROTECT ITS CITIZENS AGAINST ACTS OF TERRORISM

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Affairs be discharged from further consideration of House Resolution 813, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 813

Whereas Hamas was founded with the stated goal of destroying the State of Israel;

Whereas Hamas has been designated by the Secretary of State as a Foreign Terrorist Organization;

Whereas Hamas refuses to recognize Israel's right to exist, renounce violence, and accept previous agreements between Israel and the Palestinians;

Whereas Hamas has launched thousands of rockets and missiles since Israel dismantled settlements and withdrew from Gaza in 2005;

Whereas terrorists in the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip have fired approximately 900 rockets and missile shells into Israel this year, an increase from roughly 675 attacks in 2011 and 350 in 2010;

Whereas Hamas has increased the range of its rockets, reportedly with support from Iran and others, putting additional large numbers of Israelis in danger of rocket attacks from Gaza;

Whereas, on November 14, 2012, President Barack Obama condemned the rocket fire from Gaza into Israel and reiterated Israel's right to self-defense; and

Whereas Israel, a fellow democracy, has an inherent right to self defense in the face of terrorist attacks: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses unwavering commitment to the security of the State of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state with secure borders, and recognizes and strongly supports its inherent right to act in self-defense to protect its citizens against acts of terrorism;

(2) reiterates that Hamas must end Gaza-linked terrorist rocket and missile attacks against Israel, recognize Israel's right to exist, renounce violence, and agree to accept previous agreements between Israel and the Palestinians;

(3) urges the United Nations Security Council to condemn the recent spike in Gaza-linked terrorist missile attacks against Israel, which risk causing civilian casualties in both Israel and Gaza; and

(4) encourages the President to continue to work diplomatically with the international community to prevent Hamas and other Gaza-based terrorist organizations from retaining or rebuilding the capability to launch rockets and missiles against Israel.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RUSSIA PNTR

(Mrs. BLACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, last year, U.S. exports to Russia exceeded $11 billion. In my home State of Tennessee, companies such as International Paper, Cummins, and DuPont exported nearly $162 million in goods and services to Russia last year. We need to continue to build on our strong trade relations, and passing H.R. 6156, which will permanently normalize trade relations with Russia, will do just that.

By joining the rest of the members of the World Trade Organization, we will put America on a level playing field with those already reaping the benefits from Russia's accession to the WTO last August. This will enable American companies to anywhere from double to triple their number of exports, which in turn will stimulate economic growth and job creation in America.

I applaud the House for passing H.R. 6156, a commonsense jobs bill that won't cost taxpayers a dime, and I urge the Senate to follow our lead and pass this important legislation without delay.

SUPPORT OF ISRAEL AND OPERATION PILLAR OF DEFENSE

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in defense of our ally, Israel, and her sovereign right to self-defense.

As we all know, Israel lives in a difficult neighborhood of instability, violence, and uncertainty. In the towns of

Israel's southern border, families have become unacceptably accustomed to running for shelter to avoid rocket attacks from the Gaza Strip. But nothing could provide preparation or justification for the onslaught of missile fire raining down on Israeli towns and cities over the past few months, nor the escalated barrage of the last few days.

Since the beginning of 2012, Hamas has launched more than 900 rockets at the State of Israel; 340 of these were in the past few days alone. In the face of this brutality, Israel, like any nation, has the right and the duty to protect her citizens from unwarranted violence and destruction.

Two days ago, Israel launched Operation Pillar of Defense, a legal, proportionate, and surgical strike aimed exclusively at Hamas' missile stockpile and terrorist leadership.

We watch with deep concern for the people of Israel as these events continue to unfold, and we remain united in our support of Israel's sovereign right to self-defense.

I am proud that the Iron Dome missile defense system has provided a bulwark of support in this tragic and frightening time.

We mourn the loss of life and send our deepest condolences to the families of victims. We reject Hamas' call to violence, pray for the most minimal of casualties, and remain ever hopeful for a return to common peace.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend a Minnesota service organization that has, for 25 years, fought against childhood malnutrition in every corner of the globe and in communities across our Nation.

Since its inception, Feed My Starving Children has tirelessly worked to provide lifesaving meals for millions of children, shipping an astounding 600 million meals to individuals in nearly 70 countries around the world and here in the United States. The true effect of the work they do for severely malnourished children is immeasurable.

Several times I have volunteered personally with my staff and packed meals which Save My Starving Children sends to malnourished children in places like Haiti and Sudan. But we're not alone, as nearly 670,000 volunteers have joined Feed My Starving Children in fulfilling their vital mission.

Feed My Starving Children's commitment to fighting childhood hunger for the past quarter century has been steadfast and has positively impacted the lives of millions in Minnesota and around the world. I would like to commend all of those involved in Feed My Starving Children for their hard work, and I look forward to another successful 25 years.

□ 1210

ADDRESSING CHILDHOOD OBESITY

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, Members of Congress, as Congress goes into the Thanksgiving holiday, we are going to be deliberating what we can do to help our Nation avoid the perilous financial condition we're headed towards. I have a suggestion that in a small way can make a contribution towards saving billions of dollars.

Everyone here knows the problem we have with childhood obesity in America. Childhood obesity is at an epidemic level. We all know young people who have consumed various types of food that has left them in a condition that is unhealthy. And yet did you know that we are actually giving tax deductions out to big companies that go ahead and advertise and market products that contribute to childhood obesity? So what I'm doing is introducing a bill right now that would protect children's health by denying any deduction for advertising and marketing that's directed at children to promote the consumption of food at fast-food restaurants or of any kind of food that's of poor nutritional quality.

In this way, if this bill becomes law, or if it is adopted in the negotiations to try to avoid the fiscal cliff, we can find a way to not only reduce childhood obesity by blocking these deductions for the advertising, but we can also enable our children's health to be put on a better path and our country's health to be put on a better path.

SUPPORTING ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today from both sides of the aisle to stand with the people of Israel in support of their sovereign right to defend themselves against Hamas terror. Over the past year alone, Hamas has launched approximately 900 rockets and artillery shells from Gaza into Israeli civilian neighborhoods. My colleagues, think for just a minute: if rockets were coming from Mexico or from Canada, we would not stand for it for one minute.

This week, we saw Hamas fire rockets that struck as far north as Tel Aviv. And today, we have disturbing reports that at least one rocket hit near Jerusalem—the seat of Israel's government and a city holy to Jews, Muslims, and Christians alike. That Hamas would specifically target Israel's Parliament building, as reports indicate, shows the great disregard Hamas has for the very idea of democracy, which does not exist in Gaza.

By strengthening the United States relationship with Israel, this Congress will send a powerful message to Hamas and all in the region who would cause Israel harm. The right of self-defense cannot be allowed to go unexercised by a government dedicated to the protection of its people. We will stand with Israel. And we also, Mr. Speaker, lament the loss of life of Palestinians. Every life is important, so it is not that we stand insensitive to the lives of Palestinians, but they need to stop the violence and the attacks. Israel has the right to defend itself, and we will stand with them.

REMEMBERING STEVE VERMILLION

(Mr. RIVERA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RIVERA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I take to the floor of the House of Representatives today to inform my colleagues and the entire Capitol Hill family of staff of the passing of my dear friend and chief of staff, Steve Vermillion. For nearly 25 years, I have known Steve as a friend, family man, and committed public servant. My service in Congress has been greatly enhanced by Steve's invaluable advice and knowledge regarding all aspects of the legislative process. As a 17-year veteran of Capitol Hill, Steve will be dearly missed by the Capitol family for his warmth and his sense of service to this institution and our Nation.

Steve began his service in the House of Representatives in 1986, serving as communications director for then-Congressman Bob Livingston. He subsequently served as a legislative assistant for Congressman James Sensenbrenner, as chief of staff to former Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart, and most recently as my chief of staff. An avid and champion rower who also received a degree from the U.S. Naval War College, Steve was recognized for his work throughout his years in Congress with such distinctions as the Congressional Staff Leadership Award from the Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute.

Steve demonstrated his commitment to service with great dignity these past two years as he simultaneously battled health problems while dutifully fulfilling his professional obligations with excellence and distinction. His family can take great pride in the manner in which Steve honored us all with his unwavering strength of character, his dedication to the work of the American people, and his civic virtue.

His wife, Jennifer; his daughter, Sarah; his son, Joe, and his entire family should know that Steve made great contributions to the United States Congress and to our Nation.

Steve was indeed a man of the House. Those who worked and served with him over the years are blessed to have had the opportunity to share in his life, a life that has left a lasting impact on so many. Today our country has indeed

lost a great American, a great patriot, a great friend, a great husband, and a great father.

So while we here in the United States Congress bid farewell to our friend and colleague, we do so always remembering the enduring spirit and sense of service that Steve imparted on every life that he touched. Steve Vermillion's life serves as an inspiration to all of us who knew and loved him. May God receive him mercifully into His glory and bless the family, the Nation, and everyone that he leaves behind.

Stevo, we'll miss you, Big Man.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF STEVE VERMILLION

(Mr. SENSENBRENNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RIVERA) in mourning the passing of Steve Vermillion. I gave Steve Vermillion one of his first jobs on Capitol Hill and taught him about the legislative process. He was a man of unquestioned ability, a man of deep integrity, and a man of great commitment to his principles and love of this country and the democracy that we have built and nurtured over the last 230-plus years.

His service to other Members of Congress, as well as in the private sector, was marked by making a difference. No one who worked with Steve Vermillion or who was touched by his life came away a poorer person from it. He enriched all of our lives. He made a great contribution, and I join with the gentleman from Florida in expressing our sympathies to his wife, Jennifer, and to his two children on his passage.

May his soul rest in peace.

ACCELERATING END TO AFGHANISTAN WAR

(Ms. LEE of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, as we gather here for the first time since the election, it's important that we continue to talk about and work to resolve the questions that cannot wait until the 113th Congress. President Obama will soon be meeting with his military advisers and considering various plans for Afghanistan.

My Republican colleague, Congressman WALTER JONES, and I will be sending a letter to the President renewing our call for an accelerated withdrawal from Afghanistan. I encourage all Members to join us on this letter. Keeping our troops in Afghanistan through 2014 will not bring about a meaningful difference on the ground.

Mr. Speaker, it is really time that we catch up with the American people, who are calling for an accelerated end to the war in Afghanistan. Let's bring our troops home, end the war in Afghanistan, and invest in jobs and nation building here.

□ 1220

AMERICA'S TO-DO LIST

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALBERG). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, as is obvious in this room, the business for the week has now concluded. This is a week which commenced on Tuesday; and prior to that, the Congress, the House, had not been in session for 7 weeks despite the fact that this country has a to-do list a mile long in terms of the critical issues that affect our health care system.

Whether it's doctors' fees that are going to hit a cliff on January 1, a 37 percent cut for Medicare providers of all stripes, particularly in the physician community, we have the fiscal cliff, where tax rates are going to go up for almost every American wage earner if Congress fails to act. We have the sequestration, which is a measure which will be the equivalent of a chain saw going through the government, cutting .2 percent from every budget, whether it's defense or nondefense issues.

We have a farm bill which needs to be acted upon. We have, again, the 2008 farm bill which was a 5-year measure that has expired; and it's critical for rural America. We need to renew the farm bill. And to give one small example, which the dairy industry has reminded people of, that the price of a gallon of milk starting in January could potentially go as high as $7 if we don't restore and reauthorize the system of price supports that we have in our dairy industry.

The Violence Against Women Act expires. Again, a critical measure so that law enforcement officials all across the country can continue the progress that we're making in terms of the issue of domestic violence and violence against children.

Again, the list goes on and on.

And, incredibly, despite the fact that we have been out of town for 7 weeks—this House convened on Tuesday and is recessing again today for another week's break. And Thanksgiving is obviously an important national holiday for our country and is certainly something that is important to my family, just like every other Member's family—but the fact of the matter is, if you look at the number of legislative days between right now and Christmas—where, again, Congress has never been in session beyond that date—there are literally only 17 potential days; and the Speaker's Office has only scheduled 12.

This is not the way to run a government. And I would just say—as someone who, again, was grateful about the support I received from my congressional district in eastern Connecticut on election day a few days ago—the message that I heard loud and clear is that it's time for this body to knock it off, to start working together, and to try to start getting some of these critical measures dealt with so that the U.S. economy can have a horizon so that employers can make investment decisions, so that employers can make hiring decisions, so that issues of tax policy and budget can give, again, sectors all across the U.S. economy the confidence to move forward.

We have a very fragile recovery that we're going through right now. We are roughly averaging about 100,000 to 200,000 jobs a month, which is not enough to make a real dent in the unemployment rate in this country. And part of the reason, I believe—and I think, frankly, many economists and observers of the U.S. economy today believe—that we have not gotten a faster recovery is because of the uncertainty that surrounds the failure of Congress to act in terms of the fiscal cliff and sequestration.

Again, going back to the farm bill, as one example of a huge sector of America's economy, our agriculture, the Senate passed a farm bill, a bipartisan farm bill on June 19. This was a measure that was a 5-year authorization bill that sets food policy, food security policy, food safety policy. Republicans and Democrats in the Senate—which is, again, one of the most difficult legislative bodies in the world—actually came together and passed a farm bill. It will reduce the Federal deficit by $23 billion. It reforms the whole system of commodities support so that we're not going to be sending cash payments to farmers but, instead, modify the system in favor of a risk insurance so that producers actually have a little more skin in the game, which is a healthy thing and is a much more market-oriented approach to having a safety net for agriculture.

In the area of dairy, which is unlike almost every other commodity, it is harvested every day—actually two or three times a day. In terms of the herds of cows, the dairy farmers are out there working hard every day with, again, a very challenging market environment. We have a solid reform in the farm bill in terms of setting up a risk-insurance plan. For the first time in American history, we had full support from the dairy industry and dairy providers. Lots of compromise and negotiation. And, again, a $23 billion reduction to the deficit in terms of the last farm bill. That was done on June 19.

Since then, the House leadership has refused to bring a farm bill to the floor despite the fact that the House Agriculture Committee, which I sit on, actually passed a bipartisan measure. So it was teed up and ready for action here on the House floor, and yet we have gone 5 months since the Senate acted. We had 7 weeks of recess prior to this past Tuesday. We have American

farmers who are sitting out there trying to figure out what on Earth is going to be the future in terms of their production and their businesses.

And as I said, if you just look at the one example of milk, without having a farm bill in place on January 1, we are going to see basically the price of milk spin out of control and all the other sorts of ripple effects it would have on cheese products, dairy, dry dairy products, export products. In my opinion, this is not the way to treat some of the hardest working people in America who, by the way, have actually been one of the brightest spots in terms of our economy and economic growth since 2009.

Again, rather than leaving today, what we ought to be doing is taking the Senate bill, which was a bipartisan bill, putting it on the floor, doing our job, working at least partially as hard as the dairy farmers and other farmers across America who don't have the luxury of calling a recess in terms of their operations, and get this done. Just having that one measure would, in my opinion, give us some momentum in trying to start moving forward on the larger issue of the fiscal cliff.

Now, the Senate has also passed a measure regarding the Bush tax cuts. The Senate passed a bill with, again, all the difficulty of the Senate rules which would extend the Bush tax cuts for all income earned up to $250,000, which covers 98 percent of tax filers in America, and would allow the Clinton-era tax rates to revert for income above that level, for income above $250,000. That would reduce the Federal deficit by over $800 billion over the next 10 years. That's from the Congressional Budget Office. That's not partisan talking points. That's actual real nonpartisan data from the Congressional Budget Office. That is sitting, waiting for the House to take it up.

If it was passed, President Obama has indicated that he would sign it within minutes. And that would basically diffuse sequestration, which is that chain saw that's sitting out there which, if we don't get $1.2 trillion of deficit reduction in place by January 1, sectors and programs, critical programs—whether it's FEMA, whether it's the Department of Defense—will no longer be subject to that cut, that cutting process which is going to go into effect on January 1.

I am proud to represent eastern Connecticut, home of the Navy base in Groton, Connecticut, a submarine base that's been in operation for 100 years. We have 8,000 sailors who do incredible work in terms of operating some of the most sophisticated equipment and platforms that the world has ever seen in terms of nuclear submarines.

□ 1230

We have a shipyard, Electric Boat, which has, again, been a proud shipyard that produced submarines during World War II and continues, to this day, to produce the *Virginia*-class submarine, is now going to be working on the next generation of ballistic submarines, the *Ohio* replacement program. Again, these are critical workforces, critical infrastructure, which today does not know what the reality is they're going to wake up to on January 2 if we don't deal with sequestration.

But it's not only defense which is subject to the sequestration provision of the Budget Control Act that was passed in August of last year, the preceding year. It's also non-defense that will be subject to cuts and sequestration. And one that is quite relevant to the Northeast is the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, which is the agency that America always looks to at times of natural disasters and catastrophes.

Again, approximately 2 weeks ago, the State of Connecticut, along with New York, New Jersey, and other parts of our country, were struck by one of the largest hurricanes in the history of recorded weather. The size of Hurricane Sandy was a thousand miles wide. When it hit Long Island Sound, where my district is, wind speeds gusted, in some instances, to almost 100 miles per hour at exactly the same time high tide was hitting communities like Stonington, Connecticut; Eastline, Connecticut; New London; and Madison, but all the way down the coastline to New Jersey. The calculation of damages from that storm, which no one could really insure for because an event like that has almost never been recorded, is going to be in the tens of billions of dollars. It may rival Katrina in terms of the need for recovery and infrastructure replacement as a result of that storm.

FEMA, today, has roughly about $12 billion in its account. If sequestration were to go through, the White House estimates that FEMA would lose about $878 million at a time when FEMA emergency centers are being set up from Rhode Island all the way down to southern New Jersey. These are centers where people who have lost their homes, in some instances lost their businesses, have lost equipment, are now flooding in to try and get relief and help, like any other natural disaster in the past. These are people who have paid their taxes year in and year out and made sure that FEMA was there when the folks down in Louisiana and Mississippi were hit by Katrina.

FEMA is the agency which helps communities pay for police overtime, fire overtime, sanitation worker overtime. These are the folks that we always call on at times of emergency. Yet sequestration, which this Congress has failed to address, is now sitting out there, really putting at risk the ability of FEMA to do its critical job.

Another program which is now subject to sequestration is the Medicare program—the Medicare program which serves our population of seniors over age 65, people on disability. Again, it would lose $4 billion under sequestration. Again, an across-the-board chain saw that would go through reimbursements to hospitals, nursing homes, providers of every stripe.

Education, K–12, higher education, Pell Grants, Stafford student loans, all subject to a sequestration cut of 20 percent over time, according to the Congressional Budget Office, if this body does not act.

Rental assistance for the poor would fall by $2.3 billion; nutrition programs for women, the WIC program, would lose $543 million; the Border Patrol's budget would fall by $823 million. Anybody think that's a good idea? The budget for the border fence would drop by $33 million.

NIH, which is doing critical research for cures to cancer and genome research, is showing incredibly promising results that really, I think, give a lot of folks over there hope that we're going to be able to really eradicate or at least treat cancer as we've never done before, again, NIH, National Science Foundation, all of these programs would be subject to sequestration if we don't act by January 1. Now, again, there is clearly sitting out there opportunities for us to avoid that from happening.

I mentioned the farm bill, which would put a dent in the deficit target that the sequestration law requires us to hit; the tax measure, which has already passed the Senate, which would put a huge dent in hitting that target; and a recognition that both Mitt Romney, when he was running for President, and President Obama, during their last debate, acknowledged the need for us to be funding the war in Afghanistan at the rate of $100 billion a year, which is roughly what is the price tag of that measure. If you can actually put those pieces together, we can avoid having sequestration take effect.

We can make sure that FEMA is able to do its job without worrying about whether or not the rug is going to be pulled out from them on January 1. We can make sure that defense workers, whether it's a shipyard in Groton or a shipyard in San Diego, are going to be able to continue to do their work after January 1. We're going to make sure that hospitals and doctors who would be subject to these cuts are not going to basically wake up on January 2 realizing that they lose money every time they treat their patients.

This is not rocket science. The pieces that overlap on a bipartisan basis to solve the sequestration problem are sitting out there. This is not rocket science to say that the Senate, which passed a bipartisan farm bill, can be acted upon in this body so that farmers in rural America can actually have a horizon ahead of them so that they can continue to do their hard work to make sure that America's food supply stays secure and safe.

What's missing is the political will to get this done. And as I mentioned at the outset, we have very little time to

get this done, if you look at the calendar, in terms of how many legislative days are possible between now and January 1.

Again, Mr. Speaker, there obviously are a lot of pundits that are spending a lot of time trying to decipher the results of the election on November 6. But I think every person in America knows in their heart and in their soul that really what the people of this country are looking for is to have a government which functions, to have a government which does its job, a government which is willing to spend the time and not keep going into recess when so many critical measures have to be acted upon to make sure that this country, again, continues the path of recovery and growth and that our citizens are safe and secure.

That's what people were looking for on November 6. And I think any Republican and any Democrat—and as somebody who grew up in a proud Republican family and ended up as a Democrat, I feel like I have some ability to talk like this. The fact of the matter is that that's what this country is looking for. They're looking for people to work—and particularly to work together—to try and solve these problems. We can do this.

Unfortunately, we're not coming back here until the Monday after Thanksgiving. But, hopefully, folks who are listening here this afternoon are going to take the time to contact their Congressman to say: It's time to knock it off. It's time to get the work done. It's time to stop this part-time schedule that makes it impossible for people to sit down and work together and work out the issues that must get worked out between now and January 1 and allow this country's recovery to move forward.

If we just get that cloud of uncertainty moved out of the way, the fact of the matter is the American people can do the rest of the job easily in terms of making sure that our future is going to continue to be as bright as I think the wonderful people that make up this country give us that opportunity and that blessing.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

DIGGING DEEPER IN A HOLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

There's so many problems in the world. There's so many problems here in America. There's so many things that are being hidden, kept secret, that need to have sunlight hit them and come to be known, because sunlight truly is an illumination of not only facts, but creates cleanliness when shining light comes upon things that have been hidden.

We have so many things yet to resolve, so many people that are now in poverty that have not been in the past, an economy that's in trouble, a Congress that can't seem to find its way to reduce spending, so we keep digging deeper and deeper holes. But with all the problems in this Nation, we are the most blessed nation in the history of mankind.

Solomon's Israel did not have the liberties for the individuals that we have. It didn't have the assets that we have. It didn't have obesity as a major health problem for the nation's poor, as we do.

□ 1240

We are so richly blessed. So amidst all the skirmishing, debating, fussing and arguing, we are about to go out of session for the last few moments before we hit Thanksgiving. It's a time when people should pause and understand, without dwelling on our problems, that we are so richly blessed. It's time—as the Founders and as those leaders throughout our great history have every year paused—to thank God for the blessings which we have.

Some people see us fussing and debating and getting angry at times. We have such different views of the way to fix things. I see my friend, ELIOT ENGEL. We don't vote on a lot of things the same way, but I know his heart and I know he's a great, honorable man. I don't agree with ED MARKEY very often; in fact, we are usually crossways in our Committee on Natural Resources. He and I think we can reach some agreements on some issues regarding natural gas. LOUISE SLAUGHTER, she didn't let a bunch of my amendments through when she was Rules chair, but I like her very much and she is a friend. CAROLYN MALONEY, she thinks we should eliminate private guns and I believe the Second Amendment should be enforced, but she's a friend. Having friends in a body in which we disagree over things on the best way forward is another one of those blessings.

So before we recess for Thanksgiving, it is such an honor to get to remind people, you know, we have so many people who have blessed our Nation who were not born here. There are people like the President, who was born in Hawaii but was not educated for his early years, is not aware so much of the history that many of us grew up being taught. So it's a real honor for me to get to share some of our history as we approach the Thanksgiving holiday.

For example, James Madison was given credit as having more to do with our Constitution than any of the other Founders. When he was President, March 4, 1815, he had this proclamation—a guy that should know what the Constitution means and that it was never intended to prevent a people from prayer and thanking God for our blessings, either in a governmental setting or a nongovernmental setting. It was never meant to force people to pray, but never intended to prevent governmental leaders from leading prayers. This was James Madison, March 4, 1815. He said:

> No people ought to feel greater obligation to celebrate the goodness of the Great Disposer of Events and of the Destiny of Nations than the people of the United States.
>
> And to the same Divine Author of every good and perfect gift we are indebted for all those privileges and advantages, religious as well as civil, which are so richly enjoyed in this favored land.
>
> I now recommend a day on which the people of every religious denomination may in their solemn assemblies unite their hearts and their voices in a freewill offering to their Heavenly Benefactor of their homage of thanksgiving and of their songs of praise.

Abraham Lincoln, in the midst of the worst war in American history—more Americans died in the Civil War than in any other war of this Nation—in July of 1863, the middle of the Civil War, our President, Abraham Lincoln, provided these official words. For those who are on the Supreme Court and did not have a proper education about our history, these words might be surprising, but Abraham Lincoln made these an official proclamation when he said:

> It is meet and right to recognize and confess the presence of the Almighty Father, and the power of His Hand equally in these triumphs and in these sorrows. I invite the people of the United States to assemble on that occasion in their customary places of worship and in the forms approved by their own consciences to render the homage due to the Divine Majesty for the wonderful things He has done in this Nation's behalf, and invoke the influence of His Holy Spirit to subdue the anger which has produced and so long sustained a needless and cruel rebellion.

Andrew Johnson, October 28, 1865, as President of the United States, he succeeded Abraham Lincoln, as we all know, after the terrible atrocity of Abraham Lincoln's assassination; came at the end of such a cruel war that saw family member fighting and killing family member, and so much destruction, so much hate. Andrew Johnson's official words as President of the United States in 1865:

> Whereas it has pleased Almighty God, during the year which is now coming to an end, to relieve our beloved country from the tearful scourge of civil war, and to permit us to secure the blessings of peace, unity and harmony, with great enlargement of civil liberty; and
>
> Whereas, our Heavenly Father has, also, during the year graciously averted from us the calamities of foreign war, pestilence and famine, while our granaries are full of the fruits of an abundant season; and
>
> Whereas, righteousness exalteth a nation, while sin is a reproach to any people.
>
> I recommend to the people thereof that they do set apart and observe the first Thursday of December next as a day of national thanksgiving to the Creator of the Universe for those great deliverances and blessings.

Ulysses S. Grant, as President, responding as did those already mentioned—and actually every President each and every year—I'm just selecting specific official proclamations. This one was President Ulysses S. Grant, 1869. He said:

I, Ulysses S. Grant, President of the United States, do recommend that Thursday, the 18th day of November next, be observed as a day of thanksgiving and of praise and of prayer to Almighty God, the Creator and the Ruler of the universe; and I do further recommend to all the people of the United States to assemble on that day in their accustomed places of public worship and to unite in homage and praise due to the bountiful Father of All Mercies in fervent prayer for the continuance of the manifold blessings he has vouchsafed to us as a people.

Rutherford B. Hayes, 1877, said these in his official proclamation:

The completed circle of summer and winter, seed time and harvest, has brought us to the accustomed season at which a religious people celebrates with praise and thanksgiving the enduring mercy of Almighty God. Let us with one spirit and with one voice lift up praise and thanksgiving to God for his manifold goodness to our land, his manifest care for our Nation.

I earnestly recommend that, withdrawing themselves from secular cares and labors, the people of the United States do meet together on that day in their respective places of worship, there to give thanks and praise to Almighty God for His mercies, and to devoutly beseech their continuance.

□ 1250

Chester A. Arthur, November 1881:

It has long been the pious custom of our people, with the closing of the year, to look back upon the blessings brought to them in the changing course of the seasons, and return solemn thanks to the All-giving source from whom they flow.

The countless benefits which have showered upon us during the past 12 months call for our fervent gratitude, making it fitting that we should rejoice with Thanksgiving, that the Lord, in His infinite mercy, has most signally favored our country and our people.

That was Chester A. Arthur.

Grover Cleveland in 1885:

The American people have always abundant cause to be thankful to Almighty God, whose watchful care and guiding hand have been manifested in every stage of their national life, guarding and protecting them in time of peril and safely leading them in the hour of darkness and danger.

It is fitting and proper that a Nation thus favored should, on one day in every year, for that purpose especially appointed publicly acknowledge the goodness of God and return thanks to him for all his gracious gifts.

That was Grover Cleveland in his official proclamation of 1885.

And again, there were proclamations every year by every President. So we're selecting just a few, as it being fit and proper, as our country has done every year of its existence since we had a Constitution in 1789, to declare a time of thanksgiving to God for our blessings.

Benjamin Harrison. This is November 1, 1889:

Now therefore, I, Benjamin Harrison, President of the United States of America, do earnestly recommend that Thursday, the 28th day of this present month of November, be set apart as a day of national thanksgiving and prayer, and that the people of our country, ceasing from the cares and labors of their working day, shall assemble in their respective places of worship and give thanks to God, who has prospered us on our way and made our paths the paths of peace, beseeching him to bless the day to our present and future good, making it truly one of thanksgiving for each united home circle as for the Nation at large.

Benjamin Harrison, November 1889.

Grover Cleveland, November 1893, said:

While the American people should every day remember with praise and Thanksgiving the divine goodness and mercy which have followed them since their beginning as a Nation, it is fitting that one day in each year should be especially devoted to the contemplation of the blessing we have received from the hand of God and to the grateful acknowledgment of His loving kindness.

On that day, let us forego our ordinary work and employments and assemble in our usual places of worship, where we may recall all that God has done for us, and, where, from grateful hearts, our united tribute of praise and song may reach the throne of grace.

Let the reunion of kindred and the social meeting of friends lend cheer and enjoyment to the day. And let generous gifts of charity for the relief of the poor and needy prove the sincerity of our thanksgiving.

Can't help but parenthetically note that the greatest blessing in giving comes not from a government that forcibly takes people's money but from people who give from the bounty of their own hearts to those in need. It makes us better people.

Another, William McKinley, in 1897 officially proclaimed, ''In remembrance of God's goodness to us during the past year, which has been so abundant''—he put in quotes—''Let us offer unto him our Thanksgiving and pay our vows unto the Most High.''

McKinley went on:

Under his watchful providence, industry has prospered. The conditions of labor have been improved. The rewards of the husbandman have been increased, and the comforts of our homes multiplied. His mighty hand has preserved peace and protected the Nation. Respect for law and order has been strengthened, love of free institutions cherished, and all sections of our beloved country brought into closer bonds of fraternal regard and generous cooperation.

For these great benefits, it is our duty to praise the Lord in a spirit of humility and gratitude, and to offer up to Him our most earnest supplications, that we may acknowledge our obligation as a people to Him who has so graciously granted us the blessing of free government and material prosperity.

William McKinley, October 1897.

Theodore Roosevelt, as President of the United States, said these words in 1903, officially proclaiming:

The season is at hand, when according to the custom of our people, it falls upon the President to appoint a day of praise and thanksgiving to God.

During the last year, the Lord has dealt bountifully with us, giving us peace at home and abroad, and the chance for our citizens to work for their welfare unhindered by war, famine, or plague. It behooves us not only to rejoice greatly because of what has been given us, but to accept it with a solemn sense of responsibility, realizing that under heaven, it rests with us ourselves to show that we are worthy to use aright what has been entrusted to our care.

In no other place, and at no other time has the experiment of government of the people, by the people, for the people been tried on so vast a scale as here in our own country in the opening years of the 20th century. Failure would not only be a dreadful thing for us, but a dreadful thing for all mankind because it would mean loss of hope for all who believe in the power and the righteousness of liberty.

Therefore, in thanking God for the mercies extended to us in the past, we beseech Him that He may not withhold them in the future.

□ 1300

That was Theodore Roosevelt, 1903.

William Howard Taft, 1909:

The people of the United States are wont to meet in their usual places of worship on a day of thanksgiving appointed by the civil magistrate to return thanks to God for the great mercies and benefits which they have enjoyed. During the past year, we have been highly blessed . . . It is altogether fitting that we should humbly and gratefully acknowledge the Divine source of those blessings.

Therefore, I hereby appoint . . . a day of general thanksgiving, and I call upon the people on that day, laying aside their usual vocations, to repair to their churches and unite in appropriate services of praise and thanks to Almighty God.

William Howard Taft in 1912, without any problem from the Supreme Court, officially proclaimed:

A God-fearing nation, like ours, owes it to its inborn and sincere sense of moral duty to testify its devout gratitude to the All-giver for the countless benefits it has enjoyed. For many years, it has been customary at the close of the year for the national Executive to call upon his fellow countrymen to offer praise and thanks to God for the manifold blessings vouchsafed to them . . .

Wherefore, I, William Howard Taft, President of the United States of America, in pursuance of long-established usage and in response to the wish of the American people, invite my countrymen, wheresoever they may sojourn, to join on Thursday, the 28th day of this month of November, in appropriate ascription of praise and thanks to God for the good gifts that have been our portion and in humble prayer that His great mercies toward us may endure.

It's worth noting that William Howard Taft was the only person in American history to have been elected to Congress, to have been elected President of the United States, and after making these official proclamations every year as President of the United States, where he officially chided Americans to thank God for our blessings, he then became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. He is the only one in our history to have been in Congress, President, and on the Supreme Court, and in his case, he was actually Chief Justice. He never failed to thank God officially, publicly, as President of the United States.

Woodrow Wilson, October of 1913, officially proclaimed this:

The season is at hand in which it has been our long respected custom as a people to turn in praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God for His manifold mercies and blessings to us as a Nation. The year that has just passed has been marked in a peculiar degree by manifestations of His gracious and beneficent providence . . . We have seen the practical completion of a great work at the Isthmus of Panama, which not only exemplifies the Nation's abundant resources to accomplish what it will and the distinguished

skill and capacity of its public servants, but also promises the beginning of a new age, of new contacts, new neighborhoods, new sympathies, new bonds, and new achievements of cooperation and peace.

Then Woodrow Wilson put these words in quotes as he quoted from the Holy Bible, ''Righteousness exalteth a Nation.'' Then Wilson put in quotes, ''Peace upon Earth, good will towards men,'' which is also from the Holy Bible, ''furnish the only foundations upon which can be built the lasting achievements of the human spirit . . . Now, therefore, I, Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate Thursday, the 27th of November next, as a day of thanksgiving and prayer.''

Apparently, he didn't know to say ''a moment of silence.'' He, as every President before him, commended a time to prayer and invited ''the people throughout the land to cease from their wonted occupations and in their several homes and places of worship render thanks to Almighty God.''

John F. Kennedy, October of 1961, officially proclaimed these words. Having become President some 9 months earlier, this was President Kennedy's first Thanksgiving proclamation:

The pilgrims, after a year of hardship and peril, humbly and reverently set aside a special day upon which to give thanks to God . . . I ask the head of each family to recount to his children the story of the first New England Thanksgiving, thus to impress upon future generations the heritage of this Nation born in toil, in danger, in purpose, and in the conviction that right and justice and freedom can, through man's efforts, persevere and come to fruition with the blessing of God.

This will be the next to last, Mr. Speaker. Yet it is important, just as every President every year has proclaimed a day of thanksgiving to God, to our eternal and omnipotent source of all blessing, so every President has done it. President Obama has done it. It is just so important. We see surveys done of schoolchildren in America—of high school students, of college students. They're asked, To whom did the original pilgrims give thanks? So many say the Indians, say each other, and do not understand what has been part of our history since that early Thanksgiving with the pilgrims when they set it aside to celebrate with the Indians, in gratitude to the Indians; but the purpose was a proclamation of thanksgiving by every heart to Almighty God. As some try to rewrite our history, it must be said that, for the Nation's whole history, each year was a proclamation of thanksgiving to God.

It's even worth noting, Mr. Speaker, that here in the House Chamber—where you and I are dwelling right now—above all the doors in the gallery, it has the side profile of the greatest lawgivers in the history of man. Some are sometimes surprised to see Napoleon, but he gave us the Napoleonic Code. Louisiana still uses that as the basis of its law. There are Popes who were considered great lawgivers of mankind.

□ 1310

Some have heard of Hammurabi. We have him up there. The Justinian Code, he's up there. But the only one who is considered a great lawgiver, who does not have a side profile is directly in front of you and above you, Mr. Speaker, because he was considered the greatest human lawgiver. He is faced as a full face, not a side profile, and around which all the other great lawgivers as thought when this Chamber was built, he was thought to be the greatest. He had 10 pretty good ones apparently, and that is the face of Moses.

I was noting, as I listened in recent years, to oral argument before the Supreme Court as lawyers argued, including my friend TED CRUZ, who was arguing on behalf of the State of Texas. They were arguing as to why Texas should be allowed to keep a monument on its State capitol grounds to the Ten Commandments. It was combined with a case from Kentucky as to whether or not Kentucky should be allowed to keep a posting of the Ten Commandments publicly posted.

As I listened to this great oral debate before the Supreme Court on whether or not there could be a calling out, a noting of the Ten Commandments, and as I looked at the Court, I looked up on the marble wall to my right. There, looking down on us, carved into the marble wall was Moses holding two tablets with Hebrew written on the tablets. I have been told by people who have gotten tours over there—one individual said their official tour guide said Moses is holding the 10 Bill of Rights, but, Mr. Speaker, you and I know those were not the Bill of Rights. Moses was holding and depicted as holding the Ten Commandments. It has been a part of our history.

I want to close before we conclude here with the first Thanksgiving proclamation since we had a Constitution. It was written in 1787. It was ratified in 1789. As it says, as it is dated in the year of our Lord, 1787, Washington had a Thanksgiving proclamation that he made October 14, 1789. Mr. Speaker, I will conclude with this before recessing for an official Thanksgiving, the first Thanksgiving proclamation by the Father of our Country, George Washington.

Some have tried to rewrite history and say he was a deist. We know a deist is one who thinks there is some force that set things in motion and then lets nature take its course. They believe that if such deity of such force still exists, such force never interferes with the ways of nature or man. That's a deist.

George Washington was not a deist. His own words, official as they were, make that very clear. His words, his official proclamation, given the third day of October, A.D., 1789, Washington said:

Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits—

That means he is not a deist. He believed God provided this Nation benefits.

Washington goes on to say:

—and humbly to implore His protection and favor; and whereas both Houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me to recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness.

Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being Who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation; for the signal and manifold mercies and the favorable interpositions of His providence in the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty which we have since enjoyed; for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been able to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted; for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and, in general, for all the great and various favors which He has been pleased to confer upon us.

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions; to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually; to render our national government a blessing to all the people by constantly being a government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed; to protect and guide all sovereigns and nations (especially such as have shown kindness to us); and to bless them with good governments, peace, and concord; to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us; and, generally to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best.

George Washington's official Thanksgiving proclamation, October 14, in the year of our Lord 1789.

And as we finish and recess for Thanksgiving, the official day this year proclaimed by this year's President, President Barack Obama, I am, Mr. Speaker, profoundly grateful and, as all these Presidents mentioned, thankful to God for my blessing. I know they're not earned.

□ 1320

There was nothing I ever did in the womb to deserve to be born in the greatest country in history, but I was blessed because generations before were blessed, and it is an honor to rise up and call them blessed for the opportunities that were given us through their devotion and thanksgiving and hard work and acknowledgment to God for our blessings.

Mr. Speaker, I was blessed with an older sister, whom I love. I'm blessed with two younger brothers, one who died a couple of years ago, and for my youngest brother, Bill, whose birthday we'll celebrate November 17 as a Baptist pastor and my friend.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. FITZPATRICK (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of attending a family funeral.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of business in the district.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1440. An act to reduce preterm labor and delivery and the risk of pregnancy-related deaths and complications due to pregnancy, and to reduce infant mortality caused by prematurity; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 60, 112th Congress, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 21 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until Tuesday, November 27, 2012, at 2 p.m.

OATH FOR ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Under clause 13 of rule XXIII, the following Members executed the oath for access to classified information:

Gary L. Ackerman, Sandy Adams, Robert B. Aderholt, W. Todd Akin, Rodney Alexander, Jason Altmire, Justin Amash, Mark E. Amodei, Robert E. Andrews, Steve Austria, Joe Baca, Michele Bachmann, Spencer Bachus, Tammy Baldwin, Ron Barber, Lou Barletta, John Barrow, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Joe Barton, Charles F. Bass, Karen Bass, Xavier Becerra, Dan Benishek, Rick Berg, Shelley Berkley, Howard L. Berman, Judy Biggert, Brian P. Bilbray, Gus M. Bilirakis, Rob Bishop, Sanford D. Bishop, Jr., Timothy H. Bishop, Diane Black, Marsha Blackburn, Earl Blumenauer, John A. Boehner, Suzanne Bonamici, Jo Bonner, Mary Bono Mack, Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Dan Boren, Leonard L. Boswell, Charles W. Boustany, Jr., Kevin Brady, Robert A. Brady, Bruce L. Braley, Mo Brooks, Paul C. Broun, Corrine Brown, Vern Buchanan, Larry Bucshon, Ann Marie Buerkle, Michael C. Burgess, Dan Burton, G. K. Butterfield, Ken Calvert, Dave Camp, John Campbell, Francisco ''Quico'' Canseco, Eric Cantor, Shelley Moore Capito, Lois Capps, Michael E. Capuano, Dennis A. Cardoza*, Russ Carnahan, John C. Carney, Jr., André Carson, John R. Carter, Bill Cassidy, Kathy Castor, Steve Chabot, Jason Chaffetz, Ben Chandler, Donna M. Christensen, Judy Chu, David N. Cicilline, Hansen Clarke, Yvette D. Clarke, Wm. Lacy Clay, Emanuel Cleaver, James E. Clyburn, Howard Coble, Mike Coffman, Steve Cohen, Tom Cole, K. Michael Conaway, Gerald E. ''Gerry'' Connolly, John Conyers, Jr., Jim Cooper, Jim Costa, Jerry F. Costello, Joe Courtney, Chip Cravaack, Eric A. ''Rick'' Crawford, Ander Crenshaw, Mark S. Critz, Joseph Crowley, Henry Cuellar, John Abney Culberson, Elijah E. Cummings, David Alan Curson, Danny K. Davis, Geoff Davis*, Susan A. Davis, Peter A. DeFazio, Diana DeGette, Rosa L. DeLauro, Suzan K. DelBene, Jeff Denham, Charles W. Dent, Scott DesJarlais, Theodore E. Deutch, Mario Diaz-Balart, Norman D. Dicks, John D. Dingell, Lloyd Doggett, Robert J. Dold, Joe Donnelly, Michael F. Doyle, David Dreier, Sean P. Duffy, Jeff Duncan, John J. Duncan, Jr., Donna F. Edwards, Keith Ellison, Renee L. Ellmers, Jo Ann Emerson, Eliot L. Engel, Anna G. Eshoo, Eni F.H. Faleomavaega, Blake Farenthold, Sam Farr, Chaka Fattah, Bob Filner, Stephen Lee Fincher, Michael G. Fitzpatrick, Jeff Flake, Charles J. ''Chuck'' Fleischmann, John Fleming, Bill Flores, J. Randy Forbes, Jeff Fortenberry, Virginia Foxx, Barney Frank, Trent Franks, Rodney P. Frelinghuysen, Marcia L. Fudge, Elton Gallegly, John Garamendi, Cory Gardner, Scott Garrett, Jim Gerlach, Bob Gibbs, Christopher P. Gibson, Gabrielle Giffords*, Phil Gingrey, Louie Gohmert, Charles A. Gonzalez, Bob Goodlatte, Paul A. Gosar, Trey Gowdy, Kay Granger, Sam Graves, Tom Graves, Al Green, Gene Green, Tim Griffin, H. Morgan Griffith, Raúl M. Grijalva, Michael G. Grimm, Frank C. Guinta, Brett Guthrie, Luis V. Gutierrez, Janice Hahn, Ralph M. Hall, Colleen W. Hanabusa, Richard L. Hanna, Jane Harman*, Gregg Harper, Andy Harris, Vicky Hartzler, Alcee L. Hastings, Doc Hastings, Nan A.S. Hayworth, Joseph J. Heck, Martin Heinrich, Dean Heller*, Jeb Hensarling, Wally Herger, Jaime Herrera Beutler, Brian Higgins, James A. Himes, Maurice D. Hinchey, Rubén Hinojosa, Mazie K. Hirono, Kathleen C. Hochul, Tim Holden, Rush D. Holt, Michael M. Honda, Steny H. Hoyer, Tim Huelskamp, Bill Huizenga, Randy Hultgren, Duncan Hunter, Robert Hurt, Jay Inslee*, Steve Israel, Darrell E. Issa, Jesse L. Jackson, Jr., Sheila Jackson Lee, Lynn Jenkins, Bill Johnson, Eddie Bernice Johnson, Henry C. ''Hank'' Johnson, Jr., Sam Johnson, Timothy V. Johnson, Walter B. Jones, Jim Jordan, Marcy Kaptur, William R. Keating, Mike Kelly, Dale E. Kildee, Ron Kind, Peter T. King, Steve King, Jack Kingston, Adam Kinzinger, Larry Kissell, John Kline, Raúl R. Labrador, Doug Lamborn, Leonard Lance, Jeffrey M. Landry, James R. Langevin, James Lankford, Rick Larsen, John B. Larson, Tom Latham, Steven C. LaTourette, Robert E. Latta, Barbara Lee, Christopher J. Lee*, Sander M. Levin, Jerry Lewis, John Lewis, Daniel Lipinski, Frank A. LoBiondo, David Loebsack, Zoe Lofgren, Billy Long, Nita M. Lowey, Frank D. Lucas, Blaine Luetkemeyer, Ben Ray Luján, Cynthia M. Lummis, Daniel E. Lungren, Stephen F. Lynch, Connie Mack, Carolyn B. Maloney, Donald A. Manzullo, Kenny Marchant, Tom Marino, Edward J. Markey, Thomas Massie, Jim Matheson, Doris O. Matsui, Kevin McCarthy, Carolyn McCarthy, Michael T. McCaul, Tom McClintock, Betty McCollum, Thaddeus G. McCotter*, Jim McDermott, James P. McGovern, Patrick T. McHenry, Mike McIntyre, Howard P. ''Buck'' McKeon, David B. McKinley, Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Jerry McNerney, Patrick Meehan, Gregory W. Meeks, John L. Mica, Michael H. Michaud, Brad Miller, Candice S. Miller, Gary G. Miller, George Miller, Jeff Miller, Gwen Moore, James P. Moran, Mick Mulvaney, Christopher S. Murphy, Tim Murphy, Sue Wilkins Myrick, Jerrold Nadler, Grace F. Napolitano, Richard E. Neal, Randy Neugebauer, Kristi L. Noem, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Richard Nugent, Devin Nunes, Alan Nunnelee, Pete Olson, John W. Olver, William L. Owens, Steven M. Palazzo, Frank Pallone, Jr., Bill Pascrell, Jr., Ed Pastor, Ron Paul, Erik Paulsen, Donald M. Payne*, Donald M. Payne, Jr., Stevan Pearce, Nancy Pelosi, Mike Pence, Ed Perlmutter, Gary C. Peters, Collin C. Peterson, Thomas E. Petri, Pedro R. Pierluisi, Chellie Pingree, Joseph R. Pitts, Todd Russell Platts, Ted Poe, Jared Polis, Mike Pompeo, Bill Posey, David E. Price, Tom Price, Benjamin Quayle, Mike Quigley, Nick J. Rahall II, Charles B. Rangel, Tom Reed, Denny Rehberg, David G. Reichert, James B. Renacci, Silvestre Reyes, Reid J. Ribble, Laura Richardson, Cedric L. Richmond, E. Scott Rigell, David Rivera, Martha Roby, David P. Roe, Harold Rogers, Mike Rogers, Mike Rogers, Dana Rohrabacher, Todd Rokita, Thomas J. Rooney, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Peter J. Roskam, Dennis Ross, Mike Ross, Steven R. Rothman, Lucille Roybal-Allard, Edward R. Royce, Jon Runyan, C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger, Bobby L. Rush, Paul Ryan, Tim Ryan, Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, Linda T. Sánchez, Loretta Sanchez, John P. Sarbanes, Steve Scalise, Janice D. Schakowsky, Adam B. Schiff, Robert T. Schilling, Jean Schmidt, Aaron Schock, Kurt Schrader, Allyson Y. Schwartz, David Schweikert, Austin Scott, David Scott, Robert C. ''Bobby'' Scott, Tim Scott, F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., José E. Serrano, Pete Sessions, Terri A. Sewell, Brad Sherman, John Shimkus, Heath Shuler, Bill Shuster, Michael K. Simpson, Albio Sires, Louise McIntosh Slaughter, Adam Smith, Adrian Smith, Christopher H. Smith, Lamar Smith, Steve Southerland, Jackie Speier, Cliff Stearns, Steve Stivers, Marlin A. Stutzman, John Sullivan, Betty Sutton, Lee Terry, Bennie G. Thompson, Glenn Thompson, Mike Thompson, Mac Thornberry, Patrick J. Tiberi, John F. Tierney, Scott Tipton, Paul Tonko, Edolphus Towns, Niki Tsongas, Michael R. Turner, Robert L. Turner, Fred Upton, Chris Van Hollen, Nydia M. Velázquez, Peter J. Visclosky, Tim Walberg, Greg Walden, Joe Walsh, Timothy J. Walz, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Maxine Waters, Melvin L. Watt, Henry A. Waxman, Daniel Webster, Anthony D. Weiner*, Peter Welch, Allen B. West, Lynn A. Westmoreland, Ed Whitfield, Frederica Wilson, Joe Wilson, Robert J. Wittman, Frank R. Wolf, Steve Womack, Rob Woodall, Lynn C. Woolsey, David Wu*, John A. Yarmuth, Kevin Yoder, C.W. Bill Young, Don Young, Todd C. Young

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

8378. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Calcium Gluconate; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0131; FRL-9362-4] received October 31, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8379. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Residues of Fatty Acids, Tall-Oil, Ethoxylated Propoxylated; Tolerance Exemption [EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0278; FRL-9365-4] received October 31, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8380. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Divsion, Environmental

Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Trifloxystrobin; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0225; FRL-9360-9] received October 31, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8381. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Fluoxastrobin; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0677; FRL-9365-7] received October 22, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8382. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — a-(p-Nonylphenyl)poly(oxypropylene) block polymer with poly(oxyethylene); Tolerance Exemption [EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0279; FRL-9365-3] received October 25, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8383. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket ID: FEMA-2012-0003] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8251] received October 24, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8384. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Divison, Envirionmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; District of Columbia; The 2002 Base Year Emissions Inventory for the Washington DC-MD-VA Nonattainment Area for the 1997 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standard [EPA-R03-OAR-2020-0152; FRL-9746-1] received October 25, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8385. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2012-0740; FRL-9366-7] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received October 31, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8386. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Michigan; Detroit-Ann Arbor Nonattainment Area; Fine Particulate Matter 2005 Base Year Emissions Inventory [EPA-R05-OAR-2008-0520; FRL-9748-9] received October 31, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8387. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Mangement Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Michigan; Determination of Attainment of the 1997 Annual Fine Particle Standard for the Detroit-Ann Arbor Nonattainment Area [EPA-R05-OAR-2012-0467; FRL-9748-8] received October 31, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8388. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Hampshire; Reasonably Available Control Technology for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standard [EPA-R01-OAR-2009-0451; A-1-FRL-9748-2] received October 31, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8389. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-OAR-2012-0266; FRL-9736-9] received October 31, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8390. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Revisions to the New Source Review (NSR) State Implementation Plan (SIP); Antibacksliding of Major NSR SIP Requirements for the One-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS); Major Nonattainment NSR (NNSR) SIP Requirements for the 1997 Eight-Hour Ozone NAAQS; and Major NSR Reform Program [EPA-R06-OAR-2011-0332; FRL-9743-6] received October 22, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8391. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Implementation of the New Source Review (NSR) Program for Particulate Matter Less Than 2.5 Micrometers (PM2.5): Amendment to the Definition of Regulated NSR Pollutant'' Concerning Condensable Particulate Matter [EPA-HQ-OAR-2003-0062; FRL-9742-8] (RIN: 2060-AR30) received October 22, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8392. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District [EPA-R09-OAR-2012-0089; FRL-9737-2] received October 22, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8393. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Fredericksburg 8-Hour Ozone Maintenance Area Revision to Approved Motor Vehicle Emission Budgets [EPA-R03-OAR-2012-0444; FRL-9746-3] received October 22, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8394. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Divsion, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Attainment Demonstration for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard for the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City Moderate Nonattainment Area [EPA-R03-OAR-2008-0929; FRL-9746-2] received October 22, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8395. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Amendments to West Virginia's Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R03-OAR-2012-0608; FRL-9745-7] received October 22, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8396. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Missouri: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions [EPA-R07-RCRA-2012-0719; FRL 9744-4] received October 22, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8397. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Illinois; Indiana; Michigan; Minnesota; Ohio; Wisconsin; Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2006 PM2.5 National Ambient Air Quality Standards; Indiana NSR/PSD [EPA-R05-OAR-2009-0805; EPA-505-OAR-2012-0567; FRL-9742-4] received October 22, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8398. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Chemical Manufacturing Area Sources [EPA-HQ-OAR-2008-0334; FRL-9746-4] (RIN: 2060-AQ89) received October 22, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8399. A letter from the Director, Regulations Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; California; San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District; Prevention of Significant Deterioration [EPA-R09-2012-0408; FRL-9726-3] received October 22, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8400. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California; Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan Pesticide Element [EPA-R09-OAR-2012-0194; FRL-9723-1] received October 22, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8401. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Additional Air Quality Designations for the 2006 24-Hour Fine Particle National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-HQ-OAR-2007-0562; FRL-9746-6] received October 25, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8402. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Hampshire; Determination of Attainment of the One-hour Ozone Standard for the Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester and Manchester Areas [EPA-R01-OAR-2012-0229; A-1-FRL-9744-6] received October 25, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8403. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Deferral for CO2 Emissions from Bioenergy and other Biogenic Sources Under the Prevention of Significant Deterioration Program [EPA-R03-OAR-2012-0169; FRL-9745-5] received October 25, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8404. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the Arizona State Implementation Plan, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and Maricopa County Air Quality Department [EPA-

R09-OAR-2012-0470; FRL-9740-2] received October 25, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8405. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New Mexico; Albuquerque/Bernalillo County: Motor Vehicle Inspection [EPA-R06-OAR-2011-0695; FRL-9747-2] received October 25, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8406. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Partial Approval and Disapproval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Arizona; Infrastructure Requirements for Ozone and Fine Particulate Matter [EPA-R09-OAR-2012-0398; FRL-9745-8] received October 25, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8407. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, National Indian Gaming Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Minimum Internal Control Standards (RIN: 3141-AA27) received October 24, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8408. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, National Indian Gaming Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Minimum Technical Standards for Class II Gaming Systems and Equipment (RIN: 3141-AA27) received October 24, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8409. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, National Indian Gaming Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Appeal Proceedings Before the Commission (RIN: 3141-AA47) received October 24, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8410. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, National Indian Gaming Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Facility License Notifications and Submissions (RIN: 3141-AA48) received October 24, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8411. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States; Modifications of the West Coast Commercial and Recreational Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Actions #15 through #21 [Docket No.: 120424023-1023-01] (RIN: 0648-XC223) received October 24, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8412. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Atka Mackerel in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 111213751-2102-02] (RIN: 0648-XC278) received October 24, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8413. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; Sub-ACL (Annual Catch Limit) Harvested for Management Area 3 [Docket No.: 0907301205-0289-02] (RIN: 0648-XC157) received October 24, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8414. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — 2012-2013 Accountability Measure and Closure for Commercial Black Sea Bass in the South Atlantic [Docket No.: 0907271173-0629-03] (RIN: 0648-XC152) received October 24, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8415. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; 2012-2013 Accountability Measure and Closure for Gulf King Mackerel in Northern Florida West Coast Subzone [Docket No.: 001005281-0369-02] (RIN: 0648-XC273) received October 24, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8416. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 620 in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 111207737-2141-02] (RIN: 0648-XC270) received October 24, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8417. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Silky Shark Management Measures [Docket No.: 120416016-2469-02] (RIN: 0648-BB96) received October 24, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8418. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2012 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for South Atlantic Vermilion Snapper [Docket No.: 040205043-4043-01](RIN: 0648-XC134) received October 24, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8419. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30864; Amdt. No. 3499] received November 5, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8420. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30865; Amdt. No. 3500] received November 5, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8421. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30862; Amdt. No. 3497] received November 5, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8422. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30863; Amdt. No. 3498] received November 5, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8423. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Use of Additional Portable Oxygen Concentrators on Board Aircraft [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0928; Amdt. No. 121-361] (RIN: 2120-AK18) received November 5, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8424. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Rescission of 10-Day Agency Discretionary Period in Assigning Unsatisfactory Safety Ratings [Docket No.: FMCSA-2012-0262] (RIN: 2126-AB55) received November 5, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8425. A letter from the Deputy Director, Reg Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) No-Health Period Extension (RIN: 2900-AO24) received October 31, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

8426. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of the Ancient Lakes of Columbia Valley Viticultural Area [Docket No.: TTB-2012-0003; T.D. TTB-108; Ref: Notice No. 128] (RIN: 1513-AB85) received October 24, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8427. A letter from the Associate Director, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Cost Segregation Audit Techniques Guide — Chapter 8 — Electrical Distribution System [LB&I-4-1012-012] received November 2, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8428. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — 2013 Cost-of-Living Adjustments to Certain Tax Items (Rev. Proc. 2012-41) received October 24, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8429. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Concise General Statement Concerning 2012 National Pool (Revenue Procedure 2012-42) received October 24,2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8430. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Rules of Practice received October 19, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BONNER: Committee on Ethics. In the Matter of Joy Henrichs (Rept. 112–696). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Agriculture discharged

from further consideration. H.R. 1838 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII, the following action was taken by the Speaker:

H.R. 940. Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means extended for a period ending not later than November 30, 2012.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. OLSON:

H.R. 6593. A bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to increase the penalties imposed for intimidating, threatening, or coercing any person from engaging in voter registration activities or for procuring, submitting, or casting false voter registration applications or ballots, to amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to require election officials to transmit balloting materials to absent uniformed services voters using the automated tagging and tracing services provided by the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. OLSON:

H.R. 6594. A bill to amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to require States which fail to transmit validly requested absentee ballots in an election for Federal office to absent uniformed services voters within the deadline established under the Act to delay certifying the results of the election, to establish a private right of action to enforce the requirements of such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. BARLETTA (for himself, Mr. SHUSTER, and Mr. PLATTS):

H.R. 6595. A bill to require a report on the establishment of a joint Army-Navy storage and preservation facility at the United States Army Heritage and Education Center, Carlisle, Pennsylvania; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. AMODEI:

H.R. 6596. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to transfer to the Secretary of the Navy certain Federal land in Churchill County, Nevada; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. BIGGERT (for herself, Mr. BOREN, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. AKIN, Mr. CLARKE of Michigan, Mr. CLAY, Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia, Mr. HARRIS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KEATING, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. MORAN, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WOLF, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. MOORE, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. COHEN, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. HIMES, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. PAUL, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. POLIS, Mr. PETRI, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. FORBES, and Mr. ROSKAM):

H.R. 6597. A bill to amend section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an additional religious exemption from the individual health coverage mandate; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. BLACK (for herself, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. BROUN of Georgia):

H.R. 6598. A bill to amend certain requirements and penalties implemented under the Medicare and Medicaid programs by the HITECH Act of 2009, which would otherwise impede eligible professionals from adopting electronic health records to improve patient care; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KUCINICH (for himself, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. MOORE, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. FILNER, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. NADLER, Mr. HONDA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois):

H.R. 6599. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to protect children's health by denying any deduction for advertising and marketing directed at children to promote the consumption of food at fast food restaurants or of food of poor nutritional quality; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CROWLEY:

H.R. 6600. A bill to amend the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 to provide for the increased purchase of Kosher and Halal food and to modify the labeling of the commodities list under the emergency food assistance program to enable Kosher and Halal food bank operators to identify which commodities to obtain from local food banks; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. DEUTCH (for himself and Mrs. MYRICK):

H.R. 6601. A bill to establish programs in the executive branch to permit the labeling of certain products that do not contain any carcinogens as ''Carcinogen-Free'', and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SMITH of Texas (for himself and Mr. CONYERS):

H.R. 6602. A bill to make revisions in title 36, United States Code, as necessary to keep the title current and make technical corrections and improvements; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself and Mr. BERMAN):

H. Res. 813. A resolution expressing vigorous support and unwavering commitment to the welfare, security, and survival of the State of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state with secure borders, and recognizing and strongly supporting its right to act in self-defense to protect its citizens against acts of terrorism; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself, Mr. JONES, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. KISSELL, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. OLSON, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Ms. BUERKLE, Mr. CANSECO, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. UPTON, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. MARINO, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. BARLETTA, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. FORBES, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. RIVERA, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. MANZULLO, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. REED, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia, Mr. LANDRY, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. ROSS of Florida, Mr. OWENS, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. FLORES, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. HURT, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Ms. HAYWORTH, and Mr. BURGESS):

H. Res. 814. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the conditions for the United States becoming a signatory to the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty, or to any similar agreement on the arms trade; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. FATTAH (for himself and Mr. HULTGREN):

H. Res. 815. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Federal laboratories have been and continue to be on the cutting edge of scientific and technological advancement and supporting the designation of 2013 as the ''Year of the Federal Lab''; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. ISRAEL (for himself, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. TIBERI):

H. Res. 816. A resolution recognizing September 2012 as the 160th anniversary of the arrival in the United States of Constantino Brumidi, the artist who painted the Apotheosis of Washington; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MULVANEY:

H. Res. 817. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the Friday after Thanksgiving as the National Day of Recognition for Veterans' Families; to the Committee on Armed Services.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. OLSON:

H.R. 6593.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 4, Clause I—The times, places, and manner of holding elections for senators and representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by law make or alter such regulations, except as to the places of choosing senators.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7—The Congress shall have power to establish Post Offices and post roads.

By Mr. OLSON:

H.R. 6594.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 14—The Congress shall have power to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces.

By Mr. BARLETTA:

H.R. 6595.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution (clauses 12, 13, 14, 16, and 18), which grants Congress the power to raise and support an Army; to provide and maintain a Navy; to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces; to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia; and to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the foregoing powers.

By Mr. AMODEI:

H.R. 6596.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. BIGGERT:

H.R. 6597.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. BLACK:

H.R. 6598.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

Business Regulation

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power * * * To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. KUCINICH:

H.R. 6599.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress' Article One power to tax.

By Mr. CROWLEY:

H.R. 6600.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 6601.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the power to regulate commerce among the several States.

By Mr. SMITH of Texas:

H.R. 6602.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 1116: Ms. WATERS.

H.R. 1653: Mr. LATTA.

H.R. 2267: Mr. PEARCE and Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 2655: Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 2679: Mr. GUTHRIE.

H.R. 2705: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 3032: Mr. KING of Iowa.

H.R. 3269: Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 3364: Mr. PETERS, Mr. NEAL, and Mr. DENT.

H.R. 3522: Mr. VAN HOLLEN and Mr. BILBRAY.

H.R. 3553: Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 3710: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 3790: Mr. BUTTERFIELD and Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 3831: Mr. MICHAUD and Ms. RICHARDSON.

H.R. 4083: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 4122: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 4215: Mr. GUTHRIE.

H.R. 4290: Mr. ELLISON and Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 4378: Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 4385: Mr. WOMACK.

H.R. 5817: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.

H.R. 5839: Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 5846: Mr. BACHUS.

H.R. 5873: Mr. BACHUS.

H.R. 6149: Ms. HIRONO.

H.R. 6155: Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. STARK.

H.R. 6223: Mr. SMITH of Texas.

H.R. 6242: Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 6273: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 6304: Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 6385: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, and Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 6388: Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 6411: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 6419: Mr. KILDEE, Ms. SPEIER, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 6437: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 6444: Mr. LATTA.

H.R. 6446: Mr. NUNES.

H.R. 6470: Mr. KING of Iowa.

H.R. 6494: Mr. GOSAR, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 6567: Mr. LAMBORN.

H.R. 6575: Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 6591: Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. CHU, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. LOWEY, Mrs. MALONEY, and Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 6792: Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. RICHARDSON, and Ms. EDWARDS.

H.J. Res. 96: Mr. LANDRY.

H. Res. 763: Mr. POE of Texas.

H. Res. 793: Mr. BARBER, Mr. GIBSON, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SCHOCK, Ms. SPEIER, and Mrs. DAVIS of California.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the Clerk's desk and referred as follows:

63. The SPEAKER presented a petition of City of Miami, Florida, relative to Resolution R–12–0168 supporting the securing of vacant and abandoned private buildings as a U.S. HUD CDBG funding eligible activity; to the Committee on Financial Services.

64. Also, a petition of Weztel County Chamber of Commerce, West Virginia, relative to resolution urging the Congress to immediately initiate contact with the Ormet Corporation to negotiate possible resolution to their financial issues; to the Committee on Financial Services.

CORRECTION

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 158 WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2012 No. 147

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 and 22 seconds a.m., and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUYE).

The assistant billing clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 16, 2012.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUYE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COONS thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2012, AT 9:30 A.M.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until Tuesday, November 20, 2012, at 9:30 a.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 9:30 and 50 seconds a.m., conditionally adjourned until Tuesday, November 20, 2012, at 9:30 a.m.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Printed on recycled paper.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE SERVICE AND THE MEMORY OF REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIER PVT. JAMES ANDERSON

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and the memory of Revolutionary War Soldier James Anderson, Sr. of Buncombe County, North Carolina.

On Sunday, November 11, 2012 in the Western North Carolina town of Mars Hill, the memory of Private James Anderson, Sr., a Patriot and Revolutionary War Soldier, was honored by the dedication of hallowed ground and his final resting place. The ceremony was conducted by descendents of Pvt. Anderson, and honored guests, members of the Edward Buncombe Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution and the Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter of the Georgia Society of the Sons of The American Revolution.

Private Anderson was a true American Patriot and a proud North Carolinian. He served under Captain James Bonnell Company which was part of Spencers New Jersey Regiment under Major General John Sullivan. James Anderson Sr. was engaged for service on June 26th, 1778 and served 159 days at the rank of Private.

It is with great respect that I commend and remember this brave soldier who joined hands with countless other patriots to achieve American independence. I hope that today's generation of young men and women will follow the shining example of patriotism and dedication to freedom modeled by Pvt. James Anderson and other Revolutionary War heroes.

CONGRATULATING THE 2012 GOLD MEDAL WINNERS IN THE INTERNATIONAL BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues Mr. Stark, Mr. Carney, and Mr. Holt, to recognize the fine academic accomplishments of four of our constituents who were awarded gold medals at the International Biology Olympiad held in Singapore in July 2012. Nikhil Buduma of Bellarmine College Preparatory School in San Jose, CA; Jing "Raymond" Liu of Mission San Jose High School in Fremont, CA; Lei "Jerry" Ding of the Charter School of Wilmington, DE; and Kevin Ma of East Brunswick High School in East Brunswick, NJ competed against secondary students from over 59 countries in this prestigious international competition.

These talented students began their journey in the USA Biology Olympiad, which aims to enhance the life sciences education of nearly 10,000 students annually across the United States each year. The competition provides the motivation, curricular resources, and skills training to take them beyond their classroom experience and enhances their adaptability, inventiveness, creativity and collaboration in this content area.

After being selected among the twenty finalists, they participated in a residential training program at Purdue University where they learned advanced biological concepts and exacting laboratory skills and earned the right to represent the United States at the International Biology Olympiad.

We congratulate and salute these fine young students and commend their accomplishments in the biological sciences. We look forward to reading about their future contributions to our society and to the international community.

HONORING MAJOR EDWARD (ED) KENNEDY

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous respect and gratitude that I rise to honor MAJ Edward (Ed) Kennedy, United States Army, for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the United States of America. Major Kennedy has recently moved on from his assignment as an Army Congressional Liaison to the House of Representatives to become a Battalion Operations Officer in the 3rd Infantry Division.

A native of Danbury, Connecticut, Major Kennedy graduated from the United States Military Academy in May of 2000 and was commissioned in the Infantry Branch. After his first assignment as an Infantry Platoon Leader in Hawaii, he commanded both Infantry and Armor units in the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, TX. During that time he deployed once in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, and twice in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.

In July 2009, Major Kennedy was selected for the highly competitive Joint Chiefs of Staff Internship program. During the internship, he earned a Master's degree at Georgetown University, and then served a one year tour on the Joint Staff as the Action Officer for the Special Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff with principle focus on Warrior and Family Support. His next year was spent on the Army Staff as a Congressional Liaison to the United States House of Representatives working for the Office of the Chief Legislative Liaison.

Mr. Speaker, it was during his assignment as a Congressional Liaison that I had the honor of getting to know this great patriot personally. It has been a true pleasure and privilege to work closely with Major Kennedy during the 112th Session of Congress.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues in recognizing and commending Major Kennedy for his meritorious service to our country. For all that he and his family have given and continue to give to our country; we are forever in their debt. But for the courageous service of our Nation's heroic military personnel such as Major Kennedy and the selflessness of military families such as his, the unparalleled freedoms and security that I and all Americans enjoy every day would not be. On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I extend heartiest best wishes to Major Kennedy, his wife Jacey, and his daughter Katelyn as they continue on their journey of service.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF NATHAN B. "NAT" HENRY

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize SSgt. Nathan B. "Nat" Henry, U.S. Army, (Ret.) for his service to our country and the sacrifices he has endured. A lifelong resident of Macon County, North Carolina, Henry left the peace and tranquility of Western North Carolina to serve in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

Facing overwhelming odds, Henry survived a battle in the infamous Ia Drang Valley in 1967. His subsequent capture by enemy forces, however, left him in North Vietnamese prison camps until Operation Homecoming in 1973. His nearly six years in captivity holds the unenviable distinction of being one of the longest serving prisoners of the Vietnam War. Along with numerous other medals, Henry is the recipient of two Silver Stars, two Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts.

Henry served his country valiantly during the war and has continued to show dedication to his country and community since. Upon returning home to his community, Henry continued in the path of service by serving as an original member of the Burningtown Volunteer Fire Department. Additionally, remaining ever steadfast in his commitment to the veterans community in Macon County, he continues to be active in almost all veteran-related activities in the area including serving as both President and Chairman for the Smoky Mountain Vietnam Veterans Chapter 994.

Mr. Speaker, today I offer thanks from a grateful nation for SSgt. Nathan B. "Nat" Henry's (Ret.) distinguished service and sacrifice. It is service such as Henry's that allows us to continue to enjoy the freedom that he fought to protect.

IN OPPOSITION TO H.R. 6190 ''THE ASTHMA INHALERS RELIEF ACT OF 2012''

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 6190, the Asthma Inhalers Relief Act, introduced by Congressman BURGESS. This legislation would authorize the distribution and sale of one million asthma inhalers that use over-the-counter epinephrine, named Primatene Mist. This product was sold in aerosol canisters containing CFC's, or chlorofluorlicarbons. CFC products have been banned under the Clean Air Act and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. Consequently, this legislation is opposed by many organizations because it involves the widespread use of a CFC product.

Mr. Speaker, I stand with Ranking Member WAXMAN as well as with the American Lung Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and other national public health organizations in opposition to this bill. I strongly believe in ensuring affordable, quality health care options for all Americans who suffer from asthma; however, I am opposed to legislation that would undermine our commitment to international treaty and that would continue to deplete the ozone. There are safer and more effective ways of safeguarding public health. One way to do this is for Congress to take up and pass H.R. 6284, the Breath of Fresh Air Act, which I introduced earlier this year.

Across the United States, nearly 25 million people have been diagnosed with asthma, including 7 million children. This serious disease impacts every district in every state, and its effects are far-reaching. I have been particularly concerned with the issue of asthma, especially as it affects my home district in California. The Ports of Long Beach and Los Angles operate within and near the 37th Congressional District, and if left unregulated, the California Air Resources Board estimates that the ports will be the largest source of pollution in the state by 2020 greater than the impact of every car on the road in California. The neighborhoods of Los Angeles and Long Beach rank as one of the U.S. cities most polluted by Particle Pollution.

Low-income and minority communities are disproportionately affected by this chronic respiratory disease, and their health outcomes are likely to be worse. For instance, the Environmental Protection Agency reports that black children are twice as likely to be hospitalized and four times as likely to die from asthma as white children. Low-income and minority communities also disproportionately live in areas afflicted with high levels of air pollution, allergens, and other environmental factors that trigger asthma attacks. They may also have limited resources to direct toward asthma management or to deal with the financial challenges of medical bills and missed days at school and work.

Authorizing the sale of epinephrine will not address the challenges that asthma patients face. National health organizations have repeatedly issued expert guidelines that advise patients on how to manage their asthma, and none of them recommend the use of over-the-counter medications. In addition, Primatene Mist has been banned since December 31, 2011. This means that patients have already transitioned away from this medicine and have been using alternative medications for almost a full year. A temporary reversal of this ban would be confusing to patients and would not provide them with a sound long-term plan for asthma management. In fact, the only group that stands to profit from such a reversal is the manufacturing company, not asthma patients.

I do agree with Congressman BURGESS when he says that Congress must be on the side of asthma patients, and I am working hard to make sure that Americans have access to quality and timely care. That is why in August, I introduced H.R. 6284, the Breath of Fresh Air Act, which has been endorsed by the Allergy & Asthma Network/Mothers of Asthmatics. This legislation would establish a grant program to make funds available to elementary and secondary schools to purchase nebulizers. A nebulizer is an extremely easy-to-use medical device that delivers medicine in the form of a mist directly to the person's lungs. Oftentimes it is the best remedy for young children who may not cooperate in their time of distress. By making these devices available at local schools and treating symptoms as soon as they present themselves, we can take significant steps toward reducing the number of asthma-related emergency room visits each year.

Mr. Speaker, it is critical that Americans who suffer from asthma have access to life-saving medications and health care. I am glad to see Congress recognize the challenges that Americans with asthma face, and it is my hope that we can continue making this a legislative priority. I urge my colleagues to vote no on H.R. 6190 and instead support the Breath of Fresh Air Act and other legislation that directly improves the lives of asthma patients without sacrificing environmental standards.

HONORING SARAH WARRICK

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor several of the volunteers who have served in my district office over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and these volunteers have assisted my staff in providing the excellent assistance so many have come to expect from our district. I take great pride in the work that each one has done on my behalf and on behalf of everyone in the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina.

These volunteers have always treated our constituents with the utmost respect and always made sure their needs were met in a timely fashion. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship they have shown to me during my years of service in Congress.

Sarah Warrick volunteered on my campaigns and served as an intern in my Washington, DC, office on multiple occasions. Through her many years of involvement, Sarah has proven to be a hard working and committed public servant to the people of the 11th District. She and her family have been among my most steadfast supporters from the beginning, and I am thankful for their loyalty and friendship.

Sarah has been a standout in my office and an important part of my team over the years. She has a bright future ahead of her regardless of what career path she chooses to take.

Sarah should be proud of the service she has provided to our district and country. It has been an honor to serve with Sarah and as I retire from office I wish her the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of her efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Sarah and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Sarah Warrick for her hard work on behalf of all of western North Carolina and to wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

HONORING TUNICA 10 POINT COALITION, INC. FOR THEIR CONTINUED SERVICE TO THEIR COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Tunica 10 Coalition, Inc. Established in 2004, the Tunica 10 Coalition has been working tirelessly within their community to address important issues and start improving the quality of life.

The Tunica 10 Point Coalition has attended many strategic conferences and worked closely with the Memphis 10 Point Coalition to ensure they developed smart initiatives and projects to tackle the problems in their community.

After working closely on the ground with the influential civic and social leaders of Tunica County, the coalition has come up with a structure built to address the needs of the residents, with the youth being at the forefront of their efforts.

The Tunica 10 Point Coalition has blossomed into a well organized group with zone leaders throughout the community bringing support wherever it is needed. The coalition has also widened its scope of services to include health and wellness in an effort to combat obesity and other health related issues. Tunica 10 Coalition has never stepped away from their goal of "Working Together to Make a Difference".

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Tunica 10 Point Coalition in their continued dedication towards developing the lives of the people of Tunica County, Mississippi.

HONORING SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise small business owners and employees who contribute so much to their local communities. Through the Small Business Saturday

event to be held on November 24th, 2012, people around the country will demonstrate their appreciation for the businesses that make their communities unique.

The days following Thanksgiving have become a time of windfall sales revenue for many retail businesses. In the past, however, small businesses without large advertising budgets have not seen the same success as their larger counterparts. In 2010, Small Business Saturday was created to encourage consumers to utilize their local vendors. I commend the communities that participate every year and especially those who will begin this year.

This will be the first year the Village of Oak Lawn formally participates in Small Business Saturday. Thanks to the work of the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce, Small Business Saturday Oak Lawn will no doubt be a hugely successful event, highlighting the local flavor that these establishments provide. A trolley will shuttle shoppers along Oak Lawn's bustling 95th Street to visit the various businesses and the village will simultaneously hold its annual Santa on the Green for local youth. This is a great event not only for Oak Lawn businesses but also for residents of the village and surrounding communities.

Small businesses represent the hopes and dreams of so many hard working and creative entrepreneurs, and have long been the backbone of the American economy. The individuals who create and work at small businesses represent half of all private sector American jobs and generate over 60% of the new jobs in our recovering economy. In many cities and villages, small businesses are what keep Main Street communities alive and thriving. Such vendors are best suited to cater to the unique needs of these small and distinctive towns, and so our continued support is more important than ever.

Please join me in honoring those who have worked hard to start Small Business Saturday around the country and of course the small businesses that make it all possible. May the event be a resounding success.

2012 WINGS OVER HOUSTON, TEXAS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to recognize a unique event in the state of Texas that attracts more than 85,000 people from Houston and around the globe. The Wings Over Houston Airshow showcases the best of American aerial military might in a thrilling display of everything from vintage World War II aircraft to the marvels of modern aviation.

A non-profit event produced by a collaborative volunteer effort of the Gulf Coast Wing and West Houston Squadron of the Commemorative Air Force, this year's Wings Over Houston Airshow dazzled the crowds with several new additions, including the U.S. Air Force's newest fighter aircraft, the F–22 Raptor, the U.S. Marine Corp MV–22 Osprey demonstration and the Air National Guard Flash Fire Jet Truck. The biggest feature this year was the Navy's Blue Angels, which is the second oldest flying aerobatic team. They impressed bystanders with their daring and impressive routines, at one point even flying only 18 inches from each other during their four-jet Diamond Formation.

For 28 years, Wings Over Houston has benefited a variety of nonprofit organizations and charities. This year's air show benefitted the Wings Over Houston Airshow Scholarship Program, Aviation Career Education Academy, Exchange Club of Sugar Land, Westchase Rotary Club and the Commemorative Air Force aircraft restoration and flying historical programs.

As a spectacular aerial show and an impressive charitable community effort, the Wings Over Houston Airshow inspires both charity and patriotism in Houstonians and all Americans. It's a significant part of Texas history, as the event conserves a little piece of our military's aviation history and ensures that it'll be around for years to come.

And that's just the way it is.

IN TRIBUTE TO ARNIE GODMINTZ

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Mr. Arnie Godmintz, an activist and well-known Sacramento community leader who passed away on October 4th. Arnie was a prominent progressive leader in the Sacramento region, and his death leaves a great void in the community. As his family and friends gather to honor and remember his life, I ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting a committed and well-respected figure in Sacramento.

Arnie led a fascinating life, devoted to fighting for progressive causes. Most of his work was done on his own free time and focused on the rights of the underserved and needy. Arnie's roots in activism began at a young age. After earning an economics degree from Harvard University, he worked as an organizer for auto workers. He later worked for the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs encouraging companies to find work for unemployed American Indians on reservations in Arizona and New Mexico.

Arnie had to go through a lot to help those whose voices were often unheard. At one time, during the civil rights movement, Arnie was arrested while driving supplies to ''freedom schools'' for African-American children in the South. His advocacy led him to the same location where FBI agents discovered the bodies of murdered activists James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner. Those events became a part of Arnie, deeply affecting him and became his motivation to continue to advocate for the less privileged. Throughout all of his efforts, Arnie stayed humble and never spoke about himself, although he was always a passionate advocate for the underdog and often unpopular causes.

Arnie was also greatly involved in local politics, donating his time, energy and enthusiasm for causes near to his heart. He was a leader in the Sacramento County Democratic Party, often organizing meetings and coordinating campaign events. He donated his time, marched at rallies, worked phone banks and walked door to door for issues he believed would improve our country.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the numerous contributions made by Mr. Arnie Godmintz during his lifetime of service to the people of Sacramento and our Nation. As his family and friends gather to honor his wonderful legacy and countless contributions, I am honored to pay tribute to him. I ask all my colleagues to pause and join me in paying respect to an extraordinarily loving man, Arnie Godrnintz.

HONORING MYRNA CAMPBELL

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me the over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my staff is second to none in providing the best assistance to everyone in our District. I take great pride in the work that each one has done on my behalf and on behalf of everyone in the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina.

Each District Staff member has shown a strong sense of dedication in meeting the needs of each and every one of our constituents. They often go well beyond the call to make sure each constituent is treated fairly and respectfully by our government agencies and that they receive appropriate resolution. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Myrna Campbell was among the first individuals to join me on the campaign trail and to serve as a member of my original District staff team. Myrna has been a steady force in making sure no constituent or issue ever slips through the cracks of bureaucracy. Her organizational skills and commitment to excellence on the job have served as a model for all of our staff. The words ''commitment'' and ''dependable'' immediately come to mind when I think of Myrna's work ethic.

In is no secret that Myrna is the glue that holds our District operation together. Myrna is loved and revered by her colleagues, and anyone who has ever worked with her can attest to her loyalty and kindness.

Myrna should be proud of the service she has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with her and as I retire from office I wish her the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of her efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Myrna and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Myrna Campbell for her hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

ACCELERATING END TO AFGHANISTAN WAR

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, as we gather back in Washington for the first time since the election, it is important that we work to resolve the questions that cannot wait until the new 113th Congress is sworn in. President Obama will soon be meeting with his military advisors and considering various plans in Afghanistan. My Republican colleague Walter Jones and I will be sending a letter to the President renewing our call for an accelerated withdrawal from Afghanistan.

I encourage all Members to join us on this letter. Keeping our troops in Afghanistan through 2014 will not bring about a meaningful difference on the ground.

Mr. Speaker, it is time that we catch up with the American people who are calling for an accelerated end to the war in Afghanistan.

Let's bring our troops home, end the war in Afghanistan, and invest in jobs and nation-building here at home.

IN HONOR OF CLEVELAND DIVISION OF POLICE 2012 POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR, PATROL OFFICER DANIEL L. BAILLIS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Patrol Officer Daniel L. Baillis, the Cleveland Division of Police 2012 Police Officer of the Year.

Officer Baillis is a lifelong resident of Cleveland, Ohio who attended Cleveland Public Schools and graduated from Lincoln West High School. He studied Applied Sciences/Law Enforcement at Cuyahoga Community College where he earned an Associate's Degree. He also studied at Cleveland State University.

On July 23, 1979, Patrol Officer Daniel L. Baillis began his career as a Cleveland police officer in the 5th District, where he spent his entire 33-year career. Officer Baillis served on the Basic Patrol, Vice and Strike Force units and spent nearly 20 years as a detective in the Strike Force Unit. Officer Baillis retired from the Cleveland Police Department on August 2, 2012.

The Cleveland Division of Police's Police Officer of the Year award is bestowed upon an officer who demonstrates an outstanding devotion to duty, and consistently performs to the highest degree, beyond standards established by their peers. Police Officer of the Year is not Officer Baillis' first honor. He has previously been awarded the Medal of Honor, three Distinguished Service Medals, four special commendations, two Chief's Commendations and the Rotary Club Valor Award.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Patrol Officer Daniel L. Baillis on being named the 2012 Cleveland Division of Police Officer of the Year.

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE TOWN OF HAYESVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the town of Hayesville, located in Clay County North Carolina surrounded by mountains and views of the Hiawassee River, Tusquittee Bald, Nantahala Forest and other picturesque scenery of Western North Carolina.

Hayesville has been the active center of Clay County since it was established in the 1800s. In 1860 George Hayes ran for a seat in the North Carolina House of Commons on a platform for creating a new county from the neighboring boundaries of Cherokee and Macon Counties. After his election, Rep. Hayes introduced a bill in February 1861 to establish Clay County and later received recognition for his efforts when Hayesville was named in his honor.

Small communities flourished as more settlers moved into the hills and valleys along streams and rivers of Clay County. The County Courthouse was constructed in 1888 on a knoll overlooking scenic mountain valleys as a center of commerce surrounded by a bank, hotel, churches, Tiger's Store and other merchants that formed a village square and the only town in Clay County. Finally in March of 1913, fifty years after the county was established, Hayesville was officially recognized as an "incorporated town" and County Seat of Clay County.

Hayesville continued to be the central mark of the county as roads were built and neighboring farmers would let others know they were making a trip to town and offered to bring back supplies. Eventually the population grew and Hayesville became a flourishing small town reflecting North Carolina mountain culture, hometown values and rural area accomplishments with Appalachian and Americana flavor that continues today.

The historic Courthouse Square is still the center of activity and a special public gathering will be held in March 2013 at Town Hall in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the designation of the town of Hayesville as the County Seat of Clay County. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in Hayesville's Centennial recognition and contributions to our national heritage and the great state of North Carolina.

RECENT EVENTS IN SOUTHERN ISRAEL AND GAZA

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my fears about the events occurring in southern Israel and Gaza. Last Saturday, Hamas-affiliated militias began firing rockets from Gaza into Israel. These attacks, directed at Israeli civilians, are acts of war. Israel has every right and a solemn duty to protect her citizens. The rocket attacks have continued all week, and yesterday, three Israeli civilians were killed in an attack on Kiryat Malakhi.

Regrettably, Israel was forced to take a necessary and appropriate step in defending her citizens by launching an offensive against Palestinian militants in Gaza. During the attacks, Israeli defense forces killed the military commander of Hamas in an air strike. Israel has clearly told those who kill the innocent that Israel will use whatever force necessary to protect her citizens.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Israel live in constant fear of rocket attacks from Gaza. In 2009, I visited the Israeli village of Sderot that borders on Gaza. I'll never forget talking to an Israeli mother who is always within arm's reach of her young children. Any time the air raid sirens scream a warning of an incoming barrage of rockets, she must be ready to grab her children and take cover in the family's bomb shelter. This has to be done within seconds or her family may be killed.

Mr. Speaker, the United States must continue to fully support Israel's right to defend herself against the constant threat of terrorist attacks by Hamas from Gaza. This is also a critically important moment for Egypt to step up as a responsible mediator to end the violence. The new Egyptian government has a chance to show its acceptance of the 1979 peace treaty. It is their choice, but whatever they decide, America will stand firmly beside our ally Israel.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF JANE SHEATS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Jane Sheats on the occasion of her 80th birthday.

Born and raised in Northeast Ohio, Mrs. Sheats is a lifelong resident of the Glenville area. Upon graduating from John Hay High School, she immediately began working as a clerk with the Internal Revenue Service. Mrs. Sheats began her role with Cleveland's Democratic Party in 1965 when she began her ten-year tenure as a Precinct Committeeman for Cleveland's Ward 20.

In 1975, Mrs. Sheats was appointed as a Board Member of the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections by the Executive Committee of the Democratic Party. In 1976, she became the first African American woman in the U.S. to chair a county board of elections. Her public service continued in 1983, when she was appointed Regional Manager Cleveland Region of the Ohio Lottery Commission; she was later re-appointed in 1991 by Former Governor Voinovich. Ultimately, Mrs. Sheats served as Regional Manager for 12 years. In 1999, she came out of retirement to serve as a Deputy Clerk in the City of Cleveland's Clerk of Courts.

In addition to her long career in the public sector, Mrs. Sheats has been a selfless leader in her community. She was a longtime trustee and corporate board member of the Ohio Motorist Association, a Sunday School teacher at Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church and the first woman to chair the Glenville YMCA Board of Managers.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the life of Jane Sheats and wishing her a joyous 80th birthday.

RECOGNIZING THE FOUNDERS OF OUTSMART OFFICE SOLUTIONS, GEORGE PIEPER AND DAWN ACKERMAN

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the founders of OutSmart Office Solutions, George Pieper and Dawn Ackerman, for being honored with the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce's 2012 LGBT Supplier of the Year Award. George and Dawn have dedicated themselves and their careers to creating and strengthening an economy that fosters equality for all people.

George and Dawn founded OutSmart Office Solutions in 2007. They brought a combined twenty-three years of experience to provide office products that are environmentally sustainable and built a business that expands opportunities for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender business owners.

As a certified Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trangender-owned Business Enterprise (LGBTBE), OutSmart Office Solutions partnered with Office Depot to distribute office furniture and supplies. Office Depot's Tier One Supplier Diversity Partnership enables OutSmart Office Solutions to provide the highest quality products and top-notch service to corporations and individuals while promoting workplace diversity.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize George Pieper and Dawn Ackerman. Businesses like OutSmart Office Solutions play a vital role in stimulating our economy and ensuring equality for all members of our communities.

HONORING BRUCE PETERSON

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my congressional staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my staff is second to none in providing the best assistance to everyone in our district. I take great pride in the work that each one has done on my behalf and on behalf of everyone in the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina.

Each District staff member has shown a strong sense of dedication in meeting the needs of each and every one of our constituents. They often go well beyond the call to make sure each constituent is treated fairly and respectfully by our government agencies and that they receive appropriate resolution. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Bruce Peterson served as my first District Director. In this key role, Bruce was the driving force behind establishing every detail of our district operation. Bruce's knowledge of local government and officials proved invaluable as we developed relationships and methods for providing top-notch services to folks across western North Carolina. Bruce used his extensive background as a school administrator to help develop the excellent constituent services that our office has been recognized for during these past six years of service.

Bruce should be proud of the service he has provided to our district and country. It has been an honor to serve with him and as I retire from office I wish him the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of his efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Bruce and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Bruce Peterson for his hard work on behalf of all of western North Carolina and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO THE SACRAMENTO JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Sacramento Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, and congratulate the chapter as they celebrate their 17th annual community awards dinner.

Through their long history, the Sacramento JACL has been dedicated to advancing the civil rights of all Americans, deterring hate crimes across the Nation, and helping to lead the Japanese-American community to social and economic equality. On Thursday, November 15, 2012, the Sacramento Japanese American Citizens League will host its 17th annual community awards dinner.

During the dinner, the Sacramento JACL will honor: the Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church, one of the oldest Japanese-American congregations in Northern California; the Sacramento Senator Lions Club, a civic organization that provides its members with opportunities to serve the community through fundraising and hands-on projects; and the Sakura Minyo Doo Koo Kai, a troupe that performs traditional Japanese folk song and dance. These three organizations and their members have worked diligently to serve the community, teach others about the history of Japanese-Americans, and help preserve the Japanese culture. They stand as organizations that truly embrace the dinner's theme of ''Bunka Isan,'' helping the community honor the lives of their ancestors and celebrating their own lives as Americans.

During the dinner, the Sacramento JACL will also honor my friend and colleague, California Assemblywoman Mariko Yamada. Mariko has dedicated her life to serving the public in many capacities: working as an investigator for the U.S. Department of Commerce's Office for Civil Rights; as a member of the Yolo County Board of Supervisors; and now representing her constituents in the California State Assembly. She has had tremendous success in the California Assembly, passing landmark bills that imposed greater criminal penalties on assailants that abuse the elderly and disabled, provided increased housing and employment opportunities for our veterans, and reformed government policies to protect consumers from negligence and fraud. Mariko has made California and our Nation a better place for all, and is truly worthy of tonight's honoring.

Mr. Speaker, I hereby recognize and commend the Sacramento Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League and their honorees for their continued service to Sacramento, California and our Nation. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in wishing them continued success and support as they work to protect the civil rights of all our citizens, and preserve the history of Japanese-Americans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on November 15, 2012, and missed rollcall votes 605, 606, and 607. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye'' on rollcall votes 605, 606, and 607.

HONORING ERIN ''DOTY'' GEORGES

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my team is second to none in providing the best assistance to all in our District. My Washington, D.C. office is also tasked with researching, processing, analyzing, and making recommendations on an infinite number of reports, policies, and legislation. I could not ask for a more talented or dedicated team, and I take great pride in the work that each staff member has done not only on my behalf, but also on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina and the United States.

My team has shown a strong sense of dedication to meeting the needs of our constituency. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship they have shown me during my six years of service in the Congress.

A very special thank you goes to Erin ''Doty'' Georges, who is the longest serving staff member in my Washington, D.C. office and has been a member of my team since day one. After contributing to my first campaign's victory, Erin took on a number of portfolios and responsibilities in my Washington office, excelling at each and eventually rising to the influential position of Legislative Director. Erin has served as a trusted advisor on a broad range of issues, but none more so than health care policy. In this, Erin is regarded as one the best and most capable among her

colleagues, and her expertise was critical to my active participation in the great health care reform debate of 2008.

As Legislative Director, Erin has done an outstanding job leading and mentoring the legislative staff, all of whom hold her in the highest regard and trust and respect her guidance.

Erin is one of the most loyal and dedicated legislative staff members on Capitol Hill. She has proven her talents and capabilities again and again over the years, and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work alongside her and blessed to call her a friend.

Erin should be proud of the service she has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with her and as I retire from office I wish her the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of her efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Erin and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Erin ''Doty'' Georges for her hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JAMES C. BOLAND

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. James C. Boland, who is being honored as the Mayo Society of Greater Cleveland's Mayo Person of the Year.

Founded in 2004, the Mayo Society of Greater Cleveland is a forum for information and activities of interest to individuals of Irish descent, particularly those with ancestral ties to County Mayo. Its members are dedicated to promoting cultural, charitable, scientific and/or literary exchanges between the United States and Ireland, with particular emphasis on County Mayo, including but not limited to research into the life and times of Irish immigration to America and the study of Irish and Irish-American history.

A native Clevelander, James Boland has a long and storied history in the Northeast Ohio community. He is a graduate of John Carroll University and later earned degrees with George Washington University and the Harvard Business School. He served with the U.S. Army before joining Ernest & Young in 1964 for 34 years, when he retired in 1998 as a partner with the firm. Following his retirement, Boland was named the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Cavaliers/Gund Arena Company in 1998 and became the Vice Chairman in 2003; he retired in 2007. Boland has also served on the boards of Developers Diversified Realty Corporation, Invacare, the Sherwin-Williams Company and the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company.

He is not only legendary in the business community, but has also been a philanthropic leader. He has played an integral role in the Leadership Cleveland program since it was established in 1977. He is involved with the United Way, Cleveland Tomorrow, The Ohio Business Roundtable, University Circle, The Cleveland Health and Education Museum, Hawken School, Bluecoats, the Great Lakes Science Center and the Harvard Business School Club. He has chaired the YMCA Corporate Challenge, the March of Dimes ''Walk-a-thon,'' the Olympic Torch Relay Committee and has played essential role in numerous other events that empower groups in Northeast Ohio.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Mr. James C. Boland on being named the Mayo Society of Greater Cleveland's Mayo Person of the Year.

IN RECOGNITION OF NORTHERN OHIO LEBANESE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION, FADY CHAMOUN AND GEORGE CODY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Fady Chamoun and Mr. George Cody, Ph.D, who are being honored by the Northern Ohio Lebanese American Association.

The Northern Ohio Lebanese American Association (NOLAA) was founded in 1931 as a social and charitable organization. NOLAA's original purpose was to promote an understanding and unity among its members, act as a resource to better the conditions of its members and to foster unity among Lebanese Americans and their families in Cleveland and neighboring cities. In 2005, the Lebanese American Christian Society (LACS) was established in conjunction with NOLAA. Today NOLAA and LACS are dedicated to preserving, enriching, and promoting Lebanese heritage and traditions through cultural, educational, humanitarian and social activities.

NOLAA annually honors those who have made significant contributions to the community. This year's celebration will honor Mr. Fady Chamoun and Mr. George Cody. Mr. Chamoun is the founder and CEO of Aladdin's Eatery and Jasmine's Bakery, a restaurant chain and bakery that specializes in Lebanese cuisine. Mr. Cody serves as the Executive Director of the American Task Force for Lebanon, an organization dedicated to expanding awareness of the economic and political conditions in Lebanon and encouraging U.S. government entities and the Lebanese-American community to provide much needed assistance to Lebanon. Additionally, NOLAA will be paying tribute to their special guest, Mr. Boutros Harb, a member of the Lebanese Parliament.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the Northern Ohio Lebanese American Association, and Mr. Fady Chamoun and Mr. George Cody as they come together to celebrate at the Annual Lebanese Heritage Ball.

HONORING BISHOP GEORGE W. BROOKS

HON. MELVIN L. WATT

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a friend, supporter, mentor and trusted advisor to me, both spiritually and politically, Bishop George Wilbert Brooks. After 37 years of service, Bishop Brooks will retire as Senior Pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Greensboro, North Carolina on December 31, 2012.

A native of Hillsborough, North Carolina, Bishop Brooks moved to Greensboro to attend North Carolina A&T State University where he earned his Bachelor's degree in Industrial Technology. He received a Master of Divinity degree from Shaw University in Raleigh and a Doctorate of Ministry degree from Friends International Christian University in Merced, California. After being licensed to preach the gospel in March 1975, Bishop Brooks moved back to Greensboro to begin his service as Pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church.

Since accepting the call to lead Mount Zion Baptist Church, Bishop Brooks has set an example for community and civic leadership and involvement that others can only aspire to match. In addition to his important religious role as the leader of a dynamic congregation, he is recognized as a leader in community based self-sufficiency initiatives. He also serves on numerous local, national and international boards and has been named among the ''Most Influential Persons in the Triad'' by The Triad Business Journal each year since 2005.

In addition to his church and community involvement he is a devoted husband of 44 years to Edna Brooks, father of two children and grandfather of five grandchildren.

Bishop Brooks' service to Mount Zion Baptist Church and the Greensboro community is unmatched. He has been a leader and a real inspiration to countless others in word and deed and in other ways that we can only imagine. As I often tell people, he is a ''one-of-a-kind guy''.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure my colleagues will join me in wishing Bishop George W. Brooks the very best in retirement, although I'm not about to let him retire from the roles he plays in my life as friend, advisor and mentor. I thank him for all he has done for me and for our community.

HAMAS ATTACKS ON ISRAEL

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to this chamber's attention the on-going attacks taking place in Israel.

Over the past several days, Hamas militants in Gaza have launched a concerted offensive against Israel, our partner in peace in the region.

Nearly 350 rockets have landed in Israel from Gaza in the past three days. Three Israelis were killed in a rocket attack on Thursday.

Yesterday and today, warning sirens rang in Tel Aviv, Israel's largest city, for the first time since the Gulf War.

As the right of any country to protect its people from attacks, such as Turkey has taken in recent weeks in response to Syria's civil war, Israel has initiated Operation Pillar of Defense to halt the rockets being launched from Gaza. Israeli Defense Minister Ehud

Barak has already announced that 30,000 reservists would be called up to help protect innocent civilians from these attacks.

I condemn these heinous attacks on innocent Israeli civilians and ask our country to support action to bring these terrorist actions to a swift and immediate end.

HONORING RYAN FITZPATRICK

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my team is second to none in providing the best assistance to all in our District. My Washington, DC office is also tasked with researching, processing, analyzing, and making recommendations on an infinite number of reports, policies, and legislation. I could not ask for a more talented or dedicated team, and I take great pride in the work that each staff member has done not only on my behalf, but also on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina and the United States.

My team has shown a strong sense of dedication to meeting the needs of our constituency. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Ryan Fitzpatrick served as a member of my team from 2006 to March 2011. After helping lead me to victory during my first campaign, Ryan quickly ascended the ranks in my Washington office and became one of my most trusted and hardest working legislative assistants.

During his time in my office, Ryan played an integral role in shaping my legislative portfolio and in helping me achieve many of my proudest legislative accomplishments. Ryan's knowledge of Western North Carolina, combined with his determination and in-depth understanding of energy, environmental, and conservation issues, proved critical in securing the North Shore Road settlement agreement and negotiating key provisions in the American Clean Energy Security Act of 2009.

Ryan should be proud of the service he has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with him and as I retire from office I wish him the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of his efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Ryan and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Ryan Fitzpatrick for his hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

IN COMMEMORATION OF WORLD DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, as a co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Global Road Safety, I rise today in commemoration of the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims.

In 2005, the U.N. General Assembly adopted a Resolution that calls for a worldwide recognition of the third Sunday in November each year as the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. Each year on this day we remember the victims of road crashes and the difficulties faced by their loved ones who must cope with the awful emotional and practical consequences of these tragedies.

Road crashes are a critical public health issue. According to the 2009 Global Status Report on Road Safety, road crashes contribute to approximately 1.3 million deaths around the world each year. By 2030, the number of fatalities is projected to increase exponentially, making road crashes the fifth leading cause of death in the world.

This year's theme for World Remembrance Day—"Now is the time to learn from the past"—focuses on the need for organizations and nations around the world to join in the discussion of prevention programs and methods. We must examine failed strategies and devise stronger and more effective road safety policies.

I am honored that ASIRT—the Association for Safe International Road Travel—is headquartered in my congressional district. ASIRT is a non-profit organization that emphasizes the importance of global road safety through education, advocacy, and road safety projects. Over the years, ASIRT has done extraordinary work to keep travelers safe on the world's roads. Its efforts have saved countless lives as it draws attention to this critical public health issue.

As we observe the 2012 World Day of Remembrance, I ask my colleagues to join me in a moment of reflection, remembering the lives affected by road crashes and the continued need to do all we can to make the world a safer place.

A TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF RICHARD F. CHAPMAN, M.D.

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of an extraordinary man, Dr. Richard F. Chapman, who passed away on October 12, 2012, in Menlo Park, California, after decades of living and adjusting to life with multiple sclerosis.

Dr. Chapman was the son of a pediatrician whose father was a Congregational Church minister with deep roots in Old Saybrook, Connecticut. His mother graduated from Vassar and taught mathematics. Dr. Chapman graduated from Yale University, as did his two brothers, Rob and Ned, and he received his M.D. from Northwestern University in 1959.

Following his internship at Highland Hospital in Alameda County, California, he took his residency training in psychiatry at the Menninger School of Psychiatry. Dr. Chapman served as a Captain in the U.S. Army at Fort Sill where he developed a program of group mental health consultation that was used as a model for the delivery of mental health services to U.S. forces in Vietnam.

He moved to the Bay Area in 1966 with his young family and established a private practice, helping to found one of the first approved psychiatry training programs within a community mental health center. The center was an early model for the national community mental health center movement. He later became a clinical professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Stanford University.

He served as President of the San Francisco Psychoanalytic Institute, and later as Dean of Faculty of the Pacific Graduate School of Psychology, now known as Palo Alto University. He was known by many for his soft spoken manner, his enthusiastic laugh, and more than anything else his ability to inspire and encourage those around him to pursue their dreams, hopes and aspirations.

He leaves his loving daughter, Karen, who cared for him daily with great devotion for the last several years of his life, and his dear son Eric (Sarah) Chapman; his grandchildren, Ryan, Katie and Jack; his brother, Robert, and sister-in-law, Virginia; his nieces, Lucia and Sarah (Barry); his nephew, Robert (Laurie); as well as his devoted caregivers, Mercedes, Mildred, Marcia and Ricky.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our condolences to Dr. Chapman's family, and honoring this great and good man who gave so much of himself in service to his country and his community. He will be missed by all who had the good fortune to know him, and I count myself privileged to be among that special group.

HONORING FRANKIE BERGER

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my team is second to none in providing the best assistance to all in our District. My Washington, DC office is also tasked with researching, processing, analyzing, and making recommendations on an infinite number of reports, policies, and legislation. I could not ask for a more talented or dedicated team, and I take great pride in the work that each staff member has done not only on my behalf, but also on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina and the United States.

My team has shown a strong sense of dedication to meeting the needs of our constituency. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Frankie Berger joined my Washington, DC office in 2009. She performed each of her

roles with a dedication to success and was instrumental in making sure that constituents who wrote to me with issues or concerns understood that we valued their input by helping me to provide a timely and thorough response to all. Frankie also had a great reputation in the District for always looking out for constituent job opportunities in Western North Carolina. No matter the day, one thing I could always count on was Frankie's cheerful disposition and optimistic outlook on life.

Frankie should be proud of the service she has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with her and as I retire from office I wish her the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of her efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Frankie and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Frankie Berger for her hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

KOREAN WAR SOLDIER REMAINS RETURNED HOME TO UPSTATE NEW YORK

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a Korean War soldier whose remains were returned home to Seneca Falls in New York's Finger Lakes Region.

Army Cpl. Elmer Kidd was 26 years old when he died in 1950 at the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea.

Cpl. Kidd's 80-year-old sister welcomed home her brother's remains at Hancock Airport in Syracuse, New York last week for a funeral and military burial at Sampson Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Romulus. We are thankful that his remains are home and we maintain hope that all of our soldiers who die in war are also returned home to their final resting place.

We owe a world of gratitude to the men and women who have stepped forward and offered themselves for our nation. From Lexington and Concord to the present day, hundreds of thousands of men and women died in the defense of human rights both here and in foreign lands. We are here today in an open society because of brave individuals like Cpl. Kidd. He represents the best of the Finger Lakes and of the United States. He paid the highest price so that the idea of freedom for all people will continue to move forward.

May we humbly honor and remember Elmer Kidd's sacrifice for our nation.

TRIBUTE TO RONALD HAMOWY

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask unanimous consent to enter "Ronald Hamowy, R.I.P." by Stephen Cox of Liberty Unbound into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The piece pays tribute to Ronald Hamowy, one of the libertarian movement's most gifted scholars, who passed away on September 8 of this year.

As a student in New York, Ronald Hamowy attended the seminar of the great Austrian economist Ludwig Von Mises. While attending the Mises seminar, Hamowy become friends with a group of other young libertarian scholars. These young scholars banded together in the "Circle Bastiat," named after the great 19th century French free-market economist. The Circle Bastiat served as a combination intellectual support group and social club for the handful of libertarian scholars studying, working, and living in New York City in the late forties and fifties. Members of the Circle Bastiat, whose leader was Mises' heir and founder of the modern libertarian movement Murray Rothbard, would go on to play key roles in developing and popularizing the ideas of liberty.

In the 1960s, Hamowy studied under future Nobel Laureate F.A. Hayek at the University of Chicago's School of Social Thought. While at Chicago, Hamowy was one of the founders and editors of the New Individualist Review. This publication, which lasted from 1961–1968, featured contributions from almost every leading libertarian and conservative thinker of the time.

In addition to helping edit the publication, Ronald Hamowy wrote several significant pieces for New Individualist Review. Of particular relevance to today is Hamowy's article on how conservative's support for a militaristic foreign policy was causing them to abandon their commitment to limited, constitutional government and individual liberty. I believe history has shown that Hamowy was correct to warn conservatives that allowing claims of "national security" to justify enormous intrusions into our economic and personal lives, would inevitably lead conservatives to abandon all pretense of supporting limited government.

Hamowy was a lonely voice in the sixties. At that time most professed believers in free-markets supported an interventionist foreign policy, while most professed supporters of peace supported the welfare-regulatory state. In fact, the majority of support for the view that one should oppose both the warfare and the welfare state came from members of the Circle Bastiat and those influenced by their writings. Fortunately, a new generation of conservative activists has rediscovered the truths kept alive by thinkers like Hamowy and his Circle Bastiat colleagues regarding the link between free-markets, limited government, and a non-interventionist foreign policy.

From 1969 to 1998, Ronald Hamowy was a professor of intellectual history at the University of Alberta. During this time, he was also associated with a number of free-market institutions, including the Ludwig Von Mises Institute, the CATO Institute, and the Independent Institute. During the early eighties, Ronald Hamowy edited CATO's magazine Inquiry and more recently he served as distinguished fellow of social thought at CATO. He also wrote many articles and monographs for the Frazer Institute, Canada's leading free-market think-tank.

One of Ronald Hamowy's most significant contributions to the liberty movement was his work undermining the intellectual jurisdiction for the nonsensical and disastrous drug wars. Hamowy also produced important work concerned the dangers of allowing government to control health care. His interest, and expertise, in the dangers of government health care should come as no surprise. After all, here was a leading liberation scholar, a student of Mises and Hayek and a close friend of Rothbard's, living with Canadian socialized medicine. Hamowy thus combined his knowledge of Austrian economics and libertarian politician theory with his own observations on the failures of the Canadian system. Those looking for intellectual ammunition in the fight to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and replace it with true free-market health care policies certainly can benefit from reading Haymow's work on the subject, such as his 2007 book Government and Public Health in America and his 1984 book Canadian Medicine: a Study in Restricted Entry.

Ronald Hamowy will be missed by his many friends in the liberty movement. Fortunately, he leaves behind a substantial body of work promoting the ideas of liberty that can benefit future scholars and activists interested in advancing liberty.

[From Liberty, Sept. 9, 2012]

RONALD HAMOWY, R.I.P.

(By Stephen Cox)

Ronald Hamowy, who honored Liberty by becoming one of its Contributing Editors, died at 11:30 a.m. on September 8, in a hospital in Baltimore. The final cause of death was sepsis. Ronald had suffered for years from heart and kidney problems, and he had been hospitalized for several months.

He was one of the libertarian movement's most important and vital scholars. An historian of the 18th century, he was known for his impeccable standards of research and writing. To discerning researchers of the Enlightenment—left, right, or center—his word was law. If there was a scholarly myth or illusion, he was the one who was trusted to puncture it. He was the person who meticulously set things straight. Many times, when I have mentioned his name in an academic conversation, the reply has been, "Ronald Hamowy! You know him?!"

For libertarians, Ronald will always be recognized as a bright star of the post-World War II generation—but unlike many other grand old men of this or that era, he never became a Grand Old Man. He retained to the end his youthful joy and sense of first discovery. To him, any new fact—or any old movie, viewed on his constant friend, Turner Classics—was a pleasure to be greeted as if it were the first one in the universe. Even when ensconced as chairman of an august intellectual conference, Ronald let his eyes sparkle and his mouth crinkle with laughter, and with some little Count Basie-like verbal gesture he set the whole house laughing with his infectious wit.

Ronald was born in 1937, in Shanghai, China, the scion of a cosmopolitan Jewish family. His father was born in Syria; his beautiful and beloved mother in Egypt. He grew up in New York, where he supported himself with a number of jobs (one of them was running the streets, selling pop records). During his graduate work at the University of Chicago, he co-edited (with Ralph Raico) the New Individualist Review, a lively, beautifully produced libertarian intellectual journal. If you read it today, you will be sure to enjoy every word of it. Liberty—this journal—was consciously modeled on the American Mercury and the New Individualist Review.

The most important thing was Ronald's ability to distinguish pseudo-individualism from the real thing. Nothing could be too real for him.

Ronald's advisor at Chicago was Fredrich Hayek, but Hayek contributed little to Ronald's studies. Hayek was above it all. Ronald

was on his own, as students of Great Academics always are. His first dissertation topic required him to do research at the Bibliothèque National in Paris, where he found the research conditions impossible. Migrating to Oxford, which had resources adequate to another topic in which he was interested, he needed the sponsorship of some Oxford academic, to get permission to exploit the library. He approached Sir Isaiah Berlin, who rebuffed him. Berlin was ''taking no more students.''

Ronald, who was only half as tall as other people, looked up at the great Sir Isaiah. ''Listen,'' he said. ''I'm very smart. I'm very hard-working. And I'm funny.'' All that was true. Sir Isaiah looked down at the small student in front of him, laughed, and said, ''All right.''

Ronald was hard to resist. And he knew it. But he was one of the funniest people I've ever known. If Ronald couldn't make you laugh, you really weren't worth the effort. And his wit was always . . . intellectually understood. No vulgarity. No easy laughs. Nothing but fun. But not coy, either.

One person who resisted Ronald was Ayn Rand. As one of the young libertarians (Ronald's friend Murray Rothbard was another) who were invited to her apartment for intellectual discussions, he was cast into oblivion after a difference of opinion about . . . Rachmaninoff. Guests were asked to say who their favorite composers were, and when Rand's turn came, she said ''Rachmaninoff,'' with specific reference to his second piano concerto. ''Why?'' Ronald asked. ''Because he was the most rational,'' Rand responded. At which Ronald laughed, thinking it must be a joke. He knew that the composer had dedicated that concerto to his psychiatrist—and anyway, rationality had nothing to do with its greatness. But Ronald's laughter resulted in exile, and the loss of friends who were dear to him.

Ronald was a professor in the Department of History at the University of Alberta from 1969 until his retirement in 1998, at which time he immediately moved back to the United States. He detested conformist cultures, and he regarded both his department and, it is fair to say, Canada itself as epitomes of conformism. I once asked him what was wrong with Canada, and he said, ''I'll tell you. If you walk into a store in Canada, and you find a customer having a dispute with a sales clerk, 90% of the other customers will immediately side with the clerk. That person is regarded as an official, and therefore the one to obey.'' He attributed this defect of Canadian culture in large part to the migration to Canada of people opposed to the American Revolution. They set the tone.

Ronald himself was always a revolutionary. He was outraged by any offense to individualism, so much so that he engaged in a ferocious online conflict with other gay libertarians, who regarded the move Braveheart as a tribute to the heroic individual. Ronald pointed out that the move was historically ridiculous and anti-homosexual to boot. He argued, convincingly, that works of art really do need to be judged by their fidelity to historical truth, whenever they recommend themselves as historically true. But the most important thing was Ronald's ability to distinguish pseudo-individualism from the real thing. Nothing could be too real for him. One day, when he and I were discussing various versions of libertarian thought, I asked him where he stood, and he replied (knowing I would not sympathize entirely), ''Basically, I agree with Murray''—meaning with Murray Rothbard's very radical libertarianism.

I believe that the antiwar strain of libertarian thought was important for Ronald. I remember accompanying him, when he visited San Diego, to the Adams Avenue (used) Bookstore (where else would you entertain Ronald Hamowy?). While browsing the stacks, I heard a voice muttering curses, somewhere else in the establishment. I found Ronald in a side room, seated amid stacks of books he was examining, and holding a copy of Barbara Tuchman's The Guns of August in his hand. Tuchman justified British intervention in World War I. ''Damned British crap,'' Ronald exclaimed, putting the book down as if he were giving long-overdue punishment to a whole school of thought. Which he was.

His life demonstrated that we libertarians are right: the individual, complex and whole, is the mysterious and unending source of all that is vital in our world.

Ronald's works include The Scottish Enlightenment and the Theory of Spontaneous Order (University of Southern Illinois Press, 1987), Canadian Medicine: A Study in Restricted Entry (Fraser Institute, 1984), Dealing with Drugs: Consequences of Government Control (edited, Lexington Books, 1987), Government and Public Health in America (Edward Elgar, 2007), The Encyclopedia of Libertarianism (edited, Sage Publications, 2008), and many articles, including one that was especially valuable for Liberty, on the intellectual argument about the American Revolution (Liberty, July 2008, pp. 37–42).

After his retirement, Ronald and his companion Clement Ho moved into a pretty, three-story house in the Washington suburb of Rockville, MD. There Ronald completed his magisterial edition of Hayek's The Constitution of Liberty (University of Chicago Press, 2011), which straightens out a great deal that Hayek left, shall we say, unstraightened. Ronald was already in poor health, requiring the use of a cane and, eventually, one of those personal elevators that take you from the first floor of your house to another floor. He had countless near-death experiences—frequently being rushed to the hospital, with only a half hour available to save his life. Yet he bravely undertook a long journey to Greece and Italy, which he enjoyed, and he lived with equivalent bravery from day to day. To see Ronald sitting at his desk, surrounded with computer wires, like a snake-charmer among his clients, watching his computer with one eye and Cary Grant (Turner Classics, again) with the other, was to imagine a cultural world that was, for once, under intelligent control.

Ronald was a combination of supposed opposites. He was a fiery combatant, yet a generous and lenient friend. He was sensitive and nostalgic, often to the point of tears, yet an unflinching judge of the written word. He struggled, year after year, against the uncountable illnesses that racked his body; yet he was always as valiant as a soldier undertaking his first combat mission. But there was no contradiction. His life demonstrated that we libertarians are right: the individual, complex and whole, is the mysterious and unending source of all that is vital in our world.

Ronald is survived by his friend Clement Ho, who was with him every step of the way. Anyone wishing to contact him is invited to do so, at cho@american.edu.

HONORING JED BHUTA

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my team is second to none in providing the best assistance to all in our District. My Washington, DC office is also tasked with researching, processing, analyzing, and making recommendations on an infinite number of reports, policies, and legislation. I could not ask for a more talented or dedicated team, and I take great pride in the work that each staff member has done not only on my behalf, but also on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina and the United States.

My team has shown a strong sense of dedication to meeting the needs of our constituency. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Jed Bhuta joined our Washington, DC team as Legislative Director in 2009. Jed helped to shape my legislative agenda and managed the responsibilities associated with my role as Co-Chair of the Blue Dog Coalition. During Jed's tenure in the office, Congress considered several comprehensive and controversial pieces of legislation. Jed was a valued advisor as we navigated our way through the details of deeply complicated issues. Jed also demonstrated great leadership in the way he helped mentor the rest of the legislative staff, who both respected and trusted his guidance.

Jed should be proud of the service he has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with him and as I retire from office I wish him the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of his efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Jed and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Jed Bhuta for his hard work on behalf of all of western North Carolina and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE OPENING OF THE SUPERMAN EXHIBIT IN CLEVELAND HOPKINS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the opening of a new Superman exhibit in Cleveland Hopkins International Airport.

The history of Superman dates back to the 1930s when it was created by Glenville, Ohio natives, Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster. The Superman exhibit will be a permanent display located in Cleveland Hopkins International Airport's baggage claim area. The exhibit will be highlighted by a Superman statue and the words ''Welcome to Cleveland—Where the Legend Began'' and ''Superman, World's Greatest Super Hero.'' The display was created by the Siegel & Shuster Society and designed by Studio Graphique.

The Siegel & Shuster Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to commemorating and celebrating the creation of Superman in Cleveland, Ohio by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster.

The Society creates events and activities which celebrate Cleveland as the ''Birthplace of Superman'' and the importance of Superman to the community.

The dedication ceremony of the exhibit will be celebrated on October 11, 2012 and will feature a speech by the daughter of Superman co-creator Jerry Siegel, Laura Siegel. Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson, Airport Director Ricky Smith and other relatives of Siegel and Shuster will also speak. Additionally, Sean Jones from the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra will be performing.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the opening of the Superman Exhibit in Cleveland Hopkins International Airport.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS FOR ''CARCINOGEN-FREE LABEL ACT''

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, exposure to cancer-causing agents increases every American's risk of cancer, and they are found in everyday products and in the environment.

Since only 5 percent of cancer is caused by genetic factors, people can reduce their risk of getting cancer by the other 95 percent of causes by reducing their exposure to carcinogens.

We all know that we can reduce our risk of getting cancer by wearing sunscreen, quitting smoking, and steering clear of asbestos. But what about everyday products? Which makeup has carcinogens? Which pesticides? Which air fresheners, carpet cleaners, flea collars, and yes, food items, increase your family's risk of cancer? Which baby shampoos?

The reality is consumers do not know. Even if our constituents memorized the list of known and probable carcinogens, many substances in consumer products remain hidden. Words like ''fragrance'' and ''artificial flavoring'' are used in place of specific ingredients to protect companies' trade secrets, and they should. But there is no denying that this protection makes it harder for consumers to make fully informed choices.

And even if known carcinogens were not part of a product's ingredient list, certain manufacturing or storage practices can result in the introduction of carcinogens into a product, which then can pass into your body.

Today, along with my distinguished colleague, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK), I am introducing legislation called the ''Carcinogen-Free Label Act.'' Under this bipartisan bill, manufacturers who would like to market their products as being completely free of all known carcinogens would be allowed to seek a ''carcinogen-free'' label. By submitting a confidential application to be evaluated by the agency that regulates its specific product, a manufacturer could provide consumers assurance that the product is free of known carcinogens without having to divulge valuable trade secrets. The voluntary application would protect manufacturers' hard-earned intellectual property and could not be used by any agency of government for any reason other than determining the product's ''carcinogen-free'' status.

The application would simply include a full list of substances and a demonstrated adherence to best carcinogen-avoidance practices in manufacture, storage, and transportation. In addition, this program would not mandate any new bureaucracy to evaluate carcinogens; it simply creates a process for agencies to compare ingredients lists against existing government lists of known and probable carcinogens.

Unlike other well-intentioned efforts to get carcinogens out of consumer products, this legislation would not rely on mandates or bans. If a manufacturer does not choose to apply, there is no penalty. The labeling program is 100 percent voluntary. It would simply harness the power of the free market, enabling consumers to choose safer products for themselves and their families.

I urge my colleagues to pass this market-driven legislation and give consumers and families across America the power to opt-out of cancer-causing substances in everyday products.

HONORING BRANDI LOWELL

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my team is second to none in providing the best assistance to all in our District. My Washington, D.C. office is also tasked with researching, processing, analyzing, and making recommendations on an infinite number of reports, policies, and legislation. I could not ask for a more talented or dedicated team, and I take great pride in the work that each staff member has done not only on my behalf, but also on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina and the United States.

My team has shown a strong sense of dedication to meeting the needs of our constituency. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship they have shown me during my six years of service in the Congress.

Brandi Lowell has been an invaluable asset to my office since joining our team in 2011. Brandi quickly became one of my closest and most trusted advisors in her capacities as Legislative Director and later as Chief of Staff. Her extensive policy knowledge, keen political instincts, professionalism and commitment to excellence are unrivaled.

As Chief of Staff, Brandi has done an outstanding job leading, managing, and motivating our office team. Brandi has been the driving force behind many of my major legislative achievements in the 112th Congress. She has been a key player in bipartisan, bicameral deficit reduction efforts throughout her time in my office and played a major part in the success of the ''Go Big'' Coalition. Brandi is regarded as one of the sharpest and most capable, most loyal legislative staff members on Capitol Hill, and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work alongside her and blessed to call her a friend.

Brandi should be proud of the service she has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with Brandi and as I retire from office I wish her the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of her efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Brandi and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Brandi Lowell for her hard work on behalf of all of western North Carolina and the United States and to wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF GARY PATRICK FAZZINO

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my dear friend and colleague, Gary Fazzino. He was born on June 15, 1952, and died on October 30, 2012, at his Palo Alto home following a 2½-year battle with multiple myeloma.

Gary Fazzino was a genuinely kind man. He was learned, curious, inquisitive, fun loving and serious. In all my years of knowing him, I never heard him say an unkind word about anyone. He was multi-faceted and represented many good things to so many people. First and foremost, Gary was a loving husband and devoted father. He came late to the calling of parenthood, often joking that he did things backward, becoming a city councilmember at the age of 24 and a father at 56. Late or not, he adored his children and loved being a father. In the short time he had with his twins, Julia and Matthew, he imparted his deep love for them, his love for life, and his love of learning. He adored his beautiful wife Annette, and the glow of strength that she emits comes in part from knowing how well and fully she was loved by Gary.

In addition to his family, the list of Gary's passions is a long one, but the first of these is the city his parents brought him to when he was a freshman in high school. Sal and Dolores Fazzino packed three children into the family station wagon and drove from Connecticut to California, with no job waiting, in search of a better life for all of them. They found it, and Gary found a community that he was proud of and loved deeply all the days of his life.

Gary was a graduate of Palo Alto High School, and received his undergraduate degree with a major in Theology from Stanford University. He received a master's degree in public policy from Occidental College and earned an MBA degree from the University of Washington.

Gary Fazzino was Palo Alto's unofficial historian, knowing more about the city and its history than anyone else. In fact, he was working on a history of the city at the time of his death. He became one of the youngest elected leaders in Palo Alto history when he joined the City Council in 1977 at the age of 24, and served on the Council from 1977 to 1983, and from 1989 to 2001, and as Mayor in 1992 and 1999.

Gary was also an ardent sports fan. He knew statistics for soccer teams on many continents, often making friends through his

knowledge. He loved to run, ride bicycles, and travel, particularly to his beloved Italy. He loved people and maintained many friendships over many years and great distances.

Gary had many and diverse interests, enough to occupy an average man's every waking hour, but Gary was not an average man. He worked for almost three decades at Hewlett Packard, rising to the top position of Vice President of Government Affairs, and moved on to lead as Vice President of Applied Materials. The offices he held at these major companies paint a picture of his business success, and are very much a part of his Silicon Valley story. Gary was a leader in the Valley whose opinion was sought and whose ideas and creativity were always valued. He knew that technology and innovation were key to changing the world for the better, and founded TechNet to be the voice of the innovation economy in Washington, D.C. He was recognized by all as a voice for the Valley and two years ago was the inspiration for the Information Technology Industry (ITI) Council's Gary P. Fazzino Award for Innovation Excellence.

Dean Garfield, President and CEO of ITI, wrote recently of Gary that "In truth, for the tech sector, there is no better definition of consistent leadership, no better demonstration of exemplary service than the work and the life of Gary Fazzino. A poet once called for men with "strong minds, great hearts, true faith, and ready hands." Gary was one of those men, in a class by himself."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest condolences to Annette, Julia and Matthew Fazzino, as well as the entire Fazzino family. It is fitting for the U.S. House of Representatives to honor the life of this extraordinarily brilliant, kind, honest and capable man who loved his community and his country so deeply. I count among the greatest blessings of my life my friendship with Gary Fazzino.

HONORING GRANT CARLISLE

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my team is second to none in providing the best assistance to all in our District. My Washington, D.C. office is also tasked with researching, processing, analyzing, and making recommendations on an infinite number of reports, policies, and legislation. I could not ask for a more talented or dedicated team, and I take great pride in the work that each staff member has done not only on my behalf, but also on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina and the United States.

My team has shown a strong sense of dedication to meeting the needs of our constituency. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Grant Carlisle has been a part of my Washington, D.C. office since August 2010. From the very beginning, I have been impressed with his work ethic and attention to detail. Grant has proven himself to have a comprehensive understanding of every issue for which he is responsible, as well as the ability to efficiently and effectively communicate details of an issue, both verbally and in writing. Each of Grant's various roles has required expediency and precision, and he has proven himself to be a dedicated member of the staff in every capacity.

Grant should be proud of the service he has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with him and as I retire from office I wish him the very best in the future. western North Carolina is a better place because of his efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Grant and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Grant Carlisle for his hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA CARMICHAEL

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Barbara Carmichael who passed away on October 17, 2012. Barbara was a pillar of the community in Norco, California and she will be deeply missed.

Barbara Carmichael moved to Norco in 1980 and served three terms on the Norco City Council starting in November 1990. She was mayor in 1992 and 1998, and left the council in 2003. In order to be closer to family, she moved to the small town of Manton in Northern California in 2005. During her time there, Barbara became active in local organizations and sat on the Manton Joint Unified School District Board of Trustees last year.

Barbara also was a 4–H leader for 22 years, honorary Future Farmers of America chapter farmer, a Norco Chamber of Commerce Fair Committee member for 10 years, Corona Regional Hospital Foundation Board member, a Riverside City College advisory board member, and was active in many other community groups. According to Norco Mayor Kevin Bash, Barbara was instrumental in securing national historical status for the former Norconian hotel and was involved in the initial planning stages of the Silverlakes equestrian and sports park. The way in which Barbara lived her life should serve as reminder to others that the power of an individual with drive, perseverance and a stellar work ethic can do great things.

Barbara is survived by daughters Bree Zimmerman and Brittney Mailhes, and five grandchildren.

On Sunday, November 18, 2012, a memorial service celebrating Barbara's extraordinary life will be held. Barbara will always be remembered for her contributions to the community, work ethic, generosity, and love of family. Her dedication to her work, family and community are a testament to a life lived well and a legacy that will continue. I extend my condolences to Barbara's family and friends; although Barbara may be gone, the light and goodness she brought to the world remains and will never be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING TOM KAISER FOR HIS COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION TO HIS FELLOW VETERANS

HON. ALLEN B. WEST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. WEST. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to stand today and recognize Tom Kaiser for his selfless devotion to his fellow veterans and brothers in arms.

Mr. Kaiser is a proud member of the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Jewish War Veterans, Korean War Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Sons of the American Legion.

As a member of these veterans organizations, Mr. Kaiser has displayed an unyielding sense of duty in making the sacrifice that our veterans have displayed throughout the years known to south Florida residents.

Mr. Kaiser, as the head of the Boynton Beach Veterans Council, was able to establish the Boynton Beach Veterans Park and oversaw many dedications at the park to veterans of all wars. The park now has 32 monuments and benches to honor the branches of service. Further, Mr. Kaiser has arranged to have local schools visit the park to learn about our history and the many wars it has taken to promote the freedoms that we hold so dear.

He also helped many World War II Veterans obtain the French Medal of Honor. At this time, they have honored at least 300 veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I drive down Federal highway almost daily when I am home in south Florida, and not a day goes by when I do not see the POW/MIA signs along the road. We all have Mr. Kaiser to thank for installing those onto such a busy highway for all to see. We hope that these signs will one day stretch from Key West to the Georgia state line.

As a 22-year active duty retired Army Lieutenant Colonel, I know the sacrifice and sense of duty that all veterans feel. I know that many of our veterans do their job, not for recognition, but for love of country and selfless devotion to their fellow brother in arms.

Mr. Speaker, today, however, Tom Kaiser deserves this recognition for all the hard work he has displayed throughout the years, ensuring that our veterans' sacrifices are never forgotten, and that our future generations may carry the torch that he has helped carry. May Mr. Kaiser always remain steadfast and loyal in these altruistic pursuits.

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN KESTER

HON. KEVIN McCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. McCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my good friend, Kevin Kester, on his retirement as President of the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA). He has been an effective and passionate advocate for ranching and the cattle industry in our

local community, our State of California, and across the United States.

Kevin hails from a long line of ranchers, and his family has been in the business for almost 150 years—running cattle since 1867. A graduate of California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, with a degree in agriculture management, he served in the City of Paso Robles Police Department for several years and later as a San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's deputy. Upon returning to help run his family's Bear Valley Ranch, today he operates the ranch with his wife, June, and their three children, Kayleen, Kody, and Kara, ensuring another generation of Kester leadership in California agriculture.

As President of CCA, Kevin was one of the unique individuals who was able to advocate for issues critical to the ranching and cattle industry, fighting to maintain and promote, as well as educate, policymakers both in Washington and Sacramento on the importance of ranching heritage and how California cattlemen and cattlewomen are proud stewards of the environment. Understanding the link between rangeland conservation, environmental management, and running cattle, he was successful in working with both sides of the aisle on a variety of issues, be it on taxes, trade or regulatory issues important to ranchers.

During his tenure as CCA President, Kevin was also able to better coordinate with and involve all the local and county cattle associations in California to more effectively promote issues of importance to them. Prior to being elected CCA President, he served as the CCA Wildlife Management Committee Chairman and is a past president of the San Luis Obispo County Cattlemen's Association. Kevin is also a past chairman of the California Mid-State Fair Heritage Foundation Board of Directors and the California Mid-State Fair Agriculture Committee, as well as a member of the Shandon Joint Unified School District Board of Trustees.

I always enjoy meeting with Kevin and getting his counsel, whether it be on important policies facing ranchers or for advice on the best cut of steak for dinner. When we meet in San Luis Obispo, he's usually right off Bear Valley in his ranching uniform. When in Washington, he may put on a coat and tie, but true to his ranching heritage, I can always spot him amongst all the dark suits in the hallways of the Capitol in his cowboy hat, cowboy boots and belt buckle.

Kevin's dedication to ranching and our community continue to be exemplified through his commitment to service, and while he may be leaving CCA's top post, I look forward to working with him on issues of importance to agriculture in our community, California, and across the country.

HONORING JACK McCARTHY

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor several of the volunteers who have served in my district office over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide excellent constituent services and these volunteers have assisted my staff in providing the exceptional assistance so many have come to expect in our district. I take great pride in the work that each one has done on my behalf and on behalf of everyone in the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina.

These volunteers have always treated our constituents with the utmost respect and made sure their needs were met in a timely fashion. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Jack McCarthy played a valuable role as a volunteer from the very beginning of my time in Congress. I could always count on Jack to make sure visitors to our District office felt genuinely respected and listened to. Jack's calming voice and demeanor provided confidence to the countless constituents who called in need of critical assistance. Jack's friendship and support over these past six years have been invaluable, and I will take with me his many wise and uplifting affirmations.

Jack should be proud of the service he has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with Jack and as I retire from office I wish him the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of his efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Jack McCarthy for his hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL CLARENCE E. ''BUD'' ANDERSON (USAF, RET.)

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, we are met here today on several items of important business.

First, we are here to dedicate Col. Bud Anderson Way as a permanent and daily reminder to all of us how honored our community is to be the home of Bud Anderson.

But more importantly, we name this street after Bud Anderson as a lesson to succeeding generations in matters of courage and sacrifice and duty and patriotism, in the hope and expectation that these generations will find inspiration and instruction in Col. Anderson's life story.

He grew up in the little California town of Newcastle, in the 1920's and 30's—an age and a place where uniquely American values of individual responsibility, self-reliance, love of liberty, sense of duty, and love of country were very real, very strong, and inculcated into the very souls of America's greatest generation.

When our nation, and all that it stood for, came under attack by foreign tyrants, that Greatest Generation knew instantly what was at stake and could see clearly what had to be done.

President Roosevelt sounded the clarion call with these words: ''No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people, in their righteous might, will win through to absolute victory.''

The whole might and fury of the nation was committed to the cause, and from little towns like Newcastle, courageous young men like Bud Anderson stepped forward—indeed, rushed forward—to defend not only our country, but what Lincoln had called the last best hope of mankind.

Today, it is hard to imagine a time when an attack on our country was met with the complete and total resolve of the entire nation—where every citizen set aside their daily lives and indeed devoted themselves to, ''absolute victory.'' Because people like Bud Anderson did just that, 3½ years later, the enemies of our nation had been utterly vanquished.

Bud Anderson shot down more than 16 German fighters in 116 combat missions. But what he really did was far more important. At great personal risk, he saved countless American bomber crews, making it possible to deliver justice to what Churchill called the ''foulest and most soul-destroying tyranny in the history of the human race,'' and ultimately to fulfill the Liberty Bell's proud mandate from Leviticus: ''to proclaim liberty throughout all the land and unto all the inhabitants thereof.''

That's why we're really here. Not just to honor Bud Anderson. Lincoln was right that there's no way that we can add or detract from the honor that his deeds already earned him.

We're really here because we want to know that in this nation there once existed an American spirit that compelled us to recognize moral imperatives, to destroy absolute evil with absolute victory, and to celebrate American exceptionalism without reservation or hesitation.

We have in Bud Anderson a great example of these virtues, a great reminder that they are real, and a great teacher from whom we can recover these virtues in a world that is once again piled high with difficulties at home and abroad.

That's why we're naming this road in his honor—because we are desperately searching for the qualities that defined his deeds and his times and we have found in him a guide back to America's greatness.

Every person who travels this road, and who reflects on the story of Bud Anderson and his times, who learns that story and learns it well, will know that it is a road that can take us to better and brighter days ahead.

HONORING MIKE LUKSO

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my team is second to none in providing the best assistance to all in our District. My Washington, D.C. office is also tasked with researching, processing, analyzing, and making recommendations on an infinite number of reports, policies, and legislation. I could not ask for a more talented or dedicated team, and I take great pride in the work that each staff member has done not only on my behalf, but

also on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina and the United States.

My team has shown a strong sense of dedication to meeting the needs of our constituency. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Mike Lukso has served as a member of my Washington, D.C. staff since April of this year. In his first role, Mike coordinated and managed our constituent mail system in addition to handling a full portfolio of legislative issues. To perform these two jobs simultaneously is no small task, but Mike succeeded handily at both. Mike was quickly promoted to Legislative Assistant where he continued to prove his strengths, including the ability to rapidly research and synthesize broad sources of information while at the same time successfully repackaging complicated information into more understandable parts, the latter a critical skill to effectively communicate policy to our various constituent groups. Further marking Mike as a staff member valued by all is his sharp sense of humor and dedication to teamwork.

Mike should be proud of the service he has provided to our District and county. It has been an honor to serve with him and as I retire from office I wish him the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of his efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Mike and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Mike Lukso for his hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

SUPPORT FOR SUSAN RICE

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to declare that I stand with Susan Rice.

Just as I stood in line, and my constituents stood in line, for hours on Election Day to vote, I stand here today.

But only stronger.

Just as we stood for and with President Obama on November 6th, we stand with him today as he stands up for Susan Rice our young, gifted Ambassador.

We must continue to stand for what is right in this nation Mr. Speaker, and that is what I have come here to do.

Susan Rice deserves respect, not the questioning of her integrity.

I applaud President Obama for standing for what is right and what is just.

I applaud President Obama for standing in support of Ambassador Rice.

We all need to continue to stand for truth. We need to stand for transparency.

We do not need to impugn our officials over rumors, dangerous hearsay, or conspiracy theories.

We must not allow the post of Ms. Rice to be politicized as it has been, Mr. Speaker.

We must not allow Susan Rice to be a fall guy for the failed election bid of Mitt Romney and his Republican cronies.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I regretfully missed recorded votes earlier this week. If I had been here, I would have voted ''yea'' on rollcall No. 604; ''yea'' on rollcall No. 605; ''yea'' on rollcall No. 606; and ''yea'' on rollcall No. 607.

HONORING THE SANDERSON LODGE #22 FOR ITS DEDICATION TO SERVICING THE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Sanderson Masonic Lodge #22, which has been a staple of the Copiah County community for over 30 years.

Built in 1979 in Crystal Springs, Mississippi, the lodge has maintained a rich history of strong leadership and commitment to extending a helping hand to all those who need assistance in the community. Sanderson Lodge has been recognized as one of the best in the State of Mississippi. For years, this lodge has steadily recruited some of the best and brightest members of the community. They have worked effortlessly to ensure that the lives of the residents would get better.

The Sanderson Masonic Lodge #22 continues to convey a message of hard work and service, always extending a helping hand to those in need.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Sanderson Lodge #22 for its dedication to serving others and giving back to the community.

HONORING DIANA McCARTHY

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor several of the volunteers who have served in my district office over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide excellent constituent services and these volunteers have assisted my staff in providing the exceptional assistance so many have come to expect in our District. I take great pride in the work that each one has done on my behalf and on behalf of everyone in the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina.

These volunteers have always treated our constituents with the utmost respect and always made sure their needs were met in a timely fashion. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Diana McCarthy played a valuable role as a volunteer when I first took office. Diana provided valuable assistance to individuals who were struggling with cases before the Internal Revenue Service. Diana's ability to look at complex circumstances and provide wisdom and knowledge enabled constituents to feel confident that their voices were being heard and issues were being resolved.

Diana should be proud of the service she has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with Diana and as I retire from office I wish her the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of her efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Diana McCarthy for her hard work on behalf of all of western North Carolina and to wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 65 million Americans who spend on average 20 hours per week selflessly caring for family members or friends who, through age, disability, or illness, have lost the ability to care for themselves.

For most of us, the act of caring for those in need is a basic aspect of what it means to be human. Compassion, either through charitable giving or community service, is inseparable from American ideals of human rights for every member of our society. Whenever we treat those around us as we want to be treated, we contribute to a culture of responsibility and respect for life that leads us to do great things in the name of humanity.

Two weeks ago, President Barack Obama proclaimed November 2012 as National Family Caregivers Month. Anyone who spends time caring for a loved one in need is considered a family caregiver. Let us use this occasion to honor these everyday heroes and raise awareness of the profound contributions they make to society.

Family caregivers save taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars each year through their efforts.

According to studies compiled by the National Family Caregivers Association, the value of the unpaid services provided each year is estimated to be $375 billion, which is almost twice as much as the $158 billion spent in 2009 on homecare and nursing home services combined.

In my home state of California alone there were 3,419,481 family caregivers in 2004 providing over $36 billion worth of care. Though they are mostly untrained, family caregivers now provide about 80% of all long-term care in the United States.

Imagine if taxpayers had to foot the full bill. Now, more than ever, family caregivers are essential to providing the best services and deserve the support of government and the medical community.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Census projects a massive growth in the number of Americans 65 and older as the baby-boomer generation ages. Populations in this age bracket will double in 23 states by 2030.

As medical progress means longer lives, families struggle to provide long-term family care than they did in past decades. Families are smaller and more spread out, and many family caregivers must juggle work and raising children in addition to their caregiving responsibilities. Family caregivers may need to operate complex medical equipment or practice delicate procedures without any formal training.

The ''graying of America'' will have a tremendous impact on families providing care for their older members.

Many public health officials are concerned that we may not be ready to assume the roles of family caregivers. Studies suggest that many Americans have not spent much time thinking about or preparing for long-term care. People who have no experience as a family caregiver may have extreme difficulty in approaching such a responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, the fact is that most of us will find ourselves in a similar situation, either giving or requiring long term care at various points in our lives.

Family caregivers often put themselves second as they balance competing commitments to their jobs, families, and communities. Tragically, more than 1 in 10 family caregivers report that their physical health has deteriorated as a result of extreme stress.

Family caregivers experiencing extreme stress have been shown to age prematurely. This level of stress can take as much as 10 years off a family caregiver's life.

Mr. Speaker, 40 to 70 percent of family caregivers have clinically significant symptoms of depression with approximately a quarter to half of these caregivers meet the diagnostic criteria for major depression.

We must also remember that many disabled veterans are supported by family caregivers. Having given so much for their country, I believe that they and their family members should not have to struggle to live out a full, dignified life.

Therefore, we should do everything possible to support family caregivers and lighten their burdens.

It begins with encouraging people to take adequate steps to prepare for their future care. This means setting aside funds to cover unforeseen medical expenses, signing a living will, and making preparations with family and friends. Health professionals must be sensitive to the needs of family caregivers and enlist them in formulating a patient's long-term care plan.

We also need to make sure that family caregivers have access to information and resources that can help them meet their responsibilities with minimal strain and unnecessary cost.

Finally, we must ensure that the concerns of family caregivers are reflected in all major healthcare legislation.

We are all family caregivers, Mr. Speaker. I urge my colleagues to work together to support human dignity and the American family.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF STOCKTON GURDWARA

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, this is the story of a small group of families who long ago crossed a great ocean in search of religious tolerance and economic liberty; a land where people were free to enjoy the fruit of their own labor, to raise their children according to their own values, to practice their religious beliefs openly, to express their opinions without fear of retribution, to live their lives according to their own best judgment, and not according to the whims and mandates of the powerful.

That is the story of the pilgrims who crossed the Atlantic Ocean on the Mayflower in 1620 seeking a better future in a free land for their descendants. It is the very same story of pilgrims like Baba Vasakha Singh and Baba Jawala Singh Thathian who founded the Stockton Gurdwara Sahib a century ago, and all those who have followed since.

One hundred and fifty years ago, Abraham Lincoln said that although many people who were then in America could trace their families back to the American founding, many more had come since then, and could not. But, he said, ''when they look through that old Declaration of Independence they find that those old men say that 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal,' and then they feel that that moral sentiment taught in that day evidences their relation to those men, that it is the father of all moral principle in them, and that they have a right to claim it as though they were blood of the blood, and flesh of the flesh of the men who wrote that Declaration, and so they are.''

There is no religion more attuned to the principles of the American Declaration of Independence than the Sikh religion.

Both reject the idea of aristocracy and social class and instead judge every individual on his or her own merit and character.

Both embrace the unique notion that we are born with equal claim to unalienable rights that come directly from the ''laws of nature and of nature's God,'' and not from government—rather, we create governments to protect these God-given rights and that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these rights, it renounces its legitimacy.

And both have inspired and animated the aspirations of those around the world seeking to reclaim, protect and enjoy these God-given rights.

Individual liberty, personal responsibility, Constitutionally limited government—these are fundamental both to the Sikh Religion and to the American Founding.

Today, we celebrate not only a century of Sikh immigration and integration into America, together, we celebrate the immortal inscription on the American Liberty Bell, to ''Proclaim Liberty Throughout ALL the Land, and Unto ALL the INHABITANTS Thereof.''

HONORING PAUL FORD

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor several of the volunteers who have served in my District office over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and these volunteers have assisted my staff in providing the excellent assistance so many have come to expect in our District. I take great pride in the work that each one has done on my behalf and on behalf of everyone in the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina.

These volunteers have always treated our constituents with the utmost respect and always made sure their needs were met in a timely fashion. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Paul Ford has played a valuable role as a volunteer from the very beginning of my time in Congress. Paul's background as an attorney was especially beneficial in assisting constituents in resolving issues with the Office of Personnel Management. Paul was able to guide constituents through the often difficult and bureaucratic process required to resolve their disputes the agency. Many throughout western North Carolina are grateful for Paul's assistance.

Paul should be proud of the service he has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with him and as I retire from office I wish him the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of his efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Paul and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Paul Ford for his hard work on behalf of all of western North Carolina and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. JOHN NEPOMUCENE PARISH IN CLEVELAND, OHIO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of St. John Nepomucene Parish of Cleveland, as they celebrate 110 years of worship and service. St. John Nepomucene is one of only two Czech congregations left in the Cleveland Catholic Diocese.

In 1898, 200 Catholic Americans of Czech heritage met at the East 52nd Street home of Frank Stepanik. The gathering, organized by John Jira and Charles Vana, sparked the beginnings of a new parish. In 1902, St. John Nepomucene Parish was established. Parish members were also focused on the welfare of their children. To preserve the culture, history and language of their Eastern European

homeland for their children, members organized again to establish a school. In 1903, St. John Nepomucene School was established, with an enrollment of 300 students.

As immigrants navigated their way through the difficult transition toward assimilation in America, St. John Nepomucene served as a haven of security, faith, support and assistance. As immigrants embraced the freedoms and ideals of their new nation, St. John Nepomucene served as a bridge between two worlds—connecting Fleet Avenue to their homeland across the ocean.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor, recognition and celebration of the generations of spiritual leaders and parishioners who founded, supported and sustained St. John Nepomucene Church for 110 years. The leaders and members of St. John Nepomucene Parish, past and present, continue their tradition of providing faith and hope to individuals and families throughout Slavic Village.

HUDSON RIVER SCHOOL OF PAINTING

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the Hudson River School of Painting. The Hudson River School is the first American art movement. Begun in the early 1800s, the movement comprised three themes of American life at the time—discovery, exploration, and settlement. The style originally focused on landscape paintings of the Hudson River Valley and surrounding areas, before expanding to the nearby Catskill, Adirondack, and White Mountain ranges, eventually including locales far outside this narrow slice of upstate New York.

One of the Hudson River School's leading painters, Sanford Robinson Gifford, served in the New York State National Guard's Seventh Regiment during the Civil War. Mustered into service in defense of the Union, the Seventh Regiment's stay while in Virginia inspired Gifford to paint several scenes of the enlisted life. One of these paintings, ''Bivouac of the Seventh Regiment, Arlington Heights, Virginia,'' captures a scene at the heart of Virginia's 8th Congressional District.

The legacy of the Hudson River School, however, is much greater than the paintings hanging on museum and gallery walls across the nation. These paintings, depicting historical landscapes across our country, captured the hearts of the American people. The majestic landscapes, seen by millions of Americans, fueled an interest in the conservation movement as the public demanded that many of the sites depicted by the Hudson River School be preserved for future generations. This conservation movement quickly led to the establishment of the first national park in 1872, giving rise to the creation of the National Park Service in 1916. Hundreds of millions of visitors travel, explore, and enjoy these parks every year.

Adding to the legacy of the Hudson River School is New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. This landmark cultural institution was established with the help of artists from the Hudson River School of Painting, including Mr. Gifford. In addition to donating time, funds, and some paintings, these Hudson River School artists served as trustees and committee members.

Mr. Speaker, the impact of the Hudson River School is much greater than simply beautiful paintings of the mountainous river valley in New York. Its legacy can be found in our National Park system, our commitment to conservation and in our museums and cultural institutions enjoyed and appreciated by Americans all over the country.

SUPPORTING OUR CLOSEST ALLY, ISRAEL

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, this week and even today Israel's terrorist enemies massively escalated their rocket attacks on our country's closest ally, Israel—Hamas has fired its rockets at large cities whose population has not been under attack for decades, including Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, the latter of which had never been subject to rocket attack. Sadly, three people have been killed.

Words cannot express the inhumanity and barbarity of these rocket attacks. The number of Israelis who live under daily threat of air attack has increased exponentially: more than a third of Israel's population lives in the Tel Aviv metropolitan area alone, which was last under rocket fire during the first Gulf War.

This is the moment for America to send a clear message: Hamas's rocket attacks are completely and totally unacceptable and unjustified and intolerable, their escalation even more so. The Israeli government has not only the right but the duty to defend its people. I want to recognize and applaud Israel for vigorously doing so, and for taking every reasonable precaution to avoid civilian casualties. I want to remind my colleagues that Hamas's goal is not to avoid civilian casualties, but to initiate conflict that will cause it, so that all the people killed, whether Israeli or Palestinian, are in fact Hamas's victims. Our hearts and prayers go out to their families.

HONORING WHITNEY MITCHELL

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my team is second to none in providing the best assistance to all in our District. My Washington, D.C. office is also tasked with researching, processing, analyzing, and making recommendations on an infinite number of reports, policies, and legislation. I could not ask for a more talented or dedicated team, and I take great pride in the work that each staff member has done not only on my behalf, but also on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina and the United States.

My team has shown a strong sense of dedication to meeting the needs of our constituency. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship they have shown me during my six years of service in the Congress.

Whitney Mitchell has been an invaluable asset to my office since joining our team in February of 2009. Whitney's talents as a skilled and effective communicator were quickly recognized and rewarded with a series of promotions, ultimately achieving Press Secretary and Communications Director status. Few individuals on Capitol Hill have so effortlessly and skillfully developed a political acumen as sharp as Whitney's, or mastered the complexities of political nuance and communication as she has. Marking Whitney's strengths further still, she is also responsible for a broad portfolio of legislative issues for which she has proven her ability to rapidly research and synthesize voluminous amounts of information while also successfully reinterpreting complicated information into clearer, more comprehensible parts, the latter a critical skill to effectively communicate policy to our various constituent groups. In all, Whitney has been a trusted, loyal and exceptional member of my staff.

Whitney should be proud of the service she has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with Whitney and as I retire from office I wish her the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of her efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Whitney and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Whitney Mitchell for her hard work on behalf of all of western North Carolina and the United States and to wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

HONORING THE 120TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK OF MORRIS COUNTY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Morris County, Morristown, New Jersey as they celebrate their 120th Anniversary this year.

The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick is a national network of social organizations of men of Irish ancestry and affinity. Each local organization takes an active role in their community preserving the Irish history and heritage of its members while also participating in acts of charity. The purpose of each local Sons of St. Patrick organization is to provide an opportunity for Irish-Americans to meet in a spirit of comradeship for the common purpose of promoting, cultivating, celebrating and preserving interest in Irish arts, literature, history and culture.

The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Morris County was founded in the spirit of the first truly American St. Patrick's Day celebration

which was held at George Washington's camp at Jockey Hollow, Morristown in 1780. Since that day, the Irish have continued to play an important role in Morris County's social, economic and political fabric.

Originally founded on March 14, 1892, the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Morris County have aimed to create a social group for the large community of Irish-Americans within Morris County while also assisting the county's neediest residents through charitable works. With 300 members today, the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Morris County is open to all men of Irish descent, the group is non-political and non-sectarian.

The Friendly Sons meet monthly to promote faith, heritage and fellowship, they are noted for their charity work including the annual Morris County St. Patrick's Day Parade. Organized by their membership, the parade is attended by over 50,000 people and raises over $10,000 for local charities, including Employment Horizons and Cheshire House. The Friendly Sons have also been integral in the recognition and preservation of several historically important Irish-American buildings and sites throughout New Jersey and New York.

The mission and work of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Morris County has made the group an important asset to Morris County. Their continued support of local charities and preservation of Irish-American history and heritage are to be commended.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Morris County as they celebrate their 120th Anniversary.

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 811, supporting the goals and ideals of American Education Week, which this year celebrates its 91st annual observance. As a proud father of two children enrolled in public schools and a member of the House Education and Workforce Committee, I recognize the critical role public schools play in providing our young people the intellectual and practical skills necessary to become functioning and productive members of our society.

American Education Week, to be recognized from November 11 through November 17, 2012, provides our Nation the opportunity to recognize the importance of public education and honor those individuals who each and every day strive to provide a quality education to every child. Each day of this week features a special observance dedicated to five critically important groups within the public education sphere. Specifically, armed service veterans (especially student and teacher veterans), parents, education support professionals, educators, and substitute educators, as well as the countless individuals who devote their time to our public schools but are not mentioned here, should be all recognized and honored for their hard work and the services they provide to our Nation's youth.

Today, I express my strong support for American Education Week and encourage all schools, teachers and staff, universities, and citizens to recognize this occasion as well. I support the resolution and ask my colleagues to please do the same.

REP. BARLETTA STANDS WITH ISRAEL

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with our friends in Israel.

We've recently seen Hamas, the Palestinian terrorist organization, target Israeli cities with large civilian populations, like Tel Aviv. Since last Wednesday, more than 500 rockets have been fired at Israel generally targeting schools, playgrounds, homes, and other civilian targets. Innocent civilians trying to live in peace are purposely placed in the middle of the violence. This ratchets up the conflict, and brings both sides to the brink of a dangerous confrontation. Israel has the right to defend itself, particularly when its civilian population is directly targeted by Hamas. Americans must stand with Israel as it confronts these terrorists.

Mr. Speaker, I condemn the evil actions of Hamas, and I pray for the safety of all innocent civilians caught in the middle of this escalating violence.

HONORING SHELLEY TOWNLEY

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my staff is second to none in providing the best assistance to everyone in our District. I take great pride in the work that each one has done on my behalf and on behalf of everyone in the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina.

Each District Staff member has shown a strong sense of dedication in meeting the needs of each and every one of our constituents. They often go well beyond the call to make sure each constituent is treated fairly and respectfully by our government agencies and that they receive appropriate resolution. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Shelley Townley has served as member of my District staff since the fall of my first term. Shelley's work in constituent services has been invaluable to thousands across western North Carolina as they attempted to navigate the often difficult processes of the U.S. Department of State and Immigration Services. I cannot count the number of times people have stopped me and thanked me for the work she did in expediting their passport application to make sure they were able to attend that special family vacation or participate in a mission trip to help others abroad.

Shelley should be proud of the service she has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with her and as I retire from office I wish her the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of her efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Shelley and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Shelley Townley for her hard work on behalf of all of western North Carolina and to wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

IN MEMORY OF ANTHONY LAINO AND SAFAR SHAFINOORI—VICTIMS OF SUPERSTORM SANDY

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart. Tragically, two constituents from my congressional district perished due to Superstorm Sandy hitting the New York area. While unfortunately many people lost property, or lost power due to Sandy, we cannot forget that many people and their families lost much, much more: they lost their lives and their loved ones. These people were just in the wrong place at the wrong time—a minute or two earlier or later, a foot or two closer or farther—and perhaps their lives would not have been tragically cut short. They were our neighbors, our friends, our brothers, our sisters; they were part of our community.

Anthony Laino was in his home in Flushing, waiting out the storm in his bedroom when a tree fell onto his home, taking his life. Tony, as his friends and family called him, was only 30 years old and a graduate student at St. John's University. He had his whole life to live; friends and family described Tony as larger than life, a ''pillar of Flushing.'' His family and friends will truly miss him as they grapple with their unspeakable loss.

Safar Shafinoori of Roslyn was just moving his car. Just as any of us would have that night of the storm. Heartbreakingly, a falling tree struck and killed him. My heart goes out to Mr. Shafinoori's family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all of colleagues join me and rise in remembrance of Anthony Laino and Safar Shafinoori. They will be missed by their family, friends and our entire community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, ''Mother Church,'' in Cleveland Ohio.

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church was founded in 1912 by Greek immigrants in the Cleveland area. Since its establishment, it has fostered a strong Greek School program. Following World War II, the Greek population in

Northeast Ohio began to grow and the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation was no longer able to cope with the number of parishioners. The result was four new churches, St. Spyridon, Sts. Constantine and Helen, St. Demetrios and St. Paul. Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church became the Metropolis or "Mother Church" for the new parishes and has brought together the Greater Cleveland Greek American community and Northeast Ohio's Greek American societies.

The centennial celebration of the Mother Church has been led by Fr. Dean Dimon Proistamenos, Fr. Peter Metallinos, Gust Sevastos, Chris Boukis, Pam Petsas, Antoinette Geanneses and Stelios Vitakis. Some of the events that have highlighted this year-long celebration include a Sunday School Reunion, Three Hierarchs Greek Letter's Day, the Tremont Greek Fest, the Centennial Banquet Celebration, and the upcoming Philoptochos Celebration.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing 100 years of service and worship of Cleveland's Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church.

HONORING RANDY FLACK

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my Staff is second to none in providing the best assistance to everyone in our District. I take great pride in the work that each one has done on my behalf and on behalf of everyone in the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina.

Each District Staff member has shown a strong sense of dedication in meeting the needs of each and every one of our constituents. They often go well beyond the call to make sure each constituent is treated fairly and respectfully by our government agencies and that they receive appropriate resolution. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Randy Flack was the first individual to join me on the campaign trail and to serve as a member of my original District staff team. Randy's friendship and companionship have been a blessing in my life since my college days at the University of Tennessee. Randy has always been ready and willing to do anything I asked and then some more. His knowledge of issues and people in the District has been invaluable to me.

Randy has been so much more than an employee, he is a trusted friend, a counselor and a confidant. Without the support of people like Randy the past six years would have never been possible.

Randy should be proud of the service he has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with him and as I retire from office I wish him the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of his efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Randy and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Randy Flack for his hard work on behalf of all of western North Carolina and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN CHARLIE ROSE

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a distinguished representative from my home state of North Carolina, Congressman Charlie Rose. Charlie passed away in September at the age of 73 in Albertville, Alabama. Along with many others in this body, I valued him as a mentor and friend, an innovative and effective legislator, and a member who combined international leadership with assiduous attention to agriculture and other North Carolina interests.

Charlie was elected to Congress in 1972 after an early career in law, and he went on to serve North Carolina's 7th Congressional District in the House for 24 years. He ably represented a large district which at the time stretched from Wilmington to Fayetteville. In between those two cities there were farms, and lots of farmers, and Charlie took seriously the hard work of getting around to every community to talk about what he was doing in Congress to help them. He not only took seriously the hard work of explaining legislation to his constituents—he relished it. Charlie was a man with the proverbial "gift of gab." He had insights on important legislation before Congress, but also a way of explaining the complexities that led you to realize his position was the common-sense one.

Even though he may have been more progressive than his constituents on some issues, such as civil rights, they knew that Charlie would look out for them. As the chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, Charlie forged bipartisan coalitions to help farmers time and time again. As a former Republican colleague recently recalled, "Charlie was a master at building coalitions. A devout Democrat, he worked assiduously, often behind the scenes, with Republicans on matters of consequence."

Among his colleagues, Charlie was a favorite. He had a great sense of humor and could deliver a punch line with natural comedic timing. But he wasn't just fun to be around. Charlie worked hard, and he devoted much time and effort to the workings of this institution. As the chairman of the House Administration Committee, Charlie acquired the nickname "the Mayor of Capitol Hill" for running a tight ship and attending to detail. "He hears the soup is bad in the kitchen, he goes in the kitchen with a spoon to find out why," a colleague told the Washington Post. "You feel he's on your problem, no matter what it is. And you're grateful."

Charlie had an abiding fascination with technology and was instrumental in ushering in such innovations as live television coverage of House proceedings and computerized record keeping. Today we take websites, twitter, and social media for granted, but this heightened engagement with constituents started with Charlie's efforts to make the work of the People's House more transparent and more inclusive.

Charlie was of great help to me when I joined him in the House in 1987. He made certain I was warmly welcomed, gave much savvy advice, and especially encouraged my growing involvement in foreign affairs. Charlie's work with the NATO Parliamentary Assembly was not as well known as his other endeavors, but it was important to him and important to the organization. He organized our delegations to Assembly meetings very effectively, and I greatly enjoyed helping him gain election as Assembly President in 1991. It was instructive to see how little he altered his down-home style in dealing with European notables—and how well it worked!

Shortly before leaving Congress in 1997, Charlie married Stacye Hefner, the daughter of our beloved North Carolina colleague, Representative Bill Hefner. They had a wonderful life together in DC and, in recent years, Alabama. Charlie is also survived by a brother and sister and five children, Charles, Louise, Kelly, Parker, and Joseph. To all of them we express our sympathy and good wishes, and our admiration for a life dedicated to public service.

IN RECOGNITION OF ST. COLMAN PARISH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of St. Colman Parish as they gather to celebrate the November 23 feast day of St. Colman of Cloyne and honor the trades that built their historic church and community.

Born in Ireland, St. Colman converted to Christianity at the age of 52. Being quite devout, he quickly became a priest and later a bishop, establishing monasteries all over Ireland. St. Colman of Cloyne Cathedral in Cobh, County Cork, Ireland sits high above the harbor from which most late 19th and early 20th century emigrants departed. The cathedral is likely the last thing they saw of their home country. How reassuring it was to those immigrants who made their way to Northeast Ohio and found their new St. Colman Parish to be a welcoming place for worship, education, community celebrations and comfort.

Founded in 1880, construction began on the current church building in 1914. With skill, talent and dedication, the men and women in the building and construction trades completed the beautiful landmark St. Colman Church in 1918. Established in 1912, their Construction and Building Trades Council was responsible for some of Northeast Ohio's most beautiful structures. St. Colman Parish, in addition to the celebration of St. Colman's feast day, is also recognizing the contributions of the Constructions and Building Trades Council to the City of Cleveland throughout the past 100 years and honoring Executive Secretary, Loree Soggs, who is retiring this year.

Pastor Bob Begin and the parishioners of St. Colman are very giving to those in need. Annually, parishioners donate approximately

$40,000 to prevent evictions; provide housing; help to prevent utility disconnections; provide bus passes to work or school; pay for tuition and books and distribute school supplies. The funds also assist with obtaining birth certificates and state IDs, medical prescriptions, clothing and uniforms for new jobs and many other emergencies. Church volunteers dedicate their time to serving meals and to teaching computer, literacy, GED classes and English classes for immigrants and refugees.

The celebration will be held on November 3, 2012 and will be co-celebrated by Fr. Jim O'Donnell and Fr. Bob Begin, with Bishop Anthony Pilla delivering the homily.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing St. Colman Parish as they gather to celebrate St. Colman's feast day and honor Cleveland's construction and building trades.

HONORING SEAN O'BRIEN

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my team is second to none in providing the best assistance to all in our District. My Washington, D.C. office is also tasked with researching, processing, analyzing, and making recommendations on an infinite number of reports, policies, and legislation. I could not ask for a more talented or dedicated team, and I take great pride in the work that each staff member has done not only on my behalf, but also on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina and the United States.

My team has shown a strong sense of dedication to meeting the needs of our constituency. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Sean O'Brien served as a member of my Washington, D.C. staff as my first Legislative Director. When I entered Congress, Sean led the office in navigating the intricacies of this complex and parliamentary institution. Sean's legislative experience proved to be invaluable, and he taught the staff how to effectively and successfully do their jobs. Sean was critical in helping me shape my legislative agenda, a particularly challenging demand for any freshman Member. Appreciation for Sean's abilities did not end in our office—he was well known for his comedic talents all through the Capitol's corridors and was often called upon by other Members of Congress in need of assistance writing humorous speeches.

Sean should be proud of the service he has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with him and as I retire from office I wish him the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of his efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Sean and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Sean O'Brien for his hard work on behalf of all of western North Carolina and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

TRIBUT TO: MRS. HELEN JACOBSON

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Helen Jacobson, an inspiring woman of service, and a dear friend. Mrs. Jacobson lived to be 104 years old and spent her lifetime helping others.

In addition to living a full life as a beloved family member and friend, she was also an advocate for civil rights and women's equality. Helen Jacobson was involved with UNICEF, the United Negro College Fund, the South Texas Coalition for Juvenile Justice, Sunshine Cottage School for Deaf Children, and the Cancer Therapy and Research Center, as well as many other organizations. She used her resources to touch many different lives, and during the fight for civil liberties in the 1950s and 60s, she used her power as a San Antonio Library Board Member to ensure that public libraries remained unsegregated.

The commitment and service of Helen Jacobson will affect generations of citizens, and her memory will not be forgotten. She impacted this world, and sought to better the lives of the less fortunate and the downtrodden. Once again, I ask my colleagues to join with me in remembering and recognizing a wonderful woman and the contributions she made to our great nation.

HONORING CORNING-PAINTED POST EAST HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE KILLED IN AFGHANISTAN

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor Spc. Ryan Jayne and express my sincere condolences to his family and friends.

Spc. Ryan Jayne, a 2008 graduate of Corning-Painted Post East High School, joined the Army in 2010 and was deployed to Afghanistan in March 2012. Jayne was killed in Afghanistan November 3, 2012 at the age of 22. His service to our country led to the ultimate sacrifice and for that, we are eternally grateful.

Jayne was one of three upstate New York servicemen who were identified by the Department of Defense as those killed when a roadside bomb struck their vehicle. The other two were identified as Spc. Brett E. Gornewicz and Staff Sgt. Dain Venne.

We are here today in an open society because of Ryan Jayne. He represents the best of the Southern Tier and the United States. While we are all poorer for the loss of Ryan, he has given something to all of us. Ryan paid the highest price so that the idea of freedom for all people will continue to move forward.

We must always remember Ryan and all those who have fallen in defense of freedom. We keep Ryan's family and friends in our thoughts and prayers.

HONORING HAYDEN ROGERS

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my team is second to none in providing the best assistance to all in our District. My Washington, D.C. office is also tasked with researching, processing, analyzing, and making recommendations on an infinite number of reports, policies, and legislation. I could not ask for a more talented or dedicated team, and I take great pride in the work that each staff member has done not only on my behalf, but also on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina and the United States.

My team has shown a strong sense of dedication to meeting the needs of our constituency. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship they have shown me during my six years of service in the Congress.

Hayden Rogers has been my closet advisor and most trusted confidant from the very beginning of our first campaign in 2006. He has successfully led my team through three campaigns and three sessions of Congress.

Hayden is from Robbinsville, North Carolina, in the next county over from where I grew up. Throughout his time as my Chief of Staff and Campaign Manager, Hayden remained true to the values we learned growing up in the mountains and could always be depended on as the voice of reason. Moreover, Hayden is without question one of the most intelligent and skillful professional and entrepreneurial individuals I have had the pleasure of working with. All who meet him make a friend of him, and I consider it a privilege to call him one of my closest and dearest friends.

A loyal, honorable and steadfast companion, Hayden has been there for the good times and the bad and right at my side through our toughest battles. If not for Hayden, I would not have been able to achieve all that I had during my three terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. I am incredibly grateful for the leadership he has provided me, and I look forward to many more years of continued friendship.

Hayden should be proud of the service he has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with him and as I retire from office I wish him the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of his efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Hayden and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Hayden Rogers for his hard work on behalf of all of western North Carolina and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

TEXAS STATE SENATOR MARIO GALLEGOS, JR.

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor Texas State Senator Mario Gallegos, Jr. For many years, we have worked side by side to help improve the quality of life for many people around the Houston area. He was a champion for education and Latino rights, along with many other numerous issues. Senator Gallegos passed away on October 16th, and the Houston Chronicle printed his obituary. In honor of Senator Gallegos, I would like to submit the text.

State Sen. Mario Gallegos, 62, a Democratic lawmaker whose 22-year career in the Texas Legislature was marked by courage, controversy and dogged commitment to issues of importance to the Hispanic community, died Tuesday afternoon at Methodist Hospital in Houston from complications of liver disease.

Gallegos, the first Hispanic elected to the state Senate from Harris County, took a special interest in public education, redistricting and other issues he believed would have an effect on the lives of the predominantly working-class residents in Senate District 6.

In 2007, only weeks after undergoing a liver transplant, a sick and weakened Gallegos ignored a doctor's call to return to Houston and installed a hospital bed in the office of the Senate sergeant-at-arms so he could cast his vote against a bill requiring voters to show photo identification. Gallegos argued the bill would discriminate against minority voters.

In 2011, Gallegos opposed a measure sponsored by state Sen. Dan Patrick, R–Houston, requiring women seeking an abortion to undergo a sonogram. Gallegos told his fellow senators that although he opposed abortion, he didn't believe he should impose legislative restrictions on a woman about ''how to govern her body.''

''There were few issues that Mario and I agreed upon,'' Patrick said, ''but throughout my six years in the state Senate he always treated me with kindness and courtesy and professionalism. And he was a friend.''

State Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, D–San Antonio, described Gallegos as ''a man of matchless generosity who worked tirelessly for his district. I've never known anyone who fought harder for the underdog—for the most vulnerable in our state.''

Mario Valentin Gallegos Jr. was born in Houston on Sept. 8, 1950, and grew up in Magnolia Park, an East End neighborhood near the Ship Channel. He graduated from Milby High School and received his undergraduate degree from the University of Houston-Downtown in 2001.

Gallegos joined the Houston Fire Department at 18 and served for 22 years, rising to the rank of senior captain. His involvement in union affairs as a firefighter whetted his interest in politics.

''As a union member working with (former Houston City Councilman) Ben Reyes, he fell in love with politics,'' said Marc Campos, a Houston political consultant who met Gallegos in 1979. ''He made a number of trips to Austin to lobby for firefighter issues.''

In 1990, Gallegos was elected to the Texas House of Representatives, where he served for two terms before being elected to the state Senate in 1994. Never a legislative tactician or policy expert, Gallegos was a reliable liberal vote on most issues.

Suffering from cirrhosis of the liver a few months later, he received last rites and made plans for his body to be displayed near the Capitol Rotunda before being transported to his grave in afire truck

With about a month to live, he received a phone call on Jan. 18, 2007, informing him that the unexpected death of a teenage boy meant he would get a liver transplant.

Sworn in as president pro tempore later that year, he told his colleagues that he intended to run for office until he died.

Survivors include his mother, Olga Gallegos; his wife, Theresa Gallegos; three children, Ali Templer, Melissa Gallegos and Mario Elias Gallegos; four sisters and two brothers; and five grandchildren.

HONORING SANDY ZIMMERMAN

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my staff is second to none in providing the best assistance to everyone in our District. I take great pride in the work that each one has done on my behalf and on behalf of everyone in the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina.

Each District Staff member has shown a strong sense of dedication to meeting the needs of each and every one of our constituents. They often go well beyond the call to make sure each constituent is treated fairly and respectfully by our government agencies and that they receive appropriate resolution. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Sandy Zimmerman has served as a member of my District staff since May of 2007. Sandy has provided valuable assistance to individuals living in the far western counties of our District. Often times in the past these individuals have felt overlooked and forgotten because of their remote location to the rest of the District but Sandy has worked tirelessly to attend meetings and forums and make sure that these valuable members of our community have their voices heard and problems addressed. Sandy has time and again stood in the gap for our Western counties and I have been blessed to call her friend and teammate.

Sandy should be proud of the service she has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with Sandy and as I retire from office I wish her the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of her efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Sandy and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Sandy Zimmerman for her hard work on behalf of all of western North Carolina and to wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

The Senate met at 9:30:22 a.m. in pro forma session, and adjourned at 9:30:50 a.m. until 2 p.m., on Monday, November 26, 2012.

Committee Meetings

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

HIGHLIGHTS

House agreed to S. Con. Res. 60, Adjournment Resolution.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 10 public bills, H.R. 6593–6602; and 5 resolutions, H. Res. 813–817 were introduced. **Page H6428**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H6429**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

In the Matter of Joy Henrichs (H. Rept. 112–696). **Pages H6427–28**

Russia and Moldova Jackson-Vanik Repeal Act of 2012: The House passed H.R. 6156, to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to products of the Russian Federation and Moldova and to require reports on the compliance of the Russian Federation with its obligations as a member of the World Trade Organization, by a yea-and-nay vote of 365 yeas to 43 nays, Roll No. 608. **Pages H6401–18**

Pursuant to the rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 112–33 shall be considered as adopted. **Page H6401**

H. Res. 808, the rule providing for consideration of the bill, was agreed to yesterday, November 15th.

Adjournment Resolution: The House agreed to S. Con. Res. 60, providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and an adjournment of the House of Representatives. **Page H6417**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:58 a.m. and reconvened at 11:30 a.m. **Page H6417**

Expressing vigorous support and unwavering commitment to the welfare, security, and survival of the State of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state with secure borders: The House agreed to discharge and agree to H. Res. 813, expressing vigorous support and unwavering commitment to the welfare, security, and survival of the State of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state with secure borders, and recognizing and strongly supporting its right to act in self-defense to protect its citizens against acts of terrorism. **Page H6418**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page S6409.

Senate Referral: S. 1440 was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce. **Page H6425**

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote developed during the proceedings of today and appears on pages H6417–18. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and at 1:21 p.m., pursuant to S. Con. Res. 60, the House

stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, November 27, 2012.

Committee Meetings

ASSESSING DANGEROUS THREATS TO OUR NATION'S BORDERS

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Management held a hearing entitled ''A Line in the Sand: Assessing Dangerous Threats to Our Nation's Borders''. Testimony was heard from Marc Rosenblum, Specialist in Immigration Policy, Congressional Research Service; and public witnesses.

REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION INSPECTOR GENERAL'S FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA): A Review of the Department of Transportation Inspector General's Findings and Recommendations''. Testimony was heard from Representative Connolly; Ray LaHood, Secretary, Department of Transportation; Michael A. Curto, Chairman, Airports Authority Board, Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority; and Calvin L. Scovel III, Inspector General, Department of Transportation.

ONGOING INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Full Committee held a hearing on ongoing intelligence activities. This was a closed hearing.

Joint Meetings

UKRAINE'S PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission received a briefing on assessing Ukraine's parliamentary elections, focusing on the lack of a level playing field, from Thomas Melia, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor; Olha Ajvazovska, Ukrainian Citizen Network OPORA, Kyiv, Ukraine; and Katie Fox, National Democratic Institute, and Stephen Nix, International Republican Institute, both of Washington, D.C.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2012

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

2 p.m., Monday, November 26

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: The Majority Leader will be recognized. At 5:30 p.m., Senate will vote on or in relation to Reid (for Tester) Amendment No. 2875 to S. 3525, Sportsmen's Act, and passage of the bill.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 p.m., Tuesday, November 27

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: To be announced.

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