United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 159 WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2013 No. 59

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 26, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RANDY M. HULTGREN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

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

You have blessed us with all good gifts, and with thankful hearts we express our gratitude. You have created us with opportunities to serve other people in their need, to share together in respect and affection, and to be faithful in the responsibilities we have been given.

In this moment of prayer, please grant to the Members of this people's House the gifts of wisdom and discernment, that in their words and actions they will do justice, love with mercy, and walk humbly with You.

As the Members return to their districts, may their constituents meet them with respect, honesty, and if need be, challenge that will serve as an encouragement to the work they do for our Nation.

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

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK 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 PRO TEMPORE

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

PROTECTING OUR CREDIT

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, the Democratic whip charged that the Full Faith and Credit Act places America's credit at risk of default. As Churchill said:

> It would not be possible to state the opposite of the truth with greater precision.

Quite the contrary, this measure guarantees that whatever political storms are raging in Washington, America's debt will always be paid in full and on time. I would remind him that if the full faith and credit of the United States is ever compromised, all programs are jeopardized. This bill protects the public credit so that the public credit can protect seniors and disabled veterans and all of our other obligations.

No one wants to see a stalemate that would delay any payment. That would be unprecedented, disruptive, and dangerous. But the worst and most lasting damage of such an event would be to imperil our Nation's credit. This bill simply ensures that even in the worst-case scenario, that will never happen.

HONORING FORMER CONGRESSMAN BOB MICHEL

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about Bob Michel, a man who served central Illinois in this Chamber for close to 4 decades and who continues to be a longtime friend of my family's and a role model to so many.

Congressman Michel was born and raised in Peoria, graduated from Bradley University, and was a decorated war hero in World War II. After coming home, Bob Michel became involved in public service and ended up serving 38 years in this House of Representatives, eventually rising to the House minority leader.

I'm a Democrat and Congressman Michel happens to be a Republican. But

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I'm proud to say that he earned a reputation as someone who worked across the aisle, striving to find commonsense, bipartisan solutions to the issues of the day.

Congressman Michel celebrated his 90th birthday last month, and he continues to be an inspiration for all who are more interested in working together to get results than trying to score cheap political shots.

Central Illinois has a long tradition of public servants who made a career out of reaching across party lines. Former Republican Senator Everett Dirksen of Pekin, in my district also, played a key role in the passage of the 1964 civil rights bill, while former Republican Congressman Ray LaHood of Peoria has worked across the aisle to improve the Nation's roads, bridges, and rail lines as Secretary of Transportation under the Obama administration.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that all Members of this body will join me in pledging to work together to put the people we represent first, and I would like to wish Congressman Michel a happy 90th birthday.

REMEMBERING LIEUTENANT COLONEL DONALD HOOD

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

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, retired United States Army Reserve Lieutenant Colonel Donald Hood passed away on December 30, 2012. He served our Nation with distinction, first on Active Duty in the United States Army and later in the Army Reserve.

Lieutenant Colonel Hood began his military service with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he became the first parachute-qualified, combat-ready optometrist in the United States Army.

From 1970 to 1972, Lieutenant Colonel Hood served in Southeast Asia during the war in Vietnam as the Army's chief of eye services at the Diplomatic Medical Mission in Bangkok, Thailand.

In 1972, he left Active Duty and continued serving his country in the United States Army Reserve as the chief of optometry for the 5502 United States Army Reserve Hospital in Aurora, Colorado, until his retirement in 1990.

Lieutenant Colonel Hood is survived by his wife, Patricia; his daughter, Chelsey Russell; his son, Cayman; and his granddaughter, Hayden Russell.

ACROSS-THE-BOARD BUDGET CUTS

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, later today, the House will vote to restore funding to the Nation's air traffic control system to better protect the traveling public and to restore order to a vital sector of our economy by shifting unused funds.

Two lessons are hopefully now learned:

Across-the-board budget cuts are abysmally stupid. Cut a program that's vital to the health, safety and the economy, and what about this unused money over here? Oh, we can't move that, so we took care of that.

Second, there are some here who believe the Federal Government doesn't need to and should not invest in facilitating the movement of goods and freight and people in this country. It should devolve to the States.

Well, this is an object lesson in how vital these Federal programs are to the Nation's airspace. And next year, when the Highway Trust Fund goes below zero and we cut spending by $50 billion on highways and transit, we will have another crisis. Let's hope we don't have to see a million layoffs and total disruption across the country before we fix that one. Fix that one before it happens.

□ 1010

NATIONAL PARK WEEK

(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 to celebrate National Park Week.

Our national parks are truly one of America's greatest natural resources, drawing nearly 279 million visitors and families who go to camp, hike, fish, and explore each year. Minnesota, my home State, is home to several national parks as well, with lakes and rivers and waterways.

In just a few years, our national parks will celebrate their 100th birthday. In preparation for this centennial, I have introduced legislation, H.R. 627, to allow the U.S. Mint to issue a National Park commemorative coin, with all of the proceeds going to help our national parks and our National Park Foundation. The bill has strong bipartisan support, and it is one more way that we can provide additional resources for our national parks.

Protecting and preserving these beautiful spaces—our national parks, monuments, and Civil War battlefields—for future generations is important. Our National Park Week is a perfect time to reignite this interest for individual community efforts in order to ensure that our national parks remain and retain their place as the most beautiful in the world.

A NEW ACHIEVEMENT IN MATHEMATICS

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce a new achievement in mathematics.

We learned about square roots in middle school. In the 15th century, mathematicians discovered the square roots of negative numbers. These ''imaginary numbers'' form the basis of much science and engineering, which are applied for practical uses, like the design of airplane wings.

In the 1920s, Paul Dirac constructed the square roots of ''differential operators'' in the development of quantum mechanics, which is the basis of much high-tech science.

In the 1970s, another type of square root, called ''matrix factorization,'' which is important in physics, was discovered by David Eisenbud. This month, Daniel Murfet, a postdoc at the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute, announced new ways of linking matrix factorizations together, which will have numerous applications.

Mr. Murfet's work was funded by the National Science Foundation, and illustrates the importance of our Nation's continuing investment in the research and education of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last night, a random telephone poll of my constituents was conducted in five Hill Country counties in the 21st District of Texas.

Here are the results:

Eighty-eight percent feel that the border should be secured before other immigration reforms take effect; 84 percent favor a system that would require employers to hire legal workers; 96 percent think that the Federal Government should balance its budget; and 85 percent believe the American people are taxed too much.

These are sincerely held views by hardworking, law-abiding, tax-paying good Americans. Congress would do well to heed their advice.

SAFE CLIMATE CAUCUS

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

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a member of the Safe Climate Caucus to take note of a major milestone in human history. This past week, the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere passed 400 parts per million.

I say a ''milestone in human history'' because this level of carbon dioxide has never been seen in human history. In fact, this level has not been achieved for millions of years.

I also say a ''milestone in human history'' because it is human activity—the way we produce and use energy—that is responsible for this high concentration; and it is of historic importance because, as scientists have made

clear, this great concentration of greenhouse gas is changing our very climate in ways that are dangerous and costly in dollars and lives. If we fail to change our ways, fail to change how we generate and use energy, then we will face worse and worse—blistering wildfires, withering droughts, flooding events, super hurricanes.

As the Earth goes barreling past 400 parts per million of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, let's take action now, this year, this Congress, to address climate change. Let's show that this is a turning point, not just a marker of inaction and environmental degradation.

PROTECT YOUR RIGHT TO REFUSE

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

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, 8 months from now, the Affordable Care Act's individual mandate will begin to punish Americans with a tax simply because they refuse to purchase health care. The mandate sets a dangerous new precedent.

If Congress has the power to tax our decision to not purchase health insurance, what else can a future Congress tax?

The Supreme Court has opened Pandora's box and has allowed future Congresses to tax Americans for failing to purchase any number of conceivable goods or services—basically, whatever Congress deems necessary.

That's why I introduced House Joint Resolution 28, the Right to Refuse Amendment, which would effectively reverse the mandate taxes and permanently prevent Congress from forcing Americans to choose between a purchase and a tax. The amendment is short and simple: Congress shall make no law that imposes a tax on a failure to purchase goods or services.

If my colleagues believe the Court got it wrong and if they believe in limited government, then I urge my colleagues to cosponsor House Joint Resolution 28.

THE NEXT TAMERLAN

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, in the wake of the terrorist attack on the Boston Marathon and in learning that their next target was Times Square in New York City, I hope my colleagues who oppose gun safety laws will reconsider.

We have learned that Tamerlan, the terrorist, was on the terror watch list for 18 months. Many of our colleagues say that someone should have done something to prevent the terrorist from killing; but strangely, making the next Tamerlan undergo a background check on the Internet or at a gun show to buy a gun is not one of them.

The pro-gun lobby insists that the next terrorists should still be able to buy all of the assault weapons they want and all of the 100-round magazines they need—no problem, no background check necessary. The next terrorist, or the next Tamerlan, thinks they are absolutely right; but 90 percent of Americans disagree, and I hope my colleagues will reconsider gun safety legislation.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 853. An act to provide the Secretary of Transportation with the flexibility to transfer certain funds to prevent reduced operations and staffing of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 111–5, the Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, appoints the following individual to the Health Information Technology Policy Committee:

Dr. Scott Gottlieb of Connecticut.

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of section 3166 of Public Law 112–239, the Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, announces the appointment of the following individual to be a member of the Congressional Advisory Panel on the Governance of the Nuclear Security Enterprise:

Michael R. Anastasio of New Mexico.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 101–509, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, announces the re-appointment of Steve Zink, of Nevada, to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress.

RESPONSIBLE HELIUM ADMINISTRATION AND STEWARDSHIP ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 527.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 178 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 527.

Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HULTGREN) kindly take the chair.

□ 1018

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 527) to amend the Helium Act to complete the privatization of the Federal helium reserve in a competitive market fashion that ensures stability in the helium markets while protecting the interests of American taxpayers, and for other purposes, with Mr. HULTGREN (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Thursday, April 25, 2013, all time for general debate had expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources, printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113–9. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 527

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Responsible Helium Administration and Stewardship Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

Section 2 of the Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a period;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a period; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) FEDERAL HELIUM RESERVE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'Federal Helium Reserve' means the Bureau of Land Management Cliffside Gas Field and supporting infrastructure.

''(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term 'Federal Helium Reserve' includes—

''(i) the Cliffside Gas Field helium storage reservoir; and

''(ii) all associated infrastructure owned, leased, or managed under contract by the Secretary for storage, transportation, withdrawal, purification, or management of helium.

''(5) QUALIFYING DOMESTIC HELIUM TRANSACTION.—The term 'qualifying domestic helium transaction'—

''(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), means any new or newly renegotiated agreement for the purchase or sale of at least 15,000,000 standard cubic feet of crude helium or bulk liquid helium delivered in the United States in the most recent full fiscal year; and

''(B) does not include any purchase of crude helium from the Secretary.

''(6) TOLLING AGREEMENT.—The term 'tolling agreement' means an agreement between a helium refiner and another party under which the helium refiner agrees to process the other person's helium at an agreed upon price.''.

SEC. 3. SALE AND AUCTION OF CRUDE HELIUM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6 of the Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167d) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 6. SALE OF HELIUM.

''(a) PHASE A: FINALIZING DEBT PAYOFF.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall offer for sale crude helium for Federal, medical, research, scientific, and commercial uses in such quantities, at such times, and under such conditions as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out this subsection with minimum market disruption.

''(2) MINIMUM QUANTITY.—The Secretary shall offer for sale during each fiscal year under paragraph (1) a quantity of crude helium equivalent to the quantity of crude helium produced from the Federal Helium Reserve during fiscal year 2012.

''(3) IN-KIND PURCHASE BY FEDERAL AGENCIES AND GRANTEES.—Federal agencies, and holders of 1 or more Federal research grants, may purchase refined helium under this subsection for Federal, medical, research and scientific uses from persons who have entered into enforceable contracts to purchase an equivalent quantity of crude helium from the Secretary.

''(4) PRICES AND DETERMINATIONS.—Sales of crude helium by the Secretary under this subsection shall be at prices established by the Secretary that shall not be less than the price in the last sale of crude helium from the Federal Helium Reserve before the date of enactment of the Responsible Helium Administration and Stewardship Act, except that any sale to a person referred to in paragraph (3) for a purchase authorized by that paragraph shall be at a price specified by the Secretary.

''(5) DURATION.—This subsection applies during the period—

''(A) beginning on the date of enactment of the Responsible Helium Administration and Stewardship Act; and

''(B) ending on the expiration of the one-year period following such date of enactment.

''(b) PHASE B: MAXIMIZING TOTAL RECOVERY OF HELIUM AND INCREASING RETURNS TO THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall offer for sale at auction, as described in subsection (d), crude helium for medical, research, scientific, and commercial uses in such quantities, at such times, and under such conditions as the Secretary determines necessary—

''(A) to maximize total recovery and conservation of helium from the Federal Helium Reserve;

''(B) to manage crude helium sales according to the ability of the Secretary to extract and produce helium from the Federal Helium Reserve;

''(C) to respond to helium market supply and demand and minimize market disruption; and

''(D) to give priority to meeting the helium demand of Federal users through purchases under paragraph (2).

''(2) IN-KIND PURCHASE BY FEDERAL AGENCIES AND GRANTEES.—Any Federal agency, and any holder of 1 or more Federal research grants, may purchase refined helium for Federal, medical, research, and scientific uses from an eligible person. The Secretary shall then provide an equivalent volume of crude helium to the eligible person as if the eligible person was the successful bidder for the helium at auction. Provision of helium by the Secretary under this paragraph shall not be considered a sale of helium by the Secretary at auction. The Secretary shall provide such helium at the minimum price established by the Secretary for the most recent auction held under this subsection or such other price as may be specified by the Secretary.

''(3) ELIGIBLE PERSON.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'eligible person' means a helium distributer who is registered as such with the Secretary.

''(4) DURATION.—This subsection applies during the period—

''(A) beginning on the expiration of the period described in subsection (a)(5)(B); and

''(B) ending on the date on which the volume of recoverable crude helium at the Federal Helium Reserve (other than privately owned quantities of crude helium stored temporarily at the Federal Helium Reserve under section 5 and this section) is 3,000,000,000 standard cubic feet.

''(5) MAXIMUM ANNUAL SALES.—Notwithstanding any provision of subsection (d), for each fiscal year, the Secretary may not offer or provide for sale under this subsection a total volume of crude helium that exceeds the lesser of—

''(A) the projected maximum total production capacity of the Federal Helium Reserve during that fiscal year; and

''(B) the maximum refining capacity of persons connected by pipeline to the Federal Helium Reserve during that fiscal year.

''(c) PHASE C: ACCESS FOR FEDERAL USERS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may offer for sale crude helium for Federal uses (including medical, research, and scientific uses) in such quantities, at such times, and under such conditions as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out this subsection.

''(2) PURCHASE BY FEDERAL AGENCIES AND GRANTEES.—Federal agencies, and holders of 1 or more Federal research grants related to helium or the use of helium, may purchase refined helium under this subsection for Federal uses (including medical, research, and scientific uses) from persons who have entered into enforceable contracts to purchase an equivalent quantity of crude helium from the Secretary.

''(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection applies beginning on the day after the date described in subsection (b)(4)(B).

''(d) AUCTION AND MINIMUM PRICES DETERMINATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Sales of crude helium by the Secretary in auctions under subsection (b) shall be conducted under the conditions described in this section and at no less than the minimum price established by the Secretary.

''(2) AUCTION.—The Secretary shall conduct such auctions of crude helium as soon as practical but no later than beginning 180 days after the first day of the period described in subsection (b)(4), under the following conditions:

''(A) 60 percent of the volume of crude helium made available in each auction shall be made available to entities that can show the Secretary they have either adequate refining capacity or tolling agreements for refining in place, in accordance with the conditions set forth in paragraph (3).

''(B) 20 percent of the volume of crude helium made available in each auction shall be made available to any bidder, in accordance with the conditions set forth in paragraph (3).

''(C) In each auction after the first auction under this subsection after the date of the enactment of the Responsible Helium Administration and Stewardship Act, the Secretary shall make available an additional volume of crude helium, in an amount equivalent to the amount made available under subparagraph (B) that the Secretary certifies can be refined, through tolling agreements or otherwise. Of such additional volume, a person may not acquire in the auction a volume in excess of the volume they demonstrate to the Secretary they have the ability to refine through either refining capacity or tolling agreements.

''(D) The Secretary shall conduct such auctions at such times as the Secretary determines necessary to ensure a reliable supply of helium and a fair return to taxpayers, but no less frequently than 2 times each fiscal year.

''(E) For purposes of the first auction under this subsection after the date of the enactment of the Responsible Helium Administration and Stewardship Act, the Secretary may revise the percentage under subparagraph (A) so as to make available for auction 100 percent of the volume of crude helium intended to be offered.

''(F) The Secretary may adjust the percentages and amount specified in subparagraphs (A) through (C), respectively, in any auction if the Secretary determines the adjustment is necessary to—

''(i) respond to market supply and demand and minimize market disruption; or

''(ii) increase participation in helium auctions.

''(G) The Secretary may conduct an auction no more frequently than once each fiscal year of an amount of helium equal to up to 10 percent of the volume of crude helium to be made available at auction during the following fiscal year. Such amount of crude helium shall be made available to any bidder, in accordance with the conditions set forth in paragraph (3). Notwithstanding paragraph (3)(C), for crude helium sold in such an auction the Secretary shall begin charging a storage fee under clause (i) of that paragraph beginning 1 year after the date of such auction, and shall begin charging increasing storage fees under clause (ii) of that paragraph beginning 270 days after beginning charging storage fees under clause (i) of that paragraph.

''(3) AUCTION CONDITIONS.—

''(A) BIDDING METHOD.—The Secretary shall conduct each auction by sealed bid for predetermined volume lots, unless the Secretary determines that an alternative bidding method may result in more revenue to the Federal Government or may increase participation in the auction.

''(B) BIDDER QUALIFICATIONS AND LIMITS.—In carrying out an auction under subsection (b), the Secretary—

''(i) may accept bids only from persons the Secretary determines are seeking to purchase helium for their own use, for refining, or for delivery to users; and

''(ii) may not award to a person more than 30 percent of the total volume of crude helium offered in that auction, except that the Secretary may adjust such limitation based on the number of bidders in the auction.

''(C) STORAGE FEES.—In each auction the Secretary—

''(i) shall begin charging each winning bidder a storage fee for crude helium purchased by the bidder that remains in the Federal Helium Reserve, beginning on the date the Secretary receives payment of the purchase price for the helium; and

''(ii) beginning 270 days after the date of the auction, shall charge increasing storage fees that will encourage the withdrawal of the helium no later than 2 years after the date of the auction.

''(4) DETERMINATION OF MINIMUM SALE PRICE.—The Secretary shall make a determination of the minimum sale price for sales described in paragraph (1) using—

''(A) a confidential survey of qualifying domestic helium transactions to which any holder of a contract with the Secretary for the acceptance, storage, and redelivery of crude helium in the Cliffside Gas Field helium storage reservoir is a party;

''(B) current market crude helium prices as represented by the sale price at any auction held by the Secretary in the preceding 2 years;

''(C) the volume-weighted average cost among helium refiners, producers, and liquefiers, in dollars per thousand cubic feet, of converting gaseous crude helium into bulk liquid helium;

''(D) the additional layer of cost and profit associated with the sale or resale of bulk liquid helium; and

''(E) the sale price for crude helium offered in the most recent auction under paragraph (2)(G).

''(5) AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall—

''(A) require all persons that are parties to a contract with the Secretary for the acceptance, storage, and redelivery of crude helium to disclose, on a strictly confidential basis in dollars per thousand cubic feet, the weighted average price of all crude helium and bulk liquid helium purchased, sold, or processed by the persons in all qualifying domestic helium transactions during the fiscal year;

''(B) appoint a qualified independent third party to perform data collection and analysis for the purposes of the survey under paragraph (4)(A); and

''(C) adopt such administrative policies and procedures as the Secretary considers necessary and reasonable to ensure robust protection of the confidentiality of data submitted by private persons.

''(6) CHANGES IN MINIMUM PRICE.—If the Secretary believes that the minimum price as determined by the survey under paragraph (4)(A) may not be reflective of the current market value of helium, or if a higher minimum price may result in greater conservation of the Federal crude helium resource, the Secretary may change the minimum price charged for crude helium sold under this section by up to 10 percent of the price determined under paragraph (4). If at any sale in which the minimum price is increased under this paragraph all crude helium offered is sold at the increased price, the Secretary shall consider that increased price to be the minimum price determined under paragraph (4) for all future sales of crude helium under this section unless that price is further changed in accordance with this paragraph.

''(7) ENSURING FAIR AND NONDISCRIMINATORY ACTS AND PRACTICES.—The Secretary may issue such rules and regulations with respect to ensure bidding, transfer, and refining of helium produced from or held in the Federal Helium Reserve as may be necessary to ensure fair and nondiscriminatory acts and practices.

''(8) AUCTION RECORDS.—

''(A) FURNISHING RECORDS.—Every person participating in auctions of helium from the Federal Helium Reserve shall furnish to the Secretary on request such records of transactions in helium auctions as the Secretary may require to reconstruct bidding or trading in the course of a particular inquiry or investigation being conducted by the Secretary for enforcement or surveillance purposes. In requiring information pursuant to this paragraph, the Secretary shall specify the information required, the period for which it is required, and the time and date on which the information must be furnished.

''(B) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary may issue rules to require persons participating in helium auctions to file such reports as the Secretary determines to be necessary for purposes of this Act.

''(C) RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS.—Rules under this subsection may require specified persons to make and keep for prescribed periods such records as the Secretary determines are necessary or appropriate to ensure that such persons can comply with reporting requirements under this subsection.

''(D) LIMITATION ON DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall not be compelled to disclose any proprietary information required to be kept or reported under this subsection. Nothing in this subsection authorizes the Secretary to withhold information from Congress, prevents the Secretary from complying with a request for information from any other Federal department or agency requesting information for purposes within the scope of its jurisdiction, or prevents the Secretary from complying with an order of a court of the United States in an action brought by the United States or by the Secretary.

''(e) HELIUM PRODUCTION FUND.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—All amounts received under this Act shall be credited to the Helium Production Fund, which shall be available without fiscal year limitation for purposes considered necessary by the Secretary to carry out this subsection.

''(2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Amounts in the Helium Production Fund may be used by the Secretary to conduct helium auctions and otherwise administer this Act.

''(3) REPAYMENT AMOUNTS.—During the period described in subsection (a)(4), amounts in the Helium Production Fund in excess of amounts the Secretary considers necessary to conduct helium auctions and otherwise administer this Act shall be paid to the general fund of the Treasury and credited against all amounts required to be repaid to the United States under this Act as of October 1, 1995.

''(4) CAPITAL INVESTMENTS AND MAINTENANCE.—Amounts in the Helium Production Fund in excess of amounts the Secretary considers necessary to carry out paragraphs (1) through (3) may be used to fund the following capital investments in upgrades and maintenance at the Federal Helium reserve:

''(A) Wellhead maintenance at the Cliffside Gas Field helium storage reservoir.

''(B) Capital investments in maintenance and upgrades of facilities that pressurize the Cliffside Gas Field helium storage reservoir.

''(C) Capital investments in maintenance and upgrades of equipment related to the storage, withdrawal, transportation, purification, and sale of crude helium at the Cliffside Gas Field helium storage reservoir.

''(D) Any other scheduled or unscheduled maintenance of the Cliffside Gas Field helium storage reservoir and helium pipeline.

''(5) EXCESS FUNDS.—Amounts in the Helium Production Fund in excess of amounts the Secretary considers necessary to carry out paragraphs (1) through (4) shall be paid to the general fund of the Treasury.

''(f) EXTRACTION OF HELIUM FROM DEPOSITS ON FEDERAL LAND.—All amounts received by the Secretary from the sale or disposition of crude helium on Federal land shall be paid to the general fund of the Treasury and credited against all amounts required to be repaid to the United States under this Act as of October 1, 1995.

''(g) MAINTENANCE OF HELIUM SUPPLY.—The Secretary shall ensure that there is no disruption in the supply of helium from the Federal Helium Reserve during the transition between phases of helium sales under subsections (a), (b), and (c).''.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report describing all expenditures by the Bureau of Land Management for operation and maintenance of the Federal Helium Reserve (as that term is defined in the amendment made by section 2(3)), investments made by the Bureau for such reserve, and scheduled or unscheduled maintenance of such reserve or its infrastructure to be conducted by the Bureau.

SEC. 4. BLM TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENTS TO FACILITATE MARKET AND SUPPLY CHAIN INFORMATION.

The Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167 et seq.) is further amended by redesignating sections 15 and 17 as sections 17 and 18, and by inserting after section 14 the following:

''SEC. 15. PIPELINE ACCESS.

''(a) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary, acting through the Bureau of Land Management, shall make available on the Internet the current refining capacity on the Federal Helium Reserve pipeline, including—

''(1) refinery capacity and future capacity estimates;

''(2) ownership of federally auctioned helium held in the Federal Helium Reserve;

''(3) volume of helium delivered to individual buyers through such pipeline;

''(4) for each helium refiner—

''(A) the number of tolling agreements entered into before October 1, 2013; and

''(B) for each fiscal year thereafter—

''(i) the number of tolling agreements entered into;

''(ii) the number of tolling requests received; and

''(iii) the total volume of helium refined under each tolling agreement entered into;

''(5) pipeline pressure constraints; and

''(6) other factors that will increase transparency for persons interested in entering refining contracts with existing refiners.

''(b) NEW REFINING CAPACITY.—The Secretary shall take any applications for new refining capacity on the Federal Helium Reserve pipeline. To create more competition, any new refining capacity added to the Federal Helium Reserve pipeline system shall be granted access to crude helium that is equal to the access provided to existing refining facilities.

''(c) ACCESS BY PURCHASERS OF HELIUM.—The Secretary shall manage Federal Helium Reserve pipeline access in a competitive manner to ensure that all persons purchasing helium have equal access to timing and delivery of the helium, subject to the capacity of the system.

''(d) SCHEDULING DELIVERIES.—The Secretary shall, to the greatest extent practicable, make the scheduling of crude helium deliveries through the Federal Helium Reserve pipeline open and transparent to all purchasers of helium through the auction process, and to the public if the Secretary believes that it is in the national interest.

''(e) SCHEDULING PRIORITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In scheduling crude helium deliveries through the Federal Helium Reserve pipeline the Secretary shall grant pipeline access in the following order of priority:

''(A) Helium held in the Reserve as a result of a purchase under subsection (b)(2).

''(B) Helium sold at auction being delivered to fulfill a tolling agreement.

''(C) Other helium sold at auction.

''(D) Helium held in the Reserve as a result of a crude helium exchange resulting from any temporary shutdown of the Reserve or of a refinery on the Reserve pipeline.

''(E) Helium held in inventory in the Reserve before the date of enactment of the Responsible Helium Administration and Stewardship Act.

''(2) In scheduling such deliveries of helium described in each of subparagraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (1), the Secretary shall grant pipeline access based on the following order of priority:

''(A) The price paid to the United States for the helium, giving higher priority to helium for which a greater price was paid.

''(B) The date the helium was purchased from the Secretary, giving higher priority to helium purchased on an earlier date.

''(C) Any other factor the Secretary considers appropriate to prioritize delivery.

"SEC. 16. BLM REPORTING REQUIREMENTS TO FACILITATE SUPPLY CHAIN INFORMATION.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—In order to provide the market with appropriate and timely information affecting the helium resource, the Director of the Bureau of Land Management shall establish, no later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Responsible Helium Administration and Stewardship Act, a real-time reporting process, including reporting over the Internet, to provide data that will affect the helium industry, including such effects for all persons in such industry from crude helium suppliers to end users.

''(b) INCLUDED INFORMATION.—Information provided under this section shall include the following:

''(1) Annual maintenance schedules and quarterly updates thereof, which shall be available on the Internet, to the extent practicable, and shall include the following:

''(A) The date and duration of planned shutdowns of the Federal Helium Reserve pipeline.

''(B) The nature of work to be undertaken, whether routine, extended, or extraordinary.

''(C) The anticipated impact on the helium supply.

''(D) The efforts to minimize any impact on the supply chain.

''(E) Any concerns regarding maintenance of the Federal Helium Reserve pipeline, pressure of such pipeline, or deviation from normal operation of such pipeline.

''(2) For each unplanned outage, the following:

''(A) The beginning of the outage.

''(B) The expected duration of outage.

''(C) A description of the problem.

''(D) The estimated impact on helium supply.

''(E) A plan to correct problems, an estimate of the potential timeframe for correction, and the likelihood of plan success within the timeframe.

''(F) Efforts to minimize negative impacts on the helium supply chain.

''(G) Updates on repair status and the anticipated online date.

''(3) Minutes of meetings between the Bureau of Land Management and the Cliffside Refiners Limited Partnership, including—

''(A) publication of the minutes of each meeting between the Bureau of Land Management and the Cliffside Refiners Limited Partnership, including attendees and their affiliations, on the Internet site of the Bureau within 1 week after the meeting; and

''(B) indication in the minutes of any action taken that could affect the supply or operating status related to the Federal helium program.

''(4) Current predictions of the lifespan of the Federal Helium Reserve, including how much longer such crude helium supply will be available based on current and forecasted demand and the projected maximum production capacity of the Federal Helium Reserve for the following fiscal year.''.

SEC. 5. HELIUM RESOURCE ASSESSMENT AND HELIUM–3 SEPARATION.

(a) HELIUM GAS RESOURCE ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall—

(1) in coordination with appropriate heads of State geological surveys—

(A) complete a national helium gas assessment that identifies and quantifies the quantity of helium, including the isotope helium-3, in each reservoir, including assessments of the constituent gases found in each helium resource, such as carbon dioxide, nitrogen, and natural gas; and

(B) make available the modern seismic and geophysical log data for characterization of the Bush Dome Reservoir;

(2) in coordination with appropriate international agencies and the global geology community, complete a global helium gas assessment that identifies and quantifies the quantity of the helium, including the isotope helium-3, in each reservoir;

(3) in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, acting through the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, complete—

(A) an assessment of trends in global demand for helium, including the isotope helium-3;

(B) a 10-year forecast of domestic demand for helium across all sectors, including scientific and medical research, commercial, manufacturing, space technologies, cryogenics, and national defense; and

(C) an inventory of medical, research, scientific, industrial, commercial, and other uses of helium in the United States, including Federal and commercial helium uses, that identifies the nature of the helium use, the amounts required, the technical and commercial viability of helium recapture and recycling in that use, and the availability of material substitutes wherever possible; and

(4) submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report describing the results of the assessments required under this subsection.

(b) HELIUM-3 SEPARATION.—

(1) INTERAGENCY COOPERATION.—The Secretary of the Interior shall cooperate with the Secretary of Energy, or a designee of the Secretary of Energy, on any assessment or research relating to the extraction and refining of the isotope helium-3 from crude helium at the Federal Helium Reserve (as that term is defined in the amendments made by section 2) or along the Federal Helium Reserve pipeline system, including—

(A) gas analysis;

(B) infrastructure studies; and

(C) cooperation with private helium refiners.

(2) FEASIBILITY STUDY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall assess the feasibility of establishing a facility to separate the isotope helium-3 from crude helium at—

(A) the Federal Helium Reserve; or

(B) an existing helium separation or purification facility connected to the Federal Helium Reserve pipeline system.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that contains a description of the results of the assessments conducted under this subsection.

The Acting CHAIR. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in House Report 113–47. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. COLLINS OF GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 113–47.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 18, line 14, after ''FUNDS'' insert ''AND DEFICIT REDUCTION''.

Page 18, line 18, before the period insert ''and used to reduce the annual Federal budget deficit''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 178, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

□ 1020

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I offer this amendment to ensure that any excess funds as a result of this bipartisan bill are used to reduce the annual Federal budget deficit.

I am pleased that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle have proposed a commonsense bill that speaks to the heart of the free-market system.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates, as a result of this bill, $340 million will be returned to the Federal Government. This amendment ensures that every penny of savings will go toward deficit reduction, furthering the goal of this House to create jobs and encourage economic growth.

This body has made significant strides in putting our country back on a path to fiscal prosperity. Passing a budget that will seek to balance in 10 years is no small achievement, but there is still more that we can do. This bill is just one example of savings that we can achieve by allowing innovation and private industry to do what it does best.

The underlying bill completes the privatization of the Federal Helium Reserve in a competitive market fashion, respecting hard-earned taxpayer dollars while ensuring the stability of the helium market. As we have seen in the current helium market, innovation thrives when government gets out of the way of private industry.

By applying free-market principles, this bill will spur cutting-edge research, development, and production of helium while bringing transparency and responsibility to how taxpayers' dollars are spent.

In my home State of Georgia, this legislation draws broad support from job creators such GE Energy, IBM, Kodak, Philips, Siemens, and Texas Instruments.

I thank the gentleman from Washington and the gentleman from Massachusetts for their leadership on this issue. This legislation is a perfect example of how good policy knows no party line.

With that, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I thank the gentleman for bringing this amendment to the floor, and I intend to support it. With our fiscal situation in this country, this is a good addition to the amendment; and I thank the gentleman for bringing it forward.

Mr. HOLT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. HOLT. I appreciate the gentleman's amendment, which reiterates language that is in the underlying bill, and we have no objection to it on the minority side. I applaud the gentleman for bringing it forward.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Chair, at this point, I'm pleased to yield 2 minutes to my friend from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT), the cosponsor of this amendment.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman from Georgia for allowing me a few minutes to speak on this issue.

I rise today in support of the Collins-Scott amendment, which requires that any funds received from the sale of helium will be used to pay down our country's debt.

I'm sure many of my colleagues would agree when I say our country's deficit is one of the top problems that we face. In fact, if we continue on this path, by the time my 13-year-old son is a freshman in college, this country will be paying more interest on the debt than we spend on national defense.

I understand this problem cannot be solved with one swift move; however, if we are not able to make reasonable changes to policies and allow additional revenue to reduce our debt, our children and grandchildren will not be given the chance to continue this country's greatness.

Due to the importance of protecting our children and grandchildren, we should support this amendment. It puts us one step closer to addressing our country's biggest problem. For this reason, I ask my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. This is a commonsense amendment that will only enhance the benefits achieved by the underlying bill and by ensuring we privatize deficit reduction and effectively utilize the savings the bill creates.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any Member wish to claim 5 minutes in opposition?

Seeing none, the question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. DENT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 113–47.

Mr. DENT. I seek to offer an amendment and address the House.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 19, after line 17, insert the following:

(c) EXISTING CONTRACTS NOT AFFECTED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to affect any covered contract between the Bureau of Land Management and any person that owns—

(A) helium stored in the Federal Helium Reserve (as that term is used in those amendments); or

(B) a helium enrichment unit that is part of the Federal Helium Reserve.

(2) COVERED CONTRACT.—In this subsection the term ''covered contract'' means a contract relating to the operation of the Federal Helium Reserve, that is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 178, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, our amendment, the Dent-Higgins-Esty amendment, ensures the continued supply of helium for end users while requiring the BLM, Bureau of Land Management, to honor existing contracts for the supply and delivery of this vital resource. Most importantly, the amendment protects American manufacturers who use helium from the uncertainty of a disrupted helium supply. It's absolutely essential.

Some of my colleagues have repeatedly stated that helium has been given away by BLM at rock-bottom prices to ''a monopoly of refiners.'' Respectfully, the current price structure says otherwise.

Since BLM began selling off helium under this program, during most years far less than all the helium available to be purchased was purchased. In fact, during some years, no helium was purchased at all.

If the price were really so low, wouldn't all the available helium have been purchased? Instead, the BLM price set for the purchase of crude helium has been higher than the crude price for helium purchased elsewhere in the United States. Further, there is absolutely no bar to the taxpayer getting much more revenue from helium sales today. BLM can impose higher prices for helium right now. In fact, over the past 3 years, BLM has raised its prices by 30 percent.

When the Congress in 1996 decided to privatize helium in the BLM reserve, a few companies stepped up and spent tens of millions of dollars to build a helium enrichment unit, which the BLM operates, a highly unusual public-private partnership. If there are only a few companies who refine helium out of the BLM reserve today, it is because they, and not their competitors, chose to make investments that have benefited our Nation's manufacturers and society generally.

Our amendment does not seek to preserve a so-called ''monopoly'' over our Federal helium supply. Instead, our amendment seeks to uphold these existing contract and property rights while ensuring a continued supply of helium for domestic manufacturers. In fact, many welders, the Welders Association, Welders Distributors Association, strongly support this amendment because they are deeply concerned. I'm just going to quickly read what they said. They are deeply concerned about ''the effect of the remedies fashioned in H.R. 527 on the stability of the existing market for helium particularly as they affect the ability to meet contractual obligations for product supply.''

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I rise to claim time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, I oppose this amendment.

While it is being sold as an attempt to protect contract and property rights, it does none of these things because there are no rights that are violated by this bill.

What the amendment actually does is undermine the free-market competition that is embodied in H.R. 527 that will ensure a fair return to taxpayers on the Federal helium that is in the repository.

This amendment seeks to guarantee a special carve-out for primarily three companies and thus block competition. For over a decade, these three companies have profited from helium handouts at low market prices that were granted to them by BLM. All of that ends, Mr. Chairman, in October of this year. These handouts end because the contracts say that when the money is paid back that the Federal Government has invested, these contracts end.

So this amendment does not protect existing valid contracts because they expire in October. What the amendment actually would do is revise the expiring special handouts of these three companies. The amendment would shut down competition from other bidders who may be willing to bid for a higher price of the helium.

I have a letter from three companies who jointly express strong opposition because it would prevent them in the future from bidding on this helium. And to be clear, there are no helium distributors or manufacturers of helium who are advocating for this amendment. It is just the three refiners.

To repeat, H.R. 527 does not alter or end existing contracts. In the actual clauses of these contracts, it specifically stated that the contracts are contingent upon BLM continuing to have authorization to run the reserves. That ends in October.

BLM has been selling helium at below-market prices, and I'll point that out later. But what this amendment really attempts to do is to end what should not be done.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DENT. At this time, I would like to yield 1 minute to my colleague from New York (Mr. HIGGINS).

□ 1030

Mr. HIGGINS. I thank my friend and colleague for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank Congressman CHARLIE DENT and Congresswoman ESTY for working together on this bipartisan amendment. Our amendment would ensure that the Bureau of Land Management implements free market reforms while respecting its contractual obligations. High-tech manufacturing, MRIs, nuclear power reactors, and a host of critical national defense applications require helium.

Congress asked American companies to partner with the Federal Government to build the infrastructure needed to extract, store, and refine and bring to market this valuable domestic resource. Now that the infrastructure is built out, this legislation seeks to break our contracts with those partners. This is unfair and unnecessary.

Our amendment simply affirms that the Bureau of Land Management will honor its existing contracts that are set forth to expire over the next couple of years. I urge a ''yes'' vote on this bipartisan amendment to demonstrate that we can reform our helium policy in a way that respects the agreements and contracts we've made.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT), a cosponsor of H.R. 527.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman of the committee again for bringing forward this bipartisan legislation, and I rise in strong opposition to this amendment.

The Federal Helium Reserve is in rapid decline. It is being exhausted. At the current drawdown rate, in 5 or 6 or 7 years the helium in the reserve will be largely depleted.

The amendment by Mr. DENT seeks to run out the clock on this legislation to allow the existing regime to stand and prevent the reforms that H.R. 527 would bring forward. H.R. 527 does not alter or end the contracts that the refiners have with the Bureau of Land Management, but if we do nothing and allow the gentleman's amendment to go forward, under existing law and terms of those contracts, the entire helium program would come to an end in October of 2013—this year.

The amendment would delay the implementation of the reforms in the bill until 2018 at which time it is likely there would be little helium left to distribute to anyone, to the hospitals and the doctors who need it, to the electronics manufacturers who need it, to the scientists and researchers who need it. This amendment would gut the bipartisan reforms of the bill, and it should be defeated.

Although the gentleman claims he wants to prevent disruption in the supply, by preventing this legislation, he would in fact do just that. He would create disruptions in the supply.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY).

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment to H.R. 527, the Responsible Helium Administration and Stewardship Act. I would like to thank Representative DENT and Representative HIGGINS for working together on this bipartisan amendment.

Our amendment is rather straightforward. It is about fairness and honoring contracts. At a time in our Nation's history when we are examining public-private partnerships to rebuild our infrastructure and create jobs, what kind of signal would we be sending to the private sector? What kind of certainty are we providing to the private sector that even if you have a valid contract that expires in 2015, the Federal Government will throw it out and change the rules?

We can pass a bill to prevent a global helium shortage by allowing the remainder of the helium from the reserve to be sold, but we should not ignore the contracts that BLM has already signed. I urge a ''yes'' vote on this bipartisan amendment.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, how much time remains?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 45 seconds remaining. The gentleman from Washington has 1¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Do I have the right to close?

The Acting CHAIR. Yes.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I just want to quickly address a few of the issues.

My friend, Mr. HOLT, said that these reservoirs will be depleted. I agree. The issue is who's going to invest in an enrichment and refining facility at a reservoir that's going to be depleted in 5 years. Nobody's going to make that investment. That's really what's at issue here.

The prices of helium have gone up. BLM can charge more. Our amendment is about respecting preexisting contracts and about protecting property rights while ensuring continued supply of helium to American manufacturers.

Without this amendment, there will be a real disruption of supply for helium because they won't be contractually able to release that helium. They will be under no obligation to release it, so I think that is the greatest threat. This amendment protects the helium supply. As has been mentioned, MRIs, computer chips, and fiber optics all need this. American manufacturing needs this. Support this amendment. Vote for a helium supply. And again, vote to support our welders.

I yield back the balance of my time.

GASES AND WELDING
DISTRIBUTORS ASSOCIATION,
Doral, FL, April 25, 2013.

Hon. CHARLIE DENT,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. DENT: The Gases and Welding Distributors Association (''GAWDA'') offers its support to your proposed amendment to H.R. 527, legislation to reauthorize the sale of the Federal Helium Reserve.

GAWDA is a national trade association representing the interests of some 500 companies that distribute compressed and liquefied gases and related welding equipment, and includes some 300 additional companies that supply products or services to the gases and welding industry. GAWDA distributor members sell a variety of products, including helium, oxygen, argon, nitrogen and carbon dioxide, as well as specialty gases and mixtures, to customers involved in manufacturing, construction, welding, research, health care, and biomedical engineering.

Most GAWDA members are small businesses. Approximately 85 percent of GAWDA distributors have less than $10 million in annual gross revenue, so they have limited leverage in negotiating supply agreements for products. In the vast majority of cases, GAWDA distributors will contract exclusively with a single manufacturer (or in the case of helium, a refiner) for a comprehensive menu of gas products. The contract generally will provide all of the distributor's needs for all of those gases.

In addition, the distributor will generally contract with its customers in an exclusive ''requirements'' arrangement to supply all of the customer's needs for a variety of gases as well. A small distributor might have a couple of dozen contracts to supply helium and other gases to customers, while a large distributor might have several hundred or more of these requirements contracts.

The GAWDA distributor will typically purchase bulk helium in gaseous form from a refiner; the distributor will then repackage the helium into compressed gas cylinders and deliver them to customers for their use.

GAWDA distributors are concerned, however, about the effect of the remedies fashioned in H.R. 527 on the stability of the existing market for helium, particularly as they affect the ability to meet contractual obligations for product supply.

A periodic auction mechanism would set up a spot market for helium. If an established refiner is not able to secure all of the crude helium that it requires to meet the supply obligations set out in its contracts, then some distributor customers will receive less than their contractual allotments of helium, or perhaps none at all. The distributor will be forced to seek other sources of supply, presumably only if a force majeure clause in the agreement allows the distributor to obtain replacement product from another supplier.

In turn, if the distributor defaults, the distributor's customers might be forced to seek alternative supplies of helium for at least part of their needs for that period, and to pay above market prices to the winning auction bidder(s) to ensure a continuous supply of product. This also raises questions of the effect on the contractual obligations to sell and purchase the other gases in the contracts.

This same scenario will play out each time an auction is held, several times a year. Refiners, distributors and end users will not know which parties will have adequate supplies of helium to meet existing contractual demands. This will generate legal questions about contract default, partial product allocations, mitigation of damages, and obligations to cure, as well as commercial questions about which parties may be able to meet supply obligations on a consistent basis. The distributor will have to resolve these issues with each customer for that auction period; when another auction takes place, and different sales volumes of helium are awarded by BLM to new bidders, the distributors will have to go through the same

legal and commercial exercise to ensure that each of their customers will receive enough product to meet its requirements.

An unreliable product stream for helium will make it difficult for any distributor to entertain long-term, exclusive supply arrangements with customers that foster stable commercial relations and support economic growth.

Your amendment would protect those existing agreements between the Bureau of Land Management and refiners for a sufficient period to allow refiners and distributors to develop alternative arrangements and to access new supplies of crude helium. That approach will help to ensure a reliable supply of this critical product to all end users.

Thank you for your assistance with this issue.

Best Regards,

RICHARD P. SCHWEITZER,
General Counsel.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield myself the balance of my time.

The assertion is made that this violates contracts. I want to be very specific: current law says that when the debt is paid back, the contracts that are entered into expire. Therefore, we are not violating any contracts because on October 1 that will happen.

Secondly, the pricing mechanism. I pointed out in opening remarks that the three refiners are the ones that are benefiting, and this chart shows how. This is what they are paying, the blue line. That's the bottom line. The red line is the market price. The yellow in between is what the refiners are accruing as far as profits are concerned. We're simply saying the market ought to dictate who gets that benefit, and that's precisely what H.R. 527 does. So this amendment simply prolongs the yellow, if you will, on this chart longer, and only three companies benefit by that. I don't think that's good for the taxpayers because the taxpayers are the ones that are failing or getting the low end of the deal with that yellow line.

So while I understand where the gentleman is coming from, and I respect him for bringing this issue to the floor—it is good to have a debate on it—no contracts are violated under current law. I urge my colleagues to reject this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. HOLT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 113–47.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 27, strike ''and'' at line 6, and after line 6 insert the following (and redesignate the subsequent paragraph accordingly):

(4) complete an assessment of options for ensuring a domestic helium supply in the future, including—

(A) an analysis of how the Federal Helium Reserve has influenced domestic and global helium supply and prices historically; and

(B) an assessment of options for how the Federal Helium Reserve could promote the long term availability and security of domestic helium supplies; and

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 178, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My amendment is quite simple. It would expand the study section of the act to provide an assessment of how the eventual closure of the Federal Helium Reserve would influence the availability of this critical resource in the future.

Let me take just a moment to say a little bit about why this is important. Helium is the second-lightest gas in existence. It remains liquid down to absolute zero. It is chemically very inert. It is hardly soluble in water or other fluids. It can be made into a quantum superfluid that flows without any viscous resistance at all. These are unique properties that make helium invaluable, necessary, irreplaceable for uses in magnetic resonance imaging in doctors' offices and hospitals, for fabricating electronic devices, for all sorts of research, whether it be in quantum computing or superfluids in any number of other areas.

Why is this a policy issue worthy of the consideration of the U.S. Congress? Well, because this invaluable, irreplaceable element is very rare on Earth. It is in fact the second most common element in the universe, but it has long since risen up through the atmosphere of the Earth and vanished into space. And small amounts of helium are created moment by moment deep in the Earth through radioactive decay caught in natural gas reserves, along with methane and the other things that we call natural gas. But it is rare, and it is difficult to separate, and yet we need it.

Farsighted legislators three-quarters of a century ago began stockpiling helium. They thought it would be used for dirigibles and blimps. They weren't sure what else it would be used for, but they understood helium had some very special properties.

□ 1040

It was a good investment for taxpayers. It was a very good investment for taxpayers that this stockpile was created.

Now the stockpile is running low because of decisions by Congress in past years. It's important that, as we make the decisions and the changes that we make with this legislation, we not fail to recognize possible future uses, possible future demands, and possible failure of the market to provide an adequate supply of helium to meet those demands.

I know there is an ideology that's prevalent around here for any commodity, for any human need, that the market will provide. In fact, it doesn't always. And in this case, in the helium over the decades, it would not have, had it not been for the Federal Reserve. So it is important that we stop and take a look at the implications for the future.

And so my amendment would simply expand the study section that already exists in this legislation to make sure that we look at possible future uses, likely future supplies, and making sure that we are prepared to have an adequate supply of this valuable resource into the future. It should be a noncontroversial amendment. I hope it will be unopposed, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim time in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I want to start by saying that the development of this legislation has truly been a bipartisan effort. I want to thank my colleague from New Jersey, who has been a leader in helping us bring this legislation to the floor.

One of the main goals of H.R. 527 is to stop the imminent shutdown of the Federal helium program this October by establishing a new program to complete the privatization of the helium reserve. However, this action remains only a Band-Aid to our long-term helium supply.

Helium, like many other resources, is something that requires significant investment and development to bring to market. While this bill will keep the helium flowing from the reserve, the future of the reserve is limited to only a handful of years. So the gentleman's amendment is really a question of what do we do next, and that's a good question.

The idea that, when the reserve closes, America could be left at the mercy of Qatar or Russia for securing our domestic helium is not a prospect that we relish any more than being dependent on China for rare Earth materials. And yet no one thinks that the solution is for the government to jump back into the helium business. Instead, we need to continue our focus on this issue to prevent resource scarcity that could threaten our manufacturing and national security.

While I understand there have been some initial conversations, I want to make it clear that this is not the last time that the committee will focus on the issue of helium. It is my intention that the committee examine other areas where we may be able to expand helium supply or promote additional steps for conservation.

The report directed to be developed in this bill will help guide our effort forward, and the gentleman's amendment will add additional important questions to help provide us a path forward. But it is up to us to act and continue to focus on what is a critical national security and economic security concern: a secure, stable supply of helium.

So I look forward to continuing to work with the gentleman from New Jersey as we seek these solutions, and I think his amendment adds to that prospect.

With that, I support the amendment and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. THORNBERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in House Report 113–47.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I offer the amendment made in order under the rule.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. ____. ADDITIONAL CONNECTIONS TO THE FEDERAL HELIUM RESERVE.

The Secretary of the Interior may allow any person not connected to the Federal Helium Reserve, as that term is defined under section 2 of the Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167), as amended by this Act, to connect to the Federal Helium Reserve for the purpose of storing helium, subject to such storage fees as may be required by the Secretary. Withdrawal of such helium shall be governed by that Act.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 178, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, let me first commend and express my appreciation to Chairman HASTINGS and Mr. HOLT and others who have worked on this legislation. Indeed, we have come a long way from the days when helium was essentially a government-run monopoly to this legislation, which helps bring in more market forces, more competition, more free enterprise, and, I think, will help move toward developing more supplies of helium in the future, as was just discussed on the last amendment.

It is in exactly that spirit that I offer this amendment which seeks to affirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to allow others who are not currently connected to the helium repository to connect to it and to store their helium there, assuming, of course, they've got to pay their own way. So whatever costs are incurred with allowing others to connect and to store, those costs have to be met by the individuals, not by the taxpayer.

But by doing that, I think we do at least take a step towards encouraging more helium supplies to be developed. And the side benefit is, as these other helium supplies are stored in the repository, that helps keep the pressure up in the dome so that, ultimately, more helium, government helium and private helium, can be extracted.

So I think this is perfectly in keeping with the theme of the bill. It moves in the right direction to encourage the expansion of more helium supplies, and I hope that the Members will consider it favorably.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. THORNBERRY. I yield to the chairman.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I thank the gentleman for bringing this amendment to the floor. He made the observation in his debate that this is something that we were talking about in the previous debate, because we're going to have to have more helium; and market forces, I believe, are one way to do that, and I think his amendment addresses that.

I support the amendment.

Mr. THORNBERRY. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. HOLT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. THORNBERRY. I will be happy to yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

Mr. HOLT. I thank my friend from Texas, and I think the gentleman's amendment is a good one. It will clarify that producers of helium may connect to the Federal helium reserve to store helium. And by seeking to provide incentives for additional production and storage, I think his amendment will provide a public service.

I think, as the gentleman has said, we should examine ways that we can use the reserve to maximize the American supply of helium in the decades ahead. So I support him in this, and I urge all of my colleagues to do so.

Mr. THORNBERRY. I thank both gentlemen, Mr. Chairman.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DENT) having assumed the chair, Mr. HULTGREN, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 527) to amend the Helium Act to complete the privatization of the Federal helium reserve in a competitive market fashion that ensures stability in the helium markets while protecting the interests of American taxpayers, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 26, 2013.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Under clause 2(g) of Rule II of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I herewith designate Robert Reeves, Deputy Clerk, to sign any and all papers and do all other acts for me under the name of the Clerk of the House that he would be authorized to do by virtue of this designation, except such as are provided by statute, in case of my temporary absence or disability.

This designation shall remain in effect for the 113th Congress or until modified by me.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.

REDUCING FLIGHT DELAYS ACT OF 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1765) to provide the Secretary of Transportation with the flexibility to transfer certain funds to prevent reduced operations and staffing of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1765

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Reducing Flight Delays Act of 2013''.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSFER CERTAIN FUNDS TO PREVENT REDUCED OPERATIONS AND STAFFING OF THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding division G of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013 (Public Law 113–6), any other provision of law, or a sequestration order issued or to be issued by the President pursuant to section 251A(7)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901a(7)(A)), the Secretary of Transportation may transfer during fiscal year 2013 an amount equal to the amount specified in subsection (c) to the appropriations account providing for the operations of the Federal Aviation Administration, for any activity or activities funded by that account, from—

(1) the amount made available for obligation in that fiscal year as discretionary grants-in-aid for airports pursuant to section 47117(f) of title 49, United States Code; or

(2) any other program or account of the Federal Aviation Administration.

(b) AVAILABILITY AND OBLIGATION OF TRANSFERRED AMOUNTS.—An amount transferred under subsection (a)(1) shall—

(1) be available immediately for obligation and expenditure as directly appropriated budget authority; and

(2) be deemed as obligated for grants-in-aid for airports under part B of subtitle VII of title 49, United States Code, for purposes of complying with the limitation on incurring obligations during that fiscal year under the heading ''GRANTS-IN-AID FOR AIRPORTS'' under title I of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012 (division C of Public Law 112–55; 125 Stat. 647), and made applicable to fiscal year 2013 by division F of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013 (Public Law 113–6).

(c) AMOUNT SPECIFIED.—The amount specified in this subsection is the amount, not to exceed $253,000,000, that the Secretary of Transportation determines to be necessary to prevent reduced operations and staffing of the Federal Aviation Administration during fiscal year 2013 to ensure a safe and efficient air transportation system; and provided that none of the funds transferred under this subsection may be obligated unless the Secretary notifies the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate at least 5 days in advance of such transfer.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LATHAM) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. PASTOR) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the consideration of H.R. 1765.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I come today with H.R. 1765, a bill to provide up to $253 million from the Airport Improvement Program—or any other account in the FAA—to the Operations Account. The purpose of this transfer authority is to restore reliable and safe service in the commercial air traffic system by reducing or eliminating employee furlough days.

I think we all agree the FAA and the administration has handled the sequester poorly. The FAA has negotiated in bad faith with the FAA employees, the airlines, the flying public, and the Congress. And the administration has played shameful politics with sequestration at the cost to hardworking American families. As I have often said, this is simply no way to run a government.

But the Congress is stepping in to correct the problems created by the administration's inaction. We're taking this step because of the gross mismanagement of this important function for the safety of all Americans who fly and on behalf of the commerce that depends on a reliable air system. We are taking this action to end the administration's political games that threaten our passenger rights and safety.

The fact that we're here today trying to solve this problem is as a result of the sequester. I remind you that the President brought the sequester to the table. And in an effort to avoid the arbitrary $1.2 trillion of cuts mandated by the Budget Control Act, twice the majority in this House has passed commonsense legislation that would have replaced the sequestration with targeted spending cuts of an equal dollar amount.

□ 1100

Unfortunately, the Senate never considered either of these bills, and thus the sequestration was triggered.

Further, this situation goes to show that we need to return to regular order and consider appropriation bills in their entirety and not rely on continuing resolutions to fund the government.

Under a CR, there is no way for us to prioritize cuts or protect programs related to the safety of the American public. It also goes to show that we must have a long-term, comprehensive solution to our budget challenges, one that solves the sequester and provides sustainability and stability in the Federal budget.

Mr. Speaker, I put the administration, the Secretary, and the agency on alert that we are watching. We have questions, and we want answers about how you're using these funds and how you're going to be managing the rest of our Department. Like I said at the FAA hearing this last Wednesday, the safety of our air space cannot be subject to political posturing.

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

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

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

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I will tell my dear friend, Chairman LATHAM, that we agree on one thing, and this is the notion that this is not a good way to run a government. But I have to remind him and remind all my colleagues that about 1½ years ago we were in this House, in this Chamber, talking about the budget—the Budget Control Act, as I remember. So about 1½ years ago we had a vote.

I did not support the legislation because I felt that sequestration was a bad idea; but the House passed the bill, the Senate passed the bill, and the President signed it. So, for me, it's very difficult to lay blame on any one party because this was done in a bipartisan manner. It is very difficult for me to lay blame on one Chamber because both Chambers passed the bill. And it's very difficult for me to blame the administration for signing it because this was an action taken in the House, the Senate, and signed by the President. I thought it was a bad idea, but the majority felt it was a better idea, and they went forward.

Now, I have to tell you that Administrator Huerta was before our subcommittee this week. He detailed the cuts that he had to make based on the rules and regulations of the various laws that deal with sequestration. That is why 149 contract towers were recommended to be shut—but they remained open because of a lawsuit—and that is why we had to furlough the FAA air traffic controllers.

In his testimony, Administrator Huerta reminded us that in February of this year a letter was sent by Secretary LaHood to the leadership, including me and Chairman LATHAM, that the sequestration was going to cause problems in the efficiency of the air traffic control system because there would be a furlough of air traffic controllers in order to meet the cuts that were required by sequestration. That was done in February.

In March, when sequestration was invoked, the FAA had to then implement a plan to see what it had to do to meet the number of cuts it had to make, but not to take away the safety of our air traffic control system, knowing that its efficiency would be diminished. And so today, we are here bringing a fix to this situation. Furloughs have been taken; 10 percent of the employees are furloughed. And that has resulted, to the passengers' inconvenience, in delays or canceled flights.

The problem is—and I agree with my chairman—that this solution is not a good solution because there are other agencies that have to make their cuts and are in a crisis themselves. So, hopefully, when we come back from our district work period, there won't be another agency, another crisis that we have to start shifting money from one account to save another account.

Mr. Speaker, the solution is a comprehensive removal of the sequestration. That will only come about, in my belief and in my opinion, if the House, with its budget, and the Senate, with its budget, will conference and work out the details that it needs to work out to have a comprehensive solution, not just to our budget, but also to sequestration. That needs to be done in order that we're not dealing with issue by issue, crisis by crisis.

So I agree with my chairman that this is not a good way to run a government, but this morning I ask my colleagues to support this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Last Sunday, the Federal Aviation Administration began to impose the furloughs that were required as a result of sequestration.

The FAA has had to cut a total of $637 million from its annual budget; $485 million of that amount had to be cut from its operations account.

However, the deep cuts required by sequestration still forced the FAA to shut down nearly

150 contract towers and furlough each of the agency's employees for one day a pay period for the remainder of the fiscal year. That meant that every affected employee would lose as much as 11 days of pay.

The FAA operates seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day. It should have surprised no one that removing 10 percent of the workforce on any given day was going to have serious impacts on our air traffic control system.

Without a complete workforce on hand, the FAA had to take measures to slow down the efficiency of the air traffic control system in order to ensure that safety of the system was not ever compromised.

Since last Sunday when the furloughs began, there have been nearly 3,500 delayed flights due to staffing reductions. As a result, thousands of passengers have been inconvenienced by long delays or cancelled flights. As my colleagues will recall, Secretary La Hood warned us of these impacts back in February.

The bill before us provides additional flexibility to the Federal Aviation Administration to help avoid the furloughs required by sequestration. Specifically, it takes carryover discretionary funds from the airport grant program and allows those funds to be used for FAA operations.

This bill is drafted as a one-time fix for one year. It does not eliminate a penny of the $637 million in cuts that the FAA has to make because of sequestration. It simply shifts where the cuts will be taken.

At a time when we need to maintain our infrastructure, we should not make a practice of reducing capital programs to address operational shortfalls.

The bill before us does nothing to address the sequestration cuts that the FAA will have to make in Fiscal Year 2014 and beyond.

We need to find a comprehensive solution to sequestration. The American people deserve better.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Iowa has 17 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Arizona has 14 minutes remaining.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I would now yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON).

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately for this administration, the term ''sequestration'' has become synonymous with ''fear.''

I've been extremely disappointed that the FAA chose to close the contract control towers at 149 airports across this country, including my home town of Concord, North Carolina. This airport is the third busiest airport in North Carolina. It was named by the Government Accounting Office as an Airport of National Significance because it is a reliever airport for Charlotte-Douglas, which is the sixth busiest airport in the world.

The decision to close these towers at a savings of $50 million is hard to understand when you consider the fact that the FAA requested $15.1 billion for fiscal year 2013 and through sequester it's actually receiving $15.9 billion—an actual increase over the amount of money the FAA said they needed to operate. So I can only conclude that their goal here is to try to make sequester cuts as painful as possible for the American people.

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

Mr. LATHAM. I yield the gentleman 30 seconds.

Mr. HUDSON. I thank the gentleman for the time.

I will just conclude by saying I support this bill because it ends the political games by giving the Secretary the flexibility that he needs to keep these contract towers open. So I would encourage the Secretary to do that for the safety and for the economy of our local communities.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I rise in opposition to this piece of legislation.

The Editorial Board of USA Today was scathing yesterday in its assessment of where the blame for this sequester should lie, and I quote:

> No Members of Congress should be surprised at the havoc wrought by the sequester. After all, they caused it, and Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood repeatedly warned them about its sentences.

But flight delays are just the tip of the iceberg visible above the water line for most Americans. As time goes on without a big, balanced deficit solution to replace the sequester, more of that iceberg will surface. More Americans will be negatively affected.

While I want to end these delays for passengers in Maryland and across the country, I will oppose this bill because it fails to address the whole impact of the sequester.

Let me share just a handful of examples of how the sequester will affect Americans:

Education: Head Start—70,000 children will be kicked out of Head Start. Nothing in this bill deals with them.

□ 1110

Furloughs to cause delays in processing retirement disability claims. Nothing in this bill deals with them.

Nutrition for Vulnerable Populations—4 million fewer Meals on Wheels for seniors; 600,000 people dropped off WIC. Nothing in here for them.

Housing—125,000 fewer HUD rental assistance vouchers. Nothing in here for them.

Unemployment Insurance—emergency unemployment insurance cut 11 percent for 2 million out-of-work Americans. Nothing in here for them.

FDA—2,100 fewer food safety inspections, an 18 percent cut; longer waits to approve new drugs. Nothing in here for them. Nothing in here for them.

Defense and Homeland Security—furloughs equivalent to 1,000 fewer Federal agents, FBI, Border, et cetera, on the job; one-third of combat air units are grounded. Nothing in here for them.

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

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. HOYER. IRS—89,000 agency-wide furloughs up to 7 days, including taxpayer-assistance centers. Nothing in here for them. They serve 89,000 taxpayers trying to find help.

We ought not to be mitigating the sequester's effect on just one segment when children, the sick, our military, and many other groups who will be impacted by this irresponsible policy are left unhelped. Instead of dressing this serious wound with a small Band-Aid, let's get to work on a real solution. Let's go to conference, let's get a big deal, let's deal with all the adverse consequences of sequester, not just those that affect the powerful air travelers of America. We ought to help them, but we ought to help everybody else as well.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

It's fascinating that the administration that insisted on the sequestration——

Mr. HOYER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LATHAM. The gentleman just spoke.

Supported the sequestration. And so now to come and make a statement is quite fascinating.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED).

Mr. REED. I would like to thank the gentleman from Iowa for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the underlying bill.

Before I make my comments, I would just ask my colleague, a good friend of mine from Maryland, we have an opportunity today to send a signal to America that we have a bicameral, a Senate-passed bill, and here in the House we are considering a bill that will address an issue that needs to be addressed on behalf of American citizens. Let us start here on a bipartisan fashion to solve the problems for hard-working taxpayers and worry about D.C. over those concerns of the people back home.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the underlying bill because I have heard from my constituents, in particular, the city of Ithaca in upstate New York, where a contract tower is going to be closed. And what this bill does is it restores that funding on a commonsense basis where that contract tower—my sincere hope and belief—will be preserved and go forward. That will preserve the safety of my air-traveling public out of that airport and also the local economic opportunity that it represents for the city of Ithaca.

I'm proud to stand here today and say, because of bipartisan efforts, we worked together to solve this issue. Let's pass this bill and move forward.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Let me inform my friend from Iowa that he absolutely misstates my position. I have been against the sequester every year I was on the Appropriations Committee for 23 years, these across-the-board cuts. I opposed your Cut, Cap, and Balance bill, which you supported, which had sequester as the alternative.

The President is against sequester, the Senate budget is against sequester, and you would not allow us to offer an amendment four times, which would have precluded sequester, not only for air travel, but for those Head Start children, for those senior citizens, for basic biomedical research.

So I tell my friend, if you are going to state the facts, state them correctly.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE).

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, hypocrisy is reaching new heights today in this body. Many of the same Members who said ''bring it on'' as sequestration loomed, who relished forcing the President to make across-the-board cuts, are now in a rush to apply another Band-Aid to this artificially created crisis.

Speaker BOEHNER said the sequestration bill included 98 percent of what Republicans wanted. But Republicans spurned a budget agreement, valuing their antitax ideology more than defense or any other cuts. As a result, sequestration fell. Now they claim: Oh, it doesn't need to hurt very much. And when the cuts bite, then they say the President must be doing this just to make a political point!

So sequestration apparently wasn't supposed to be about air traffic control? The Read the Bill Caucus needs to read the bill. It was about air traffic control, and today we are going to apply a much needed Band-Aid.

Maybe tomorrow we can have a bill applying to cancer research. Then the next day let's have a bill about cancer treatments. Then the next day let's apply a Band-Aid to Head Start. Then let's have one about tuition assistance to our military personnel. Then let's have one about the Border Patrol. And, by the way, if and when we apply these Band-Aids, we need to realize we're often shifting cuts to equally important areas that aren't in the news at the moment or that don't have powerful lobbies working on their behalf.

My colleagues, I want to address these crises as much as any Member. I want to contain the damage, but damage control is not a budget policy. Sequestration is a self-inflicted wound, unworthy of those who profess to govern. It's hypocritical and misleading, having imposed indiscriminate cuts on the administration, to pretend that the President could fix this problem with a flick of the wrist.

Sequestration is a disaster. It needs to be reversed. It needs to be replaced by a comprehensive budget plan that includes tax expenditures and entitlements, which after all are the real drivers of the deficit.

Mr. LATHAM. I would now like to yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON).

Mr. COTTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage my colleagues to pass this measure to stop President Obama's needless furlough of air traffic controllers. Further, this legislation empowers the FAA to restore funding to 150 towers operated by private contractors around the country.

The FAA furloughs have received most of the media attention this week, but we shouldn't overlook the role these contractor-operated towers play in our Nation's aviation infrastructure in communities like Texarkana, Arkansas. These airports handle almost 30 percent of all aviation traffic, providing vital relief to some of our most congested airports.

The importance of these towers can't be overstated, which is why earlier this year I introduced legislation with 59 bipartisan cosponsors to restore the funding for these towers. I am confident the FAA will use the authority of this bill not only to end the needless furloughs, but also to restore funding for these essential contractor-operated air traffic control towers.

Again, I want to thank my colleagues for their support for this measure.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, before I yield time, I would like to remind my colleague that this bill passed the House, the Senate, and was signed by the President. That was what brought us sequestration.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to our Democratic leader from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

This is really a very unusual morning. We are here because of the refusal of the Republicans to come to the table for a conference. What is a conference? A conference is a public open meeting where differences between the House budget bill and the Senate budget bill can be reconciled. It is done with transparency and in full public view. Each side proud of our priorities, we have the American people be the judge of what is their statement of values.

Afraid of that public scrutiny, the Republicans have refused to appoint conferees for a conference—conferees for a conference. We call upon the Speaker to appoint conferees so that we can have that public airing, that transparent view, of something very important.

The Republican leadership has said in the House and the Senate they want the regular order. What is the regular order?

□ 1120

The regular order is the House passes a bill; the Senate passes a bill; you go to conference. Now, afraid that their views may be rejected by the American people, they don't want to go to conference. That's why we are here this morning for sequestration.

What is sequestration?

Sequestration is a mindless, across-the-board cutting of what we are now recognizing—and the Republicans are recognizing—as something that should not be cut. It affects the efficiency and the safety of our airports. That's very important. Yet, as our distinguished Democratic whip, Mr. HOYER, has pointed out, there is much more that needs to be addressed instead of using this as a vehicle.

One of the distinguished chairmen said earlier that the safety of our airports should not be subject to political debate. Neither should the education of our children, the nutrition for our seniors—4 million Meals on Wheels, tens of thousands of children thrown off Head Start. Our defense—mindless across-the-board cuts in our defense, and what that means for our national security and for the workers in our national security sector—the list goes on and on. Investments in our future—biomedical research, cut by this.

So I suppose, if this is an example of governance, that the Republicans will next come up with something else and will say we should exempt that. Why don't we just get rid of the problem? Why don't we just get rid of the problem and go to conference?

Some of the press said to me, Does this hurt your leverage in going to conference?

I said, No. This is an opportunity because it demonstrates to the American people how unwise this course of action is and how much better it would be to find solutions, to get results in the regular order—respectful of everyone's point of view but recognizing that decisions made here will have an impact, not only in the lives of the children and in the lives of their teachers and in the lives of all consumers, but on our economy as well.

This should be a clarion call. It's almost ludicrous to hear my Republican colleagues get up there and talk about their individual airports. Most of us have airports. We understand what this issue is about.

Why don't you understand that there is a great deal at stake, including the efficiency and the safety of our airports as well as the education of our children?

How can we sit there and say 4 million Meals on Wheels for seniors, gone? But that's not important. Over 70,000 children off Head Start. But that's not important.

What is important is for the Republicans to hold a hard line about the public debate about the budget that a conference would provide. The Members will vote the way they're going to vote on this, but recognize that this is not the way Congress should be meeting the needs of the American people. Let's go to conference.

Mr. Speaker, appoint conferees so we can end this mindless sequestration.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings or other audible conversation is in violation of the rules of the House.

Mr. LATHAM. I now yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT).

Mr. DENT. I do support this legislation.

In our T-HUD subcommittee hearing on Wednesday, FAA Administrator Huerta admitted that he saw no administrative flexibility to help the flying public, so we're giving him that flexibility now with this bill.

The FAA blind-sided the airlines, the airports, the unions, and the flying public by failing to properly notify them specifically about the implementation of the sequester. They only notified them about 1 week ago about the specifics. That's outrageous. That's mismanagement.

This bill fixes the problem at the FAA by keeping air traffic controllers working and the towers operating. This legislation provides the flexibility the FAA needs, and it should have been asked for by the administration. Again, it's a classic case of mismanagement, and I am pleased to support the legislation.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the ranking member of the authorizing committee, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL).

Mr. RAHALL. I thank the gentleman from Arizona.

I rise in support of H.R. 1765.

As the flight delays mounted this week due to the furlough and as many Republicans claim that the FAA had the flexibility to avoid this disruption and that politics were at play, gee, that's kind of like calling the kettle black.

Just last month, in March, many of these same Members recognized the across-the-board nature of the sequester when a provision was included in the transportation bill to avoid the furlough of meat inspectors who would otherwise have been furloughed. Nothing has changed in the sequester law since last month. My good friend, Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood, is an honorable man, and I take issue with those who have alleged that he is playing politics with the sequester.

Now, to those who have expressed concern over the piecemeal approach in addressing the chilling effects of the sequester, I share your concerns. I share the concerns of others who are being burdened by the sequester, such as a child thrown out of the Head Start or seniors depending on Meals on Wheels.

But let me be clear: the rash of delays that we witnessed this week as the sequester began to take effect is not just an inconvenience to business or vacation travelers; we are talking about emergency medical services that transport patients with time-sensitive medical emergencies.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1765, which I view as an emergency measure to address the effect of the sequester on the integrity of our aviation transportation system.

As the flight delays mounted this week due to the furlough of about 1,500 air traffic controllers a day—40% of the workforce—many Republicans claimed that the FAA had the flexibility to avoid this disruption and that politics were at play.

That is like calling the kettle black.

Just last month, in March, many of these same Members recognized the across-the-board nature of the sequester when a provision was included in the appropriations bill to avoid the furlough of meat inspectors who would otherwise have been furloughed.

Nothing has changed in the sequester law since last month. My good friend, the Secretary of Transportation, Ray LaHood, is an honorable man. I take issue with those who have alleged that he is playing politics with the sequester.

Neither he nor the Administrator of the FAA are guilty of nothing more, and nothing less, the hand that Congress forced on them.

Now, to those on my side of the aisle, who have expressed concerns over a piecemeal approach to addressing the chilling effects of the sequester, I share your concerns.

I share your concerns for others who are being burdened by the sequester, such as the child thrown out of Head Start or seniors depending on Wheels on Meals.

But let me be clear. The rash of flight delays we have witnessed this week as the sequester began to take effect is not just an inconvenience to business or vacation travelers.

There is an even more serious concern here, and while it is one that has not manifested yet, if the present situation continues unabated it could potentially have lethal results.

Aircraft provide emergency medical services that transport patients with time-sensitive medical emergencies, organs, blood products and pediatric patients.

Time-sensitive drugs and emergency aid cannot afford to be delayed because of the air traffic control system. These medical air services need to be able to operate without delay 24 hours a day and 385 days a year.

I urge support of the pending measure.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER).

Mr. SHUSTER. I thank the gentleman.

I rise in support of H.R. 1765 so that we can stop this needless pain on the American traveling public and our economy.

The administration and the FAA have refused for months to provide us with a plan to work with the airline industry in order to figure out how this could be implemented without all of this pain to the traveling public and to our economy.

I'd like to remind my colleagues that this industry provides $1 trillion to our economy, so it's extremely important to the hardworking men and women of America that our airlines and our folks are getting where they need to be on time and without delay. This is very, very damaging to the economy.

Again, I believe this has been mismanaged, and I believe that this bill will force the administration to stop these needless furloughs so that we can continue making sure that the airline industry is functioning in order to keep our economy growing stronger and to allay the safety concerns of the traveling public.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN).

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Before we start patting each other on the back for this bill, I think it's important that we recognize that we are not fixing the bigger problems that the sequester has created.

Earlier this month, The Bellingham Herald reported that Head Start students in my district will have to begin finding their own way to school as bus service is being cut because of the sequester. Perhaps now we can ask these 4-year-olds to ride their tricycles to class or, because of this bill, maybe book a flight.

Children in military families at NAS Whidbey Island are going to go to schools where budgets are being cut because of reductions in Impact Aid mandated by sequestration, but we're not doing anything to help those kids today. We are not helping seniors in Arlington, Washington, who are getting Meals on Wheels no longer delivered to them.

This is not just my district. Every Member of this House represents a district whose kids and seniors are being hurt thanks to our failure to clean up the mess we caused. This lands somewhere short of a profile in courage. This is a Band-Aid, and sequestration needs triple bypass surgery. Sequestration is a little bit like the person who kicks a boulder and then blames the boulder for his broken toe. Congress created this problem. We need to fix it.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Thank you to the gentleman from Iowa.

I'd like to first thank the Senate for sending this piece of legislation over to us to provide a fix, a fix that isn't necessary to provide, but the administration through a lack of leadership is proving that we have to do this now.

We are here today because this administration has decided to put politics over passengers. From the very beginning of sequestration, this administration and its departments have claimed that they did not have the flexibility to avoid cuts that would affect Americans the most. The proposed tower closings and the FAA furloughs that were announced this week, they're not just wrong—they are irresponsible and indefensible.

The bottom line is the FAA already has the flexibility that we are granting them today, yet they are unwilling to take advantage of that.

So, today, we are here because it is time to put an end to the excuses and political gimmicks, and we owe it to the American people to govern like statesmen by passing this bill in order to get the FAA to implement spending cuts responsibly in order to protect the traveling public.

Mr. President, I urge you: tell your administration to grow up.

□ 1130

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS).

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

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, we're here this morning because Americans are understandably upset at sitting and waiting at airport gates. But there are other Americans who are sitting and waiting.

There are moms sitting and waiting at home to enroll their children in Head Start; after this bill, they'll still be waiting.

There are pilots in our Air Force and Navy sitting and waiting to fly their training missions. One-third of our planes are grounded. After this bill, they'll still be sitting and they'll still be waiting.

There are senior citizens who need to go to chemotherapy at outpatient clinics around this country, but because of the cutbacks of sequestration, their doctors aren't seeing them. After this bill, they'll still be sitting; they'll still be waiting.

This Congress has done too much sitting and too much waiting when it comes to sequestration. The Senate has passed a budget that ends sequestration. There's an opportunity to sit at a conference, negotiate and pass that budget.

Instead of sitting and waiting, let's start working and negotiating and pass the Senate budget.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I would now like to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA), the former chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Mr. MICA. I thank the gentleman.

Why are we here? We're here because of a colossal failure of leadership in the ability to manage resources.

First of all, I can tell you that there are plenty of air traffic controllers. Just go online and get this report, ''Plan for the Future.'' Some of our airports have far more air traffic controllers than we need. In fact, air traffic control for the last 10 years is down 27 percent, and we still have close to 15,000 air traffic controllers.

This legislation does provide a fig leaf for the administration who said they don't have the authority. I can tell you, they had the authority and the ability to move people and resources around, so that gives us the opportunity to get the flying public flying again.

Again, we have the resources, they had the money, and here we're giving them the final fig leaf that they have asked for and they say they need to get this done.

I can tell you that if Ronald Reagan were President, we would not be in this mess.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN).

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, after the vote on this today, Members of this House are going to run for the airports. They're all going to be flying home on airplanes. And, yes, they will make it easier for Members of Congress to get through those lines, and they'll pat themselves on the back and say, ''Job well done.''

Well, obviously we should address the issue at the airports, but we need to address the other issues right now and not make it easier for Members of Congress to fly home for a week away when it should be a week right here making sure we do not see the negative impact of the sequester grind on for those kids in Head Start, for the seniors on Meals on Wheels, for folks who are doing important lifesaving research.

Look, Mr. Speaker, four times this year we have offered a proposal to replace the entire sequester, to achieve the same deficit reduction without the kind of damage that's been done, and four times we haven't even had a chance to vote on the floor of this House. Now we're simply asking to go to conference. Our Republican colleagues complain that the Senate didn't pass the budget, but they've got one.

Let's go to conference rather than go home.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I would now like to yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN).

Mrs. BACHMANN. I thank Mr. LATHAM for offering this bill. It's high time that the FAA, Mr. Speaker, have the flexibility that they need to have on closures of any air traffic control towers.

It is my hope that St. Cloud, Minnesota, and Anoka-Blaine airports do remain open. They're vital and they're much needed. We're looking at approximately 189 airports.

But I want to speak to something else. We were listening to Representative HOYER and Representative PELOSI be extremely passionate about the loss that we'll see for children through Head Start, for senior citizens on Meals on Wheels, for children who will be dealing with various other food nutrition programs. That breaks everyone's hearts.

But I want to remind the people of this country that it was former-Speaker PELOSI, Representative HOYER, Senator REID, and President Obama who signed the sequestration bill, and it was Press Secretary Jay Carney who admitted that the sequestration was President Obama's idea.

There are numerous Republicans that voted against the sequestration because we knew all of these calamities were in the future. So it reminds me of the Shakespeare line: Thou doth protest too much.

Didn't you know this was going to happen? We knew it. That's why we voted against this bill. And it seems like the higher the level of passion, it equals the conscience that we are seeing of those who voted the wrong way on this bill for the first time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, before I yield time to my friend, I have to remind my colleague that I voted against that bill, and the bill passed because there was a majority of Republicans who supported it. So we just can't blame one House or one Senate or the President, because all of us share the blame in one way or the other.

Mr. HOYER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. The Republicans offered their bill. It was called ''Cut, Cap, and Balance.'' They voted on that bill before we ever got to sequester. In Cut, Cap, and Balance, your alternative, if you didn't reach your numbers, was sequester. Sequester was your policy.

And in the CR that you had Mr. ROGERS bring to the floor, which I voted against when it went from here to there, as did every Democrat, it said it was going to be subject to the sequester or nothing.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from California (Ms. WATERS).

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 1765, the Reducing Flight Delays Act of 2013.

I don't want anybody to be mistaken about why I support this bill. I want Mrs. BACHMANN to understand that we know that she has led the Tea Party and the right wing on all of these issues and that she led on the discussion on sequestration. It was a bad policy and it should not have been adopted by either side of the aisle; however, that is the order of the day, and we need to bring the budget to the floor and have a conference committee so we can adopt some of what was adopted on the Senate side to get rid of the sequestration.

Meanwhile, the FAA plans to furlough the vast majority of the FAA's nearly 47,000 employees, including nearly 15,000 air traffic controllers, for approximately 1 day during each 2-week period in order to comply with sequestration.

The furloughs have already begun. They started on April 21, 2013. So we're going to be backed up in these airports, and it is time for us to understand that this is an emergency. Let's get it over with by passing this bill today.

□ 1140

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

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, how much time do we have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Arizona has 2½ minutes. The gentleman from Iowa has 7½ minutes.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I will ask my chairman, do you want to even out the time? I will reserve my time if you like.

Mr. LATHAM. Does the gentleman have two more speakers? I just have one more. I was going to suggest that you go ahead with your speaker. Now I'll have one, you'll have one, and then we can close.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I thank the gentleman.

I yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. This is a hostage-taking, and I know that the American people are watching the blame game. But the blame game falls clearly on this side of the aisle. My Republican friends held this place hostage: we won't pay the debt ceiling; we won't pay our debts.

Now we're losing 2 million jobs, 4,800 Head Start programs. And I believe in air traffic controllers, but we're holding them hostage. What about the person who cannot afford an airline ticket? And so I'm saying today that it is important that we stand for the millions of dollars that we are losing for homeland security. Is it time to take millions from military families?

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 900, a one-sentence bill, that would repeal the section of the Budget Control Act of 2011 to get rid of the sequester, go to budget conference, have conferees, have a budget, get rid of the sequester. Bring it up now.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 900.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from Iowa yield for that purpose?

Mr. LATHAM. Yes.

What was the question if I may?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from Iowa yield for that purpose?

Mr. LATHAM. No.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me just say this. We have to save the traveling public, but I ask the question about 5,000 children in Texas that will lose Head Start, or the millions of seniors, or our military families that will lose support because we've got the sequester, all on the shoulders of those that believe that the way we run the Federal Government is by slash and burn. Where are our hearts? Help the American people.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD).

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot of rhetoric today that sequestration is the problem. I would like to remind you that sequestration, that President Obama proposed, was the only solution we could agree on to the real problem: the fact that this government is spending close to $1.50 for every $1 that it brings in. That being said, sequestration came into effect, and we're now having to deal with it.

It was our intent all along to find cuts. We couldn't get agreement from the other side to find the cuts. And now, even though sequestration is painful, it is working. We see in this bill that we're able to take the FAA, get the cuts that need to be made to their budget made without affecting flight delays and without furloughing people. It is my contention that this can happen all through the government and throughout all agencies.

If these agencies and the President had come back to this Congress saying, ''We can do these cuts this way; let us do it,'' I imagine almost every one of those would have passed on unanimous consent. They certainly probably would have passed on suspension like this one.

I urge my colleagues to take this first step to solve the problem with the FAA, and I look forward to working with other government agencies in the Obama administration to find the cuts we need and to spare the American people the pain that's intentionally being inflicted because some people don't want to cut a dime out of the American budget.

You know, the American people know instinctively there's waste, fraud, and abuse in this government and that there are savings to be had. And we're going to find it, and we're going to try to do it in the best possible way.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, Congress did not foresee the controllers' crisis. They will not foresee the next one. We have not solved the controllers' crisis with money. It was not about money. It was not about cuts. It was solved the old-fashioned way. They simply moved money around. This is exactly what was done with appropriations that are not having this crisis.

We can solve this if we have a meeting of both sides of the aisle on the budget. What would happen at that meeting would probably be not to cut a thing, but simply to allow agencies the flexibility to move money around, precisely as has been done with the controllers' crisis. Not 1 cent was changed, just the flexibility, the common sense that we now need to put to every single appropriation.

Mr. LATHAM. Might I inquire of the gentleman from Arizona, you have 30 seconds left. If you would like to go ahead and close, I will reserve at this time.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I rise to ask my colleagues to support this bill. It is a one-time fix in a crisis we are having today with our air traffic system. But I join my colleagues, as well as probably my chairman, in asking the House leadership, both the Republican leadership and the Democratic leadership, to please work on a comprehensive solution to the sequester in order that we can bring regular order and get the type of government that the American people deserve.

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

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

I want to associate myself with what my good friend and ranking member on the subcommittee, Mr. PASTOR, just said. We've got to find a solution, come to an agreement. This is a horrible way to run a government, with sequester. When you take a meat-ax approach to departments, there's no common sense. And that's why we need to get back to regular order around here and actually do appropriations bills. We would avoid these types of potentially catastrophic situations that we find ourselves in.

Mr. Speaker, I would just ask everyone to understand that the Senate sent this over last night. It is now an H.R. bill, our bill. The Senate will approve it as soon as we pass it in the House here. It is very important that we do this for the American people, the traveling public, for safety of the system, to make sure that our commerce continues. So I would ask everyone to support this bill.

And let's fix the big problem, and that's come to a budget agreement.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, Is there no one in this chamber who is embarrassed? Or perhaps the question should be: Is no one in this chamber not embarrassed?

The Senate panics and passes a bill to correct the failures of a small part of the abominable consequences of the ''sequester'' or sequestration.

We are now funding the failures of what we did earlier. With red faces and guilty looks, we vote on a quick correction of one important, but small, consequence—furloughs at the FAA amongst controllers—and now we sneak out of town, believing that we have made the travelling public safe.

Have we? Baloney! A really huge problem still remains unaddressed. The budget is a giant mess. Many other perils to our society, to our safety, and to the wellbeing of our people are quietly ignored as we sneak out of Washington to go home for speeches, campaigning and schmoozing with our people.

How many of us will describe our real failures we leave unaddressed? Dangers at the borders, cuts and furloughs to Custom & Border Protection, the Department of Homeland Security, and other security agencies—all unaddressed.

Food and Drug Administration—cut, sequestered, and unable to protect our people's health and safety.

Roads, highways, and bridges—all in danger.

Law enforcement at risk and with cuts, sequesters, and all that goes with those events to fester in our absence.

Education—our schools, colleges, universities, and research facilities are all affected with uncertainty.

Business, investments, and job creation all delayed because we can't—or won't—address our budget problems.

Almost nothing in government, or the economy, is able to prosper or carry out its responsibilities because we cannot, or will not, address the budget problems of this Nation, using the sequester as a substitute for courage, responsibility, and just good, honest work with compromise and cooperation.

This Republic has prospered for over 200 years because this Congress—the House and Senate—and our political parties worked together in the public's interest.

Apparently—No more!

We now go home, one small matter dealt with.

How many more are not dealt with? And what will be the consequences?

As we sneak home shame-facedly it may be that we ourselves will be safe from these failures.

Perhaps we will even be safe politically for a while, but we do not deserve to be; and we won't be when people figure out how poorly we do the Nation's business.

We have much to do. This country believes that we should do so, and it will demand that we do so.

Let us buckle down.

Let us do the job we are paid to do. We have a vital responsibility.

Let us carry it out.

Let us get busy and do the Nation's business—now.

Our responsibility is more important than our ideology.

I am ashamed. Is the rest of this body ashamed?

And what will we do about it?

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I am unable to be in Washington, DC today to cast a vote on H.R. 1765, The Reducing Flight Delays Act.

When House Republicans refused to compromise on tax and spending issues and raising the statutory debt limit, the Budget Control Act of 2011 was enacted in order to avert a fiscal crisis. The BCA provided for automatic reductions to most federal discretionary spending, referred to as ''sequestration,'' if no agreement on deficit reduction could be reached. Policy analysts, economic experts and the American people agreed that the automatic spending cuts would be so damaging, and were such bad policy, that Congress would be compelled to act to avoid them. I did not believe that these cuts were the right course of action, and so I voted against the BCA.

Unfortunately (but predictably), Congress was unable to reach agreement on a deficit reduction plan, and sequestration went into effect on March 1, 2013. As we are now experiencing, sequestration requires agencies to reduce non-defense discretionary spending by 5.3 percent in Fiscal Year 2013. It does not provide any guidance on how each agency should go about implementing these cuts, it simply reduces spending across the board, impacting all federal programs.

On March 22, 2013, after carefully weighing competing national security interests, public safety concerns, impacts on interstate transportation, communication, banking and financial networks, and the status of the most critical diversionary airports, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced it would close 149 Federal Contract Tower program towers by June 15, 2013. The FAA has also begun to implement a series of furloughs of all of its employees, including its 15,000 air traffic controllers, which has resulted in flight delays nationwide.

As someone who flies across the Continental United States twice each week, I share the frustrations and concerns that many Americans have about the flight delays due to furloughs and the closure of these towers. The nation's air traffic control system is essential for public safety, business, and the regulation of national air traffic, and I support this legislative effort to ensure that it is able to function normally.

But the measure the House is voting on today is just applying an inadequate Band-Aid to the gaping wound that sequestration has inflicted on our nation. The flight delays due to furloughs and closure of contract towers are some of the first highly visible impacts of sequestration, but they highlight the fact that the federal government performs many essential services that Americans depend on, and enacting indiscriminate cuts to federal funding undoubtedly has a negative impact on the government's ability to provide those services.

I remain committed to working with my colleagues in Congress and across the government to protect Americans from the worst impacts of sequestration and to undo it altogether.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1765 is a poor substitute for real Congressional leadership and pragmatic solutions for the millions of Americans impacted by the sequester. Using sequestration, Republicans in the House are holding the American public hostage, extracting carve-outs that serve their own interests while shamefully ignoring the people who will be impacted by the billions in remaining cuts.

While I support putting all of our air traffic controllers back on the job so that air transit is as safe and reliable as possible, this bill leaves everyone else to suffer the devastating consequences of the sequester cuts. Sequestration unduly constrains the ability of Congress to deal effectively with America's economic, fiscal, and job creation troubles. I support restoring funding for our air traffic control officers, but this bill does nothing to relieve the anguish of those Americans who cannot afford to buy an airline ticket.

As a Senior Member of the House Homeland Security Committee I find it outrageous that in Texas, approximately 52,000 civilian Department of Defense employees would be furloughed. The sequester, which the Republicans did nothing to prevent, would undermine the significant progress the Department of Homeland Security has made over the past ten years and would negatively affect our ability to carry out their vital mission.

Sequestration will eventually roll back border security, increase wait times at our Nation's land ports of entry and airports, affect aviation and maritime safety and security, leave critical infrastructure vulnerable to attacks, hamper disaster response time and significantly scale back cyber security infrastructure protections that have been developed in recent years.

Republicans forced Congress to adopt sequestration as a backstop by playing a political game of chicken when it came to raising the debt ceiling to pay our debts. While we understand and share the concern of our Republican colleagues with respect to deficit spending, now is not the time to put ideology over pragmatism, and the arbitrary cuts imposed by the sequester are not the answer.

Instead of forcing the average American to pay the price for a dysfunctional Washington, give the leaders of both parties the time needed to reach some consensus on budget issues.

Republicans, particularly Members of the Tea Party, need to understand that allowing the sequester to continue is worst way to go about achieving a long-term debt reduction. Cutting two million jobs nationwide and slowing the growth of our gross domestic product by half a percent will barely make a dent in our debt, but it will result in widespread misery.

Moreover, it jeopardizes the economic progress that we have worked hard to achieve, and even threatens to throw us back into a recession. My state of Texas is greatly affected by sequestration. These cuts will have a devastating and widespread impact on local communities.

Texas will lose approximately $67.8 million for primary and secondary education, putting around 930 teacher and aide jobs at risk. In addition, about 172,000 fewer students would be served and approximately 280 fewer schools would receive funding.

Texas will lose approximately $51 million for about 620 teachers, aides, and staff who help children with disabilities.

Head Start and Early Head Start services would be eliminated for approximately 4,800 children in Texas, reducing access to critical early education.

In Texas, approximately 52,000 civilian Department of Defense employees would be furloughed, reducing gross pay by around $274.8 million in total.

Texas will lose about $1,103,000 in Justice Assistance Grants that support law enforcement, prosecution and courts, crime prevention and education, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, and crime victim and witness initiatives.

Around 83,750 fewer Texans will get the help and skills they need to find employment as Texas will lose about $2,263,000 for job search assistance, referral, and placement, meaning.

Up to 2,300 disadvantaged and vulnerable children could lose access to child care, which is also essential for working parents to hold down a job.

In Texas around 9,730 fewer children will receive vaccines for diseases such as measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, whooping cough, influenza, and Hepatitis B due to reduced funding for vaccinations.

Violence Against Women Grants: Texas could lose up to $543,000 to provide services to victims of domestic violence, resulting in up to 2,100 fewer victims being served.

Texas will lose approximately $2,402,000 to help upgrade its ability to respond to public health threats including infectious diseases, natural disasters, and biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological events.

In addition, Texas will lose about $6,750,000 in grants to help prevent and treat

substance abuse, resulting in around 2,800 fewer admissions to substance abuse programs. And the Texas State Department of Public Health will lose about $1,146,000 resulting un around 28,600 fewer HIV tests.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that H.R. 900, the ''Cancel the Sequester Act of 2013'' be brought to the floor for a vote.

This one-sentence bill would end this national nightmare by repealing the section of the Budget Control Act of 2011 that imposed sequestration and its senseless, job-destroying cuts. If Congress cannot or will not come together in bipartisan agreement on a budget, I believe we have a duty to avert these catastrophic cuts by repealing them.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation to give the FAA and DOT flexibility to use unobligated funds to ensure the safety of our nation's air transportation system. Specifically I rise to affirm the intent of this legislation that grants the Secretary of Transportation the ability to use unobligated balances of the Airport Improvement Program account to prevent the closure of 149 contract air traffic control towers and halt the furloughs of air traffic controllers.

Our nation's air transportation system is a comprehensive network of intertwined departments, one of which is the air traffic control towers who guide our pilots safely between airports. I want to be very clear, maintaining service at all contract air traffic control towers is intrinsic to the authority given in this legislation to ensure a safe and efficient air transportation system.

Many Members of Congress have expressed grave concerns over the closure of contract towers and furloughs of air traffic controllers, both of which contribute to the overall safety of our nation's air transportation system. I should also clearly state that the inaction of the Department of Transportation to request sequester reprogramming authority and maintain some level of service at all contract towers has led to this legislation. The safety and efficiency of our skies have been put at risk and it has become incumbent upon the Congress to direct this authority to the Secretary of Transportation.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of legislation we will consider today that will provide the Secretary of Transportation with the flexibility to transfer funds to prevent reduced operations and staffing of the Federal Aviation Administration. It has now been almost two months since the sequestration cuts were enacted, and we are in new and unprecedented territory. This week alone, approximately 2,800 flights were delayed daily because of the Republican majority's refusal to address the effects of the sequester sensibly.

This bill would allow the Department of Transportation to shift $253 million in funds to the FAA's operations account to prevent the worst of these drastic cuts. This is simply a safety issue for the millions of passengers who travel our skies. Over the past five days, we have seen our national airspace system seriously compromised by the furloughs of air traffic controllers and other aviation safety professionals. In addition to the very serious safety concerns, the inconvenience of passengers, and the loss of wages to these federal workers, these delays have slowed commerce at a time when we should be doing everything we can to nurture our domestic economy.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that now that the actual effects of sequestration are painfully clear, Republican Members of Congress will come back to the table, and we can work on a bipartisan, common sense approach to ending sequestration.

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation to give the Federal Aviation Administration, FAA, and Department of Transportation, DOT, flexibility to use unobligated funds to ensure the safety of our nation's air transportation system and American travelers. Specifically I rise to affirm the intent of this legislation that grants the Secretary of Transportation the ability to use unobligated balances of the Airport Improvement Program account to prevent the closure of 149 contract air traffic control towers and halt the furloughs of air traffic controllers.

Maintaining service at all contract air traffic control towers is inherent to the authority given in this legislation to ensure a safe and efficient air transportation system. Over the past seven weeks, Congress has seen a swell of reaction to the FAA's decision to furlough and lay off hundreds of air traffic controllers across the country. In my district in New York, it was announced that the Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport control tower would be closed. Since this announcement, residents, local businesses, and employees at the airport have flooded my office with feedback that this closure will have serious safety and long-term economic impacts in the region.

Many Members of Congress as well as industry representatives who utilize our nation's general aviation system have expressed grave concerns over the closure of contract towers and furloughs of air traffic controllers, both of which contribute to the overall safety of our nation's air transportation system. The inaction of the Department of Transportation to request sequester reprogramming authority and maintain some level of service at all contract towers is unacceptable and has led to the need for this legislation. The safety and efficiency of our skies have been put at risk and it has become incumbent upon the Congress to direct this authority to the Secretary of Transportation.

I look forward to working with the FAA and DOT to ensure that the Ithaca Tompkins control tower, as well as the other 148 towers across the country, remain up and running to ensure our skies are safe.

Mr. RADEL. Mr. Speaker, the President warned Americans would feel the pain of sequestration. What he failed to mention was his White House would play politics to guarantee pain was felt. House Republicans told the President to prioritize and find places to cut American families would not feel. He refused. This is why I am proud to support the Reducing Flight Delays Act, correcting the gross incompetence happening at the White House to ensure Southwest Floridians see shorter wait times at airports.

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, while today's action to stop FAA furloughs will reduce delays, 149 of the nation's contract control towers are still at risk of closure on June 15th. These towers are not only essential for passengers: they're essential for flight training, public safety, and small business.

South Florida's North Perry Airport, which I represent in Congress, is one of the key pilot training facilities in the Southeast and an important backstop for the region's international airports. Without further action, this airport may be forced to close this summer.

I rise today to affirm that the intent of the Reducing Flight Delays Act of 2013 grants Secretary LaHood the authority to use unobligated balances of the Airport Improvement Program account to prevent the closure of the 149 contract air traffic control towers, including North Perry Airport. I call on Secretary LaHood to exercise this option to save these essential facilities.

Now, it's up to Congress to pass a comprehensive bill to stop the sequester.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today's vote may be the first of many to undo the painful and unfair impact of sequestration on our food safety system, housing services, public schools, Head Start programs, our transportation programs, and a host of other vital government services. However, I fear that a piecemeal approach would represent a continuation of the incredibly broken process in Washington, DC. Even though I will vote for today's measure, it will be an embarrassment if this is the only action we take to reduce these cuts.

I voted against the Budget Control Act for a reason; sequestration was intended to be painful. Picking and choosing programs to restore, instead of reforming our budget overall and raising revenue, shirks our fundamental responsibility as members of Congress. We must address the big picture: we need to cut programs that are irrelevant or even harmful, such as the nuclear arsenal and agricultural subside. We need new revenues that address the inequities in the tax code. It will require a comprehensive approach but will result in a sustainable budget future.

By all means protect the vital operation of the FAA. More importantly, restore the hundreds of vital programs crippled by sequestration by replacing them with strategic cuts and new revenues that will strengthen our economy and county. This should be our number one priority.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation to provide the U.S. Secretary of Transportation with the flexibility to transfer certain funds to prevent reduced operations and staffing of the Federal Aviation Administration. While it is imperative that the U.S. Congress consider and pass legislation to replace the entirety of the sequester, this legislation will help ensure the safety and efficiency of our nation's air transportation system.

Specifically, I rise to affirm the intent of this legislation that grants the Secretary of Transportation the ability to use unobligated balances of the Airport Improvement Program account to halt the furloughs of air traffic controllers, to maintain the midnight air traffic control tower shift at airports across the country including Fresno-Yosemite International Airport, and to prevent the closure of 149 contract air traffic control towers including Castle Airport's contract air traffic control tower. Maintaining service at all contract and non-contract air traffic control towers is central to the authority provided in this bill to ensure the safety of our air transportation system.

Many Members of Congress have expressed concerns over the closure of contract towers, reduced service at non-contract towers, and furloughs of air traffic controllers, all of which contribute to the overall safety of our nation's air transportation system. The safety

and efficiency of our skies have been put at risk and it has become incumbent upon the Congress to direct this authority to the Secretary of Transportation.

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I am frustrated at the House of Representatives' failure to pass a realistic budget to stop the irresponsible across-the-board cuts that have caused more than 4,000 flight delays impacting hundreds of thousands of passengers over the past week. I voted against the sequester because it was a bad policy then and it is a bad policy now.

Families in Michigan and across the country should not be penalized for dysfunction in Congress. Today, I am proud to have voted to end the crippling delays in our nation's airspace and support the jobs of 15,000 air traffic controllers who work hard to keep us safe all across this country.

This bill gives the Secretary of Transportation the authority and flexibility to move funds within the FAA to minimize the disruption to our air transportation system. Although I am happy that our air traffic controllers can finally get back to work protecting our skies, this bill does nothing to solve the continuing negative impacts to women, senior citizens, small businesses and our children's education.

It is time for us to take the responsible course of action to end this sequestration, find common-ground, and reach a final agreement on a bi-partisan budget that allows us to put teachers back to work in our schools, to give kids a jumpstart on education through Head Start, to help get people back to work, and to continue NIH research on critical diseases such as Alzheimers and heart disease.

I call upon my colleagues to come back to the table and pass a bi-partisan, comprehensive budget agreement to replace the sequester.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1765 to provide the Secretary of Transportation with the flexibility to transfer funds to prevent further disruptions resulting from Federal Aviation Administration furloughs. If enacted, this bill will end the air traffic control furloughs that have congested commercial aviation traffic over the last week.

Currently, the FAA is furloughing almost 10 percent of its air traffic controller workforce on a daily basis. Since the furloughs began on Sunday through Wednesday this week, the number of air travel delays has totaled 8,804 compared to 2,795 for the same time last week. These delays inconvenience passengers and cause serious economic disruptions throughout the entire country.

H.R. 1765 will provide the Secretary of Transportation with the flexibility he needs to fix this problem without adding to the FAA's budget. The additional flexibility in this bill will also give the Secretary the ability to restore the FAA's Contract Tower Program.

It is Congress' intent that the Secretary of Transportation will use the added flexibility to stop the closure of the 149 identified contract towers across the country. As I and those in my District can attest, these contract towers, such as the ones in Albany and in Macon, play an important role in serving as a link between rural communities and the larger aviation network.

This bill should be approved to prevent both the FAA furloughs and the closure of these contract towers. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important aviation bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LATHAM) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1765.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 361, nays 41, not voting 30, as follows:

[Roll No. 125]

YEAS—361

Aderholt
Alexander
Amodei
Andrews
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bonner
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Horsford
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—41

Amash
Clarke
Conyers
Crowley
DesJarlais
Dingell
Duncan (SC)
Edwards
Ellison
Fincher
Fudge
Hoyer
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Jordan
Kelly (IL)
Kildee
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lofgren
Long
Massie
Matsui
McDermott
McGovern
Mulvaney
Nolan
Olson
Palazzo
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Sarbanes
Serrano
Thompson (CA)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Welch
Wenstrup
Wilson (SC)

NOT VOTING—30

Barton
Beatty
Brady (TX)
Burgess
Carney
Carter
Coble
Conaway
Enyart
Flores
Forbes
Granger
Honda
Huffman
Jones
LoBiondo
Lynch
Marchant
Markey
Miller, George
Polis
Radel
Rangel
Ruiz
Sessions
Smith (WA)
Walorski
Waxman
Williams
Young (IN)

□ 1213

Ms. KELLY of Illinois and Mr. FINCHER changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. CASSIDY, FARR, FLEMING, Ms. HAHN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and 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. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 125, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. RADEL. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 125, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 125, on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1765, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, on April 26 I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall No. 125, on H.R. 1765. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to clarify my position for the RECORD on a vote cast on April 26, 2013. The vote was on passage of H.R. 1765, the Reducing Flight Delays Act.

On rollcall vote No. 125, I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "yea."

RESPONSIBLE HELIUM ADMINISTRATION AND STEWARDSHIP ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TIBERI). Pursuant to House Resolution 178 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 527.

Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HULTGREN) kindly resume the chair.

□ 1215

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 527) to amend the Helium Act to complete the privatization of the Federal helium reserve in a competitive market fashion that ensures stability in the helium markets while protecting the interests of American taxpayers, and for other purposes, with Mr. HULTGREN (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, amendment No. 4 printed in House Report 113–47, offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY), had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. DENT

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, the unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 87, noes 312, not voting 33, as follows:

[Roll No. 126]

AYES—87

Alexander
Barletta
Benishek
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Camp
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Davis, Rodney
DeLauro
Dent
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Doyle
Esty
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Gerlach
Gibson
Grayson
Grimm
Hahn
Higgins
Himes
Huelskamp
Hultgren
Kelly (PA)
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Lance
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Lipinski
Loebsack
Maffei
Maloney, Sean
Marino
McCarthy (NY)
McKinley
McNerney
Meehan
Meng
Miller (MI)
Murphy (PA)
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Perry
Pitts
Pompeo
Rahall
Reed
Renacci
Richmond
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Rothfus
Schwartz
Slaughter
Swalwell (CA)
Terry
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Titus
Upton
Visclosky
Welch
Whitfield
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOES—312

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Andrews
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Becerra
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Black
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bonner
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Cassidy
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Cramer
Crenshaw
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DelBene
Denham
DeSantis
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Eshoo
Farenthold
Farr
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garrett
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huizenga (MI)
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
King (IA)
Kingston
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Langevin
Lankford
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Maloney, Carolyn
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meeks
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Reichert
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Sinema
Sires
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoho

NOT VOTING—33

Barton
Beatty
Brady (TX)
Burgess
Carter
Coble
Conaway
Crawford
Enyart
Flores
Forbes
Granger
Honda
Huffman
Jones
LoBiondo
Lynch
Marchant
Markey
Miller, George
Murphy (FL)
Polis
Radel
Rangel
Ruiz
Schock
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (WA)
Walorski
Waxman
Williams
Young (IN)

□ 1220

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Chair, on April 26 I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall number 126, on the Dent Amendment to H.R. 527. Had I been present I would have voted "no."

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS) having assumed the chair, Mr. HULTGREN, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 527) to amend the Helium Act to complete the privatization of the Federal helium reserve in a competitive market fashion that ensures stability in the helium markets while protecting the interests of American taxpayers, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 178, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole?

If not, the question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. SCHNEIDER. I am opposed in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. SCHNEIDER moves to recommit the bill H.R. 527 to the Committee on Natural Resources with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. ____. BANNING EXPORTS TO HOSTILE NATIONS THAT SEEK NUCLEAR WEAPONS OR MISSILE TECHNOLOGY.

Nothing in this Act authorizes the export of helium from the Federal Helium Reserve (as that term is defined in the amendments made by this Act) to Iran, North Korea, or Syria, or to any person (including any successor, assign, affiliate, member, or joint venture with an ownership interest in any property or project any portion of which is owned by such person) in violation of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) or who, in the judgment of the President, is likely to transfer or divert such helium to Iran, North Korea, or Syria in violation of Federal law or Executive Order prohibiting trade with Iran, North Korea, or Syria.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, this is the final amendment to the bill, which will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage as amended.

I rise to offer this motion to ensure that our strategic reserve of helium gas does not fall into the hands of those who wish to harm the United States or target our allies abroad. Helium is a crucial component of manufacturing and research processes here in the United States. The consistent availability of helium to United States companies and research institutions is, therefore, essential to our global competitiveness as well as our national security.

NASA is one of the largest consumers of helium gas in the United States, utilizing helium for a number of crucial national security priorities. For example, the deployment of critical communications satellites, which is made possible by helium, helps to support our global information network and must remain a strategic U.S. asset. Helium has been utilized to purge explosive rocket fuel from intercontinental ballistic missiles and continues to be a strategic resource for any nation looking to build an advanced missile program. Helium is also utilized in cooling nuclear reactors.

This motion seeks to manage this national resource in a safe and responsible way by ''banning exports to hostile nations that seek nuclear weapons or missile technology.'' Helium can be used in the missile technology utilized by Iran, Syria, and North Korea, putting millions of lives at risk in the Middle East, on the Korean Peninsula, and possibly around the world.

Over the last several months, we have seen escalating belligerence from North Korea, Iran, and Syria, including missile tests, the acceleration of nuclear programs and, most recently, the apparent use of chemical weapons by the Syrian regime against its own citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the House must adopt this language to ensure that the proper safeguards are in place to deny those rogue states access to our national helium reserve for their nefarious purposes.

I know we can all agree that the threats emanating from these countries are serious and that our enemies seek access to technology and resources to harm the United States and our allies. Our helium reserve is an asset we must secure from their reach.

The actions of these regimes continue to invoke national condemnation. This body has repeatedly acted to sanction these regimes for their reprehensible behavior. This motion is simply one more step to provide safeguards against the threat posed by these countries.

We must deny the export of helium from the strategic reserve to specifically the nations of Iran, North Korea, and Syria, and allow the President the authority to deny exports to businesses or entities that could potentially divert helium to these governments.

We have seen an increasing number of provocations from North Korea, Iran, and Syria. These incidents have directly targeted the United States, threatened the existence of Israel, and endangered the lives of countless civilians in Syria.

It is our responsibility to ensure that our national assets, including our strategic helium reserve, are guarded from being used against us. This motion to recommit would help in achieving that goal. The motion provides a meaningful and necessary safeguard against potential use of the strategic helium reserve and helps to support our national security.

Again, this is the final amendment to the bill, which will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage as amended.

I urge all Members to support this commonsense language.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to claim time in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I'm really disappointed to see this MTR. There is so much talk in this House about working together on both sides of the aisle. This bill is truly a bipartisan bill. And I suspect that there are probably Members on both sides of the aisle that were pretty suspicious when they saw a bill sponsored by HASTINGS, MARKEY, FLORES, and HOLT, yet that's precisely what we managed to get out of the House Natural Resources Committee. It's a bipartisan bill that deals with a very serious issue.

□ 1230

This motion to recommit is something that we've seen before. Nothing in our bill violates the International Emergency Economic Powers Act. Nothing in our bill violates that, and yet that's reflected in this MTR. Secondly, the countries that are mentioned in here are countries that are hostile to the United States. That's covered under an entirely different statute in the law.

We do not need this to slow down the process of passing a bill that is needed, so I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on the MTR and ''yes'' on the underlying bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 5-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by a 5-minute vote on passage of the bill, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 186, noes 211, not voting 35, as follows:

[Roll No. 127]

AYES—186

Andrews	Brown (FL)	Chu
Barber	Brownley (CA)	Cicilline
Barrow (GA)	Bustos	Clarke
Bass	Butterfield	Clay
Becerra	Capps	Cleaver
Bera (CA)	Capuano	Clyburn
Bishop (GA)	Cárdenas	Cohen
Bishop (NY)	Carney	Connolly
Blumenauer	Carson (IN)	Conyers
Bonamici	Cartwright	Cooper
Brady (PA)	Castor (FL)	Courtney
Braley (IA)	Castro (TX)	Crowley

Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Horsford
Hoyer
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Moore
Moran
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOES—211

Aderholt
Alexander
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonner
Boustany
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Cook
Costa
Cotton
Cramer
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marino
Massie
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—35

Barton
Beatty
Brady (TX)
Burgess
Carter
Coble
Conaway
Crawford
Enyart
Flores
Forbes
Gibbs
Granger
Honda
Huffman
Jones
LoBiondo
Lynch
Marchant
Markey
Miller, George
Murphy (FL)
Polis
Radel
Rangel
Ruiz
Schock
Sessions
Smith (WA)
Stivers
Tiberi
Walorski
Waxman
Williams
Young (IN)

□ 1243

Ms. BROWNLEY of California and Ms. WATERS changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, on May 26th I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall No. 127, on the Motion to Recommit for H.R. 527.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

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. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 394, nays 1, not voting 37, as follows:

[Roll No. 128]

YEAS—394

Aderholt
Alexander
Amash
Amodei
Andrews
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bonner
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)

Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—1

Sánchez, Linda T.

NOT VOTING—37

Barton
Beatty
Brady (TX)
Burgess
Capuano
Carter
Coble
Conaway
Crawford
Diaz-Balart
Enyart
Flores
Forbes
Gibbs
Granger
Honda
Huffman
Jones
LoBiondo
Lynch
Marchant
Markey
Miller, George
Murphy (FL)
Polis
Radel
Rangel
Ruiz
Schock
Sessions
Smith (WA)
Stivers
Tiberi
Walorski
Waxman
Williams
Young (IN)

□ 1249

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. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, on April 26 I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall number 128, on H.R. 527.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, April 26, 2013, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes numbers 125–128.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 125: "yea" (On motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1765, Reducing Flight Delays Act), but we must do more to avert the sequester's impacts to all Americans.

Rollcall No. 126: "nay" (On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 527, Dent of Pennsylvania amendment No. 2).

Rollcall No. 127: "yea" (On Motion to Recommit with Instructions, to amend the Helium Act to complete the privatization of the Federal helium reserve in a competitive market fashion that ensures stability in the helium markets while protecting the interests of American taxpayers, and for other purposes).

Rollcall No. 128: "yea" (On passage of H.R. 527, to amend the Helium Act to complete the privatization of the Federal helium reserve in a competitive market fashion that ensures stability in the helium markets while protecting the interests of American taxpayers, and for other purposes).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, April 26, 2013, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes 128 and 125. Please let the record reflect that I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 527, the Responsible Helium Administration and Stewardship Act, which is consistent with my position on this legislation. Please let the record reflect that I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 1765, Reducing Flight Delays Act of 2013, which is consistent with my position on this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor the legislative day of Friday, April 26, 2013.

Had I been present I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote #126 (on agreeing to the Dent amendment to H.R. 527), "no" on rollcall vote #127 (on motion to recommit with instructions to H.R. 527), "aye" on rollcall vote #128 (on passage of H.R. 527).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall #125 on H.R. 1765, I am not recorded because of the death of a close personal friend. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall #126 on the Dent amendment to H.R. 527, I am not recorded because of the death of a close personal friend. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall #127 on the motion to recommit H.R. 527 with instructions, I am not recorded because of the death of a close personal friend. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall #128 on H.R. 527, I am not recorded because of the death of a close personal friend. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

ADJOURNMENT TO TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, April 30, 2013; and that the order of the House of January 3, 2013, regarding morning-hour debate not apply on that date.

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

There was no objection.

PROMOTING PRIVATE-SECTOR JOB CREATION

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

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, the Sixth District of Kentucky has had some good news this month. Tiffany & Co. added 75 jobs at their Lexington manufacturing plant. The global law firm Bingham McCutchen opened a Lexington global services center with plans to employ 250 workers. Toyota announced it will add 750 jobs and invest an additional $360 million in their Georgetown manufacturing facility to build the Lexus.

I am honored to represent the hardworking Kentuckians who brought this global recognition and investment to the Bluegrass. It is a true credit to our workforce that these first-class companies chose to make these investments in Kentucky.

But take a moment and think about how many more jobs we could create without a $17 trillion national debt clogging the engines of economic growth. If Congress is serious about promoting private sector job creation, then we must remove government-imposed obstacles to growth. That means repealing and replacing ObamaCare, cutting spending, reforming our Tax Code, reducing regulations, and unleashing American energy. Only then will we make these headlines the norm and not the exception.

RECOGNIZING FORT WORTH COMMUNITY SCHOLARS

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary group of students in the city of Fort Worth that I'm honored to represent in Congress. Alejandra Benavidez, Consuelo Cuevas, Nian Dim, Elijah Herring, Miguel Lopez, Mariah Mathews, and Yesenia Ortiz each have been awarded a community scholarship to attend Texas Christian University.

TCU recognizes the benefits of having a diverse student body with varied backgrounds and experiences. In order to help ensure this, the university began the Community Scholars program in 1999 to bring students in who would otherwise not be able to afford a college education. The program has grown to include 11 high schools in the north Texas area, with 30 scholarships given each year, and boasts a 90 percent college graduation rate.

The students chosen from Fort Worth's Trimble Technical High School add to the prestige and quality of the Community Scholars program and TCU overall. Each of these students are bright, motivated, and accomplished. Not only do these students exhibit academic excellence, but they also take part in volunteer work, extracurricular activities, and demonstrate leadership in their communities. Once again I want to commend these students. I know they will wear their purple with pride.

PROTECTING THE INNOCENT

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

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I'm heartbroken as I've heard more about Dr. Kermit Gosnell's Philadelphia medical practice during the past few weeks.

The brutal method Dr. Gosnell used to ensure death from a botched abortion, severing the spinal cord of a baby born alive, is disgusting. I pray we are all shocked and disturbed by what has been revealed about abortion during this trial.

While Dr. Gosnell stands trial, there are more than a million babies who die from abortion each year in the United States. That's almost two times more deaths than caused by cancer in the U.S. every year and two times more than heart disease.

Abortion is taking an innocent life, and we have to stand against it. Life is precious. Children are precious. People talk about choice when we talk about abortion. I encourage more Americans to choose life and protect the most innocent in our Nation.

FAA SEQUESTER

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

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, the sequester is still hurting our constituents. And despite votes today, Congress is continuing to turn a blind eye to many communities affected by these draconian, across-the-board cuts.

Yes, we should not furlough air traffic controllers and other FAA employees. It's not smart, and I know as a Representative from Nevada that it is unnecessarily hurting tourism and local economies.

But House Republicans continue to ignore the impacts of the cuts on Head Start, on Title I schools, and on the Meals on Wheels program for our seniors. Why is that? Why are these students and seniors still on the chopping block? Do their interests not count in the Halls of Congress?

These mindless cuts are harming our kids' futures and our seniors' well-being, and this Congress is long overdue in paying attention to their needs. I've said before, Mr. Speaker, I'm willing to work with anyone from either side of the aisle to come up with solutions to replace the sequester, but we need to do it for all communities, not just one.

MEDICARE MARKET PRICING PROGRAM ACT OF 2013

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in the legislative process, effective communication can help bring attention to important issues and advance good policy. Unfortunately, all too often rhetoric doesn't match reality.

Take, for example, Medicare's so-called competitive bidding program for durable medical equipment. The program was intended to reduce Medicare costs and ensure that beneficiaries have access to quality services. In practice, the system denies competition, which hurts small business providers, and worsens access to quality services, which harms seniors.

In fact, despite the program's catchy title, more than 240 market auction experts and economists have warned that the Medicare bidding program harms competition and will ultimately hurt patients.

Today I've joined in support of legislation, H.R. 1717, the Medicare Market Pricing Program Act of 2013, which would replace this program with one that's not just labeled competitive, but is competitive, and maintains beneficiary access to quality items and services.

I encourage my colleagues to join in support of the Medicare Market Pricing Program Act of 2013.

COMMENDING HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION ON THE CONSTITUTION

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, there's an amazing collection of young people from around the country that are gathering in our Nation's Capital this weekend. They are part of the annual competition on the United States Constitution. It is my pleasure to visit with my constituents from Grant High School from Portland this morning, young people who have dug deep into the Constitution. They're passionately prepared to defend the principles, and are developing skills that'll last a lifetime.

It is unfortunate that Congress has failed to support the Classroom Law Project budgetarily. I would hope that there's an opportunity to reflect on what these young people are doing and what we could do in addition if we stepped back up and provided the resources so they could be available for more young people. At a time when America faces challenges and there is a breakdown in the other body not even being able to approve gun background checks something that 90 percent of the American people want, we ought to be supporting young people who are doing this important work of democracy.

I congratulate Grant High School, teacher David Lickey, and their coaches who are working with them. Regardless of the outcome, they are already winners.

□ 1300

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1461

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY) as a cosponsor of H.R. 1461.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

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

Mr. LAMALFA With the darkness and decay that has descended upon this country, we have a remedy, I'm glad to report here. This coming week, next Thursday, we can celebrate the 62nd Annual National Day of Prayer in the United States by official proclamation.

It's played a vital role, prayer, in the formation of this country by our Founders; and we have this opportunity, not just on this day, but every day, as we do at the beginning of the session in this body. I encourage everybody to take part.

I have artwork next to me here that hangs in my office here, and there's a prayer for guidance that George Washington once wrote and offered, and I would like to do an excerpt of that, given time.

That excerpt will be:

> Increase my faith in the sweet promises of the gospel; give me repentance from dead works; pardon my wanderings, and direct my thoughts unto Thyself, the God of my salvation; teach me how to live in Thy fear, labor in Thy service, and ever to run in the ways of Thy commandments.

I'd advise read the rest, but please remember National Day of Prayer, May 2, next week.

THE EFFECTS OF THE SEQUESTER

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

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I have a one-sentence bill, H.R. 900, that repeals the sequester, and many of my colleagues have already begun talking about it and joining with me on it today.

These cuts are currently diminishing our Nation's education quality, our research output, leaving more with untreated mental illness, more hunger, more homelessness and fewer Federal criminal prosecutions. The sequester means that we'll have 2,100 less food inspectors for examining the safety of our food.

If Congress is unable to craft a bipartisan agreement that takes sequestration off the table, I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 900, my one-sentence bill to repeal the sequester.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request until it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

THE VETERANS BENEFITS CLAIMS FASTER FILING ACT

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

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Veterans Benefits Claims Faster Filing Act. This no-cost legislation will shorten the time that veterans must wait for their claims to be decided.

Nationally, the average wait time for a claim is nearly 300 days. In El Paso, Texas, the veterans I represent wait an average of 439 days. We must do better.

My legislation will require the VA to report and post processing times and award rates for claims filed in a variety of ways, from the fastest way, which is a fully developed claim filed online, to the slowest way, which is filing an underdeveloped claim on a nonstandardized piece of paper.

Informing veterans that they will wait the least amount of time if they file fully developed claims online will create an incentive to do so. Fully developed claims are consistently turned around in 100 days or fewer. Imagine a veteran in your district saving months of waiting unnecessarily for a decision on their claim.

We owe a lot to our veterans, and we can uphold our end of the bargain to them by ensuring that they receive the benefits they have earned and depend on in a timely manner.

I urge all of my colleagues to support the Faster Filing Act.

SAVE THE CHILDREN OF THE NORTH FOREST INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, over the past couple of weeks, in my district, we've been working with a very small school district by the name of North Forest Independent School District, of about 7,000 young people, bright, energetic and prepared to reach and fulfill their future.

Unfortunately, the State of Texas chooses to close that school, not because they are not meeting the Leave No Child Behind, but because one high school did not meet the threshold by two students. Over the next couple of days, we expect to hear from the State to ask this district to terminate all employees.

We offered to the State a collaborative response of having them to work with public charters and work with the public school system, keeping it a public school system. We again ask the State of Texas, the Governor of the State of Texas, who has refused to give Federal funds for education back to the districts, you know why? Maybe it's because of sequester.

But more importantly, I want to save those students, I want to save those employees, and I believe we can do it by eliminating the sequester.

I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 900, a one-sentence bill to eliminate the sequester. These children at the North Forest Independent School District deserve to be able to graduate from a public school. It is shameful that they will be getting a notice of their beloved teachers, fire them all.

I will go home to the district and stand against it. I ask for relief from the U.S. Department of Education and all of those who believe in educating our children and being responsible to our teachers who teach them and love them.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DEMETRIO RODRIGUEZ

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

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Today I'd like to take a moment to honor the life of Demetrio P. Rodriguez, a great American we lost earlier this week in my hometown of San Antonio. Demetrio passed away at the age of 87 after a long and rewarding life, a life that literally transformed public education in Texas and across the Nation.

Demetrio, like many of the folks who grew up on the west side of San Antonio, was a humble man. Born into a migrant farm-working family, he served in the Navy and later in the Air Force Reserve, and he worked for years at Kelly Air Force Base.

In 1968, with 15 other parents, he led the charge to change the way we do school finance, not only in Texas, but in the United States of America. He objected to the fact that property-poor districts were so far outspent and given much more money than property-rich districts in Texas. He led that charge.

In 1973, the Supreme Court said that education wasn't a fundamental right, but he didn't give up the fight. And in 1989, the Texas Supreme Court ruled that the children of Texas should have an equal education, no matter their income.

He was a great man. He'll be sorely missed. He was a fighter and a champion of people.

THE SEQUESTER HAS REAL CONSEQUENCES

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Some of my Republican colleagues were raging that air traffic was slowed by a so-called political manipulation of the sequester. I joined most of my House colleagues in voting to make a special exception for the FAA because we do want traffic to flow.

But I have a news flash: cutting billions of dollars from the budget in a sequester in a meat-ax way does have real consequences.

Furloughs are also occurring at the Departments of Defense and Agriculture, at the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Head Start is cutting 70,000 slots for early childhood education. In my neighboring Indiana, there's a raffle being held to decide which children are going to be kicked out of the Head Start program.

Four million Meals on Wheels are going to be cut for seniors who are depending on them.

The Medicare Anti-Fraud Division is being cut. That makes no sense. And the sequester is projected to cost 750,000 American jobs this year.

So, Mr. Speaker, I too ask unanimous consent to bring H.R. 900 to the floor that would repeal the sequester.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

□ 1310

CORRECTING THE ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 1765, REDUCING FLIGHT DELAYS ACT OF 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that in the engrossment of H.R. 1765, the Clerk strike ''account'' on page 2, line 14, and insert ''accounts.''

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

There was no objection.

REMEMBERING MAXINE SMITH

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today, in Memphis, Tennessee, a great lady passed away—a lady who is as fierce, as brave, and as courageous a woman who's ever lived in this country: a lady by the name of Maxine Smith.

Maxine Smith was the executive secretary of the NAACP from 1962 up to around 2000. She served on the Memphis City School Board from 1971 to 1995 and was on the National Board of the NAACP. She helped take Memphis beyond Jim Crow and beyond segregation into a great city in America and America's mainstream.

Because the scourge of discrimination and desegregation stained this country, she was not allowed to enroll at Memphis State University. So she went to Spelman and then to Middlebury and got a master's degree. She went to work to help others and spent her life fighting against discrimination in all ways and all manners.

She served on the State Board of Education in Tennessee and made sure people got a good education, whether they were White or Black; and she overcame all of the hate and discrimination that she faced. She was a beautiful woman who lived Dr. King's dream—seeing people and judging them by the content of their character and not the color of their skin.

She was a person to be emulated, honored, and remembered. She had a

great life—a life extremely well lived. I will miss her and so will this Nation.

REPEAL THE SEQUESTER

(Ms. SHEA-PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Today, the House proved that if it really wants to, it can move quickly. Today, we made it easier for air travelers, and I'm very happy that we did that. But the sequester is still there, and it is still impacting schools. I have a little Head Start that's going to be closed in my district. Others are being impacted. We're laying off Federal employees. This is impacting the military and health research across the country.

And so I call on the House majority to continue the work they started today. Don't just choose one group. Repeal this sequester. They have it in their power to put it on the floor to repeal the sequester. The American public is asking for this. It is our obligation to do this not just for air travelers but everybody around the country.

APPOINTING BUDGET CONFEREES

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

Mr. CONNOLLY. Today, we passed a fix for the FAA and for air traffic controllers because of a problem created by sequestration. But we only have 10 fingers. There are many more holes in the dike than 10. We've already plugged the hole on the Pentagon. We've already plugged the hole on food inspectors at USDA. Today, we plug another one.

Sooner or later, we have to recognize the dike itself is being undermined by something called sequestration. The time has come for Congress to put aside partisan wrangling. It's time for the majority to show leadership and appoint conferees to a budget so we can actually work this out in a sensible way, not a meat-ax, reckless way, and get things done for the American people. Sequestration is not rocket science, but it will remain beyond us if we continue the partisan fighting we've had in this House.

REMEMBERING HOWARD PHILLIPS

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

Mr. STOCKMAN. When I first started out in politics, a dear friend of mine, Howard Phillips, was a conservative leader and a great father and patriot. On April 20, Howard Phillips passed away.

He grew up in Boston, where he became an avid baseball fan. He knew all the teams, all the players, and remained a passionate fan throughout his life. He fought hard to get into the Boston Latin School. From there, he invaded the liberal bastion that is Harvard, where he upheld conservative principles and even served as the chairman of the student council.

Howard made national news during the Nixon administration, when he fought to abolish the Office of Economic Opportunity. A leader, a champion, and a great father, he founded in 1974 the TCC, or The Conservative Caucus. It rapidly became one of the major nationwide conservative organizations. He made headlines for opposing the Panama Canal treaty and supporting Ronald Reagan's efforts to rebuild our defense and to cut taxes and spending.

The conservative movement will not be the same without Howard. In fact, the conservative movement would not be what it is today without his leadership. In 1960, he helped found Young Americans for Freedom, which became the model for conservative political action groups. Howard, Paul Weyrich, Richard Viguerie, Jerry Falwell, and other key leaders became the founders of what we know as the modern conservative movement.

Over the years, Howard stood firm to conservative principles when it was often easier to compromise with the establishment and others. When Howard saw the GOP tilting too far to the left, he found the U.S. Taxpayers' Party—now the Constitution Party—which nominated him as their Presidential candidate in 1992, 1996, and 2000. It was a distinct pleasure for Howard to see the new generation of conservative leaders. As a precursor to the Tea Party, Howard was always there.

Howard's work lives on through his family and through his children, through The Conservative Caucus, and through the work of his large family, including his son, Brad, who found the Persecution Project, which is very active in saving embattled Christians in Sudan; and his son Douglas' Vision Forum, which is a major home-schooling ministry; and through the many Americans inspired by his leadership and vision.

Howard is survived by his wife, Peggy, six children, and 18 grandchildren.

On April 29 a funeral will be held at McLean Bible Church.

God bless you, Howie. We love you.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will recognize Members for Special Order speeches without prejudice to the possible resumption of legislative business.

WE NEED TO KNOW WHERE WE COME FROM TO KNOW WHERE WE ARE GOING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It is indeed an honor for me to yield to a friend, a man that I am delighted was elected to join us last year, my friend, Mr. YOHO from Florida, for such time as he may consume.

THE SECOND AMENDMENT

Mr. YOHO. I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard many gun control supporters say that the Second Amendment is outdated. They point out the phrase ''a well-regulated militia'' as their proof that armed and alert citizens belong in the 18th century and not the 21st century. We saw last week in Boston that they couldn't be more wrong.

When the Constitution and the Second Amendment were written, the story of the Boston struggles during the Revolutionary War was still fresh in America's memory. British troops looked at every American as a threat and treated them like virtual prisoners in the communities that they built. That's why our Founders made sure that it would be law, and a birthright for every law-abiding American, that everyone would have the freedom to protect themselves.

These days, many of America's enemies don't wear the uniforms of a nation. They try to avoid confrontation with our military and our police force; and they lurk in our streets, they hide out in our universities, and they wait for our defenses to go down. They don't save their hatred for our heroes in uniforms. They unleash it on anyone who is free.

The line between crime and terror is a thin one. Any victim of a violent crime has experienced terrorism in its most intimate and intense form. When we talk about guns and we look at the true meaning of the Second Amendment, it's clear that the passage of a couple of centuries hasn't changed its intent much.

The Second Amendment is a uniquely American value, as relevant today as when it was written. No other nation before ours has trusted the people to arm and protect themselves. When tragedies happened in Tucson, in Aurora, and in Newtown, guns were to blame. When the tragedy happened in Boston last week, we rightly blamed the person and not the instrument.

□ 1320

Allowing law-abiding citizens to exercise their freedom of self-defense can help keep us safe, and I will fight to protect this precious constitutional right.

Mr. GOHMERT. I thank my friend from Florida.

At this time, I'm proud to yield to a friend from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY). I'm proud Wisconsin and Texas are in the same country because Wisconsin has certainly produced some great Americans.

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

Mr. DUFFY. I appreciate my friend from Texas yielding.

Over the past 5 months, our Nation has seen unspeakable horrors bestowed upon the children of our country, from the massacre in Newtown—the 23 innocent, young first graders who lost their lives—to just recently in the Boston bombing, where many lost their lives, but specifically, a third grader, Richard Martin, lost his life.

Richard, a couple weeks before, had just made his First Communion. There is a picture of Richard in a sharp white suit with a proud, toothless smile. He lost his life in Boston. His little sister, Jane, who was by him was also hit by the bomb. She lost her leg. She was just starting to take Irish step dancing classes. She will now be in recovery for months and years from that bombing.

We have to look at what's happening in our country with regard to violence against children. As a country, we have to soul-search about violence against our children, and we have been soul-searching. Our families, our communities, we've been soul-searching in this institution about that very violence. We've had a conversation about: How do we protect our children? How do we keep them from this violence and scourge that is spreading across our country? But we soul-search.

Meanwhile, in Philadelphia, dozens—if not hundreds—of babies have had their lives taken from them, where they've been murdered, left to lay in cardboard boxes, left in toilets trying to swim for air, only to have the backs of their necks snipped, basically decapitated. That kind of horror is being bestowed on children in America, and yet where is the media? Where are the protests? Where are the congressional hearings?

Listen, where are the parents on Air Force One flying to the White House having a meeting with the President? Where are the high-powered meetings with the Senators across the aisle? They're not happening.

I don't have the picture for you today, but many have seen it, a picture of the courtroom where the Kermit Gosnell trial is going on. There's a section reserved for the media—the media that loves great stories, loves fanfare. There's a section reserved for the media at this trial and there's nobody there. There's been a blackout. The media has refused to cover this story.

How about a poor, immigrant mother who can't speak English, who looks to her local community organization in Philadelphia, who gets a recommendation for an abortion to go to the nice-sounding Women's Medical Society clinic, a clinic that is well known for its filth and well known for its health violations. Poor minority immigrant goes to this clinic for an abortion, and she loses her life.

So I think we have to ask: Where is NARAL? Where is NOW? Where is Mrs. BARBARA BOXER, standing up for poor minority women who are losing their lives in Philadelphia at the hands of an abortion provider? Where are they? The silence is deafening. Can't hear them.

There's no voice given to that poor minority immigrant. There is no voice given to these little babies who are so vulnerable at the start of their lives and they're voiceless. But no one—even those who say they stand up for women and babies, they're unwilling to stand up at this time.

However, if you are a white, privileged law student from this town, the doors swing wide open and the media wants to cover your story. They want to cover your point of view. But when we're talking about an abortion clinic that provides late-term, partial-birth abortions where babies are born alive, there is no outrage; there is no story.

Where is the NAACP for these minority babies? Where is La Raza? Where is the Black Congressional Caucus? Where is MAXINE WATERS? Where is the leader of the Democrat Party? Where are they, lending their voice to these atrocities, this murder?

You know, I'm a father of six. I've been there for the birth of all my babies. I know we have a lot of parents in this institution and across the aisle. Listen, newborn babies coming out, they are voiceless; they're defenseless; they rely on us for everything.

Here's a picture of my sixth baby, MariaVictoria, Mighty V, just born. The pictures of the babies that died in Philadelphia are bigger than this; they're more developed than this. And yet no one wants to stand up and shed light on these atrocities and these unspeakable horrors, the dehumanization, the desensitization of what happened in Philadelphia.

I think we have to ask ourselves why. Why aren't my good friends on the other side of the aisle, who have families, who have had children, who care about minorities and the poor and care about children—I know it because I hear them—where are they? Why won't they join us to expose this? Is it that they care more about the abortion clinics than poor defenseless babies that are born alive and aren't provided care, aren't provided love, but are abandoned and left to die? I can't believe that's true. Is it that they agree more with partial-birth abortions that are botched and babies are born alive and they're not willing to provide aid? I cannot believe that; not offering life-saving treatment for the most vulnerable among us.

I think we have to look around in our communities, in our country, we have to look at this very institution, and we have to be better than this. We are better than this.

We might disagree on abortion. I'm a pro-life guy. I know we have a lot of people who are pro-abortion in this institution. I can accept those distinctions. But how can anybody come forward who even supports abortion and say, I'm not going to defend a baby that's born alive? What kind of position is that? Or that you won't lend your voice to this cause? You can come out and say, I support abortion, but I don't support this.

This is wrong. We're better, as Americans, than that. We're better Congressmen and -women than that. We have bigger hearts than that. This is unacceptable in our country.

We're going to have the abortion debate for a while, and that's okay, but we have to draw the line somewhere. When do we step forward and say we are going to defend the most defenseless and the most voiceless among us? When does that start?

I think in this institution most of us have agreed that that starts at birth—at least. I think it starts at conception, but everyone has agreed it starts at birth. So why, when we have this atrocity, this death of our children in Philadelphia with Dr. Gosnell, haven't people loaned their voices to these children? They deserve better than that.

So I think it's incumbent upon this institution, our communities, our country, and the media to make sure that we provide a voice, we provide a platform for those babies because we care more about those lives than we care about the abortion industry, and we care more about those babies than we care about exposing the horrors and atrocities of partial-birth abortion. We're better than that.

I'm going to tell you this: though we may disagree on some issues, we do agree on protecting these little ones as they come into the world. I'm going to continue that fight.

I know the gentleman from Texas is passionate on this topic and has a lot of things to talk about today, but I appreciate him yielding a few minutes for me to chat.

□ 1330

Mr. GOHMERT. I appreciate my friend from Wisconsin so much in giving voice to those who have no voice. We hear so often on this floor from people who mean what they say as they say: We have an obligation to help the most vulnerable amongst us, to help those who cannot help themselves. And having held my first-born child in both hands—I could have held her in one, but I didn't want to take a chance—I held a child that was smaller than some of these in this tale of horror of abortions, to think that someone could take scissors and cut the back of the neck and cut the spine and literally kill a child, it's virtually too much to take in.

I hope others will see the wisdom of what SEAN DUFFY was talking about. But it does seem people have been desensitized to so many things they need to be re-sensitized to. Every country, no matter what its strength, how strong, including this country that has become the strongest country in the history of the world, which is already the most free country in the history of the world, more freedom, more opportunity than anyplace, including the great Israel under Solomon as king—

we are told that there's never been a king wiser than Solomon—but the way this country was founded, the way it was molded, the way we gave credit to the Creator, to divine providence, to the Lord, as referenced in the date of our Constitution itself—and it's dated in the year of our Lord 1787—they knew, and they pointed out repeatedly, that our rights, our liberties, will not last beyond this country's recognition that all rights, all freedoms, all gifts, all liberties come from a source. George Washington referred to the Divine Author of our blessed religion in one of his writings. It is actually the prayer that he included in his resignation as commanding general of the Revolutionary forces.

And I know that in this Nation we accept everyone, all religions, all people, no matter what their religious convictions are, including no religious convictions whatsoever. But it is critically important that we know where we come from in order to have any idea where we're going. And it is the nature of man, it is the nature of humanity, that as a Nation reaches a peak—some in my history classes in college would refer to the cycle that countries go through, some referencing back to the ancient Greece government—that there was a cycle of its rise and fall. I felt like it was more of a bell-shaped curve that once you reach the peak, then people take their freedoms, take their opportunities for granted, they stop believing that there's a threat to those. And as they get less and less sensitive to the fact that all glory, all liberty, is fleeting, then they would lose them. Whether it's the cycle of rise and fall or a bell-shaped curve, it depends on us.

Tom Brokaw had described the Greatest Generation as those who recognized the danger of fascism and the oppression that existed in the 1940s and rose up and fought against it. Unfortunately, the guy that knows our history so well, that could write a great book on the Greatest Generation, could turn around and a few short years later be completely desensitized and show himself to be part of anything but a great generation because he could not even recognize a threat to this civilization's existence.

So, hopefully, people, situated as is he, will begin to recognize there are people that want to destroy our freedoms, they want to take what has been made into the greatest country, that's been blessed more than any country in history, and they want to act like there's no such thing as a threat to our security, to our freedom, to our own lives, to our lives and fortunes. Whether there's a threat to our sacred honor has been completely up to us. As the signers of the Declaration of Independence pledged, Our lives, our fortunes, our sacred honor.

So the question arises: Is there any honor in trying to buy off your enemies, make them love you with cash, make them love you with tanks, make them love you by sending them F–16s, make them love you by sending tear gas to use against those they don't like? Is there any honor in that? We have Muslim Brotherhood, a group in Egypt, the Freedom and Justice Party in Egypt. They helped overthrow Mubarak as this administration here in America turned our back on an ally. And we got Muslim Brotherhood.

I continue to have people approach me, say they're from Egypt, and they get so frustrated; they cannot believe we're supporting the wrong people in Egypt, just as those I've met with in Afghanistan have begged us to stop trying to buy a friend in the Taliban, especially those in the Northern Alliance who lost family and friends trying to fight the Taliban—and successfully defeating them on our behalf by early 2002. Then we took back the weapons that we provided and said, we got it from here.

□ 1340

Now, 11 years later, we are turning our backs on our allies—the moderate Muslims who fought the Taliban for us—and are now trying to buy off the Taliban, who still want to destroy us. They still want to end our freedom, make us suffer because they consider us so decadent. From what I'm told in Afghanistan—and it has been reported widely in the news—this administration has offered to buy them first-class offices in Qatar so that they'll have a world presence and have instant respectability around the world. This administration has offered to release some of their murdering thugs who have spilled the blood of American patriots in the most cowardly and conniving ways. So they have no respect for us.

I wondered if, perhaps, President Obama were going to be right. Perhaps he will be right. Maybe it will help America with countries that have shown hatred for this country. President Obama said it was going to basically be a game-changer that Muslim countries would have far more respect for us since we had a President, as President Obama said, who grew up in a Muslim country, with admiration for the practices and teachings of Muslims, a President who loved the call for prayer, who loved hearing that.

It has been over 4 years now, and we've seen the polling that, in Muslim countries around the world, this United States' favorability rating has fallen far below what it was under George Bush, who did not grow up in a Muslim country. So we found that that didn't work despite 4 years under this administration of trying to pander to those who want to destroy our way of life, who want to force a caliphate over America as they now are trying to do in Egypt, in Libya, and are trying to do in other Middle Eastern countries.

But our Constitution is what those of us who serve here took an oath to support and defend. That's where we are supposed to stand—in full defense of our Constitution, not the United Nations Charter, not sharia law. We took an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States.

It has been determined in this country by the courts that people have a First Amendment right to burn, destroy a United States flag—the same flag that has draped countless coffins—bodies—of Americans who, as Lincoln said, gave their last full measure of devotion for our freedom. People have a First Amendment right to destroy that flag—that symbol of freedom and liberty. They've said there is a First Amendment right to destroy Bibles regardless of how holy those books are held to be by so many in America.

A story is written and told of Thomas Jefferson's taking one of his many trips down Pennsylvania Avenue toward the Capitol, on a Sunday morning with a big Bible under his arm.

Someone said, ''Mr. President, where are you going?''

He said, ''Well, I'm going to church up in the Capitol.

Well, Mr. President, you don't believe everything they do there.''

He said, ''Sir, I am the highest elected magistrate in this country. It is imperative that I set the proper example.''

Jefferson felt he was setting the proper example by going to a nondenominational Christian church here in the Capitol, which was held down the Hall in what was then the House of Representatives Chamber, now called Statuary Hall.

I have a bill that would require a plaque be put up to inform people of the amazing history. Thomas Jefferson, who coined the phrase ''separation of church and State,'' said there needs to be a wall of separation between church and State. He saw it as more of a one-sided wall where the State would not interfere in religion. Certainly, for this country to be at its greatest, people would bring their religious convictions to the State and make it stronger and better. That man who coined the phrase ''separation of church and State,'' not found in the Constitution, even felt it was appropriate to often have the Marine Band come and play hymns down the Hall for those who were at the Christian worship service.

I'm not advocating we go back to that—there is no need—as we have churches all over this place now, but it is not appropriate to act as if those parts of our history are not true. They are true, they are part of our history; and it was the church that was so strong in the abolitionist movement to try to bring about equal treatment. It was the church—not all churches, because there was prejudice and bias and bigotry in some churches, but those who truly understood the teachings of Christ stood so firmly and strongly against slavery.

Then 100 years later, an ordained Christian minister named Martin Luther King, Jr., fought for civil rights; but he did so as a complete pacifist,

not advocating violence, and his efforts succeeded. He freed up young, little White boys, like me, who were Christians to treat brothers and sisters of any race, any color, any creed as brothers and sisters. It's all part of our history—the good parts, the bad parts. We shouldn't try to rewrite history. You've got to know where you came from.

In the wake of the horrors of Boston, people were there, excited to see the finish of the race, of the world-famous Boston Marathon. So many friends of mine have dreamed of qualifying to run in the Boston Marathon. I have a number of friends who have. There is a lot of excitement even in their exhaustion as they near the finish line. That's where cold-hearted, calloused individuals filled with hate could set down bombs knowing they were going to kill very innocent people.

How do you see a little 8-year-old child knowing that child is going to be killed by what you put together and set down? How do you do that? How do you have such evil in your heart that you can do that? How do you have such evil in your heart you set a bomb down knowing that people who are still around it, as you walk away as a coward, are going to have their legs blown out from under them and never walk again? How do you do that?

You have to be so full of hate or evil or some sick religious convictions that somehow you believe that there is someone or something—some deity—that smiles upon that and thinks it's wonderful when you kill or maim innocent people and that somehow you'll be glorified by killing and maiming innocent people.

□ 1350

It's very tragic.

But we know for some time that the FBI, the State Department, the Intelligence Department, a number of departments have been trying to soften the language that they've used, that they've used to train so that they don't offend people who want to kill us already. I mean, I didn't know anybody back in the eighties that talked about radical Islam, yet 79 people were killed, hostages were taken, an Embassy was taken over, hostages held for over a year. In 1983, people were killed, marines waylaid as our Marine barracks in Beirut was blown up. We didn't really talk about radical Islam.

Yet over time, instead of recognizing the danger to this country, we have people in authority in this administration who've decided that we must not use the terms that accurately describe what our killers believe, our want-to-be killers believe. We can't use those words. They might be offended.

For heaven's sake, 9/11 of 2001 was plotted while Bill Clinton was President. And no one who has any fairness at all about them could ever accuse President Bill Clinton of demonstrating bias or prejudice against Islam. He sent troops to protect Muslims in Eastern Europe.

Whether we agree or disagree that it was appropriate use of American troops and American lives, he sent American lives that were lost to help Muslims. And all the while President Bill Clinton, as Commander in Chief, was trying to help Muslims, there were radical Islamists who were plotting and planning an incredibly egregious and heinous act and attack against the United States of America. And that was before anybody ever used the words ''jihad,'' ''radical Islam,'' or ''al Qaeda.''

There's an article that my staff called to my attention last night in the Washington Examiner, an editorial, posted April 25 at 9 p.m. The title of their op-ed is, ''How the FBI Was Blinded By Political Correctness.'' It says:

> As the initial elation over the swift identification and ending of the brothers Tsarnaev manhunt fades, a steady stream of facts are emerging that strongly suggest the need for a more sober assessment of the FBI's performance in the 2 years prior to the Boston Marathon bombing.
>
> FBI counterterrorism agents interviewed Tamerlan Tsarnaev, the older of the brothers, in January 2011 after receiving a tip from Russian intelligence. Since the interviewing agents thought they heard nothing to indicate Tsarnaev was a terrorist, little else was done and the case was closed 2 months later.
>
> A few months after that, Tsarnaev went to Russia and encountered somebody or experienced something that apparently prompted him to become quite open about his devotion to a radical vision of Islamic jihad. The FBI visited him a second time after he returned to the United States, but again concluded that Tsarnaev was not a threat.
>
> It is speculation now, of course, but it's difficult to believe the Tsarnaevs would have been able to carry out the bombing had they been under active surveillance before the 2013 Boston Marathon.

The editorial from the Washington Examiner goes on and says:

> Whatever else may yet be discovered about what the FBI missed, there is no excuse for the agency not grasping the significance of the radical Islamist video Tamerlan posted on his Facebook page, entitled, ''The Emergence of Prophecy: The Black Flags from Khorasan.'' The video explains and glorifies the prophecy of a mighty jihadist army rising from the Iranian region of the near east to conquer the world and establish an enduring Muslim empire. The Khorasan connection is a staple of al Qaeda ideology, and the video's presence on Tsarnaev's Facebook page was a red flag that should have alerted agents to a very real potential danger.
>
> It is quite possible, though, the FBI agents who interviewed Tsarnaev on both occasions failed to understand what they saw and heard because that's what they were trained to do. As the Washington Examiner's Mark Flatten reported last year, FBI training manuals were systematically purged in 2011 of all references to Islam that were judged offensive by a specially created five-member panel. Three of the panel members were Muslim advocates from outside the FBI, which still refuses to make public their identities. Nearly 900 pages were removed from the manuals as a result of that review. Several Congressmen were allowed to review the removed materials in 2012 on condition that they not disclose what they read to their staffs, the media, or the general public.
>
> With the recent proliferation of revelations about FBI blindness on the brothers Tsarnaev, a comment made last year by Representative Louie Gohmert, Republican of Texas, to Flatten now has a tragic resonance: ''We've got material being removed more because of political correctness than in the interest of truth and properly educated justice officials. We are blinding our enforcement officers from the ability to see who the enemy actually is.''
>
> The Boston bombing showed the tragic consequences of that blindness.

This is an op-ed from yesterday by the Washington Examiner quoting me from over a year ago. In fact, on February 16, 2012, I gave a speech from right here on the House floor that was recorded where I talked about this very issue, and something of assistance was a poster. This poster points out the terminology that was used in the 9/11 Commission report because in that 9/11 Commission report, before this administration took over and implemented political correctness, the 9/11 Commission didn't know they had to be politically correct in the terminology they use, according to the new standards by the FBI, so they referred to ''violent extremism'' three times. They referred to the ''enemy'' 39 times. They referred to ''jihad'' 126 times. They used the word ''Muslim'' 145 times. They referred to ''Islam'' 322 times. They referred to ''takfir'' one time. They referred to the ''Muslim Brotherhood'' five times. They referred to ''religious'' 65 times.

□ 1400

They referred to ''Hamas'' four times, ''Hezbollah'' two times, ''al Qaeda'' 36 times, ''caliphate'' seven times, and ''sharia'' twice.

And then it's easy to see that when it comes to ''enemy,'' neither the National Intelligence Strategy of 2009 under this administration, nor the FBI counterterrorism lexicon, the words that are allowed to be used by FBI agents in their terminology, apparently it is okay to talk about violent extremism, which is why Homeland Security Secretary Napolitano, she created a Countering Violent Extremism Working Group. Although she could not tell me how many members of the Muslim Brotherhood were part of that working group, we knew that there were some. She also could not tell me how many members of the Muslim Brotherhood who would like to see a giant caliphate in which the United States was included, how many she had in her Homeland Security Advisory Council that she gave secret clearances to. There's no way they could've been properly vetted and still gotten secret security clearances.

But we see with the new FBI terminology and the new intelligence terminology, they can't talk about the enemy. They can't talk about jihad. They can't talk about Muslim. They can't talk about Islam. They can't talk about the Muslim Brotherhood. They can refer to religion; but as we know from the Homeland Security reports that they've yielded, the thing they're worried about really is more people

who believe in the Constitution and veterans and Christians who are evangelical Christians. They'll talk about religious there; but, obviously, not in terms of radical Islam. They won't talk about Hamas. They won't talk about Hezbollah. The FBI counterterrorism lexicon doesn't even include reference to al Qaeda or sharia, nor does the Intelligence Strategy.

So the question comes to my mind about that interview, the interviews back in 2011, because I know so many FBI agents that are incredible Americans, real patriots, smart, a lot of wisdom and judgment, but they follow orders like I did when I was in the Army. You do what you're ordered to do, and they do.

But what kind of interview must that have been of the guy who was going to blow off arms and legs and kill a child and who had dreams of killing so many more? What kind of interview must that have been when you can't use the word ''jihad''? You can't talk about his Muslim faith. Did they even bring up Tamerlan's Muslim faith in that interview? I mean, they're not supposed to talk about it. And I do not believe in using religion to discriminate against anybody; but when you find out that there is a radical sect, not like the vast, incredibly vast majority of Muslims who don't want to kill people, and don't want to maim, and don't think it's right to cause that kind of human suffering, but there is a sect, a radical Islamist sect, and they can't talk about it. What kind of interview was that?

Is it any wonder that the FBI came away from their interviews and said, we don't find any problems.

Well, I guess not. If you can't talk in detail about Islamic faith to find out whether someone is a radical, whether his beliefs have now embraced the book ''The Milestone'' that Qutb of Egypt embraced, that some in this country, some that our own Homeland Security Secretary think are wonderful people, they've embraced the same writings that Osama bin Laden said helped radicalize him, if you can't know about those things, how in the world can you do a legitimate interview and find out is this a peace-loving Muslim or is this a radical who wants to kill people? And if I don't get this conversation right, 2 years from now there will be people dead in Boston. How silly must we be as a Nation to blindfold our law enforcement and not let them see an enemy that wants to destroy us.

Now, I've talked to enough intelligence officers, Justice Department officials, people that love this country, Homeland Security, and they are so frustrated with the shackles that they have to wear, figuratively speaking, while they try to protect this country, where you can't talk about the beliefs of people who want to destroy this blessed country. What kind of interviews must those have been when you can't use the terms that let you get to the bottom of what may be a plot to kill people down the road?

There's no problem in the Justice Department. There is a problem with leadership that will not let them do their job, and it needs to change.

I'm blessed to be joined by a colleague, and I yield to Mr. BENTIVOLIO.

REMEMBERING HOWARD PHILLIPS

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Howard Phillips, a statesman, a patriot, and to the very end of his life, a brilliant thinker and tireless organizer for constitutionally limited government. He sought to limit the Federal Government at almost every turn.

In 1974, he founded the Conservative Caucus, which we might call the Tea Party movement of its day. He helped forge the New Right, and perhaps more than any other leader, he never put party above principle.

He organized behind the scenes. He was a mentor to today's conservative mentors; and above all, he believed in the sovereignty of God and not of the State.

He was a brilliant speaker, and a brilliant thinker. Any American searching for the meaning of American values might look to Howard Phillips for guidance.

Tomorrow's young conservative leaders may not learn Phillips' name, but his ideas will live on, and for that, we should be grateful. The conservative movement lost a lion last week, and it is my privilege to remember him.

Mr. GOHMERT. Thank you for that worthy tribute.

Well, I want to reference a part of a Special Order address that was delivered here on this floor February 16, 2012, by me, and in that I had before me a transcript of a hearing where the FBI Director testified, and I pointed out—well, I just read the transcript, as I will do now, part of it. I pointed out before reading that I don't have a problem with the FBI having an outreach program to communities, but I said:

> Why would the FBI see the need to make positive outreach into any community of a specific nature?

So after Director Mueller had indicated, yes, we have this wonderful outreach program with the Muslim communities, and those communities are exactly like every other community, I said:

> You had mentioned earlier and it's in your written statement that the FBI developed an extensive outreach to Muslim communities, and in answer to an earlier question I understood you to say that Muslim communities were like all other communities.

□ 1410

> So I'm curious. As a result of the extensive outreach program the FBI has had to the Muslim community, how has your outreach program gone with the Baptists and the Catholics?

Director Mueller said:

> I'm not certain of necessarily the thrust of that question. I would say that our outreach to all segments of a particular city or country or society are good.

I said:

> Well, do you have a particular program of outreach to Hindus, Buddhists, Jewish community, agnostics, or is it just an extensive outreach program to——

He interrupted and said:

> We have outreach to every one of those communities.

I asked how he did that, and then he started to filibuster. And I said:

> I have looked extensively, and I haven't seen anywhere in any one of the FBI's letters information that there's been an extensive outreach program to any other community trying to develop trust and this kind of a relationship, and it makes me wonder if there is an issue of trust or some problem like that that the FBI has seen in that particular community.
>
> And just so there's no mistaking, let me just read directly from the judge's opinion in the Holy Land Foundation case in response to the effort by ISNA, the Islamic Society of North America, CAIR, Council on American Islamic Relations, NAIT, the Holy Land Foundation and others.

And I read this:

> The judge said: The government has produced ample evidence the associations of CAIR, ISNA, NAIT and the Holy Land Foundation, the Islamic Association for Palestine, and Hamas. While the Court recognizes that the evidence produced by the government largely predates the Holy Land Foundation designation date, the evidence is nonetheless sufficient to show the association of these entities with the Holy Land Foundation, the Islamic Association for Palestine and Hamas.
>
> There was plenty of evidence to support that, according to the judge. That was affirmed by the Fifth Circuit.
>
> It's important to note that, out of concern for the FBI's outreach program, and the State Department and the White House for reaching out, bringing in people who courts have said supported terrorism, and these people are being brought in, in the military we say brought inside the wire, in this case, brought inside the State Department, brought inside the White House on a regular basis, brought inside the Justice Department, my friend, Frank Wolf had this language added to the continuing resolution that was passed, that President Obama signed into law. This is language in the law, and my friend, Mr. Wolf included it to reference the FBI's policy.

It says, and this is the language in the law:

> Conferees support the FBI's policy prohibiting any formal non-investigative cooperation with unindicted co-conspirators in terrorism cases. The conferees expect the FBI to insist on full compliance with this policy by FBI field offices, and to report to the Committee on Appropriations regarding any violation of the policy.

Well, guess what? We didn't get this from the FBI. We had to get it from the Islamic Society of North America's own Web site. They reported that on Wednesday, February 8—that was last year, 2012—that the American Arab Anti-discrimination Committee, the Arab American Institute, the Interfaith Alliance, the Islamic Society of North America, ISNA, which has been pronounced by the Fifth Circuit as having plenty of evidence to support that they fund terrorism, and have, and then it mentions other groups, including the Shoulder-to-Shoulder Campaign.

But they, it says:

They had an opportunity to discuss the matter with the Public Affairs Office of the FBI. Director Robert Mueller joined the meeting to discuss these matters with representatives from the organizations.

The conversation with Director Mueller centered on material used by the agency that depicts falsehoods and negative connotations of the Muslim American community. The use of the material was first uncovered by Wired magazine.

And that was uncovered by an organization that seems to be right in there with those who were unindicted but named co-conspirators in funding terrorism.

From ISNA, they say:

Director Mueller informed the participants that the FBI took the review of the training material very seriously, and he pursued the matter with urgency to ensure that this does not occur again in the future.

ISNA President, Imam Magid, who's a frequent visitor to the White House, who the White House consults on speeches, or has, and welcomed to the inner sanctum of the State Department, other departments here in Washington, Magid stated:

The discovery of FBI training materials that discriminated against Muslims did damage to the trust that was built between dedicated FBI officials and the American Muslim community. We welcome and appreciate Director Mueller's commitment to take positive steps toward eradicating such materials and rebuilding trust in an open dialogue.

The Director also informed participants that, to date, nearly all related FBI training materials, including more than 160,000 pages of documents, were reviewed by subject matter experts multiple times. Consequently, more than 700 documents, 300 presentations of material, have been deemed unusable by the Bureau and pulled from the training curriculum. Material was pulled from the curriculum if even one component was deemed to include factual errors or be in poor taste or be stereotypical or lack precision.

I guess stereotypical would mean if they point out that terrorists have one thing in common, that would be stereotypical.

ISNA also reports:

It was clear to all meeting participants that the issue of trust between community Members and the FBI needs to be taken seriously by all our Nation's decisionmakers. It was evident the Bureau must strengthen its efforts to build trust.

How about trust from the other side?

How about condemnation of terrorist acts?

How about coming out and making clear all ties have been severed with Hamas and Hezbollah and those who would seek to make terror on innocent people?

Anyway, ISNA's rejoicing because they got the FBI to actually go through and cull material that has words like ''jihad,'' words like ''extremist,'' words that have been purged from the FBI lexicon.

Now, I was one who was allowed, in a classified setting, which I felt was totally unnecessary, to see the names of the so-called subject matter experts. I was allowed to go through material and see what it was.

And it's time, Mr. Speaker, that our FBI agents and intelligence be allowed to remove the blindfolds and see who the enemy is when they do interrogations and questioning.

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

THANKING THE FIRST RESPONDERS IN THE BOSTON MARATHON BOMBING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues from Massachusetts to thank the law enforcement officers, medical professionals, first responders and citizen heroes for their incredible bravery and sacrifice during and after the tragic events last week at the Boston Marathon.

Given the time constraints, I'd like to now yield to my colleague from Massachusetts, BILL KEATING.

Mr. KEATING. I'd like to thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank so many of our colleagues that we work with day in and day out. When we came here back into session, so many of them gave their heartfelt feelings for all those that were hurt during the terrible marathon bombing that occurred in Boston on April 15.

We first remember those that lost their lives during this terrible, terrible tragedy. And there's never words that are adequate to deal with these issues. That type of loss to family, to friends, to loved ones can't really be put into words.

□ 1420

I can only convey my own, as well as our colleagues', sympathy for those families. Four young people's lives were taken too quickly from us all—four people who had so much to give. They were four people who we had a glimpse of with the accounts of their lives as the public mourned and joined with their families at their loss. It was just a glimpse. But what a glimpse:

A young boy, Martin Richard, had a profound message, as his poster revealed to all: ''No more hurting people. Peace.''

Lu Lingzi, who came here from another country to study and to better herself; an accomplished student, pianist, a young woman who had developed tremendous friendships in the short time she was here, who came to this country to learn more, to become more, and to offer more.

Sean Collier, a young police officer who dedicated himself to helping people. To protect and to serve, that was his goal. He gave his life doing just that.

Krystle Campbell, a young, vibrant woman; a person who, despite a busy life, busy schedule, put much of her life on hold—over a year—to help her grandmother when she was ill.

There were the first responders and the people that were injured, over 280, including Richard Donohue, an MBT police officer who participated with Watertown police in slowing down these perpetrators before they could harm more people. He was seriously injured. We pray for him in the process.

There were first responders on the scene, including civilians who just risked everything they had to provide emergency aid and help to those runners and those bystanders who were there. They were first responders that had been trained for years for terrible moments like this, who sacrificed their safety moving forward—EMTs, police officers, firefighters.

The incredible medical community in the Boston area, some of whom ran to work knowing what happened and were there, ready, emergency room doors opened, everything in place, saving lives.

We honor the citizens in our area who all gave up a small part of their freedom listening to their leaders who displayed good judgment, common sense, and moving forward to put their safety first.

Those lives of those four young people that aren't with us now, as well as the lives of those people that are recovering from the injuries and those first responders that helped us, will not be defined by a depraved act of violence of two individuals. These people are the definers themselves: givers, people that care. That's who we are. They define the best in us, the selfless side in us. They define the best of what's Boston. They define the best of what's in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. They define the best of us as Americans. And they are all to be remembered today. It's a time to put politics aside and remember what a great country we have because of individuals like this.

Ms. TSONGAS. I thank the gentleman and appreciate very much his heartfelt comments.

At this time, I would like to yield to my colleague from Rhode Island, DAVID CICILLINE.

Mr. CICILLINE. I thank the gentlelady very much for yielding and thank my other colleagues for accommodating me.

My home is in Providence, Rhode Island, which is about an hour south of Boston. Two weeks ago, several of my friends and neighbors traveled to Boston to compete in the marathon. When I first learned of these horrific attacks, my thoughts first turned to them and their families.

Like all Rhode Islanders, I've kept the people of Boston and their loved ones in my thoughts and prayers over the past 2 weeks. It's in moments such as this that words fail to adequately describe the pain we feel in our hearts, our continuing sense of disbelief, and the anger we hold toward those responsible for such a senseless and vicious attack—the actions of these two individuals that demonstrated such a callous disregard for so many lives, some were ended and many were irreversibly changed.

These attacks were an attempt to shake the very foundation of our democratic and free society. But after these bombs exploded on a beautiful sunny day in Boston and we saw the incredible harm caused to so many, we also witnessed the very best of humanity in the courageous actions of the brave men and women who responded to this attack, helped care for the injured, and relentlessly pursued their perpetrators and brought them to justice.

We think about those brave police officers and first responders who witnessed these attacks firsthand and instinctively raced towards the source of these blasts so they could assist the wounded and keep others from harm. We think also about a 26-year-old MIT campus police officer who was murdered as he worked to keep his community safe. We think about an MBTA transit police officer who never hesitated when he answered a call to report immediately to Watertown and continues to fight after sustaining life-threatening injuries trying to apprehend these suspects.

Sometimes it takes a tragic event to remind us of the incredible sacrifices our first responders make every single day. And the heroism demonstrated by these men and women in the face of such overwhelming danger helps remind us just how much we owe to those who keep our communities safe in cities and towns all across this country.

These attacks were designed to strike fear and intimidate the people of Boston and all Americans. But instead, they brought out the very best that our country has to offer, not just in the actions we saw from men and women in Boston, but in the generosity shown by those who gave blood, donated money, and did everything they could to bring any measure of relief for the victims and their families.

I join my colleagues in applauding their service today, and ask that all of us remember the responsibility that those of us in the House have to serve our first responders and to continue to keep the families affected by this attack in our thoughts and prayers.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, on April 15 and in the days after, local, State, and Federal law enforcement personnel from across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and nearby States of Rhode Island and New Hampshire joined in a weeklong effort to respond to the marathon bombing and assist in finding and capturing the suspects. These dedicated first responders saved hundreds of lives in the immediate aftermath of the attack and saved countless more from the threat of future attacks.

Through unprecedented communication and confident leadership, public safety agencies at every level coordinated to bring justice down upon those responsible. Their actions proved that no act of terror can blunt the spirit of resiliency, of fortitude, of endurance that is at the heart of the American people.

As relief and pride wash over the Boston area, we must not forget that there is still much healing to be done. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the families of Martin Richard, a young boy whose big smile we will never forget and whose sign, ''No more hurting people. Peace,'' is a living challenge to all of us; Krystle Campbell, a fine young woman who, since she could, has attended virtually every marathon day, so emblematic of the great event that it is for the city of Boston, but also for the entire Commonwealth and region; Lu Lingzi, a young student from China, so emblematic of the ways in which Boston's great academic institutions draw people from across the world to share in the great treasure that we have there, but also to participate in those great days that are uniquely American, like Patriots' Day; and Officer Sean Collier, somebody beloved by the student body.

□ 1430

I had several MIT students in to see me just a couple of days ago. They said everybody knew him and everybody liked him.

And the more than 200 innocent people—a number from my district—who suffered severe injuries from this senseless attack, we want to remember and encourage all of them as they go forward.

Jeff Bauman, who suffered tragic loss of limbs, but who, as he came out of surgery, was able to help identify the suspects.

The Corcoran family, a mother and daughter who are currently sharing a hospital room together as they begin the long journey of recovery but who are already having tremendous assistance. Lowell High School, where Krystle is a student, sent prom tickets to be sure that she would make her way there. And many amputees, who have successfully gone on to new lives, were in the waiting room waiting to encourage them as they go forward and to show them what is possible.

Richard Donohue, Jr., the MBTA Transit policeman who rushed to assist, doing his duty critically injured.

Also from my district, Brittany Loring, Steven Byrne, James Gauntlett, David Yepez, many members of the White family, the Brassard family, and Roseann Sdoia; remarkable people who shared in a tremendous and troubling moment in our history.

I'd also like to remember some other specific people who have roots to my district.

Commissioner Ed Davis. I have known Commissioner Davis since his early days on the beat in my hometown of Lowell. During a 28-year career at the Lowell Police Department Davis worked as a beat cop, a detective, and a vice and narcotics officer before being named chief in 1994.

During his time in Lowell, Chief Davis helped to turn around our city and set it off into an age of growth. We were proud of him when he left to become the Boston Police Commissioner, and we are even more proud of him now.

Commissioner Davis showed extraordinary intelligence, professionalism, poise and confidence from Monday through the capture of the suspects on Friday. He was a calming influence in a time of great chaos and crisis. He deserves the thanks and gratitude of the people of Boston, of our Commonwealth, and of our country.

I commend Special Agent in Charge Richard DesLauriers, who proved himself extremely capable during the entire crisis as he oversaw the massive operation of identifying and tracking down the suspects and helped bring the swift arm of justice down upon those responsible.

Also, at times of great crisis we look to our leaders for guidance and confidence. Our leaders—city, State and Federal—did not shy away but rather confronted the chaos head-on, challenged the evil, and pushed forward so that we could, together as one community, arrive quickly at healing and justice.

In particular, Mayor Tom Menino. This mayor came from the hospital to be involved in the aftermath and suspect search. Seeing him on television in a wheelchair gave everyone a great feeling of pride, and we couldn't help but notice how deeply he cares for the city he has so ably overseen for many years. He embodies the grit and toughness that Boston is known for. He embodies Boston Strong.

Governor Deval Patrick was a true leader during a time of crisis. He helped oversee the coordination of so many agencies to ensure optimal collaboration and made sure the public was up to date and aware of the situation as it developed, as we all watched moment to moment from our homes or whatever we might be. He stood with gravitas and a determined, strong composure that trickled down throughout the State public safety agencies.

And we will always appreciate President Barack Obama's deep involvement since the start. His words during the service at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross were a touching example of our Nation's unwavering resolve. As much as we are Boston Strong, Commonwealth Strong, we are all one and we are all strong.

I have to say that the interfaith service was a remarkable moment, when representatives of the many different faiths came together as we embarked

on a journey of healing and reassurance about the unity, strength and resiliency that Boston is known for.

It was a uniquely American day. The marathon that is much celebrated draws people from across the world, across our country, across Massachusetts; a great Red Sox game—many go from one event to the other; and Patriot's Day, which commemorates the beginning of the American Revolution, the reenactment of Paul Revere's ride, and the Shot Heard Around the World. The commemoration takes place in my district.

All of that is to say that we will work hard to follow up with and be strong supporters of those who still seek to recover, make sure they have all the necessary resources going forward, and that they have the strong support of their community and friends. And we will do all that it takes to move forward from this tragic moment and to make of it something good that brings us all together and helps continue this country on a path of healing.

With that, I'd like to yield to my colleague from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN).

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I first want to thank my colleague, NIKI TSONGAS, for organizing today's Special Order, and I thank her for the time.

It is with immense gratitude that I rise to honor Massachusetts' first responders today. While I'm always proud to call myself a resident of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, being from Massachusetts has carried a very special significance these past 12 days.

The tragic bombings that occurred on April 15 took three precious, innocent lives and caused hundreds of others to suffer devastating wounds. A former intern of mine, Patrick Downes, and his wife, Jess, were wounded. I want them to know that we are continuing to pray for them and for all the others who are wounded.

We also remember Officer Sean Collier, an MIT police officer who was shot and killed. Our prayers are with his family.

So many lives were upended by this tragic, senseless act of violence. Citizens of the Commonwealth and Americans across the country are still coping with the horror of the bombings that took place on what is normally a celebratory day in Massachusetts—Patriot's Day. Amidst these acts of violence and terror, our belief in the fundamental goodness of people is strengthened when we reflect on the courageous acts of so many in the wake of such a tragedy.

I want to recognize the incredible sacrifices of Massachusetts' first responders and the sacrifices that they made from the moment the bombs went off until the time the final suspect was apprehended.

Even as we speak, victims are still being treated by medical professionals at some of the world's finest hospitals, like Massachusetts General, Beth Israel Deaconess, Boston Medical Center, Brigham and Women's, and Boston's Children's Hospital, among others.

Police, firefighters, medical professionals, members of the National Guard, even ordinary citizens rushed to the scene of the bombing last week in order to help the wounded, potentially putting themselves in harm's way. Sleep was the last thing on the minds of many of these selfless men and women who worked back-to-back shifts in support of the communities they call home.

The extraordinary response of the Boston medical community is very much a part of the story of the 2013 Boston Marathon. The explosions took place at 2:50 p.m. Emergency medical teams mobilized immediately, and 35 minutes later—after the injured were swiftly and efficiently stabilized, transported and triaged at hospitals throughout the city—the first patient was wheeled into an operating room. Nurses, doctors, all medical personnel simply showed up to help.

I want to recognize the incredible leadership of President Obama, of Governor Deval Patrick, and of Boston Mayor Tom Menino. They offered words of comfort, they reassured us, and they helped us get through this terrible ordeal. I was particularly moved to see Mayor Menino, who was recovering from a broken leg, stand tall and lead his great city.

I also want to recognize Richard DesLauriers, the special agent in charge of the Boston FBI and an Assumption College graduate, for his outstanding work which led to the apprehension of the final suspect. They have all made our State very proud.

At the interfaith service last week, we showed the world that Boston and Massachusetts will not be deterred. We are a resilient community, and we will emerge from this stronger than ever. In a week where we saw the very best and worst of human behavior on display, I am proud to say that Massachusetts' best, our first responders, triumphed.

While we continue to reflect on the tragedies of last week, we move forward with a renewed sense of pride, knowing that their exceptional commitment to public service is what makes us all Boston Strong.

□ 1440

Ms. TSONGAS. I thank the gentleman and appreciate his comments and the fact that we are all coming together to talk about this event we are still working very hard to comprehend.

With that, I would like to yield to my colleague, our newest Member from Massachusetts, Congressman KENNEDY.

Mr. KENNEDY. I would like to begin by thanking the gentlelady from Massachusetts for the opportunity and most importantly for pulling us all together here today to mark a moment that none of us will ever forget, a signature moment in Massachusetts history.

I also want to begin by recognizing the victims of the horrific attacks that happened last Monday. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families as they begin a long road to recovery. I, I think like many of my colleagues from Massachusetts and like so many people from Massachusetts and from really around the country and around the world, have always delighted in Marathon Monday. I don't know how many times I went out and watched the runners as they ran by on their quest to the finish line on Boylston Street. My stepmother has actually run the marathon a number of times; and together with my dad and brother, we would often go down to Heartbreak Hill to watch the runners at the time that they need it most.

As you see all the runners run by, I think one of the things that always stuck with me was how many people were there cheering them on. As you think about it, 26.2 miles, with people from the very beginning in Hopkinton to the end on Boylston Street in Boston, two, three, four, five rows deep on each side of the street, sitting there, screaming, yelling, offering a bottle of water or literally a hand to those who are trying, striving for an incredible feat of personal endurance and excellence.

That is really, I think, to me what that marathon, what that day, is all about. It's about a community that comes together to cheer on not just the runners but to celebrate what we have built together, to recognize that that day isn't just about those individual feats of excellence but about a community that is willing to cheer on complete strangers, for runners to know—and you'll hear it if you talk to those that have competed in that race—that, yes, it is an extraordinarily difficult course, but that Boston is one of the best marathons to run because there is always a crowd that is there to carry you through to the finish line. Complete strangers, people you have never seen before and will never see again, but they are there to offer a hand.

And so it was with great sadness, but also great pride, that I watched the events unfold on Monday, to see complete strangers run into danger rather than flee from it; to see our first responders answer our call of bravery without hesitation; to meet the doctor that after running the marathon and completing 26.2 miles ran to work so that he could get started helping save victims; to meet some of the victims and their families, to know that we will never, despite how much we have come together, be able to replace Martin and Krystle and Lu and Officer Collier, but that the long path to recovery, that we will be there with them for every step of the way; to recognize the law enforcement officers that put themselves in grave danger, never quite knowing what might happen or what weapons these two terrible individuals might have on them, that took

great risks for the sake of safety for our own communities; to the investigators and the prosecutors that now have the long task of bringing these individuals to justice; to our sports teams, to the 17,000 strong that sang the national anthem in Boston Garden and the 30,000-plus that belted it out at Fenway Park; to Mayor Menino, Vice President BIDEN and President Obama for their leadership in this difficult time; to the One Fund for Boston that in shortly over 10 days has already grown to over $20 million, pouring in from citizens from around the country to help provide a little bit of relief to those who will need it most in this long road to recovery.

It is an extraordinary message, a powerful symbol that gets back to what Boston and Massachusetts have always been about. From the first people that set foot on our shores, the earliest settlers and the Pilgrims, that we have each other's backs and we always will, and that next year on Patriots Day the marathon will be run more crowded and louder than ever.

Ms. TSONGAS. I thank my colleague for his very insightful comments. It is so true: it's a spirit of community that was so evident. It's embedded in the race itself, the marathon itself. It's something that was so evident as everybody responded, as the bombs went off to tragic effect. It's been followed up with all the tremendous outpouring of contributions both to individual funds as well as the One Fund; and in the smallest of ways, as I mentioned, Lowell High School sent prom tickets to Sydney Corcoran, wanting to make sure that she would be able to attend, and also that spirit of help from across the country, to have a young man who lost his leg in a shark attack in Hawaii at his own expense come to Boston to visit with some of those who had sadly lost their legs, to say, yes, you're going to be, not fine, forever changed, but your life will be very productive and positive. We have seen this over and over again, and I thank you for your comments.

With that, I would like to yield to my colleague from New Hampshire, Congresswoman CAROL SHEA-PORTER.

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Thank you very much for having this moment, an opportunity to talk about Boston and also to talk about the country and to talk about Boston's neighbor, New Hampshire.

On that day, like so many others, I had a family member whose brother-in-law was running in that race and he was running because his father had died of cancer. And so many people were running for causes that day. Fortunately, the family is fine, but some families were devastated beyond belief.

You know, Boston is a small city, but it's a great city; and New Hampshire is a small State, but it's a great State. And so what happens to Boston and what happens to Massachusetts is felt deeply in New Hampshire. You see, we work together, we play together, and we attend events together. We also grieve together. And so when that call came to New Hampshire, when Boston reached out and asked our police forces to help, the answer from a Nashua SWAT team member was, of course we can. The answer from the Manchester SWAT team—Manchester, New Hampshire—was, yes, and they were on their way. The answer from the Seacoast Emergency Response Team, SERT, that has officers from 11 different seacoast communities was, yes; and the answer from the New Hampshire State Police SWAT and the explosives disposal unit was, yes, we'll be there.

They understood the danger, but they also understood that they were needed and they didn't hesitate. And the stories coming from that experience are very moving. One team reported how an elderly woman in Watertown had hidden behind her couch for hours. You can imagine the terror that the residents felt. And yet our first responders were there, the police were there, the comfort was there.

So as we pray for the victims and we remember those who died, the victims are also from New Hampshire and many other States, as we know, and somebody died from a foreign country, but we're all one. We're all Boston strong. As we remember all of them, we thank our police officers and our first responders for always being there when we need them because, as they said when the call came, yes, of course we'll do that.

Thank you very much for having this.

Ms. TSONGAS. I thank the gentlewoman and appreciate very much her comments as well as the shared commitment of Rhode Island, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts to responding to the horrific attacks.

As we face the days ahead, Patriots Day will continue to be a day when we commemorate a people who refused to be terrorized and courageously defend the ideals on which our Nation was founded.

In the words of our great poet Ralph Waldo Emerson, ''Our flag will most defiantly remain unfurled in April's breeze.''

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in remembrance of the victims of the terrorist bombings that struck the City of Boston during the 117th running of the Boston Marathon on April 15, 2013. I rise also in prayer for the recovery of all those who were injured in this horrific attack and to honor the heroism of the responders to this tragedy.

Krystle Campbell, a resident of Arlington in my Congressional District and graduate of Medford High School, lost her life at the Boston Marathon finish line doing what she loved to do: support other people. She was 29 years old, just a few weeks from her 30th birthday, with a lifetime of helping more people ahead of her.

Krystle's annual pilgrimage to the marathon represented who she was, says her family. When people needed support, Krystle was there. When her grandmother needed help following surgery, Krystle moved in with her for two years to help her recover.

Krystle's smile, hard work, and constant happy demeanor is what her family and friends will miss. But most of all, they will miss what she was always known for: being there when you needed her, being a joyful, active participant in the lives of her family and friends.

In our grief, we know that Krystle is still there, still cheering all of us on, still there in our hearts. Today we honor her memory and the joy she brought to so many lives.

Martin Richard, an eight-year old boy from Dorchester, Massachusetts, had his entire life ahead of him.

He loved to play sports, draw pictures, and was dearly loved by his family, friends, classmates, and community;

Lu Lingzi came to the United States from China to study statistics at Boston University. She posted to her friends that morning of April 15th that she was enjoying her day. Lu Lingzi reminds us of our common humanity, and that these senseless acts of terrorism are crimes that have no borders.

In the seconds, hours, and days following the bombings, Massachusetts and the nation witnessed the courage, dedication, and sacrifice of law enforcement officers and other first responders. Officer Sean Collier of Wilmington, Massachusetts, gave his life, the ultimate sacrifice, during this ordeal.

Sean was an outstanding officer of the MIT police force on his way to a position on the Somerville police force. Yesterday the Somerville Board of Aldermen unanimously voted to posthumously name Sean Collier a Somerville police officer. Somerville's Mayor Joseph Curtatone said ''This person was exemplary as a public servant and a human being. He would have been an outstanding member of the Somerville Police Department.''

Officer Collier was on his regular shift, protecting the students at MIT, when he was assassinated by two twisted individuals as Officer Collier sat in his police cruiser.

We mourn his loss, along with his family, the MIT community, Massachusetts, and Americans everywhere.

Officer Collier was known by his family, friends, and co-workers as a generous, kind, and dedicated individual and officer. His friends say he was always armed with a sense of humor, and his roommate who trained with him at the academy said his only fault was that he was too brave.

Officer Collier represents the best of Massachusetts and of law enforcement. We honor his memory and know that his life of service and sacrifice will never be forgotten by Massachusetts or the nation.

In the early morning of Friday, April 19, 2013, after a week of searching for suspects in the Boston Marathon bombings, and just hours after an MIT officer had been assassinated, Massachusetts law enforcement spotted and engaged the two brothers who were accused of committing the bombings.

The officers who exchanged fire with the two brothers were met with heavy resistance by the suspects. 200 or more rounds of ammunition are reported to have been fired on the corner of Dexter and Laurel Streets in Watertown, Massachusetts, in my congressional district. The bombers also hurled explosives at the officers, turning a city street into a battlefield.

One officer of the MBTA police force, Richard Donohue, Jr., was struck in the leg during the firefight. He likely did not know then, but his academy classmate and friend, Sean Collier of the MIT police force, was the officer felled by the bombing suspects hours earlier.

Officer Donohue of Woburn in my congressional district raced to help his fellow officers—not a surprise for an officer known as an avid runner and a dedicated public servant. His family notes that his great-great-grandfather even won the Boston Marathon, where Officer Donohue started his week working a shift at this iconic race.

Officer Donohue is being cared for in the hospital, with his family by his side. An entire Massachusetts family of citizens remains forever in his debt for putting his life on the line to keep us safe.

We mourn the innocent victims who lost their lives on Patriots Day at the Boston Marathon: Krystle Campbell, Martin Richard and Lu Lingzi. We grieve for Office Sean Collier, who was killed by the bombers as he protected the students at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). We pray for the recovery of MBTA Police Officer Richard Donohue, Jr. and all those injured in the blasts. We honor the heroism of all of our police officers, fire fighters, medical staff and other emergency responders.

We will never forget. We will always remain "Boston Strong".

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. HONDA (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mrs. BEATTY (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of a family emergency.

Mr. JONES (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mrs. WALORSKI (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of the death of Sandy Decesaro, a close personal friend.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, April 30, 2013, at 2 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

1310. A letter from the Board Chair and CEO, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Funding and Fiscal Affairs, Loan Policies and Operations, and Funding Operations; Accounting and Reporting Requirements; Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation Funding and Fiscal Affairs; GAAP References and other Conforming Amendments (RIN: 3052-AC75) received April 17, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1311. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter authorizing Brigadier General Lewis A. Craparotta, United States Marine Corps, to wear the insignia of the grade of major general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1312. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter regarding the department's intentions to continue to expand the role of women in the Army and Marine Corps; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1313. A letter from the Assistant, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve Bank, transmitting the System's final rule — Definitions of ''Predominantly Engaged In Financial Activities'' and ''Significant'' Nonbank Financial Company and Bank Holding Company [Regulation PP; Docket No. R-1405] received April 22, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1314. A letter from the Deputy Associate Director for External Affairs, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Bureau's Consumer Response Annual Report for 2012; to the Committee on Financial Services.

1315. A letter from the Assistant Director for the Office of Older Americans, Consumer Financial Protections Bureau, transmitting a Report on Senior Designations for Financial Advisors; to the Committee on Financial Services.

1316. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket ID: FEMA-2013-0002] received April 17, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1317. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the FY 2012 annual report on mining activities as required by the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

1318. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Distribution Transformers [Docket No.: EERE-2010-BT-STD-0048] (RIN: 1904-AC04) received April 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1319. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Geologic Sequestration of Carbon Dioxide: Draft Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program Class VI Well Plugging, Post Injection Site Care, and Site Closure Guidance received April 26, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1320. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule -Evaluations of Explosions Postulated to Occur at Nearby Facilities and on Transportation Routes Near Nuclear Power Plants (Regulatory Guide 1.91) received April 24, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1321. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-243), the Authorization for the Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 1991 (Pub. L. 102-1), and in order to keep the Congress fully informed, a report prepared by the Department of State for the December 22, 2012 — February 19, 2013 reporting period including matters relating to post-liberation Iraq, pursuant to Public Law 107-243, section 4(a) (116 Stat. 1501); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1322. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting report on proposed obligations for the Cooperative Threat Reduction; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1323. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period December 1, 2012 through January 31, 2013; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1324. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning methods employed by the Government of Cuba to comply with the United States-Cuba September 1994 ''Joint Communique'' and the treatment by the Government of Cuba of persons returned to Cuba in accordance with the United States-Cuba May 1995 ''Joint Statement'', together known as the Migration Accords; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1325. A letter from the Assistant Legal Advisor for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting report prepared by the Department of State concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1326. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a letter regarding actions under the Iran Sanctions Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1327. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Initial Implementation of Export Control Reform (RIN: 1400-AD37) received April 18, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1328. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1329. A letter from the Human Resources Specialist, Department of Defense, transmitting three reports pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1330. A letter from the Director, Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's annual report for FY 2012 prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1331. A letter from the Human Resources Specialist, Department of the Navy, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1332. A letter from the Director, Office of Human Resources, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting eight reports pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act

of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1333. A letter from the Diversity and Inclusion Programs Director, Federal Reserve System, transmitting the ninth annual report pursuant to Section 203(a) of the No FEAR Act, Pub. L. 107-174, for fiscal year 2012; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1334. A letter from the President, Inter-American Foundation, transmitting the Foundation's annual report for FY 2012 prepared in accordance with Title II of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1335. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the report on the administration of the Foreign Agents Registration Act covering the six months ending June 30, 2012, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 621; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1336. A letter from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting the Office's report entitled, ''Executive Summary of the 2012 Annual Report of the Director of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1337. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting a follow up letter on a challenge to the Defense of Marriage Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1338. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting a report entitled, ''Debt Collection Recovery Activities of the Department of Justice for Debts Referred to the Department for Collection Annual Report for 2012''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1339. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Wage Methodology for the Temporary Non-Agricultural Employment H-2B Program, Part 2 (RIN: 1205-AB69) received April 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1340. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Visas: Documentation of Immigrants Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, as Amended (RIN: 1400-AD39) received April 22, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1341. A letter from the Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy, transmitting High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Program Report to Congress; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1342. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone for Ice Conditions; Baltimore Capitan of the Port Zone [Docket No.: USCG-2012-0986] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 18, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1343. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Anchorages; Lower Mississippi River, Above Head of Passes, Convent, LA and Point Pleasant, LA [Docket No.: USCG-2012-0103] (RIN: 1625-AA01) received April 18, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1344. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Lake Champlain, Swanton, VT [Docket No.: USCG-2012-0918] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received April 18, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1345. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone, Change to Enforcement Period, Patapsco River, Northwest and Inner Harbors; Baltimore, MD [Docket No.: USCG-2012-1075] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 18, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1346. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; MODU KULLUK; Kuluida Bay, Kodiak Island, AK to Captains Bay, Unalaska Island, AK [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0091] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 18, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1347. A letter from the Attorney, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Implementation of MARPOL Annex V Amendments [Docket No.: USCG-2012-1049] (RIN: 1625-AB97) received April 18, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1348. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Marine Vapor Control Systems [USCG-1999-5150] (RIN: 1625-AB37) received April 18, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1349. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; New Haven Harbor, Quinninpiac and Mill Rivers, CT [Docket No.: USCG-2009-1021] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received April 18, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1350. A letter from the Regulatory Ombudsman, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Transportation of Agricultural Commodities [Docket No.: FMCSA-2012-0378] (RIN: 2126-AB58) received April 26, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1351. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's FY 2010 annual report on the Child Support Enforcement Program; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1352. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Applicable Federal Rates — May 2013 (Rev. Rul. 2013-11) received April 23, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1353. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the annual report on the National Security Education Program (NSEP) for 2012, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1906; jointly to the Committees on Intelligence (Permanent Select) and Education and the Workforce.

1354. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report entitled ''Report to Congress on Iran-Related Multilateral Sanctions Regime Efforts'' covering the period from August 17, 2012 to February 16, 2013; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Financial Services, and Ways and Means.

1355. A letter from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting Congressional Justification of Budget Estimates for Fiscal Year 2014, including the Performance Plan, pursuant to 45 U.S.C. 231f(f); jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Ways and Means, and Appropriations.

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. LUCAS (for himself, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia, and Mr. POSEY):

H.R. 1764. A bill to limit the amount of ammunition purchased or possessed by certain Federal agencies for a 6-month period; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. LATHAM:

H.R. 1765. A bill to provide the Secretary of Transportation with the flexibility to transfer certain funds to prevent reduced operations and staffing of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Budget, 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 Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 1766. A bill to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to eliminate the application of the sequestration to funds associated with the operation of air traffic control towers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Ms. WATERS (for herself, Mr. WATT, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. CLAY, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. HIMES, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Mr. FOSTER, and Mr. MARKEY):

H.R. 1767. A bill to exclude from consumer credit reports medical debt that has been in collection and has been fully paid or settled, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ROYCE (for himself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. SALMON, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. COTTON, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. PERRY, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. RADEL, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. MESSER, and Mr. GRIMM):

H.R. 1768. A bill to amend the Diplomatic Security Act to require certain notifications to Congress of Accountability Review Boards of the Department of State, avoid conflicts of interest of the members of such Boards, require actions with respect to reports from such Boards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. RICHMOND:

H.R. 1769. A bill to improve energy infrastructure resilience through federal water resource investments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CHAFFETZ (for himself, Mr. BARBER, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, and Mr. STEWART):

H.R. 1770. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to eliminate the different treatment under the Survivor Benefit Plan accorded members of the reserve components who die from an injury or illness incurred or aggravated in the line of duty during inactive-duty training compared to members of

the Armed Forces who die in the line of duty while on active duty; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. ROYCE (for himself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. SALMON):

H.R. 1771. A bill to improve the enforcement of sanctions against the Government of North Korea, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, the Judiciary, Financial Services, and Oversight and Government Reform, 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, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. LANCE, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. ROYCE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. FORBES, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. ISSA):

H.R. 1772. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to make mandatory and permanent requirements relating to use of an electronic employment eligibility verification system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and the Workforce, 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. GOODLATTE (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. HURT):

H.R. 1773. A bill to create a nonimmigrant H-2C work visa program for agricultural workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, and 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. DOGGETT (for himself, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ENYART, Mr. DINGELL, and Mr. BISHOP of New York):

H.R. 1774. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the reemployment of certain persons following absences from a position of employment for the purpose of obtaining medical treatment for certain injuries and illnesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. MARINO, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. FATTAH, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT):

H.R. 1775. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue an order with respect to secondary cockpit barriers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. FARR (for himself, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. DENHAM):

H.R. 1776. A bill to establish the Clear Creek National Recreation Area in San Benito and Fresno Counties, to designate the Joaquin Rocks Wilderness in such counties, to designate additional components of the national wild and scenic rivers system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. RUSH, and Ms. BASS):

H.R. 1777. A bill to create jobs in the United States by increasing United States exports to Africa by at least 200 percent in real dollar value within 10 years, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Small Business, and Financial Services, 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 New Jersey (for himself and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ):

H.R. 1778. A bill to mandate training of members of the Foreign Service to protect the rights of United States citizens in the custody of foreign governments, to deny entry into the United States of officials of any foreign government, including their immediate family members, who commit or who fail to rectify fundamental due process and human rights violations of United States citizens in the custody of a foreign government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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. FINCHER (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California):

H.R. 1779. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to modify the definitions of a mortgage originator and a high-cost mortgage; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CAMP (for himself, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. NUNES, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. SCHOCK, and Mr. ROSKAM):

H.R. 1780. A bill to provide that the only health plans that the Federal Government may make available to the President, Vice President, Members of Congress, and Federal employees are those created under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act or offered through a health insurance exchange; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and House Administration, 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. MCCAUL (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CUELLAR, and Ms. FOXX):

H.R. 1781. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for special immigrant status for certain spouses and children of employees of the United States Government abroad killed in the line of duty; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RIGELL (for himself, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia, and Mr. HURT):

H.R. 1782. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior conduct offshore oil and gas Lease Sale 220 as soon as practicable, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LATHAM (for himself and Mr. MCINTYRE):

H.R. 1783. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to issue loan guarantees for purposes of financing improvements to school lunch facilities, training school food service personnel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, 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. PETERS of Michigan (for himself, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. CHU, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. SCHIFF):

H.R. 1784. A bill to reform and modernize domestic refugee resettlement programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REICHERT (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Washington):

H.R. 1785. A bill to establish the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area in the State of Washington, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. NEUGEBAUER:

H.R. 1786. A bill to reauthorize the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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. REED (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 1787. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an extension of the Medicare-dependent hospital (MDH) program and the increased payments under the Medicare low-volume hospital program; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. BACHMANN (for herself, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. KLINE, Mr. JONES, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. LATTA, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. COLE, and Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina):

H.R. 1788. A bill to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to delegate to States the authorities of the Secretary of the Interior under that Act with respect to cormorants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 1789. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to require advance public notice of any modification to be made in the terms or conditions of any policy or plan of insurance offered under such Act; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. BASS (for herself, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. ENYART, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. JACKSON LEE):

H.R. 1790. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to extend to physician assistants eligibility for Medicaid incentive payments for the adoption and use of certified electronic health records, whether or not such physician assistants practice at a rural health center or Federally qualified health center; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 1791. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to codify authority under existing grant guidance authorizing use of Urban Area Security Initiative and State Homeland Security Grant Program funding for enhancing medical preparedness,

medical surge capacity, and mass prophylaxis capabilities; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. COFFMAN (for himself and Mr. ROE of Tennessee):

H.R. 1792. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to report cases of reportable infectious diseases at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs in accordance with State law; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself, Ms. BASS, and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 1793. A bill to establish a framework for effective, transparent, and accountable United States foreign assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, Rules, and 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. CROWLEY:

H.R. 1794. 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. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF):

H.R. 1795. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. FOSTER, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. ENYART, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. JONES, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. ESTY, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HARPER, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. BARBER):

H.R. 1796. A bill to ensure that the education and training provided members of the Armed Forces and veterans better assists members and veterans in obtaining civilian certifications and licenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, 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. FRANKS of Arizona (for himself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. SALMON, Mr. JONES, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. CARTER, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. COLE, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. HARPER, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. PEARCE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. AMASH, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. MARINO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. LATTA, Mrs. BLACK, Mrs. NOEM, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. BARR, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. ROSS, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. LONG, Mr. BONNER, Mr. PITTS, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. STEWART, Mr. YODER, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. OLSON, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. HALL, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. SCHOCK, and Mr. POSEY):

H.R. 1797. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect pain-capable unborn children in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. ANDREWS, and Mr. LOEBSACK):

H.R. 1798. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to ensure health care coverage value and transparency for dental benefits under group health plans; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 1799. A bill to designate certain public lands in the Sonoran Desert of the State of Arizona as national conservation areas and wilderness areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GRIMM (for himself and Mr. GRAVES of Georgia):

H.R. 1800. A bill to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to allow business development companies to purchase, otherwise acquire, or hold certain securities, to change the asset coverage ratio and treatment of preferred stock for business development companies, and to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise certain rules relating to business development companies; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HIGGINS (for himself, Ms. MOORE, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. CICILLINE, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. WOLF, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. FARR):

H.R. 1801. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, the Public Health Service Act, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans to provide for coverage of oral anticancer drugs on terms no less favorable than the coverage provided for anticancer medications administered by a health care provider; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and the Workforce, 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. HONDA:

H.R. 1802. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to promote civic learning and engagement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HUDSON (for himself and Mr. MCINTYRE):

H.R. 1803. A bill to provide for the recognition of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HUELSKAMP:

H.R. 1804. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress semiannual reports on the cost of foreign travel made by employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. KUSTER (for herself, Ms. MENG, Mr. MCINTYRE, and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK):

H.R. 1805. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress an annual report on the automatic processing of claims for compensation under the laws administered by the Secretary; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LARSEN of Washington (for himself, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. HECK of Washington):

H.R. 1806. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the rate of tax on distilled spirits produced by small distilleries; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. MATSUI (for herself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Ms. LEE of California):

H.R. 1807. A bill to establish a grant program to assist retail power providers with the establishment and operation of energy conservation programs using targeted residential tree-planting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MICHAUD (for himself and Ms. PINGREE of Maine):

H.R. 1808. A bill to designate certain Federal lands within the Cross Island National Wildlife Refuge and the Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge, part of the Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge Complex, in Lincoln County, Hancock County, and Washington County, Maine, as wilderness; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. O'ROURKE (for himself, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. MCINTYRE, and Ms. KUSTER):

H.R. 1809. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide notice of average times for processing claims and percentage of claims approved, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. RADEL:

H.R. 1810. A bill to revise the boundaries of John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Gasparilla Island Unit in Florida; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. RADEL:

H.R. 1811. A bill to remove from the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System areas included in Florida System Unit P-16, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, 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. ROSKAM (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. ROSS, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. SMITH of Washington):

H.R. 1812. A bill to provide high-skilled visas for nationals of the Republic of Korea, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RYAN of Ohio (for himself, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mrs. BEATTY,

Mr. JORDAN, Mr. LATTA, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. GIBBS, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. RENACCI, and Mr. TURNER):

H.R. 1813. A bill to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 162 Northeast Avenue in Tallmadge, Ohio, as the ''Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SCHOCK (for himself, Mr. KEATING, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. FORBES, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. GOODLATTE, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. MOORE, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. PETRI, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. POCAN, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WOLF, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. PERLMUTTER):

H.R. 1814. 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 Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 1815. A bill to protect workers from the corrupt and coercive ''Card Check'' system of organizing labor unions; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 1816. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide additional educational assistance under the Post-9/11 GI Bill for veterans pursuing a degree in science, technology, engineering, or math; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. VISCLOSKY (for himself and Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 1817. A bill to require certain Federal agencies to use iron and steel produced in the United States in carrying out projects for the construction, alteration, or repair of a public building or public work, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, and Armed Services, 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. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 1818. A bill to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to allow importation of polar bear trophies taken in sport hunts in Canada before the date the polar bear was determined to be a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 1819. A bill to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to allow the importation of polar bear trophies taken in sport hunts in Canada; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. YOUNG of Florida:

H.R. 1820. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to modernize and enhance the Federal Government's response to oil spills, to improve oversight and regulation of offshore drilling, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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. RAHALL:

H.J. Res. 42. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to clarify that the Constitution neither prohibits voluntary prayer nor requires prayer in schools; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mr. ELLISON, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HONDA, Mr. ISRAEL, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. SPEIER):

H. Con. Res. 36. Concurrent resolution recognizing the disparate impact of climate change on women and the efforts of women globally to address climate change; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BENTIVOLIO:

H. Res. 185. A resolution declaring that it should be the policy of the United States to encourage visits between the United States and Taiwan at all levels; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. BASS:

H. Res. 186. A resolution congratulating the people of Kenya on their commitment to peaceful elections, as demonstrated on March 4, 2013, and calling on Kenyans to come together to continue to implement political, institutional, and accountability reforms envisioned in the Kenyan constitution; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. SIRES, Ms. TITUS, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. PALLONE):

H. Res. 187. A resolution expressing the United States' commitment to the reunification of the Republic of Cyprus and the establishment of a unified government on Cyprus that guarantees the human rights of all Cypriots and condemns any attempt to use the current economic crisis as a means of imposing a settlement on the people of Cyprus, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Ms. TITUS, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, and Mr. MICHAUD):

H. Res. 188. A resolution calling upon the Government of Turkey to facilitate the reopening of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's Theological School of Halki without condition or further delay; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. CHU (for herself, Ms. MENG, Mr. HONDA, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. BERA of California, Ms. GABBARD, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CONYERS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Ms. HANABUSA):

H. Res. 189. A resolution recognizing the significance of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month in May as an important time to celebrate the significant contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the Nation's history; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. HANNA:

H. Res. 190. A resolution condemning the April 15, 2013, Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attacks in Boston, Massachusetts and calling upon the United States Government, the governments of all nations, the United Nations, and other international organizations to renounce the use of IEDs and take actions to stop their proliferation; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Armed Services, and Veterans' Affairs, 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. HASTINGS of Florida:

H. Res. 191. A resolution honoring Jacoby Dickens, the successful, community-oriented African-American financier and philanthropist in Chicago, Illinois; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CLARKE, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H. Res. 192. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of ''National STD Awareness Month''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MOORE:

H. Res. 193. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MORAN:

H. Res. 194. A resolution expressing support for designation of the month of May as Williams Syndrome Awareness Month; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. VEASEY:

H. Res. 195. A resolution expressing support for designation of May 2013 as ''Health and Fitness Month''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

20. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the State of New Mexico, relative to Senate Joint Memorial No. 41 urging the Congress to support the preservation of the Navajo Code Talkers' remarkable Legacy; to the Committee on Armed Services.

21. Also, a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, relative to Assembly Resolution No. 138 condemning the failure of the Majority Leadership in the House of Representatives to reauthorize the ''Violence Against Women Act''; jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary, Energy and Commerce, Financial Services, Natural Resources, and Education and the Workforce.

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. LUCAS:

H.R. 1764.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution. This bill places a temporary prohibition on covered agencies from purchasing ammunition. The purpose of the prohibition is to determine the effect government purchases have on the price of ammunition, an instrument of interstate commerce.

By Mr. LATHAM:

H.R. 1765.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: ''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . .'' In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: ''The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . . .'' Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 1766.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution,

Article 1, Section 8, clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution, and

Article 1, Section 9, clause 7 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 1767.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (the Commerce Clause).

By Mr. ROYCE:

H.R. 1768.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. RICHMOND:

H.R. 1769.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is introduced pursuant to the powers granted to Congress under the General Welfare Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 1), the Commerce Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 3), and the Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 18).

Further, this statement of constitutional authority is made for the sole purpose of compliance with clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and shall have no bearing on judicial review of the accompanying bill.

By Mr. CHAFFETZ:

H.R. 1770.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 14 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution: To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces

By Mr. ROYCE:

H.R. 1771.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. SMITH of Texas:

H.R. 1772.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 of the United States Constitution enumerating congressional authority ''[t]o establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization.''

By Mr. GOODLATTE:

H.R. 1773.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8, clause 4 of the Constitution provides that Congress shall have power to ''establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization.'' The Supreme Court has long found that this provision of the Constitution grants Congress plenary power over immigration policy. As the Court found in Galvan v. Press, 347 U.S. 522, 531 (1954), ''that the formulation of policies [pertaining to the entry of aliens and the right to remain here] is entrusted to Congress has become about as firmly imbedded in the legislative and judicial tissues of our body politic as any aspect of our government.''

By Mr. DOGGETT:

H.R. 1774.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution that grants Congress the authority, ''To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.''

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 1775.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

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. FARR:

H.R. 1776.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 7.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 1777.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 1778.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

article 1, section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. FINCHER:

H.R. 1779.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. CAMP:

H.R. 1780.

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 as enumerated in Article 1 Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. McCAUL:

H.R. 1781.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4.

By Mr. RIGELL:

H.R. 1782.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, section 3, clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution: ''The Congress shall have the Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.''

By Mr. LATHAM:

H.R. 1783.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 1; and Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. PETERS of Michigan:

H.R. 1784.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, 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.

By Mr. REICHERT:

H.R. 1785.

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 1, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 (relating to providing for the general welfare of the United States) and clause 18 (relating to the Power to make all laws necessary and proper' for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Article IV, section 3, clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).''

By Mr. NEUGEBAUER:

H.R. 1786.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1.

The Congress shall have Power To . . . provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 1787.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8; The Congress shall provide for the common Defense and General Welfare of the United States

By Mrs. BACHMANN:

H.R. 1788.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This legislation makes specific changes to existing law in a manner that allows the States and the People to reclaim certain powers from current Federal government control, in accordance with Amendment X to the United States Constitution. Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution grants Congress the power to regulate commerce, such as that considered by this legislation. Article II, Section 2, Clause 2 of the United States Constitution grants the president the power to make treaties, such as those that must be adhered to under this Act. Article I, Section 8, Clause 8 of the United States Constitution grants Congress the power to ''make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution'' the powers granted to them under Article I, Section 8 and those granted to the president under Article II, Section 2.

By Mr. BARR:
H.R. 1789.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The ability to regulate interstate commerce pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.
By Ms. BASS:
H.R. 1790.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article. I.
Section 1.
All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.
By Mr. BILIRAKIS:
H.R. 1791.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States, which grants Congress the power to provide for the common Defense of the United States, and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States, which provides Congress the power to make ''all Laws which shall be necessary and proper'' for carrying out the constitutional powers vested in the Government of the United States.
By Mr. COFFMAN:
H.R. 1792.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.
By Mr. CONNOLLY:
H.R. 1793.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is introduced pursuant to the authority delineated in Article I section I, which includes an implied power for the Congress to regulate the conduct of the United States with respect to foreign affairs.
By Mr. CROWLEY:
H.R. 1794.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution
By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois:
H.R. 1795.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 9, Clause 7, giving Congress the authority to control the expenditures of the federal government
By Ms. DUCKWORTH:
H.R. 1796.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
General Welfare Clause (Art. 1 sec. 8 cl. 1)
Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1 sec. 8 cl. 18)
Constitutional analysis is a rigorous discipline which goes far beyond the text of the Constitution, and requires knowledge of case law, history, and the tools of constitutional interpretation. While the scope of Congress' powers is an appropriate matter for House debate, the listing of specific textual authorities for routine Congressional legislation about which there is no legitimate constitutional concern is a diminishment of the majesty of our Founding Fathers' vision for our national legislature.
By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona:
H.R. 1797.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 17: ''The Congress shall have Power . . . to exercise exclusive legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten miles square) as may, by cession of the particular states, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the seat of government of the United States.
By Mr. GOSAR:
H.R. 1798.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This legislation is being introduced in order to amend ERISA—which was passed based on a combination of Article 1 Section 8 Clause 3 (commerce clause) and Article 1 Section 8 Clause 18 (the necessary and proper clause).
By Mr. GRIJALVA:
H.R. 1799.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article IV, Section 3
By Mr. GRIMM:
H.R. 1800.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3
By Mr. HIGGINS:
H.R. 1801.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitution authority of this legislation lies in the power of congress to regulate commercial activity as described in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3.
By Mr. HONDA:
H.R. 1802.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution
By Mr. HUDSON:
H.R. 1803.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8 Clause 3 states: ''To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''
By Mr. HUELSKAMP:
H.R. 1804.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.
By Ms. KUSTER:
H.R. 1805.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (relating to the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States) of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. LARSEN of Washington:
H.R. 1806.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
As described in Article 1, Section 1 ''all legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States . . .''
By Ms. MATSUI:
H.R. 1807.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3
By Mr. MICHAUD:
H.R. 1808.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power to make allLaws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.
Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2: The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.
By Mr. O'ROURKE:
H.R. 1809.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution, ''To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.''
By Mr. RADEL:
H.R. 1810.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution
By Mr. RADEL:
H.R. 1811.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution
By Mr. ROSKAM:
H.R. 1812.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 4, which states that Congress has the power to establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization
By Mr. RYAN of Ohio:
H.R. 1813.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 7
The Congress shall have Power * * * To establish Post Offices and post roads.
By Mr. SCHOCK:
H.R. 1814.
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 as stated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. STOCKMAN:
H.R. 1815.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill makes specific changes to existing law in a manner that returns power to the States and to the People, in accordance with Amendment X of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. VEASEY:
H.R. 1816.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to provide for the common defense.
By Mr. VISCLOSKY:
H.R. 1817.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution
By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:
H.R. 1818.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3
By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:
H.R. 1819.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3
By Mr. YOUNG of Florida:
H.R. 1820.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. RAHALL:

H.J. Res. 42.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article V of the U.S. Constitution, which grants Congress the authority to propose Constitutional amendments.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills ' and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 3: Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 32: Mr. FORBES, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. EDWARDS, and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 36: Mr. THORNBERRY.

H.R. 147: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina and Mr. DAINES.

H.R. 148: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.

H.R. 164: Mr. WEBER of Texas and Mr. ROSKAM.

H.R. 176: Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 180: Ms. GABBARD.

H.R. 182: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia and Ms. GABBARD.

H.R. 183: Ms. GABBARD.

H.R. 184: Mr. RICHMOND and Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 207: Mr. TIPTON, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. GARDNER.

H.R. 262: Ms. GABBARD.

H.R. 268: Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 303: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.

H.R. 309: Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.

H.R. 357: Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 376: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 401: Mr. PETERS of Michigan.

H.R. 474: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 495: Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, and Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 497: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 503: Mr. NUGENT.

H.R. 515: Mr. MCGOVERN and Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 519: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. ESTY, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. ANDREWS.

H.R. 535: Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. ENYART, Mr. DINGELL, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 543: Mr. CARTER.

H.R. 556: Mr. NUNNELEE.

H.R. 567: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona and Mr. CHABOT.

H.R. 574: Mr. GRAYSON.

H.R. 578: Mr. HUELSKAMP.

H.R. 580: Mr. DENT.

H.R. 594: Mr. CULBERSON and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 627: Mr. BERA of California, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. YODER, Mr. CAMP, Mr. MICA, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. COLE, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. HIMES, Mr. FLEMING, and Mrs. ROBY.

H.R. 630: Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 655: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 664: Mr. NADLER, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. CROWLEY and Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 665: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 671: Mr. MATHESON.

H.R. 675: Ms. CHU.

H.R. 685: Mr. NUGENT.

H.R. 688: Mr. JOYCE, Mr. BARBER, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 689: Mr. PASTOR of Arizona.

H.R. 690: Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 693: Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 702: Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. VELA, and Mr. GRAYSON.

H.R. 718: Mr. BRIDENSTINE.

H.R. 719: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 728: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN.

H.R. 729: Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 755: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 763: Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. ISSA.

H.R. 765: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KEATING, Mr. FARR, and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 792: Mr. AMODEI, Mr. YOHO, and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.

H.R. 797: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 807: Mr. PERRY, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. BARTON, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. STEWART, and Mr. NEUGEBAUER.

H.R. 822: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 846: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.

H.R. 850: Ms. FUDGE, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. STUTZMAN, and Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 853: Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 863: Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 864: Ms. FUDGE, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. COOPER, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. TURNER, and Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 911: Mr. MATHESON.

H.R. 915: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 919: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 940: Mr. AMASH.

H.R. 949: Mr. TAKANO, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 956: Mr. SIRES, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, and Mr. PETERS of California.

H.R. 986: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 988: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 1070: Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. GRAYSON, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. MORAN.

H.R. 1074: Mr. LANCE, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. PIERLUISI, and Mr. GOHMERT.

H.R. 1077: Mr. BARR and Mr. PEARCE.

H.R. 1094: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 1097: Mr. NUNES.

H.R. 1143: Mr. LUCAS.

H.R. 1149: Ms. DUCKWORTH and Mr. KIND.

H.R. 1150: Mr. LIPINSKI and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 1155: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 1175: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 1186: Mr. COBLE, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. DIAZ-BALART.

H.R. 1187: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 1201: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 1213: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 1247: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 1250: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa and Mr. LATHAM.

H.R. 1252: Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Ms. TITUS, Mr. CICILLINE, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, and Mr. MATHESON.

H.R. 1281: Mr. HIGGINS.

H.R. 1282: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 1286: Mr. WELCH, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 1290: Mr. STUTZMAN.

H.R. 1318: Mr. POLIS and Mr. HINOJOSA.

H.R. 1322: Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 1327: Mr. MORAN.

H.R. 1330: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 1331: Mr. SCHOCK.

H.R. 1336: Mr. JOYCE.

H.R. 1339: Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 1344: Mr. LEWIS, Ms. BROWN of Florida, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 1384: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 1389: Mr. DEFAZIO.

H.R. 1406: Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. POMPEO, and Mr. STOCKMAN.

H.R. 1410: Mr. PASTOR of Arizona.

H.R. 1416: Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 1417: Mr. BRADY of Texas.

H.R. 1418: Mr. DELANEY and Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 1428: Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 1429: Mr. PETERS of Michigan.

H.R. 1432: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. RADEL, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. GOODLATTE, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. WESTMORELAND, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 1449: Mr. YODER and Mr. ADERHOLT.

H.R. 1451: Mr. HANNA, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. MAFFEI, and Mr. GRIMM.

H.R. 1453: Mr. CÁRDENAS and Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 1461: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. MARCHANT, and Mr. BRADY of Texas.

H.R. 1462: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. PITTENGER.

H.R. 1479: Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 1488: Mr. HINOJOSA.

H.R. 1507: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. MORAN, Mr. TONKO, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. TITUS, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. BEN RAY LUJAN of New Mexico, and Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 1521: Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. CICILLINE, and Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 1528: Mr. PEARCE, Mr. BARR, Mr. LANCE, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. LATHAM.

H.R. 1530: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 1550: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.

H.R. 1553: Mr. RAHALL, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Mr. MEEHAN, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. CARTER, Mr. COLE, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. STEWART, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. THORNBERRY, and Mr. LANKFORD.

H.R. 1563: Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. COBLE, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 1565: Mr. CARNEY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. CHU, Mr. POCAN, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. CLARKE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. ESTY, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. MORAN, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. BASS, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. TONKO, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. MOORE, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. BARBER, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. WATERS, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. FARR, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 1567: Mr. WESTMORELAND.
H.R. 1587: Mrs. CAPITO and Mr. PEARCE.
H.R. 1595: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. RAHALL, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mrs. LOWEY.
H.R. 1610: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 1626: Mr. PITTENGER.
H.R. 1632: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.
H.R. 1634: Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.
H.R. 1648: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 1652: Mr. PERLMUTTER and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 1661: Mr. LATHAM and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 1666: Ms. BROWN of Florida.
H.R. 1672: Mr. AMODEI.
H.R. 1682: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 1690: Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 1705: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 1708: Mr. POMPEO.
H.R. 1727: Mr. ENYART.
H.R. 1734: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida and Mr. LEWIS.
H.R. 1735: Mr. WALDEN, Mr. JONES, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. POE of Texas, and Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 1737: Mr. HIMES and Ms. ESTY.
H.R. 1744: Mr. AMODEI.
H.R. 1748: Mr. DINGELL.
H.R. 1750: Mr. BACHUS, Mr. STIVERS, and Mr. PEARCE.
H.R. 1751: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 1755: Mr. PERLMUTTER and Mr. FOSTER.
H.J. Res. 28: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama and Mr. STOCKMAN.
H.J. Res. 40: Mr. CALVERT.
H. Con. Res. 16: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. FORTENBERRY, and Mr. HECK of Nevada.
H. Con. Res. 29: Mr. JONES.
H. Con. Res. 34: Mr. KEATING and Mr. PASTOR of Arizona.
H. Res. 36: Mr. RENACCI, Mr. DENT, and Mr. SHIMKUS.
H. Res. 90: Mr. RAHALL, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. PASCRELL.
H. Res. 94: Ms. LOFGREN.
H. Res. 106: Mr. LUCAS.
H. Res. 109: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H. Res. 136: Ms. MENG.
H. Res. 166: Mr. CALVERT.
H. Res. 173: Mr. WESTMORELAND.
H. Res. 174: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. NADLER, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. CHU, Mr. OWENS, Mr. BARROW of Georgia, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. KENNEDY.
H. Res. 177: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio and Mr. PEARCE.
H. Res. 180: Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. ESHOO.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. LATHAM

H.R. 1765, the Reducing Flight Delays Act of 2013, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 1461: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

10. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the Conservation Federation, Missouri, relative to a Resolution urging the Congress to support appropriating the NAWCA Program; to the Committee on Appropriations.

11. Also, a petition of Union County Republican Party, Georgia, relative to a Resolution urging the Congress to take all necessary binding legislation to prohibit any infringement of the rights of citizens to keep and bear arms; to the Committee on Armed Services.

12. Also, a petition of Union County Republican Party, Georgia, relative to a Resolution urging the Georgia General Assembly to amend the Laws of the Official Code of the State of Georgia; to the Committee on Armed Services.

13. Also, a petition of the City of Santa Fe, New Mexico, relative to Resolution No. 2013-36 supporting the measure of Congress to allow gay and lesbian partners to access immigration benefits in an equal and fair manner; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

14. Also, a petition of the City of Naples, Florida, relative to Resolution No. 13-13268 notifying the Congress and the President that the City will lawfully use all of its authority to resist or overturn any federal gun control measures; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

15. Also, a petition of the City of Bridgeport, Connecticut, relative to Resolution No. 31-12 supporting smart and strong gun legislation listed in the resolution; jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Education and the Workforce.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS—ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

The following Members added their names to the following discharge petition:

Petition 1 by Ms. DELAURO on H.R. 377: Marc A. Veasey, Raul Ruiz, Patrick Murphy, Richard E. Neal, Emanuel Cleaver, Bradley S. Schneider, and Collin C. Peterson.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 159 WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2013 No. 59

Senate

The Senate met at 11:30 and 26 seconds a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TIM KAINE, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

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. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 26, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TIM KAINE, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. KAINE thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2013, AT 10 A.M.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until Tuesday, April 30, 2013, at 10 a.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12 noon and 46 seconds p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, April 30, 2013, at 10 a.m.

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

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EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING HIGH SCHOOL RADIO DAY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and sincerity that I rise in recognition of High School Radio Day 2013. This year marks the second annual High School Radio Day, a day to observe the uniqueness of each high school radio station and the impact each has on the community, the State, and the Nation at large. Indiana is the birthplace of high school radio. The first station in the United States, WNAS, signed on in May, 1949 in New Albany, Indiana. In the following decades, the students working for high school radio stations in northwest Indiana have exhibited outstanding ingenuity, intellect, and leadership as the stations have grown and thrived.

In 1954, high school radio arrived in northwest Indiana with the formation of WGVE–FM 88.7 radio in Gary. First housed in Lew Wallace High School, the station relocated to its current home of the Gary Area Career Center in 1969. WGVE–FM 88.7 began operating at less than 50 watts, but the station has evolved to become the home of a wide array of community news, educational programming, public service announcements, and music. The station keeps local residents connected to their government by broadcasting meetings of the Gary School Board and Gary Common Council.

For over 35 years, WDSO–FM 88.3, Chesterton High School's commercial-free, educational station has broadcast valuable programming to listeners throughout northwest Indiana. It took nearly two years of planning and careful work with the Federal Communications Commission to take the station on-air, with broadcasts beginning in 1976. Since that time, the station broadcasts local, State, and national news coverage, as well as sports coverage and live broadcasts from town meetings, the Duneland School Board, and the Community Bulletin Board. WDSO–FM 88.3 was also one of the first radio stations to use fiber optic cable to transport a radio signal over a mile and a half from the studio to the transmitter.

It is with great credit not only to the dedicated and passionate students who operate these stations but the administrators that ensure their continued success that high school radio stations still leave their indelible mark on the people of northwest Indiana. Specifically, Eric Johnson, Clarence Stevens, Sarita Stevens, Lakisha Walls, and Lionel Chambers, at WGVE–FM 88.7, as well as Michele Stipanovich and Matthew Waters at WDSO–FM 88.3, have done outstanding work to grow their respective stations. These individuals deserve recognition for their committed, energetic approach to the development of bright young students eager to learn the ways of broadcast journalism.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing these two exemplary student organizations, as well as each of the 43 high school radio stations from 19 States participating in High School Radio Day 2013. Their efforts have molded and continue to mold generations of rising journalists, performing a vital public service for all Americans.

HONORING THE STATE OF QATAR AND HIS HIGHNESS SHEIKH, HAMAD BIN KHALIFAH AL-THANI

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to welcome His Highness Sheikh, Hamad Bin Khalifah Al-Thani, the Amir of Qatar, on his visit to the United States and express my deep appreciation for the strong and growing friendship between our two countries. I also would like to recognize the State of Qatar for their promotion of democracy and higher education.

Qatar is a critical ally and is host to our troops at Al Udeid (OODADE), the largest U.S. military air base on foreign soil, in Doha which continues to be invaluable to our efforts in the region. Qatar is also particularly important because of its efforts to promote democracy and the right to vote around the world. I know this because I traveled to Qatar in 1999 to celebrate its first democratic elections—the first in which a Gulf Cooperation Council state allowed women to vote and run for office. It was a momentous occasion. Allowing women to vote and giving them the opportunity to run for office was a major step forward in the democratic transformation of Qatar. Today they continue to boldly support democratic ideals by making great strides in education.

Now, with the help of the leadership of Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al-Missned, women have the ability to earn a college degree in Qatar's Education City. This visionary woman is the moving force behind showing people everywhere how important and powerful the voices of women can be not just in Qatar, but around the world. This has not only been important for the rights of women, but it has helped the country further develop its educational offerings. Today, Education City houses branch campuses from some of the world's most prestigious institutions of higher learning, including Cornell University's Weill Medical College, Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, Northwestern University, Texas A&M University, and Virginia Commonwealth University. This unprecedented support for education in the region has helped women in their fight for equality and has made Qatar a beacon of higher education in the region and around the world.

RESPONSIBLE HELIUM ADMINISTRATION AND STEWARDSHIP ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 527) to amend the Helium Act to complete the privatization of the Federal helium reserve in a competitive market fashion that ensures stability in the helium markets while protecting the interests of American taxpayers, and for other purposes:

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Chair, I regret that I am unable to be in Washington, DC, today to cast a vote in support of H.R. 527, The Responsible Helium Administration and Stewardship Act. This bipartisan, commonsense plan will prevent a global helium shortage, protect jobs and the economy, and ensure a fairer return for taxpayers while we take the time to determine a long-term strategy to deal with our nation's helium needs.

Representing Silicon Valley, I know firsthand how dependent high-tech manufacturing and scientific research labs are on helium. Helium is needed by hospitals for life-saving medical diagnostic tools like magnetic resonance imaging, and it is critical to our national defense.

Unfortunately, the frenzy to slash the government that accompanied the Gingrich Republican revolution in 1996 led to legislation to sell and privatize the Federal Helium Reserve and caused the situation we face today—in October, the Reserve will no longer be able to sell the remaining 11 billion cubic feet of helium, which will create an immediate worldwide helium shortage and cut the domestic supply by nearly half.

H.R. 527 will prevent this shortage and promote market-based reforms by implementing a three-phase system for operating the Federal Helium Reserve until the Reserve is emptied of helium. In addition, it will ensure that taxpayers get a fair return for this resource. While this bill is not the long-term strategy on helium that we need, it does prevent a short-term crisis and allow time for a transition to a new paradigm.

Numerous industry groups and companies based in my Silicon Valley district have expressed their support for the bill, and I join them in expressing my support for H.R. 527. I would also like to express my support for the Collins/Scott Amendment, the Holt Amendment, and the Thornberry Amendment, and my opposition to the Dent/Higgins/Esty Amendment.

HONORING IRENE GARAS

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Irene Garas and in recognition of her centennial birthday on April 29, 2013.

Irene Garas is a truly remarkable woman. As a Holocaust survivor, she has been a courageous example of perseverance and tenacity. During World War II, Irene, her daughter, Kathy, and her sister, Margaret, all avoided capture when the Nazis occupied Hungary. Irene escaped the deportation of virtually all Jewish residents in her community by hiding in an armoire in her apartment complex, ultimately obtaining forged papers identifying her with an alternate surname. She secured papers not only for herself, but also for Kathy and Margaret, helping them to avoid capture as well. Irene's first husband, Louis, was also incredibly daring, escaping from a labor camp to avoid deportation to another camp outside of Hungary in 1945.

After World War II, Irene's brother, who already lived in the United States, obtained visas that allowed a number of family members and friends to immigrate. Irene and seven other family members and friends left for America on the SS Washington from England, and arrived in New York City in March 1948. Before World War II, Irene was a well-respected corsetiere in her Hungarian hometown. When she arrived in the United States, she used her business skills and leadership abilities to open her own store in New York City—helping her to live the American dream.

Irene is cherished by her two children, Kathy and Andrew, her grandchildren—Gary, Michael, Julie, Lisa and Ira—and her five great-grandchildren: Chase, Alexa, Cydney, Zoe and Owen.

Like so many immigrants throughout our history, Irene fled from incredible danger and hardship to seek out liberties that many of us take for granted: the freedom to be herself and the ability to shape her own future. She is a role model for her community, and as a fellow New Yorker, it is an honor to acknowledge her during this momentous milestone in her life.

Mr. Speaker, I join with her family, friends, and neighbors in celebrating Irene Garas for her bravery, accomplishments and contributions to our community. I wish her many more joyous years.

98TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise toady to commemorate the 98th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

For far too long, too many have failed to properly acknowledge this tragedy, let alone commemorate it and honor the lives of its victims. Indeed, despite reams of historical evidence, the actions of the Ottoman Empire 98 years ago have often been labeled something other than what they actually were: genocide.

In 1915, the government of the Ottoman Empire started a vicious and systematic campaign of genocide against the Armenian people. What began with the killing of 300 Armenian leaders ultimately resulted in the deaths of one and a half million people and the forced exile of another 500,000.

The chilling scale of this tragedy demands that we continue to commemorate the Armenian Genocide, and remember those who were lost. Throughout my time in Congress, I have cosponsored House resolutions that have affirmed the U.S. record regarding the true nature of this ethnic extermination, and honored its victims and survivors.

We must do all we can to ensure that the historical record contains the absolute truth—a commitment that will help fight against a sense of impunity. Through recognition and remembrance of the Armenian Genocide, we raise awareness of "man's inhumanity to man," helping to stop similar tragedies from happening in the future.

I respectfully request that all my colleagues join me today in honoring the victims and survivors of the Armenian Genocide.

AWARDING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO ADDIE MAE COLLINS, DENISE McNAIR, CAROLE ROBERTSON, AND SYNTHIA WESLEY

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand in solidarity with my colleagues in the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. On that Sunday morning of September 15, 1963, twenty-two people were wounded and four young African American girls, Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley, Carole Robertson, as well as Denise McNair lost their lives in an act of racial hatred.

The Sixteenth Street Baptist Church was a prime target because of its landmark status in the Civil Rights Movement, having hosted civil rights leaders, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. However, these individuals, who sought to strike fear in the hearts of those fighting for civil and human rights, undoubtedly failed. The bombing of these innocent individuals seeking to find solace in their spiritual faith redoubled the ardor of those fighting against racial prejudice and for equality.

Having been born into segregation, I know the sting of invidious discrimination. Nevertheless, it is heartening to see that all these years later we have made much positive progress toward equality as evidenced by the election of President Barack Obama and my own election to Congress. Notwithstanding the many strides toward freedom, the righteous struggle against hatred in all its forms continues. Let us today reaffirm our abiding commitment for human and civil rights for all.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly endorse and support H.R. 360, which posthumously awards a Congressional Gold Medal to Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley, in recognition of the 50th commemoration of the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church.

IN RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL'S 65TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Israel's 65th Independence Day. Sixty-five years ago, the day before the expiration of the British Mandate, Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion declared the establishment of Israel as the national home for the Jewish people. The celebrations taking place today in New York and across the country commemorate that inaugural event and underscore the special bond between the United States and Israel.

On November 29, 1947, the United Nations issued resolution 181, which approved the Special Committee on Palestine's partition plan establishing a Jewish state. On May 14, 1948 (the 5th of Iyar, 5708 according to the Jewish calendar), the day before the British mandate expired, David Ben-Gurion read the Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel in the main hall of what was then the Tel Aviv Museum. President Harry S. Truman waited only minutes to issue the United States' formal recognition of the Jewish State.

Today, Israel remains a beacon of hope and democracy in the Middle East. Throughout its history, Israel has been a safe haven for Jews across the world who have faced persecution and repression. Nonetheless, Israelis have yet to know one day without war. Constantly under attack, Israel has rightfully defended its citizens while also searching for a true partner in peace. Americans strongly identify with Israel's historic struggle for independence and continued hope for a peaceful future. With shared values and shared ideals, Israel is the United States' closest ally in the Middle East. I remain hopeful for a long-term peace agreement so that Israel and its neighbors can finally know peace.

Israel draws its strength from the diversity and tenacity of its people. Israel has demonstrated that a small country with few natural resources, surrounded by hostile nations that deny its right to exist, can still thrive, thanks to its smart investments, an entrepreneurial culture, and a people determined to succeed.

Today, Israel is a center of scientific, medical and technological innovation, and a leader in agriculture, water purification, alternative energy and public health. Israel has more high tech start ups and a larger venture capital industry per capita than any other country in the world. In 2010, Israel became a member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), marking it as one of the world's most highly developed economies.

Adversity has challenged Israel to innovate in ways that have improved lives across the globe. Lacking potable water, Israel has invested in desalination plants that have significantly reduced its need to pump water from the Sea of Galilee. Lacking arable land, it developed drip irrigation systems that are now being implemented in other desert countries. Lacking energy, it has pioneered advances in solar and wind energy. Lacking security, it has built some of the most effective security products and strategies.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the 65th Israeli Independence Day. Today we rejoice in Israel's virtues, embrace its people, and renew our nation's commitment to standing alongside Israel in defense of its right to safety and prosperity. Am Yisrael Chai—the people of Israel live!

RECOGNIZING THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF POMFRET, CONNECTICUT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 300th anniversary of the Town of Pomfret, Connecticut, located in the 2nd Congressional District. The citizens of this community will celebrate the anniversary with festivities on May 22, 2013.

Rich with history and tradition, the Town of Pomfret has retained much of its old-time charm and beauty for which many of the New England communities are so famous. It is nestled in the rolling hills of northeastern Connecticut and is one of the diminishing number of communities in our part of the country which still maintains a rustic and gentle way of life so characteristic of America a generation or two ago.

The Town of Pomfret was settled by pioneer colonists and incorporated in the year 1713. Because of its beautiful location and its rural atmosphere, it has been for many years a summer resort for city dwellers. It still boasts active farms, with apple and peach orchards and dairy farms in its 38 square miles. The town has overwhelmingly approved the preservation of over 1200 acres of open space in the course of the last decade.

The 300th Anniversary of the town will actually be observed over the full year of 2013 and many events have been planned by committee working diligently over the past few years. Festivities began with a Coast Guard Dixieland Jazz Band Concert, a Commemorative Quilt has been made by residents, displayed at various locations, and will be presented to the town, Pomfret was Grand Marshall in the area's Holiday Parade, there have been ice-skating parties, walking events, artwork displayed, and a special Tercentennial Ball has been planned.

Historical phases of the event include a self-guided historical tour map showcasing many historic homes and public buildings, a program of Characters from Colonial Connecticut, a talk by State Archaeologist Nick Bellantoni about aborginal inhabitants, CT Women's Suffrage Program, an historical talk on General Israel Putnam—a Revolutionary War hero—and a commemorative postmark.

As the Representative of Putnam in the U.S. House, I want to pay a well-deserved tribute to those early settlers of Pomfret who helped build our country through their hard work, struggles, and sacrifices. The record of their achievements lives to this day in the hearts and memories of their descendants who can take pride in the legacy handed down to them, a legacy of patriotism and devotion to our nation. Mr. Speaker, I salute the citizens of Pomfret on this festive occasion. All of us in eastern Connecticut take great pride in this community. I am confident that Pomfret's 300th anniversary will be a great and successful event, and I hope that the next 300 years in the history of this community will be as happy and prosperous for its people as it has been in the past.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE RICHARD OTTINGER

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Richard Ottinger, Esq. for his lifetime of public service. His indefatigable dedication to his community and his students is an inspiration to us all.

As a Member of Congress for 16 years, Mr. Ottinger proudly represented the people of New York's 25th, 24th, and 20th districts. As one of the earliest environmentalists in Congress in 1965, Mr. Ottinger authored a substantial number of energy and environmental laws. He served as chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Energy Conservation and Power Subcommittee, where he was instrumental in adopting critical energy and environmental legislation. Notably, Mr. Ottinger was the chief cosponsor of the Public Utility Regulatory Policy Act of 1978 and the Conservation Service Reform Act of 1984.

Prior to his service in Congress, Mr. Ottinger served in the United States Air Force for two years. He was discharged as a Captain in 1957 and was admitted to the New York bar, where he practiced international and corporate law. He then became one of the founders and second staff member of the Peace Corps, where he served as director of programs for the west coast of South America from 1961 to 1964.

Upon retiring from Congress in 1984, Mr. Ottinger joined Pace Law School as a Professor in the Environmental Law Program. As co-director of the Center for Environmental Legal Studies, he founded the Pace Energy Project in 1987, later renamed the Pace Energy and Climate Center. The Center, which raises $900,000 per year, advocates for utility investment in conservation and renewable energy resources. In December 1994, Mr. Ottinger was appointed Dean of the Law School, where he served until 1999. Mr. Ottinger currently serves as Dean Emeritus of the Law School.

Throughout his illustrious career, Mr. Ottinger has been honored with a number of awards, including the 2009 EPA Environmental Quality Award. Pace Law School will also be honoring Mr. Ottinger with the dedication of the Richard L. Ottinger Hall on April 30.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the Honorable Richard Ottinger's tremendous accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING THOMAS BARNES

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Thomas Barnes on receiving the Champions of Courage recognition from the White House. This program recognizes individuals who do extraordinary things to empower and inspire members of their communities. Thomas has empowered many of Iowa's needy children through his service.

Thomas has chaired the Marion-East Cedar Rapids Rotary Club's "Shoes for Kids" program since 2003. This program started in two local school districts, but was quickly expanded as the need grew. Through this program, Thomas and his fellow Rotarians have raised over $50,000 to provide over 3,500 Iowa children with shoes.

Thomas has also used this program to support children affected by natural disasters. In May 2008, an E–5 tornado devastated the town of Parkersburg, Iowa. Weeks later, Cedar Rapids was inundated by floodwaters. Thomas made an appeal to Rotarians nationwide to assist these children that had lost everything. Recently, Thomas sent eighty pairs of shoes with a fellow Rotarian participating in a polio immunization campaign in Nigeria to donate to a local orphanage.

Thomas Barnes has positively impacted the lives of thousands of children and I'm honored to represent him in Congress. I congratulate him receiving this special acknowledgment from the White House. I wish Thomas and the rest of the Rotary Club well in the future of their Shoes for Kids program.

147TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE ASPCA

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). The ASPCA, headquartered in my congressional district on the East side of Manhattan, was founded 147 years ago this month. The oldest animal welfare organization in the United States, the ASPCA is the leading voice for the prevention of cruelty to animals in New York City and nationwide.

This past year, the ASPCA answered the call to help families and animals affected by Hurricane Sandy in my district and all across New York City. When families were displaced by the hurricane, the ASPCA set up a temporary boarding facility where pets remained safe and properly cared for while families worked to rebuild or find permanent housing. In the aftermath of the storm, the ASPCA was in Sandy-affected areas to rescue and reunite animals with their families, distribute critical supplies, and provide veterinary care for impacted animals. More than 300 animals were rescued by ASPCA responders after Sandy, and through a pet supply distribution network and mobile wellness clinics, the ASPCA assisted tens of thousands of animals in storm-affected areas of New York City and Long Island.

I am proud to congratulate the ASPCA and its over 2.5 million supporters nationwide on the organization's 147th anniversary. They continue to be the voice of those unable to speak for themselves.

AWARDING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO ADDIE MAE COLLINS, DENISE McNAIR, CAROLE ROBERTSON, AND CYNTHIA WESLEY

SPEECH OF

HON. KEITH J. ROTHFUS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my colleagues from Alabama, Ms. SEWELL and Mr. BACHUS for their work on H.R. 360. I was pleased to support awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley in commemoration of the 1963 bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church. Bestowing this honor is a fitting tribute to these young girls who are martyrs in the cause for freedom and justice. May we never forget the sacrifice of these young girls and their families and the impact it had on the United States civil rights movement.

HONORING THE BRADFORD COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY AND THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bradford County Humane Society of Ulster, Pennsylvania, and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), for their efforts to save the lives of shelter animals in my district.

The Bradford County Humane Society provides care to homeless and abused pets, and investigates reports of animal cruelty in the community. When staff at the Humane Society realized their shelter in Ulster needed a new animal transport vehicle to carry out their life-saving work more efficiently, the organization turned to the ASPCA for assistance.

The ASPCA is a key player in animal welfare philanthropy, and has provided funds for animal welfare programs in every state. Over the past five years, the ASPCA has distributed nearly $55 million in grants to shelters and rescues across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to announce that the Bradford County Humane Society of Ulster, Pennsylvania is the recipient of the ASPCA's 5,000th grant since 2008.

An award of $31,500 will allow the Bradford County Humane Society to acquire a new animal transport van, which the organization will use to investigate animal cruelty cases and ferry shelter animals to a local veterinary clinic for spay and neuter surgeries. The new vehicle will reduce transportation costs and stress on animals during transit.

On behalf of the citizens and animals of Pennsylvania, I'm proud to congratulate the both the Bradford County Humane Society and the ASPCA for their continued commitment to protecting animals.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORADELL PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Oradell Public Library. On February 7th, 1913, a small group of community leaders met in Oradell to discuss the creation of a public library. A little over two months later, these individuals successfully opened the public library on April 19, 1913.

The library was originally managed by its Board of Trustees and the president of the board, William Zabriskie, who served in that position for 25 years. The board dedicated their time and efforts to ensure the library continued to grow and serve the community. The examples of generosity that contributed to the development and evolution of the library are numerous, but some instances demand specific mention.

The first librarian, Marie A. Skinner, worked on a volunteer basis for the first three months and thereafter received a mere ten dollars per month for her hard work. A local carpenter volunteered his time and materials to build the library's first shelves. World renowned painter Charles Livingston Bull, an Oradell resident and an original board member, donated multiple works of art which reside in the library to this day. After ten years of occupying a room behind the local post office, the library moved to its own building provided by the Bellis–Blauvelt family. Residents later donated books to increase the library's collection.

A hundred years after its founding, the Oradell Public Library remains an exemplary model of what is possible when people come together for the betterment of their community. I congratulate the Oradell Public Library on this important and impressive milestone. It is an honor to represent the people of Oradell and to commend the hard work and personal sacrifice of so many that established the Oradell Public Library.

RECOGNIZING THE 98TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 98th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

In the wake of World War I, the Ottoman Empire launched a campaign of terror against their own Armenian citizens. From 1915 to 1923, forced deportations displaced 2 million Armenians. Unarmed men were separated from their families and were either forced into concentration camps or taken away to be executed. Innocent women and children were systematically stripped of their possessions and driven into what is now the Syrian Desert. During these "Death Marches" they were subjected to starvation, sickness, and abuse amid brutal conditions. In the end, nearly 1.5 million Armenians had lost their lives in what became the first genocide of the 20th century.

Although these atrocities occurred almost a century ago, it is imperative to remember the suffering that was endured as a result of unrestrained human malice. To acknowledge this truth is necessary, not just out of respect for our fellow citizens of Armenian descent, but also in hope that we can prevent such heinous crimes from occurring in the future.

Today, I call on my colleagues to join me in somber remembrance of the 1.5 million Armenians who perished during this dark period of history, and to honor the strength and resolve of the Armenian community still working to overcome this tragedy.

HONORING JUDITH L. FITZGERALD, J.D.

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Ms. Judith L. Fitzgerald, who will be honored with the "2013 Dream Keeper Award" for her many contributions to the education of youth in Maryland over the past three decades.

A Baltimore native, Ms. Fitzgerald is a graduate of Western High School and Lincoln University. She earned her law degree from Boston College and practiced both privately and for various government agencies. She began her teaching career as an adjunct professor at the University Of Maryland College Park and Baltimore City Community College.

Ms. Fitzgerald was a distinguished lecturer at Bowie State University, serving as a pre-law advisor, faculty advisor to two clubs and as program director for a consortium of Historically Black Colleges and University's with National Intelligence Studies Programs. During her tenure at Bowie State, Ms. Fitzgerald was the recipient of numerous honors and awards including the "Outstanding Service & Appreciation" Award and the "2012 Bowie Girls Rock Award" for her tremendous work as a mentor and faculty member.

Ms. Fitzgerald is currently a contributing faculty member at Walden University, where she teaches in the PhD and Masters Programs for the School of Public Policy and Administration. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, she is the lead faculty for other courses and serves on several dissertation committees.

When she is not teaching, Ms. Fitzgerald serves as the Vice President and Executive Director for ReInvent Inc., a music and arts after-school and summer school program for at-risk youth. She has also volunteered as a mediator for the Maryland Commission for Human Relations and Community Mediation Maryland. She has served on advisory boards too many to name and is a member of All Saints Church in Baltimore.

Mr. Speaker, the "Dream Keeper Award" was established to recognize the contributions of educators in the State of New Jersey. This is the first time the award will be presented to a resident of another state. This fact reflects Ms. Fitzgerald's personal commitment to each student she encounters. She truly leads by example, providing guidance and mentoring to those aspiring to enter the legal profession

and other careers. I ask that you join with me today to honor Ms. Judith L. Fitzgerald. It is with great admiration and appreciation that I congratulate her on this well-deserved honor and wish her many more years of success.

HONORING FLOYD VANDERHOEF

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Floyd VanDerhoef for his service to our nation and his honorary membership into the 12th Armored Division Memorial Museum's Board of Directors.

Floyd served as a first lieutenant and captain in A Company, 56th Armored Infantry Battalion. Floyd's battalion was one of the first units in Patton's First Army to cross over the Rhine into Germany, where it helped liberate between 40,000–50,000 prisoners held en route to the Dachau concentration camp.

Following his service, Floyd remained close with the veterans who served alongside him, and he was instrumental in establishing the 12th Armored Division Memorial Museum in Abilene, Texas. He donated his own memorabilia and even paid for gold stars on the museum's floor to honor his fallen comrades.

It is important for all of us to take a moment and say thank you to our veterans like Floyd VanDerhoef who sacrificed for our country and our freedom. From the time of our nation's founding to today, these brave men and women have earned the enduring gratitude of our nation, and we honor their selfless service.

I am honored to recognize Floyd VanDerhoef for his service to our nation and for his commitment to honor his fellow veterans.

REMEMBERING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, with Orthodox Christians across the world observing Holy Week next week, it is only fitting that today we remember a time in history that tested the will and character of the Armenian people.

Like the earliest Christians, the Armenians proved themselves not only survivors of persecution, but also masters of their destinies.

I have been a strong supporter of Armenia and of the Armenia Genocide resolution, which recognizes the massacre of 1.5 million innocent Armenian men, women and children at the hands of the Ottoman Empire as genocide.

These atrocities should not be ignored whether they took place in the early 20th century by the Ottomans, the mid-20th century by the Third Reich, or now with the ongoing violence in the Nuba Mountains and Burma.

Genocide is a scourge on the human race and must be acknowledged as such.

As we continue to seek the truth, a final acknowledgement of the horrific events that took place so long ago, I will always stand in solidarity with the Armenian people.

IN RECOGNITION OF TEMPLE BETH AHM'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Temple Beth Ahm as members gather to celebrate its 50th anniversary. Since its humble beginnings, the congregation has grown structurally and in membership, while continuing to provide outstanding spiritual guidance to the community.

Temple Beth Ahm traces its roots back to a community committed to its Jewish values. They established the Strathmore-at-Matawan Jewish Center as an organization for meetings, worship, education and activities. These events were held at various locations throughout the town, including members' homes, schools and fire houses. The organization affiliated with United Synagogue of America in 1963 and continued to grow in membership. In 1968 it completed the construction of its synagogue and changed its name to Temple Beth Ahm, the House of the People, as individuals from surrounding communities began to join.

Temple Beth Ahm continued to grow as it established a Hebrew School, preschool and theater group and its social groups expanded activities held at the temple. Over the years, other congregations merged with Temple Beth Ahm—The United Hebrew Congregation of Keyport in 1974 and Temple Ohav Shalom of Sayreville in 2002. Each of the mergers brought not only additional membership, but also Judaica and other objects and assets that enhanced the synagogue. It expanded its construction, adding classrooms and a permanent sanctuary in 1983 and later expanding its library and building a chapel.

Throughout its 50 year history, Temple Beth Ahm has also expanded its vision. In 1973 it elected its first female president and followed Rabbinical Assembly procedure to open roles of ritual aspects to women. In 2011 it hired its first female Rabbi, Lisa Malik.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Temple Beth Ahm on its 50th Anniversary. Its service to the community is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

HONORING THE REVEREND MONSIGNOR FRANCIS MANIOLA ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY AND THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS ORDINATION

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Monsignor Francis Maniola on his 100th birthday and the 75th anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood. I am happy to have joined him in celebrating these milestones at St. Symphorosa, the Catholic parish on the Southwest Side of Chicago that he has served for 45 years.

Monsignor Maniola was originally appointed Pastor of St. Symphorosa Parish in 1968. Responding to changes in Catholic parishes that were mandated by the bishops of the Second Vatican Council, Father Maniola sought to increase Parish involvement both spiritually and socially. He led the establishment of new groups and liturgical ministries at St. Symphorosa such as the popular Super Club, a senior citizens group with weekly events and activities, as well as support groups like the Widow and Widowers Club. I fondly remember Monsignor Maniola as the Pastor of the parish throughout my eight years at St. Symphorosa School.

Although he retired in 1981 with the title ''Pastor Emeritus,'' his leadership and commitment to the Parish have continued to be felt in the community.

At 100 years of age, Monsignor Maniola is in good health and high spirits. As an avid baseball fan, he enjoys watching Cubs and White Sox games. He also enjoys solving crossword and Sudoku puzzles. He remains deeply spiritual, and maintains an active role in the Parish.

Today I express my admiration of Monsignor Maniola's devotion to St. Symphorosa, and honor his lifetime of achievements. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Monsignor Maniola well as he celebrates his 100th birthday and the 75th anniversary of his Ordination, and to thank him for his service.

LOWER BUCKS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Lower Bucks County Chamber of Commerce for 50 years of outstanding service to the business community in Pennsylvania's 8th District.

The Lower Bucks County Chamber of Commerce was founded in the hopes to advance the values of free enterprise, and since 1963 has dedicated itself to enhancing and promoting business in the Lower Bucks County region. Incorporating more than 1000 member companies, today the LBCCC has earned the accreditation by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

As a lifelong resident of Bucks County, I greatly admire the work being done by the Lower Bucks County Chamber of Commerce. Their commitment to representing small, medium and large businesses and firms is commendable, and I am honored to represent the chamber in Washington, along with several member businesses that have maintained membership for all 50 years, Begley, Carlin & Mandio, LLP, Bucks County Courier Times, Bucks County Technical High School, Burton & Browse LLP, The Dow Chemical Company, Farruggio's Bristol & Philadelphia, Auto Express, First Federal of Bucks County, First National Bank and Trust, Company of Newtown, General Machine Products Company, Inc., Hellyer Performing Arts Center, Inc., Intercounty Media Group, Hal Lefcourt, APR, Lucisano Brothers, Inc., PECO, Pennsbury School District, United States Steel Corporation, United Way of Bucks County, and WBCB Radio Station (1490 AM).

I am pleased to congratulate the Lower Bucks County Chamber of Commerce and recognize those member companies who have

been with the Chamber for 50 plus years. I thank them for their commitment to the chamber and the business community, and wish them success in the future.

TRANE'S 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of Trane, a company based in my home city of La Crosse in western Wisconsin. La Crosse's third largest employer, Trane provides high-quality, energy-efficient heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems and building management systems throughout the United States and the world. I would like to congratulate all of Trane's workers, including the members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers District 66 and my very own brother, Tim, who has been a loyal employee for many years. These dedicated workers partner with the management team to produce excellent products for a great price.

I'm very proud of the extraordinary contributions that Trane has made to our nation's technological advancements of the 20th and 21st centuries and for their contribution to job growth in Wisconsin. James Trane and his son Reuben started the company in 1913. Reuben's invention of the convector radiator in 1925, which replaced the heavy and bulky cast-iron radiators of the time, launched the company into worldwide prominence and firmly established its reputation as an innovator. Trane has upheld its reputation ever since.

Trane's innovations have been used during noteworthy moments in our nation's history. Their parts have been used to create products for the Armed Forces, such as the Trane Aircraft Intercooler during World War II, and they have even ventured into outer space when their heat exchanger design was used on the lunar rover of the Apollo 15 mission. Furthermore, Trane launched the world's most effective whole-house air filtration system that has helped families breathe easier in their homes.

It is with great pride that I rise today to congratulate Trane Co. on a century's worth of exceptional service and premium quality. Trane wouldn't be the success that it is if it wasn't for their hard work and dedication. Trane is truly deserving of recognition for their remarkable contributions to innovation and to the La Crosse community, and I am confident that they will carry on their work into the future.

HONORING FOUR MILE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MABANK, TEXAS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the 165th Anniversary of the Four Mile Lutheran Church of Mabank, Texas.

On May 5, 2013, Four Mile Lutheran Church will celebrate 165 years of Lutheranism. Four Mile Lutheran Church is the oldest Norwegian church in Texas, having held continual services from 1848–2013. For 165 years, evangelism, missionary service, youth development, Sunday school, Bible study, fellowship, and worship have been celebrated by the congregation.

As Thomas Jefferson said, ''It is in our lives and not our words that our religion must be read.'' It is an honor to represent the parishioners of Four Mile Lutheran Church whose lives exude service and faith.

IN HONOR OF DR. GARY B. GRIGGS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Gary B. Griggs, who is celebrating 45 years of expanding and sharing our understanding of the coastal and marine environment as a Distinguished Professor of Earth Sciences at the University of California Santa Cruz.

Dr. Gary B. Griggs is the Director of the University of California Santa Cruz Institute of Marine Sciences. A leader in the field of marine and coastal geology, his research is focused on the coastal zone and ranges from coastal evolution and development, through shoreline processes, coastal hazards and coastal engineering, and sea level rise. He is a talented interpreter of complicated coastal science and has a long track record of effectively translating his findings for policymakers. He has also been a champion of raising public awareness about these important issues across the Monterey Bay region and beyond. He has authored numerous academic and popular articles and books, including Living with the Changing California Coast and Then & Now: Santa Cruz Coast.

Griggs joined the UCSC faculty in 1968. He has been Director of the Institute of Marine Sciences and Long Marine Laboratory since 1991. The Long Marine Lab is known throughout the marine research community for innovative marine mammal research in areas of nearshore invertebrate marine biology, ecology, and issues surrounding ocean health.

As Director, he spearheaded the development of the Seymour Marine Discovery Center at Long Marine Laboratory, an educational center organized around the understanding of marine science. For the last 13 years, the Seymour Center has offered innovative educational programs for community members of all ages including school, youth and college programs, teacher workshops, and an extensive range of visitor and member programs.

In 2001, he led the launch of the Center for Ocean Health, a premier research facility for coastal conservation, policy, and research. The Center for Ocean Health has brought together some of the world's leading coastal and marine scientists, government and non-government coastal conservation and policy experts, and public education leaders. Their projects and partnerships are addressing a wide range of issues including complex coastal water science and policy issues, troubled sea otter populations in Alaska and California, and the socio-economic impacts of storms and sea level rise on coastal communities.

In 2009, the California Coastal Commission named Gary Griggs as a California Coastal Heroes. He was recognized for his efforts to promote popular understanding of the California coast and for his leadership in the development of a major marine research and education center at Long Marine Laboratory. In 2010, Professor Griggs was elected as a Fellow of the California Academy of Sciences, an international center for scientific education and research at the forefront of efforts to understand and protect the diversity of Earth's living things.

Dr. Griggs has actively sought to break down silos between the academia and government. He has actively supported collaboration between marine scientists and decision-makers. The UC Santa Cruz marine campus at the edge of Monterey Bay physically embodies this collaborative approach and shares space with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Southwest Fisheries Science Center as well as with the State of California's Oiled Wildlife Veterinary Care and Research Center.

Recently, his research projects have focused on documenting and understanding coastal erosion processes including temporal and spatial variations in rates of retreat; evaluating the effectiveness of coastal protection structures and the impacts of coastal engineering projects (seawalls, jetties, breakwaters) on coastal processes and beaches; evaluating beach processes and quantifying littoral cell budgets and human impacts on these budgets; impacts of extreme events such as El Ninos) on coastlines; the impacts of sea level rise on California's beaches and coastline; and coastal policies to reduce the impacts of hazards and sea level rise.

Mr. Speaker, I once again want to thank Dr. Griggs for his leadership on ocean and coastal science and policy and recognize him for serving as an inspirational and accomplished leader for my community.

SAFEGUARDS ACT REINTRODUCED

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the SAFEGUARDS Act, legislation I have introduced for the past three Congressional sessions that is intended to address some of the issues surrounding the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster and the subsequent federal response effort. Saturday marked the three-year anniversary of this catastrophic oil spill and the people of the Gulf are still waiting for the Congress to address the breakdowns in safety, oversight and response that were exposed during the spill. I have emphasized repeatedly that we owe it to those who perished in the explosion, as well those whose lives and businesses were impacted in the months that followed, to address the deficiencies in current federal policy.

I am thankful that last year the Congress was able to pass the RESTORE Act that directs a large portion of the fines resulting from the Deepwater Horizon spill to the restoration of the Gulf region. While we do not know the full amount that will be available in this fund, I am certain that it will have a positive impact

on future restoration, revitalization and research efforts in the Gulf, including in my state of Florida.

However, I remain greatly concerned with continuing our work to ensure an oil spill of this magnitude is prevented from ever happening again. Fortunately, the beautiful beaches in my district were spared a direct oil impact during the spill but make no mistake, our cities and local industries were impacted, including tourism and our fisheries, causing great hardship for many in my area. My constituents fear the impact that a future spill could have on their homes, businesses and our local environment.

While federal agencies have worked through the regulatory process to address some of deficiencies highlighted by the spill, most notably the Department of Interior's replacement of the Minerals Management Service with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation, and Enforcement, Congress has still not enacted comprehensive legislation. The members of the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling (Oil Spill Commission), which issued their final report in January 2011, recently gave Congress a D-plus for failing to implement the recommendations made in the report.

Multiple retrospective reviews of the oil spill and the response efforts have provided us with valuable information about what should be included in comprehensive legislation. This includes the report by the Oil Spill Commission, the Joint Investigation of Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation, and Enforcement and U.S. Coast Guard, and the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill: Incident Specific Preparedness Review.

As I stated last Congress, I was not surprised that many of the changes I recommended in the SAFEGUARDS Act were included in the Oil Spill Commission report, as my measure was developed following a series of meetings and regular phone calls with the on-the-ground incident commanders, local research teams and community emergency response personnel. It is my hope that the Congress will act on the solutions put forth in this measure and include it in a wider legislative response to ensure that we impose rigorous safety standards on any off-shore platforms, while also establishing a fully thought out plan to respond to future disasters.

We must stop waiting and act to address the systematic breakdowns that led to the BP Deepwater Horizon catastrophe. The SAFEGUARDS Act presents common sense solutions to help prevent a disaster of this magnitude from ever happening again, and improves the federal response in the event it ever does. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this measure. We owe it to the American people and the entire Gulf Coast to pass oil spill response legislation during this session.

HONORING BISHOP KING JAMES UNDERWOOD

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Bishop King James Underwood who is a pastor at New Free Will Baptist Church in Champaign, Illinois. Born in Mississippi, Bishop Underwood came to Champaign as a child. He has a Doctorate of Ministry and Doctorate of Divinity. He has been heavily involved in the local community groups, including helping to form the Free Will Baptist District as well as leading the Ministerial Alliance of Champaign-Urbana and Vicinity, the local NAACP, N.C.N.W. and the Champaign County Urban League. Today, Bishop Underwood will be celebrating his 75th Birthday with friends and family.

I am proud to honor Bishop King James Underwood today and would like to wish him a very happy birthday and thank him for his service and dedication to the entire community.

TRIBUTE ON THE OCCASION OF CANIFF STREET IN HAMTRAMCK, MICHIGAN BEING RENAMED IN HONOR OF REVEREND DOCTOR JOSEPH R. JORDAN

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend, Reverend Doctor Joseph R. Jordan, Pastor of Corinthian Baptist Church in Hamtramck, Michigan. On Sunday, April 28, 2013, Rev. Dr. Jordan is being recognized by the City of Hamtramck as it renames a portion of Caniff Street, one of its major thoroughfares, to honor his decades of service to the community.

Rev. Dr. Jordan began his journey on the ecclesiastical path nearly forty years ago, when he left his lucrative career as an electrician to answer the call of service to God. Before joining the congregation of Corinthian, he served as Assistant Pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Detroit for six years. Since his ascension to the Pastorate of Corinthian, Rev. Dr. Jordan has held steadfast to his belief that the focus of his position is to help others. Through his dedication and passion to the teachings of his faith, Rev. Dr. Jordan has not only been a shepherd to his congregation, but a local community leader to the Detroit and Hamtramck communities as well.

As the spiritual leader to his church, Rev. Dr. Jordan has focused his congregation on not only learning the lessons of their faith, but also taking action on those lessons to help the surrounding communities. Under his direction, members of Corinthian have instituted a bi-annual drive to procure and distribute clothing and household necessities to families in need, established a scholarship fund and organized a local neighborhood carnival where church members distribute school supplies to students. In further efforts to make his church a sanctuary to the community, Rev. Dr. Jordan has also opened Corinthian to the neighborhood's local chapter Alcoholics Anonymous, providing attendees a safe and welcoming space to meet.

As a community leader, Rev. Dr. Jordan has extended his work beyond his role as the Pastor of Corinthian. Rev. Dr. Jordan ardently believes that all people should be treated equally and with respect. This is a belief he has fought for in his endeavor to expand access to quality healthcare as a trustee for the Henry Ford Health System. Additionally, Rev. Dr. Jordan has been a strong advocate for victims of housing discrimination, an endeavor he has been working on for decades.

Mr. Speaker, for the last four decades Rev. Dr. Joseph R. Jordan has been a strong spiritual leader to his congregation and a passionate advocate for so many marginalized people in the Southeast Michigan community. His work has not only strengthened the vitality of the Greater Detroit region, but also communities across our Nation. I have been fortunate to have his advice and counsel and I join with his friends, family and the congregation of Corinthian Baptist Church to celebrate his impact on our region as a portion of Caniff Street in Hamtramck is renamed in his honor.

DEATH OF EDWARD JAGNANDAN

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, today it is with profound grief that I rise to commemorate the life of Edward R. Jagnandan, a great leader, public servant and personal friend who will be greatly missed in his community of Wilson, North Carolina, and throughout our great state.

A righteous advocate of low-income families, senior citizens and the disabled, Mr. Jagnandan served dutifully as Wilson Housing Authority's chief executive director for 6 years. During the course of his illustrious tenure, I had the unique opportunity to watch Mr. Jagnandan successfully embark on building a brighter future for Wilson residents who rely on subsidized housing.

Mr. Jagnandan's indelible contributions to Wilson include securing a competitive federal stimulus grant that awarded more than $7 million to build a new, energy-efficient 68-unit apartment complex serving low-income residents. While championing the value of homeownership, Mr. Jadnandan spearheaded programs that would make owning a home affordable to even those with modest means.

Though not a native of Wilson, his contributions to our community make Mr. Jagnandan a son of Wilson. As a member of the Wilson Rotary Club, Mr. Jagnandan regularly supported civic volunteer and fundraising initiatives and served as president of the Wilson chapter of the International Rotary Club.

Ed Jagnandan was born in Guyana to Wilfred Jagnandan whose job as a Presbyterian Missionary brought his wife Helen and their children to the United States. After arriving as a teenager, Ed earned his Bachelor and Master of Business Administration degrees from Mississippi State University.

Mr. Speaker, as a devoted husband, father, brother, friend and public servant Ed Jagnandan's untimely passing will surely be felt by all of those whose lives he touched. He will forever be missed but never forgotten in the city of Wilson and across North Carolina.

THE PRESERVING ACCESS TO MANUFACTURED HOUSING ACT

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, in the aftermath of the recent housing crisis, the manufactured housing industry is facing significant challenges: an 80 percent decline in new home production, the closure of more than 160 plants, and the loss of more than 200,000 jobs. That's why I am introducing the Preserving Access to Manufactured Housing Act with my colleague Congressman BENNIE THOMPSON. This legislation would provide clarity and certainty to consumers and preserve the manufactured housing industry without deterioration of important consumer protections.

Earlier this year, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) issued guidelines as required under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (Dodd-Frank) that expand the range of loan products that can be considered high-cost mortgages under the Home Ownership and Equity Protection Act (HOEPA) without recognizing the uniqueness of manufactured home loans compared to the rest of the housing industry. The new HOEPA guidelines are effective January 2014 and would include many manufactured home mortgages.

Simply put the cost of originating and servicing a $250,000 loan and a $25,000 loan are the same in terms of real dollars, but the cost as a percentage of each loan's size is significantly different. This difference causes the smaller-sized manufactured home loan to potentially exceed the new HOEPA thresholds set by Dodd-Frank and be categorized as a high-cost mortgage and stigmatized as predatory, even though there is nothing predatory about the features of the loan. The liabilities associated with making and obtaining a HOEPA high-cost mortgage will likely prevent lenders from offering loans to low and moderate-income homebuyers, denying families access to necessary credit for new and existing manufactured homes. In addition, millions of families could see the equity they have built up in their manufactured homes wiped out because lenders would not want to provide the financing needed for resale.

The Preserving Access to Manufactured Housing Act would adjust the new HOEPA thresholds so fewer small balance manufactured home loans are classified as high-cost, while maintaining the consumer protections from predatory lending practices in Dodd-Frank. This legislation not only protects consumers, but preserves a viable secondary market for manufactured home loans.

This bipartisan legislation would also clarify that manufactured home retailers and salespersons would not be considered loan originators unless they receive compensation from a lender, mortgage broker, or loan originator. The new CFPB definition of a loan originator, also effective in January 2014, is based on traditional mortgage market roles that differ from than the business model of the manufactured housing industry. Without this clarification, housing finance options may be eliminated for families seeking to purchase affordable manufactured homes.

We must make sure that we don't restrict housing options. The Preserving Access to Manufactured Housing Act protects the availability of financing for manufactured homes that many families across the country rely on for affordable housing.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TECH-KNOW COMMANDOS OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Worcester Technical High School Robotics and Automation Technology Team, known as the Tech-Know Commandos, for winning the 2013 VEX Robotics World Championships trophy.

Team members Jason McKinney, Natalie Correa, Jake Richard, Greg Carlson, and Kahlan Cardin, worked tirelessly to develop the award-winning robot that competed against 420 teams from 23 countries. Prior to the world championship competition, the five students participated in—and won—a number of local and regional competitions. With the guidance of their coach and teacher Michael Meagher, the team continuously reevaluated the effectiveness of their robot and worked to perfect it.

As we continue emphasizing the need for high-quality and robust science, technology, engineering, and math education, the Worcester Tech robotics team should be recognized for their achievement in the STEM curriculum. Their experiences and successes will most certainly encourage other students to pursue opportunities in these fields.

Mr. Speaker, I'm so proud to represent Worcester, Massachusetts, a community that continues to explore robotics innovation. Please join me, the Worcester Technical High School, and the greater Worcester community in congratulating the Tech-Know Commandos for their excellence in STEM education and for their recent victory at the VEX Robotics World Championships.

DAN STOWERS HONORED FOR HIS WORK WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Dan Stowers, who received the Clive Rainey Lifetime Achievement Award from Habitat for Humanity International. This prestigious national award was presented to Dan in recognition of his more than 20 years of volunteer service for Habitat for Humanity. For the benefit of my colleagues, I am including an announcement from Habitat for Humanity detailing Dan's accomplishments.

Dan began his service to Habitat in Ohio in 1991, after retiring from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources where he designed bridges, roads, marinas and infrastructure for state parks. His previous experience and love for home improvement were the perfect fit for Habitat, making Dan an invaluable volunteer from the very start. When Dan and his wife Carolyn moved to Pinellas County, Dan continued his work with Habitat Pinellas.

Habitat Pinellas quickly realized that Dan was a devoted volunteer who worked tirelessly to assist in building housing both in Pinellas County and through Habitat's international missions. In recognition of his commitment and skills, Habitat Pinellas asked Dan to become their lead architect 12 years ago and every year he designs and helps build an average of 25 homes in our community. Each Habitat home is unique and Ron Spoor, the chief operating officer for Habitat Pinellas, credits Dan's ability to modify house layouts to meet each family's needs. At the same time, they meet the highest standards for energy use and water efficiency to lower the cost of homeownership, which is vital in helping Habitat meet its mission of providing affordable housing to local families.

The value of his contribution is immeasurable and can be seen in every house Habitat builds from Dan's designs, often with his assistance. Spoor estimates that Dan is the largest individual donor to Habitat Pinellas, generously giving his time, talents and resources over the past 20 years. His efforts, along with all those who give their time and energy to assist Habitat Pinellas, have helped build more than 250 houses in Pinellas County.

Mr. Speaker, Dan Stowers has been a devoted and passionate volunteer for Habitat for Humanity for the past 20 years, never seeking recognition for the huge impact he has had on families in Pinellas County, the United States, and the international community. I would ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dan on receiving the Clive Rainey Award as he continues to build upon his commitment to Habitat for Humanity in the coming years.

PINELLAS COUNTY MAN RECEIVES CLIVE RAINEY AWARD FROM HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INTERNATIONAL

(Habitat for Humanity)

The prestigious ''Clive Rainey Lifetime Achievement Award'' was presented to Pinellas County resident Dan Stowers by Habitat for Humanity International at its biennial national affiliate conference in Atlanta on March 12th.

Stowers was recognized for more than 20 years of volunteer service to Habitat for Humanity affiliates in Florida and Ohio, Habitat Global Village builds, and Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Work Projects around the world. At the Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas County affiliate, Stowers, a licensed professional engineer, volunteers his time and expertise to preparing engineering and architectural plans for many of the 25+ homes built locally by the affiliate each year. In addition to preparing the plans and engineering for Habitat Pinellas, Dan frequently volunteers on the worksites and recruits and leads groups from his church to volunteer.

Stowers helped establish the first Habitat chapter in Romania and he has participated in ten Habitat builds in various locations around the world. He has also worked on Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Work Projects in Hungary, the Philippines, Harlem, NY, Mexico and Thailand.

''By serving as the affiliate's professional engineer in a volunteer capacity, Dan has saved Habitat Pinellas a very considerable

sum of funds,'' said Ron Spoor, chief operations officer for Habitat Pinellas. ''In fact, when calculating the monetary value of Dan's in-kind donation, Dan is the largest individual donor in the affiliate's history. Through his donation of time and resources to Habitat, Dan has enabled the affiliate to increase its production and serve many additional families.''

The Clive Rainey Lifetime Achievement Award is presented annually to volunteers for significant accomplishments that have advanced the mission of Habitat for Humanity. The award honors Habitat for Humanity's first volunteer, Clive Rainey, who made an exceptional and sustained commitment to advancing Habitat for Humanity's mission through generously sharing his time and talents.

TAASA: TRUE HEROES FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week, the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA) received the Ronald Wilson Reagan Public Policy Award as part of the Department of Justice's National Crime Victims' Service Awards.

Since its founding in 1982, TAASA's work has changed the lives of sexual assault survivors in Texas and throughout our great country.

TAASA serves as a powerful voice for the Texas sexual assault movement.

Their work in prevention, training, and advocacy is unparalleled.

TAASA has successfully advocated for legislation to protect and serve victims of sexual assault on the federal and state level.

Like true Texans, they fight hard and do not back down when they know something is right.

Most recently, TAASA played a critical role in the passage of the bipartisan SAFER Act, which I introduced to help reduce the rape kit backlog, bring justice to victims of sexual assault and put perpetrators behind bars where they belong.

As co-founder and co-chair of the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, it is reassuring that there is such an effective group advocating on behalf of victims. And, of course I'm proud that they're from the great State of Texas.

I congratulate TAASA on their award and commend their important work.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING MARINE LANCE CPL. THOMAS PARKER OF RONAN

HON. STEVE DAINES

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, Military Appreciation Day is an important reminder for all Americans of the importance of thanking and honoring the men and women who have served our nation in the armed forces.

I want to especially recognize Marine Lance Cpl. Thomas Parker of Ronan, Montana. Lance Cpl. Parker served in the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, and on December 11, 2010 he lost both of his legs and much of his left hand from an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan's Helmand Province.

After months of surgeries and rehabilitation, Lance Cpl. Parker returned home to Montana, and I'm proud to have him joining us for Military Appreciation Day in Helena. His strength, perseverance, and selfless service has made Montana proud and is worthy of our deepest appreciation.

I'm proud to honor Montana's veterans and service members on Military Appreciation Day, but may we always remember to thank these selfless Americans each and every day for their service to our country and the sacrifices they have made to protect our nation's security and our freedom.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SARA CAZARES

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Sara Cazares, who passed away last week.

Sara was born and raised in Stockton, attending Franklin High School, and later earning a degree in social anthropology from Harvard before coming back to the San Joaquin Valley she loved, to raise her family.

For Sara, the American Dream was something we should all aspire to: you go to school to live a better life and you take responsibility in your community. Her actions spoke to this commitment and to her character.

Sara had a long history of community involvement, working with the local hospitals, actively participating in the democratic process, mentoring children in the Franklin IB program, which aims to encourage students to become active and cross-cultural in this interrelated world, and other efforts. Most recently, she served as a Board Member of the Stockton Unified School District, influencing the lives of children She took great pride and joy in giving back, ensuring that our children received a quality education.

Sara was the epitome of how each of us can make a meaningful impact on those around us and that we can accomplish anything when the community works together. Her dedication, enthusiasm, spirit, and commitment to others is inspiring.

It is for these reasons that I ask my Colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Sara Cazares and in sending our thoughts and prayers to her beloved family and friends.

DEDICATING THE WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL OF AVON, INDIANA, AND PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE VALIANT SERVICE OF OUR VETERANS

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, May 4, 2013, the Parks Foundation of the town of Avon, Indiana, will dedicate the Avon World War II Memorial Park in honor of our valiant World War II veterans. The park includes a sculpture in the likeness of one of Avon's remaining World War II veterans, Brigadier General Clyde C. ''Chet'' Wright, who exemplifies the sacrificial service of our veterans.

Brigadier General Wright was born in 1918 in Indianapolis. He graduated in 1938 from Ben Davis High School in Marion County, and two years later enlisted in the 139th Field Artillery Infantry Division of the Indiana Army National Guard. By December 1943, Chet Wright was deployed to New Guinea, staging there in preparation for some of the hardest fought battles in the South Pacific theater, Leyte and Luzon. After the war, Chet Wright returned to the states and to active duty with the Indiana Army National Guard. He served in several leadership positions, and was appointed as Assistant Adjutant General, Army, for the State of Indiana in March 1973.

In Avon today, all citizens enjoy the manifold blessings of liberty secured by veterans like Brigadier General Wright. Entrepreneurship is alive and well. Our growing economy includes world class transportation and logistics-based businesses. We are blessed with good schools, good government, and natural and abundant resources, including rich farmland which plays a pivotal role in feeding our nation and world.

It is my sincere hope that this memorial will properly honor the bravery and sacrificial service of our World War II veterans. May it serve as a daily reminder to all who pass it of the sacrifice that was required to secure this experiment in freedom known throughout the world as America, the land of liberty. May it fortify the resolve of this current generation to be vigilant in our sacred duty to preserve and protect it at all costs. May God bless our World War II veterans, may God bless Avon, Indiana, for its efforts to honor these heroes, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

IN HONOR OF GERARD BELCHER

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Mr. Gerard Belcher, who was born in Pike County, Kentucky into a family of eight children. Mr. Belcher's story is an all-American story—the story of the American Dream.

His father was a coal miner and his mother was a homemaker. As a young man, Mr. Belcher spent hours in the backwoods and mountains of eastern Kentucky hunting, trapping, and exploring caves. These hours spent in the woods would later provide critical skills for his experience in the jungles of Vietnam.

Mr. Belcher volunteered to serve our country in the Army. He trained as a paratrooper and became an expert with the rifle, pistol, Bowie knife, and hand to hand combat. He was selected first in his class at the Army Leadership School in Fort Polk, Louisiana where he also volunteered for combat in Vietnam.

In August 1968, he was assigned to the 9th Infantry Division and was soon selected to join

the special operations Mobile Riverine Force (MRF) operating with naval ships, boats, and personnel along the Mekong River of South Vietnam.

After surviving four months of intense combat, he was promoted to sergeant and volunteered to walk point, a position with a life span of approximately three weeks. He served for over four months, using the skills he learned in the hills of eastern Kentucky to protect himself and his fellow soldiers until he was shot five times during an ambush operation. Fortunately, he survived this attack.

Mr. Belcher was decorated with the Army Commendation Medal for Valor twice, earned the Air Medal, combat infantryman's Badge, Vietnam Service and Campaign Ribbons, the elite spear-header shoulder patch of the MRF, and the Purple Heart.

After his military service, he attended the University of Kentucky on the GI bill where he earned a bachelor's degree in business and marketing. Despite devastating war wounds to his chest and arm, he successfully walked onto the university's baseball team where he earned a scholarship, along with All-SEC and All-American honors.

Mr. Belcher has since founded HoldTime, an award winning national message-on-hold production company over 20 years ago. He remains vocal and active in the political life of his community, and has just been awarded the Commonwealth of Kentucky's Patriot Award.

As a U.S. Congressman, I am forever grateful for Gerard Belcher's service to our country. Because of his bravery and that of his fellow men and women in uniform, our American freedoms are protected for future generations. He is truly a hero to us all.

HONORING VIRGINIA STATE POLICE TROOPER JAMES LAWSON

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to send my thoughts and prayers to Virginia State Police Trooper James Lawson of Gate City, Virginia.

On April 9, Trooper Lawson was injured during a high-speed pursuit in Scott County, sustaining a spinal cord injury. He was transported to Holsten Valley Medical Center in Kingsport. Trooper Lawson is now receiving treatment at Atlanta's Shepherd Center, which specializes in treatment and rehabilitation for people having sustained spinal cord or brain injuries.

Trooper Lawson is a dedicated member of the Virginia State Police, having served in law enforcement for 18 years. He is also active in serving the area as a proud member of the Gate City Volunteer Fire Department. He is now Assistant Chief, serving in the Gate City Volunteer Fire Department since he was 16.

Trooper Lawson is married to his wife Aimee, who is employed by the Scott County Sherriff's Department. He also has two children, Ashley and Trey. Trooper Lawson and his family are friends to many in the Gate City area, including members of my staff.

Thank you, Trooper Lawson and Aimee, for your service to the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Gate City community. I think I speak on behalf of all Scott County residents in wishing Trooper Lawson the very best as he continues working to recover.

COL. POOLE'S BIRTHDAY

HON. TOM GRAVES

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a great American, a dedicated small business owner in the North Georgia town of Ellijay. Who is often spotted with a yellow suit, an American flag tie, and tophat.

He is a true advocate for low taxes and less government, and is always sure to voice his opinions about candidates for political office.

Col. Poole and his lovely wife Edna founded Poole's Bar-B-Q . . . known in some circles as the "TAJ–MA–HOG". . . which rests in the shadow of the "Pig-Hill-of-Fame" adorned with plywood cutout hogs with patron's names painted on them.

In order to qualify for a pig on the hill, he has stated that all you need is, "an honest face, good intentions, and five dollars."

Next Monday, April 29, this fine patriot will turn 83 years old—so today I wanted to take a minute to say—"Oscar, from all the way in Washington, DC—I want to wish you a very happy birthday!"

TOYOTA ARIZONA PROVING GROUND'S (TAPG) 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to congratulate the Toyota Arizona Proving Ground (TAPG) as it celebrates its 20th anniversary. I have had the opportunity to visit and learn about their operations and am proud to represent the Toyota team members working at this fine facility. The 12,000 acre facility's most dramatic feature is the 10 mile, high speed, oval track. But in addition, it is home to many more miles of unique test tracks and a state-of-the-art engineering facility.

TAPG, which is part of Toyota Motor Engineering and Manufacturing, Inc., is responsible for evaluating the performance and endurance of Toyota vehicles on the test tracks in Wittmann, Arizona. TAPG employs about 50 team members and welcomes hundreds of contractors and visiting engineers each year—all contributing to Arizona's economy and to the development of Toyota's American made vehicles.

As their representative to Congress, I want to reiterate my commitment to supporting policies and a federal regulatory environment that encourages companies, like Toyota, to continue to invest in research and development in Arizona and across the United States.

HONORING OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE STUDENT JOURNALISTS

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House of Representatives today to honor five young people from Raymondville, Texas. Their project, titled "I Am Raymondville," earned them the top prize in the Diocese of Brownsville's Mobile Journalist Project, and their work has been entered in a national contest.

Rosa Barrera, Carla Bocanegra, Ralia Cortinas, Jose Trevino, and Celyna Vasquez set out to report on life in their community. With the assignment to chronicle poverty and homelessness in Raymondville, the five students from Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish interviewed a bearded homeless man who was often seen near the Expressway 77 overpass.

The students, ranging from sixth graders to a high school junior, were impressed by Kent Karl Kauten's warm and friendly manner, and he told them he had served in the Vietnam War and was a Navy veteran. Kauten was found dead just three days after the interview, and, when the student journalists learned that he would be cremated and buried in a pauper's grave, they sought to ensure that Kent Karl Kauten's passing was honored with a full Catholic funeral mass and a military burial.

Working with local officials, the five students were able to confirm Mr. Kauten's military service and his eligibility for military honors, and they raised money to pay for his funeral—often seeking donations on the streets. As the students participated in the funeral at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and the burial, they stood in place of his family and ensured that the combat veteran was treated with dignity and respect.

Rosa, Carla, Ralia, Jose and Celyna set out to chronicle life in Raymondville. They saw poverty and homelessness, but they didn't just take a snapshot—they made a difference. They recognized a need and they stepped in where no one else had to ensure that an American hero would not be forgotten. We owe an immense debt of gratitude to our nation's veterans who have sacrificed so much, and these dedicated young journalists have set an example of kindness and respect that our nation should follow.

Today, I join the City of Raymondville, the State of Texas, and the United States Congress in honoring the Our Lady of Guadalupe Mobile Journalists.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF CALIFORNIA'S LUPE C. HERRERA

HON. GLORIA NEGRETE McLEOD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mrs. NEGRETE McLEOD. Mr. Speaker, let us commemorate the life of Lupe C. Herrera, a devoted member of the United States Army, who passed away on April 22 in Ontario, California at the age of 94.

Mr. Herrera enlisted in the Army on December 2, 1941, just a few days before the attack

on Pearl Harbor. Mr. Herrera faithfully served his country for much of the remainder of WWII in the Sixth Armored Division throughout Europe until January 1946.

Mr. Herrera maintained an active role in his community throughout his life. His family remembers the stories he recounted about his memories during his service passing on his love for his country. The love for his country was transmitted to his grandchildren, as one serves in the Marines and another one in the Air Force. Mr. Herrera is survived by his wife, 6 children, 13 grandchildren, and 11 great–grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Herrera was an exceptionally devoted husband and father and I know that he will be greatly missed by his family and friends. Mr. Herrera's story will live on to serve as an inspiration for generations to come, and I thank him for his dedication to our nation.

IN HONOR OF PENNSYLVANIA VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS ANNUAL STATE LOYALTY DAY

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Annual State Loyalty Day celebration in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on May 1, 2013.

Loyalty Day was officially recognized by Congress on July 18, 1958. President Eisenhower proclaimed May 1, 1959 the first official observance of Loyalty Day. President Eisenhower's proclamation declares Loyalty Day ''a special day for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States and for the recognition of the heritage of American freedom.''

Our veterans have protected that freedom for generations. Their devotion and dedication to our nation set an example for American loyalty. I thank all of our nation's veterans for their service and sacrifice for our nation, and I thank the Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars for its tireless work in speaking out on behalf of veterans and promoting cherished American values.

MCGLOTHLIN FOUNDATION'S 2013 AWARD FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE RECIPIENTS

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, each year, the McGlothlin Foundation of Bristol, Virginia awards one kindergarten through fifth grade teacher and one sixth through twelfth grade teacher from selected areas of Virginia, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Kentucky with its Award for Teaching Excellence.

I am pleased to say that both 2013 award recipients teach in the district I am proud to represent, the Ninth District of Virginia

Today, I extend my congratulations and also my gratitude to Pamela MacDonald, a fifth-grade teacher at Pearisburg's Macy McClaugherty Elementary School, and to Steve Ahn, a biology and earth science teacher at Abingdon High School.

For their efforts in the classroom, both of these educators won a monetary prize, a portion of which must be used on an international trip so they can ultimately bring the world back into their classrooms. Reports indicate that Ms. MacDonald intends to travel to Europe with her winnings, and that Mr. Ahn will head to Norway and Finland.

On behalf of other parents in our area, thank you, Ms. MacDonald and Mr. Ahn, for all that you do for children of Virginia's Ninth District, and congratulations on receiving the McGlothlin Foundation's 2013 Award for Teaching Excellence.

HONORING PETER S. CARTER

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest sympathy to the family of Mr. Peter S. Carter.

Peter was born on February 20th, 1943 in San Diego, California. At the age of 14, he and his family moved to the Santa Clara Valley where he graduated from Bellarmine College Preparatory in 1961. Peter attended Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. He became a photo editor, yearbook editor-in-chief and managing editor of the Georgetown Magazine.

It was with his college press pass that Peter was able to capture historic events like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s ''I Have a Dream Speech'' and the inauguration of President Lyndon Johnson.

After graduating from Georgetown in 1966 he worked at American University. It was in 1963 that Peter married his first wife, Michelle Villere. Peter and Michelle had two sons, Scott and Shawn. She passed away in 1986. Peter married Dennise McNulty in December of 1987. Together, they celebrated life with a constant stream of family and friends.

Peter's advertising agency was located in historic parts of San Jose near Japantown. He began his career shaping the message of the Mobile Home Dealers Association. He worked with a variety of partners and his clients included everything from local boutiques to large commercial developers. He did charity work for many local causes and organizations.

Following a long career in public relations and advertising, Peter turned to photography. Peter was present at almost every town event with his trademark camera dangling from his neck. Peter's work was often featured in the local newspapers of the community. Whether it be a jazz festival, a special dinner, or the annual holiday parade, Peter was there to capture the event through the shutter of his camera.

Beyond his own career Peter was a strong advocate of the arts. He was one of the most active members and supporters of The Museums of Los Gatos.

Peter helped the museums grow into cultural staples of the community.

Throughout the years he became active in many causes. Peter was a founding member of the Los Gatos Weekly, which went on to merge with the Los Gatos Weekly Times Observer to become the Los Gatos Weekly-Times. He was a longtime member of the San Jose Rotary Club and served on the board of directors for the Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Foundation. Peter also served on the Los Gatos Music & Arts Committee for many years.

On February 20th Peter turned 70. This milestone was celebrated with the Los Gatos Social Club, the same organization Peter founded in the 1990s. Through this club Peter became a champion of locally owned businesses throughout the community. The Los Gatos Social Club hosted their weekly dinners at various family owned restaurants and cafes.

Peter was a special member of our community. For many years he has been a cherished friend. By example, he taught us to squeeze the most joy out of life as one possibly can and to do it with sublime purpose, a sense of humor, a fabulous wit and a dazzling smile.

It is in thanks for, and in admiration of Peter that I stand in honor today. I hope his legacy of public service serves as an inspiration to the young people of generations to come. He will be missed greatly by the Silicon Valley community.

HONORING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS PHILLIS M. KULASZEWSKI FOR HER SERVICE

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, today, I am here to honor and celebrate the life of an American patriot, Private First Class Phillis M. Kulaszewski.

Phillis was born on December 22nd, 1919 in Cherokee, Iowa, was raised there, graduating from Immaculate Conception High School in 1937. She joined the Women's Army Air Corp in 1944, serving for 14 months as a Clerk General, tracking the movement of fighter and bomber aircraft until they reached their point of embarkation. For her service, Phillis was decorated with the Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign Medal and World War II Victory Medal.

In 1945, while serving at Wright Field, she met and married her husband, Arthur J. Kulaszewski, who served his country until his retirement in 1967. That year, Phillis, Arthur and their two adopted children, DuWayne and Karen Ann, moved back to Cherokee. She was a proud Iowan.

Phillis dedicated herself to supporting veterans and working on veteran projects. In 2003, the AMVETS Benton County Post 218 was chartered with 13 members. Phillis was the first woman veteran and life member of the post. Now thriving with over 65 members and 5 women veterans, AM VETS honors her passion and dedication by bestowing her name on the Post. It will now and forever be known as the ''Marion B. Gaultier-Phillis M. Kulaszewski AMVET Post 218 Benton County, Iowa.''

IN SUPPORT OF H. RES. 172: SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 172, supporting the goals and ideals of National Financial Literacy Month, 2013. I would like to thank my four co-sponsors of the bill, Mr. STEVE STIVERS of Ohio, my new co-chair for the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. TERRI SEWELL, of Alabama, and Mr. MATT CARTWRIGHT of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, personal financial literacy is essential to ensure that individuals are prepared to manage money, credit, and debt, and become responsible workers, heads of households, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and citizens. Financial literacy has been linked to lower delinquency rates for mortgage borrowers, higher participation and contribution rates in retirement plans, improved spending and saving habits, higher net worth, and positive knowledge, attitude, and behavior changes. Expanding access to the mainstream financial system provides individuals with lower-cost and safer options for managing finances and building wealth and is likely to lead to increased economic activity and growth.

According to the newly released study from Girl Scouts of the USA, ''Having It All: Girls and Financial Literacy,'' ninety percent of girls say it is important for them to learn how to manage money. However just twelve percent say they feel confident in making financial decisions. They are also products of how the world has changed, as many distrust large financial institutions and think that debt is a normal part of life. Young people look to their parents for guidance on money issues. Unfortunately, too many parents themselves are choosing to opt out of the financial mainstream, for a number of reasons. According to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, at least 28.3 percent of households in the United States are unbanked or underbanked and, subsequently, have missed opportunities for savings, lending, and basic financial services. According to the National Foundation for Credit Counseling, 39 percent of adults in the United States report that they have no savings. For families to be able to emerge out of poverty, these statistics must change. Financial literacy is the key to social mobility in America.

In February 2005, then-Congresswoman Judy Biggert of Illinois and I co-founded, and currently co-chair, the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus, FELC, to provide a forum for interested Members of Congress to work in collaboration with the Financial Literacy and Education Commission, highlight public and private sector best practices, and organize and promote financial literacy legislation, seminars, and events, such as Financial Literacy Month and the annual Financial Literacy Day Fair on the Hill that is being held today, April 26, 2013, in the Cannon Caucus Room.

THE 369TH INFANTRY REGIMENT 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker today I rise to honor the 369th Infantry Regiment on their 100th anniversary. Constituted in June of 1913, this regiment was the first African American Regiment to serve with the American Expeditionary Force during World War I.

The U.S. Army's 369th Infantry Regiment, popularly known as the ''Harlem Hellfighters,'' was the best known African American unit of World War I. Federalized in 1917, it prepared for service in Europe and arrived in Brest in December. The next month, the regiment became part of the 93rd Division and continued its training, now under French instructors. In March, the regiment finally received its Federal designation and was reorganized and reequipped according to the French model. That summer, the 369th was integrated into the French 161st Division and began combat operations.

While African American valor usually went unrecognized, well over one hundred members of the regiment received American and/or French medals, including the first two Americans—Corporal Henry Johnson and Private Needham Roberts—to be awarded the coveted French Croix de Guerre.

Spending over six months in combat, perhaps the longest of any American unit in the war, the 369th suffered approximately fifteen hundred casualties but received only nine hundred replacements. Unit histories claimed they were the first unit to cross the Rhine earning the epithet ''Hell Fighters'' from their enemies. After considerable effort by Colonel Hayward, the 369th was welcomed home with a parade in February 1919 and reabsorbed into the National Guard. More than one million people witnessed the triumphant parade from Lower Manhattan, up Fifth Avenue to my beloved village of Harlem. The marching band led the troops, and as they turned off 110th Street onto Lenox Avenue the band began to play. Today the lineage and tradition is carried on by the 369th Transportation Battalion, which has since become the 369th Corps Support Battalion. The Harlem Hellfighters continue to serve at home and overseas.

This year we honor a group of men whose selflessness and valor propelled them to protect and serve the very country that left them a perpetually marginalized group of American society. A group of men who fought to defend this country whose dream of freedom was ironically and unremorsefully built on the backs of their ancestors with no avail even as their sons fought for that same ideal decades later. The history of the Harlem Hellfighters is one of dedication and profound spirituality that reminds us that the efforts we make today has everything to do with the world we create for our future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues stand together to recognize such an historic day as our nation marks the 100th year of the 369th Infantry Regiment's dedication to this county. A Celebration of their remarkable service to this country and of the spirit and unwavering strength they displayed throughout.

IN SUPPORT OF WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to observe April 28 as Workers' Memorial Day. Every year on this date, remembrances are held around the world to honor men and women who have lost their lives or were injured in the workplace.

In Connecticut, the CT AFL–CIO will hold a ceremony at our State Capitol Building and then lay wreathes in Bushnell Park at the Workers Memorial.

Workplace fatalities and injuries have decreased over the years, but even one worker not going home at the end of their shift is one too many.

On average across our nation, 13 workers die on the job each day.

According to the Connecticut Department of Labor, about 40 workers in our state lose their lives each year due to workplace injuries.

Last year marked the 25th anniversary of the tragic and avoidable accident in Bridgeport at L'Ambience Plaza.

We will always remember the 28 construction workers who did not return home to their families and loved ones that sad day.

And we will never forget December 14, 2012 when an unconscionable horror happened at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown.

This unimaginable tragedy took the lives of six educators who gave their lives to protect their students.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join together in recognizing Workers' Memorial Day.

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE CLOROX COMPANY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Clorox Company—founded and headquartered in Oakland, California—as it celebrates the centennial of its founding on May 3, 1913. Since the beginning, Clorox has shown a commitment to doing responsible business while maintaining a close connection to Oakland and the greater-East Bay community.

Initially named the Electro-Alkaline company, Clorox opened the United States' first commercial liquid bleach factory in Oakland in 1913. In 1916, Mr. William Murray became the company's general manager, and with assistance of his wife and fellow entrepreneur Anne Murray, began to market liquid bleach for household use. The first seaborne shipment of Clorox products left the Port of Oakland in 1921 set for the East Coast via the Panama Canal. By 1928 the company was ready to go public on the San Francisco Stock Exchange. The Clorox Company weathered the Great Depression and went on to play an important role in the war efforts during World War II.

Through the second half of the 20th Century, Clorox's products expanded to include a

broad range of consumer items, including Clorox 2 all-fabric bleach, Hidden Valley ranch salad dressing, Kingsford charcoal, KC Masterpiece barbecue Sauce, Pine-Sol cleaners, and the Glad brand of products. From its first expansion into the Canadian market, it has moved into markets in Latin America and beyond.

Even as its size, marketplace, and product base has grown, Clorox has maintained a consistent commitment to Oakland throughout its 100 year history in that city. Since its first donation to the Boy Scouts of America in 1920, Clorox has demonstrated its spirit of philanthropy and engagement in the communities where its employees live and work. The company made a conscious effort by moving its headquarters into Oakland's downtown in the 1970's as part of a major urban renewal project. And, since its creation in 1980, The Clorox Company Foundation has awarded cash grants totaling more than $87 million to non-profit organizations, schools and colleges. In the past year alone, the foundation has helped nearly 100 non-profit organizations reach more than 26,000 young people in the Oakland area and thousands of others in cities across the U.S. The company has also demonstrated a commitment since 1978 to the East Oakland Youth Development Center through funding and staff volunteer programs.

Clorox has shown itself to be a leader in making diversity and inclusion priorities in its business: The company's five employee resource groups (ERGs)—African-Americans Building Leadership Excellence (ABLE); Asian; Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (Clorox Pride); Latinos for Excellence, Advancement & Development (LEAD), and; Support, Heart & Opportunity for Women (SHOW)—show that Clorox understands the value of a multicultural and diverse marketplace and workplace. Recently, Clorox was recognized as a lead sponsor of Remember Them, Champions of Humanity, an inspiring monument in Oakland dedicated to global peace in diversity.

Therefore, on behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, I would like to salute Clorox, and all of those who have contributed to its century of success. Thank you for your long-term belief in and contributions to our community. Once again, congratulations, and I wish you the very best as you strive for another 100 years of excellence.

NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH MONTH

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Minority Health Month and I want to address a key issue of importance: raising awareness of the medical needs for minorities.

National Minority Health Month aims to raise awareness about health disparities that continue to affect racial and ethnic minorities.

It is important to recognize the need to raise awareness because our communities are often left out, finding quality and affordable health care is a real obstacle.

This year's theme is Advance Health Equity Now: Uniting Our Communities to Bring Health Care Coverage to All, a common goal in improving the health for everyone in our communities.

On that note, I wish to speak on the issue of home dialysis and those affected by this daily necessity.

Home dialysis can be very beneficial for numerous reasons—it can help patients live a more full and independent life. It can also be more cost-effective and by staying at home, it relieves constraints on an already small health care workforce.

However, the reality is that most people who begin dialysis in the U.S. are treated in dialysis centers.

3.3 percent of non-Hispanic patients receive this amenity but only 1.7 percent of Hispanic patients receive this treatment.

Furthermore, African-American dialysis patients are approximately 20 percent less likely than average to receive home dialysis and Hispanic dialysis patients are 37 percent less likely to be receiving this home treatment.

In my home-state of California alone, almost 38,000 people are on dialysis, with only 2.1% of people receiving home dialysis on a daily basis.

That is why I would like to raise today and promote awareness of the disparities that minority communities face, with the goal of improving the care for all of those in need.

SEQUESTRATION

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep disappointment that Congress has wasted yet another opportunity to be rid of sequestration for FY13. The most important action we can take to provide for the long term health of our nation is getting people back to work, and ensuring that those who are employed, stay employed. This cannot happen with sequestration in force, yet House Republicans continue to risk our delicate economic recovery by allowing this disastrous policy to continue. Since April of 2011, we have cut $2.4 trillion from the budget over the next ten years—with nearly three dollars in spending cuts for every dollar of revenue.

In February, Democrats introduced legislation, which I cosponsored, to avert sequestration in a balanced way, through closing tax loopholes and targeted spending cuts. Ever since, Democrats have tried to bring this proposal up for a vote, with Republican leadership blocking every attempt.

Every day, I hear stories from Rhode Islanders about the effects of sequestration on their lives and livelihoods. Some consequences, like flight delays, are more visible than others. But the impacts are just as real, and often much more devastating, for the laid-off workers whose extended unemployment insurance has been reduced, for our kids who won't get a spot in Head Start, for the low-income families who may lose their housing vouchers, for the seniors who won't be receiving Meals on Wheels, and for our teachers who may lose their jobs. Piecemeal legislation—and playing favorites—is not the answer. We cannot simply react to the loudest voices or the most well connected; sequestration is damaging to every segment of our community.

I am heartened to see that after months of denying the consequences of sequestration, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have finally woken up to the real, damaging effects to our constituents and to our economy. But we seek public office to represent the interests of all of our constituents, and to give a voice to those who can't always speak for themselves. We cannot afford any more carve-outs—there are too many in our communities whose problems are just as great, but whose voices don't carry as far. I urge my Republican colleagues to join us in finding a comprehensive solution to sequestration so that all of those who are suffering under this policy will know they have been heard.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF SOCORRO

HON. PETE P. GALLEGO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Socorro which is celebrating its 165th anniversary. The City is the central point in the beautiful Mission Valley Trail—with a rich history. The City of Socorro became a part of the State of Texas in 1848 after the U.S.-Mexico war.

After the 1680 Pueblo revolt in northern New Mexico in 1680, the Spanish were driven from the North and moved into the area with their Native American allies. Later, they built the Nuestra Señora de la Limpia Concepción del Socorro Mission. Although the Great Rio Grande Flood swept away the first permanent structure in 1744, resilient settlers built a second church. When that was swept away by the Rio Grande in 1829, settlers did not give up.

The Socorro mission we know today was opened in 1843. Approximately 1,100 settlers built up around the mission.

The growing City of Socorro faced a downturn after the railroads laid their track to El Paso, bypassing Socorro. The resolute citizens, however, were determined to stay in the area for decades. The population boomed during the 1960s and 1970s and has continued to grow with the same determination and perseverance. Residents have always banded together against adversaries.

The town today is rich in community, history, and culture.

Making the 165th anniversary celebration even more momentous is the fact that it will take place at the new Bulldog Championship Park—named after the 2009 Socorro High School baseball team that won the 5A state baseball championship title.

I congratulate the city and all its residents on the momentous occasion of a 165th anniversary.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SUSAN BURTNETTE

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Susan Burtnette of

Woodridge, Illinois, who passed away Sunday morning after an abbreviated battle with lung cancer.

Susan was a remarkable member of the Woodridge community, where she lived for 35 years. Her love for her community was evident in the passion and dedication she had for leaving this world a better place. In addition to being elected to the position of Village Trustee earlier this month, Susan was an active member of the League of Women Voters, Woodridge Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Woodridge Jubilee Committee.

Her memory lives on through her three children Brad, Scott, and Kristina, and her grandchildren Riley, Reese, Carson and Landon, and the countless lives she touched. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Susan Burtnette. She will be deeply missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, on April 25th I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall No. 124, on passage of H. Res. 178.

Had I been present I would have voted ''aye.''

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF WOMEN IN OUR DISTRICT

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Women's History Month, which took place last month.

Next week I will hold a special briefing to recognize the contributions and accomplishments of four outstanding women in Orange County, California.

Mallory Vega is the Executive Director of Acacia Adult Day Services, a nonprofit agency providing daycare and health services.

Under her leadership, Acacia has grown from serving eight participants to over seven thousand.

Dr. Maria Minon, Chief Medical Officer of Children's Hospital of Orange County, has devoted her career to transforming the delivery of pediatric medicine to children and families.

Arianna Barrios, an active business owner and member of our community, has dedicated her career to serving education and non-profit institutions.

Dr. Mildred Garcia, President of California State University Fullerton, is the first Latina president in the University's system and has strengthened opportunities for students, institutions and communities at large.

I look forward to recognizing these outstanding women and their contributions to our communities.

CONGRATULATING THE LATIN AMERICAN YOUTH CENTER

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Latin American Youth Center (LAYC) on its 45th anniversary and for its exceptional work with underserved youth in the District of Columbia and the national capital region.

Founded in 1974, LAYC began as a youth and family development center serving Latino youth in the District. Today, LAYC serves all youth at its five sites in the District of Columbia and in Maryland. LAYC continues to be committed to transforming the lives of underserved youth and their families through multicultural, comprehensive, and innovative programs that address the social, academic, and career needs of youths.

We appreciate the LAYC's long presence in the District and its continued service to our city's young people. We also wish LAYC continued success for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 45th anniversary of the Latin American Youth Center.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S USE OF INFORMATION SHARED UNDER CISPA

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. House of Representatives has passed a bill attempting to secure our nation's cyber-systems and networks from attack. This bill expands the authority of private entities and the federal government to share specified threat information and intelligence with one another. It is intended to grant authority for the government and private industry to share cyber-threat information and intelligence only in a manner consistent with the need for individual citizens to have reasonable expectations of privacy. The right of a citizen to remain ''secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures'' is unaltered. This bill largely pertains to network security, and nothing in the bill precludes or alters the requirement that the government secure a warrant before engaging in searches or seizures of information that would otherwise reasonably be expected to remain private.

With respect to those provisions pertaining to the federal government's use of information shared with it under the Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act (''CISPA''), the intent of Congress is as follows:

The only information the federal government may receive under CISPA that it heretofore was not permitted to access under law is ''cyber threat information'' (Section 3(b)).

''Cyber threat information'' is defined narrowly in section 3(g)(4) as ''information directly pertaining to'' any of the following:

(1) A vulnerability of a system or network of a government or private entity or utility.

(2) A threat to the integrity, confidentiality, or availability of a system or network of a government or private entity or utility or any information stored on, processed on, or transiting such a system or network.

(3) Efforts to deny access to or degrade, disrupt, or destroy a system or network of a government or private entity or utility.

(4) Efforts to gain unauthorized access to a system or network of a government or private entity or utility, including to gain such unauthorized access for the purpose of exfiltrating information stored on, processed on, or transiting a system or network of a government or private entity or utility.

Therefore, if the actions of a user of any system or network do not expose a vulnerability; pose a threat to integrity, confidentiality, or availability; attempt to deny access, degrade, disrupt, or destroy; or attempt to gain unauthorized access, then none of the user's information, or information pertaining to the user, or information that could possibly identify the user may be shared with the federal government under authority granted by CISPA. Each of these categories must be construed as narrowly as possible in order to protect the constitutional right of citizens to privacy, and provide effect to the term ''directly.''

Restated, the use of a system or network alone does not permit any entity to share any information of a user, or pertaining to the user, unless it is currently allowed to do so under another law. The terms ''vulnerability,'' ''threat,'' ''efforts'' and ''unauthorized access'' all are to be construed narrowly, and are limited to cybyersecurity threats.

Further, the government cannot use that which it cannot receive.

Under this Act, should any entity share information with the federal government that is not ''cyber threat information,'' e.g., information pertaining to normal or permissible use, identifying information, etc., then the federal government must notify the entity sharing the information of its error (Section 3(c)(5)), shall not retain the information (Section 3(c)(6)), and shall not use the information (Section 3(c)(6)).

The federal government may use ''cyber threat information'' shared with it only:

(1) for cybersecurity purposes,

(2) for the investigation and prosecution of cybersecurity crimes,

(3) for the protection of individuals from the danger of death or serious bodily harm and the investigation and prosecution of crimes involving such danger of death or serious bodily harm,

(4) for the protection of minors from

(a) child pornography,

(b) any risk of sexual exploitation, and

(c) serious threats to the physical safety of minors, including kidnapping and trafficking, and

(5) for the investigation and prosecution of crimes involving 4(a) through (c) above, and

(6) any crime referred to in section 2258A(a)(2) of title 18 of the United States Code (knowingly failing to report information pertaining to sexual exploitation and other abuses of children—including obscene visual representations of such acts). (Section 3(c)(6) and Section 3(c)(1)).

The term ''danger of death or serious bodily harm'' is limited to acts of domestic terrorism as defined in the criminal code (18 U.S.C. Section 23331(5)).

CISPA does not allow the federal government access to new information based upon the points described above, but only access to existing information. Moreover, it limits the use of appropriately shared ''cyber threat information'' solely to the purposes and crimes defined.

''Cybersecurity Purpose'' is defined in section 3(g)(8) as ''ensuring the integrity, confidentiality, or availability of, or safeguarding, a system or network, including protecting a system or network'' from vulnerability; threats to integrity, confidentiality, or availability; attempts to deny access, degrade, disrupt, or destroy; or attempts to gain unauthorized access. It is a narrow subset of the term ''cyber threat information.''

''Cybersecurity Crimes'' is defined in section 3(g)(6) and are those crimes under federal or state law pertaining to misuse of systems or networks, as well as any federal computer crime. Only statutes limited to the misuse of computers fall within this scope.

CISPA places an ''Affirmative Search Restriction'' on the federal government in section 3(c)(2)—''The Federal Government may not affirmatively search cyber threat information shared with [it] . . . for a purpose other than a purpose referred to in'' points 1 through 6, above. In order to respect the Constitutional right to privacy, this provision should be construed as broadly as possible.

The only new authority CISPA creates with respect to searches is as follows:

(1) Cyber threat information (which is narrowly defined, and for almost every American ensures that the sharing of their information, or information pertaining to them, is disallowed) must be appropriately shared as discussed in section 3(b).

(2) The federal government may affirmatively search shared cyber threat information only for:

(a) Cybersecurity purposes (which, as defined, is a threshold that must be satisfied prior to the information is even being shared with the government in the first instance).

(b) Computer crimes which are already codified.

(c) And only enumerated crimes pertaining to sexual exploitation and other abuses of children.

No search of information may be performed without satisfying the requirements of the 4th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Nothing in CISPA is meant to eliminate or even curtail the requirement in all applicable cases to obtain a warrant.

If information is not cyber threat information, (1) the government may not have it under CISPA (Section 3(c)(6)), and (2) must obtain a warrant to search it (Section 3(c)(2)). The information of, pertaining to, or identifying any American who is using a network or system in a way that comports with the terms and conditions of a user agreement is unequivocally not cyber threat information. Any search of such information requires a warrant.

Library circulation records, library patron lists, book sales records, book customer lists, firearms sales records, tax return records, educational records, and medical records are not records that satisfy the definition of ''cyber threat information'' under CISPA. Section 3(c)(4) explicitly bars the federal government from using these records under CISPA. This provision is to be construed liberally, and this list is not exclusive.

Pursuant to section 3(d)(1), the federal government may be held liable for any use of information shared with it that is not cyber threat information. This is an explicit waiver of sovereign immunity, and is intended to be broad.

And finally, CISPA, in accordance with section 3(f)(7) does not authorize any intelligence agency to engage in surveillance of any American citizen. Such action clearly would be a violation of Constitutional rights; and actionable through a private right of action.

Mr. Speaker, each of the points addressed above are important. They are important to understanding the narrow scope of this law, the ways in which the federal government is prohibited from acting, and the ways in which American citizens' information remains protected and unavailable to the federal government. CISPA should be interpreted narrowly as written, and as such, it is not a document that provides sweeping new authority to the federal government either to receive or use cyber information of the general American public. In case of doubt, the letter and spirit of the body of law surrounding the 4th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and our rights to liberty and privacy prevails.

ENCOURAGING SERVICE DURING NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, to recognize National Volunteer Week, which takes place from April 21, 2013–April 27, 2013. During National Volunteer Week, established in 1974, thousands of people lend their time and support to collectively improve our communities. Service and volunteerism have long been honorable facets of American culture and continue to strengthen the character of our country.

This week, it is with great pride that I honor those men and women who work diligently with patience and enthusiasm to greatly improve the lives of complete strangers within their communities. These small feats of compassion performed without the expectation of recognition are long-lasting and deeply appreciated by all.

Amidst the recent violent tragedies, it is of critical importance that we join together as a nation in service to strengthen the communities that are integral to the diverse mosaic of American culture. National Volunteer Week is also an opportunity to give thanks to the wonderful organizations within our congressional district, such as the Harlem Hospital, Community Kitchen of West Harlem, Catholic Charities of New York, and the Andrus Children's Center that exemplify the strong civic service marking the core tenets of volunteerism this week.

There are many other opportunities both long- and short-term, to give back to our wonderful communities. For more information please visit http://www.serve.gov for ways to serve our nation.

RECOGNIZING DR. RONALD TAYLOR

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Ronald Taylor on the event of his Inauguration as the sixth President of Merced College, one of the premier community colleges in Central California.

Dr. Taylor began his exemplary educational career in Kyoto, Japan, where he taught English and Linguistics. He also taught at the University of Virginia in the English Department, which at the time was among the top three English Departments in the world. Dr. Taylor and his family decided to return to California, where he moved his way up from student grader to full time professor to Assistant Dean of Instruction for Letters and Social Sciences at Santa Rosa Junior College. Dr. Taylor has also served in the capacity of Vice President of Academic Services at Chabot College and Dean of Instruction at Reedley College.

Before coming to Merced College, Dr. Taylor served as the Superintendent-President of Feather River College. During his tenure at Feather River, Dr. Taylor effectively handled fiscal challenges, implemented a new approach to managing enrollment, and cultivated a communicative and positive atmosphere at the campus. He also successfully lifted a warning sanction that was placed on the college from the Accreditation Commission of Community and Junior Colleges.

Throughout his career, Dr. Taylor has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to the development of the highest standards for the education of his institution, demonstrating through his regular interactions with staff and the community his passion for higher education. Dr. Taylor has extensive experience engaging with diverse populations and has supported activities to encourage cross-cultural understanding.

Being an active member of his community is something of utmost importance to Dr. Taylor. He is an active Rotarian, and has served on many citizen task forces. Dr. Taylor is an ardent advocate for the community college agenda and for rural communities and has served on several statewide commissions. His current focus is on developing effective strategies to improve student success. He sees his primary strength as building consensus and community on campus as a means to foster student success.

It is my distinguished pleasure to welcome Dr. Ronald Taylor, who brings a wealth of experience in college governance to Merced College and wish him good fortune throughout his tenure as President. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well as he embarks on this new journey to educate our future leaders.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HEALTH IT MODERNIZATION FOR UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES ACT

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Health IT Modernization for Underserved Communities Act, legislation that would amend the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HI TECH) Act to extend Electronic Health Record (EHR) Medicaid incentive payments to all physician assistants (PAs) whose patient volume includes at least 30 percent Medicaid and other financially needy beneficiaries.

The HITECH Act currently offers the incentive payments to physicians and nurse practitioners who provide primary care to the requisite 30 percent threshold of Medicaid recipients, but limits the EHR incentive payments to care provided by PAs in ''PA-led'' rural health clinics and federally qualified health centers.

Enhanced, quality patient care is the goal of electronic health records, and patients are the ultimate beneficiaries of this legislation. The current HITECH limitation on Medicaid EHR limits the development of EHR systems for Medicaid beneficiaries who are served by PAs. This legislation extends additional support to community health centers and other medical practices in which PAs provide care to a high volume of Medicaid patients.

I have firsthand knowledge of the key role of the Physician Assistant profession and the role the profession serves in bringing primary medical care to rural and other medically underserved communities. Before I was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and before I served in the California Assembly, I was a Physician Assistant, and I know that the PA profession adds tremendous value to our health care system. PAs provide quality, team-based, patient-centered medical care and extend the reach of medicine throughout the U.S. It is a cost-efficient approach to providing needed medical care.

There are over 90,000 practicing PAs in the U.S. today. PAs are one of three health care professionals providing primary medical care in the U.S. Although PAs practice in virtually all medical specialties, primary care is the largest area of specialty practice for PAs.

The PA profession is uniquely flexible in adapting and responding to the evolving needs of the U.S. health care system by virtue of comprehensive educational programs that prepare PAs for a career in general medicine and a team-based approach to providing patient-centered medical care.

I am pleased to introduce this important legislation and ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the Health IT Modernization for Underserved Communities Act.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF CALIFORNIA'S HELEN L. DOHERTY

HON. GLORIA NEGRETE McLEOD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mrs. NEGRETE McLEOD. Mr. Speaker, I submit the commemoration of the life of a great American and dear friend of mine, Ms. Helen L. Doherty, who passed away April 11, 2013.

Helen was a proud member and tireless advocate of the Cherokee Nation and she was a teacher who worked throughout her professional career for children of all ages. She wrote numerous successful grants for education and founded the Kudos for Kids Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to the needs of children. She gained the support of many teachers, students and parents for her work with youth in after-school programs. As she continued her work with students even after her retirement.

I knew Helen for many years and during my legislative career, her counsel and wisdom have been invaluable to me. She will be sorely missed by all her friends, loved ones, and her community.

Additionally, the Native American community has lost an unparalleled leader who was constantly engaged in the defense of their heritage and quality of life. We can rest assured her dedication and love for America will continue in the many lives she touched.

IN HONOR OF PASTOR LORENZO L. HEARD

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Man of God, Pastor Lorenzo L. Heard, for twenty years of dedicated civic leadership and pastoral service to the Albany, Georgia community. Pastor Heard will celebrate his twentieth anniversary as the distinguished pastor of Greater Second Mount Olive Baptist Church with an anniversary celebration that will be held on Friday, April 26, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. on the campus of Albany State University in Albany, Georgia.

A Georgia man through and through, Pastor Heard is a native of Leesburg, Georgia and a 1981 graduate of Lee County High School. He attended Fort Valley State College, now known as Fort Valley State University and transferred to Morehouse College in Atlanta after two years. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management from Albany State University.

Pastor Heard began preaching the Word of the Lord at the young age of seventeen. Just three years later, he began his first pastorate at Macedonia Baptist Church in Patterson, Georgia before becoming the pastor of Saint Galilee Baptist Church in Sparta, Georgia in 1987. In 1993, he became pastor of the Greater 2nd Mt. Olive Baptist Church, where he has been called to lead for the past twenty years.

Under Pastor Heard's leadership, more than 2,500 people have joined the congregation of Greater 2nd Mt. Olive Baptist Church. A dynamic and ever faithful pastor, he has taught, mentored, and ministered to every soul who has walked through the doors of the church. Pastor Heard goes a step further by teaching people life skills such as how to manage their finances, and encourages everyone to become active in civic and political engagement to better the community.

Always pressing towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, to better improve the craft of Christian ministry and discipleship, Pastor Heard has led the church in building a strong outreach program for the East Albany community, touching and changing many lives for the better.

Pastor Lorenzo has been repeatedly acknowledged for his outstanding achievements, service and public distinction. He has authored two books, Stuck in a Storm and Missing Your Calm: Discovering God's Purpose for Your Life and Lessons in Money Management.

Pastor Heard has achieved numerous successes in his life, but none of this would have been possible without the grace of God and his loving wife, Leslie Parrish Heard, and family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Pastor Lorenzo L. Heard for his life of selfless service to God, the church and to humankind.

WILSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ACHIEVES THE STATUS OF A GREAT EXPECTATIONS MODEL SCHOOL

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate Wilson Elementary School of the Coppell Independent School District in Coppell, Texas for earning the distinction of Great Expectations Model School on March 26, 2013.

Great Expectations is a professional development model organization for educators. In order to earn Model School status, ninety to one hundred percent of the teachers must successfully implement one hundred percent of Great Expectations' seventeen classroom practices. The classroom practices are designed to achieve the Great Expectations mission to motivate, inspire, and challenge individuals to achieve excellence in learning and living.

Wilson Elementary achieved Model School status within one school year. The elementary school was committed to adopting the model in an expeditious fashion to enhance the quality of learning for its students. In June, 2012, the educators were trained by the Great Expectations Institute. In September of 2012, Principal Chris Nester submitted the paper work to apply as a Model School and a representative from Great Expectations visited the campus for review. Meanwhile, throughout the school year, the staff attended numerous meetings with the Great Expectations development team, which helped achieve the ranking. Additionally, the Wilson students worked diligently to follow the principles and expectations of the program.

Wilson Elementary is one of only five Model Schools in the entire state of Texas and it is the first in North Texas. Wilson has become a leader in the area, and it is a role model for other campuses to implement Great Expectations in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Wilson Elementary School on its accomplishment as a Great Expectations Model School.

TRIBUTE TO REV. F.N. WILLIAMS, SR., ON THE OCCASION OF THE 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS PASTORSHIP OF ANTIOCH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH IN HOUSTON, TEXAS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Rev. F.N. Williams, Sr., the legendary pastor of the legendary Antioch Missionary Baptist Church in Houston, Texas. This Sunday, April 28, 2013, will mark the 55th anniversary of Rev. Williams' pastorship of this great church. For more than a half century, Rev. Williams has ministered to the needs of his congregation, spoken truth to power, and been an advisor to several presidents, including Presidents George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama.

Born into a family of preachers and community leaders, Floyd Nathaniel Williams, was the son of the Rev. M.C. Williams and grandson of Rev. Mike Williams. In 1945, at the age of sixteen began to sense a call to the ministry and responded to the call by earning a Bachelor of Divinity Degree in extended studies from Bishop College.

After serving in the U.S. Army as a Warrant Officer during the Korean War, Rev. Williams began his pastoral career at Greater Union Baptist Church in Matthews, Texas. From 1951 to 1958, he served the Lord at Friendship Baptist Church in Eagle Lake, Texas and at St. John Baptist Church in Beaumont, Texas.

In April 1958, after the passing of his father, Rev. Williams was named to succeed him as Pastor of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, located at 5902 Beall Street, where he continues to serve today.

Rev. Williams did not just preach to the choir. He recognized that to do God's work and to extend his Word, it was important also to reach those in need outside the church. He was the first pastor to implement an athletic program outside of school to provide instruction and support for the youth of the community. And out of that effort came four future ministers whose lives were turned around.

Although the Bible bears witness that, a professed believer should be, ''in the world but not of the world,'' for 55 years Rev. Williams has understood that African American communities have serious problems and thus undertook initiatives outside of the church to ameliorate the suffering and in his community. Among his many initiatives and activities, Rev. Williams served as Editor of the Globe Advocate Newspaper; Director of the Advisory Board Standard Savings Association; Director of the Houston Council on Human Relations; Director of the Northwest Water District City of Houston; and Member of the Human Relations Committee of the Houston Independent School District.

Mr. Speaker, Rev. Williams has served the church in numerous ways: as Moderator for the Independent Baptist General Association of Texas; 1st Vice President of the Missionary Baptist General Convention of Texas; President of the Houston Baptist Pastors and Ministers Fellowship; Member of the Board of Directors of Rural and Urban Ministers Conference, Prairie View A&M University; Member of Board of Directors of Church College Relations Board at Bishop College in Dallas, Texas; 1st Vice President of the Baptist Ministers Association of Houston; Member of the Houston Metropolitan Ministries; Advocate and Supporter of the Texas Youth Commission; and Founder of the Houston Ministers Against Crime. Rev. Williams believed and strongly supported the vision of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and played an indispensable role in bringing Dr. King to Houston. Rev. Williams often reminisces about how he sat only three seats away from Dr. King on April 3, 1968, the night he delivered I Have Been To The Mountaintop, his famous last speech.

A few years after Dr. King's assassination, Rev. Williams and several other local pastors decided that, they ''didn't need the government to tell us when to celebrate our history'' so they initiated the first ever Martin Luther King Celebration in 1971. To date, he has held 40 Annual Martin Luther King Day Celebrations.

Rev. Williams has been a valued advisor to Presidents. He is a close and personal friend of former President George H.W. Bush whom he brought to the Acres Home and Garden Oaks communities to meet with local residents to discuss the major issues and challenges confronting those communities.

Since that time, Presidents from George H.W. Bush to Barack Obama have sought the advice and counsel of Rev. Williams. On August 19, 2000, Rev. Williams was inducted into the Religious Hall of Fame Elite in Dallas, Texas.

Mr. Speaker, for 55 years Rev. Williams has provided remarkable service to our nation as pastor of the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church and community, state, and national leader.

I am proud to call this remarkable American hero my friend and I offer him my heartfelt congratulations on the 55th Anniversary of his pastorship of Anitioch Missionary Baptist Church and my best wishes for continued success for many years to come.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNION LEAGUE CLUB

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker today I rise to honor the Union League Club on their 150th Anniversary. Founded in 1863 the Union League Club of New York has built, over ensuing years, a record of distinguished service to our country. The club dates its founding from February 6, 1863, during the Civil War. Tensions were running high in New York City at the time, as much of the city's governing class, as well as its large Irish immigrant population, bitterly opposed the war and were eager to reach some kind of accommodation with the Confederate States of America. Thus, pro-Union men chose to form their own club, with the twin goals of cultivating ''a profound national devotion'' and to ''strengthen a love and respect for the Union.''

The New York League was founded by four prominent professionals and intellectuals: Henry Adams Bellows, Frederick Law Olmsted, George Templeton Strong, and Oliver Wolcott Gibbs. The men, all members of the United States Sanitary Commission, desired to strengthen the Nation and the national identity. They first aimed to recruit a coalition of moneyed professionals like themselves. Strong believed that the club would only thrive with a respectable catalogue of moneyed men. Olmsted especially wanted to recruit the new generation of young wealthy men, so that the club might teach them the obligations and duties of the elite upper class. Members of the Union League Club were instrumental in establishing The Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1870 as well as the Sanitary Commission, a predecessor organization to the American Red Cross. It helped erect the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor and the Lincoln Monument in Union Square. Its members were instrumental in bringing down the ''Boss'' Tweed ring and in raising funds to outfit American soldiers in several conflicts. Many prominent civic, state and national leaders have enjoyed the fellowship of the ULC. Theodore Roosevelt managed his early political career from the Club's chambers. J. Pierpont Morgan.

The Union League Club played an instrumental role in civil rights, as the club decided to recruit, train and equip a Colored infantry regiment for Union service. The 20th U.S. Colored Infantry was formed on Riker's Island in February 1864. The next month, it marched from the Union League Club, down Canal Street and over to the Hudson River piers to embark for duty in Louisiana. In spite of numerous threats, the members of the Union League Club marched with the men of the 20th, and saw them off. During World War I, the club sponsored the 369th Infantry, the famed Harlem Hellfighters, which was commanded by William Hayward, a club member. During Reconstruction, Union Leagues were formed all across the South. They mobilized freedmen to register to vote. They discussed political issues, promoted civic projects, and mobilized workers opposed to segregationist white employers. Most branches were segregated but there were a few that were racially integrated. The leaders of the all-black units were mostly urban Blacks from the North, who had never been slaves. Black League members were special targets of the Ku Klux Klan's violence and intimidation, so the Leagues organized informal armed defense units.

Today The Union League is a social club providing its members and guests with a quiet sanctuary and relief from the hustle of the city. The Club bestows two annual awards for two of its most prominent members: The Abraham Lincoln Literary Award to outstanding American authors, and the Theodore Roosevelt American Experience Award to individuals who have ''enriched the American experience.'' The Union League Club has stood for the betterment of American society for 150 years and speaks volumes on the character and dedication one must possess to truly change history. Founded in justice and equality the Union League Club been a champion of civil rights, and has made its goal to not only enhance politics but to improve the quality of life, a trait that is well represented through the Union League's illustrious history.

Mr. Speaker I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in celebrating this momentous occasion and honor the Union

League Club for 150 remarkable years of its service and dedication to our great Nation.

APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH—MOVING FROM AWARENESS TO ACTION

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw the attention of the Congress and the American people to the Autism epidemic that is tragically ravaging too many of America's children.

April is Autism Awareness Month, and I am pleased to join with parents, siblings, grandparents, special education school teachers, medical care providers, and interventionists to draw attention to the rapidly expanding autism community.

When I was young, autism was virtually unheard of. In the 1980s rarely did you meet someone who knew someone with autism. Yet, in the 1990s there was an explosion of autism. Indeed, in the course of just my lifetime, Autism Spectrum Disorder has grown from a very rare condition to—according to the Centers for Disease Control—a developmental disorder affecting 1-in-50 school aged children. And, tragically, the rate for school aged boys is a disturbing 1-in-31.

On December 19, 2006, the effort to address this epidemic took a major step forward as President Bush signed into law the bipartisan Combating Autism Act. I look forward to working with my colleagues and the Autism community to reauthorize this program next year. Though the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee each year produces a strategic plan to address Autism, the billion-dollar allocation of resources to autism has not been evenly invested among genetic, epigenetic, and environmental factors. I must concur with the experts who have been willing to speak out, that the epidemic increase in the rates of autism are not a 'genetic' epidemic. Indeed, you don't have genetic epidemics. While there is likely a genetic component to many who have been diagnosed with Autism, we must seriously consider that there are likely several key factors in autism.

Also, so some who have suggested that the increase in Autism is due to better diagnosis, you don't go from 1 in 1,000 to 1 in 80 in three decades due to better diagnosis alone. And, if that were the case, where are the tens of thousands of autistic adults in their 40s, 50s and 60s. While better diagnosis may be a factor, common sense says there is a real increase and something is causing it.

While some may be borne with Autism, there are many parents who testify to the fact and present cases where their children were progressing normally but something triggered a regression where they lost speech, abilities, and regressed from developmental milestones that they had earlier met. Was that regression due to external factors such as medical injury, exposure to environmental toxins such as lead or mercury, or was it adverse reactions to medications that lead to high fevers, brain inflammation or seizures? We must get answers to these questions.

I was pleased to participate in a November 2012 House Oversight and Government Reform hearing on the Federal Response to Autism. That was one of the most attended hearings I have participated in since coming to Washington in 2009. Indeed at this hearing it was standing room only, and overflow rooms had to be used to accommodate the public. This was a much anticipated hearing from many parents of children suffering from Autism who want clear and unbiased answers to questions surrounding the epidemic.

I, like many in Congress, were frustrated with the lackluster response from the federal witnesses, particularly the CDC witness that was evasive and took more than five months to respond to the Committee's questions. The responses that finally arrived this month were incomplete, often evasive, and showed a complete lack of urgency on the part of the CDC. I was also disappointed that the federal government witnesses did not have the courtesy to remain at the hearing to listen to the testimony of the public panel representing nonprofit organizations and academic institutions focused on Autism and Asperger's Syndrome.

Parents, grandparents, educators, health professionals, and highly functional adults on the autism spectrum are frustrated at the federal response to this epidemic. There is much more that we could and should be doing.

Some believe that toxins like thimerosal, which is 50% ethylmercury, have played a role in the rise in autism and neurodevelopmental disabilities. In 2000 there was near universal agreement that mercury should be removed as a preservative for vaccines. Yet, today, nearly half of all annual flu vaccines, which are recommended for children and pregnant women, still contain mercury as a preservative—not simply trace amounts of mercury. It's 2013! Why are we still injecting ethylmercury into babies and pregnant women?

I have been deeply disappointed in the failure of the CDC and the Department of Justice to see that Dr. Poul Thorsen is extradited to the United States to stand trial for orchestrating an elaborate scheme stealing more than $1 million from the CDC-Denmark grant. That money was supposed to be used to investigate the causes of autism and developmental disabilities. Instead it was diverted to personal use by Dr. Thorsen. Thorsen was a key author on 22 of the CDC's key studies related to autism and developmental disabilities.

Before coming to Congress in 2009, I heard from some in the autism community who have advocated for a retrospective study to examine whether there are different health outcomes when comparing vaccinated children and unvaccinated children, including autism and chronic conditions. I have continued to hear these requests over the past four years. At the hearing I asked CDC if they had conducted such a study and they said they've done dozens of studies related to autism but never have looked at a comparison of vaccinated versus unvaccinated. In fact, a recent study they published compared fully vaccinated children to those who were not fully vaccinated, but for some reason it did not include data on completely unvaccinated children. Seems like common sense to do a study comparing vaccinated children vs unvaccinated and this week I was pleased to be joined by my colleague Rep. CAROLYN MALONEY (D–NY) in introducing H.R. 1757, The Vaccine Safety Study Act. This would direct the National Institutes of Health to conduct a retrospective study of health outcomes, including autism, of vaccinated versus unvaccinated children. That should bring an answer to this decades long question.

Whether the number is 1-in-88 twelve-year-olds, or 1-in-50 school-aged children, or 1-in-33 young boys, we can all agree that the number is devastatingly high. We must overturn every stone to get to the bottom of this epidemic. We cannot afford to see this epidemic grow. We must examine every possible risk factor to protect the world's greatest resource: our children. And, we must invest to develop the best interventions to help those who are autistic.

MINORITY HEALTH MONTH

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to promote Minority Health Month and spotlight the health disparities that plague our communities.

In a 1985 report, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) called health disparities in this country ''an affront both to our ideals and to the ongoing genius of American medicine.'' Now 28 years after HHS released that landmark report, health disparities still exist between black and white and rich and poor.

A significant driver of these disparities is the lack of health insurance. For instance, African Americans make up 13 percent of the entire population, but account for more than half of all people who are uninsured. Blacks also have disproportionately lower access to primary care, often receive poorer quality of care, and face more barriers in seeking treatment for chronic diseases.

That is why I am pleased that the month of April is designated as National Minority Health Month. It provides an opportunity for all Americans to learn that healthcare disparities still exist. It also provides an opportunity for government, industry, non-profits, and advocacy organizations to combine efforts to help curb healthcare disparities.

My fellow colleagues, every American deserves the opportunity to live a healthy life regardless of economic means or ethnicity. It is this belief that led the Obama Administration to pass the Affordable Care Act.

Following in the President's footsteps, I will continue to promote Minority Health Month during my district work period by visiting the Metropolitan Community Health Services, the Halifax Regional Medical Center, the Roanoke Rapids Clinic, and several other healthcare facilities in the First Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in advancing health equity in every community. As leaders, we have an obligation to reverse health inequality through awareness and championing the importance of preventative healthcare.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. JACOBY DICKENS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Jacoby Dickens, who passed away this month at the age of 82. Jacoby was a prominent business leader, and served as Chairman of Seaway Bank & Trust Co., which is the largest black-owned bank in Chicago. He also served on the boards of Chicago State University, the School of Business at Florida A&M University, and the Chicago Urban League. He was a well-known philanthropist, and donated more than $1 million to Chicago State University, where his name adorns the main athletic center.

Jacoby truly embodies the American dream, as his inspiring success story is rooted in the humblest of beginnings. He was one of six children, growing up in Panama City, Florida. His family moved to the South Side of Chicago in 1946. A teenager at the time, he attended Wendell Phillips High School.

Always possessing a knack for business, Jacoby began saving money while working as a building engineer. With these savings, he invested in real estate, and eventually purchased and managed a large number of apartment buildings in the South Side before selling his holdings in 1971. In time, he expanded his investments into other parts of Chicago, primarily investing in several bowling alleys. Seen as a financial up-and-comer, Seaway Bank & Trust Co. asked him to join their board in 1979. He became Chairman of the bank in 1983. Seaway was one of very few banks willing to provide loans in tough neighborhoods on the South Side, and saw Jacoby as a model of success for potential investments.

Building a half-billion-dollar organization, perhaps the most profound aspect of his legacy is his dedication to serving African-Americans in their community at a time when many were unwilling to take such risks. Countless businesses, families, and communities at large were positively impacted by his trust in people. Jacoby believed that people are equal and deserve the opportunity to better themselves. Originally only one of few black-owned banks in the city of Chicago, Seaway is now by far the largest and most successful.

Mr. Speaker, Jacoby Dickens was a dear friend of mine. He was a great American who gave back to his community and this nation. I am truly saddened by his passing. He will be dearly missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOREAN WAR

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th anniversary of the Korean War, and to honor the men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces during this tumultuous period in history.

Our nation will never be able to fully express the heartfelt gratitude we have for our veterans. The debt that we owe them is immeasurable. Time and again, our service members have stepped forward to defend the freedoms we enjoy today. Without the selfless actions of the soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, and coast guardsmen in the Korean Peninsula, the nation of South Korea would never have blossomed into the model democracy and vital partner it is today. I sincerely thank every veteran of the Korean War for the essential role they played in ensuring democracy could take root in East Asia and for safeguarding America's allies.

American veterans are a cornerstone of society. Past generations helped build up this great country and did not hesitate to come to its aid when asked. As we remember their brave actions, it is my hope that citizens everywhere take time to speak with the veterans in their family and community. Thank them for their service, and ask them about their role defending our country. Helping veterans pass on their priceless wisdom and memories to future generations is one of the best ways we can honor them today.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commemorating this 60th anniversary of the Korean War. I ask that my colleagues rise and join me in thanking our veterans, past and present, for the sacrifices they've made in service to the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my district and missed the votes on Tuesday, April 23, 2013.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 118, H.R. 1067—To make revisions in title 36, United States Code, as necessary to keep the title current and make technical corrections and improvements, "yea" on rollcall No. 119, H.R. 1068—To enact title 54, United States Code, "National Park Service and Related Programs", and "yea" on rollcall No. 120, Journal Vote.

CONGRATULATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS WHO HAVE ANSWERED THE CALL OF SERVICE IN OUR ARMED FORCES

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sincere respect and appreciation to four high school seniors in Indian River County who have answered the call of service to enlist in the United States Army. I commend Dominick Lambino, Christopher Larson, Tomasz Cabaj, and Ryan Paris for their decision to protect and defend the United States of America.

These young men will be recognized on May 9, 2013, in a high school enlistee ceremony. Soon after enlisting, they will graduate high school. This will mark the beginning of their valiant service to our country as soldiers. Many of the men and women who have served before them are now local and national leaders. As American citizen's privileged to live in liberty, these young men have learned how to appreciate freedom and will soon be handed the baton by the generations of warriors before them.

During this time of celebration and recognition, we should all salute the courage within Dominick, Christopher, Tomasz, and Ryan. For each soldier who has served our country, there exist many citizens, myself included, that benefit from their hard work. Many of my most esteemed colleagues in Congress served as members of our Armed Forces.

Let us not forget the challenges these soon-to-be soldiers and their families will face. We must not overlook the intensive training and challenges ahead. As a support group, mothers, fathers, siblings, and spouses will have to endure the challenging road ahead and act as the foundation where these young men can gain strength in difficult times. I have confidence they will accomplish all that is asked of them. The bottom line is that our Republic continues to thrive because of the call to duty these individuals and others before them have vowed to accept.

The men and women who serve our country as members of our Armed Services go above and beyond day in and day out. I commend Dominick, Christopher, Tomasz, and Ryan for their service to our community and nation.

HONORING JIM GRAYSON FOR OVER 35 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Jim Grayson for his 35 years of public service as a Carrollton Police Officer in Carrollton, Texas.

Jim Grayson was hired by the Carrollton Police Department on August 1, 1977, as a Community Service Officer with the responsibilities of organizing the equipment for the Patrol Division. On December 18, 1978, Jim was officially sworn in as a Carrollton Police Officer. He attended the North Central Texas Council of Government's Basic Police Academy and graduated on January 31, 1979.

On August 15, 1983, Jim Grayson was promoted to the rank of Sergeant whereupon he was assigned the task of assisting the development of the department's newly created Crime Prevention Unit. Jim's role in developing the program helped establish one of the police department's most effective and successful units.

As an officer committed to expanding and developing his skills, Jim Grayson attended the prestigious Northwestern University Traffic Institute's School of Police Staff and Command in Evanston, Illinois, where he graduated in 1986. Jim continued his education in 1991 when he graduated from the Police Executive Research Forum's Senior Management Institute for Police of Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

On January 29, 1987, Jim Grayson was promoted to the rank of Commander. In 1991, Jim was assigned the responsibility of starting

the department's first ever Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team by developing the policies, procedures, training regimen, and deployment strategies. On May 1, 1991, Jim was appointed to lead the unit after which he selected the personnel for the police department's first ever SWAT unit. Jim served as the unit commander until 2000 and his direction established the standard for future SWAT members and leaders.

Jim commanded numerous divisions during his career including Criminal Investigations, Administrative Services, Special Operations, Detention Services, and spent several rotations leading patrol shifts as a Patrol Commander. Jim was often looked to for direction and guidance in the Police Department because of his expansive experience and knowledge. His ability to provide quality and calm leadership in all situations was a valuable resource for the police department.

Jim and his wife Vickie will be married 37 years this November and are the proud parents of Daniel and Torie. Outside the police department, Jim has spent a great deal of his personal time as a basketball coach in various North Texas leagues.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in thanking Jim Grayson for his 35 years of public service.

HONORING MR. JACK REVELLE

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on January 24, 1961, a B52 Stratofortress was flying a patrol path when it crashed into a field outside of Goldsboro, North Carolina. As it crashed into the field, the aircraft's bomb bay doors opened releasing two nuclear bombs from the bay.

In the midst of a possible nuclear disaster, Mr. Jack ReVelle received a phone call from a squadron commander notifying him that there was a crash. Mr. ReVelle, a munitions expert, immediately flew into Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, where he was transported to the crash site. When Mr. ReVelle reached the crash site, he found one bomb hanging on a tree but the second bomb had been buried under a deep puddle of mud.

Fortunately, Mr. ReVelle identified that the first bomb was on safe switch mode, imposing no imminent threat. However, the second bomb was missing and became a part of history as a "Broken Arrow". There was great fear that this missing bomb would detonate and it took several days for Mr. ReVelle and his team to find the second bomb. Once found, Mr. ReVelle risked his life in order to defuse the nuclear bomb by taking out the core of the bomb while still buried in the mud. After the core was successfully taken out, the ARM/SAFE switch was located and it was confirmed that the switch was on the ARM position. If Mr. ReVelle had not shown such bravery, this nation would have endured an Mk–39 nuclear bomb explosion, yielding a 3.80 megaton effect obliterating everything and everyone that was in its radius.

I am proud to recognize and honor Mr. ReVelle as a true American hero. This nation is grateful for Mr. ReVelle's courageous efforts to protect the American people from a devastating nuclear bomb.

DOMINICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION SIXTEEN YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I stand to recognize the 16th anniversary of The Dominican Medical Association. An organization dedicated to providing information on disease prevention, education, and counseling to New York City communities.

The Dominican Medical Association or DMA was founded on April 26, 1997, by a group of physicians from the Dominican Republic. Their mission has been to educate communities on health issues and to assist newly arrived physicians from abroad in obtaining jobs in their respected fields, providing them with the tools needed to pass the medical boards, and integrating them into the local medical community.

Last year was one of multiple accomplishments for the Dominican Medical Association. In line with its mission a total of 1119 people were served through health fairs, medical conferences, forums, symposiums, and trainings. The vast majority served through the DMA are Hispanics living throughout all of New York's boroughs.

Information and knowledge on health is vital. My beloved village of Harlem and many areas of my district are predominately inhabited by minorities who have been affected by many health concerns that are the direct result of lack of knowledge on preventative care. Obesity is just an example of one of the diseases that has plagued our communities but it is an epidemic that can be stopped and the DMA works tirelessly and has worked for quite some time to be a part of this movement to get our communities on a healthy track. The DMA's outreach programs help to enlighten our communities, helping them to make better health conscious decisions about the way they live.

As the representative to the largest Dominican population in the country it gives me great pride to see a thriving organization not only rooted in that heritage but one that works to provide information for a predominantly Hispanic demographic. The youths of my district and those all over New York have a brighter future because of organizations like the DMA and their mission to spread knowledge and awareness.

Mr. Speaker I ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring this remarkable organization and all of the good that they do.

HONORING U.S. ARMY OFFICER MARION B. GAULTIER FOR HER SERVICE

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, today, I am here to honor and celebrate the life of an American patriot, 2nd Lieutenant Marion B. Gaultier.

Marion was born in May of 1923, in Fremont, Nebraska, but was raised in Vinton, Iowa, graduating from Vinton High School. She graduated from the School of Nursing at Mercy Hospital in Des Moines in 1944 at which point she was commissioned as an officer into the U.S. Army.

Marion was discharged from service in 1946, then went on to work for the VA hospital in Menlo Park, California. She met her husband, fellow veteran John Gaultier at the hospital she was employed at. They married in 1970 and moved to Vinton that same year.

Marion dedicated her life to helping others. She hosted blind children in her home. She was the Chair of the annual Easter Seals fundraiser at the American Legion, and cared for her ailing parents in their later years. AMVETS recognizes her passion for helping others by bestowing her name on the Post. It will now and forever be known as the "Marion B. Gaultier-Phillis M. Kulaszewski AMVET Post 218 Benton County, Iowa."

TRIBUTE ON THE OCCASION OF BISHOP J. DREW SHEARD'S ASCENSION TO THE GENERAL BOARD OF THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend, Bishop J. Drew Sheard of Greater Emmanuel Institutional Church of God in Christ in Detroit, Michigan, as his family, friends and congregation celebrate his ascension to the General Board of the Church of God in Christ.

As the son of minister Bishop John H. Sheard, J. Drew Sheard accepted the teachings and salvation of Christ early in his life. He later heeded the call to the Ministry and was guided by his father to develop his leadership skills. The lessons he learned as he worked diligently in his local church are ones that he has carried with him in service to both the Greater Detroit region and the Church of God in Christ's international organization.

Bishop Sheard was called to the Pastorate of Greater Emmanuel in 1988, a time of challenge for the congregation. Bishop Sheard immediately got to work, organizing and mobilizing the small but devoted membership of his congregation and as a result, the congregation began to grow significantly. As the pastor of Greater Emmanuel, Bishop Sheard has implemented a number of new and innovate programs, which include a TV ministry, an annual Youth and Women's Conference and Greater Emmanuel Men's Society. These programs more actively engaged the congregation in the community, strengthening the social fabric of the Southeast Michigan region. Bishop Sheard has also emphasized the importance of working with other denominations to provide programs that serve the community and offer support to those in need, which has earned him a reputation as a leader that is capable of building bridges within the Greater Detroit community.

While serving as pastor to Greater Emmanuel, Bishop Sheard has also been an active

leader in the larger Church of God in Christ (COGIC) organization. From 1997–2000, he served the COGIC as the president of its International Youth Department, where he worked with youth to create a peer mentoring program and developed programs for young men and women that promote strong education, bravery, discipline and spiritual development. In his current positions within the larger CGC organization, Bishop Sheard serves as Chairman of the Auxiliaries in Ministries, Superintendent of the Emmanuel District and Administrative Assistance of the North Central Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, Bishop J. Drew Sheard's service as pastor to the congregation of Greater Emmanuel Institutional Church of God in Christ and his leadership in the Greater Detroit region have done much to strengthen the community. I congratulate him on his elevation to the General Board of the Church of God in Christ and look forward to continuing to work with him to improve the quality-of-life and vitality of our community in Southeast Michigan and many other communities around the world.

CONGRATULATING THE AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM OF IOWA

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the African American Museum of Iowa in Cedar Rapids on its 20th birthday celebration. It is an honor to have this great institution in my district.

The idea of establishing the African American Museum of Iowa came about in 1993 when a small group from Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Cedar Rapids began the project in celebration of Black History Month. Twenty years later, this facility has become an Iowa landmark that celebrates the rich African American history in my district and in the state of Iowa.

In June of 2008, the African American Museum was devastated by nearly six feet of floodwater, resulting in the loss of the Museum's flagship exhibit. Through the perseverance of Executive Director Thomas Moore, their Board of Directors, their staff, and the support of their community, the African American Museum pulled through and reopened only seven months after it was closed. The success that this museum has had since it reopened in January of 2009 is a true testament to the hard work of the Museum's staff and volunteers from across Iowa.

Today, I congratulate the African American Museum of Iowa on a successful 20 years. I look forward to the future of this institution as it strives to preserve, exhibit, and teach the African American heritage of Iowa.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL ICE PATROL

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the United States Coast Guard International Ice Patrol (IIP). Today marks the IIPs 100th anniversary, and on this occasion I would ask that my colleagues join me in honoring this distinguished group's service towards achieving maritime safety for passengers and commerce traversing the North Atlantic.

Prior to the establishment of an organization tasked with monitoring risks and sharing information, trans-Atlantic travel presented serious dangers to passengers and cargo. Among these risks was the presence of icebergs, which presented numerous obstacles in Transatlantic shipping lanes. These icebergs were a prominent threat to all who braved these long voyages, but it took a tragedy of international proportions and historic scope to bring the danger into focus. On April 15, 1912, the sinking of the RMS *Titanic* due to an iceberg strike instigated the provided the impetus for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) agreement, and the establishment of the International Ice Patrol, managed by the United Sates Coast Guard.

Other than the years interrupted by the two world wars, the IIP has been active in every ice season 1913. The Revenue Cutter Service, precursor to the modern day Coast Guard, provided two cutters—the *Seneca* and *Miami*—to meet the needs of protecting trans-Atlantic shipping routes from the dangers of icebergs. For many subsequent decades, Coast Guard IIP ships would brave the waters of the North Atlantic to provide timely data and warning to safeguard global commerce.

The current mission of the International Ice Patrol is to monitor the iceberg activity surrounding the Grand Banks of Newfoundland that threatens trans-Atlantic shipping lanes, with an average of 500 icebergs from Greenland's glaciers drifting into these vital channels. This area, with its high concentration of oil platforms, fishing vessels, fog, and tremendous iceberg activity, makes it one of the most dangerous areas in the word for maritime transportation. Today, Coast Guard fixed wing aircraft perform aerial reconnaissance to monitor icebergs providing real time data on this persistent danger. To date, no ship that has heeded International Ice Patrol warnings has struck an iceberg.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the United States Coast Guard International Ice Patrol's dedication to protecting the lives and livelihoods of the many courageous mariners that daily cross the seas and who form the backbone of our international maritime trade. Safe and reliable transportation is a critical component of trade, which is further a driver of economic growth. We would be bereft of these benefits without the hard work of the men and women of the International Ice Patrol.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Senate met at 11:30:26 a.m. in pro forma session, and adjourned at 12:00:46 p.m. until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 30, 2013.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 57 public bills, H.R. 1764–1820; and 13 resolutions, H.J. Res. 42; H. Con. Res. 36; and H. Res. 185–195 were introduced. **Pages H2390–96**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H2396–97**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Hultgren to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H2355**

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by voice vote. **Page H2377**

Responsible Helium Administration and Stewardship Act: The House passed H.R. 527, to amend the Helium Act to complete the privatization of the Federal helium reserve in a competitive market fashion that ensures stability in the helium markets while protecting the interests of American taxpayers, by a yea-and-nay vote of 394 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 128. Consideration of the measure began yesterday, April 25th. **Pages H2357–64, H2374–77**

Rejected the Schneider motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Natural Resources with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 186 ayes to 211 noes, Roll No. 127. **Pages H2375–76**

Pursuant to the rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113–9 shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources now printed in the bill. **Page H2357**

Agreed to:

Collins (GA) amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 113–47) that ensures that excess funds are used to reduce the annual Federal budget deficit; **Pages H2360–61**

Holt amendment (No. 3 printed in H. Rept. 113–47) that considers the long-term future of the Federal Helium Reserve by requiring an assessment of how closing the Federal Helium Reserve could influence helium availability, including options for insuring a reliable helium supply in coming decades; and **Pages H2363–64**

Thornberry amendment (No. 4 printed in H. Rept. 113–47) that affirms the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to allow private entities to connect to and store helium in the Federal Helium Reserve for an appropriate fee. **Page H2364**

Rejected:

Dent amendment (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 113–47) that sought to ensure the continued supply of helium for end users while requiring the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to honor existing contracts for the supply and delivery of helium; and affirm that the Federal government would honor existing contracts that are set to expire October 1, 2015 (by a recorded vote of 87 ayes to 312 noes, Roll No. 126). **Pages H2361–63, H2374**

H. Res. 178, the rule providing for consideration of the bill, was agreed to yesterday, April 25th.

Clerk Designation: Read a letter from the Clerk wherein she designated Robert Reeves, Deputy

Clerk, to sign any and all papers and do all other acts in case of her temporary absence or disability. **Page H2364**

Suspension: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure:

Providing the Secretary of Transportation with the flexibility to transfer certain funds to prevent reduced operations and staffing of the Federal Aviation Administration: H.R. 1765, to provide the Secretary of Transportation with the flexibility to transfer certain funds to prevent reduced operations and staffing of the Federal Aviation Administration, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 361 yeas to 41 nays, Roll No. 125. **Pages H2364–74**

Agreed by unanimous consent that in the engrossment of H.R. 1765, the Clerk strike "account" on page 2, line 14, and insert "accounts". **Page H2379**

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, April 30, 2013; and that the order of the House of January 3, 2013, regarding morning hour debate, not apply on that day. **Page H2377**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H2357.

Senate Referral: S. 853 was held at the desk. **Page H2357**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes and two recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2373, H2374, H2375–76 and H2376–77. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Committee Meetings

APPROPRIATIONS—UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE BUDGET

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a hearing on the United States Forest Service Budget. Testimony was heard from Tom Tidwell, Chief, United States Forest Service.

APPROPRIATIONS—FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION BUDGET

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and Related Agencies held a hearing on the Food and Drug Administration Budget. Testimony was heard from the following Department of Health and Human Services officials: Margaret Hamburg, M.D., Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration; James Tyler, Chief Financial Officer, Food and Drug Administration; and Norris W. Cochran, Deputy Assistant Secretary.

READINESS POSTURE OF THE U.S. NAVY AND THE U.S. MARINE CORPS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness held a hearing entitled "The Readiness Posture of the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps". Testimony was heard from Vice Admiral William R. Burke USN, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations Warfare Systems (N9), U.S. Navy; Vice Admiral Philip Hart Cullom, USN, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Fleet Readiness and Logistics (N4), U.S. Navy; Lieutenant General William M. Faulkner, USMC, Deputy Commandant Installations and Logistics, U.S. Marine Corps; and Lieutenant General Richard T. Tryon, USMC, Deputy Commandant Plans Policies and Operations, U.S. Marine Corps.

FISCAL YEAR 2014 ARMY MODERNIZATION PROGRAMS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces held a hearing entitled "Fiscal Year 2014 Army Modernization Programs". Testimony was heard from Lieutenant General James O. Barclay III, Deputy Chief of Staff, G–8, Department of Defense; and Lieutenant General William N. Phillips, Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army.

DOES HIPAA HELP OR HINDER PATIENT CARE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled "Does HIPAA Help or Hinder Patient Care and Public Safety?". Testimony was heard from Leon Rodriguez, Office for Civil Rights, Department of Health and Human Services; and public witnesses.

ISLAMIST EXTREMISM IN CHECHNYA: A THREAT TO THE U.S. HOMELAND?

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats; and Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade held a joint hearing entitled "Islamist Extremism in Chechnya: A Threat to the U.S. Homeland?". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

CUTTING DHS DUPLICATION AND WASTEFUL SPENDING: IMPLEMENTING PRIVATE SECTOR BEST PRACTICES AND WATCHDOG RECOMMENDATIONS

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency held a hearing entitled "Cutting DHS Duplication and Wasteful Spending: Implementing Private Sector Best Practices and Watchdog Recommendations". Testimony

was heard from Cathleen Berrick, Managing Director, Homeland Security and Justice Issues, Government Accountability Office; Anne Richards, Assistant Inspector General for Audits, Office of Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation held a hearing on H.R. 1169, ''Naval Air Station Fallon Housing and Safety Development Act''; H.R. 1299, the ''White Sands Missile Range Security Enhancement Act''; H.R. 1574, to amend the Dayton Aviation Heritage Preservation Act of 1992 to rename the site a park; H.R. 1673, the ''Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake Security Enhancement Act''; H.R. 1676, the ''Johnson Valley National Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area Establishment Act''; H.R. 1672, the ''Limestone Hills Training Area Withdrawal Act''; and H.R. 1691, the ''Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range Security Enhancement Act''. Testimony was heard from Representatives Amodei, McCarthy, Cook, and Daines; Ned Farquhar, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior; Roger Natsuhara, Acting Assistant Secretary to the Navy, Energy, Installations and Environment; Katherine Hammack, Assistant Secretary of the Army, Installation, Energy and the Environment; and a public witness.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURE

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs held a hearing on H.R. 1548, the ''Native American Energy Act''. Testimony was heard from Michael Black, Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior.

REVIEW OF FEDERAL HYDRAULIC FRACTURING RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Energy; and Subcommittee on Environment held a joint hearing entitled ''A Review of Federal Hydraulic Fracturing Research Activities''. Testimony was heard from Kevin Teichman, Senior Advisor, Office of Research and Development, Environmental Protection Agency; Guido DeHoratiis, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oil and Gas (Acting), Office of Fossil Energy, Department of Energy; David P. Russ, Regional Director, Northeast Region, Geological Survey, Department of Interior; and public witnesses.

CHALLENGES FACING THE NEXT COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Social Security held a hearing entitled ''Challenges Facing the Next Commissioner of Social Security''. Testimony was heard from Patrick P. O'Carroll, Jr., Inspector General, Social Security Administration; and Daniel Bertoni, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security, Government Accountability Office.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2013

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, April 30

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 p.m., Tuesday April 30

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: The House will meet in pro forma session at 2 p.m.

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