

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to pay tribute to the life of Lieutenant General Richard J. Seitz of Junction City, Kansas, who died on June 8 at the age of 95.

A native Kansan and Kansas State University graduate, Dick went through the sixth jump school class the Army ever had, becoming one of its first paratroopers. He was quickly promoted to be the Army's youngest battalion commander and led his battalion throughout its historic combat operations in Europe during World War II.

Dick ended the war with a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, and the Purple Heart. During his lifelong Army career, including nearly 37 years of active duty, he also received the Distinguished Service Medal and Legion of Merit, among many other awards, promotions, and commands.

Dick retired to Junction City in 1975 but remained active in his community and at Fort Riley. Among other activities, he was on the board of the Eisenhower Presidential Library, president of the Fort Riley-Central Kansas Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army, and chaired Junction City's Economic Redevelopment Study Commission. Most recently, the General Richard J. Seitz Elementary School was named in his honor on the post at Fort Riley.

In short, General Seitz epitomized what it means when we refer to him and his peers as America's Greatest Generation.

#### THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT

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

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we live in a world where it's not enough for things to be right. They must also look right. And while it may be right for the Supreme Court to strike down section 4 of the Voting Rights Act, it doesn't look right, given that just last year we had a multiplicity of cases wherein it was found that insidious discrimination existed such that those cases accorded voters rights that they would not have but for the Voting Rights Act.

Much is said about section 4 in the coverage. Little is said about section 4 and the opt-out, bail-out provision that has allowed many jurisdictions that were under the purview of the Voting Rights Act to extricate themselves.

The Voting Rights Act has functioned efficaciously. I'm so glad that medicine is very much unlike politics. Because in medicine, when a drug functions efficaciously, we market it, we extol the virtues of it, and we keep it. In politics, when a law succeeds, we de-mean it and we eliminate it.

I am here today because of the Voting Rights Act. I never thought I'd sit next to the Honorable CHARLIE RANGEL

in the House of the United States Congress. Thank God for the Voting Rights Act. We must revise it. We must extend it. We've got to renew it.

#### STOPPING STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATES FROM DOUBLING

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

Mr. MESSER. Four days. In 4 days, interest rates on student loans will double if nothing is done. A bill to stop that from happening passed this House last month. But the President and the Senate refused to do anything but posture. The truth is we don't disagree by much. The House plan mirrors a plan put forward by the President. Both plans use market rates. Both plans seek a long-term solution. But politics is getting in the way. And that is wrong.

Our plan gets politicians out of the student loan business. And that is good for students. America's students deserve affordable rates, not schoolyard antics. Let's work together and stop the rate hike.

#### CONGRATULATING ELIZABETH PALAFOX

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, since 1982, the Congressional Art Competition has recognized the special power that arts have in students throughout our country. In my district, the art competition winner this year was Elizabeth Palafox. Her piece has a message for every young woman in the San Joaquin Valley. When describing her work, Elizabeth stated clearly that her art "defines women in our Valley that don't give up on their dreams, and live large, no matter the challenges it brings upon us." Her mother, who raised her as a single parent, has been a strong role model and taught her firsthand the lessons of hard work and life in her own artwork.

Sadly, Elizabeth could not make it to Washington to see her artwork unveiled this week. But she's watching back home. Her self-portrait is representing our Valley well here in the Capitol.

Elizabeth, your work reminds me of the hope that we all have not just in your future but for the future of our women in our Valley and throughout our Nation. Thank you for showing your talent, and congratulations on being chosen as the art winner from the San Joaquin Valley in the 16th District.

#### JOBS IN THE FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

(Mr. DUFFY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUFFY. Today, I rise to talk about jobs in America and jobs in Wisconsin. One of the largest centers of our economy in rural Wisconsin is our forest products industry. And that industry is under assault.

One of the largest portions of our forest is held by the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. In fact, from 1986 to 1992 we harvested 150 million board feet of lumber a year, on average. Now, we harvest 98 million board feet a year. We've reduced that by 50 percent. What does that do? That causes thousands of jobs to be lost in rural Wisconsin.

Let's kick-start our economy. Let's put our loggers back to work. Let's open up our saw mills and paper mills. By opening up those mills, we have to open up our National Forests. Let's make sure our National Forests don't rot and burn but that we actually harvest them. They are a renewable resource and have a direct tie-in to jobs in rural Wisconsin.

#### STATISTICS 2013

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

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring your attention to an exciting global initiative, the International Year of Statistics, or Statistics 2013, which is supported by nearly 2,000 groups in more than 120 countries.

Organized in the U.S. by the American Statistical Association, Statistics 2013's primary objectives are to increase public awareness of the impact of statistical sciences on our society and to nurture an interest in statistics among our youth. Participants of Statistics 2013 are educating the public in how statistical sciences improve our lives in a myriad of ways, such as finding better cancer treatments and informing public policy. Statistics is an incredibly powerful tool that can be used in understanding complex phenomena. It's been used since antiquity.

Congratulations, Statistics 2013. I encourage my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions and goals of Statistics 2013.

#### IN MEMORY OF VINCE FLYNN

(Mrs. BACHMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, on Monday of this week, Lysa, her children, and thousands of admirers gathered at St. Paul Cathedral in St. Paul, Minnesota, to bury the legendary author Vince Flynn.

Vince Flynn was known and beloved as a Minnesotan and a great American. He lost his battle with cancer just this last week. He left behind a wonderful family, a beautiful family. He left behind a literary body of work. And, most importantly, he left behind his

deep and abiding faith in Jesus Christ. In his hand he held the rosary and also his beloved cell phone.

Vince educated America on the threat of Islamic jihad. We will forever remember his strength, courage, and his faith. He had a life well-lived. We will never forget the contributions to America by the wonderful and legendary Vince Flynn.

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#### JUSTICE PREVAILS

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, our amazing, time-traveling Supreme Court has truly surprised me this week. It was able to take us back to the 1960s on Tuesday and to step into the 21st century the next day by striking down DOMA.

Yesterday's ruling was a long-overdue affirmation that married same-sex couples deserve the same Federal benefits as everyone else. It's a major step towards marriage equality. But this victory comes on the heels of a dangerous blow to voting rights. On Tuesday, the Court struck down a provision that has been vital to guaranteeing the right to vote for all Americans. The Voting Rights Act is a crucial guard against States backsliding on the progress of the civil rights movement, and we must now work to restore its protections.

The struggle for voting rights and marriage equality are not so different. Both have been long fights with victories hard won. And in each we have seen freedoms and progress once thought impossible become inevitable. Yet even as we celebrate a victory for marriage equality, the Voting Rights Act ruling shows us that we cannot take these gains for granted, that maintaining these liberties requires constant vigilance and continued advocacy.

These fights are far from over; but in time, I know we will succeed. In the words of Dr. King: The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.

#### ANOTHER DAY AT THE IRS, ANOTHER SCANDAL

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, another day, another IRS scandal is revealed.

The Inspector General has identified improper use of taxpayer money by the people who collect taxes—the tax collectors. While the IRS was targeting conservative groups for audits, over 100 IRS employees improperly used government credit cards. “I’m shocked.”

Tax collectors have been sticking it to the taxpayers with spending only the IRS can get away with, including—

listen to this—thousands of dollars on diet pills, romance novels, baby bottles, baby clothes, smartphones, a popcorn machine, bandanas, stuffed animals, sunglasses, “swag” like kazoos, and Thomas the Tank Engine wristbands and bathtub toys. There’s a lot more. You can’t make this up, Mr. Speaker. Were they ever disciplined by the IRS? Of course not. This is the IRS. They are the law. They are the government.

Mr. Speaker, it’s time to audit the tax man and the tax collectors. The squandered money should be returned in full to the Treasury—with interest penalty, just like the tax collectors charge citizens when they audit us.

And that’s just the way it is.

#### IMMIGRATION

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

Mr. O’ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to warn my colleagues about the Corker-Hoeven amendment within the Senate’s immigration bill.

To my colleagues who are concerned with the fiscal health of our country, I call your attention to this provision, which will commit \$50 billion to double the size of the Border Patrol, add 700 miles of walls and fencing between the U.S. and Mexico at a time when we have record-low northbound apprehensions and net migration from Mexico is zero.

To my colleagues who cherish our civil liberties and our constitutional rights, can you live with a \$50 billion militarized buildup within the United States where more than 6 million of your fellow citizens live?

And to my colleagues who care about human rights and the sanctity of human life, more than 5,000 people have died crossing the border into the United States over the last 15 years. Let’s not perpetuate this problem; let’s solve it. We need comprehensive reform, but we need comprehensive reform that’s rational, that’s humane, and that’s fiscally responsible.

#### THANK YOU TO CARL MEYER FOR HIS SERVICE TO PARKLAND COLLEGE AND CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Carl Meyer for his years of service to Parkland College and the Champaign County community.

Carl originally moved to Champaign County in 1971 when he came to the University of Illinois to work as an assistant football coach. Years later, he left to work for the Universities of Arizona and Cincinnati before returning to Champaign County in 1992.

In 1997, Carl was asked by then-Parkland College president Zelema Harris

to serve as the executive director of the Parkland College Foundation. Throughout his 16 years with the Parkland College Foundation, Carl oversaw a major gifts campaign, raising more than \$14 million, as well as seeing projects like the Tony Noel Agricultural Technology Applications Center and the Parkland Automotive Technology Center go from inception to completion. This is in addition to the more than 140 scholarships he established and the dozens of partnerships he created with businesses and academic departments.

Words can’t express how much Carl means to Parkland College and Champaign County. I would like to thank Carl for his commitment to Parkland College and its students, and for his leadership in the community. Enjoy your retirement, Carl, and know you will be missed. You deserve it.

#### VETERAN SPOUSE EQUAL TREATMENT ACT

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TITUS. For far too long, DOMA denied legally married same-sex couples access to Federal benefits, including those provided by the VA. But with yesterday’s decisions, the Supreme Court sent a clear message that all Americans, gay or straight, must be afforded equal protection under the law.

There is no question that now we must implement the Court’s ruling throughout every department of the Federal Government. Accordingly, I’m proud to introduce the Veteran Spouse Equal Treatment Act to amend the VA’s definition of spouse as an individual of the opposite sex. This is a basic matter of aligning the VA with our Nation’s laws, of living up to the principles of fairness and equality, of extending benefits to thousands of deserving military spouses, and of defending all those who have proudly worn the uniform of the U.S. armed services and their families.

Yesterday, justice and freedom prevailed over intolerance and hate. So today I ask my colleagues to work with me to see that this legislation is passed without delay, to implement the Supreme Court’s decision, and leave no question about equal protection under the law for all Americans.

#### OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF TRANSBOUNDARY HYDROCARBON AGREEMENTS AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, during consideration of H.R. 1613 and H.R. 2231 pursuant to House Resolution 274, amendment numbered 1 printed in part A of House Report 113-131 and amendments numbered 5 and 10 printed in part B of that report be modified by the form I have placed at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the modifications.