

Team for having captured its first National Championship. On June 2, the team emerged victorious from a field of 30 qualifying teams over six days to win the NCAA Golf Championship. The Tide golf team represents only the second University of Alabama men's sport other than football to take a national title in school history.

The Crimson Tide defeated Illinois 4–1 in the match play championship round at the par–70, 7,319 yard Capital City Club Crabapple Course in Milton, Georgia. Junior Bobby Wyatt of Mobile birdied five of his first seven holes and finished his match on the 13th green with a chip into the hole from more than 50 feet. Juniors Trey Mullinax and Cory Whitsett as well as senior Scott Strohmeier helped clinch the title by winning their matches.

Before entering into the 2013 NCAA Championship, Alabama was ranked No. 2 nationally behind the University of California. The Crimson Tide went on to win eight of their nine tournaments including the SEC Championship, the NCAA Baton Rouge Regional and the NCAA Championships. Three members of the team entered the championship tournament ranked in the top 10: Bobby Wyatt—No.3, Cory Whitsett—No.4, and sophomore Justin Thomas—No. 8.

The Crimson Tide National Champion team members and staff include: Lee Knox, Dru Love, Tom Lovelady, Trey Mullinax, Robby Prater, William Sellers, Scott Strohmeier, Justin Thomas, Cory Whitsett, Bobby Wyatt, Coach Jay Seawell, and Assistant Coach Rob Bradley.

On behalf of the people of Alabama and my colleagues in the Alabama Delegation, I wish to extend personal congratulations to Coach Jay Seawell, Assistant Coach Rob Bradley and the University of Alabama Men's Golf Team for their rising to the challenge and bringing home the NCAA Championship trophy to Tuscaloosa. Roll Tide!

HONORING ALEX WESTHUES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alex Westhues. Alex is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alex has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Alex has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Alex has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Alex Westhues for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATING DR. TRIFON LASKARIS ON RECEIPT OF HIS 200TH U.S. PATENT

HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable individual and prolific inventor whose pioneering research into medical imaging has helped to transform modern day medicine. Dr. Trifon Laskaris, a Chief Scientist at General Electric's Global Research Center, was recently awarded his 200th U.S. patent—a benchmark previously reached by only one other GE researcher—the inventor of the light bulb and founder of the company's research center, Thomas Edison.

For the past four decades, Dr. Laskaris has worked at GE Global Research on technology to advance magnetic resonance imaging, or MRI. He has spent much of his career directing GE's research into superconducting magnets. It is these high-power magnets that make MRI possible. Suffice it to say that without the work of Dr. Laskaris and his team, MRI would not be where it is today—a vital diagnostic tool used in hospitals around the world. There is no telling how many millions of people are leading healthier lives today because of the technology that Dr. Laskaris developed.

New York's Capital Region has a rich history as a hub for cutting-edge science and technology. From the birth of General Electric more than 120 years ago, to the emergence of "Tech Valley" as a center for nanotechnology research and development, upstate New York continues to be at the forefront of invention and innovation that is making America and the world a better place. Dr. Laskaris is an inspiration to us all, and his achievement is a testament to the fruits that creativity and steadfast pursuit of technological advancement can bear.

I congratulate Dr. Trifon Laskaris on this milestone achievement and, on behalf of this body and the citizens of the 20th District of New York, I thank him for his lifelong dedication to scientific research in the service of humanity.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2216) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes:

Mr. FARR. Madam Chair, on Memorial Day, we remembered the patriotic sacrifice of those that have lost their lives in service to our country and today, we renew our commitment to keep our promise to our nation's more than

2 million troops and reservists, their families, 22.2 million veterans, and 35.5 million family members of living veterans or survivors of deceased veterans.

This committee has a strong history of working in a bipartisan way to produce a bill that supports our active duty servicemembers, our veterans and their families, and this bill is no exception.

I commend the Chairman and Ranking Member for their hard work in ensuring that this bill is another significant step in fulfilling the promise our country made to leave no veteran behind.

For example, even though Congress has fully funded the VA budget request for additional staffing and technology, the disability claims backlog continues to grow.

While the VA has taken steps to rectify this deplorable backlog, we owe it to our veterans to exercise our Congressional oversight responsibilities to ensure that the VA actually fixes the backlog.

I am pleased the bill before us today includes language I requested, with some of my Northern CA colleagues, that would add additional oversight requirements for the Veterans Benefits Administration and require regular updates from the VA on the status of the backlog.

Through regular updates from the VA, we ensure accountability and end the backlog.

Additionally, I am pleased to see that this bill again recognizes the burial needs of our veterans in rural areas. The National Cemetery Administration has repeatedly stated that 10% of all veterans will not have access to a burial option in a national, state or tribal cemetery within 75 miles of their home.

While the VA strategy outlined in the FY13 budget request to extend burial services to some rural veterans is a good first step, it fails to address a long-term strategy. The FY13 bill and report instructed the VA to correct this oversight and the FY14 report language reaffirms the need for the VA to develop a long-term strategy to provide burial services for all our nation's veterans, including those who live in rural areas. Veterans in my congressional district do not have access to a VA burial option, so I look forward to the Secretary's report on the VA's long-term strategy to address their burial needs.

I would note that while this bill is \$1.4 billion above last year's enact level, it is also \$1.4 billion less than the President's request. While I am glad to see this bill has been protected from senseless cuts imposed by sequestration, I strongly believe this Congress needs to get back to the balanced approach we agreed to in the bipartisan Budget Control Act.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EQUAL PAY ACT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, fifty years ago when President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act of 1963, he stated that "when women enter the labor force they will find equality in their pay envelopes." Yet a half century later, women still do not have equality in their pay. In 1963, women made an average of 59 cents