

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE EXEMPLARY CAREER OF SHERIFF RANDALL A. WELLINGTON

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 4, 2013

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of an exemplary public servant, Sheriff Randall A. Wellington. Sheriff Wellington will be retiring this year after serving the Ohio Mahoning County with distinction during a career that spanned seven decades.

After serving as a Sergeant in the United States Army during the Korean War, Sheriff Wellington joined the Youngstown Police Force as a cadet in 1957. He was later promoted to Sergeant in 1966, Vice Squad Chief in 1970, Lieutenant in 1972, Captain in 1973, and Police Chief in 1984. After four decades serving the people of the Mahoning County and its largest city, Youngstown, Mr. Wellington became the County Sheriff on August 28, 1999.

Sheriff Wellington, who is affectionately known as a soft-spoken, but firm leader, has many achievements to accompany his long and distinguished career. Among those achievements are the creation of the Senior-citizens Watch Program and the Day-Reporting Program. The latter program, initiated in 2006, allowed misdemeanor offenders to serve time doing community service rather than being incarcerated, which has saved the county about \$1 million since enactment. Other initiatives introduced by Sheriff Wellington are the Reserve Deputy Program, Underwater Diving Team, Crisis Response Team, Hostage Negotiations Team and the Youth Explorer's Unit.

I want to extend my warmest thanks to Sheriff Wellington for his lifelong devotion to protecting and serving the people of Mahoning County. His long and illustrious career and will not be forgotten and I would like to wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement. The city of Youngstown and Mahoning County will forever be indebted to Sheriff Randall A. Wellington for his outstanding service.

IN RECOGNITION OF GUYER HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 4, 2013

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Guyer High School Wildcats of Denton, Texas upon their first state football title. Winning the Class 4A state championship takes great determination, discipline, and team work. The long hours of practice over many months helped the Wildcats win many games on the way to the state championship. I am impressed by the Wildcats' work ethic and

skill, and know that they will continue to represent their high school well.

The Guyer football team has a talented and dedicated head coach, John Walsh, who to my understanding told the team the state title was theirs from the beginning. Jerrod Heard, the school's junior quarterback, seemed to believe his coach. During the state championship game, he led the Wildcats to victory from behind with assistance from defensive end Conor Allen who forced a fumble towards the end of the game and from Ellis Jefferson with two touchdown throws, one for a 71-yard touchdown.

I am pleased to join their classmates, teachers, friends, family and the Denton community in honoring the athletic achievement of the Guyer Wildcats' football team for winning their first state championship. It is my privilege to serve you all in the U.S. House of Representatives.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ELECTION OF NARENDRA MODI AS CHIEF MINISTER OF GUJARAT, INDIA

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 4, 2013

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the election of Narendra Modi as third term Chief Minister of Gujarat, India. Running on a platform of economic prosperity for all, and having two terms of proven results behind him, Mr. Modi was elected by a diverse coalition of voters from every religion, education level, and class of society. His message cuts across dividing lines and highlights what unites, rather than what divides, those he represents.

In both the United States and India, every election is an affirmation, not just of those who the people choose to elect, but of the very foundation on which our societies are built—the idea that the power of government rests with the governed. Mr. Modi understands the great responsibility entrusted to elected officials, and he has used his position to advocate for sound economic policies that have grown the economy of Gujarat at an astonishing rate over his past two terms. Businesses flock to Gujarat, creating jobs and raising the standard of living for its citizens. The successes achieved through Mr. Modi's leadership have drawn praise from his countrymen and observers abroad, as well as from the Indian Diaspora around the world.

Indian-Americans who live and work in my district in Illinois and around the United States have contributed greatly to the culture and prosperity of our country. I join with them today in congratulating Narendra Modi on his election and extending my best wishes for his third term as Chief Minister of Gujarat.

THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORPHAN DRUG ACT

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 4, 2013

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, as we begin a new Congress with many disappointments behind us and many challenges before us, I'd like to take a moment to note legislation that has proven successful beyond all expectations—the Orphan Drug Act. And I'd also like to note the recent passing of one that bill's first champions—Jack Klugman.

Before 1983, people suffering from a rare disease had little or no hope that a treatment or cure would be developed, despite the fact that many potential treatments for those diseases existed. By definition, the market for a drug for rare disease was too small to attract drug companies to do the research and go through the approval process. It was a classic case of market failure. And, for better or for worse, pharmaceutical research usually depends on the market.

So we had to invent an incentive for the pharmaceutical industry to do something that was squarely in the public interest. We had to make the development of orphan treatments something companies themselves wanted to do.

To do so, we created incentives: intellectual-property protections, tax benefits, and regulatory advantages. But, like many good bills on complicated issues, the Orphan Drug Act got bogged down.

And that's when the unexpected champion emerged—the Hollywood actor Jack Klugman. He was a big star and he had read about the problems of people with rare diseases. He used his television show, *Quincy*, to highlight the issue. (The show even hired people with rare diseases to serve as extras in a fictional demonstration outside the Capitol.) He was a witness before the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment, which I chaired. He went on to bring national attention to this problem that affected many, many people—but people in groups so small that they could never on their own get the help they needed.

The bill passed the House. Ultimately, with the help of my friend and colleague, Senator Orrin Hatch, it also passed the Senate. President Reagan signed it into law on January 4, 1983.

And the rest, as they say, is history—good history. The Act has been very successful. Over the thirty years between then and now, hundreds of orphan drugs have been approved and millions of Americans with rare diseases have been helped.

There is still a lot to be done. There are thousands of rare diseases without treatments. The cost of many orphan drugs and many other drugs is still far too high. But this Act and the amendments made to it since then have made great progress.

I'm sad to say that Jack Klugman died last week. He'd had a great career in entertainment and he will be remembered for that. But

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

we can also all be grateful to him for his starring role in bringing this bill to the public and helping it become law. And we in the Congress can be proud of what the Orphan Drug Act has done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICK MULVANEY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 4, 2013

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 4 I missed rollcall No. 4 on January 3, 2013. I was with my family and unable to make it to the floor.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye".

IN MEMORY OF MURRAY
GALINSON

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 4, 2013

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great sorrow to mourn the passing of one of San Diego's greatest leaders and humanitarians, Murray Galinson.

Every city should have a Murray Galinson. On paper, Murray's impressive biography tells of a bank CEO and President, the head of a local synagogue, a former assistant U.S. attorney, a member of the board of trustees for California State University and a philanthropist playing a pivotal role in developing so many local charities.

But in life, Murray was so much more than that. Murray was San Diego's go to person. When you wanted to know anything you went to Murray. When you wanted to vent frustration, you went to Murray. When you wanted someone to talk to, you went to Murray.

He was a very, very special person at the center of everything. For someone so prominent Murray was not intimidating. He was open to me almost 40 years ago at the beginning of my career as he has been to so many other people starting careers in public service. He has mentored countless people who have gone to be great successes in the San Diego community.

Perhaps most striking was Murray's deep care for the city of San Diego and how translated that into political and charitable action. Murray was not involved in politics to be a power broker or to push an ambitious partisan agenda. Murray wanted to support whoever he thought would make the city stronger for the long haul. He really cared who was in office and supported people from the very beginning. He was a leading Democrat but he crossed the aisle and supported Republicans when he thought that was the right thing to do.

Murray was such a great listener. And he was supportive and insightful. And he was funny. He was warm and witty and never shy about telling it like it is. I never had a conversation with Murray that I didn't walk away from feeling generally better.

Originally from Minnesota, Murray never lost his Midwestern sensibility. We're so fortunate in San Diego that Murray left the Minnesota

snow behind him and brightened the lives of so many people in our city.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 4, 2013

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, due to a medical emergency, I was unable to be present for three votes on January 3, 2013. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall Vote 4, "aye" on rollcall Vote 5, and "no" on rollcall Vote 6.

113TH CONGRESS OPENING DAY
STATEMENT

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 4, 2013

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, as we start the 113th Congress, I am honored to once again join my colleagues in serving the American people—especially my constituents in the Ninth District of New York. We have an opportunity to look forward, to end the partisanship that has undermined efforts to secure our future as a nation.

I am disappointed to say that I can hardly imagine a worse end to a session of Congress than the one we have just witnessed. In our labored efforts to avoid a disastrous tumble over the "fiscal cliff," we lost sight of a far less figurative disaster.

The families harmed by Hurricane Sandy—those people whose homes and businesses were threatened by the storm—have the right to demand action from this Congress. Yet, this Congress was unable to enact a proposal for relief, to provide the assistance people need to start the recovery. I call on my colleagues to support emergency supplemental appropriations for areas affected by Hurricane Sandy.

Fixing the mistakes of yesterday, however, will be only part of the solution. We have a more important responsibility in this 113th Congress—to demonstrate to the American people that these failures were not examples of a serious problem within the Congress itself that prevents us from working with each other to fulfill our responsibilities.

We have opportunities in this session of Congress to work together, as Democrats and Republicans, but more importantly, as Americans, to resolve the issues that are important to people in every community in this nation. As the tragedy in Newtown demonstrated, we must enact gun control laws that prevent mass murder and re-institute the ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. We must end gun trafficking.

It is my hope that we address immigration reform, specifically the enactment of the DREAM Act. This act, which provides legal status and a path to citizenship to undocumented immigrants who arrived in the United States as minors, will benefit every person in our society. This act will allow millions of young Americans to participate in our economy, our system of higher education, and the society more generally.

Other legislation of importance that must be addressed immediately is the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, the Farm Bill, postal reform, cybersecurity, and sequestration legislation.

Let us come together, in this 113th Congress, to fulfill our duties as representatives of the people of the United States. Let us establish the foundations of a prosperity shared by every family in this nation, security from the threat of natural disasters and acts of terrorism, and a political process of which the American people are proud.

IN HONOR OF RITA LEVI-
MONTALCINI

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 4, 2013

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory and the heroic example of Rita Levi-Montalcini, Nobel Laureate in Medicine and Senator-for-Life of the Republic of Italy. My constituents in our district's universities, research institutes and teaching hospitals join me in this homage. Dr. Allen Mitchell, Professor of Epidemiology and Pediatrics at Boston University, studied with her and with her mentor, Victor Hamburger. Everyone, he remembered, recognized the "enormity of her contributions." "But," he continued, "those of us privileged to interact directly with her saw Dr. Rita Levi-Montalcini as a role model who combined scientific passion and rigor with a great sense of humanity."

Edward A. Kravitz, George Packer Berry Professor of Neurobiology at the Harvard Medical School recalled that Dr. Levi-Montalcini was unfailingly kind and gracious to young researchers, welcoming them to her lab and her circle of distinguished colleagues. He was touched by her warmth and inspired by her eagerness always to know more.

Rita Levi-Montalcini was born in Turin in 1909, one of four children of an educated family, her father an engineer and mathematician, her mother, like her twin sister Paola, a gifted painter. The arts were thought appropriate pastimes for young ladies, but science was not, and her first struggle was convincing her father to let her study medicine. She graduated, *summa cum laude*, in Medicine and Surgery in 1936 and began a specialization in neurology and psychiatry. Two years later, Mussolini promulgated racial laws based on those already in effect in Nazi Germany, barring Jews from universities. Rita Levi-Montalcini's second and most remarkable struggle was to continue her research alone and in secret. She cultivated chick embryos in her bedroom and studied them closely. Her inspiration, she always acknowledged, came from a paper by Victor Hamburger, pioneer of experimental embryology. Hamburger, like many of the most prominent German and Italian scientists, was at that time already in the United States. She chose to remain in Italy, confident that her country would return to its democratic principles. She was associated with the struggle for Liberation and, in the time of greatest danger, moved her laboratory into the countryside where she and her family found refuge. When Florence was freed, she practiced medicine, for the only time in her

life, among refugees fleeing the fighting that still raged in northern Italy.

After the war, Dr. Levi-Montalcini joined Hamburger at Washington University in St. Louis. There began her collaboration with Dr. Stanley Cohen with whom she shared the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1986. Together they studied the biochemistry of nerve growth and revolutionized the study of cell growth and development. She flourished at Washington University but always maintained close ties to Italy and to a new generation of Italian scientists. She helped found the Institute of Cell Biology in Rome and became its first director. She died in Rome on December 30 at the age of 103. She continues to inspire us, and we do well to remember her brave advice, "Above all, do not fear difficult moments. The best comes from them."

IN HONOR OF CAROL WALTER

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 4, 2013

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Carol Walter of the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH). A tireless advocate for our State's most vulnerable citizens, Carol passed away on Thursday, December 27th.

Carol's dedication to people and service was apparent in her extensive achievements and contributions to our State. She began her career working in shelters in many of the largest communities across the State. Displaying a knack for leadership and an entrepreneurial spirit, Carol moved on to the Connecticut Aids Resource Coalition where she founded the National Working Positive Coalition. She became director of CCEH in 2006.

While heading the Coalition, she helped institute greater coordination of services among nonprofits, managed the annual Point-In-Time homeless census, and led the State in rapid re-housing and shelter diversion strategies. Carol's years of dedication and tireless hard work impacted countless lives across our State. Due in large degree to Carol's leadership statewide, there has been historic progress made in the effort to combat homelessness in Connecticut's Second Congressional District.

Carol's passing marks an irreplaceable loss for our community, for the fight against homelessness, and the battle to provide justice for underserved communities. Carol leaves behind a lasting legacy of passionate service to those in need. I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Carol's life and accomplishments.

HONORING COLONEL SAMI D. SAID

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 4, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Sami D. Said for his many years of dedication and service to the United States. After almost two years of serving as Commander for the 144th Fighter Wing, Cali-

fornia Air National Guard, Colonel Said will be promoted to the rank of Brigadier General and will serve a tour in Afghanistan.

Colonel Said has devoted his life to serving the United States. He began his career in 1991 at the 159th Fighter Squadron in Jacksonville, Florida where he was a Pilot Trainee and then an F-16 Fighter Pilot. Colonel Said held other duties at the 159th Fighter Squadron, including Chief of Standardization and Evaluation, Instructor Pilot, Weapons Officer, and Squadron Operations Officer.

In June 2003, Colonel Said completed his time with the 159th Fighter Squadron and went on to become the Commander of the 125th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. He was also the Wing Special Projects Officer (ORI) and the Chief of Wing Operations for the 125th Fighter Wing. After spending two years with the 125th Fighter Wing, Colonel Said served as a National Security Fellow at Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

Colonel Said worked in Washington, DC, for three years serving at the Pentagon from 2008 to 2011. He worked in the Office of the Secretary of Defense as a Military Assistant to the Department of Defense Transition Team and Chief of Staff/Senior Military Assistant to the Under Secretary of Defense, Acquisition, Technology and Logistics.

Along with his vast experience and knowledge, Colonel Said has received numerous awards and decorations. These include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Combat Readiness Medal with five oak leaf clusters, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

In April 2011, Colonel Said became the Commander for the 144th Fighter Wing in Fresno, California. While he was in Fresno for a short period of time, our community benefited from his time here. We will be sad to see him go. As he moves on to proudly serve our country overseas in Afghanistan, Colonel Said's expertise and many years of experience will be greatly missed at the 144th Fighter Wing.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Colonel Sami Said on his upcoming promotion to the rank of Brigadier General and wish him well in his next tour of service. Our country will always be gracious for his hard work and unwavering service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICK MULVANEY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 4, 2013

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 5, I missed rollcall No. 5 on January 3, 2013. I was with my family and unable to make it to the floor. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

TRIBUTE TO DR. SHELDON KAPEN

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 4, 2013

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to the memory of a

great citizen of the State of Michigan, the late Dr. Sheldon Kapen. Sadly, Dr. Kapen passed away on Thanksgiving Day at the age of 77.

He was the longtime Chairman of the Department of Neurology at the John V. Dingell Veterans Administration Hospital in Detroit and a leading figure in the field of sleep disorders research who made many outstanding discoveries and contributions. The plaque which honors him at the VA hospital calls Dr. Kapen "A Physician, a teacher, a scientist, a leader, and a friend".

My sincerest condolences go out to his family. I would like to place into the RECORD an article from the VA Hospital bulletin on the occasion of the naming of the Sheldon Kapen Sleep Laboratory last year as well as an obituary that appeared in the Wayne State University newspaper.

DETROIT VAMC SLEEP CLINIC HONORS DR. KAPEN

(By Alysse Mengason)

This fall, the Detroit VAMC staff and patients paid tribute to one of its long-time physicians, hanging a plaque in his honor in the sleep clinic.

Dr. Sheldon Kapen's legacy is represented in the sleep lab, which he founded in 1985, when he took over a new 2 bed unit in the old Detroit VAMC in Allen Park. Dr. Kapen started the first sleep lab in any VA facility. Dr. Kapen achieved many successes over the years. Among the grants he won, Dr. Kapen received a VA Research Grant to study stroke and sleep.

When the Detroit VA Medical Center moved to Detroit and became the John D. Dingell VA Medical Center, Dr. Kapen was able to expand the clinic into a new 8 bed facility with state of the art equipment and more staff.

Dr. Kapen's sleep medicine and laboratory was the first VA sleep lab to be accredited, and approximately the 20th in the nation (there are now about 1,000 accredited sleep labs in the U.S.). He also had the first VA-based accredited fellowship program in 1989 (the 4th overall in the country) and it has also been reaccredited multiple times.

In his more than 30 years with the VA, Dr. Kapen has trained dozens of physicians, and continues to train and supervise sleep fellows from Wayne State University.

(Nov. 26, 2012)

DR. SHELDON KAPEN, LONGTIME NEUROLOGY FACULTY MEMBER, DIES

Dr. Sheldon Kapen, M.D., 77, of West Bloomfield, Mich., died Nov. 22.

Dr. Kapen was a longtime member of the Wayne State University Department of Neurology and chief of Neurology at the John Dingell Veterans Administration Hospital for 25 years until his retirement in November 2011.

"Sheldon Kapen was an important contributor to the academic and clinical missions of the Department of Neurology and the Veterans Administration hospital for many years," said Robert Lisak, M.D., professor and former chair of Neurology. "He was a pioneer in the study of and treatment of disorders of sleep. For that reason the sleep laboratory at the John Dingell VA Hospital was recently named in his honor. Shelly was a dedicated physician and a person of integrity. He will be missed."

The funeral was held Nov. 23 at the Ira Kaufman Chapel, 18325 W. Nine Mile Road, Southfield.

The family of Dr. Kapen will gather through the evening of Nov. 26 at 4564 Fairway Ridge Court, West Bloomfield, for friends to call. The phone number is 248-626-

2907. Religious services will be held Monday evening.

Dr. Kapen is survived by his wife, Rachel; children Gilead (Karen) Kapen, Alon (Amal) Kapen, Ehud (Debra) Kapen and Avi Kapen; grandchildren Rome, Michaela, Alia, Matan, Simon, Caleb and Kayla Kapen and Leah Schloss; and sister Nessa (Alfred) Bertel.

The family suggests contributions in memory of Dr. Kapen be made to the Holocaust Memorial Center, 28123 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48334.

STOP SINGLING OUT FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 4, 2013

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, as the 113th Congress begins, I strongly believe that no Member of Congress should have his or her salary increased. It is critical that this nation's elected leaders lead by example in the quest to reduce our debt and put this nation on sound financial footing. Responsible, accountable leadership is required in Washington if this train of fiscal disaster is ever going to get rerouted onto a track toward prosperity and economic growth. That is why I am a cosponsor of legislation that would halt the pay increase for Members of Congress under the President's December 27, 2012 Executive Order and legislation to stop the automatic pay increase for members of Congress.

However, I also want to make absolutely clear my opposition to any efforts to unfairly target our civilian federal workforce for deficit reduction purposes. America's First District is full of hardworking and dedicated citizens who serve the people of this nation every day, such as on the front lines of the War on Terror or in support roles for our military. Still others provide valuable service at places like VA hospitals, cancer research laboratories, and the FBI. And yet since 2010, federal civilian employees have seen their pay frozen and their benefits reduced on multiple occasions. I voted against the initial two-year pay freeze in December of 2010, and on the first day of 2013, I voted against H.R. 6726, which would have extended this pay freeze for an additional year. I am fully ready and willing to cut my own salary, benefits, and office budget, but we must stop singling out federal employees simply because Congress fails to address the out-of-control spending.

There is no question that our nation must get its spending in order, and federal employees are certainly eager to do their part to help in this effort. Their daily contributions to their fellow citizens and to the cause of freedom are simply innumerable, and yet during the deficit reduction debate over the last few years, federal employees have been asked to contribute more than their fair share.

Our federal civilian employees live a life of selfless service, and they deserve our appreciation. I am hopeful that deficit reduction efforts going forward will focus more realistically on addressing the true drivers of our debt, rather than targeting those who are trying simply to serve their nation each and every day.

INTRODUCTION OF H. RES. XX, EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE SENATE SHOULD RATIFY THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 4, 2013

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the sense of the House of Representatives that the Senate should ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). I am proud to be joined in this effort by my friend and colleague Congresswoman JAN SCHAKOWSKY.

This bipartisan House Resolution urges the Senate to vote to ratify CEDAW, a landmark international agreement that mandates governments to take positive steps to ensure the full development and advancement of women, and their equal enjoyment of human rights, and that they change or eradicate discriminatory laws, customs, and practices.

Despite 187 countries ratifying CEDAW, we are the only western country in the world that has not ratified the treaty, although its fundamental principles of equality and non-discrimination are central to our constitutions. Other nations that have not ratified CEDAW include Somalia and Iran.

Most importantly, CEDAW is non-self executing, meaning that any legislation the United States might adopt to comply with the treaty would have to go through the normal congressional process.

Ratification of CEDAW would continue our nation's proud bipartisan tradition of promoting and protecting human rights. The Senate's ratification of CEDAW would strengthen our standing as a global leader for the rights of women and girls.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICK MULVANEY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 4, 2013

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 6, I missed rollcall number 6 on January 3, 2013. I was with my family and unable to make it to the floor. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

IN HONOR OF BARBARA PALMER OF APTOS, CA AS THE 2012 PRESIDENT OF THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, CA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 4, 2013

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the commitments and accomplishments of Barbara Palmer, 2012 President of the

Santa Cruz County Association of Realtors. I have known Barbara for two decades and she is a dedicated professional with an abiding commitment to helping homeowners and making a lasting difference in her community. I am honored to call her a friend.

Barbara has served as the Federal District Coordinator for the tri-county area that includes Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito Counties, representing the California Association of Realtors and the National Association of Realtors. I was pleased to work with Barbara when she was the Chair of the Local Government Relations Committee of the Santa Cruz County Association of Realtors from 2005–2007. She has provided unparalleled leadership on local and federal real estate issues.

Building community is the mission of every successful Realtor and Barbara has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life in Aptos with particular attention to bringing widespread awareness to the needs of public education to her community of Aptos and beyond. In 1999, she was awarded Woman of the Millennium by the Aptos Chamber of Commerce. The Santa Cruz County Association of Realtors awarded Barbara Palmer the Realtor of the Year in 2008. Barbara has spearheaded community projects and fundraisers throughout the years that bring attention to the needs of the diverse Santa Cruz County and its coastal environment.

Barbara Palmer has been a resident of Aptos, CA since 1978, with her husband Bob and sons Grant and Brad.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House as I commend Barbara Palmer of Aptos, CA for helping countless clients on the Central Coast of California achieve the American Dream—homeownership.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CAROL WALTER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CONNECTICUT COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 4, 2013

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Carol Walter, a fierce advocate for the homeless in Connecticut, who passed away on December 27, 2012. Carol served as the Executive Director of the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness and dedicated her life's work to fighting homelessness and its contributing causes.

Her passion, energy, and persistent focus on finding solutions helped countless individuals and families across our State. For all those who knew her, worked with her, and benefited from her good works—we are saddened by this loss and offer our deepest condolences to her family.

While many in the community will pay tribute to Carol Walter, I would like to submit the following article from The Hartford Courant that captures her dynamic spirit:

VIBRANT ADVOCATE FOR THE HOMELESS,
CAROL WALTER, DIES AT 53

(By Jenna Carlesso)

[From the Hartford Courant, Dec. 28, 2012]

Carol Walter, the executive director of Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness,

was remembered by her friends Friday as a quick-witted, energetic leader and unwavering advocate for the homeless.

Walter, 53, died Thursday after a short battle with lung cancer, friends said.

When Walter became executive director in 2006, friends said, she had landed her dream job. Walter was passionate about creating long-term solutions to homelessness, including permanent housing and supportive services.

"Beyond shelters and short-gap solutions, she was very interested in finding longer-term solutions, particularly in reducing chronic homelessness," said Mercedes Soto, who served on CCEH's board of directors from 2009 to 2012. "She was able to rally an entire spectrum of people to work toward these goals, and worked to get people housed as quickly as possible.

"She was a dynamo. She made a big impact on me and everyone who knew her."

Colleagues at CCEH said Walter presided over "a sea change" in the organization's approach to homelessness, including greater coordination of services among other non-profits and oversight of the coalition's state-wide "point in time" homeless consensus. She also led efforts in rapid re-housing and shelter diversion strategies, they said.

"People often tell me how energetic I am," said Shawn Lang, a longtime friend of Walter. "I tell them, 'go hang around with Carol for a while, she'll make me look like a slug.' She had great passion for her work. Her enthusiasm and her energy and smarts opened a lot of doors."

Prior to her position at CCEH, Walter worked at homeless shelters in New Haven, Hartford and Stamford, friends said. She also worked at the Connecticut AIDS Resource Coalition as a membership services coordinator, where she helped people with AIDS find employment.

Walter was active in her work, sometimes to the point that she couldn't sit still.

"She had more energy than 10 of us," said Dave Martineau, vice president of CCEH's board of directors and a friend of Walter. "She always used to say, 'I have no time. I'm trying to end homelessness.' She gave her whole life to it."

"She was a woman who could never stand still," added Jose Vega, program manager for the McKinney homeless shelter in Hartford, who had worked with Walter. "She was a fighter, and such a strong advocate for this community. She touched so many lives."

Howard Rifkin, executive director of Partnership for Strong Communities, an organization that seeks to end homelessness and create affordable housing opportunities, recalled Walter as "maddening and endearing at the same time." Rifkin collaborated with Walter on several initiatives, including a plan to end chronic homelessness and homelessness among veterans and families with children in Connecticut.

"We're both opinionated people," he said. "She and I would sometimes go at it, but we would always end our meetings with a hug and a laugh."

Rifkin said Walter had "a sense of urgency" about her work.

"She had a deep, deep commitment to [creating] a more equitable and socially just society, and I'm sure that her passion for this work was informed by that," he said.

Outside of work, Walter was an avid theater-goer, friends said. She loved the outdoors, traveling and being near the ocean.

She was also a devoted Mets fan.

"Carol would put a Yankees cap in her freezer to give the Mets good luck," Lang

said. "If that didn't work, we'd change the places we were sitting. There were a lot of crazy rituals around baseball games."

Lang said Walter's friends and colleagues would miss the woman who had "a real zest for life."

"Connecticut is a little smaller and a little darker today," she said.

Walter is survived by her wife, Debra Walsh, of West Hartford.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS OPITZ

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 4, 2013

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a dear friend of mine, Thomas Opitz. Tom passed away on Saturday, December 29, 2012. A long time resident of Corona, he was a pillar of the community and he will be deeply missed.

Tom was born November 21, 1922, in La Crosse, Wisconsin, the son of Raymond J. and Susan (Singer) Opitz. He served his country honorably in World War II in the United States Army Air Corps from 1944–1946 and received several medals in recognition of his military achievements. He was a member of the Navy League, the Elks and the Confederate Air Force.

Tom worked as a self employed contractor, interior designer and artist of restaurants. Over the years, the Opitz family and the Calvert family have had a close relationship, both personal and professional, and Tom was a great partner and friend. He and his family helped our family build the Corona Bowl, the Encore, Lord Calvert's Jolly Fox and the Jolly Fox Pub & Grille. Millions of Californians have enjoyed a family dinner in restaurants designed by Tom, as he built, designed, and painted over 400.

Tom was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He is survived by his sons Craig, Thomas, Mark and daughter Christal Trusty; 11 grandchildren; and 6 great-grandchildren. On Monday, January 7, 2013, a memorial service honoring Tom's extraordinary life will be held at Thomas Miller Mortuary in Corona. He will be interred at the Riverside National Cemetery, where he will be laid to rest with his wife of 58 years, Ruth Opitz.

Tom will always be remembered for his devotion to family, caring nature and selfless giving. Tom demonstrated an incredible work ethic, generosity, contributions to the community and love of family. These achievements and qualities are a testament to a life lived well and a legacy that will continue. I extend my condolences to Tom's family and friends. Although Tom may be gone, the light and goodness he brought to the world remain and will never be forgotten.

THE JOB PROTECTION AND RECESSION PREVENTION ACT

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 4, 2013

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, it is New Years 2013. The Nation now finds itself at an urgent crossroads.

America has fallen over the fiscal cliff. Many of our fellow and most economically vulnerable Americans are now in a free fall. How far they fall and for how long will be up to Congress.

The House of Representatives should be deciding now, and by that I mean today, whether to pass the Job Protection and Recession Prevention Act of 2012, which was passed in the Senate by an overwhelming bipartisan 89–8 vote.

If the House of Representatives fumbles this opportunity, it won't matter to these Americans which political party tells them that they did or did not cut taxes, or which party held more closely to its campaign promises.

What matters to the 2 million Americans who are currently unemployed is why are their unemployment benefits being held hostage to provide tax cuts for employed and more well-off Americans?

The deal agreed to in the Senate provides a strong enough platform for our country's continued progress and economic recovery. That package will generate a good deal of the increased tax revenues that our U.S. Treasury needs to operate the government.

The Senate's package assures millions of students and unemployed and poor Americans that they will have the basics to carry out their daily lives and to advance their educational and career goals. Among other things, the Senate deal would also authorize the Farm Bill through September of this year.

Extending earned income and child care tax credits and benefits, as the Senate deal would do, may not mean much for middle class families and individuals. But guess what? Those credits and benefits are hugely important, for example, to a family of four under the poverty level, which on average makes only \$21,000 per year.

The Senate's proposal, which the Majority should bring up immediately for a vote is a good compromise. It won't give Republicans everything that they want. Similarly, Democrats are not getting all of what they want in this package.

And rightly so—neither party has all the answers to the plethora of very complex fiscal problems we are facing. Compromise is the solution, just as compromise will be the solution when we come up against sequestration, the debt ceiling, and passing a continuing budget resolution.

I strongly urged you, Mr. Speaker, to call up H.R. 8, the Job Protection and Recession Prevention Act, as amended and passed by the Senate for a vote in this House. Let's stop dangling innocent and vulnerable Americans over the fiscal cliff; they've waited too long for us to act as it is.