

learned to quilt from her mother, Aolar Mosely, and she worked over the years in a variety of textile-related jobs. Mary Lee gathers design ideas for her quilt art by looking at the world around her. Anything—from people’s clothes at church, to her barn, to quilts hanging on clotheslines in front yards, to how the land looks when she’s high above it in an airplane—can inspire her.

Mary Lee Bendolph has worked to promote greater understanding of her community and its unique art form. She has appeared on numerous television and radio programs, and figured prominently in the PBS documentary “The Quiltmakers of Gee’s Bend.” In 1999, Mary Lee’s life was profiled in The Los Angeles Times by J.R. Moehringer in “Crossing Over: Mary Lee’s Vision,” which was awarded a Pulitzer Prize. Additionally, the main character Sadie Pettway in Elyzabeth Wilder’s play “Gee’s Bend,” currently on tour, is based on the life of Mary Lee Bendolph.

Loretta Pettway Bennett is a fifth-generation quilter from Gee’s Bend, Alabama and one of the youngest to continue handstitching quilts in the renowned Gee’s Bend style. She is the second of eight children and oldest daughter of Tom O. and Quinnie Elizabeth Pettway Jr. Loretta’s ancestry traces back to Dinah Miller, a great-great-great grandmother who, according to folklore and family history, was one of the first slaves to have arrived in Gee’s Bend. Loretta has over two dozen additional relatives among the initial group of quilters, establishing her as a bona fide member of what could be considered America’s quilting royalty.

Loretta has stated that she came full circle, back to her Gee’s Bend roots, when she made a quilt in honor of her mother Quinnie Pettway, who taught her to sew and quilt, and her cousin Arlonzia Pettway. “After that quilt, I went into a zone where I was inspired to use really bold colors and different types of materials together just like the generations of relatives before me, because they used what they had. I added something else that my family especially loves, music and dancing. I was finally there, using different shapes, sizes, colors and textures. Just like my family, imperfect but still a family.”

Most recently, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts featured the Gee’s Bend Jazz Symphony in February 2013. During Black History Month 2013, the history of the community of Gee’s Bend, and the spirit of the women of the Gee’s Bend quilt art, was brought to the nation by jazz pianist Jason Moran, using music to help animate history and interpret museum collections.

Mr. Speaker, I am beyond honored to represent the community of Gee’s Bend and these two extraordinary artists. I look forward to many more appearances in our nation’s capital by these highly talented artists.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS ABOLITION AND ECONOMIC AND ENERGY CONVERSION ACT OF 2013

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Nuclear Weapons Abolition and

Economic and Energy Conversion Act of 2013, a version of which I have introduced since 1994, after working with the District of Columbia residents who were responsible for the Nuclear Disarmament and Economic Conversion ballot initiative passed by DC voters in 1993. This version of the bill now requires the United States to negotiate an international agreement to disable and dismantle its nuclear weapons by 2020 and provides for strict control of fissile material and radioactive waste and for use of nuclear-free energy. The bill continues to provide that the funds used for nuclear weapons programs be redirected to human and infrastructure needs, such as housing, health care, Social Security and the environment, and it would take effect when the President certifies to Congress that all countries possessing nuclear weapons have eliminated such weapons. The bill is particularly timely as Congress continues to make cuts to important human and infrastructure programs and as the world confronts concerns about nuclear proliferation to Iran and North Korea.

Following years of dangerous increases in U.S. nuclear capacity during the George W. Bush administration, President Barack Obama has begun to rebuild U.S. credibility with his goal of taking the necessary steps to achieve a world without nuclear weapons. The president’s strong push for the New START treaty in 2010, when Republicans seemed adamant on delaying it, resulted in ratification by the Senate. The treaty requires the two major nuclear powers, Russia and the United States, to continue to reduce nuclear weapons by mutually reducing their nuclear warheads by half and their number of intercontinental ballistic missiles and missile launchers, and, within 60 days of the treaty taking affect, on February 5, 2011, submit to on-site inspections of strategic nuclear weapons facilities by the weapons experts of the other country.

Today, our country has a long list of urgent domestic needs that have been put on the back burner even though millions of Americans have lost their homes and jobs and sequestration has started. As the only nation that has used nuclear weapons in war, and that still possesses the largest nuclear weapons arsenal, I urge support for my bill to help the United States lead the world in redirecting funds that would otherwise go to nuclear weapons to be available for urgent domestic needs.

CYBER INTELLIGENCE SHARING AND PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 624) to provide for the sharing of certain cyber threat intelligence and cyber threat information between the intelligence community and cybersecurity entities, and for other purposes:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Chair, cybersecurity experts in government and the private sector agree that the biggest impediments to strengthening cybersecurity are obstacles that prevent the sharing of cyber threat informa-

tion. The intent of the bill before the House, H.R. 624, the Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act (CISPA) is laudable in that it eliminates some of those obstacles. Security and privacy, however, should not be mutually exclusive and CISPA does not go far enough to protect privacy. This is the bottom line for me, my constituents, and I hope the Obama Administration, and why I oppose this legislation.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT FOR THE SMALL BUSINESS DISASTER RELIEF AND RECOVERY ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2013

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a bill that would exempt loans from the credit union member business lending cap that are made after federally-declared natural disasters, injecting much-needed funds into local communities when they need it most.

Superstorm Sandy caused enormous destruction throughout the Northeast, and wildfires, hurricanes, and tornados have wreaked similar havoc across the country. Federal disaster assistance that flows after each declaration of a disaster is essential but not sufficient to get a region back on its feet. I’ve heard from many small businesses about their struggle to recover from Sandy. Counties in eleven states and the District of Columbia were declared major disaster areas by the President during the storm.

That is why this bill is so important. It will exempt credit union ‘member business loans’ from the normal lending cap for a period of up to five years after a natural disaster declaration. This will enable credit unions to temporarily lend above their cap in any area where there had been a federal declaration of disaster.

Exempting these loans from the cap will open up a new source of credit for struggling small businesses and untie the hands of credit unions that want to provide that assistance. Credit unions are key members of the communities they serve and want to be there for small businesses who need assistance recovering from natural disasters. This bill will provide businesses a source of capital to help them rebuild and recover.

Currently, under federal regulations, Federal Credit Unions are each subject to a ceiling of 12.25% of their assets in business loans to their members. As many credit unions approach that cap, they are unable to provide needed capital to their communities.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation to help areas that so badly need access to capital to help them recover.

HONORING THE WAYNE PUBLIC LIBRARY’S 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2013

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Wayne Public Library, located in the Township of Wayne, Passaic