

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### OKAWVILLE 175TH JUBILEE

#### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Village of Okawville on its 175th Anniversary. The village will celebrate this special jubilee on June 28 and 29, 2013, with a variety of community events, including a soapbox derby, children's parade, live music, and fireworks with the theme, "Celebrate Okawville."

The Village of Okawville was founded in 1838 as the Village of Bridgeport and was renamed Okawville in 1870 by a wave of German immigrants. The village became popular for its mineral springs, where many visitors would come to relieve their ailments in the therapeutic waters.

The village is now home to 1,400 residents and still boasts a strong German heritage. Besides the Original Springs Hotel, which offers spa services, the village also is home to the Heritage House Museum sites, which draw tourists to the area today.

I extend my congratulations to The Village of Okawville upon this special occasion. It is my prayer that the Lord blesses them with many more years of extending hospitality.

### RECOGNIZING JACK VANDER MEULEN AND HIS 40 YEARS AT VANDER MEULEN BUILDERS

#### HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding accomplishment of Jack Vander Meulen on his 40th anniversary working at Vander Meulen Builders.

Jack Vander Meulen is a resident of Holland, Michigan and a 1973 graduate of Holland Christian High School. Immediately following graduation, Jack joined Vander Meulen Builders as a carpenter and was able to work with his father Jay and uncle Earl. Exhibiting hard work and dedication to his craft Jack became a project manager in 1986. Jack was named President of Vander Meulen Builders ten years later in 1996.

Vander Meulen Builders was founded in 1924 by Rhine Vander Meulen and traces its roots back seven generations in the Netherlands. They developed a niche building custom residences and summer cottages in the harbor towns of Lake Michigan. Their high-quality work was readily recognized by the West Michigan community and in 1967 Vander Meulen Builders became a charter member of the Home Builders Association of Holland. Their reputation landed them the opportunity to work on several historic West Michigan

projects such as, renovating Marigold Lodge, the Holland Museum, several churches in the area, and many other downtown Holland landmarks.

Jack and the Vander Meulen family have built more than a successful business—They are leaders in the Holland community. Vander Meulen Builders is known for working on unique custom projects throughout the community and have developed superior problem solving skills through their many years of experiences on a variety of projects. Their company has a great reputation for astounding customer service working with people who truly care about the homes they own. Vander Meulen Builders know that they do more than just build homes, they develop lasting relationships with the families they have worked with throughout the community. Jack and his wife Brenda have two sons, one who is also working for Vander Meulen Builders, the fourth generation in the family business.

Jack and his leadership in Vander Meulen Builders is a great example of the area's hard work ethic, high-skill level in their professions and great family values that are always prevalent throughout the second district of Michigan and make it the great community that it is today. Citizens like Jack and Vander Meulen Builder's family embody the spirit of Holland and the West Michigan community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Jack Vander Meulen and Vander Meulen Builders for their great service in West Michigan through the many decades.

### CONGRATULATING DEERFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY ON ITS GRAND REOPENING

#### HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Deerfield Public Library, my hometown library, on the occasion of its grand reopening, and for its outstanding service to the community.

Over its almost 80 years, the Deerfield Library has grown from a few-hundred-book operation to a thriving, diversified community institution. With thousands of books, movies, e-books, magazines and games, the library has enriched the lives of so many in the area, including my family.

I treasure the memories of bringing my sons to the Deerfield Library and sharing my personal love of reading, and I am overjoyed that the next generation will also be able to cultivate that passion in this engaging new space.

In today's hyper-connected world, libraries have become far more than places to simply check out books. The Deerfield Library has, with this renovation, embraced that new paradigm and raised the bar for excellence in service to its patrons.

The reinvented library now offers a place to meet, a place to learn and a place to relax. Myriad programs, from early literacy to e-book assistance and recreational programs for the entire family exemplify the commitment that Deerfield Library has made to offering the finest services possible.

The dedicated men and women who make the library so special are a remarkable group who routinely amaze. Kids excite their wonder and adults explore at ease at the library, and this is a credit to the fantastic staff.

Mr. Speaker, as libraries' roles in our communities continue to evolve, Deerfield Public Library is at the cutting edge and has taken bold strides to maintain its leadership in the field.

### IN CELEBRATION OF HO-CHUNK NATION'S 50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF SOVEREIGNTY

#### HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Ho-Chunk Nation's sovereignty. The people of the Ho-Chunk Nation trace their origins to a time before the arrival of Columbus to lands throughout Wisconsin and surrounding states. In these lands, the Ho-Chunk people provided for themselves through hunting, gathering, and farming. Their rich cultural heritage is defined by a reverence for the land along with a pride and strength that has persevered through tremendous hardships.

In 1634, the French explorer Jean Nicolet became the first European to make contact with the Ho-Chunk people. Welcoming Nicolet, the Ho-Chunk began trade with the French who referred to them as the Winnebago, a name that became their official title in the United States until 1993. Though the United States government initially recognized the Ho-Chunk as a sovereign nation holding title to several million acres of farmland, this position was reversed in the midst of westward expansion in the early 19th century. As lead miners began taking over the choice land of southern Wisconsin, the Ho-Chunk were forced to sell their remaining territory for a fraction of its worth.

Beginning in 1836, the Ho-Chunk were subjected to a series of forced relocations pushing them westward onto small desolate plots of land. In spite of the continuing, often violent, efforts by authorities to expel the Ho-Chunk from their native land, many continued to return to Wisconsin. Through persistence and perseverance, the Wisconsin Ho-Chunk prevailed and was eventually given 40 acre homestead plots to farm.

In 1962, the first Wisconsin Winnebago Tribal Constitution was drafted and redrafted. On March 19, 1963, the Constitution and Bylaws of the Wisconsin Winnebago Tribe was approved by the Assistant Secretary of the Interior marking the beginning of the sovereign

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

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

government known today as the Ho-Chunk Nation.

Known as “People of the Big Voice,” or “People of the Sacred Language,” the Ho-Chunk Nation are a people rich with culture and a resolute spirit. It is with great pride that I rise today to recognize them for 50 years of self-governance and thank them for their contributions to communities in Wisconsin and beyond.

JACK “YOGI” BACHTELL,  
MILLERSBURG FIRE COMPANY  
NO. 1

### HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Jack “Yogi” Bachtell of Millersburg Fire Company No. 1 in Millersburg, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Bachtell has been a dedicated member of the Millersburg Fire Company since 1972. In addition to his role as a firefighter and driver, he held the positions of Assistant Chief and Head Trustee, a post in which he was responsible for all fire company property. Throughout his time with the organization, he has played a crucial role in protecting the community from the devastation of fire and other disastrous events.

Mr. Bachtell’s service and dedication to the safety of others extends beyond his time working for Millersburg Fire Company No. 1. He served in the Army from 1966 to 1972, deploying for two tours in Vietnam. His first tour was extended by twelve months and his second was extended by six months. Although he was prepared to return to Vietnam to serve our country for a third tour, Mr. Bachtell was discharged in 1972 due to the Army force reduction after the war. His unwavering devotion and bravery to defend our freedom is truly admirable.

Mr. Speaker, for his service and commitment to protect both the people of Millersburg and the citizens of the United States, I commend Jack “Yogi” Bachtell.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF JUSTICE FRANK A. SEDITA, JR.

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the remarkable life and legacy of retired New York State Supreme Court Justice Frank A. Sedita, Jr., who passed away on June 16, 2013, at the age of 78.

Judge Sedita was a key member of a long-respected local political family in my hometown of Buffalo, New York. He was the son of the late three-term Buffalo Mayor Frank A. Sedita and was the father of Erie County’s current District Attorney, Frank A. Sedita III.

He started off as an impressive student, graduating summa cum laude from Canisius College, and subsequently earned his law degree from the University at Buffalo, gaining admission to the bar in 1961.

Judge Sedita’s dedication and work ethic led to great professional success, as he start-

ed in private practice, working in trial and family law until 1968, when he achieved a 99 on a civil service test and was named an assistant city corporation counsel. From 1970–76, he served as senior deputy corporation counsel.

While in the midst of a stint as an Erie County Family Court judge, Mr. Sedita ran unopposed for the position of Buffalo Chief City Court judge. Unafraid to tackle a tough job, Judge Sedita named himself a Housing Court judge in 1992, when no one else wanted to take the position, and received praise for his no-nonsense tack with slumlords, cracking down with a record number of fines and jailing many. He quickly became known as “Maximum Frank.” Following his service as the city’s top jurist, he was elected to serve as a Justice of the New York State Supreme Court.

On several occasions, the Western New York community recognized the great work of Judge Sedita as he was named the recipient of many awards for his successes in Housing Court, including the Buffalo News Outstanding Citizen award in 1992, the Buffalo Urban League Stewardship Award in 1993, and the West Side Business Association’s Citizen of the Year Award, in 1994.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and with Members of the House to express our deepest condolences to the family of the late Judge Frank A. Sedita, Jr., and join with me in recognizing the many good works he performed during his long and full career and life.

TRIBUTE TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN  
DIBACCO

### HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished military career of United States Navy World War II Veteran Sergeant Abraham Lincoln DiBacco along with his two brothers Albert and Vincent DiBacco who are also WWII U.S. Army Veterans. Sergeant DiBacco’s service was one of respect and dedication; to which the people of West Virginia and the United States of America owe a tremendous debt of gratitude.

Abraham DiBacco began serving his country in 1941 when he enlisted in the United States Navy. He honorably served on the USS George Clymer, the first United States Navy Attack Transport to participate in World War II, and embarked on his tour of service. He was stationed in the both the Europe–Africa–Middle East Campaign and the Asiatic–Pacific Campaign. He proudly sailed alongside the USS Missouri when General Douglas MacArthur arrived in Tokyo Bay to sign the Formal Surrender of Japan in September 1945. Another instance of merit was his participation in preparations to land in Japan to backup the Enola Gay as it dropped its pay load on Hiroshima. From the ship they witnessed and felt the intense heat of the atomic bomb.

Sergeant DiBacco has received a host of awards and decorations throughout his to our nation, including the European–African–Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with Bronze Star, The Asiatic–Pacific Campaign Medal with Silver and Bronze Stars, a Navy Presidential Unit Citation \* American Campaign Medal, the Phil-

ippine Liberation Ribbon with Bronze Star, and a Philippine Presidential Unit Citation.

Sergeant DiBacco lives in Martinsburg, WV with his wife, Ellen. Together they have been married for 65 years and have adopted two children. Today he continues to honor his fellow Veterans by creating floral baskets, with his fellow Veteran and friend Fran Erwin, and distributing them to Veterans across West Virginia, Ohio, and Virginia. Abraham DiBacco’s life-long dedication to serving his country and his community is an example we should all follow.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE ADVOCACY  
OF THE PANCREATIC CANCER  
ACTION NETWORK

### HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to take this opportunity to recognize and thank Central Floridians Amy Di Bella, Taylor Kennedy, Thuy Phan, and Rose Quinlan from the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network for taking the time to meet with me this week to share their families’ struggles with pancreatic cancer. The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network is a nationwide network of people dedicated to working together to advance research, advocate for a cure, support patients, and create hope for those affected by pancreatic cancer.

Pancreatic cancer is one of the most deadly forms of cancer, with only a six percent five-year survival rate. As the fourth leading cause of death from cancer for both men and women in the United States, pancreatic cancer is also the tenth most commonly diagnosed cancer in men and the ninth most commonly diagnosed cancer in women. While the overall cancer incidence and death rates are declining, the number of Americans who are diagnosed with pancreatic cancer is increasing. Sadly, there are currently no curative treatments for pancreatic cancer.

Investing in groundbreaking cancer research is about improving the lives of loved ones afflicted with the disease, and about fostering a healthier future for our sons and daughters. On behalf of the citizens of Central Florida, it is an honor to stand alongside the medical community in the fight against cancer. The continuous support of medical research initiatives are imperative to both advancing new treatments that improve the lives of patients afflicted with cancer and bringing our nation closer to finding a cure. I thank the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network for their tireless advocacy to end pancreatic cancer.

HONORING CARLENE MAKAWSKI

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Carlene Makawski of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Carlene is active in the community and has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Lifetime Achievement Award.

Carlene is described as an enthusiastic and inspirational volunteer whose commitment and enthusiasm never waiver. Carlene has provided a lifetime of service and contributions to a great variety of organizations and initiatives throughout her life. Carlene is a Life Member and Board Vice President for the Girl Scouts. She has over 50 years of service to the PEO Sisterhood. Over the course of 20 years she has served as both Treasurer and President for the Heartland Health Auxiliary.

Carlene served as a two term President of the YWCA, overseeing construction of the Aquatic Center. She has worked with United Way, the American Red Cross and March of Dimes. She has dedicated over two decades volunteering at the Open Door Food Kitchen where she has done everything from scrubbing pots and pans to serving on its board of directors. One Carlene's most beloved volunteer position comes from the many roles that she fills at the Pony Express National Museum where she has once again done everything from tour guide to serving as the Great Pumpkin.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Carlene Makawski. She has made an amazing impact on countless individuals and remains as a blessing to everyone in the St. Joseph community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE MAKING WORK AND MARRIAGE PAY ACT

**HON. THOMAS E. PETRI**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today, along with Rep. NIKI TSONGAS of Massachusetts, I am introducing the Making Work and Marriage Pay Act of 2013. This legislation will establish a bipartisan commission to study the negative impact that high effective marginal rates can have on families as they attempt to improve their circumstances through work or marriage. The National Commission on Effective Marginal Tax Rates for Low-Income Families would provide an important opportunity for removing the disincentives that hold many back, in spite of their personal efforts to get ahead.

Federal and state governments provide financial assistance to low-income families through many means-tested programs and a variety of income tax credits. Each of these benefits is income-based, and as income rises benefits are reduced through phase-outs. These reductions occur at various earnings levels and on differing schedules.

While it is appropriate for benefits to be withdrawn as family income increases, not enough thought has been given to the combined impact on behavior of these multiple phase-outs. Different programs are created within separate Congressional committees and are implemented by assorted federal and state agencies. No one entity has the authority to consider our vast system as a whole. The Commission established under this Act would be given this task and charged with the responsibility to propose a legislative package to remove the disincentives to work and marriage that these high effective marginal rates impose.

Marginal rates matter. Economists have long contended that high tax rates affect the

investment decisions of affluent individuals. People at all income levels, however, respond rationally to economic incentives and disincentives. If we want people to work their way into the middle class, we need to change a system which says that if you're poor and you struggle to earn a higher income, you won't be able to keep enough of it to make it all seem really worthwhile.

I have looked at the impact these marginal rates have on a typical single mother with two children living in Wisconsin. From \$17,000 to \$40,000 in earnings, this single parent would experience combined effective marginal tax rates in excess of 50 percent—averaging 59 percent between \$24,000 and \$41,000. At lower income levels, she even approaches a rate of 100 percent. Putting this into perspective, the U.S. corporate tax rate is 35 percent (the highest in the industrialized world). The top U.S. income tax rate for individuals is 39.6 percent.

Thus, for every dollar of new income earned by increased effort or the acquisition of new skills, this single mother finds herself only incrementally ahead and, perhaps, wondering whether her hard work is being justly rewarded. Despite the good intentions, these programs, in effect, offer no incentive to get ahead. Rather, the incentives are backwards and low-income workers often are encouraged to stay where they are.

The same dynamic can also affect an individual's decision whether to marry. Experts from across the political divide agree that marriage is good. Government policy, however, as enacted in this assortment of programs and phase-outs actually discourages marriage among low-income couples.

Varying benefit levels across the fifty states produce different results, but in Wisconsin, for a married couple with two children, the marriage penalty starts rising from about zero at \$19,000 of combined income to \$7,000 in after-tax income at \$28,000 of combined earnings, which is what you get if two people earn minimum wage. At \$42,000, the cost of being married reaches \$8,154. That's a high price for a marriage license.

This penalty results from the high effective marginal tax rates produced by taxes and the phaseout of various benefit programs. As income rises, taxes go up and benefits go down. The couple that has combined their lives and their income sees a steeper loss of income than does the comparable couple that has remained unmarried. If marriage is a recognized good for both society and for individual couples, then government policy should not stand in the way of people choosing to marry.

It's time that Congress rationalizes this web of programs to ensure that hard work brings rewards by removing the punishingly high effective marginal tax rates faced by low-income individuals and families.

This is why I am introducing the Making Work and Marriage Pay Act.

My bill would authorize a Commission made up of Cabinet Secretaries, Governors, and recognized policy experts to recommend solutions for the problems posed by these high effective marginal tax rates. The Commission would be constructed to achieve partisan balance, input from states offering varying levels of income support, and expert participation from government and private sector experts.

The Commission would be charged with seeking a solution along certain policy lines,

but would have full authority to offer additional policy recommendations. The Commission's recommendations would be in the form of a legislative blueprint to ease consideration of its comprehensive solution by the wide range of Congressional committees.

For too long, Congress has neglected to clean up the mess of uncoordinated federal benefit programs. The Making Work and Marriage Pay Act is the first step toward a benefit structure that rewards work and effort and reflects our shared belief that marriage is the basis of stable communities. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

#### FEDERAL AGRICULTURE REFORM AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. DENNIS A. ROSS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 19, 2013*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1947) to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes:

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Chair, farmers work hard to produce the abundant food supply that our nation, and much of the world, needs. However, they could not make it on their own.

They owe much of their productivity to the equipment, practices, and inputs, including nutrients and crop protection products, which we have in the U.S.

Sadly, terrorists who will stop at nothing to undermine our way of life have illegally manipulated certain agricultural nutrients and chemicals.

In response, the Department of Homeland Security has been developing, and implementing a set of security regulations to secure and limit access to these products, such as ammonium nitrate.

The agricultural community understands this and understands the need to be vigilant to ensure that we not only have the most productive agriculture industry in the world—but also the safest.

Ammonium nitrate is used as a fertilizer on crops and pastures, especially in warm, moist climates like Florida. It is incredibly important to the many citrus growers in my district.

I think all of us want to see effective and prudent regulations implemented; however, we also do not want to interfere with legitimate access to the nutrients needed by the farmer during the growing season.

The amendment I am offering with my good friend from Florida, Mr. ROONEY, would simply ask that the U.S. Department of Agriculture participate fully and at senior levels in the development of any security regulations regarding a variety of agricultural chemicals developed by DHS, or any other agency.

Once again, I want to thank the Chair and Ranking Member for their work on this legislation, and encourage my colleagues to join me in passing this important amendment.

SUPPORTING LGBT PRIDE MONTH

**HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I stand with my colleagues in the Congressional Progressive Caucus in honor of LGBT Pride Month.

We have had many achievements to celebrate in recent years—the end of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” the extension of many benefits to the same-sex partners of federal employees, the enactment of marriage equality in several states and here in the District of Columbia.

These achievements have been critical in our effort to create a society in which we fulfill the promise of the Declaration of Independence that all persons are created equal and the promise of the Fourteenth Amendment that every person has a right to the equal protection of the law.

The foundation of these achievements was not built here in Washington, D.C. Instead, it was the work of activists around this nation, it was the conversations between families at the dinner table, it was the realization of millions of Americans that “I know a gay person, I know a transgender person,” and that he or she remains my son, my daughter, my brother, my sister, my friend.

For who among us would accept a society in which our children and our friends are allowed to become victims of legalized discrimination?

Who among us would not allow our brothers and sisters who are in committed relationships to sanctify their love in the form of marriage?

Who among us would exclude our neighbors and our colleagues from full participation in this civil society?

When we celebrate Pride Month, we celebrate these relationships, relationships in which parents come to know who their children really are, in which friends come to know their friends, in which Americans have come to know and accept their fellow Americans regardless of their sexual orientation.

It is these relationships that have provided the foundation for many of the achievements of the LGBT community. Today, we have much to celebrate.

**FEDERAL AGRICULTURE REFORM AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2013**

SPEECH OF

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 19, 2013*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1947) to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes:

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chair, millions of people in our country lack basic access to fresh, healthy foods. Three million people in New York City alone live in places where stores that sell fresh produce are few or far away. These people have difficulty accessing

fruits and vegetables, cooking meals with unprocessed foods, and getting the nutrients they need to live a healthy lifestyle.

These conditions exacerbate the obesity epidemic in America. More than a third of adults and 17 percent of children are obese, and obesity rates in low-income and minority communities are even higher.

The roots of the problem are structural: without access to fresh foods high in nutrients and low in calories, we can’t expect people to keep a healthy diet. And we can’t expect their children to learn healthy eating habits.

Recently, there has been progress in connecting urban areas with sources for healthier food, and this Farm Bill makes important progress in that area. The Healthy Food Financing Initiative and other programs will continue to bring supermarkets and farmers’ markets to new communities.

But there are also exciting opportunities to use the spaces and resources available to inner-city neighborhoods to grow fresh foods right where they are needed the most and educate the community about the value of these foods. Urban farming can turn abandoned properties or public spaces into community gardens and centers of learning.

For instance, Added Value in New York City, which I have worked to support, has operated five farms in New York City over the past 13 years. Today, it cultivates two farms in Red Hook, employs 40 teenagers through its youth empowerment program, and educates 1,200 students every year about healthy food and farming.

Unfortunately, urban farms face many challenges, from a lack of funding to restrictive zoning rules that limit the spaces available to them. Although USDA has programs in place that can help urban farmers, small organizations often lack the resources to navigate a complicated system and gain access to these programs.

My amendment would open up more opportunities for urban agriculture and assist urban farmers in applying to programs that could benefit them. Reforms like this can help urban farms across the country bring healthy foods into their communities and educate students and families about the value of healthy foods and how to use them at home.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting access to fresh, healthy foods for low-income individuals through the development of urban agriculture. Through careful reforms, we can help urban farms educate Americans about their food choices, fight the obesity epidemic, and turn undeveloped properties in inner-city neighborhoods into valuable community spaces.

**SMALL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY ACCELERATION ACT OF 2013****HON. JANICE HAHN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, whenever we get to go back to our districts, I always try to make time to meet some more small businesses—to hear direct from them, what is standing in their way, what the need to hire and grow. And over and over again, I hear that the difficulty accessing capital is holding

back the businesses of my district, and across the nation.

Interest rates are low, but the upfront costs of capital can push away many small businesses that would otherwise be able to seize an opportunity in the market that would strengthen and even expand their business. The Small Business Administration has worked to make it easier and less costly for small businesses to access capital with the 7(a) loans. However, the SBA charges an upfront fee for its loan guarantee that can deter small businesses from pursuing small loans to take advantage of fleeting opportunities that require a quick influx of capital.

By targeting the small loans that are so critical to the entrepreneurs and small businesses in my district, we can make it easier for these job creators to succeed and grow. That’s why I am introducing legislation that would eliminate the upfront guarantee fee for SBA 7(a) loans of \$150,000 or less.

As we continue to work to strengthen the small businesses that are the backbone of our nation’s economy, and to combat the many obstacles to their accessing the capital they need to succeed, I hope my colleagues will support this legislation.

**PAIN-CAPABLE UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION ACT**

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 18, 2013*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 1797, the “Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act.” Last year I opposed this irresponsible and reckless legislation when it was brought to the floor under a suspension of the rules and fell well short of the two-thirds majority needed to pass. I opposed the bill, which arbitrarily bans a woman from exercising her constitutionally protected right to choose to terminate a pregnancy after 20 weeks, last year for the same reasons I do now. This purely partisan and divisive legislation:

1. Unduly burdens a woman’s right to terminate a pregnancy and thus puts their lives at risk;
2. Does not contain exceptions for the health of the mother;
3. As introduced and considered in the Judiciary Committee, unfairly targeted the District of Columbia; and
4. Infringes upon women’s right to privacy, which is guaranteed and protected by the U.S. Constitution.

Madam Speaker, the rule governing debate on this bill also set the terms of debate for the farm bill that makes drastic reductions in SNAP funding and nutrition programs that help women, children, infants, and the poor.

Coupling these two bills together under one rule sends the uncaring message that it is right and good to force a woman to carry an unwanted pregnancy to term and then withhold from her and her infant the support necessary for them to maintain a nutritious and healthy diet.

Madam Speaker, in 2010, Nebraska passed a law banning abortion care after 20 weeks.

Since then 10 more red states—Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, North Dakota, and Oklahoma—have enacted similar bans. None of these laws has an adequate health exception. Only one provides an exception for cases of rape or incest.

H.R. 1797 seeks to take the misguided and mean-spirited policy of these states and make it the law of the land. In so doing, the bill poses a nationwide threat to the health and wellbeing of American women and a direct challenge to the Supreme Court's ruling in *Roe v. Wade*.

Madam Speaker, one of the most detestable aspects of this bill is that it would curb access to care for women in the most desperate of circumstances. It is these women who receive the 1.5 percent of abortions that occur after 20 weeks.

Women like Danielle Deaver, who was 22 weeks pregnant when her water broke. Tests showed that Danielle had suffered anhydramnios, a premature rupture of the membranes before the fetus has achieved viability. This condition meant that the fetus likely would be born with a shortening of muscle tissue that results in the inability to move limbs.

In addition, Danielle's fetus likely would suffer deformities to the face and head, and the lungs were unlikely to develop beyond the 22-week point. There was less than a 10% chance that, if born, Danielle's baby would be able to breathe on its own and only a 2% chance the baby would be able to eat on its own. Danielle and her husband decided to terminate the pregnancy but could not because of the Nebraska ban. Danielle had no recourse but to endure the pain and suffering that followed. Eight days later, Danielle gave birth to a daughter, Elizabeth, who died 15 minutes later.

H.R. 1797 hurts women like Vikki Stella, a diabetic, who discovered months into her pregnancy that the fetus she was carrying suffered from several major anomalies and had no chance of survival. Because of Vikki's diabetes, her doctor determined that induced labor and Caesarian section were both riskier procedures for Vikki than an abortion. Because Vikki was able to terminate the pregnancy, she was protected from the immediate and serious medical risks to her health and her ability to have children in the future was preserved.

Madam Speaker, every pregnancy is different. No politician knows, or has the right to assume he knows, what is best for a woman and her family. These are decisions that properly must be left to women to make, in consultation with their partners, doctors, and their God.

That is why the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the nation's leading medical experts on women's health, strongly opposes 20-week bans, citing the threat these laws pose to women's health.

Madam Speaker, I also strongly oppose H.R. 1797 because it lacks the necessary exceptions to protect the health and life of the mother. In fact, the majority Republicans rejected an amendment offered by our colleague, Congressman NADLER, which would have added a "health of the mother" exception to the bill.

During the markup of H.R. 1797 in the Judiciary Committee, Republicans even rejected an amendment I offered that would have pro-

vided a limited exception in cases where "the pregnancy could result in severe and long-lasting damage to a woman's health, including lung disease, heart disease, or diabetes."

Imagine, Madam Speaker, an amendment permitting an exception in the case where a woman risked heart or lung disease was rejected by Judiciary Republicans as too lenient and compassionate toward women.

I offered my amendment again to the Rules Committee but again, Committee Republicans refused to make it in order.

Madam Speaker, it is an additional measure of just how incredibly bad this bill is that when it was introduced and considered in the Judiciary Committee, it did not even include an exception for rape or incest.

Madam Speaker, this may come as news to some in this body, but each year approximately 25,000 women in the United States become pregnant as a result of rape. And about a third (30%) of these rapes involved women under age 18.

Madam Speaker, last and most important, I oppose H.R. 1797 because it is an unconstitutional infringement on the right to privacy, as interpreted by the Supreme Court in a long line of cases going back to *Griswold v. Connecticut* in 1965 and *Roe v. Wade* decided in 1973. In *Roe v. Wade*, the Court held that a state could prohibit a woman from exercising her right to terminate a pregnancy in order to protect her health prior to viability. While many factors go into determining fetal viability, the consensus of the medical community is that viability is acknowledged as not occurring prior to 24 weeks gestation.

By prohibiting nearly all abortions beginning at "the probable post-fertilization age" of 20 weeks, H.R. 1797 violates this clear and long standing constitutional rule.

In striking down Texas's pre-viability abortion prohibitions, the Supreme Court stated in *Roe v. Wade*:

With respect to the State's important and legitimate interest in potential life, the "compelling" point is at viability. This is so because the fetus then presumably has the capability of meaningful life outside the mother's womb. State regulation protective of fetal life after viability thus has both logical and biological justification. If the State is interested in protecting fetal life after viability, it may go as far as to proscribe abortion during that period, except when it is necessary to preserve the life or health of the mother.

Supreme Court precedents make it clear that neither Congress nor a state legislature can declare any one element—"be it weeks of gestation or fetal weight or any other single factor—as the determinant" of viability. *Colautti v. Franklin*, 439 U.S. 379, 388–89 (1979). Nor can the government restrict a woman's autonomy by arbitrarily setting the number of weeks gestation so low as to effectively prohibit access to abortion services as is the case with the bill before us.

If this bill ever were to become law, it would not survive a constitutional challenge even to its facial validity. A similar 20-week provision enacted by the Utah legislature was struck down years ago as unconstitutional by the United States Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit because it "unduly burden[ed] a woman's right to choose to abort a nonviable fetus." *Jane L. v. Bangerter*, 102 F.3d 1112, 1118 (10th Cir. 1996). And just last month, the Ninth Circuit struck down a 20 week ban on

the ground that the U.S. Supreme Court has been "unalterably clear" that "a woman has a constitutional right to choose to terminate her pregnancy before the fetus is viable." *Isaacson v. Horn*, \_\_\_ F.3d \_\_\_, No. 12–16670, 2013 WL 2160171, at \*1 (9th Cir. May 21, 2013).

Madam Speaker, the constitutionally protected right to privacy encompasses the right of women to choose to terminate a pregnancy before viability, and even later where continuing to term poses a threat to her health and safety. This right of privacy was hard won and must be preserved inviolate. For this reason, I offered an amendment before the Rules Committee that would ensure that the legislation before us is not to be interpreted to abridge this right. The Jackson Lee Amendment #2 provided:

SEC. 4. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION. Nothing in this Act shall be construed or interpreted to limit the right of privacy guaranteed and protected by the United States Constitution as interpreted by the United States Supreme Court in the cases of *Griswold v. Connecticut*, 381 U.S. 479 (1965); *Eisenstadt v. Baird*, 405 U.S. 438 (1972), and *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S.113 (1973).

Regrettably, the Rules Committee did not make this amendment in order. Unregrettably, I strongly oppose H.R. 1797 and urge all members to join me in voting against this unwise measure that put the lives and health of women at risk.

## FEDERAL AGRICULTURE REFORM AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1947) to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes:

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Chair, I rise today to express my sincere thanks to Chairman FRANK LUCAS for his acceptance of the amendment to the Farm Bill that I offered with my colleagues from New York Reps. CHRIS GIBSON and TIM BISHOP. Our amendment would require the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a study and no later than 180 days after enactment report back to the relevant committees in the House and Senate an analysis of energy use in USDA facilities, a list of energy audits that have been conducted at USDA facilities, a list of energy efficiency projects that have been conducted at USDA facilities and a list of energy savings projects that could be achieved with additional mechanical insulation at USDA facilities.

Thermal Insulation for piping, equipment, and other mechanical devices, known as mechanical insulation, is a proven energy efficiency and emission reduction technology that will reduce costs, save energy, and improve personnel safety. It is also important to point out that 95 percent of all mechanical insulation products used in the United States are manufactured in the United States.

As you are well aware, buildings are responsible for 40 percent of the United States energy demand and emissions, which makes efficiency gains in this area crucial if we are to markedly reduce America's energy consumption. To give you a sense of the impact mechanical insulation can have on our country, the National Insulation Association estimates that implementing a comprehensive mechanical insulation maintenance program in the commercial and industrial market segments would lead to annual energy savings of 1.22 quads of primary energy or \$3.8 billion and returns on investment ranging from 25–100 percent.

We, as Members of Congress, should be taking a leading role in ensuring energy efficiency is a priority in our country. What better way to lead than to look in our federal buildings at the ways we utilize, or unfortunately, the ways we all too often do not utilize and maintain a low cost, high impact American product that is proven to save energy and money.

By passing this amendment we are asking the Department of Agriculture to help lead the way for others to follow by reducing its energy cost and emissions with the increased use of a proven technology, simply known as mechanical insulation.

#### CONGRATULATING JULIUS CIACCIA

### HON. DAVID P. JOYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. JOYCE, Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Mr. Julius Ciaccia, Executive Director of Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District on his election as the new President of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, NACWA.

Mr. Ciaccia is an accomplished leader and committed environmental steward who plays a prominent role in the water industry, exemplifying what it means to be a public servant. He is ideally suited to serve as President of one of the Nation's leading proponents of responsible policies that advance clean water. Mr. Ciaccia has served the people of the Cleveland area for decades, and in his new role, will continue to ensure that Ohio's, and the Nation's clean water agencies continue to improve to protect public health and the environment.

Mr. Ciaccia began his career in public utilities in 1977 when he was appointed as Assistant Director of the Public Utilities Department for the City of Cleveland. In 1979 he took on the temporary role of Commissioner of Cleveland Water until 1981 when he assumed the role of Deputy Commissioner of Cleveland Water and was eventually appointed Commissioner in 1988.

During the 25 years in the Division of Water, Mr. Ciaccia oversaw the management of over \$1 billion worth of capital improvement projects and maintained the Division of Water's very favorable financial position. He was appointed Director of the city's Department of Public Utilities in 2004 and began his current role at the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District in November 2007.

In his current role at the District, he oversees all aspects of managing one of the na-

tion's largest wastewater management utilities. Under his leadership, the District has received two awards from the Commission on Economic Inclusion including a 2009 award for Supplier Diversity which highlights the success of one of Mr. Ciaccia's initiatives to craft and implement a supplier inclusion program; and a 2012 award for Senior Management Inclusion, recognizing diversity of Senior Staff.

As the District's Executive Director, Mr. Ciaccia was also responsible for a recently entered consent order for a long term control plan to significantly reduce combined sewer overflows, as well as the successful development and implementation of a new Regional Stormwater Management Program. Additionally, one of Mr. Ciaccia's many accomplishments as Executive Director has been the transformation of the District's culture to one of transparency and ethical financial practices.

As member of NACWA's Board of Directors, Mr. Ciaccia has served as the Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice President. Mr. Ciaccia has selflessly shared his time, passion, energy and ideas to carry out the objectives of the Clean Water Act.

It is my sincere pleasure to congratulate Julius Ciaccia on becoming President of NACWA. I am certain his actions will ensure continued water quality progress for the Cleveland area, the State of Ohio and the Nation.

#### FEDERAL AGRICULTURE REFORM AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

### HON. FRANK D. LUCAS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 18, 2013*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (HR. 1947) to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes:

Mr. LUCAS, Madam Chair, I am aware of the concern that some of the 1890's are having difficulty meeting the matching requirement under the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Program. There has been considerable discussion regarding matching fund policies in our research, extension and education programs. This legislation contains several reforms reflective of those discussions and beneficial to the entirety of the land-grant community.

I appreciate the gentleman's willingness to allow us the opportunity to work through this issue with USDA and the 1890's Council of Presidents to craft a workable policy under McIntire-Stennis. You have my commitment that we will resolve this issue favorably and will certainly look to the language contained in the Senate legislation as the basis for these discussions.

HONORING DR. MELODY SMITH

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Dr. Melody Smith

of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Melody is active in the community and has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Woman in the Workplace Award.

Melody has been the Superintendent of the Saint Joseph School District since 2006. Under Melody's leadership the Saint Joseph School District has earned the Missouri Distinction in Performance rating six times. Melody is also credited with bringing State recognition to Saint Joseph for excellence in Early Childhood Education. As Superintendent, Melody has been a true leader and mentor encouraging teachers to pursue national board certification and to work toward postgraduate degrees.

During her tenure in that position she developed the PACT program to give the people of the school district a voice in guiding the educational future of the community. Thanks to those efforts, Saint Joseph will be enjoying two new schools in the very near future. If asked she will simply say that she has viewed the job of Superintendent as an opportunity to serve. With all of these accomplishments, one distinction will always remain for Melody; that she was the first woman to serve as Superintendent for the Saint Joseph School District.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Dr. Melody Smith. She has made an amazing impact on countless individuals in the St. Joseph community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

#### AGAINST THE NAME OF THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE'S WASHINGTON FOOTBALL FRANCHISE

### HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the name of the National Football League's Washington, D.C. franchise, the "Redskins," which I will refer to as the "R-word." In particular, I want to recognize the national media coverage of this very important and sensitive issue. While the media has no doubt contributed to the alleged normalcy of the "R-word" among NFL fans, it must be acknowledged that the tide of public opinion—as recently evidenced through well-known media outlets—is changing.

Mr. Jarrett Bell, an NFL columnist for USA Today, penned an article stating that the Washington franchise "[has] a history of bigotry." In Mr. Bell's words: "[Dan Snyder] has an opportunity to make a bold statement in the name of social progress by discarding the racially offensive nickname of his team—and he won't budge an inch. Shame on him." Mr. Bell continues: "Changing the franchise's nickname would be the next step after the monumental gesture of implementing the Rooney Rule a decade ago, and another show of corporate leadership that might inspire teams in other sports that trivialize Native Americans with their nicknames to break tradition."

Mr. Michael Wilbon and Mr. Tony Kornheiser, sports columnists for the Washington Post and co-hosts of ESPN's "Pardon the Interruption," recently ran a segment on the controversy over the "R-word." Mr. Wilbon stated: "I don't have any faith in the NFL. But

what really disappoints me is [NFL Commissioner] Roger Goodell, because now I don't have any faith in him. I know Roger Goodell, long before he became commissioner. He's a bright man, he's an educated man, he's a man of conviction. And in this instance, he has no courage. What he's done is gutless."

Mr. Wilbon continues: "Let's not mince our words here. Roger Goodell sounds like a fool. He sounds like someone who doesn't have the courage to confront one of his own member-institutions and its owner, Dan Snyder. . . . In the NFL you can do what you want, when you want. You're accountable to nobody."

Mr. Kornheiser states: "I'm surprised, because I thought he would go to the owner, Daniel Snyder, and force him to change the name, give him cover by saying 'I'm making you change the name.'" Mr. Kornheiser, in calling the "R-word" a racial epithet, continues: "It's not even about being politically correct; it's being fair, it's being equitable. I mean, you cannot go to a reservation and say, 'Hi, Redskins.' You cannot do this."

In a poignant letter directed the owner of the Washington franchise, sports columnist for the ESPN affiliate Grantland, Mr. David Zirin, states: "You have made it crystal clear that you believe there is nothing wrong with the name of our region's beloved franchise and probably perceive Webster's dictionary to have some politically correct, liberal agenda when it defines redskin as 'usually offensive.' You've never commented on its past use in this country as a term of derision, humiliation, and violence."

"You [] have not commented on the devastating letter from 10 members of Congress [last] month, including Oklahoma Republican Tom Cole of the Chickasaw Nation, who said that the name was similar to having a team called 'the Washington N-words' and that it 'diminishes feelings of community and worth among the Native American tribes.'"

"You say the name represents the team's history of great players, but I've never heard you respond to former [Washington] Pro Bowler Tre' Johnson, who said, 'It's an ethnically insensitive moniker that offends an entire race of displaced people. That should be reason enough to change it.'"

"I know you don't think the name is racist and wrong, and therefore I have to assume that you disagree with Suzan Shown Harjo, a woman of Cheyenne and Muscogee descent who is president of the Morning Star Institute, a national indigenous-rights organization in D.C. Harjo said to me, 'For most Native Americans, there's no more offensive name in English. That non-Native folks think they get to measure or decide what offends us is adding insult to injury.'"

"People like Suzan Harjo, Tre' Johnson, and Tom Cole talk and you just hear—pardon the expression—white noise. I know you're dug in. What I don't know is whether you realize that this change is going to happen, and soon."

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope, the hope of Native American citizens everywhere, and now the hope of the national media, that our fellow colleagues and Members of this Chamber stand up against the disparaging name of Washington's NFL franchise.

RECOGNIZING RONALD STARKE III

### HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2013

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Ronald Starke III of Dav-enport, Florida, on his acceptance to attend a People to People World Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C. this week.

The People to People Leadership Ambassadors program brings together middle and high school students from over 140 countries and offers unique, hands-on educational experiences that prepare students to assume the mantle of leadership in the future. While in Washington, D.C., students will participate in daily educational activities constructed around a leadership development focused curriculum to assist students in identifying and applying their personal leadership style.

To be selected for a People to People World Leadership Forum, Ronald has demonstrated the requirements of academic excellence, leadership potential and exemplary citizenship. His commitment of his time and dedication to his education and future is outstanding. I wish the best for Ronald as he continues to advance toward even higher pursuits.

On behalf of the citizens of Central Florida, I am pleased to congratulate Ronald on his acceptance to a People to People World Leadership Forum this summer. May his hard work and steadfastness inspire others to follow in his footsteps.

IN HONOR OF LES BOWEN DURING  
NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS  
WEEK

### HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2013

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, this week we celebrate National Small Business Week, honoring the businessmen and -women whose sacrifices and hard work have helped build our economy from the ground up. I want to take a moment to honor one such entrepreneur, Leslie John Bowen of Concord, Massachusetts, who passed away last November following a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.

Les was a remarkable individual on so many levels. As an expert in the fields of materials, science and business, he held numerous U.S. and foreign patents and he coauthored over 30 publications. Earning his Ph.D. in Materials Science and Ceramics in 1977, Les went on to do postdoctoral research at the Materials Research Laboratory at The Pennsylvania State University, contributing to the development of piezocomposite materials and other acoustic transducer technologies. Following a move to Massachusetts in 1980, Les worked at GTE Laboratories in Waltham, MA, where his research focused on electronic ceramics and devices. In 1984, he became Manager of Ceramics R&D, overseeing research into structural and optical ceramics. In 1991, Les left GTE to found Material Systems Inc. (MSI). Today MSI employs 40 people in my

district in Littleton, Massachusetts, and serves as a powerful example of the kind of high-tech research, development and manufacturing that we must continue to foster here at home.

I first met Les as a newly-elected member of Congress. With my background in law and higher education, I was not well-versed in the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program. Les made a compelling case for the need to enact a long-term reauthorization to provide stability to the innovative companies in Massachusetts and nationwide that use the program to create jobs and provide the Federal Government with the best possible technology. It took multiple years, many short-term extensions, and a number of hard-fought battles, but with Les's diligent engagement of the SBIR community, we were able to enact such a reauthorization in late 2011.

Throughout our friendship, I knew Les as a forceful and thoughtful advocate for small business, one willing to give his time in service to the boards of the Smaller Business Association of New England, SBANE, and the National Small Business Association, and to the President's Export Council Subcommittee on Export Administration, PECSEA. Les took seriously his role in advocating for American small businesses and in mentoring others. For his work, he was recognized by his peers with multiple awards, including being named the NSBA's Champion of Small Business Innovation in February 2012 for his tireless efforts on SBIR.

Although he hailed originally from England, he was deeply committed to advancing our nation's competitiveness by encouraging innovation in the small growth companies that are the backbone of our economy.

Les was a beloved husband to his wife Carol, and father to his daughters, Stephanie and Kimberly. Today Carol leads MSI and has continued Les's legacy of service and advocacy. I am grateful to have the privilege of knowing Les and Carol, and Les continues to serve as an inspiration. It is with great appreciation that we honor him today on the Floor of the House of Representatives during National Small Business Week.

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS  
WEEK—SULLIVAN'S ADVANCED  
PAINT AND BODY SHOP

### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Small Business Week, a week dedicated to honoring the important contributions of America's entrepreneurs and small business owners. Small businesses are what this country was built on; they are what hold our nation together; and they will help get America's economy back on track.

One exemplary small business that stands strong is Sullivan's Advanced Paint and Body Shop in Kingwood, Texas. Operating since 1985, Sullivan's has become a local institution in the Greater Houston area, and it's not difficult to see why. Sullivan's began when Danny Sullivan, who moved to Kingwood in 1977, decided to use his knowledge and skills for auto repair and open up a local body shop. Danny partnered with his brother to make their

dream of owning their own auto shop a reality. Through the brothers' hard work and determination, Sullivan's was born. Since then, the family-run business has provided superior service and personal care to anyone who walks through their doors. The Sullivan family has made their shop a place where locals can come and feel comfortable; the lobby of the body shop is always stocked with snacks and hot coffee and has become a location where neighbors come to chat and have their engine repaired at the same time.

The people who work for Sullivan's Advanced Paint and Body Shop are not just friendly—they are excellent at what they do—fixing cars. The Sullivan brothers knew that a successful small business can't be run on friendly personalities alone. Danny Sullivan himself was the number one ranked technician in the country in 1981, 1982, and 1983, and he made it a priority to hire individuals with a talent for repairing automobiles. In other words, there is no doubt that they know what they are doing.

Sullivan's is an excellent example of what makes our nation great and is well deserving of recognition during National Small Business Week. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and shops like Sullivan's are what keep us going.

At Sullivan's, the motto is: "Excellence doesn't just happen, it's a decision we make every day." Their actions and attitudes certainly reflect their motto. In America, successful businesses come from business owners like the Sullivan brothers.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF STAFF SERGEANT JESSE LAMAR THOMAS, JR., UNITED STATES ARMY

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness and deepest sympathy that I rise to pay tribute to a fallen American soldier. Army Staff Sergeant Jesse Lamar Thomas, Jr. of Pensacola, Florida died on June 10, 2013, in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, while in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. SSG Thomas was assigned to the 66th Transportation Company, 39th Transportation Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, 21st Theater Sustainment Command, Kaiserslautern, Germany.

SSG Thomas enlisted into the Army in October 17, 2003, and most recently served his country as a Human Resources Specialist, where he always fought for the resources and well-being of his fellow soldiers to ensure they had the tools required to accomplish the mission. SSG Thomas is remembered by his Company Command as a great mentor, a dedicated noncommissioned officer, and a true professional committed to a life of service to his fellow soldiers, to the United States Army, and to the United States of America. SSG Thomas is also remembered as a talented musician and a man with a deep dedication and love for his family and God.

SSG Thomas lived to support and lift up those around him. He dedicated his life help-

ing to ensure those who would do our Nation harm were defeated, while also working to secure the blessings of freedom for the Afghan people. We will never forget his service toward that honorable end. To SSG Thomas' loving wife Michelle; his children Jamie, Justin, and Jordan; mother, Irma Jean; his siblings, Sheldra, Geneen, Shandrea, and Darrin; his extended family and friends, my wife Vicki joins me in offering our most sincere condolences and prayers.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful United States Congress and Nation, I stand here today to honor SSG Jesse Lamar Thomas, Jr. and all of the warriors we have lost. May God continue to bless them and the men and women of our United States Armed Forces.

EMMA COBURN TRIBUTE

**HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Emma Coburn of Crested Butte, Colorado. This month, Ms. Coburn won her second NCAA national title in the steeplechase.

Emma was born in Boulder, Colorado on October 19th, 1990, and raised in Crested Butte. In high school Ms. Coburn set the pace for an excellent athletic career, earning All-American honors on two separate occasions, setting five high school records, and winning eight 2A state championships. At the University of Colorado, she had an excellent showing at the NCAA championship finishing 11th in the steeplechase in her freshman year. Emma's excellence on the track, also extends into the classroom where she has earned a place on the Big 12 Commissioner's Honor Roll.

She won her first national title in 2011 for the steeplechase before going on to compete for the U.S. World Championship team. In the World Championship meet she was the only American in the steeplechase to make it to the finals, and placed 12th overall. In 2012 Coburn prepared to compete for her country again, this time at the Olympics. While training for the Olympics she ran a time of 9:25.28, the fastest time an American has ever ran inside of the United States. Later that year she went on to be the only American to make it the finals, finishing in 9th place.

This year Emma finished her spectacular collegiate track career with another NCAA national title in the steeplechase. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Emma for her devotion to athletic and academic excellence as well as to thank her for representing our country at the 2012 summer Olympics.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SERGEANT JUSTIN JOHNSON

**HON. PATRICK MURPHY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and legacy of U.S. Army Sergeant Justin Johnson,

who was killed during an attack at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan on Tuesday, June 18th Sgt. Johnson was on his third tour of duty at the age of 25. He enlisted in the Army immediately following his graduation from South Fork High School in Stuart, Florida, speaking to his commitment to serving our nation.

As we remember Sgt. Johnson here today, let us also pay tribute to the sacrifices made by the military families who support our brave men and women in uniform, all the while knowing that their loved ones may not return home. Sgt. Johnson leaves behind his mother, Sonia Randolph, and a four-year-old son, Justin Johnson, Jr. Even faced with the loss of her son, Ms. Randolph remarked that she is "blessed that he was happy and willing to do what he needed to do for his country." This strength and dedication speaks volumes to the man that Sgt. Johnson was—a true American hero.

Mr. Speaker, Sgt. Justin Johnson bravely served our nation and ultimately gave his life to defend this country. I extend my most heartfelt condolences to his friends and family during this most difficult time. It is an honor and privilege to recognize his life of service here today.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT OF DR. NAZMUL HASSAN TO THE BANGLADESHI-AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN MICHIGAN AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY

**HON. GARY C. PETERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my longtime friend, Dr. Nazmul Hassan, as he is recognized by the Bangladeshi-American community in Michigan for his many years of stalwart guidance and leadership. Known to friends as Shahin, Dr. Hassan has been a strong voice for Bangladeshi-Americans, not just in Michigan, but across the United States of America. As an immigrant to our nation, Shahin is emblematic of one of the greatest strengths of our nation, our ability to bring the best and brightest from across the world.

Before coming to Michigan, Shahin was a leader in his birth country of Bangladesh. His commitment to service is an ideal he learned at a young age, from watching his father, who was an educator and prominent elected leader in Bangladesh having served as a Member of Parliament for four terms. The value of service to the community is one that Shahin brought with him when he arrived in the United States as a student in 1991. Shahin later went on to earn a Masters of Science in Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering in 1996, and in 2011, he completed his Doctorate in Industrial Engineering from Wayne State University. In his professional work, he worked for both Delphi Automotive and Ford Motor Company.

While his educational and professional pursuits are impressive, nowhere has his passion been felt more greatly than in his tireless advocacy for the Bangladeshi-American population. In his tenure as the President and Chairman of the Michigan Bangladeshi American Democratic Caucus (BADC), Shahin has

worked within his community to organize its members and raise issues of importance to them in the public arena. His work has included assisting community members with a wide range of issues, from immigration to helping families in need obtain basic necessities. He has been a source of information for his community on pressing policy issues such as human rights, foreign affairs and health care. In particular, during the debate on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act he organized discussions within the Bangladeshi community to raise awareness of health care issues.

In my time representing Michigan in the United States Congress, I have been fortunate to call Shahin a valued friend and trusted advisor. Thanks to his leadership, I have developed close relationships with Bangladeshi constituents and am honored to serve as a leader of the Bangladeshi Congressional Caucus in Washington, D.C. Shahin's passion for his community and his support of cross-cultural dialogue, both in Michigan and across the country, have earned him numerous accolades, including the 2011 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom Award from the Michigan Democratic Party.

Mr. Speaker, our unparalleled ability to attract the best and the brightest from around the world and bring them to our country, where they make significant contributions to our future, is one of our nation's greatest strengths. Dr. Nazmul Hassan's life is an embodiment of the American Dream and for his work, our nation is a better place. I am grateful to both Shahin and his family for the many experiences they have shared with me and I wish Dr. Hassan well as he continues to represent the interests of Bangladeshi-Americans in his new endeavors.

FEDERAL AGRICULTURE REFORM  
AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACT OF  
2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1947) to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes:

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1947, the Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act. I would very much like to support this legislation. I understand how important it is for Congress to pass a five-year Farm Bill to give certainty to farmers across the nation and to reauthorize and improve critical nutrition and conservation programs. I strongly support many of the reforms made to the farm safety net, including the elimination of direct payments and an increased focus on crop insurance, a risk management tool which actually works. However, the \$20 billion in cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) are unconscionable, and for this reason I cannot support this bill.

My Republican colleagues continue to claim that SNAP is growing out of control because

participation in the program has grown in recent years. In fact, this is a sign that SNAP is working as intended. The recession left many people in dire financial straits and unable to put food on the table to feed their families. For many of my constituents, SNAP is an important stop-gap measure to help them during a time of need. These people are not asking for a handout. They are simply trying to get by. We should be thankful that we have a strong SNAP program as a part of our safety net. If the reforms proposed by the GOP were in place over the last five years, more Americans would have gone hungry. This is unacceptable and is not the direction in which our country should be headed.

I agree that we need to take reasonable steps to stabilize the national debt. However, we must not balance our nation's books on the backs of the most vulnerable Americans, as this legislation proposes to do. My dear friend Senator DEBBIE STABENOW has a strong, bipartisan farm bill which recently passed the Senate overwhelmingly. The Senate bill makes smart, targeted cuts to SNAP, and I strongly support this legislation. I hope that we can come together in a conference committee to pass a good, strong bipartisan farm bill which I can support.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for votes on June 19, 2013, I would have cast the following votes:

Roll No. 253 Motion on Ordering the Previsory Question on H. Res. 271—"No" Vote.

Roll No. 254 Motion on Agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 271—"No" Vote.

Roll No. 255 Motion on Approving the Journal—"No" Vote.

Roll No. 256 On Agreeing to the Amendment McGovern of Massachusetts Part B Amendment No. 1—"Yes" Vote.

Roll No. 257 On Agreeing to the Amendment Foxx of North Carolina Part B Amendment No. 3—"No" Vote.

Roll No. 258 On Agreeing to the Amendment Broun of Georgia Part B Amendment No. 5—"No" Vote.

Roll No. 259 On Agreeing to the Amendment Blumenauer of Oregon Part B Amendment No. 8—"Yes" Vote.

Roll No. 260 On Agreeing to the Amendment Blumenauer of Oregon Part B Amendment No. 9—"Yes" Vote.

Roll No. 261 On Agreeing to the Amendment Kaptur of Ohio/Hastings of Florida Part B Amendment No. 14—"Yes" Vote.

Roll No. 262 On Agreeing to the Amendment Royce of California/Engel of New York Part B Amendment No. 15—"Yes" Vote.

Roll No. 263 On Agreeing to the Amendment Chabot of Ohio Part B Amendment No. 16—"No" Vote.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, due to a commitment in my district, I had to miss votes on H.R. 1947. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye on Amendment 1, No on Amendment 3, No on Amendment 5, Aye on Amendment 8, Aye on Amendment 9, Aye on Amendment 14, Yes on Amendment 15, No on Amendment 16.

FEDERAL AGRICULTURE REFORM  
AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACT OF  
2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 18, 2013*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1947) to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes:

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Chair, it was my intention to offer an amendment to H.R. 1947, the Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2013, which would have amended Section 4 of Public Law 87-788 (commonly known as the "McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act").

My amendment said: "The matching funds requirement shall not be applicable to eligible 1890 Institutions (as defined in Section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998), if the allocation is below \$200,000."

On July 2, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed into law the Morrill Act, which made it possible for each state to receive federal funds to establish a state college or university.

Regrettably, slavery still existed in the United States when the Morrill Act of 1862 was enacted into law. Even after the Civil War ended in 1865, it was still considered illegal to educate blacks in the South—making it impossible for black students to attend any college or university established under the Morrill Act of 1862. These conditions resulted in the enactment of the Morrill Act of 1890 and its support for black educational institutions.

Today: The eighteen 1890 Land-grant institutions represent 24 percent of all land-grant institutions (76 institutions total); The 1890 Land-grant Institutions enrolled 98,397 students in 2011 (31% of all student enrolled in HBCUs); The 1890 Land-grant institutions produced 33 percent of all Bachelor's degrees, 41 percent of all master's degrees, 45 percent of all doctoral degrees and 24 percent of all professional degrees awarded at HBCUs.

Notable graduates of 1890 Institutions include: Oprah Winfrey, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Gen. Daniel Chappie James, Lionel Richie, Whitney Young, Art Shell, Ronald McNair, JIM CLYBURN, EDOLPHUS TOWNS, ALCEE HASTINGS, CORRINE BROWN.

Madam Chair, in the 2008 Farm bill, 1890 institutions were made eligible to receive funding for the first time under the McIntire-Stennis

Cooperative Forestry Act, which is a capacity building program for forestry research that requires matching funds.

Under in the 2008 Farm bill, 1890 institutions were made eligible to receive funding for the first time under the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act, which is a capacity building program for forestry which requires matching funds.

The McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry assists all states in carrying out a program of state forestry research at state forestry schools and colleges and in developing a trained pool of forest scientists capable of conducting forestry research, including ecological restoration; catastrophe management; valuing and trading ecological services; energy conservation, biomass energy and bio-based materials development; forest fragmentation: carbon sequestration and climate change; and ways of fostering healthy forests and a globally competitive forest resources sector.

Unfortunately, many of our 1890 institutions find themselves financially strapped and in need of relief. One area in particular where they are having difficulty is with respect to providing the matching funds for the McIntire-Stennis program—particularly those institutions eligible for \$200,000 or less.

Indeed, many campuses are having difficulty match other capacity funds and for competitive grants. 1890 Institutions are working diligently to increase their non federal sources of funds, however, having the burden of the current match is keeping the program in stress as they go forward to develop forestry related research programs and teaching and outreach programs, hire faculty for the programs and enroll students in the McIntire-Stennis dependent education curricula.

The same language which is included in the amendment I had planned on offering today is currently included in the Senate version of the Farm bill S. 954, The Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act of 2013, as section 8301.

At the request of the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Agriculture Committee, however, I am not going to offer my amendment today in order to allow the House Committee staff to work with USDA, our 1890 schools and Senate staff to develop alternative perfecting language which addresses concerns raised about the potential unintended impact of the amendment on 1890's institutions.

I am withdrawing my amendment with the understanding and assurance, from my distinguished friends, Chairman Lucas and Ranking Member Peterson that should we not be able to come to agreement on perfecting language during conference on the two farm bills, the final Conference bill and report will contain an exemption for eligible 1890 institutions from the matching requirement if their allocation is below \$200,000.

FEDERAL AGRICULTURE REFORM  
AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACT OF  
2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. FRANK D. LUCAS**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 1947) to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes:

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Chair, I submit the following exchange of letters:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,  
Washington, DC, June 14, 2013.

Hon. FRANK LUCAS,  
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LUCAS: I am writing to you concerning the bill H.R. 1947, the "Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act," which is expected to be on the floor the week of June 17, 2013. This legislation includes provisions in sections 1207 and 1301 that pertain to the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means with respect to the imposition and collection of tariffs on imports of cotton and sugar. Further, the Committee on Ways and Means maintains jurisdiction over all matters that concern raising revenue as contained in sections 1412 and 1435.

The Committee recognizes the importance of H.R. 1947 and the need to move expeditiously. Therefore, the Committee is willing to forego action on the bill with the understanding that by doing so, the Committee is not in any way prejudiced with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives or the appointment of conferees on this or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 1947, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record.

Sincerely,

DAVE CAMP,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
Washington, DC, June 17, 2013.

Hon. DAVE CAMP,  
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1947, the Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2013. As you noted, there are provisions of the bill that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means.

I appreciate your willingness to forego action on H.R. 1947, and I agree that your decision should not prejudice the Committee on Ways and Means with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation.

I will include a copy of our exchange of letters in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration.

Thank you for your courtesy in this matter and I look forward to continued cooperation between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

FRANK D. LUCAS,  
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, May 22, 2013.

Hon. FRANK D. LUCAS,  
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write concerning H.R. 1947, the Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2013, as ordered reported by the Committee on Agriculture. There are certain provisions in the legislation that fall within the rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

In order to expedite this legislation for floor consideration, the Committee will not assert a jurisdictional claim over this bill by seeking a sequential referral. However, this is conditional on our mutual understanding and agreement that doing so does not in any way alter or diminish the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation. I request you urge the Speaker to name members of the Committee to any conference committee named to consider such provisions.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest into the committee report on H.R. 1947 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
Washington, DC, May 23, 2013.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,  
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and  
Infrastructure, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1947, the Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2013. As you noted, there are provisions of the bill that fall within the rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

I appreciate your willingness to forego action on H.R. 1947, and I agree that your decision should not prejudice the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation.

I will include a copy of our exchange of letters in the Committee Report to accompany the bill and in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration.

Thank you for your courtesy in this matter and I look forward to continued cooperation between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

FRANK D. LUCAS,  
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE  
WORKFORCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, May 22, 2013.

Hon. FRANK LUCAS,  
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to confirm our mutual understanding with respect to the consideration of H.R. 1947, the Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2013. Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Education and the Workforce with regard to H.R. 1947. The committee remains watchful of policy changes to the nutrition programs within the bill under its jurisdiction and those that may impact programs under the Child Nutrition Act.

In the interest of expediting the House's consideration of H.R. 1947, the Committee on Education and the Workforce will forego further consideration on this bill. However, I do so only with the understanding that this procedural route will not be construed to prejudice the committee's jurisdictional interest and prerogatives on this bill or any other similar legislation and will not be considered as precedent for consideration of matters of jurisdictional interest to my committee in the future.

I respectfully request your support for the appointment of outside conferees from the

Committee on Education and the Workforce should this bill or a similar bill be considered in a conference with the Senate. I also request that you include our exchange of letters on this matter in the Committee Report on H.R. 1947 and in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

JOHN KLINE,  
*Chairman.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
*Washington, DC, May 22, 2013.*

Hon. JOHN KLINE,  
*Chairman, Committee on Education and the Workforce, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1947, the Federal Agricultural Reform and Risk Management Act of 2013. As you noted, there are provisions of the bill that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

I appreciate your willingness to forgo action on H.R. 1947, and I agree that your decision should not prejudice the Committee on Education and the Workforce with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation.

I will include a copy of our exchange of letters in the Committee Report to accompany the bill and in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration.

Thank you for your courtesy in this matter and I look forward to continued cooperation between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

FRANK D. LUCAS,  
*Chairman.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY,  
*Washington, DC, May 23, 2013.*

Hon. FRANK LUCAS,  
*Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN LUCAS: I am writing to you concerning the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology in H.R. 1947, the Federal Agricultural Reform and Risk Management Act of 2013. The bill contains several provisions which are within the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology's jurisdiction.

The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology acknowledges the importance of H.R. 1947 and the desire to bring this legislation before the House of Representatives in an expeditious manner. Therefore, while we have a valid jurisdictional claim over the bill, I agree not to request a sequential referral. This, of course, being conditional on our mutual understanding that nothing in this legislation or my decision to forgo a sequential referral waives, reduces, or otherwise affects the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

Additionally, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology expressly reserves its authority to seek the appointment of conferees during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this, or any similar legislation. I ask for your commitment to support any request by the Committee for conferees on H.R. 1947 as well as any similar or related legislation.

I ask that a copy of this letter and your response be included in the report on H.R. 1947 and also be placed in the Congressional

Record during consideration of the bill on the House floor.

I look forward to working with you as we move this important measure through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

LAMAR SMITH,  
*Chairman.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
*Washington, DC, May 21, 2013.*

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,  
*Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1947, the Federal Agricultural Reform and Risk Management Act of 2013. As you noted, there are provisions of the bill that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

I appreciate your willingness to forgo action on H.R. 1947, and I agree that your decision should not prejudice the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation.

I will include a copy of our exchange of letters in the Committee Report to accompany the bill and in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration.

Thank you for your courtesy in this matter and I look forward to continued cooperation between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

FRANK D. LUCAS,  
*Chairman.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM,  
*Washington, DC, May 24, 2013.*

Hon. FRANK D. LUCAS,  
*Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing concerning H.R. 1947, the "Federal Agricultural Reform and Risk Management Act of 2013," which your Committee reported on May 16, 2013.

H.R. 1947 contains provisions within the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform's Rule X jurisdiction. As a result of your having consulted with the Committee and in order to expedite this bill for floor consideration, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform will forego action on the bill. This is being done on the basis of our mutual understanding that doing so will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform with respect to the appointment of conferees, or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would request that you include a copy of this letter and your response in the Committee Report and in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

DARRELL ISSA,  
*Chairman.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
*Washington, DC, May 24, 2013.*

Hon. DARRELL E. ISSA,  
*Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1947, the Federal Agri-

cultural Reform and Risk Management Act of 2013. As you noted, there are provisions of the bill that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

I appreciate your willingness to forgo action on H.R. 1947, and I agree that your decision should not prejudice the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation.

I will include a copy of our exchange of letters in the Committee Report to accompany the bill and in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration.

Thank you for your courtesy in this matter and I look forward to continued cooperation between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

FRANK D. LUCAS,  
*Chairman.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,  
*Washington, DC, May 29, 2013.*

Hon. FRANK D. LUCAS,  
*Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN LUCAS: I write concerning H.R. 1947, the "Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2013," which was ordered to be reported out of your Committee on May 15, 2013.

I wanted to notify you that the Committee on Energy and Commerce will agree to waive seeking a formal referral of H.R. 1947 in order that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

This is done with the understanding that the Committee on Energy and Commerce is not waiving any of its jurisdiction, and the Committee will not in any way be prejudiced with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding, and ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 1947 on the House floor.

Sincerely,

FRED UPTON,  
*Chairman.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
*Washington, DC, May 29, 2013.*

Hon. FRED UPTON,  
*Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1947, the Federal Agricultural Reform and Risk Management Act of 2013. As you noted, there are provisions of the bill that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

I appreciate your willingness to forgo action on H.R. 1947, and I agree that your decision should not prejudice the Committee on Energy and Commerce with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation.

I will include a copy of our exchange of letters in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration.

Thank you for your courtesy in this matter and I look forward to continued cooperation between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

FRANK D. LUCAS,  
*Chairman.*

## HONORING BROOKE WARD

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brooke Ward of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Brooke is active in the community and in her school and has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Future Leader Award.

Brooke Ward is a perfect example of leading through example. She graduated second in her class at Lafayette High School, while excelling in both AP and Honors level classes. She received letters in both volleyball and basketball, mentored other students, volunteered throughout the community and has advocated for Drug and Alcohol Free living. Brooke's writing skills allowed her to be one of two nationally selected students to participate in a study of Mao's Long March through Eastern China.

Brooke has also been active through roles in student government and she served as the Senate Minority Floor Leader at Girls State. I had the privilege of having Brooke work in my Saint Joseph office as an intern. As a high school student, she set an incredibly high standard for the interns that followed her to try and live up to. To say that Brooke is an impressive young woman with a bright and successful future in front of her is a complete understatement.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Brooke Ward. She is an amazing individual and a tremendous asset to the Saint Joseph community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

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**FEDERAL AGRICULTURE REFORM  
AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACT OF  
2013**

SPEECH OF

**HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 18, 2013*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1947) to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes:

Mr. PETERSON. Madam Chair, I join you in pledging to work with the former Member of our Committee from Georgia. As he indicated, we were pleased to work with him and other Members during the 2008 Farm Bill to open up both the McIntire-Stennis program and Section 3(d) for full participation from the 1890 Institutions.

I look forward to working with the 1890 colleges and universities and USDA on addressing the concerns that they have raised with the Committee.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RUSH HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, during debate of the rule (H. Res. 271) and during consideration of amendments to H.R. 1947, Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act and of 2013, I was not able to be present for Recorded Votes. Had I been present during the vote series, I would have voted as follows:

"no" on rollcall vote 254, On Ordering the Previous Question;

"no" on rollcall vote 254, On Agreeing to the Resolution to provide for consideration of H.R. 1947;

"no" on rollcall vote 255, On Approving the Journal;

"yes" on rollcall vote 256, On Amendment No. 1 offered by Mr. McGovern of Massachusetts to restore the \$20.5 billion in SNAP by offsetting the Farm Risk Management Election Program and the Supplemental Coverage Option;

"yes" on rollcall vote 257, On Amendment No. 3 offered by Ms. Foxx of North Carolina to cap spending on the Farm Risk Management Election program at 110% of CBO-predicted levels for the first five years in which payments are distributed;

"no" on rollcall vote 258, On Amendment No. 5 offered by Mr. Broun of Georgia to repeal permanent law from the Agriculture Act of 1949 that pertains to dairy support and to prevent the currently suspended law from becoming reactivated should Congress not reauthorize programs under the Department of Agriculture;

"yes" on rollcall vote 259, On Amendment No. 8 offered by Mr. Blumenauer of Oregon to require that twenty percent of the acreage enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program be set aside for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program, which allows states to target high priority and environmentally sensitive land and to continually re-enroll that land in CRP;

"yes" on rollcall vote 260, On Amendment No. 9 by Mr. Blumenauer of Oregon to reform the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to increase access for farmers and to eliminate payments to projects that do not show strong conservation benefits;

"yes" on rollcall vote 261, On Amendment No. 14 by Ms. Kaptur of Ohio to improve federal coordination in addressing the documented decline of managed and native pollinators and to promote the long-term viability of honey bees, wild bees, and other beneficial insects in agriculture;

"yes" on rollcall vote 262, On Amendment No. 15 offered by Mr. Royce of California to reform U.S. international food aid to allow for not more than 45 percent of authorized funds to be used for assistance other than U.S. agricultural commodities, yielding \$215 million in annual efficiency savings, enabling the U.S. to reach an additional 4 million disaster victims. Curtails the practice of "monetization" which, according to the GAO, is inefficient and led to a loss of \$219 million over three years. Reductions in mandatory spending result in \$150 million in deficit reduction over the life of the bill;

"no" on rollcall vote 263, On Amendment No. 16 offered by Mr. Chabot of Ohio to repeal section 3102, which reauthorizes the Market Access Program (MAP) until 2018.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on June 19, 2013, on rollcall vote #260, Blumenauer amendment 8, I voted "yea." I intended to vote "nay" on the amendment.

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**FEDERAL AGRICULTURE REFORM  
AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACT OF  
2013**

SPEECH OF

**HON. PAUL RYAN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 18, 2013*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1947) to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes:

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Chair, I want to thank Chairman LUCAS and Ranking Member PETERSON for their work on this bill. There are some good ideas in here, and we should act on them. But I have some serious concerns with the bill. On balance, I'm afraid the bad parts outweigh the good. And so I must vote against it.

Here's what this bill gets right: In some areas, it cuts wasteful spending. It eliminates direct payments. It adjusts the food-stamp program. And it consolidates duplicative programs. I want to commend the chairmen and the members of the Agriculture Committee for proposing these reforms. My concern is they don't go far enough.

And in other areas, this bill increases spending. For instance, it creates new farm-support programs, such as the Price Loss Coverage and the Revenue Loss Coverage programs. Overall, the bill's changes to farm-support programs are supposed to save money for taxpayers, but under certain economic conditions, they could actually cost more. And there's another problem: This bill expands crop insurance at a time of record debt for our nation—and record profits for the agriculture sector.

Now, we should have a safety net for our farmers. We should help the little guy—the family farm that's in need. We shouldn't bankroll the big guys. But that's what this bill does. It loosens eligibility standards for crop subsidies—and increases the number of people who can apply. In fact, they may not even be farmers. Under this bill, someone could make up to \$950,000 a year in a nonrelated industry—and still receive subsidies. Over 6,000 people who are losing money on the farm—but who are making plenty of money elsewhere—would become eligible.

Finally, I have concerns with the food-stamp program. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program has grown at an annualized rate of 12.5 percent over the past ten years. It will cost about \$80 billion just this year. And though the program's costs will fall over the next ten years, they will remain at elevated

levels—much higher than they should be. The fact is, we need to reform this program—and we need to encourage work. The 1996 welfare-reform law brought millions of children out of poverty. By strengthening work requirements in SNAP, we can build on the bipartisan work started in the 1990s and reduce poverty. This farm bill is a missed opportunity. Despite making modest changes, the legislation doesn't pursue real reform.

I want to commend Chairman LUCAS for bringing good ideas to the table. But I'm afraid this bill has serious flaws, and therefore I must vote no.

IN HONOR OF THE STATE OF  
WEST VIRGINIA'S SESQUICENTENNIAL

**HON. DAVID B. MCKINLEY**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2013

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 150th birthday of West Virginia's statehood. As a seventh generation West Virginian, I am proud of the special history of the Mountain State.

On June 20, 1863, West Virginia became the 35th state in the country. While the Civil War divided the nation, few states faced more internal strife because of the conflict than Virginia. Bitter relations between eastern and western Virginians had been growing for years before the Civil War as people living in both regions were divided geographically, culturally, economically and politically. After Virginia voted to secede from the Union on April 17, 1861, people living in western Virginia pushed for the creation of a new state by formally petitioning President Abraham Lincoln for statehood.

A public referendum on the issue of statehood passed on October 24, 1861, and a constitutional convention held in my hometown of Wheeling in February 1862 produced a constitution that was intensely debated, with one controversial issue being the emancipation of slaves. The first draft of the new state constitution was not well received by the U.S. Senate because it contained no emancipation clause, so the Willey Amendment, which called for the gradual emancipation of slaves, was added. It apparently worked. The measure passed by a vote of 23 to 17. After another contentious debate, the measure passed the House on December 10, 1862, by a vote of 96 to 55.

In late December 1862, President Lincoln turned to his Cabinet for advice on whether the legislation that would create the state of West Virginia was constitutional. He received contradictory opinions, and no consensus. Lincoln agonized over his decision and weighed arguments from both sides before announcing his decision. On New Year's Eve 1862 he signed the bill that gave birth to West Virginia.

It was a controversial decision that scholars continue to debate to this day, mainly because the petition for statehood was approved by the government representing the territory that would become West Virginia and not the territory that would remain Virginia. Lincoln recognized the questionable nature of the state's creation, noting that "a measure made expedient by a war, is no precedent for times of

peace." But he said he signed the bill because he could not afford to lose the support of loyal West Virginians.

"Her brave and good men regard her admission into the Union as a matter of life and death," the president said in his written opinion. "They have been true to the Union under very severe trials.

"We have so acted as to justify their hopes; and we cannot fully retain their confidence, and cooperation, if we seem to break faith with them."

After the Civil War, the new state experienced an era of unprecedented industrial development with burgeoning industries based on its rich natural resources—coal, oil, natural gas and timber—along with the construction of hundreds of miles of new railroads that helped to open up the Mountain State to trade with the world. By the turn of the century, West Virginia had grown to become a significant contributor to the nation's industrialization and expansion.

While the state remains a leader in energy, it also is a global supplier of chemicals and a national hub for biotech industries. Its diverse economy now includes aerospace, automotive, healthcare and education, metals and steels, media and telecommunications, manufacturing, hospitality, biometrics, forestry, and tourism.

West Virginia also is a great place for outdoor recreation with 32 state parks, Alpine and Nordic ski areas, whitewater rafting, and other attractions, such as The Greenbrier resort in White Sulphur Springs and the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve in Glen Jean. The state's beautiful mountains, lakes and rivers, low crime rate, and other lifestyle factors continue to draw tourists and retirees alike.

From its difficult beginnings until today, West Virginians have remained "true to the Union," as Lincoln said. More than 500,000 West Virginians have answered the call of duty since the Revolutionary War. More than 10,000 West Virginians have given their lives in combat, and the state, though only 1.8 million strong, leads the country in the number of military veterans per capita.

As the only state born of the Civil War and the only state formed by presidential decree, West Virginia proudly celebrates its sesquicentennial.

LETTER TO THE SPEAKER URGING  
THE CREATION OF A HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE TERRORIST ATTACK ON THE U.S. CONSULATE IN BENGHAZI, LIBYA

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit a copy of my June 19, 2013 letter again urging the creation of a bipartisan Select Committee to investigate the terrorist attack on the U.S. consulate and annex in Benghazi last September.

There are only five legislative weeks left before the one-year anniversary of the attacks. Yet there remain too many unanswered questions resulting from too few public hearings with key witnesses who were present the night of the attack.

That's why 158 Members have cosponsored H. Res. 36 to create a Select Committee to conduct a full investigation with public hearings. The Select Committee has also been endorsed by family members of the Benghazi victims, more than 700 retired Special Operations officials and the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association.

I urge the prompt creation of a Select Committee to ensure the American people learn the truth.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

June 19, 2013.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,  
The Capitol.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: The American people are losing confidence in their government. The tragedy in Benghazi, along with a stream of recent controversies, including the IRS and the Justice Department's targeting of reporters at Fox News and the Associated Press, as well as the ambiguity about recently disclosed programs at the National Security Agency, are eroding public trust in the institutions of government.

This diminishing of public confidence isn't limited to the Executive Branch. Congress' approval rating is at an all-time low. A June 14 National Journal article said, "Nearly 8 in 10 Americans told Gallup pollsters this month that they disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job, the 45th consecutive month that more than two-thirds of Americans graded Congress poorly. The problem isn't as much what Congress is doing as what it is not getting done." I believe most Americans would agree that one of the items "not getting done" is a thorough, comprehensive and ultimately definitive investigation into the response to the Benghazi attacks.

That is why I have been pushing so hard for a bipartisan Select Committee to investigate the September 11, 2012 terrorist attack in Benghazi. The response among most of our colleagues and the public has been overwhelming. Since January, when I proposed including the Select Committee in the House Rules package for the 113th Congress, more than two-thirds of House Republicans—a majority of the majority—have cosponsored my bill, H. Res. 36, to create the Select Committee. Since that time, there has been a growing chorus of support. The bill has been endorsed by the parents of some of the victims, by more than 700 retired Special Operations officials, by the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Associations, which represents the State Department security officers who were on the ground in Benghazi, and by The Wall Street Journal editorial page in addition to dozens of other commentators, former diplomats and military officials. I believe this broad support speaks to the public's hunger for clear answers on Benghazi—answers which to date have been elusive. That is why more than nine months after the devastating attack, my resolution continues to add new cosponsors; it now has the support of 158 Republicans.

I recognize that "regular order" has made some progress over the last six months; most notably Chairman Issa's constructive hearing with several State Department whistleblowers. I also understand that Chairman McKeon has planned a hearing with Gen. Carter Ham for next week, but like so many of these hearings, this, too, will be held behind closed doors. There is no reason Gen. Ham's testimony shouldn't be public. This latest classified hearing is symptomatic of a broader problem with respect to the current congressional approach to investigating Benghazi: Too much has been done in a piecemeal fashion, behind closed doors,

thereby robbing the American people of clear answers to important questions surrounding the murder of a sitting U.S. ambassador and three civilian employees, and the grievous injury of untold others.

Deuteronomy 16:20 tells us, "Justice, justice shalt thou pursue." As we quietly marked the nine-month anniversary of the attacks last week, I know many people wondered if there will ever be any clear resolution to this investigation, let alone justice.

Writing about Benghazi in *The Wall Street Journal* last month, columnist Peggy Noonan pondered, "Was all this incompetence? Or was it politics disguised as the fog of war? Who called these shots and made these decisions? Who decided to do nothing?"

More than nine months later, the Congress still cannot answer these questions. No one has been held responsible for the failure to respond that night. A few mid-level career officials have been penalized, but ultimately those senior officials who were in the position to actually say the buck stops here—cabinet secretaries and political appointees at the White House, State Department, Defense Department and CIA—have emerged unscathed, and in some cases, seemingly the better for it.

Consider that former Secretary Clinton now earns hundreds of thousands of dollars for every speech she gives, former Secretary Panetta just signed a \$3 million book deal and former CIA Director Petraeus recently joined an investment firm in New York.

Similarly, several other administration officials associated with the Benghazi response to the attack have been promoted. Ambassador Rice has been promoted to national security advisor, then-deputy national security advisor Dennis McDonough has been promoted to White House chief of staff, and then-White House chief of staff Jack Lew has been promoted to Treasury Secretary.

If all responsible for the government's response to Benghazi have been rewarded with lucrative contracts or promotions within the administration, what signal does this send to the American people about accountability?

Mr. Speaker, we're fast approaching the Independence Day recess. We will only have four legislative weeks in July before the August recess. When we return in September we will be just days away from the one-year anniversary of the Benghazi attacks.

We must not wait until the second year of this investigation to commit the focused resources of a Select Committee in pursuit of government accountability and, ultimately, truth. Sources are disappearing and leads are drying up. The Select Committee legislation needs to be swiftly brought to the floor for a vote, so the House can hold public hearings over the summer—focused exclusively on the core issues about why no assistance was sent to the Americans under fire in Benghazi—and attempt to provide a final public report by the first anniversary of this attack.

You have a number of committee chairman who would be excellent at leading the Select Committee. Chairman Issa has shown in his hearing with the State Department whistleblowers that he would be a good chairman. Similarly, Chairman Royce, Chairman Rogers, Chairman McKeon, Chairman Goodlatte and Chairman McCaul are all strong leaders and would ably chair a Select Committee. Further, we have a lot of talent in our conference to draw from. There are a number of newer members who have proven themselves to be capable and insightful investigators. You could consider appointing some of them to the Select Committee, too.

As I mentioned earlier, a number of new controversies involving the Obama Administration have surfaced in recent months that demand the committees' full attention. This is all the more reason to take the best of the

best under a Select Committee to build, at no additional cost, on the work that has already been done through regular order. There would be no need to start over, as some have tried to say. Nor would there be additional costs—the resolution specifically states that we should use existing resources.

We owe it to the families of the Benghazi victims and to the not yet named survivors, whose lives will be indelibly marked by the wounds they endured protecting the annex, to honor their sacrifice and their service. Harkening back to Deuteronomy, we must pursue justice on their behalf, recognizing their heroism and an accounting for the failures in leadership that left them exposed and vulnerable. We also owe it to the men and women who serve our country now and in the years ahead to restore confidence that if they come under fire, we will make every effort to come to their defense. For these reasons alone, we should not give up on this issue.

I am afraid that if we don't move on a Select Committee, we'll never find out the truth. Just as *The Wall Street Journal* editorial page in May said, "A Select Committee is the only means available now for the U.S. political system to extricate itself from the labyrinth called Benghazi."

The need for a Select Committee is underscored by the difficulty we're having getting answers on a number of current investigations. Consider that in the case of the IRS scandal, both the Ways and Means Committee and the Oversight and Government Reform Committee have opened up independent investigations that will likely take significant resources for months to come. It is important that they investigate, and they are doing an excellent job. But despite these efforts, much remains unknown about the IRS scandal—which involves only a single agency and does not have to deal with sensitive, classified information—including whether the political targeting of groups was confined to the Cincinnati office or was actually directed by Washington. We still don't have a clear answer.

In comparison, the Benghazi case cuts across multiple national security agencies and the White House involving sensitive information, thereby putting it in a league of its own among the various scandal investigations. Also of great interest is the increasing concern that the FBI is being used by various agencies as an excuse to avoid answering questions on Benghazi, especially as this investigation drags on longer. The American people should be troubled by the anemic pace of the FBI's investigation of those responsible for the attacks. Nearly a year later, the U.S. does not have a single suspect in custody. The Tunisians released one suspect earlier this year, after making the FBI wait for months to interview him. Another person of significant interest has been held since last fall by the Egyptian government, a recipient of billions of dollars in U.S. foreign assistance, but they will not allow the FBI to interview him.

Even more concerning, last month the Associated Press reported that the FBI allegedly has identified five men believed to be responsible for the Benghazi attacks, but won't detain them because it does not have enough evidence to try them in a U.S. civilian court. For the U.S. to know the identities and possible locations of those who killed four Americans and fail to take action immediately because the administration insists on an Article III trial is shameful. For these reasons, any worthwhile Benghazi investigation must also consider how the Justice Department has managed its investigation into the terrorists over the last year.

Despite these serious issues, much of the House's investigation on Benghazi to date

has centered on secondary discussions like the "talking points" and the Accountability Review Board process, to the detriment of more fundamental issues like the administration's apparent abandonment of Americans who were facing a deadly siege.

On the issues that matter most, there is nothing that happened that deadly night in Benghazi that can't be addressed in a public hearing and accompanying report of findings. There are ways to protect classified information while still allowing the public to learn what actually happened that night. There is no legitimate reason that the public shouldn't know what calls for help were made from Benghazi, who received those calls and, most importantly, why no support was sent to the Americans under siege. There is no reason that officials in the chain of command at various agencies shouldn't be asked to answer publicly why no effort was made to rescue those in Benghazi.

It has been repeated often that there were no military assets in the region that could have responded in time to stop the initial attack on the consulate. But when the attacks started, no one could have known whether it would last eight minutes, eight hours, or eight days, or longer. It appears that not even a single plane was scrambled. We can't help but draw the deeply troubling conclusion that within minutes of the attack, the decision was made that the battle was lost and the Americans left there would be collateral damage in the greater War on Terror.

If our government never sent a plane to help defend the annex, it begs the question: Did they even send an American plane to get the bodies and survivors out of Benghazi after the attacks? There's no reason the public should not learn the answer to this question, too.

As Lt. Gen. William G. Boykin (ret.) and other former Special Operations officials have noted, a bedrock American ethos—that our nation never leaves anyone behind on the battlefield—was shattered that night in Benghazi. No one came to rescue them despite pleas for help. More than nine months later, too many questions remain unanswered: Who took the call that night? What were they told and how did they respond? Why was the determination made not to intervene in a horrific assault on a U.S. diplomat and his brave support staff?

In the dangerous world in which we live there are undoubtedly hard fought battles where American blood is spilled, and lives lost—our nation is painfully aware of this reality through our experience in distant lands like Iraq and Afghanistan. But Benghazi was an unanticipated battlefield where terrorist elements seized on the occasion of the anniversary of 9/11 to strike at an American outpost abroad. They did so with deadly consequence, and their attack was met with silence from a superpower.

This is a black mark on our national history. It emboldens others with similarly gruesome aims. It leaves vulnerable Americans serving in dangerous posts. And ultimately, the lack of transparency from the various government agencies and entities involved undermines the faith of the American people in their government.

This is a less obvious "casualty" of that dark day, but it has lasting implications which we as public servants know well. For in a functioning democracy there is a sacred trust that must exist between the government and the governed and that trust is precipitously eroding.

As the *Wall Street Journal* noted in its May editorial, "Let Benghazi's chips fall. The House should appoint a Select Committee."

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,  
Member of Congress.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. HAROLD ROGERS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 251 on the passage of the District of Columbia Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, I am not recorded because I was absent due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

## FEDERAL AGRICULTURE REFORM AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 19, 2013*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1947) to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes:

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Chair, the Farm Bill that we are considering today includes massive cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) program—\$20.5 billion to be exact.

I am offering an amendment that will help us understand the repercussions of these drastic cuts.

My amendment will require the Secretary of Agriculture to report to Congress on the effects of SNAP cuts on charitable food providers, like food banks and soup kitchens. Should these devastating cuts become law, it is common sense that we should know the consequences—my amendment is about taking responsibility.

There is little room to cut this vital program. The average SNAP benefit is now only \$4.50 a day. That's just \$1.50 a meal. And this benefit will get even lower in November when the 2009 Recovery Act increase expires.

The reality is that these cuts will significantly increase demand on charitable food providers who are already stretched to the limit trying to meet the needs of our communities during this tough economic time.

These providers are facing the perfect storm—over the past few years demand for their services has been increasing as the federal, state and local, and private funding they depend on has dwindled. Higher food and fuel prices are also making it harder for them to purchase and distribute food.

Charities simply do not have the resources to fill the growing funding gaps. This means that when the SNAP program faces further cuts, hungry Americans will have nowhere else to turn.

I hope every Member in this body will agree that in the wealthiest nation in the world, no American child should go to school hungry and no parent should have to make the difficult decision between paying rent or paying for groceries. This is simply unconscionable.

At this point we've all heard the numbers—these cuts will end food aid for nearly 2 million

Americans and cut 210,000 children off of school lunch and breakfast programs.

This is a very personal issue for me. I was one of those hungry children. My father lost his job when I was a teenager and it was food stamps that kept me from going hungry. Food stamps, school breakfast and school lunch were there for me so I could worry about school instead of hunger. They nourished me so I could develop the skills to serve our country in the Army, the VA, and here in Congress.

This is also very personal for many of my constituents like Christine from Elgin, Illinois. It is because of her SNAP benefits and the Willow Creek Community Church's Food Pantry that Christine is able to provide food for her family. Her husband was laid off from the manufacturing company he worked at for 29 years. Christine, who is now disabled, can no longer work as a Nursing Assistant. Theirs is one of 3,000 families that Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, Illinois serves per month.

It is personal for the husband and wife who now count on SNAP benefits and the Church of the Holy Spirit Food Pantry in Schaumburg, IL after the husband lost his job as an electrician due to nerve damage in his hand, and they saw their savings quickly drain.

It is personal for the hard working employees and volunteers at the Greater Chicago Food Depository who serve 77 percent more people today than they did in 2008.

These stories are just a tiny sample. Forty-seven million Americans—most of whom are children, elderly or disabled—rely on the SNAP program.

These cuts are not just numbers on a page. They affect real human beings. They will have devastating consequences for real families.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and face the reality of what these devastating cuts will mean for families and charities all across the country.

## PANCREATIC CANCER AWARENESS

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw awareness to the impact of pancreatic cancer in the United States.

My staff and I have had recent conversations with individuals from my district on the effects of pancreatic cancer on their lives and their loved ones.

Last Congress, we came together to support the Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act which provides the strategic direction and guidance needed to make true progress.

These strategic plans are desperately needed in these types of cancers for which we have made so little progress.

Pancreatic cancer is still the only major cancer with a five-year survival rate in the single digits at just 6 percent; there are still no early detection tools or life-saving treatments.

The answers that could lead to changing the statistics for pancreatic cancer could lie in one of the grants currently under review at the National Cancer Institute (NCI). However, we may never realize the potential because cuts to the NCI's budget are resulting in good grants being thrown out with the trash.

We cannot let this situation continue. I therefore urge my colleagues to support a permanent fix to sequestration and provide the resources needed to conquer these deadly cancers.

## ALAMOSA COUNTY COLORADO TRIBUTE

**HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of Alamosa County, Colorado. In these fast-paced times, we often overlook the foundations of America—small towns with hard-working people.

Since 1913, Alamosa has been a model of American values, with a proud heritage of honest, hard work, perseverance and community. As the legend goes, Alamosa, originally intended as a rail center for the Rio Grande Railroad, was built from the ground up practically over-night. Industrious from the outset, the citizens of Alamosa built the town with bricks forged from local clay and fired in the city's own kiln.

It's this spirit of industry that drives Alamosa County's 9,000 residents today. It provides opportunities for the next generation to grow and prosper at Adams State College and Trinidad State College, in one of Colorado's most diverse landscapes that boasts the Great Sand Dunes National Park and the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the 100th anniversary of Alamosa County and pay tribute to the people, past and present, who have built this community and continue to embody hard work and dedication, values which have made our country strong.

## COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ACDI/VOCA

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to congratulate ACDI/VOCA on the occasion of their 50th anniversary. This outstanding organization was founded in 1963 with the mission of empowering people around the world to take advantage of economic opportunities and improve quality of life for their families and communities. To this date, ACDI/VOCA continues to fulfill this mission, as they help millions of individuals and families fight their way out of poverty. Their notable accomplishments include contributing to the launch of the Green Revolution in India, strengthening Ethiopian co-ops to bring their coffee into global prominence, and pioneering grassroots financial services across the former Soviet Union. With a staff comprised of 90 percent locally-hired employees, and working through a network of over 3,000 local partner organizations, ACDI/VOCA combines the best in international development expertise with powerful grassroots capacities to implement effective programming that has a real and sustained impact. I commend ACDI/VOCA on their history of outstanding service and am confident

that they will continue to make a difference in people's lives around the world long into the future.

A TRIBUTE TO W.A. "BILL"  
KRAUSE

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Kum and Go founder W.A. "Bill" Krause who passed away on Wednesday, June 19, 2013.

Bill was born on January 13, 1935, and was raised near Hampton and Eldora, Iowa. After graduating from Eldora-New Providence High School, Bill went on to receive a degree in Journalism and Public Affairs from the University of Iowa where he developed his renowned passion for Hawkeye athletics. Just two years later in 1959, Bill embarked on two journeys that would change his life forever. The first was marrying the love of his life, Nancy, and the second was forming a business partnership with his new father-in-law to pioneer the idea of a "convenience store." Together, Bill Krause and Tony Gentle began the Krause Gentle Corporation that offered customers a one-stop shop to fill their vehicles with gasoline and buy essentials such as milk, bread, and eggs. Once Bill and Tony acquired Hampton, Iowa-based Viking Oil, the wheels were set in motion to develop one of the greatest and most widespread businesses our State has ever seen. By 1976, the Kum and Go brand was developed and today has spread to more than 440 stores in 11 States. From humble Iowa beginnings, Bill's leadership and intelligence has driven his business to become one of the largest family-owned chains in the country.

In addition to his successful professional life, Bill consistently served his community in a variety of meaningful capacities. A strong advocate for the Catholic Church, Bill was an active member of West Des Moines' St. Francis of Assisi parish. Bill also served on the Holy Family School Foundation Board and was named a Lifetime Member of the Dowling Catholic High School Honorary Foundation Board. Last year, Bill and Nancy were chosen to receive Dowling's highest honor, the Civitas Award.

Of course, one could never speak of Bill without mentioning his numerous contributions to his alma mater. As a lifelong and die-hard fan of the University of Iowa, Bill served his school in numerous ways including the National I-Club Board and the Tippie School of Business Board. In 1993, Bill earned the coveted "Hawk of the Year" title, and today the Krause Family Pavilion at Kinnick Stadium continues to serve as a reminder of his enthusiasm and support for the school he loved.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Krause lived his life in an extraordinary fashion and he is a testament to the power of a strong Iowa work ethic and commitment to family. It has truly been an honor to represent such an exemplary Iowan in the United States Congress, and his contributions to our great State will be deeply missed. I offer Nancy and the entire Krause family my sincerest sympathies and best wishes in this difficult time as we mourn the passing of a true Iowa legend.

RECENT EXPERT REPORTS, DISPARITY STUDIES AND CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ADDRESSING PUBLIC PROCUREMENT AND MINORITY- AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

**HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following information:

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS

2013

Strengthening the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem for Minority Women, Hearing Before the S. Comm. on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, 113th Cong. (2013)

2012

Closing the Wealth Gap Through the African-American Entrepreneurial Ecosystem: Roundtable Discussion with the U.S. House Comm. on Small Business, 112th Cong. (Sept. 9, 2012).

2011

Closing the Gap: Exploring Minority Access to Capital and Contracting Opportunities: Hearing Before the S. Comm. on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, 112th Cong. (2011)

2010

Assessing Access: Obstacles and Opportunities for Minority Small Business Owners in Today's Capital Markets, Hearing Before the S. Comm. on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, 111th Cong. (2010)

Minority Contracting Opportunities: Challenges for Current and Future Minority-Owned Businesses: Hearing before the U.S. House Committee on Oversight & Gov't Reform, Subcommittee on Government Management, Organization and Procurement, 111 Cong. (Sept. 22, 2010)

Minorities and Women in Financial Regulatory Reform: The Need for Increasing Participation and Opportunities for Qualified Persons and Businesses: Hearing Before the U.S. House Comm. on Financial Services, Subcomm. on Oversight and Investigations and Subcomm. on Housing and Community Opportunity, 111th Cong. (2010)

Full Committee Hearing on Small Business Participation in Federal Procurement Marketplace: Hearing Before the U.S. House Comm. on Small Business, 111th Cong. (2010)

2009

Infrastructure Investment: Ensuring an Effective Economic Recovery Program: Hearing Before the H. Comm. on Transportation and Infrastructure, 111th Cong. (2009)

The Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act of 2009: Hearing Before the H. Subcomm. on Aviation of the H. Comm. on Transportation and Infrastructure, 111th Cong. (2009)

Full Committee Hearing on the State of the SBA's Entrepreneurial Development Programs and Their Role in Promoting an Economic Recovery: Hearing Before the H. Comm. on Small Business, 111th Cong. (2009)

Full Committee Hearing on Oversight of the Small Business Administration and its Programs: Hearing Before the H. Comm. on Small Business, 111th Cong. (2009)

The Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Programs: Hearing Before the H. Comm. on Transportation and Infrastructure, 111th Cong. (2009)

The Role of Small Business in Recovery Act Contracting: Hearing Before the S. Comm. on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, 111th Cong. (2009)

Trends Affecting Minority Broadcast Ownership: Hearing Before the H. Judiciary Comm., 111th Cong. (2009)

Roundtable on Healthcare Reform: Small Business Concerns and Priorities: Hearing Before the S. Comm. on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, 111th Cong. (2009)

Doing Business with the Government: The Record and Goals for Small, Minority and Disadvantaged Businesses: Hearing Before the H. Comm. on Transportation and Infrastructure, 111th Cong. (2009)

Minority Entrepreneurship: Evaluating Small Business Resources and Programs: Hearing Before the S. Comm. on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, 111th Cong. (2009)

The Minority Business Development Agency: Enhancing the Prospects for Success: Hearing Before the H. Subcomm. on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection of the H. Comm. on Energy and Commerce, 111th Cong. (2009)

2008

Full Committee Hearing on SBA's Progress in Implementing the Women's Procurement Program: Hearing Before the H. Comm. on Small Business, 110th Cong. (2008)

Holding the Small Business Administration Accountable: Women's Contracting and Lender Oversight: Hearing Before the S. Comm. on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, 110th Cong. (2008)

Diversity in the Financial Services Sector: Hearing Before the H. Subcomm. on Oversight and Investigations of the H. Comm. on Financial Services, 110th Cong. (2008)

Military Base Realignment: Contracting Opportunities for Impacted Communities: Hearing Before the H. Comm. on Government Management, Organization, and Procurement of the H. Comm. on Oversight and Government Reform, 110th Cong. (2008)

Community Reinvestment Act: Thirty Years of Accomplishments, But Challenges Remain: Hearing Before the H. Comm. on Financial Services, 110th Cong. (2008)

Doing Business with the Government: The Record and Goals for Small, Minority, and Disadvantaged Businesses: Hearing Before the H. Subcomm. on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management of the H. Comm. on Transportation and Infrastructure, 110th Cong. (2008)

Subcommittee Hearing on Oversight of the Entrepreneurial Development Programs Implemented by the Small Business Administration and National Veterans Business Development Corporation: Hearing Before the H. Subcomm. on Rural and Urban Entrepreneurship of the H. Comm. on Small Business, 110th Cong. (2008)

Women in Business: Leveling the Playing Field: Roundtable Before the S. Comm. on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, 110th Cong. (2008)

Subcommittee Hearing on Minority and Hispanic Participation in the Federal Workforce and the Impact on the Small Business Community: Hearing Before the H. Subcomm. on Regulations, Health Care, and Trade of the H. Comm. on Small Business, 110th Cong. (2008)

Opportunities and Challenges for Women Entrepreneurs on the 20th Anniversary of the Women's Business Ownership Act: Hearing Before the S. Comm. on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, 110th Cong. (2008)

Business Start-Up Hurdles in Underserved Communities: Access to Venture Capital and Entrepreneurship Training: Hearing Before the S. Comm. on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, 110th Cong. (2008)

How Information Policy Affects Competitive Viability of Small and Disadvantaged Business in Federal Contracting: Hearing Before the H. Subcomm. on Information Policy, Census, and National Archives of the H.

Comm. on Oversight and Government Reform, 110th Cong. (2008)

2007

Full Committee Field Hearing on Participation of Small Business in Hurricane Katrina Recovery Contracts: Hearing Before the H. Comm. on Small Business, 110th Cong. (2007)

Minority Entrepreneurship: Assessing the Effectiveness of SBA's Programs for the Minority Business Community: Hearing Before the S. Comm. on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, 110th Cong. (2007)

Full Committee Hearing on the Small Business Administration's Microloan Program: Hearing Before the H. Comm. on Small Business, 110th Cong. (2007)

Increasing Government Accountability and Ensuring Fairness in Small Business Contracting: Hearing Before the S. Comm. on Small Business & Entrepreneurship, 110th Cong. (2007)

Diversifying Native Economies: Oversight Hearing Before the H. Comm. on Natural Resources, 110th Cong. (2007)

Expanding Opportunities for Women Entrepreneurs: The Future of Women's Small Business Programs: Hearing Before the S. Comm. on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, 110th Cong. (2007)

Federal Contracting: Removing Hurdles for Minority-Owned Small Businesses: Hearing Before the H. Subcomm. on Government Management, Organization, and Procurement of the H. Comm. on Oversight and Government Reform, 110th Cong. (2007)

Full Committee Hearing to Consider Legislation Updating and Improving the SBA's Contracting Programs: Hearing Before the H. Comm. on Small Business, 110th Cong. (2007)

Mortgage Lending Discrimination: Field Hearing Before the H. Comm. on Financial Services, 110th Cong. (2007)

Access to Federal Contracts: How to Level the Playing Field: Field Hearing Before the S. Comm. on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, 110th Cong. (2007)

Preserving and Expanding Minority Banks: Hearing Before the H. Subcomm. on Oversight and Investigations of the H. Comm. on Financial Services, 110th Cong. (2007)

2006

Reauthorization of Small Business Administration Financing and Entrepreneurial Development Programs: Hearing Before the S. Comm. on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, 109th Cong. (2006)

Northern Lights and Procurement Plights: The Effect of the ANC Program on Federal Procurement and Alaska Native Corporation: Joint Hearing Before the H. Comm. on Government Reform and the H. Comm. on Small Business, 109th Cong. (2006)

Diversity: The GAO Perspective: Hearing Before the H. Subcomm. on Oversight and Investigations of the H. Comm. on Financial Services, 109th Cong. (2006)

Strengthening Participation of Small Businesses in Federal Contracting and Innovation Research Programs: Hearing Before the S. Comm. on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, 109th Cong. (2006)

#### RECENT STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT DISPARITY STUDIES

##### CALIFORNIA

Metro Disparity Study Final Report, Prepared by BBC Research & Consulting for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (2009)

Metrolink Disparity Study Draft Report, Prepared by BBC Research & Consulting for the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (2009)

OCTA Disparity Study Final Report, Prepared by BBC Research & Consulting for the Orange County Transportation Authority (2010)

SANDAG Disparity Study Final Report, Prepared by BBC Research & Consulting for the San Diego Association of Governments (2010)

San Diego County Regional Airport Authority Disparity Study, Prepared by BBC Research & Consulting for the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority (2010)

##### FLORIDA

The State of Minority and Women Owned Enterprise: Evidence from Broward County, Prepared by NERA Economic Consulting for Broward County, Florida (2010)

##### GEORGIA

Georgia Department of Transportation Disparity Study, Prepared by BBC Research & Consulting for the Georgia Department of Administration (2012)

##### HAWAII

The State of Minority and Women Owned Enterprise: Evidence from Hawai'i, Prepared by NERA Economic Consulting for the Hawaii Department of Transportation (2010)

##### INDIANA

Indiana Disparity Study: Final Report, Prepared by BBC Research & Consulting for the Indiana Department of Administration (2010)

##### MARYLAND

The State of Minority and Women Owned Enterprise: Evidence from Maryland, Prepared by NERA Economic Consulting for the Maryland Department of Transportation (2011)

##### MINNESOTA

The State of Minority and Women Owned Enterprise: Evidence from Minneapolis, Prepared by NERA Economic Consulting for the City of Minneapolis (2010)

The State of Minnesota Joint Availability and Disparity Study, Prepared by MGT of America, Inc., for the Minnesota Department of Transportation (2008)

##### NORTH CAROLINA

City of Charlotte: Disparity Study, Prepared by MGT of America, Inc., for the City of Charlotte (2011)

##### OHIO

The State of Minority and Women Owned Enterprise: Evidence from Northeast Ohio, Prepared by NERA Economic Consulting for the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (2010)

##### OKLAHOMA

City of Tulsa Business Disparity Study, Prepared by MGT of America, Inc. for the City of Tulsa (2010)

##### OREGON

A Disparity Study for the Port of Portland, Oregon, Prepared by MGT for America, Inc., for the Port of Portland, Oregon (2009)

City of Portland Disparity Study, Prepared by BBC Research & Consulting for the Portland Development Commission (2011)

##### PENNSYLVANIA

City of Philadelphia, Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Disparity Study, Prepared by Econsult Corporation for the City of Philadelphia (2010)

City of Philadelphia, Fiscal Year 2010 Annual Disparity Study, Prepared by Econsult Corporation for the City of Philadelphia (2011)

City of Philadelphia, Fiscal Year 2011 Annual Disparity Study, Prepared by Econsult Corporation for the City of Philadelphia (2012)

##### TENNESSEE

City of Memphis, Tennessee, Comprehensive Disparity Study, Prepared by Griffin and Strong, P.C., for the City of Memphis (2010)

##### TEXAS

The State of Minority and Women Owned Enterprise in Construction: Evidence from Houston, Prepared by NERA Economic Consulting for the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (2012)

##### VIRGINIA

A Disparity Study for the Commonwealth of Virginia, Prepared by MGT of America, Inc. for the Commonwealth of Virginia (2010)

##### WASHINGTON, D.C.

2010 Disparity Study, Final Report, Prepared by Mason Tillman Associates, Ltd., for the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (2011)

##### WISCONSIN

Disparity Study for the City of Milwaukee, Prepared by D. Wilson Consulting Group, LLC for the City of Milwaukee (2010)

#### HONORING KAPPY HODGES

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kappy Hodges of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Kappy is active in the community through her work and has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Emerging Leader Award.

Kappy Hodges is a walking testament to the power of volunteerism and what a positive affect it can have on a community. Kappy was a founding board member of the Saint Joseph chapter of Big Brothers/Big Sisters. She has been recognized for her work with the Junior League and has been praised for her work to support Animal Shelter and Rescue. She has also been a diligent fund raiser and coordinator for large community projects like Trails West! and the Apple Blossom Pageant.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Kappy Hodges. She has already made an amazing impact on countless individuals in the St. Joseph community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

#### FEDERAL MANAGEMENT REFORM AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

#### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 18, 2013*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1947) to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes:

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Chair, today we have a major piece of legislation before us which provides an opportunity to set the general direction for America's farm and food policy. Congress first enacted the farm bill in response to the Great Depression in order to foster growth in our Nation's economy and to protect those who were most in need. Today, we are still recovering from

what some economists call, “the Great Recession.” We find ourselves at a crossroads where we must decide how to manage our fiscal priorities while still protecting those who were hardest hit by the recent recession. When considering H.R. 1947 we should not forget the underlying principal which defines the farm bill, which is to provide assistance to those most in need.

Our Nation looks on as the Republican majority in the House of Representatives attempts to justify having nearly two-thirds of the savings generated from the entire bill come from cutting \$20.5 billion in SNAP funding. While we are in a very difficult fiscal climate, we simply cannot continue to place further burden on our Nation’s most vulnerable citizens. In these tough budgetary times, we should not signal to our constituents that helping those most in need is no longer a priority.

President Eisenhower once said, “Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies in the final sense a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed.” We must consider the short and long term consequences of these cuts on our children, the elderly and disabled. Madam Chair, I would like to remind my colleagues that 95% of SNAP funding goes directly to families to buy food. For many of these at-risk populations, SNAP is the sole form of income-assistance they receive and is a powerful anecdote to extreme poverty.

Madam Chair, I am disappointed that two amendments I offered, which would have made improvements to this bill were not considered. Although I have many concerns with this bill, I feel they would have made modest improvements. My first amendment would have provided language which would have enabled the reauthorization of USDA’s Hunger-Free Communities grant program. This program was created to provide public funding for comprehensive and collaborative efforts to end hunger at the community level. The 2008 Farm Bill authorized the grant program and \$5 million was appropriated for Fiscal Year 2010. 14 communities in eight states, including my State of Texas, were awarded 2-year grants ranging from \$63,000 to \$2,000,000.

My second amendment addressed the issue of broad-based categorical eligibility. My understanding is that if broad-based categorical eligibility is ended under H.R. 1947, all states will have to use the asset test. Current law states that “that a household otherwise eligible to participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program will not be eligible to participate if its resources exceed \$2,000 or, in the case of a household which consists of or includes an elderly or disabled member, if its resources exceed \$3,000.” If that is the case I feel that the asset limit should be higher. My amendment would have increased the asset eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to \$5,000 for all households, including those households including elderly and disabled members.

Madam Chair, In conclusion, I simply cannot support a bill which cuts \$20.5 billion from our Nation’s most important anti-hunger program which touches nearly 1 out of 7 American’s.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE MAJOR GENERAL DAVID F. WHERLEY, JR., DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NATIONAL GUARD RETENTION AND COLLEGE ACCESS GRANT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the four-year anniversary of the tragic June 22, 2009, Metro crash, in which Major General David F. Wherley, former Commanding General of the D.C. National Guard, his wife, Ann, and seven others were killed when Metro trains collided on the Red Line, I introduce a bill, the Major General David F. Wherley, Jr., District of Columbia National Guard Retention and College Access Act (NGRCA), to permanently authorize funding for a program that provides grants for higher education to members of the D.C. National Guard. In 2010, I renamed this bill after General Wherley because he worked tirelessly with me to get funding for the program for many years, and because of his devotion to the youth of the District of Columbia.

The NGRCA authorizes an education incentive program, recommended by the late Major General David F. Wherley, Jr., and his successor, Major General Errol Schwartz, to stem the troublesome loss of members of the D.C. Guard to other units. Surrounding states offer such educational benefits to their Guards. I am grateful that the Appropriations committees have provided funds for the program in some years, most recently in fiscal year 2013. Naming a permanently authorized program after General Wherley would memorialize his service to the country and to the Guard in a way that I believe he would have appreciated. Authorizing funding is necessary to ensure that D.C. Guard members receive the same treatment and benefits as other National Guard members, especially those in states that provide the higher education benefits we seek for D.C. Guard members. The Guard for the nation’s capital has a limited ability to compete for regional residents, who find membership in the Maryland and Virginia Guards more beneficial. A competitive tuition assistance program for the D.C. Guard will provide significant incentives and leverage to help maintain enrollment and level the field of competition. The D.C. Guard is a federal instrument not under the control of the mayor of the District of Columbia. The federal government supports most other D.C. Guard functions and should support this small benefit as well.

The small education incentives in my bill would not only encourage high-quality recruits, but would have the important benefit of helping the D.C. Guard to maintain the force necessary to protect the federal presence, including members of Congress and the Supreme Court, and visitors if a terrorist attack or natural disaster should occur. I am pleased to introduce the bill based on the advice of Guard personnel, who best know what is necessary.

It is especially important for the D.C. Guard to be able to attract the best soldiers, given its unique mission to protect the federal presence here, in addition to D.C. residents. This responsibility distinguishes the D.C. Guard from all other National Guards. The D.C. Guard is specially trained to meet its unique mission.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF LAKE WORTH, FLORIDA

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the centennial anniversary of Lake Worth, Florida, a diverse and vibrant city in my district. Since its incorporation on June 4th, 1913, Lake Worth has grown into a lively community of 36,000 people.

Currently under the leadership of Mayor Pam Triolo, Lake Worth is a world-class tourist destination. It boasts one of the longest municipal piers on Florida’s Atlantic Coast, a unique downtown, and over 1,000 historical buildings. Lake Worth is also home to the Palm Beach County Cultural Center, which has delighted art-lovers and patrons of all ages since its founding in 1978.

Founded by former slaves, Lake Worth is one of the most diverse cities in Florida. Today, it boasts over 50 different nationalities. Its rich cultural history continues to promote a sense of hard work, diversity, and inclusiveness.

In honor of Lake Worth’s centennial anniversary, I am proud to recognize this dynamic community for their past successes and wish them a bright and prosperous future.

PAIN-CAPABLE UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 18, 2013*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1797. This bill, which would implement a nationwide ban on abortions after 20 weeks, is in direct violation of Roe v. Wade. H.R. 1797 is the latest attempt by House Republicans to undermine a woman’s fundamental right to choose.

H.R. 1797 does not provide an exception to protect a woman’s health. This dangerous omission would deny a woman the right to an abortion even when her doctor determines it would be necessary to protect her health. This infringement into the relationship between a woman and her doctor is the reason this legislation is opposed by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Medical Women’s Association.

Additionally, H.R. 1797 contains a wholly inadequate exception for rape and incest. The threshold that the crime must have been reported to the authorities is arbitrary and cynical considering that it is estimated over half of the rapes in the United States go unreported.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this attack on a woman’s Constitutional right to choose.

CANCEL THE SEQUESTER: LET DR. WOODRUFF IMPROVE OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE EFFECTS OF EXPOSURE TO METALS ON HUMAN REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2013

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to tell my colleagues about the deleterious effect that sequestration is having on biomedical research and our ability to improve the health of people in communities across this country.

This week, Dr. Teresa Woodruff, a reproductive endocrinologist and the Chief of the Division of Fertility Preservation at the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University, contacted me to explain how the sequester is harming her ability to perform critical research into the effects of toxins on female reproductive health and fertility.

Last year, Dr. Woodruff applied for a grant from the Superfund Research Program, a joint program of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and the National Institutes of Health, to investigate and develop strategies to combat the proliferation of toxins at the DePue, Illinois Superfund site. Her application received a positive score and, after revising her research plan after being told that NIH lacked the resources needed to fully fund the project, she expected to receive funding and begin work this summer.

Unfortunately, Dr. Woodruff's team will be unable to start this critical research. In May, she was told that NIEHS cannot award the Superfund grant because of the sequester—an additional across-the-board cut to an already-modest research budget. The NIEHS administrator responsible for awarding these grants indicated that he had never seen anything like this before in his career—never before was he unable to fund a grant after a positive award decision was made.

Sequestration has pulled the rug out from under our researchers. Instead of working to understand the threats posed by environmental toxins, Dr. Woodruff's team is forced to delay this extremely valuable research. She is not giving up—and she will spend many more hours completing grant applications in hopes that funding will be available in the future. But, in the meantime, research that could result in real improvements for women's health and the environment is being put on hold.

I hope my colleagues will take the time to read a summary of the important research that Dr. Woodruff's team is unable to perform due to the unnecessary and harmful sequester cuts. I urge my colleagues to restore vital research funding by supporting H.R. 900, the Cancel the Sequester Act, so that our researchers can get back to doing their work.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH HAZARDS SUPERFUND RESEARCH CENTER

SUMMARY

There is limited understanding of the effects of exposure to metals on human reproductive health. The proposed Northwestern University Reproductive Health Hazards Superfund Research Center was designed to investigate the effects of metal contaminants on reproductive function in DePue, Illinois and in Northwestern University laboratories.

In the village of DePue, which was designated a Superfund site in 1999, the Center would investigate the longitudinal risk of heavy metal contamination on human reproductive health and track how such contaminants are dispersed through the food chain and microbial environments. Additionally, the Center would work with the village of DePue to educate the local community and translate new knowledge into policy changes to improve public health.

At Northwestern University laboratories, Center researchers would also investigate the impact of metals on gamete (egg and sperm) function and reproductive health. Additionally, the team would develop new assays to assess the reproductive health risks of heavy metals and mitigation strategies for metal removal and environmental remediation. The knowledge gained by the Center would be applicable to the village of DePue, Superfund sites, and other contaminated sites across the United States.

HISTORY

Our team initially applied to the Superfund Research Program, a joint program of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and the National Institutes of Health, in the spring of 2012. In the fall of 2012, we were awarded a positive score with a good chance or receiving funding in response to our application, and we were asked to supply a letter of information responding to the limited criticisms from the peer review.

In March 2013, we were offered an option informally to receive funding at a reduced amount for a reduced time period since our application was well reviewed and deemed meritorious but available funding was limited. We elected to accept this funding rather than resubmit and provided approximately 80 pages of revised budgets and supporting materials toward this option. That material was well-received, but two weeks prior to the annual resubmission deadline, it was suggested that we also resubmit our original application with revisions because the informally offered funding was in jeopardy due to sequestration and rescission. Even on this limited time-frame we managed to resubmit our application. Despite the continued confidence of the NIH program officers that the reduced grant would be funded as of July or August, in May we were formally informed that it would not be. It is important to note that the NIH receives funding for Superfund Research through the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee rather than the standard Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations Subcommittee, which funds the majority of the NIH budget. We are now awaiting review of the resubmitted grant proposal in November and hope to obtain funding in April 2014.

Sequestration, and the unpredictable nature of funding during this time, has not only delayed the creation of a critical research program but has consumed hundreds of man hours for the research team at Northwestern University.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Kate Timmerman, PhD, Program Director, Oncofertility Consortium, Northwestern University.

Teresa K. Woodruff, PhD, Vice Chair for Research, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology; Director, Oncofertility Consortium, Northwestern University.

FEDERAL AGRICULTURE REFORM AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1947) to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes:

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Chair, as we finish debate on the House farm bill, I can't help but remember when as a young fifteen-year-old I was riveted as America debated these very same issues but with oh such a different outcome. I remember the Senate field hearings in 1967 where our elected leaders highlighted the need for government to protect our most vulnerable. There were those in Congress then who would have had us believe there was nothing we could do. But fortunately Robert Kennedy's trip to the Mississippi Delta changed America forever.

As a country, Kennedy helped us to see poverty firsthand. Innocent children with distended stomachs, who hadn't eaten in days. Their mothers unsure where their next meal would come from. It raised our awareness of and concern for our fellow citizens.

Yet here we are more than 40 years later, and once again we are being presented with those same false choices. The House majority would have you believe we have no choice but to make draconian cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (or SNAP), a program that we know has worked in reducing significantly malnutrition in America.

SNAP has been a critical safety net for millions of families who need help putting food on the table. Nearly half of the 46 million low-income participants are children, and a significant portion of adult participants are employed but simply do not earn enough to support their family.

SNAP provides more than \$1.2 billion in benefits a month to more than 786,000 Virginians. In my district, more than 6,000 households receive SNAP benefits. Sixty percent of those families have children under the age of 18. One-third of these families live below the poverty line despite the fact that 45% have one family member working and 42% have at least two family members working.

Simply put, SNAP prevents hunger in the wealthiest nation on earth. Sadly, the House majority's bill will cut SNAP by \$21 billion, forcing more than 2 million people off this program and causing more than 210,000 children to lose eligibility for free or reduced school meals.

Beyond the human face of hunger, a tragic irony is lost within this policy debate. The very people who routinely call on this body to limit government and rein in spending are today asking for government handouts in the form of crop subsidies and insurance payments.

They want the American taxpayer to cover their risks while telling those at risk of hunger that they are on their own. A bold faced Darwinian philosophy except, of course, when it involves them.

To allay this apparent conflict of ideology, if not seemingly obvious conflict of interest, I had a simple amendment that would have prohibited Members of Congress or their spouses from benefiting from the provisions of this bill. As if only to confirm my already strong reservations with this legislation, House Republicans wouldn't even allow for debate of this common-sense proposal to restore program integrity and public confidence.

The American people would be forgiven for smelling the stench of hypocrisy in the halls of Congress.

So I now ask, who are the takers? Poor babies and their mothers trying to put food on the table? Or those who pocket tens of thousands of dollars in crop subsidies and insurance payments and tax credits and accelerated equipment depreciation and federally funded soil and crop R and D then have the gall to vote to cut nutrition benefits with a straight face? For all these reasons, I cannot support this reckless philosophy of legislating that endangers the very people we should be looking after.

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HONORING KAREN GRAVES

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Karen Graves of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Karen is active in the community through her work and has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Lifetime Achievement Award.

Although she wasn't born in Saint Joseph, the moment that she arrived Karen has been involved in the community and shows no signs of stopping. Karen has been responsible for the creation of Trails West!, one of Missouri's premiere art, music and cultural festivals. Karen also spearheaded Saint Joseph's designation as an All American City in 1997. As a member of the Saint Joseph Symphony board of directors and co-founder of the Missouri Western State University Art Society Karen strives to ensure that Saint Joseph residents benefit from a full spectrum exposure to all of the arts.

Karen was also one of the founding visionaries of the Community Foundation of Northwest Missouri. This non-profit organization allows individuals a simple way to support their favorite charities and successfully raised \$15 million to that end. She serves as co-chair for the current YWCA capitol funds drive and was recently named one of 50 Missourians You Should know by Ingram's Magazine.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Karen Graves. She has made an amazing impact on countless individuals in the St. Joseph community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

FEDERAL AGRICULTURE REFORM  
AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACT OF  
2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 18, 2013*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1947) to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes:

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Chair, I am sad to see that, after failing to get the votes to pass a farm bill last year, Republicans are back at it again, this time with even bigger cuts to SNAP. In this year's House farm bill, H.R. 1947, the Republicans are proposing a cut of \$20.5 billion dollars to the program, five times more than what the Senate approved last week.

The proposed cuts to SNAP in H.R. 1947 mean nearly 2 million low-income people will lose eligibility for food assistance and 200,000 children will lose access to the free or reduce school lunch program. Of those who still receive benefits, 1.7 million will see a reduction of an average of \$90 per month. Additionally, 280,000 people will directly or indirectly lose their jobs.

The Republicans are, once again, using a manufactured fiscal crisis to cut aid for the most vulnerable Americans. But let's be honest, the true purpose of cutting food aid to those in need is not to "balance our budget," especially because the evidence shows that these cuts will actually hurt our economy. Implementing short-term cuts that create long-term problems will only slow job growth and increase our deficit.

Fiscal responsibility is about meeting our obligations. It is about investing in the American people. It is about growing our opportunities and supporting our economy when the free market won't.

What we are deciding right now is whether we ought to eliminate jobs and assistance for people in need over the next 10 years or help them increase their productivity until they no longer need us. We are deciding if we are a nation that takes care of its people or leaves them to fend for themselves when times are tough. It shouldn't be a hard decision to make. Vote against the proposed cuts to SNAP in the House Farm bill.

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IN HONOR OF NATIONAL SMALL  
BUSINESS WEEK

**HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of National Small Business Week.

Growing a small business is a difficult task that requires dedication and perseverance.

For a minority business owner or a woman business owner, it can be even more difficult—as demonstrated by study after study.

Because of discrimination, minorities and women frequently do not have the history of entrepreneurship, the employment background, or the wealth to start their own businesses.

And then, when they try to borrow funds to grow their businesses, woman and minorities often face discrimination yet again. Studies show us that lenders are more likely to reject minority loan applications or to charge higher interest rates to minority borrowers—even when the minority-owned or woman-owned business is similar to a white-owned business.

Finally, minority and women business owners often have a hard time breaking into the closed networks of contracting and are overlooked or even intentionally excluded when opportunities do arise. Again, study after study demonstrates that minority-owned and woman-owned businesses do not participate in public contracting in the numbers that we would expect given their availability.

Programs that help level the playing field for women- and minority-owned businesses remain critical to ensuring that taxpayer money is not used to support exclusionary "business as usual" practices.

Today, therefore, I am submitting for the record a list of studies that substantiate these fundamental points—just as I did during the May 8, 2012, meeting of the House-Senate Conference Committee that considered the surface transportation bill that became the MAP-21 legislation, when conferees accepted the materials by unanimous consent.

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE  
WHALEMAN

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the one hundredth anniversary of the iconic The Whaleman statue's unveiling in New Bedford, Massachusetts.

One hundred years ago today, on June 20, 1913, prominent New Bedford citizen and former Congressman William W. Crapo stood outside the New Bedford Public Library and, surrounded by thousands of local residents, officially presented the statue that would soon become an icon of the city. Standing in the bow of a skiff, with waves crashing over its hull, The Whaleman's subject is poised with his harpoon, watchfully looking ahead. The statue's inscription quotes Herman Melville's Moby Dick and reads "A Dead Whale or a Stove Boat," referring to the danger inherent in a profession in which the desired catch was just as likely as an overturned, or "stove," vessel.

Mr. Crapo had commissioned the statue one year earlier, in 1912, as an acknowledgment of the city's rich history in the whaling industry and to pay homage to the whalemen whose hard labor had contributed so much to New Bedford's growth. With the approval of New Bedford mayor Charles Ashley, famed Boston sculptor Bela Lyon Pratt was initially paid \$25,000 to create the statue, and The Whaleman was completed in less than a year. Pratt recruited local boatsteerer Richard McLachlan to stand as his model, in an effort to capture the true spirit of those who worked

in this industry. Since its unveiling in 1913, The Whaleman has become one of the most recognizable icons of New Bedford. Its likeness has found its way onto everything from coffee mugs to Christmas ornaments, and it has been viewed by visitors to the city from around the world. The statue remains in its original home outside the New Bedford Public Library, and its centennial this June will be celebrated in the very spot on which it was first presented.

On the one hundredth anniversary of The Whaleman, it is also important to remember those whom the statue itself was created to honor—the countless individuals whose work contributed to the growth of New Bedford in its early years. These pioneers were truly responsible for the strong foundation on which the region would rest for decades to come, and New Bedford's story would have been far different without their many contributions.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the one hundredth anniversary of The Whaleman. I ask that my colleagues join me in marking this important celebration.

RECOGNIZING AMERICAN EAGLE  
DAY

**HON. DAVID P. ROE**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of designating June 20, 2013 as American Eagle Day and celebrating the recovery and restoration of the bald eagle, the national symbol of the United States. On June 20, 1782, the eagle was designated as the national emblem of the U.S. by the Founding Fathers at the Second Continental Congress.

The bald eagle is the central image of the Great Seal of the United States and is displayed in the official seal of many branches and departments of the Federal Government.

The bald eagle is an inspiring symbol of the spirit of freedom and the democracy of the United States. Since the founding of the Nation, the image, meaning and symbolism of the eagle have played a significant role in art, music, history, commerce, literature, architecture and culture of the United States. The bald eagle's habitat only exists in North America.

Over the years, several members of Congress have introduced and passed resolutions in support of the designation of American Eagle Day.

I hope my colleagues will join in celebrating today, June 20, 2013 as American Eagle Day, which marks the recovery and restoration of the bald eagle.

A TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE KENNETH  
L. MILLER

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service to our nation by Iowan and World War II veteran Private Kenneth Miller, and recognize the great work being done by the Pottawattamie County Veteran Affairs office.

On Monday, June 24th, the Pottawattamie County Veteran Affairs office will be assisting in honoring Private Miller with several medals he earned for his brave service in World War II. Private Miller will be presented with the World War II Victory Medal, and the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with Bronze Star Attachment, as well as the Honorable Service Lapel Button, Marksman Badge and Rifle Bar. Most notably however, Private Miller will be honored with the Purple Heart for the injuries he sustained on June 4, 1944 as a part of the New Guinea Campaign. It goes without saying that Private Miller's dedication and service to his grateful country was nothing short of exemplary.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to represent the people of Iowa, the city of Council Bluffs, and veterans like Private Miller in the United States Congress. His heroic contribution to our nation's largest war effort represents just one example of the long tradition of selflessness and service upheld by Iowans serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in acknowledging Private Miller for his actions and thanking the Pottawattamie County Veteran Affairs office for their assistance in this ceremony. I humbly express my sincere gratitude to all of our nation's veterans, servicemembers and their families for their service and sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER ALABAMA  
CIVIL APPEALS JUDGE JOHN  
CRAWLEY

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the service of a distinguished Alabamian who was known for his unshakeable integrity and fairness on the judicial bench.

Judge John Crawley of Brundidge, a former long-time judge on the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals, passed away after a long illness on June 1, 2013, at the age of 73.

Judge Crawley was born on February 28, 1940 into a family of four children in Troy, Alabama. He received his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Alabama.

After college, he served as a law clerk on the Court of Appeals of Alabama for Judge George Johnson, and then served as an Assistant Attorney General assigned to the Alabama Department of Revenue. In 1969, he returned to Pike County. While practicing law in Troy, he helped establish Hand-In-Hand, a nonprofit organization devoted to helping handicapped students.

In April 1991, he was appointed Circuit Judge of the 12th Judicial Circuit for Pike and Coffee Counties by Governor Guy Hunt and served until January 1993.

In 1994, Judge Crawley made his mark on state political history as one of the first Republicans elected to Alabama's Civil Appeals Court. He accomplished this feat without asking for a single campaign donation or buying any advertisements. He reportedly only made one campaign speech. His reputation as an impartial, hard-working judge ensured his reelection in November 2000.

During his tenure, Judge Crawley served on the Alabama Supreme Court's Task Force on

Judicial Elections. Additionally, he served on the Supreme Court Standing Committee on the Alabama Rules of Juvenile Procedure, the Alabama State Bar Committee on Alternative Methods of Dispute Resolution, and the State Agency ADR Task Force. He was also a member of the Judicial Inquiry Commission, having been appointed to that position by the Alabama Supreme Court.

Judge Crawley was associated with over 3,000 decisions during his tenure on the court and he is still quoted by the Alabama Supreme Court on a number of issues. He was also known to have had more of his dissents adopted by the Alabama Supreme Court than any other judge on the Court of Civil Appeals.

He retired in 2007 after serving two six-year terms on the Court of Civil Appeals, including two years as Presiding Judge (2005 to 2007).

Judge Crawley was an active member, deacon, and former Sunday school teacher of the Banks Baptist Church in his native Pike County. He was said to have affected thousands of lives in his rulings and by his relationships with others. He wanted to make a difference and he left the world a better place.

On behalf of the people of Alabama, I wish to extend my condolences to his wife, Sherrie, and their son, Brantley; his brother, Larry; and sister, Nancy and their entire family. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

IN HONOR OF SPC. SETH PACK

**HON. ROB BISHOP**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Utah's most heroic sons and one of my constituents from Ogden, Utah, Spc. Seth Pack of the United States Army, 10th Mountain Division.

While out on patrol on July 1, 2011, Seth was almost mortally wounded when he stepped on an improvised explosive device. Losing his leg and close to death, he has since led the way to recovery. Next week, Seth is leaving Walter Reed Military Medical Center to start the next phase of his young life. The man who entered this hospital on the edge of death has now regained his strength, and has returned to his former self. I submit this poem, penned in his honor by Albert Caswell, and let us all take time to remember and thank the men and women of the Armed Forces, and their families, who volunteer to keep freedom alive and sacrifice for us every day.

AHEAD OF THE PACK

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

Out in front . . .  
All on that hunt!  
In times of war . . .  
There are but all of those for sure!  
Who are out ahead of The Pack . . .  
Who lock and load!  
Who so live by such a code!  
A Rat! A Rat . . . A Rat Tat . . . Tat . . .  
Tat!  
Taking the lead,  
As so for sure all to speed!  
10th Mountain Men,  
upon which our Nation now so depends!  
Who after the enemy will so run into caves,  
and kick doors in so very brave!  
Out . . . ahead of The Pack!  
As from where you have so led Seth,

a fact!  
 For you are a grunt!  
 Ever out on the hunt!  
 To our freedoms to so bring!  
 Of thee I sing!  
 To so live by a code!  
 To lock and load!  
 A Rat! A Rat! A Rat Tat . . . Tat . . . Tat!  
 The United States Army,  
 Who with his band of Brothers are but ready  
 to bare the load!  
 And 10th Mountain Men,  
 who into the face evil do so go!  
 The ones who so live by a code!  
 Where you go!  
 I go!  
 Who so lock and load!  
 A Rat! A Rat! A Rat Tat . . . Tat . . . Tat!  
 Lock and load!  
 For Seth, U . . . R . . . Tall!  
 Because,  
 you have so answered that most noble of  
 calls!  
 That Call To Arms!  
 That Call to War!  
 That Call to Death,  
 as so for sure!  
 To so march off so bravely with clenched  
 fists!  
 To lock and load!  
 A Rat! A Rat! A Rat Tat . . . Tat . . . Tat!  
 As all around you such death and gore ap-  
 pears!  
 As has your fine young life,  
 been so all so here!  
 For such men of honor!  
 For such men of might!  
 Surely they will one day so see Heaven's  
 light!  
 Where you Go!  
 I Go!  
 All in that blood that binds you so!  
 As it was while out on patrol!  
 That you so almost lost your young life,  
 but not your soul!  
 Standing so close to death,  
 right on that very edge . . .  
 To a place where courage crests!  
 As when Seth,  
 you so reached so deep down inside . . .  
 To a place where only courage so lies!  
 As you so began your climb!  
 To lock and load!  
 A Rat! A Rat! A Rat Tat . . . Tat . . . Tat!  
 As you got up out of that bed!  
 With such Strength In Honor,  
 with no regrets!  
 All in your actions what was so said!  
 All at speed,  
 as somehow you became even Army Stronger  
 so indeed!  
 Because 10th Mountain do not follow,  
 they lead!  
 They lead!  
 For you are Army Strong!  
 As your fine heart beats loud and long!  
 That's right,  
 For only The Few,  
 have so led such a most  
 courageous life as have all of you!  
 Who so Lock and Load,  
 who all in the face of death so come shining  
 through!  
 Who so live by a code!  
 A code of honor!  
 A code of war!  
 All for your Brothers In Arms,  
 So Ready All So To Die For!  
 A Rat! A Rat! A Rat Tat . . . Tat . . . Tat!  
 As I remember on those first early days,  
 as you were but a shell of what you are  
 today!  
 As you got up and told pity to get out of  
 your way!  
 For you had mountains to so climb!  
 Because 10th Mountain do it all the time!  
 And Seth,

you have so many hearts to so heal!  
 Yea, Seth,  
 you are Ahead of The Pack we can feel . . .  
 For that's where we will so find you out on  
 attack!  
 Leading us all so in time!  
 And where would our Nation all so be,  
 if it were but not for such men and families  
 as all of these?  
 Who, where you go!  
 I go with speed!  
 Who so live by a code!  
 Who so lock and load!  
 Who so look into the face so we can all be  
 free!  
 A Rat! A Rat! A Rat Tat . . . Tat . . . Tat!  
 Way out in front,  
 ahead of the Pack!  
 To so teach us!  
 To so beseech us!  
 To so reach us!  
 As one of Utah's brightest of all sons  
 Who so shines this one!  
 And if ever I had a son,  
 I'd wish that he could walk as tall,  
 as this one!  
 Ahead of The Pack!  
 A Rat! A Rat! A Rat . . . Tat . . . Tat . . .  
 Tat!  
 Who so shines as one of America's most he-  
 roic sons!  
 Who to all of our hearts so run!

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JAMES  
 "BUCK" KOONCE

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2013

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. James "Buck" Koonce. Buck recently retired from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL). There he served as the Director of Economic Development and assisted with the management of the Livermore Valley Open Campus (LVOC).

LLNL and Sandia National Laboratories have partnered with the Department of Energy (DOE) to establish the LVOC in order to leverage resources and create a bridge between these national labs and the broader scientific community. Through public-private partnerships with industry, government, and academia, the LVOC involves scientists and engineers from around the world with its unique science facilities, major research and development efforts, industrial collaborations, educational programs, and technology incubators to solve national security challenges.

Buck's economic development efforts have leveraged LLNL functions such as intellectual property management, licensing, and sponsored research, to cultivate partnerships with businesses, industries, entrepreneurs, economic development organizations, community stakeholders, and institutions of higher education. This proactive engagement enables the LLNL management team to set priorities and leverage investments in pilot projects, collaborations, equipment, and facilities to ensure continued growth and improved effectiveness.

Prior to LLNL, Buck held several senior management positions throughout his 35 year career with the University of California. Buck has been an integral part of the management and governance of Lawrence Berkeley Na-

tional Laboratory (LBNL), Los Alamos National Laboratory, and LLNL.

Buck began his career at the University of California at Berkeley's Molecular Biology and Virus Laboratory in 1974, and he then moved to LBNL where he held positions of increasing responsibility in the Offices of Energy and Environment, Computing, and Engineering Divisions, and finally the Director's Office where he lead the development of LBNL's first Long-Range Development Plan. Buck has been active in many DOE-wide initiatives and is well respected by DOE, National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), and the national laboratory community.

On a more personal note, Mr. Speaker, Buck has played a vital role in assisting me in the development of my own thinking on economic policy strategies and the appropriate role of our national labs. I was honored when he agreed to serve on my Economic Development Advisory Committee, and I have learned a great deal from him. I want to thank Buck for his helping me and for his contributions to the East Bay, and I wish him the very best as he begins this new chapter of his life.

SBA LOAN PAPERWORK  
 REDUCTION ACT OF 2013

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2013

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, in my time in Congress, I have met with over 200 small businesses in my district, touring their businesses, sitting down with them in round tables. And one of the biggest things that they tell me is standing in the way of their success and growth is the difficulty they have in accessing capital.

That's why the work of the Small Business Administration's loan guaranty programs is so important. But often, the paperwork it takes to apply to these programs discourages small businesses from seeking this assistance. Over and over again, small businesses tell me that their biggest obstacle in working with the Small Business Administration is the arduous amounts of paperwork needed to access SBA loans. If we are going to get our economy back on track, we need to make sure our small business owners and entrepreneurs have access to capital.

That is why I am re-introducing the SBA Loan Paperwork Reduction Act, which will make permanent the SBA's pilot Small Loan Advantage Program which features streamlined paperwork, with a two-page application for borrowers and a faster approval time. I have updated this bill to allow the SBA further flexibility to expand the program in future.

Small business owners are having a hard enough time in this economy without having to spend their valuable time and resources wading through a mountain of paperwork.

By passing this bill, we will ensure that our entrepreneurs are given the chance to succeed and our small business owners can access the capital they need to grow and hire more workers.

H.R. 1595, THE STUDENT LOAN  
RELIEF ACT OF 2013

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of extending the 3.4 interest rate on Stafford Student loans to protect students from seeing their interest rates double on July 1, 2013. As the cost of higher education continues to climb and total student loan debt eclipsed credit card debt for the first time, the consequences of inaction are unacceptable. We need to be making college more affordable for all students, not putting it further out of reach.

As an advanced degree becomes more and more of a requirement for well paying jobs, it is vital that low interest loans be available so that students can access an affordable college education. Approximately 60 percent of students take out loans to attend college and increasing the cost of borrowing will prevent millions from being able to obtain a degree.

H.R. 1595, the Student Loan Relief Act of 2013, is a clean extension that would freeze the 3.4 interest rate on Stafford loans for two years. I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation to prevent a crippling hike in rates and give Congress time to find a true long-term solution to student loans and college affordability that is worthy of our nation's young people.

A strong middle-class, well educated workforce and the opportunity for upward mobility are the building blocks of a thriving economy. To maintain and strengthen each, every student must have the opportunity to pursue higher education, not just the privileged few.

College educated students are the future engine of our country, and anyone who wants to pursue a post-secondary education should have the opportunity to do so without going into crushing debt. I urge my colleagues to stop rates from doubling and extend the current interest rate of 3.4 percent.

EN BLOC PACKAGE: AMENDMENT  
60—MILITARY FAMILY HOME  
PROTECTION HR. 1960, NATIONAL  
DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

**HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the bill's managers for including in this en bloc amendment a provision I submitted to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.

Under current law, certain disabled veterans, servicemembers and their families are not receiving the critical protection they need. As a result, banks are foreclosing on their homes at the very moment when our heroes most deserve our support.

Our amendment extends foreclosure protections to all servicemembers receiving hostile fire or imminent danger pay, to the surviving spouses of servicemembers killed in the line of duty, and to veterans who become disabled due to service-connected injuries.

Last Congress, I introduced a similar amendment that passed the house with overwhelming bipartisan support.

I ask Members to vote in favor of this amendment.

FEDERAL AGRICULTURE REFORM  
AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACT OF  
2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 18, 2013*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1947) to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes:

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Chair, I rise today in opposition to this Farm Bill, H.R. 1947, the Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2013, due to the unconscionable cuts to the SNAP program, formerly known as food stamps.

Across the country, over 47 million of our fellow Americans depend on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to put food on their tables each and every day. In my home state of New Jersey alone, SNAP serves over 800,000 individuals. These are our friends, family, and neighbors. An average monthly benefit of \$133.36 per person for recipients in New Jersey amounts to \$1.48 per meal. This does not go very far towards buying nutritious food in a state where the cost of living is high. That's why 90 percent of benefits are redeemed by the third week of the month.

Eighty-three percent of SNAP benefits go to households with children, seniors, or disabled Americans. These are not freeloaders or people trying to game the system; they are our most vulnerable citizens. When the going gets tough, we have a responsibility to ensure that a safety net is in place for them. When our people go hungry, we pay the consequences down the road. Poor nutrition and hunger leads to costly but entirely avoidable health problems. Furthermore, as a former teacher, I know that students who go hungry have trouble focusing in school. We need to ensure that all children have an equal opportunity to excel to keep us competitive in today's global economy.

This bill, however, would take us down the wrong path. It further tightens eligibility requirements for SNAP, cutting \$20.5 billion by kicking about two million people off the program. This bill will also kick 210,000 kids off of school meals, and reduce benefits by an average of \$90 for 850,000 additional households. If we want to reduce the costs of this program, don't cruelly throw people off the roles. Let's create some jobs and as our economic recovery gains steam, SNAP costs will decline as more and more Americans find steady work.

We are the greatest nation on earth. Our Farm Bills are designed to ensure that we can produce food to feed the world. Shouldn't we first ensure that we can provide for our own?

HONORING LOES HEDGE

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Loes Hedge of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Loes is active in the community and has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Woman in Volunteerism Award.

Loes Hedge is a retired educator that continues to have a positive influence in the Saint Joseph community to this day. Loes has served as the President of Saint Joseph's NAACP and continues her work with them today as it's current secretary. Recently she was awarded the YWCA's Racial Justice Award in recognition of her many efforts to bridge diversity, empower at risk students and to strengthen education universally. Loes has also been honored as an inductee to the Black Archives Museum Hall of Fame.

Loes also continues in her role as mentor for young educators and serves as a Co-Chair for the Saint Joseph School District Long-Range Planning Committee. She has served on the YWCA Board of Directors, has been involved in voter registration efforts throughout Saint Joseph.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Loes Hedge. She has made an amazing impact on countless individuals in the St. Joseph community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

IN RECOGNITION OF LINDA BEST  
UPON HER RETIREMENT

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY, Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI and Congressman ERIC SWALWELL to recognize the outstanding career of Ms. Linda Best, a dynamic leader in the community, and congratulate her as she retires after more than thirty-two years in service to the people of Contra Costa County.

In 1981, after earning a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts degree from Stanford University, Linda began her successful career as the Executive Director of the Coalition of Labor and Business. Three years later she became Executive Director for the Contra Costa Council, an organization she would help shape and expand throughout her tenure. From 2004 on, Linda has served as President and CEO of the Council and continued her strong commitment to the organization and the communities which it serves.

In her nine years as President, Linda has been the heartbeat of the organization and shown a remarkable command of the issues most critical to business, education, the environment, transportation, and workforce development. Under her leadership, the Council has been an engine for economic development, public policy formation, and an informed decision-making voice for the region. Linda has

been instrumental in building the Workforce Development Initiative, which brings together business and education in support of high school academics. What was once an organization only affiliated with business has now grown to include labor, education, health care, and nonprofit interests. In fact, the Contra Costa Council's scope has become so widespread, that it recently changed its official name to the East Bay Leadership Council.

Linda's spirit and energy is not only apparent in her work with the Council, but also encompasses her work with the many Boards on which she has served. Included in this long list are; the Board of Directors for John Muir Health, the Eugene O'Neill Foundation, the DVC Foundation, Opportunity Junction, the West Contra Costa Business Development Center, STAND for Families Free of Violence, and the United Way Leadership Council.

Throughout Linda's tenure, she earned many awards and distinctions, including the San Ramon Valley Chamber of Commerce "Woman of the Year Award," the Eugene O'Neill Foundation Open Gate Award, the Contra Costa Child Care Council Kiddie Award, and the Contra Costa Times Woman of Achievement Award for Business and Technology.

We invite our colleagues to join us in commending President & Chief Executive Officer Linda Best for her committed and diligent service to the citizens of Contra Costa County. We are pleased to congratulate Linda on an outstanding career and wish her the very best as she begins a well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE TOWN OF  
MACHIAS, MAINE

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the town of Machias, Maine as it celebrates its 250th anniversary.

Located in the heart of Washington County and known as the "Blueberry Capital of the World," Machias is one of our state's most historic and picturesque communities. It serves as the county seat and is a regional center for Downeast Maine, with agricultural, commercial, and educational resources that are utilized and embraced by thousands of nearby Mainers.

The town was settled in 1763 and is home to the Burnham Tavern, a National Historic Site carefully maintained by members of the Hannah Weston Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. In 1775, Machias was the site of the first naval battle of the American Revolution. Author James Fenimore Cooper described the infamous battle and the capture of the English schooner HMS *Margaretta* in his *History Of The Navy Of The United States Of America*, as "the Lexington of the seas, for like that celebrated land conflict, it was a rising of the people against a regular force, was characterized by a long chase, a bloody struggle, and a triumph."

The residents of Machias embody the values of the hardworking people of Maine, and they may take great pride in the rich heritage they have created over the past 250 years. It is an honor and a privilege to represent the

people of Machias in Congress, and I am pleased to have this opportunity to help the town celebrate its 250th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the people of Machias and wishing them well on this joyous occasion.

FEDERAL AGRICULTURE REFORM  
AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACT OF  
2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 18, 2013*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1947) to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, I rise to speak in support of Jackson Lee Amendment #94, which will be in the en bloc for H.R. 1947, the "Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2013." My thanks to Agriculture Committee Chair Frank D. Lucas and Ranking Member Collin C. Peterson for including the Jackson Lee Amendment in the en bloc.

I appreciate the work of Rules Committee Chair and Rules Committee members Congressman McGovern for managing the debate on amendments to H.R. 1947.

I offered amendments to H.R. 1947 for deliberation by the Rules Committee for approval for consideration by the Full House. Only one of my Amendments was made in order and will be included in the en bloc for the bill.

Jackson Lee #94 will be included in the en bloc and is a sense of Congress that the Federal Government should increase business opportunities for small businesses, black farmers, women and minority businesses.

Small farm businesses, black farmers, women and minority agriculture related businesses could benefit from partnerships with federal office location in receiving support for farmers markets. This would assist with eliminating food deserts, which are urban neighborhoods and rural towns without easy access to fresh, healthy and affordable food. These communities may have no food access or are served only by fast food restaurants and convenience stores.

Other Amendments, I request that the Rules Committee favorably consider included Amendment #1, the McGovern Amendment, which was joined by over 80 members of the House. This important amendment would have restored \$20.5 billion in cuts in SNAP funding by offsetting the Farm Risk Management Election Program and the Supplemental Coverage Option.

Jackson Lee Amendments not included in the Rule for the bill include:

Jackson Lee Amendment #182 was a sense of Congress that the Federal Government should increase financial support provided to urban community gardens and victory gardens to heighten awareness of nutrition.

The knowledge shared with urban dwellers can have a long term benefit to the health of our nation by increasing awareness regarding

the link between what we eat and health. This would also be a means of expanding the diet options for persons who live in areas where the cost of fresh fruits and vegetables can be prohibitive.

Jackson Lee #183 is a sense of the Congress regarding funding for nutrition program for disabled and older Americans. Accessible and affordable nutrition is especially important when dietary needs change or must accommodate life's changes. Older Americans and persons with disabilities often must live with restricted diets.

Jackson Lee Amendment #184 was a sense of the Congress that encourages food items being provided pursuant to the Federal school breakfast and school lunch program should be selected so as to reduce the incidence of juvenile obesity and to maximize nutritional value.

This amendment passed the House by a substantial margin in the 110th Congress by a recorded vote of 422 to 3. The inclusion of this amendment in the Rule for 1947 would affirm Congressional commitment to fight juvenile obesity and to maximize nutritional value. The amendment should have been made in order considering the epidemic of juvenile and adult obesity.

Finally, I sought support by the Rules Committee of an Amendment offered by Congresspersons Kildee, Fudge, Peters, Tim Ryan and Jackson Lee Amendment #53.

This amendment was not included in the final Rule for the bill. This amendment would have brought healthy food to those with limited access to fresh fruits and vegetables through a public-private partnership. It would increase funding for SNAP incentive programs for fresh fruits and vegetables by \$5 million per year, which is offset by decreasing the adjusted gross income limit for certain Title and Title II programs.

Food is not an option—it is a right that all people living in this nation must have to exist and to prosper. The \$20.5 billion cuts in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program also known as SNAP would remove 2 million Americans from this important food assistance program, and 210,000 children would lose access to free or reduced priced school meals.

The course of our nation's history led to changes in our economy first from agricultural, to industrial and now technological. These economic changes impacted the availability and affordability of food. Today our nation is still one of the wealthiest in the world, but we now have food deserts. A food desert is a place where access to food may not be available and certainly access to health sustaining food is not available.

The US Department of Agriculture defines a food desert as a "low-access community," where at least 500 people and/or at least 33 percent of the census tract's population live more than one mile from a supermarket or large grocery store. The USDA defines a food desert for rural communities as a census tract where the distance to a grocery store is more than 10 miles.

Food deserts exist in rural and urban areas and are spreading as a result fewer farms as well as fewer places to access fresh fruits, vegetables, proteins, and other foods as well as a poor economy.

The result of food deserts are increases in malnutrition and other health disparities that impact minority and low income communities in rural and urban areas. Health disparities

occur because of a lack of access to critical food groups that provide nutrients that support normal metabolic functions.

Poor metabolic function leads to malnutrition that causes breakdown in tissue. For example, a lack of protein in a diet leads to disease and decay of teeth and bones. Another example of health disparities in food deserts are the presence of fast food establishments instead of grocery stores. If someone only consumes energy dense foods like fast foods this will lead to clogged arteries, which is a precursor for arterial disease a leading cause of heart disease. A person eating a constant diet of fast foods are also vulnerable to higher risks of insulin resistance which results in diabetes.

In Harris County, Texas, 149 out of 920 households or 20 percent of residents do not have automobiles and live more than one-half mile from a grocery store.

At the beginning of the third millennium of this nation's existence we should know better. Denying a higher quality of life that would result from better access to healthier food choices is shortsighted—it is also economically unsound and threatens our national security.

Social stability is threatened when people's basic needs are not met—food, clean drinking water and breathable air or the least of the requirements for life. Denying access to sufficient amounts of the right kinds of food means people will become less productive, more prone to disease and will not be able to function as contributing members of a society.

For one in six Americans hunger is real and far too many people assume that the problem of hunger is isolated. One in six men, women or children you see every day may not know where their next meal is coming from or may have missed one or two meals yesterday.

Hunger is silent—most victims of hunger are ashamed and will not ask for help, they work to hide their situation from everyone. Hunger is persistent and impacts millions of people who struggle to find enough to eat. Food insecurity causes parents to skip meals so that their children can eat.

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In 2009–2010 the Houston, Sugar Land and Baytown area had 27.6 percent of households with children experiencing food hardship. In households without children food hardship was experienced by 16.5. Houston, Sugar Land and Baytown rank 22 among the areas surveyed.

In 2011, according to Feeding America: 46.2 million people were in poverty, 9.5 million families were in poverty, 26.5 million of people ages 18–64 were in poverty. 16.1 million children under the age of 18 were in poverty. 3.6 million (9.0 percent) seniors 65 and older were in poverty.

In the State of Texas: 34% of children live in poverty in Texas. 21% of adults (19–64) live in poverty in Texas. 17% of elderly live in poverty in Texas.

In my city of Houston Texas the U.S. census reports that over the last 12 months

442,881 incomes were below the poverty level.

In 2011: 50.1 million Americans lived in food insecure households, 33.5 million adults and 16.7 million children. Households with children reported food insecurity at a significantly higher rate than those without children, 20.6 percent compared to 12.2 percent.

Eighteen percent of households in the state of Texas from 2009 through 2011 ranked second in the highest rate of food insecurity—only the state of Mississippi exceed the ratio of households struggling with hunger.

In the 18th Congressional District an estimated 151,741 families lived in poverty.

There are charitable organizations that many of us contribute to that provide food assistance to people in need, but their resources would not be able to fill the gap created by a \$20.5 billion dollar cut to Federal food assistance programs.

Food banks and pantries fill an important role by helping the working poor, disabled and the poor gain access to food assistance when government subsidized food assistance or budgets fall short of basic needs. Food pantries also help when an unforeseen circumstance occurs and more food is needed for a family to make it until payday or government assistance arrives. However, food pantries cannot carry the full burden of a communities' need for food on their own.

During these difficult economic times, people who once gave to food pantries may now seek donations from them. Millions of low income persons and families receive food assistance through SNAP. This program represents the nation's largest program that combats domestic hunger.

For more than 40 years, SNAP has offered nutrition assistance to millions of low income individuals and families. Today, the SNAP program serves over 46 million people each month.

#### SNAP STATISTICS

Households with children receive about 75 percent of all food stamp benefits.

23 percent of households include a disabled person and 18 percent of households include an elderly person.

The FSP increases household food spending, and the increase is greater than what would occur with an equal benefit in cash.

Every \$5 in new food stamp benefits generates almost twice as much (\$9.20) in total community spending.

The economics of SNAP food support programs benefit everyone by preventing new food deserts from developing. The impact of SNAP funds coming into local and neighborhood grocery stores is more profitable supermarkets. SNAP funds going into local food economies also make the cost of food for everyone less expensive and assure a variety and abundance of food selections found in grocery stores.

SNAP is the largest program in the American domestic hunger safety net. The Food and Nutrition Service programs supported by SNAP work with State agencies, nutrition educators, and neighborhood as well as faith-based organizations to assist those eligible for nutrition assistance. Food and Nutrition Service programs also work with State partners and the retail community to improve program administration and work to ensure the program's integrity.

Yes, more can be done to assure that food distribution from the fields to the tables of

Americans in most need can be improved. To begin the process of improving our nations ability to be more efficient and effective in meeting the food needs of citizens must begin with understanding the problem and acting on facts. I strongly support hearings on the subject and encourage all oversight committees to consider taking up the matter during this Congress.

However, we cannot ignore the safety process in place to prevent abuse or misuse of the program. The Federal SNAP law provides two basic pathways for financial eligibility to the program: (1) meeting federal eligibility requirements, or (2) being automatically or "categorically" eligible for SNAP based on being eligible for or receiving benefits from other specified low-income assistance programs. Categorical eligibility eliminated the requirement that households who already met financial eligibility rules in one specified low-income program go through another financial eligibility determination in SNAP.

However, since the 1996 welfare reform law, states have been able to expand categorical eligibility beyond its traditional bounds. That law created TANF to replace the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program, which was a traditional cash assistance program. TANF is a broad-purpose block grant that finances a wide range of social and human services.

TANF gives states flexibility in meeting its goals, resulting in a wide variation of benefits and services offered among the states. SNAP allows states to convey categorical eligibility based on receipt of a TANF "benefit," not just TANF cash welfare. This provides states with the ability to convey categorical eligibility based on a wide range of benefits and services. TANF benefits other than cash assistance typically are available to a broader range of households and at higher levels of income than are TANF cash assistance benefits.

Congress cannot afford to forget that by the year 2050, the world population is expected to be 9 billion persons. We cannot build our nation's food security on an uncertain future. Domestic food production and access to healthy nutritious food is essential to our nation's long term national security.

Until we see the final farm bill, including the amendment adopted by the Full House, I cannot offer my support for the legislation as it is written.

The bill is too shortsighted about the realities of hunger in our nation—the fact that it proposes to cut \$20.5 billion from the SNAP program is of great concern. We should work to create certainty for farmers who run high risk businesses that are vulnerable to weather changes, insects or blight.

We should be equally concerned about providing long term food security for all of our nation's citizens, which include rural, suburban and urban dwellers.

My colleagues on both sides of the aisle should have supported the McGovern Amendment to prevent the \$20.5 billion in cuts to the SNAP program. Food is not an option—and people who need help from their government should not be treated like they committed a crime.

My support for this bill will be greatly influenced by the decisions made this week in the House and the willingness of members of good will to work to fix what is wrong with how we treat the working poor, disabled, which include veterans, and the elderly. Otherwise I

will not vote for this bill. Today I did not vote for this bill!

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,738,642,755,073.31. We've added \$6,111,765,706,160.23 to our debt in 4 and a half years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes on Monday, June 17. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 245, "yea" on rollcall vote 246, and "yea" on rollcall vote 247.

I was also inadvertently absent for the following votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 256, and "yea" on rollcall vote 259.

IN RECOGNITION OF TERRY BUTTON'S APPOINTMENT TO THE NATIONAL FREIGHT ADVISORY COUNCIL

**HON. TOM REED**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Terry Button, a resident of Rushville, New York and the 23rd Congressional district that I am proud to represent. Terry is an owner-operator truck driver who has spent decades in the trucking industry; he personally understands the challenges facing the freight and trucking industry present in America today.

Terry is the owner of a one-truck operation and deals firsthand as the broker, shipper, and receiver of all of the loads he moves. He is a hay farmer who has spent years involved in the selling and shipment of agricultural goods and his combined knowledge of farming and trucking places him in a very specialized field of experienced individuals. Terry sits on the Board of Directors of the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, an organization dedicated to upholding the rights and operational standards of truck drivers. In that capacity his knowledge of the trucking industry makes him an invaluable resource for mapping out the future of freight movement.

Recently, Terry was selected by the Secretary of Transportation to be a member of the

National Freight Advisory Council (NFAC). The NFAC was established to ensure that all stakeholders in the freight industry would have a voice in shaping freight policy for the 21st century. I applaud the Secretary for selecting an established and successful businessman like Terry for this important role and further acknowledge the important position he will play as a member of the NFAC.

I am honored to congratulate Terry on his recent selection to be a member of this important panel and look forward to working with both Terry and the Department of Transportation as we move forward establishing freight movement policy for the coming years. Terry's knowledge of the freight industry will prove to be a powerful and insightful tool for policymakers and I am proud to officially recognize him here today.

IN RECOGNITION OF BISHOP L.D. SKINNER, SR. AND LADY RUTH SKINNER)

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bishop L.D. Skinner, Sr. and Lady Ruth Skinner who will celebrate 20 years as Founders, Leaders, and Servants of the Bread of Life Christian Center and Explosion Ministries Fellowship Association of Churches. They will be honored at a Leadership Appreciation Banquet on Friday, June 21, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Columbus Convention and Trade Center in Columbus, Georgia.

Bishop Skinner was born in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, to the late Richard and Alethia Skinner. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies, a Master of Arts in Theology and a Doctor of Theology in Biblical Studies, all from North Carolina College of Theology.

The Founder and Senior Pastor of Bread of Life Christian Center, Bishop Skinner is also the Founder and Presiding Prelate of Explosion Ministries Fellowship Association of Churches (EMFAC), a fellowship of interdenominational ministers, pastors and bishops who look to Bishop Skinner for instruction, covering and counsel. Bishop Skinner has several "Timothys," ministerial students that he has trained, now actively pastoring. In addition, Bishop Skinner has served in various other ministerial and civic capacities, including Vice President of the Columbus Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance and Vice President of the Columbus NAACP. He is the author of three books, *Overcoming Grasshopper Mentality: How to Whip Negative Thinking in Eleven Easy Steps*, *Prayer: An Awesome Weapon*, and *Encounters with God: My Life, My Story, Ail for His Glory*, as well as several manuals on leadership, marriage and finances.

The daughter of the late Deacon Charles McDaniel and Elder Jessie Pearl McDaniel, Lady Ruth Skinner is the First Lady of the Bread of Life Christian Center and the National First Lady for EMFAC, both roles that allow her to serve as a matriarch and nurturer to men and women at large. She also performs the role of Ruling Elder and President of the Women's Department at Bread of Life. In addition, she has served as Adult Choir President and Minister of Music, among other capacities within the church.

Bread of Life Christian Center was established in 1984 with an initial group of twenty souls meeting in the basement of Bishop Skinner's home. In the intervening years, the congregation moved several times, outgrowing each facility, until May of 1996, when they moved into their current home, a \$1.2 million facility with a 600-seat sanctuary and 30 classrooms to house an ever-growing congregation.

Bishop and Lady Skinner are a dynamic force of life, spirit and faith. Bishop Skinner's understanding, compassion, and kindness have made him a guiding light within the community. Lady Skinner, a woman of striking conviction, unconditional sincerity and impeccable integrity, is looked to by the congregation for nurture and example. Just like fruit trees are often planted in pairs so as to produce more fruit, God planted the lives of Bishop and Lady Skinner together so they could bring the fruit of the Word to more of His children to satiate and sustain them throughout the journey of life.

Bishop Skinner and his lovely wife, Lady Skinner, have together cultivated a large family of dedicated and faithful Christ followers. They also have raised a beautiful family of their own—three sons, Elder Darnel Skinner, Jr., Darrell L. Skinner, Darius L. Skinner and eight grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Bishop L.D. Skinner and his wife, Lady Ruth Skinner for their many, many outstanding years of Pastoral Ministry. They have transformed the lives of countless people and their leadership has inspired many others to also help lead the way to eternal life.

FEDERAL AGRICULTURE REFORM AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 18, 2013*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1947) to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Chair, the failure by the House to pass the Farm Bill is the right outcome for a proposal that would have slashed nutrition for poor families and refused reforms to provide more benefits to most farmers and ranchers while it protected the largest agribusiness interests.

The authors of the bill refused to address the abuses in crop insurance, far greater than in food stamps which they so disdained, extended direct payments for cotton, and attacked conservation programs. The irony should not be lost on the public: the bill lavished extra payments on those who need it the least, hurt poor Americans who need the most assistance, and shortchanged typical Oregon farmers and ranchers who deserve better.

I hope that this debacle leads to legislation that is fairer to the taxpayer, does not cut support for hungry men, women, and children

(90,921 on food assistance in Oregon alone), and dials back wasteful support for large agribusinesses that don't need it.

I was encouraged that some of our reform proposals for increasing and expanding conservation, reducing support for large confined animal feed operation, and reforming sugar payments gained significant support. My amendment to allow universities to study the industrial uses of hemp was even adopted! It's worth noting that one of the amendments to implement reasonable limits on the crop insurance program received more votes than the Farm Bill itself. Ultimately these are the keys to save money, do a better job, and build the political support that is going to be necessary for enactment of a Farm Bill that works for all Americans.

IN HONOR OF ANDREW "ANDY" A. D'ARRIGO

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Andrew "Andy" A. D'Arrigo, on the occasion of his recognition by the Grower-Shipper Association with the E.E. "Gene" Harden Award for Lifetime Achievement. Andy is a remarkable American whose hard work and innovation has helped to shape the Salinas Valley and build one of the largest and most innovative family-owned produce companies in the world.

The son of Italian immigrants, Andy was born in Stockton, California, in 1924. His family later moved to the Salinas Valley where his father Stefano and uncle Andrew began a small produce business in 1932. The advent of new ice and refrigeration technologies sparked a boom in California's produce industry and the D'Arrigo brothers stepped into this opportunity and helped push the envelope even further. Andy essentially grew up in the produce business. Indeed, the D'Arrigo Brothers iconic "Andy Boy" featured Andy's face and name. In his spare time, Andy was an active Boy Scout, even earning Eagle Scout status in high school. During WWII, Andy served in the Navy. Once out of the service, Andy earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of California at Davis and soon after married his wife of 64 years, Phyllis.

After the death of his father in 1951, Andy took over the West Coast operations of the D'Arrigo Bros. Company. The business had been built on shipping produce east from California. Under the D'Arrigos' leadership, it introduced new crops to the American menu, including broccoli, broccoli rabe, and cactus pears, to name a few. Under Andy's leadership, the company grew into a full-service, vertically integrated, produce supplier—growing, marketing, and shipping fresh fruits and vegetables across North America, and beyond. In acknowledgement of the agricultural expertise of the D'Arrigo family, three generations of the D'Arrigo family, including Andy, have been elected president and other leadership positions of the Western Growers Association, the Grower-Shipper Association, and other agriculture industry organizations.

The D'Arrigo family has always believed in giving back to their community. Over the years

they have supported organizations such as Natividad Hospital, the United Way, the Boys and Girls Club, the American Cancer Society, the National Steinbeck Center, the Rancho Cielo Youth Campus, the YMCA, and the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, among others. As adoptive parents themselves, Andy and his wife are strong supporters of the Salinas based Kinship Center adoption services center, including its special needs counseling clinic that bears the D'Arrigo name.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in commending Andy D'Arrigo for helping Americans eat better food and the people of the Central Coast live better lives.

FEDERAL AGRICULTURE REFORM  
AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACT OF  
2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 18, 2013*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1947) to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes:

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Chair, today, I stand in opposition H.R. 1947, the Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act. I vehemently oppose this bill's \$20 billion cuts to the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program also known as SNAP. This program currently provides food assistance to forty seven million Americans, who otherwise would not have access to one of our most basic human needs—food.

This bill would result in irreparable harm to families, not just in my home district of Brooklyn New York, but in every part of the United States.

Almost two-thirds of the people enrolled in SNAP are children, senior citizens, or persons with disabilities. These low income Americans would lose their food assistance as a result of these draconian cuts.

In addition to the SNAP cuts, this bill also restricts some categorical eligibility options for States. In New York, more than 300,000 households participant in the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. Participation in this program usually results in a higher SNAP benefit for the household.

If this state option is restricted, SNAP benefits for these households will decrease by roughly 90 dollars per month. This cruel provision takes the food out of the mouth of children and increases the administrative burden on New York.

The bill under consideration today would create even more difficulties for the families that receive SNAP benefits. I ask my colleagues to vote no on this heinous bill.

HONORING NANCY JOE

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nancy Joe of

Saint Joseph, Missouri. Nancy is active in the community through her work and has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Support Services Award.

Nancy Joe, who is affectionately referred to as 'mom' by her co-workers has established herself as a treasured fixture at Commerce Bank. Nancy has been praised for no only knowing how things need to be done, but for taking time to help train and mentor others rise to meet her exacting standards.

Nancy also carries those same standards of excellence into the Saint Joseph community through her time volunteering. Whether she is serving her community in her church, delivering meals through Meals on Wheels or as the long standing co-chair for Open Door Food Kitchen Nancy can be counted on to do her very best.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Nancy Joe. She has made an amazing impact on countless individuals in the St. Joseph community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent during the week of June 10, 2013. If I were present, I would have voted on the following.

Tuesday, June 11, 2013: rollcall No. 212: H.R. 251, South Utah Valley Electric Conveyance Act, "yea"; rollcall No. 213: H.R. 1157, Rattlesnake Mountain Public Access Act, "yea".

Wednesday June 12, 2013: rollcall No. 214: H. Res. 256—Rule Providing for consideration of H.R. 1256 and H.R. 1960, "nay"; rollcall No. 215: H.R. 634—Business Risk Mitigation and Price Stabilization Act of 2013, "yea"; rollcall No. 216: H.R. 742—Swap Data Repository and Clearing House Indemnification Correction Act of 2013, "yea"; rollcall No. 217: Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 1256, "yea"; rollcall No. 218: Final Passage of H.R. 1256—Swap Jurisdiction Certainty Act, "yea"; rollcall No. 219: H.R. 1038—Public Power Risk Management Act of 2013, "yea".

Thursday June 13, 2013: rollcall No. 220: Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule for H.R. 1960, "nay"; rollcall No. 221: H. Res. 260—Rule providing for further consideration of H.R. 1960, "no"; rollcall No. 222: Blumenauer of Oregon Part B, "no"; rollcall No. 223: Lummis of Wyoming Amendment, "no"; rollcall No. 224: Coffman of Colorado, "no"; rollcall No. 225: Rigell of Virginia Amendment, "no"; rollcall No. 226: McGovern of Massachusetts Amendment, "aye"; rollcall No. 227: Goodlatte of Virginia Amendment, "no"; rollcall No. 228: Smith of Washington Amendment, "aye".

Friday, June 14, 2013: rollcall No. 229: Turner of Ohio Amendment, "no"; rollcall No. 230: Holt of New Jersey Amendment, "no"; rollcall No. 231: McCollum of Minnesota Amendment, "aye"; rollcall No. 232: Nolan of Minnesota Amendment, "no"; rollcall No. 233: Larsen of Washington Amendment, "aye" rollcall No. 234: Gibson of New York Amendment, "no"; rollcall No. 235: Coffman of Colorado Amendment, "no"; rollcall No. 236: Walorski of Indiana Amendment, "no"; rollcall No. 237: Smith

of Washington Amendment, “aye” rollcall No. 238: Polis/Andrews Amendment, “aye”; rollcall No. 239: Polis Amendment, “no”; rollcall No. 240: Van Hollen of Maryland Amendment, “aye”; rollcall No. 241: Blumenauer of Oregon Amendment, “aye”; rollcall No. 242: DeLauro of Connecticut Amendment, “aye”; rollcall No. 243: Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 1960, “aye”; rollcall No. 244: H.R. 1960—National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014, “aye”.

PAIN-CAPABLE UNBORN CHILD  
PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 18, 2013*

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act.

Instead of focusing on much needed job creation legislation . . . or addressing the student loan interest rates set to double in a matter of days . . . the House Republican Leadership has decided to bring up a bill that is unconstitutional and unconscionable.

This legislation would ban abortions after 20 weeks nationwide . . . with no exceptions to protect a woman’s health and with the most narrow exceptions for rape or incest.

I have always believed that such a deeply personal issue can only be made by the woman herself . . . in consultation with her doctor . . . and her most trusted loved ones.

This legislation is an attempt to insert the federal government into this decision making process and chip away at a woman’s right to choose.

For the young women in Sacramento and nationwide, I oppose this legislation in order to protect their health and their rights . . . and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

COMMEMORATING WORLD  
REFUGEE DAY

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate World Refugee Day and recognize the more than 43 million forcibly displaced people around the world, a number of whom—in search of a better life in America—have resettled in Michigan’s Macomb and Oakland counties, which I proudly represent.

World Refugee Day is observed June 20 of each year and is dedicated to raising awareness of the plight of the millions of refugees and internally displaced persons who have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict, persecution, and strife. This day serves as a special reminder of the courage of these resilient individuals and provides us the opportunity to draw attention to their struggle.

The United States is by far the largest donor to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), and this commitment from the American people has helped deliver critical humanitarian aid to the world’s most vulnerable populations. U.S.-sup-

ported work of the UNHCR includes providing safe food, clean drinking water, shelter, education, security in dangerous situations, and ultimately durable placement options—voluntary repatriation, local integration, or resettlement.

Today is also a time to recognize the positive contributions of refugees who have created new lives in this country. Due to America’s historic commitment to welcoming and resettling victims of persecution from around the world, communities all over the country have benefited from refugees’ enthusiasm, entrepreneurial spirit, and sense of civic engagement.

Over the last ten years, thousands of Iraqi refugees have resettled in my district—a development that has had a positive impact on the region. I value their contributions and am proud to support the work of local resettlement organizations to integrate new arrivals into American society. This past April, I had the opportunity to visit with the Chaldean American Ladies of Charity at their food bank and home goods warehouse. There I met a young Iraqi mother and her son, both of whom had recently arrived in the United States and resettled in Metro Detroit. The efforts of the established Chaldean community to assist recent refugees were truly impressive, and I was struck by how grateful the mother was for the opportunity to start a new life for her family in the United States.

Today, as we mark World Refugee Day, I urge my colleagues to renew their commitment to providing humanitarian aid and resettlement assistance to victims of ethnic, religious and political persecution as well as other vulnerable people who have been forced to flee their homes due to natural or man-made disasters.

THE NATIONAL DEFENSE  
AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FY2014

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in reluctant opposition to H.R. 1960, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014.

The NDAA offers Congress an opportunity to provide the resources we need for our Armed Forces and a chance to address some of the significant challenges that must be confronted—like the mechanisms for confronting cases of sexual abuse in the military. While I appreciate the House Armed Services Committee’s continued support of our servicemembers and our national defense, this bill contains a number of serious flaws. These include providing over \$5 billion in OCO funding that the Pentagon did not request, imposing funding restrictions that would prohibit the construction or modification of a detention facility in the United States to house Guantanamo detainees, and establishing an unnecessary missile defense site on the East Coast.

I was particularly disappointed that a bipartisan amendment I introduced—which would have ensured that the FY2014 funding for the war in Afghanistan and other overseas contingencies is at the level the DoD and military leaders say is necessary for the mis-

sion—was not adopted. The funding level in the National Defense Authorization bill for Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) for Fiscal Year 2014 is set at \$85.8—\$5 billion more than the \$80.7 billion the Defense Department says is necessary to achieve the mission. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Martin Dempsey both testified before the House Budget Committee that the FY2014 OCO level of \$80.7 billion requested in the President’s budget was sufficient to meet our military’s needs. At a time of fiscal constraint, we simply cannot afford to provide more funding than our military leaders say is needed.

Part of the reason some may have hesitated to support the amendment was due to claims that it would have eliminated funding for National Guard and Reserve Component Equipment modernization. But, that was simply not true.

As we continue to search for a way to turn off the sequester by replacing it with a more rational deficit reduction package, we shouldn’t allow the OCO designation to be used as a loophole to get around spending caps that are written in law as the defense authorization bill did. That is not a solution to the sequester. Instead, we should find a balanced deficit reduction plan to replace sequestration so that we can provide adequate funding to maintain a military that is second to none and make the investments in education, scientific research, and infrastructure necessary to keep our economy strong, which is the foundation of our security. Unfortunately, the House Republican budget takes the opposite approach. It cuts even more deeply into vital investments in our kids’ education and in the investments in innovation and technology that help grow our economy. It cuts the part of the budget that funds education and vital medical research by 19 percent below the sequester. And despite claims to want to strengthen our embassy security in the aftermath of tragedies like Behnghazi, it slashes State Department operations by over 15 percent.

Despite my opposition to the overall legislation, I was pleased to see that this bill incorporated initiatives that begin to address the problem of sexual assault in the military. Unfortunately, the measures adopted were inadequate to meet the challenge. I was especially disappointed that Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER was denied the opportunity to offer an important amendment to strengthen accountability and improve the process.

I also share many of the other concerns that were outlined in the President’s Statement of Administration Policy. This includes a misguided provision in the bill which would continue funding restrictions that prohibit the construction or modification of a detention facility in the United States to house Guantanamo detainees, and would constrain DoD’s ability to transfer Guantanamo detainees, including those who have already been designated for transfer to other countries. In addition, I strongly object to a requirement in this bill which would limit the President’s ability to implement the New START Treaty and to set the country’s nuclear policy.

I am also opposed to sections 232 and 233 in this bill, which authorize the establishment of a missile defense site on the East Coast that the Pentagon says is unnecessary. These provisions disregard the advice of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and seek to tie the President’s

hands in determining military requirements in other parts of the world. Finally, this bill contains provisions which ignore DoD recommendations and block the Administration's ability to retire aging and unnecessary military aircraft, including the C-130 AMP, when less expensive options are readily available.

This year's NDAA does authorize much needed funding for vital programs that benefit our men and women in uniform, their civilian colleagues, and our veterans. It is my hope that many of my objections to this legislation will be resolved in Conference with the Senate and that I will be able to support its final passage.

EN BLOC PACKAGE: ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH USE OF CIVILIAN PERSONNEL AMENDMENT H.R. 1960, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

### HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the bill's managers for including in this en bloc amendment a provision Congressman LANGEVIN and I submitted to ensure the Department of Defense complies with the law.

The defense authorization act of fiscal year 2010 included a mandate that the Department make funding available to use civilian employees for requirements that last more than five years, thereby saving taxpayer dollars.

The Department's Comptroller's office was required to issue regulations on implementing this mandate. Yet, three years later they have still failed to do so.

This provision reinforces the law by requiring that within 45 days of enactment the Department finally issue these long-awaited regulations.

I ask my colleagues to vote in favor of this en bloc amendment, which includes this important provision.

PORTS AS SMALL BUSINESS INCUBATORS ACT OF 2013

### HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, our nation's ports are more than gateways of trade—they are economic engines in their own right. Ports support 13.3 million American jobs and generate \$3.15 trillion in economic activity. That is why I founded the PORTS Caucus to educate Members of Congress on the importance of ports to our national economy. As a member of the Small Businesses Committee, I also understand that economic recovery is going to be fueled by the job-creating power of our small businesses.

That is why I am re-introducing the "Ports as Small Business Incubators Act," which will join these two economic forces and further strengthen our economy. In 2005 alone, North American incubation programs assisted more than 27,000 companies that provided employ-

ment for more than 100,000 workers and generated annual revenues of \$17 billion. My bill creates a grant program available to Port Authorities interested in creating their own small business incubators.

The Ports as Small Business Incubators Act will allow port authorities to apply for a grant to create a small business incubator. This program will encourage port authorities to give opportunities to entrepreneurs who need them most. These newly-created small business incubators will be designed to foster small businesses owned by women, veterans, and minorities. Finally, this program will also encourage businesses that „arks develop a crucial part of our economy: green jobs. Port authorities can work with small business that focus on clean energy and improved air and water quality.

By passing this bill, we will ensure that our entrepreneurs are given the chance to succeed. This program will nurture our new businesses and provide a much-needed boost to our recovering economy.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT OF THE FACULTY, STAFF, STUDENTS, PARENTS AND ALUMNI OF EALY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN WEST BLOOMFIELD, MICHIGAN

### HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the administrators, educators and students of Ealy Elementary School in West Bloomfield, Michigan as they gather to reflect on the 47 years the school has served the community. For nearly five decades, the education professionals of Ealy have been making an impact at some of the most important moments in children's lives.

Opened in 1966 to meet the needs of a rapidly booming population in West Bloomfield, the faculty and staff of Ealy have diligently carried out the school's mission of providing an educational environment that creates a cooperative link between students' home, school, and community. As part of its mission, the educators of Ealy focus on providing each student with a uniquely challenging curriculum to unlock their fullest potential. This focus not only includes, a strong curriculum in the classroom, but also extends into initiatives and programs that reach students beyond the walls of the school.

In the classroom, the teachers at Ealy have been committed to using technology to enhance the educational experience of their students. With classrooms equipped with the latest computers, Ealy has focused on creating an interactive educational environment for its students. Additionally, each classroom at Ealy features an interactive smart board that further improves the learning experience for its students. The school's commitment to employing technology in the learning process also provided its students with some unique educational opportunities, such as a direct connection to NASA which allowed them to communicate with astronauts during their missions.

Furthermore the faculty and staff of Ealy Elementary understand how the development of

good communications skills early in life is an important tool for youth as they develop into adults. As part of the school's commitment to honing this skill in its students, they are required to each complete and publish a non-fiction book annually.

Beyond the walls of their classrooms, Ealy students are exposed to programs which engrain the importance of involvement in their community and world. Students have organized events that support our men and women in uniform, including adoptions of soldiers serving overseas and organizing care packages for entire units of soldiers. The educators of Ealy have also worked with their students to organize fundraising drives that have supported the victims of hurricanes and tsunamis, as well as create donations drives.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the administration and faculty of Ealy Elementary for the dedication to their students—working day in and day out to ensure that each student has the opportunity to discover and unlock their full potential. Thanks to their hard work, and the support of their parents, Ealy alumni have gone on to make significant contributions to communities around the world. While Ealy may be closing its doors at the end of this school year, the spirit it has imbued in the community will live on as its alumni continue to make a difference in the lives of others and as its dedicated educators continue to impact new students in their future endeavors.

SAINT JOSEPH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

MR. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Habitat for Humanity of Saint Joseph, Missouri. This business has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Employer of Excellence Award.

The Saint Joseph Habitat for Humanity is a place where families come first. The organization is committed to helping needy families in the Saint Joseph area realize the dream of home ownership. The families that are served by Habitat are often headed by single mothers who are inspired and encouraged that through hard work and perseverance, things can change in a positive way.

Even as Habitat seeks to empower women and bless children everyday, it also seeks to provide a family friendly environment for their employees. In staff meetings, personal concerns are given time in addition to agenda items. Employees are given opportunities for personal growth and development. This allows for the staff at Habitat to not only feel good about the work that they do, but who they are doing it for. Every day Saint Joseph Habitat for Humanity demonstrates its commitment to strengthening families in every way possible.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Saint Joseph Habitat for Humanity. This business is a tremendous asset to the St. Joseph community, and I am honored to represent this business in the United States Congress.

FEDERAL AGRICULTURE REFORM  
AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACT OF  
2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 19, 2013*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1947) to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes:

Mr. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I would like to thank the majority and minority for accepting my amendment to the farm bill on invasive species en bloc.

My amendment requires the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to submit an annual report to Congress on invasive species.

The report would include a list of invasive species in the country, their country of origin, how they got into the country, what year they entered the country, rate of entry, cost estimates, and a description of the ongoing research occurring to combat the species.

More importantly, the report must include a description of any legal recourse available to people affected by the species.

A 2005 study shows that invasive species cost the United States more than \$120 billion in damages every year.

U.S. agriculture loses \$13 billion annually in crops from invasive insects.

Every farmer, rancher, local government, non-profit or small business deserves to know what legal avenues are available to compensate them for dealing with an invasive spe-

cies that was brought into their backyard through no fault of their own.

Invasive species are not just harmful to humans or our food supply. They affect our endangered animals.

More than 400 of the over 1,300 species currently protected under the Endangered Species Act, and more than 180 candidate species for listing are considered to be at risk at least partly due to displacement by, competition with, or predation by invasive species.

My amendment seeks to bring an understanding to the challenge we are facing in combating invasive species.

Currently, no single clearinghouse exists to find out how many invasive species there are in the country, where those species came from, and what research is ongoing to combat that particular species.

How are we ever going to come up with a national strategy to combat invasive species if we don't know how what we are up against.

This information needs to be available to the public so we can begin a national conversation and put our best and brightest to the task of coming up with solutions for combating invasive species.

Again, I would like to thank the Members of the Agriculture Committee and I look forward to the remaining 2013 Farm Bill debates.

A TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT  
WILLIAM LEE BERG

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the invaluable service to our nation by

Sergeant William Lee Berg, and to recognize the great work being done by the Pottawattamie County Veteran Affairs office.

On Monday, June 24th, the Pottawattamie County Veteran Affairs office will be assisting in honoring Sergeant Berg's legacy by presenting his family with several medals he earned during service in Vietnam, including the Vietnam Campaign Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal with a Silver Star. Most notably, however, Sergeant Berg will be posthumously awarded the Purple Heart for the injuries he sustained in a helicopter crash as a door gunman while on a war mission on June 18, 1968, and the Air Medal for his participation in more than two dozen aerial missions in counterinsurgency operations. It goes without saying that Sergeant Berg's service to our nation was nothing short of exemplary.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to represent the people of Iowa, the city of Council Bluffs, and the important legacy of Sergeant Berg in the United States Congress. His heroic contribution to our nation's efforts in Vietnam represents just one example of the long tradition of selflessness and service upheld by Iowans serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in acknowledging Sergeant Berg's actions and thanking the Pottawattamie County Veteran Affairs office for their assistance in this ceremony. I humbly express my sincere gratitude to all of our nation's veterans, service members and their families for their service and sacrifice.