United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 159 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2013 No. 117

House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. FOXX).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 9, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable VIRGINIA FOXX to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

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

Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day. As the tensions of violence continue to mount, we turn to You, Lord God, as our hope and salvation.

Critical moments in the life of any person or any nation, as well as momentous undertakings, O Lord, bring us to our knees before You. We humbly seek Your guidance and rely on Your faithfulness.

Be with us in the days ahead. Bless the Members of the people's House, all who work here, and our guests. Listen to our heartfelt prayers.

We seem to be entering a passageway of darkness which may fill us with fear and anxiety. Bring us safely to the light at the end of the tunnel. Help all Members of this assembly attend to the voices of wisdom and of the American people as matters of great import and danger are considered in these coming days.

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

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

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

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

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

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

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. HOLDING led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

PRESIDENT'S POLICY DEEPLY UNSERIOUS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, over the past month, I have traveled by bus and car across all five counties I represent in the Second District of South Carolina, where I found my constituents agree with Charles Krauthammer in his column yesterday in The State newspaper of Columbia, South Carolina.

Mr. Krauthammer is recognized for his extraordinary insight and has identified the President's policy as ''stunning zigzag, following months of hesitation, ambivalence, contradiction, and studied delay''; the President ''having yet done nothing but hesitate, threaten, retract, and wander . . . claiming . . . not his own red line but the world's . . . a transparent attempt at offloading responsibility.''

''There's no strategy, no purpose here other than helping Obama escape self-inflicted humiliation.

''This is deeply unserious.''

The White House announced April 25 that Syria had chemical weapons, but only after 4 months of serious scandals, ObamaCare destroying jobs, and the upcoming debt debate vote, did it seek action. On my tour, I was inspired at the North Augusta Rotary Club by the four-way test: Is it the truth?

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th, 2001, and September the 11th, 2012, at Benghazi in the global war on terrorism.

MILITARY ACTION IN SYRIA

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

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, before I returned to Washington last week, I was skeptical of the President's proposal for military action in Syria. After classified briefings and hearing directly from Secretaries Kerry and Hagel, I am more skeptical than ever.

This administration has done nothing to convince me and the American people that they have a focused, effective plan for military action in Syria, or really any true plan at all. These

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strikes, like the administration's Middle East policy of the last 4½ years, lack coherence and fail to support a long-term strategy.

Additionally, they have not adequately considered the risk of retaliation from Assad's allies, Russia and Hezbollah.

Madam Speaker, the test of a successful foreign policy is that our friends trust us and our enemies fear us. President Obama has failed in this regard, and a military strike will fail to benefit the United States' broader strategy or international interests.

USE POWER OF THE PURSE TO STOP OBAMACARE

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

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, how do Yucca Mountain, Iran Contra, and the Vietnam War relate to the Affordable Care Act? All of those represent legislative limitations of funding to counter decisions made by the executive branch. In each instance, Congress used its authority provided under the Constitution to place limits on Presidential decisions. We need to use those constitutional powers again.

The Affordable Care Act is lurching toward an uncertain start and is dramatically different than what was signed into law over 3 years ago. Gone are the CLASS Act and the 1099 business activity reporting requirement. What about the Federal preexisting program? It hasn't accepted a new patient since February of this year.

How unfair is it that the large corporations in this country received an 11th-hour Presidential exemption and Members of Congress receive a subsidy? None of this is available to the average American.

I look at all of this and I ask: What tools are available to prevent this disaster? And the answer is provided in the historical record when previous Congresses used the one trump card they have available. All that is required is the courage and the clarity of vision to alter history.

GREECE V. GALLOWAY

(Mr. COLLINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to promote the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, specifically, the right of all citizens to freely express their religion.

This November, the Supreme Court is scheduled to hear oral arguments in the case of Town of Greece v. Galloway. The town of Greece, located just outside of my district in western New York, is accused of violating the First Amendment because the vast majority of volunteers who opened town meetings, they opened them with a prayer using Christian references.

Legislative and communal prayer has a rich tradition in this country and should not be curtailed by illegitimate fears of religious overreach in the United States. We must remain a Nation that does not force a religion on any person but is accepting of those who wish to profess their faith.

MILITARY RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

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

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Speaker, the constitutional right to religious liberty is, with increasing frequency, being denied to the men and women in our military who swore to support and defend the Constitution when they enlisted.

Within the past month, we have seen a new case of an Air Force veteran who says he was relieved of duty by his commander because he would not champion same-sex marriages. This senior master sergeant with 19 years of service to his country has now been entangled in the military justice system, not for anything he has done or said, but for refusing a commander's order to make a statement that would violate his deeply held religious beliefs.

What's happening in this case violates current statutes, not to mention the First Amendment. That's why it's so crucial that Congress protect military religious freedom and its expression. My amendment to do that was passed in this House, and we need the Senate to act and the President to stop his threat to veto.

FREE EXERCISE OF RELIGION

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise in defense of the First Amendment right to free exercise of religion.

Thomas Jefferson once asked:

> Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are a gift from God?

The clear answer is no.

If freedom of religion is not protected in the very places where laws are crafted, how can we expect the laws enacted to respect each individual's freedom of religion?

As a pastor and a chaplain, I believe that freedom of religion isn't some mere abstract concept to be debated in the Halls of Congress or before the Supreme Court. Religious freedom gave me the ability to preach God's word in Georgia, and religious freedom allowed me to give faith-based encouragement to soldiers while I served alongside them in Iraq.

It is a precious liberty our Founders fought and died to protect, and I will not allow freedom and free exercise of religious liberties to be undermined here or anywhere.

GREECE V. GALLOWAY

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

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise to support the First Amendment as well—as a patriot, as a pastor, as a Member of Congress.

Joseph Stalin, an enemy of America, once said it this way:

> America is like a healthy body and its resistance is threefold: its patriotism, its morality, its spiritual life. If we can undermine these three areas, America will collapse from within.

President Eisenhower, a patriot, said it this way in October of 1954:

> Atheism substitutes men for the Supreme Creator, and this leads inevitably to domination and dictatorship. We must jealously guard our foundation in faith, for on it rests the ability of the American individual to live and thrive in this blessed land and to be able to help other less fortunate people to achieve freedom and individual opportunity. These we take for granted, but to others they are often only a wistful dream. ''In God We Trust,'' often have we heard the words of this wonderful American motto. Let us make sure that familiarity has not made them meaningless for us. We carry the torch of freedom as a sacred trust for all mankind. We do not believe that God intended the light He created to be put out by men.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by the Speaker on Friday, August 2, 2013:

H.R. 2576, to amend title 49, United States Code, to modify requirements relating to the availability of pipeline safety regulatory documents, and for other purposes;

H.R. 1171, to amend title 40, United States Code, to improve veterans service organizations access to Federal surplus personal property;

H.R. 678, to authorize all Bureau of Reclamation conduit facilities for hydropower development under Federal Reclamation law, and for other purposes;

H.R. 267, to improve hydropower, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bill was signed by Speaker pro tempore THORNBERRY on Tuesday, August 6, 2013:

H.R. 1344, to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to provide expedited air passenger screening to severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York) at 4 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

GLOBAL INVESTMENT IN AMERICAN JOBS ACT OF 2013

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2052) to direct the Secretary of Commerce, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, to conduct an interagency review of and report to Congress on ways to increase the global competitiveness of the United States in attracting foreign direct investment, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2052

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Global Investment in American Jobs Act of 2013''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) It remains an urgent national priority to improve economic growth and create new jobs.

(2) National security requires economic strength and global engagement.

(3) Businesses today have a wide array of choices when considering where to invest, expand, or establish new operations.

(4) Administrations of both parties have consistently reaffirmed the need to promote an open investment climate as a key to domestic economic prosperity and security.

(5) The United States has historically been the largest worldwide recipient of foreign direct investment but has seen its share decline in recent years.

(6) The United States faces increasing competition from other countries as it works to recruit investment from global companies.

(7) Foreign direct investment can benefit the economy and workforce of every State and Commonwealth in the United States.

(8) According to the latest Federal statistics, the United States subsidiaries of companies headquartered abroad contribute to the United States economy in a variety of important ways, including by—

(A) providing jobs for an estimated 5,600,000 Americans, with compensation that is often higher than the national private-sector average, as many of these jobs are in high-skilled, high-paying industries;

(B) strengthening the United States industrial base and employing nearly 15 percent of the United States manufacturing sector workforce;

(C) establishing operations in the United States from which to sell goods and services around the world, thereby producing nearly 18 percent of United States exports;

(D) promoting innovation with more than $41,000,000,000 in annual United States research and development activities;

(E) paying nearly 14 percent of United States corporate income taxes; and

(F) purchasing goods and services from local suppliers and small businesses worth hundreds of billions of dollars annually.

(9) These companies account for 5.8 percent of United States private sector gross domestic product.

(10) The Department of Commerce has initiatives in place to increase foreign direct investment.

(11) The President issued a statement in 2011 reaffirming the longstanding open investment policy of the United States and encouraged all countries to pursue such a policy.

(12) The President signed an executive order in 2011 to establish the SelectUSA initiative and expanded its resources and activities in 2012, so as to promote greater levels of business investment in the United States.

(13) The President's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness in 2011 recommended the establishment of a National Investment Initiative to attract $1,000,000,000,000 in foreign direct investment over five years.

(14) Sound transportation infrastructure, a well-educated and healthy workforce, safe food and water, stable financial institutions, a fair and equitable justice system, and transparent and accountable administrative procedures are important factors that contribute to United States global competitiveness.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the ability of the United States to attract foreign direct investment is directly linked to the long-term economic prosperity, global competitiveness, and security of the United States;

(2) it is a top national priority to enhance the global competitiveness, prosperity, and security of the United States by—

(A) removing unnecessary barriers to foreign direct investment and the jobs that it creates throughout the United States; and

(B) promoting policies to ensure the United States remains the premier global destination in which to invest, hire, innovate, and manufacture products;

(3) maintaining the United States' commitment to open investment policy encourages other countries to reciprocate and enables the United States to open new markets abroad for United States companies and their products;

(4) while foreign direct investment can enhance the Nation's economic strength, policies regarding foreign direct investment should reflect national security interests and should not disadvantage domestic investors or companies; and

(5) United States efforts to attract foreign direct investment should be consistent with efforts to maintain and improve the domestic standard of living.

SEC. 4. FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT REVIEW.

(a) REVIEW.—The Secretary of Commerce, in coordination with the Federal Interagency Investment Working Group and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall conduct an interagency review of the global competitiveness of the United States in attracting foreign direct investment.

(b) SPECIFIC MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The review conducted pursuant to subsection (a) shall include a review of—

(1) the current economic impact of foreign direct investment in the United States, with particular focus on manufacturing, research and development, trade, and jobs;

(2) trends in global cross-border investment flows and the underlying factors for such trends;

(3) Federal Government policies that are closely linked to the ability of the United States to attract and retain foreign direct investment;

(4) foreign direct investment as compared to direct investment by domestic entities;

(5) foreign direct investment that takes the form of greenfield investment as compared to foreign direct investment reflecting merger and acquisition activity;

(6) the unique challenges posed by foreign direct investment by state-owned enterprises;

(7) ongoing Federal Government efforts to improve the investment climate and facilitate greater levels of foreign direct investment in the United States;

(8) innovative and noteworthy State, regional, and local government initiatives to attract foreign investment; and

(9) initiatives by other countries in order to identify best practices for increasing global competitiveness in attracting foreign direct investment.

(c) LIMITATION.—The review conducted pursuant to subsection (a) shall not address laws or policies relating to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States.

(d) PUBLIC COMMENT.—Prior to—

(1) conducting the review under subsection (a), the Secretary shall publish notice of the review in the Federal Register and shall provide an opportunity for public comment on the matters to be covered by the review; and

(2) reporting pursuant to subsection (e), the Secretary shall publish the proposed findings and recommendations to Congress in the Federal Register and shall provide an opportunity for public comment.

(e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce, in coordination with the Federal Interagency Investment Working Group and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall report to Congress the findings of the review required under subsection (a) and submit recommendations for increasing the global competitiveness of the United States in attracting foreign direct investment without weakening labor, consumer, financial, or environmental protections.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARROW) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TERRY. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2052, the Global Investment in American Jobs Act of 2013.

Now, we recently saw the latest job numbers. While somewhat positive, the reality is that we have more people out of the workforce than since 1978. People are giving up looking for work, and it doesn't have to be and shouldn't be that way.

There are many foreign companies who want to ''in-source'' their jobs to America, but there have been many barriers standing in their way. There are many foreign companies who should and want to come here. These are good, high-paying jobs that many Americans are looking for.

In 2010 alone, U.S. affiliates of foreign firms employed an estimated 5.6 million Americans. These Americans also made, on average, $77,000 per year.

These U.S. subsidiaries invested $41.3 billion in research and development and made $149 billion in capital expenditures in the United States that same year. In the manufacturing sector alone, FDI inflows were nearly $84 billion in 2012, according to the National Association of Manufacturers.

Unfortunately, according to the testimony of the Organization for International Investment at our legislative hearing last spring, the United States' share of foreign direct investment dropped from 41 percent at its high in 1999 to just 17 percent in 2011. Today, we're here to reverse that trend.

My bill, H.R. 2052, and also, with the gentlelady, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. BARROW on the other side of the aisle, this is a bipartisan piece of legislation that instructs the Department of Commerce to conduct an interagency review geared to identifying those barriers to foreign investment to the United States. It also instructs the Department of Commerce to make recommendations on ways to lower or eliminate those same barriers.

The United States should be the leader in attracting foreign investment. We have a stable government, safe working conditions, and the most skilled workforce in the world. I believe that our long-term global competitiveness and economic success as a nation is directly tied to our ability to attract foreign investment.

By creating an environment where foreign companies want to move their manufacturing operations or distribution centers to the United States, we are fostering an environment or atmosphere of organic, government stimulus-free economic growth.

We must be aware of the potential impact on the U.S.' ability to attract foreign direct investment when considering new laws and regulations.

We want these companies to come here and help us grow our economy. But there are a number of areas within the purview of the Federal Government where we can improve the domestic climate for foreign direct investment.

It's my hope that the report at the heart of this legislation will highlight those areas, both for the administration, where it can act on its own authority, and for Congress, where the administration lacks the authority.

I would also like to thank some individuals who helped get this legislation off the ground and to the House floor today. First off, I'd like to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM), who has championed this issue for several years.

I would also like to thank the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), the ranking member of this subcommittee, as well as our friend, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARROW), for his leadership.

I believe we can all agree that we shouldn't stop our efforts to put America back to work until every American who wants a job can find one. This legislation is a step in the right direction, Mr. Speaker, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Nebraska for his leadership on this issue.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2052, the Global Investment in American Jobs Act, because it will encourage the growth of good, American jobs.

Every time I go home, I'm reminded of how investors overseas spur jobs here at home by tapping into the talent of America. Dutch companies like DSM in Augusta, French companies like Alstom in Waynesboro, and Japanese companies like YKK in Dublin could invest in any country in the world. They're proud to invest in Georgia's 12th District because the families who work for them take pride in their work.

This bill requires the Department of Commerce to investigate how it can be an attractive investment for foreign-owned companies. The United States still has the best workers in the world, and they deserve every opportunity to offer their skills to companies looking to expand.

I'm proud that this bill also enjoys broad bipartisan support. This is how Congress can and should work, Democrats and Republicans coming together to get Americans back to work.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I look forward to building a stronger future for American workers by passing H.R. 2052.

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

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I'll continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the patience and understanding, just coming from a classified hearing.

I want to first thank the chairman and his staff, as well as committee Democratic staff, for working so hard and so diligently and collaboratively to come to an agreement on legislation that will help guide American job and economic growth.

There is a strong incentive to invest in America, which remains the best place on Earth to find talented, motivated employees who are the core of the middle class.

My home State of Illinois ranks number one in the Midwest in terms of foreign direct investment, with nearly 1,600 foreign-based firms employing more than 300,000 Illinois residents. In attracting the investment, Illinois has showcased its world-class transportation infrastructure, its diversified economy, its productive workforce, and its cultural diversity and attractions.

It has also maintained its strong labor, health, and environmental standards that helped build the middle class, which I believe is the key to successful foreign direct investment.

Some companies are working to respect the rights of workers as they invest in the United States. On Friday, it was announced that Volkswagen is working collaboratively with the United Auto Workers to unionize its Chattanooga, Tennessee, plant. That will help to ensure that the best interests of American workers are a major consideration at the plant and the company as it continues its investment in the United States.

That being said, it is important that the study authorized in this legislation examine both the benefits and the costs of foreign direct investment. Doing so will allow us to determine the ways to drive investment that maintains high labor, health, environmental, and national security standards.

And on that subject, I'd like to enter into a colloquy on the amendment in the nature of a substitute offered by Mr. TERRY. While I will not oppose this amendment, I must express my reservations.

Mr. Chairman, you worked with me in a very collegial and bipartisan manner to craft a bipartisan bill. H.R. 2052 is a good product.

Now we have before us an amendment that makes three changes that could be perceived to weaken important provisions of the bill. I have concerns about each of them, but I would like to focus on the elimination of cost-benefit language regarding the bill's required review of the current economic impact of foreign direct investment.

During our negotiations, I suggested that language because I believed that we needed to ensure that the review be balanced, and you agreed.

In addition, some of the language in the findings and in the sense of Congress could be read as if there are only benefits of FDI, and we wanted to be evenhanded. While I do believe that there are benefits to FDI, there are also costs that must be considered.

Regardless of the amendment before us now, can you assure me that the bill's requirement of a review of the current economic impact of foreign direct investment required under this bill will include a review of both the benefits and costs of foreign direct investment?

Mr. TERRY. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. I yield to the gentleman from Nebraska.

Mr. TERRY. Yes, I can assure you. I agree with the gentlelady that it should include both benefits and costs, as we have suggested. And I do want to state that I appreciate working with you. And you have shown great collegiality as well in our negotiations, and I want to thank you for that.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Thank you so much.

Reclaiming my time, if I could just say, I will not oppose the amendment, but I do expect to work with you to ensure that the review, should this bill become law, is balanced and to ensure that any report of this committee on H.R. 2052 include the clarification that you just made.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, having the right to close, I am going to reserve the balance of my time and allow them to finish their time, if they have any.

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. I thank the gentleman.

We have no further speakers on our side and, with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I want to close by saying that this truly has been a bipartisan effort. Both sides of the aisle want the U.S. to be in a better position to attract the foreign direct investment which does create jobs in the United States. That has been on the decline. We need to reverse that.

And this is one of those times when you go home and you hear, at your townhall meeting, Why don't you work together? The people need to see how we worked together on this bill and resolved the differences between each other on this. Today we're here to have what I think will be an overwhelmingly positive vote.

With that, I will submit a couple of letters for the RECORD. One is about 150 entities that signed on to a letter for the Organization for International Investment, and then also another letter from Sanofi dated September 9, 2013.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ORGANIZATION FOR INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT

OFII is the only business association in Washington D.C. that exclusively represents U.S. subsidiaries of foreign companies and advocates for their non-discriminatory treatment under state and federal law.

MEMBERS

ABB Inc.; ACE INA Holdings, Inc.; Ahold USA, Inc.; Airbus North America Holdings; Air Liquide USA; Akzo Nobel Inc.; Alcatel-Lucent; Allianz of North America; ALSTOM; Anheuser-Busch; APG; APL Limited; AREVA, Inc.; Arup; Astellas Pharma US, Inc.; AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals; BAE Systems; Balfour Beatty; Barclays Capital; Barrick Gold Corp. of North America.

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L'Oréal USA, Inc.; Louisiana Energy Service (LES); Louis Dreyfus Commodities; Louisville Corporate Services, Inc.; LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton; Macquarie Aircraft Leasing Services; Maersk Inc.; Magna International; Mallinckrodt; Marvell Semiconductor; McCain Foods USA; Michelin North America, Inc.; National Grid; Nestlé USA, Inc.; Nissan; Nomura Holding America, Inc.; Novartis Corporation; Novo Nordisk Pharmaceuticals; Oldcastle, Inc.; Panasonic Corp.; of North America.

Pearson Inc.; Pernod Ricard USA; Philips Electronics North America; QBE the Americas; Randstad North America; Reed Elsevier Inc.; Research in Motion; Rexam Inc.; Rinnai; Rio Tinto America; Roche Holdings, Inc.; Rolls-Royce North America Inc.; Royal Bank of Canada; SABIC Innovative Plastics; Samsung; Sanofi US; SAP America; Sasol; Schlumberger.

Schneider Electric USA; Schott North America; Shell Oil Company; Siemens Corporation; Smith & Nephew, Inc.; Societe Generale; Solvay America; Sony Corporation of America; Sprint; Sumitomo Corp.; of America; Swiss Re America Holding Corp.; Syngenta Corporation; Takeda North America; Tate & Lyle North America, Inc.; TD Bank; TE Connectivity; Teva Pharmaceuticals USA; Thales USA, Inc.; The Tata Group; Thomson Reuters.

ThyssenKrupp North America, Inc.; Tim Hortons; Toa Reinsurance Company of America; Tomkins Industries, Inc.; TOTAL Holdings USA, Inc.; Toyota Motor North America; Transamerica; Tyco; UBS; UCB; Umicore USA; Unilever; Vivendi; Vodafone; Voith Holding Inc.; Volkswagen of America, Inc.; Volvo Cars North America; Volvo Group North America, Inc.; Westfield LLC; White Mountains, Inc.; Wipro Inc.; Wolters Kluwer U.S. Corporation; Wolseley; WPP Group USA, Inc.; XL Global Services; Zurich Insurance Group.

ORGANIZATION FOR INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT,
Washington, DC, September 9, 2013.

Re OFII Support of H.R. 2052, the ''Global Investment in American Jobs Act of 2013''.

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

Hon. LEE TERRY,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade, Washington, DC.

Hon. HENRY WAXMAN,
Ranking Member, Energy and Commerce Committee, Washington, DC.

Hon. JAN SCHAKOWSKY,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN UPTON, RANKING MEMBER WAXMAN, CHAIRMAN TERRY AND RANKING MEMBER SCHAKOWSKY: On behalf of the Organization for International Investment (OFII) and its member companies, I write in strong support of H.R. 2052, the ''Global Investment in American Jobs Act of 2013'' and commend the Energy and Commerce Committee for its leadership on this important bipartisan legislation. As the United States continues to confront significant economic challenges, this legislation is critical to enhancing our nation's efforts to attract global business investment and the jobs and economic growth it generates.

OFII is a business association comprised of over 160 U.S. subsidiaries of companies headquartered abroad (membership list is included). OFII works to ensure a level playing field for its member companies and promote policies which increase U.S. competitiveness in attracting foreign direct investment (FDI).

U.S. subsidiaries of global companies play a major role in the national economy, directly employing 5.6 million Americans, supporting an annual U.S. payroll of more than $408 billion, and employing 17 percent of the U.S. manufacturing workforce. In addition, these companies account for a significant share of U.S. research and development activities, purchase goods and services worth hundreds of billions of dollars every year from U.S. suppliers and small businesses, and produce nearly 18 percent of all U.S. exports, which provide hundreds of billions of dollars in American goods and services annually to customers around the world.

However, the United States faces an increasingly competitive global environment for job-creating FDI. Now more than ever before, companies have an unprecedented array of options when looking to invest, expand, or establish new operations, including into emerging economies such as China and Brazil. While the United States remains the world's leading recipient of FDI, its share of global investment has dropped significantly from 41 percent in 1999 to just 17 percent in 2011. It is no longer enough for the U.S. to merely be ''open'' to global investment; we must be ready to compete in a challenging global marketplace.

OFII and its member companies believe the ''Global Investment in American Jobs Act'' is a critical step in ensuring the U.S. remains the world's most attractive location for global businesses to invest, grow, and create jobs. The bill directs the Secretary of Commerce to lead the first-ever comprehensive interagency review of U.S. competitiveness for FDI. This examination of economic trends, best practices from around the world, and key policies will result in recommendations to Congress outlining a new roadmap for attracting and retaining top tier global businesses. In addition, the legislation explicitly recognizes the importance of FDI to

the U.S. economy by expressing the sense of Congress that remaining competitive in attracting such investment is directly linked to our nation's long-term economic strength and security.

Passage of the ''Global Investment in American Jobs Act'' would send a powerful and bipartisan message that America is ready to compete in a new way for global investment.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

NANCY L. MCLERNON,
President & CEO, Organization for International Investment.

SANOFI,
Washington, DC, September 9, 2013.

Hon. LEE TERRY,
House of Representatives, Chairman, Energy and Commerce Committee, Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing & Trade, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN TERRY: Sanofi is a leading global and diversified healthcare company which discovers, develops and distributes therapeutic solutions focused on patients' needs. Sanofi has core strengths in the field of healthcare with seven growth platforms: diabetes solutions, human vaccines, innovative drugs, rare diseases, consumer healthcare, emerging markets and animal health.

On behalf of Sanofi, I would like to thank and commend you and your colleagues and express our strong support for your bill, H.R. 2052, the ''Global Investment in American Jobs Act of 2013.'' As you know, the ''Global Investment in American Jobs Act'' is bicameral and bipartisan legislation aimed at improving America's ability to attract job-creating foreign direct investment (FDI) from businesses around the world. The bill requires the Secretary of Commerce to implement a comprehensive review of the United States' ability to attract foreign direct investment. The review will look at what we are doing right and what we are doing wrong. It will also look at what other countries are doing that we should follow and what other countries are doing that we should avoid. Following this review, the Secretary will issue recommendations for all agencies of government setting out a comprehensive plan for improving U.S. global competiveness for attracting foreign investment.

FDI in the United States has been an engine for economic growth, fueling U.S. manufacturing, innovation, trade, and overall job creation. U.S. subsidiaries of foreign-headquartered companies account for 5.8 percent of U.S. private sector GDP and employ 5.6 million American workers, including two million in the manufacturing sector. In addition, these companies produce 18 percent of all U.S. exports, fund 14 percent of annual research and development activities, and support a diverse supplier network throughout the country, purchasing goods and services worth hundreds of billions of dollars every year from thousands of small and medium-sized American companies.

While the U.S. remains the world's leading recipient of foreign direct investment, our global share of such investment has dropped significantly since the turn of the 21st century, from 41 percent in 1999 to just over 17 percent in 2011. In March, the Department of Commerce released new data showing the U.S. received $174.7 billion in global investment for 2012, a decrease of 25% compared with $234 billion the previous year. Foreign-headquartered companies, such as Sanofi, have many options when looking to invest, expand, or establish new operations, including into emerging economies. In this challenging global environment, the U.S. must position itself to compete for job-creating FDI.

Sanofi has made a significant investment in the U.S. Sanofi employs more than 17,000 through our U.S. affiliates in pharmaceuticals, vaccines, animal health, consumer health and rare diseases. Sanofi has R&D facilities in 8 states (AZ, CA, GA, MA, MD, MO, NJ, and PA) and important R&D partnerships with organizations such as Harvard, MIT and Dana-Farber, reflecting the importance of research and development to the company in the U.S. Our U.S. affiliates have manufacturing, packaging or distribution sites in 9 states (MO, PA, TN, MA, NJ, MN, NC, GA, MD and NV). Our U.S. affiliates export products from 7 states (GA, PA, MA, MO, NJ, TN, and MN). And we have more than $4 billion in contracts with over 15,000 vendors and suppliers throughout the U.S.

H.R. 2052 has the support of a broad range of cosponsors who understand that investment from around the globe is important to every state and region across this country. As a result, H.R. 2052 was unanimously approved by the Energy and Commerce Committee on July 17, 2013. The House of Representatives passed similar legislation during the 112th Congress with strong bipartisan support. Passing this legislation will be an important step in enhancing/ U.S. competitiveness and reinvigorating job growth in our country.

Thank you once again for your work and commitment to incentivize FDI in the United States to expand the job market and strengthen our economy.

Sincerely,

PATRICK MCLAIN,
Vice President, Federal Government Affairs, Policy & Issues Management.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2052, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

□ 1615

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION CONSOLIDATED REPORTING ACT OF 2013

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2844) to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to consolidate the reporting obligations of the Federal Communications Commission in order to improve congressional oversight and reduce reporting burdens, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2844

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Federal Communications Commission Consolidated Reporting Act of 2013''.

SEC. 2. COMMUNICATIONS MARKETPLACE REPORT.

Title I of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 14. COMMUNICATIONS MARKETPLACE REPORT.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—In the last quarter of every even-numbered year, the Commission shall publish on its website and submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the state of the communications marketplace.

''(b) CONTENTS.—Each report required by subsection (a) shall—

''(1) assess the state of competition in the communications marketplace, including competition to deliver voice, video, audio, and data services among providers of telecommunications, providers of commercial mobile service (as defined in section 332), multichannel video programming distributors (as defined in section 602), broadcast stations, providers of satellite communications, Internet service providers, and other providers of communications services;

''(2) assess the state of deployment of communications capabilities, including advanced telecommunications capability (as defined in section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (47 U.S.C. 1302)), regardless of the technology used for such deployment, including whether advanced telecommunications capability is being deployed to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion;

''(3) assess whether laws, regulations, or regulatory practices (whether those of the Federal Government, States, political subdivisions of States, Indian tribes or tribal organizations (as such terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b)), or foreign governments) pose a barrier to competitive entry into the communications marketplace or to the competitive expansion of existing providers of communications services;

''(4) describe the agenda of the Commission for the next 2-year period for addressing the challenges and opportunities in the communications marketplace that were identified through the assessments under paragraphs (1) through (3); and

''(5) describe the actions that the Commission has taken in pursuit of the agenda described pursuant to paragraph (4) in the previous report submitted under this section.

''(c) EXTENSION.—If the President designates a Commissioner as Chairman of the Commission during the last quarter of an even-numbered year, the portion of the report required by subsection (b)(4) may be published on the website of the Commission and submitted to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate as an addendum during the first quarter of the following odd-numbered year.

''(d) SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) ASSESSING COMPETITION.—In assessing the state of competition under subsection (b)(1), the Commission shall consider all forms of competition, including the effect of intermodal competition, facilities-based competition, and competition from new and emergent communications services, including the provision of content and communications using the Internet.

''(2) ASSESSING DEPLOYMENT.—In assessing the state of deployment under subsection (b)(2), the Commission shall compile a list of geographical areas that are not served by any provider of advanced telecommunications capability.

''(3) INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS AND DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION.—The Commission may use readily available data to draw appropriate comparisons between the United States communications marketplace and the international communications marketplace and to correlate its assessments with demographic information.

''(4) CONSIDERING SMALL BUSINESSES.—In assessing the state of competition under subsection (b)(1) and regulatory barriers under subsection (b)(3), the Commission shall consider market entry barriers for entrepreneurs and other small businesses in the communications marketplace in accordance with the national policy under section 257(b).''.

SEC. 3. CONSOLIDATION OF REDUNDANT REPORTS; CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) ORBIT ACT REPORT.—Section 646 of the Communications Satellite Act of 1962 (47 U.S.C. 765e; 114 Stat. 57) is repealed.

(b) SATELLITE COMPETITION REPORT.—Section 4 of Public Law 109–34 (47 U.S.C. 703) is repealed.

(c) INTERNATIONAL BROADBAND DATA REPORT.—Section 103 of the Broadband Data Improvement Act (47 U.S.C. 1303) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (b); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (c) through (e) as subsections (b) through (d), respectively.

(d) STATUS OF COMPETITION IN THE MARKET FOR THE DELIVERY OF VIDEO PROGRAMMING REPORT.—Section 628 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 548) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (g);

(2) by redesignating subsection (j) as subsection (g); and

(3) by transferring subsection (g) (as redesignated) so that it appears after subsection (f).

(e) REPORT ON CABLE INDUSTRY PRICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 623 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 543) is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (k); and

(B) by redesignating subsections (l) through (n) as subsections (k) through (m), respectively.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 613(a)(3) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 533(a)(3)) is amended by striking ''623(l)'' and inserting ''623(k)''.

(f) TRIENNIAL REPORT IDENTIFYING AND ELIMINATING MARKET ENTRY BARRIERS FOR ENTREPRENEURS AND OTHER SMALL BUSINESSES.—Section 257 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 257) is amended by striking subsection (c).

(g) SECTION 706 REPORT.—Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (47 U.S.C. 1302) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the last sentence, by striking ''If the Commission's determination is negative, it'' and inserting ''If the Commission determines in its report under section 14 of the Communications Act of 1934 that advanced telecommunications capability is not being deployed to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion, the Commission''; and

(B) by striking the first and second sentences;

(2) by striking subsection (c);

(3) in subsection (d), by striking ''this subsection'' and inserting ''this section''; and

(4) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

(h) STATE OF COMPETITIVE MARKET CONDITIONS WITH RESPECT TO COMMERCIAL MOBILE RADIO SERVICES.—Section 332(c)(1)(C) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 332(c)(1)(C)) is amended by striking the first and second sentences.

(i) PREVIOUSLY ELIMINATED ANNUAL REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 4 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 154) is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (k); and

(B) by redesignating subsections (l) through (o) as subsections (k) through (n), respectively.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The Communications Act of 1934 is amended—

(A) in section 9(i), by striking ''In the Commission's annual report, the Commission shall prepare an analysis of its progress in developing such systems and'' and inserting ''The Commission''; and

(B) in section 309(j)(8)(B), by striking the last sentence.

(j) ADDITIONAL OUTDATED REPORTS.—The Communications Act of 1934 is further amended—

(1) in section 4—

(A) in subsection (b)(2)(B)(ii), by striking ''and shall furnish notice of such action'' and all that follows through ''subject of the waiver''; and

(B) in subsection (g), by striking paragraph (2);

(2) in section 215—

(A) by striking subsection (b); and

(B) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (b);

(3) in section 227(e), by striking paragraph (4);

(4) in section 309(j)—

(A) by striking paragraph (12); and

(B) in paragraph (15)(C), by striking clause (iv);

(5) in section 331(b), by striking the last sentence;

(6) in section 336(e), by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:

''(4) REPORT.—The Commission shall annually advise the Congress on the amounts collected pursuant to the program required by this subsection.'';

(7) in section 339(c), by striking paragraph (1);

(8) in section 396—

(A) by striking subsection (i);

(B) in subsection (k)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking subparagraph (F); and

(ii) in paragraph (3)(B)(iii), by striking subclause (V);

(C) in subsection (l)(1)(B), by striking ''shall be included'' and all that follows through ''The audit report''; and

(D) by striking subsection (m);

(9) in section 398(b)(4), by striking the third sentence;

(10) in section 624A(b)(1)—

(A) by striking ''REPORT; REGULATIONS'' and inserting ''REGULATIONS'';

(B) by striking ''Within 1 year after'' and all that follows through ''on means of assuring'' and inserting ''The Commission shall issue such regulations as are necessary to assure''; and

(C) by striking ''Within 180 days after'' and all that follows through ''to assure such compatibility.''; and

(11) in section 713, by striking subsection (a).

SEC. 4. EFFECT ON AUTHORITY.

Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to expand or contract the authority of the Federal Communications Commission.

SEC. 5. OTHER REPORTS.

Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to prohibit or otherwise prevent the Federal Communications Commission from producing any additional reports otherwise within the authority of the Commission.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

The legislation before the House this afternoon, H.R. 2844, the FCC Consolidated Reporting Act, is a bipartisan bill that seeks to provide flexibility and relief to both our job creators as well as the Federal Communications Commission. This bill is another step in the process of streamlining government so that businesses can focus their time and resources on growing our economy and creating jobs instead of complying with outdated and burdensome mandates from the Federal Government. Every dollar spent on outdated FCC reporting mandates is a dollar that could otherwise be spent creating more high-paying jobs and investing in new infrastructure.

H.R. 2844 also recognizes the reality that our Nation is in a fiscal crisis and that we must find ways to do more with less. By consolidating eight annual and tri-annual reports into a single biannual Communications Marketplace Report, not only do we recognize this new budget reality by giving the FCC more flexibility and tools to drive greater efficiencies but we can usher in a platform to analyze the converged nature of today's highly competitive intermodal communications industry, which has moved beyond the traditional confines of the 1992 and 1996 Cable and Communications Act.

This simple, commonsense measure will also ensure that Congress has timely access to the Commission's best analysis of the communication's landscape at the beginning of each Congress by requiring that the Communications Marketplace Report be published in the last quarter of an even-numbered year. This will allow Congress to better use findings to inform our legislative activities.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is a great example of lawmakers from both sides of the aisle coming together to reform outdated government mandates that were created by Congresses of the past. I applaud Chairmen UPTON and WALDEN, as well as Ranking Member ESHOO, for working so closely and cooperatively with me on this legislation; and I strongly encourage my colleagues to join in supporting passage of this commonsense measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 2844, a bill to streamline many of the outdated reporting requirements that Congress has placed on the Federal Communications Commission. At a time when agency resources are limited, this bill, I think, is an example of how to make the FCC's reporting obligations more efficient, which in turn will ensure that the agency can focus on its mission to protect the public interest and promote competition across the communications marketplace.

The bill also ensures that the FCC has the flexibility to continue assessing the state of competition, which is so essential and so important in our

country across the entire communications marketplace, including particular submarkets like wireless, cable, and satellite. This data is vital to both consumers and to policymakers.

I want to thank Chairman WALDEN; certainly the chairman of the full committee, Chairman UPTON; and most especially, Representative SCALISE, for pursuing this legislation in a bipartisan manner and for working with me to ensure that the expert agency, the FCC, was included in our deliberations.

Mr. Speaker, the House passed a similar bill in the last Congress. So I recommend to all of our colleagues this very sensible bill that, again, is something that all Members can stand for, and that is to streamline a Federal agency and kind of get rid of some of the weeds of the past and clear a better path for the agency to continue, again, assessing the state of competition across the entire communications marketplace.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I don't believe I have any speakers on this side. I urge my colleagues—everyone in the House—to support the bill. I think it deserves that kind of support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCALISE. I want to thank the gentlelady from California, again, for her hard work on this and the good bipartisan cooperation that we've had in making these reforms.

I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN), chairman of the Telecommunications Subcommittee.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana and the gentlelady from California for their great work on this, I think, really good bill.

I was in small business for more than 22 years with my wife, and these are the sorts of odds and ends that can eat a small business alive. It can eat an agency alive as well. These are silly mandates that get put on, often for a good reason initially; but then nobody ever goes back and says, Why are we still asking for a report on the status of the telegraph industry, or whatever else. We went back and did that.

This is the kind of nuts-and-bolts work that I think helps clean up government, helps make it more efficient, makes it more productive, makes it more affordable, and gets out of the way and helps stop doing things it doesn't need to do. Too often, we don't do that.

I think one of the hallmarks of our subcommittee has been a real bipartisan effort to make sure that when we create programs, we then follow and make sure they're working, like we're doing with FirstNet and the Incentive Auctions, to try and track and make sure it's working and then to dig deeper and look for those things that aren't working or they're outdated, yet put a burden on an agency and cost either those who pay for that agency through their taxes or through fees, or whatever. It's all coming out of the private economy into the government economy. We need to stop that.

So this bill consolidates eight separate congressionally mandated reports on the communications industry into a single comprehensive report. As my colleague from Louisiana said, it changes the timeline so that Congress can get the information in a better and timely manner. And it cuts cost. I hope this bill will receive strong bipartisan support in the House. I assume it will. And I hope that our friends across the building will in this Congress take it up and pass it as well.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the bipartisan work of my friends from California and from Louisiana. I urge the House to approve this measure and send it expeditiously over to the Senate.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, in closing, as we heard from our constituents, as we just got back from this August work period where many of us held townhall meetings throughout our district, people are frustrated with why Congress can't work together to get things done. I think this is a good example of how both parties came together and looked at some very outdated laws.

People also ask, Why are you always passing laws and why don't you actually get rid of some of the laws on the books that don't make any sense? Well, that's what we're doing here with H.R. 2844. We're actually going through and repealing laws that are burdens to our small businesses that are out there trying to create jobs in the technology industry. One of the great growing segments of our economy is the telecommunications industry; and yet look at some of these reports that they're required and mandated to compile, many of which have no real bearing on the marketplace today. As the chairman of the subcommittee mentioned, we actually do repeal the telegraph report. Why we still have a law on the books that requires a report issued on competitiveness in the telegraph industry—that goes to show how we have so many of these outdated laws on the books still to this day. And Congress from time to time needs to go and repeal outdated rules and regulations like this. That's what we're doing in this legislation.

It's a good, commonsense piece of legislation that we worked on in a bipartisan way to bring to the floor. I urge all my colleagues to pass the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2844, as amended

The question was taken.

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

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1845

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING) at 6 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 2052, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 2844, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

GLOBAL INVESTMENT IN AMERICAN JOBS ACT OF 2013

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2052) to direct the Secretary of Commerce, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, to conduct an interagency review of and report to Congress on ways to increase the global competitiveness of the United States in attracting foreign direct investment, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 379, nays 32, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 448]

YEAS—379

Aderholt	Becerra	Brady (TX)
Alexander	Benishek	Braley (IA)
Amodei	Bera (CA)	Brooks (AL)
Andrews	Bilirakis	Brooks (IN)
Bachus	Bishop (NY)	Brown (FL)
Barletta	Bishop (UT)	Brownley (CA)
Barr	Black	Buchanan
Barrow (GA)	Blackburn	Burgess
Barton	Blumenauer	Bustos
Bass	Bonamici	Butterfield
Beatty	Boustany	Calvert

Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Joyce
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moore
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Polis
Pompeo
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Radel
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—32

Amash
Bachmann
Bentivolio
Bridenstine
Broun (GA)
DeSantis
Duncan (SC)
Fincher
Fleming
Foxx
Harris
Hudson
Huelskamp
Jones
Jordan
Kingston
Labrador
LaMalfa
Massie
McClintock
Meadows
Mullin
Poe (TX)
Posey
Ribble
Royce
Salmon
Sanford
Schweikert
Stockman
Weber (TX)
Yoho

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—1

Kaptur

NOT VOTING—20

Barber
Bishop (GA)
Brady (PA)
Bucshon
Franks (AZ)
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Herrera Beutler
Jackson Lee
McCarthy (NY)
Miller, George
Nadler
Rush
Sánchez, Linda T.
Schwartz
Sherman
Velázquez
Young (FL)

□ 1911

Messrs. MEADOWS, FLEMING, HUELSKAMP, DeSANTIS, RIBBLE, FINCHER, JORDAN, POSEY, KINGSTON, SALMON, BROUN of Georgia, WEBER of Texas, and SANFORD changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York changed her vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. FRANKS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 448, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION CONSOLIDATED REPORTING ACT OF 2013

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2844) to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to consolidate the reporting obligations of the Federal Communications Commission in order to improve congressional oversight and reduce reporting burdens, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 415, nays 0, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 449]

YEAS—415

Aderholt
Alexander
Amash
Amodei
Andrews
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E.B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod

Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Radel
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—17

Bishop (GA)
Brady (PA)
Bucshon
Gingrey (GA)
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Herrera Beutler
Jackson Lee
McCarthy (NY)
Miller, George
Perlmutter
Rush
Schwartz
Velázquez
Welch
Wilson (SC)
Young (FL)

□ 1925

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

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

ADDRESSING EMPLOYMENT CRISIS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, the Department of Labor released figures suggesting that unemployment decreased to 7.3 percent in August, the lowest rate in over 4½ years.

While seemingly good news, if you actually look below the surface, labor force participation fell to its lowest level in 35 years, with only 63.2 percent of working-age Americans being employed. While the unemployment rate declined, it can be attributed to a growing share of individuals giving up on trying to find a job.

Mr. Speaker, it's not that American workers are lazy or reliant upon handouts. Over 12 million Americans are struggling to make ends meet, with tens of millions more struggling with underemployment.

The solution to our national employment crisis is straightforward: we must get a handle on out-of-control debt, a cumbersome and out-of-date Tax Code, and limit bloated regulations.

As we continue our work here in the House, I encourage all of my colleagues to focus their work on breaking down these barriers to employment. Our constituents deserve as much.

□ 1930

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF THE HINDU AMERICAN FOUNDATION

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

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to rise today on the House Floor and recognize the great work of the Hindu American Foundation, which is having its annual Northern California Awareness and Gala Dinner near my congressional district one week from Saturday.

There are over 2 million Hindus in the United States, and the Hindu American Foundation works to educate people about their religious faith and protect the free exercise of it around the Nation and across our globe.

I'm proud to stand as a Member of Congress with the Hindu American Foundation on issues that are important to me and its members. For example, I worked to get the FBI to collect data on anti-Hindu hate crimes, including sending two letters to ask it to do so. Thanks to this advocacy and the Hindus across the Nation, we've achieved this goal.

I've also cosponsored H.R. 717, the Reuniting Families Act, to enable people in the United States to be reunited with family members abroad; cosponsored House Resolution 47, which calls on the Postal Service to adopt a commemorative Diwali holiday; and I also joined the India Caucus.

Saturday's dinner will give the Hindu American Foundation members and supporters a great chance to talk about what we've done together and what the future may bring.

I also look forward to attending the gala and hearing from my colleague here in the House, TULSI GABBARD, from Hawaii, who is the first Hindu ever elected to this body and is, rightfully, being honored by the Hindu American Foundation. I'm sure she'll have a unique and insightful perspective for this occasion.

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

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

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, after 9/11, September became National Preparedness Month, a month to encourage Americans to take steps to prepare for disasters or emergencies in their homes, businesses and communities.

Recent events such as Hurricane Sandy; the Boston Marathon bombing; the West, Texas, plant explosion; deadly tornados in Oklahoma; and flooding in my own district reinforce the need for preparedness planning.

As chair of the Homeland Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, and as congressional cochair of National Preparedness Month, I urge all Members to promote preparedness activities in their districts. Encourage your constituents to build and maintain emergency kits, develop and exercise emergency plans, and participate in local preparedness activities.

I also urge Members to learn more about how local response organizations are using social media and encourage your constituents to follow local responders on Twitter and Facebook.

National Preparedness Month is also a good time to thank our firefighters, police officers, emergency managers, and their families, whose persistent sacrifices make our country more secure and more prepared.

IT'S TIME FOR THE HOUSE TO TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, a report released last week by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration examined the relationship between climate change and the extreme weather events from last year. The report found compelling evidence that human-caused climate change contributed to many of the extreme weather events seen around the world last year, including some of the heat waves and droughts seen in the central United States, as well as elevated sea levels that contributed to the unprecedented level of flooding in New York City after Superstorm Sandy.

The report, based on the work of 78 scientists, concluded that climate change has an impact on extreme weather events. These storms and droughts are endangering lives and livelihoods, and costing taxpayers billions of dollars.

Unfortunately, we are failing to address these threats in the House of Representatives. The Republican majority of the House has refused to acknowledge the overwhelming scientific evidence that the planet's climate is changing, and that human activity is a major contributor to this change.

THANKS TO THE MINNESOTA OVARIAN CANCER ALLIANCE

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

This past weekend, I joined neighbors to help kick off the annual Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance Walk and Run. Each year, thousands come out to this event in Edina Park to raise awareness of and education on ovarian cancer, to raise funds for research, and to give support and hope to local women and their families that are touched by this devastating disease.

In 2013 alone, the American Cancer Society estimates that about 22,000 new cases of ovarian cancer will be diagnosed, and 14,000 women will die of ovarian cancer in the United States.

This last March, I met with a group of doctors and nurses from every major health system in the Twin Cities to discuss cancer care and prevention, and I'm pleased to cosponsor legislation that ensures that cancer patients get the care they need.

Mr. Speaker, the powerful stories of hope that I heard this weekend are just a fraction of what we see in our community as we work on our shared goal of making cancer a thing of the past.

LOCAL ISSUES IMPACTING MANY AMERICANS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, in the midst of serious discussions on America's next step forward on issues involving Syria, I rise simply to talk about local issues and issues impacting many Americans. One of them has to do with foster care and the situation of foster care in my own State, one dealing with children who've aged out in the city of Houston, and there are no facilities for them to be able to utilize, except for a few, like Little Audrey's, which is under siege, and which we're trying to draw the attention of the community to, to be able to help those children or young people that have no place to go, and then to provide more counselors for foster care children so they have a lifeline while they're in the foster care system.

Finally, some good news: I want to salute the Zion Ministries, the church that I joined yesterday, where they received their marker of historic preservation in the Fourth Ward, Freedmen's Town area.

In our local communities, good things are happening and challenges are happening, and I hope that, as we look at these hard decisions, we'll be able to work with our communities as well on some of the important issues they face.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in a classified security briefing on Syria and missed H.R. 2052, the Global Investment in American Jobs Act of 2013, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye.''

On H.R. 2844, the Federal Communications Commission Consolidation Reporting Act, I would have voted ''aye,'' and on the Journal vote, I would have voted ''aye.''

THE CONGRESSIONAL PRAYER CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the subject of our Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to come to the floor tonight to discuss our first freedom, religious liberty, as we recognize the 226th anniversary of the signing of our Constitution on September 17, Constitution Day.

I'm hosting this special order as founder and cochairman of the Congressional Prayer Caucus, a bipartisan group of more than 90 Members of the House of Representatives dedicated to protecting religious freedom in America and preserving our Nation's rich spiritual heritage.

I cochair this caucus with my good friend, Mr. MIKE MCINTYRE, a Democratic Member from North Carolina, who, unfortunately, cannot be with us this evening.

Faith and religious freedom are not party-line issues. Members of the Congressional Prayer Caucus gather each week in the United States Capitol to pray for our Nation. We leave political labels at the door, and we join in prayer for one another and our country.

On September 17, our Nation will mark the 226th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution in Independence Hall, Philadelphia. The Bill of Rights, the first 10 amendments to the Constitution, was soon to follow.

Religious freedom is the very first thing named in the First Amendment. It is our first freedom, and it's a fundamental human right.

But as President Ronald Reagan so accurately observed, freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. Our freedoms are fragile, and how quickly we forget their importance.

An annual survey by the Newseum Institute's First Amendment Center revealed that only 24 percent of Americans are aware that religious freedom is a First Amendment right. We are forgetting our first freedom. It is this amnesia that results in the subjugation of the fundamental right of religious freedom.

Just last month, a justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court recognized that their decision to uphold fines against a wedding photographer who declined to photograph a same-sex wedding meant that the photographer is now ''compelled by law to compromise the very religious beliefs that inspire'' her life.

But the justice called this trampling of religious freedom ''the price of citizenship.''

The price of citizenship? No. Religious freedom is the very thing the Pilgrims sought when they landed in Plymouth and struggled to survive in a new and unknown world.

Religious freedom was so important to our Founding Fathers that it was the first freedom they named as bearing protection from the government. It's not the price of citizenship; it is the hallmark of the American spirit of freedom.

The American people recognize that the New Mexico Supreme Court's decision is wrong. A recent Rasmussen poll revealed that 85 percent of Americans believe that a wedding photographer who has a deeply held religious belief about marriage has a right to decline to photograph a same-sex ceremony.

Even still, we see weekly reminders that religious freedom is being trampled in the name of tolerance. The Supreme Court's decision in United States v. Windsor has given validation to the basely false argument that the only reason anyone has to support traditional marriage is bigotry. We've forgotten President Obama's observation in 2012 that there are people of goodwill on both sides of the marriage debate.

Over the last few months alone, we've seen so many injustices, like the Oregon bakery that's been forced to close its doors because of the visceral hate mail, threats and boycotts they received simply for living their lives according to their faith.

As some workers protest for higher wages, we see businesses like Hobby Lobby that pay their full-time workers significantly more than minimum wage fighting for the ability to keep their doors open and their workers employed because they dare to operate their business according to the dictates of their conscience.

We see an attack on the integrity of the military chaplaincy, an institution

that exists to support the free exercise of religion for our brave servicemembers as they leave home and family behind to enter harsh and foreign environments.

And we see servicemembers like Senior Master Sergeant Monk fighting to maintain their careers in the military because they dare to hold a traditional view of marriage.

In Iran, Pastor Abedini languishes in the notorious Evin prison because of his Christian faith. He's an American citizen who has been wrongly sentenced to 8 years in prison because he dared to hold a certain religious belief, torn from his wife and two young children.

As we approach the 1-year anniversary of his incarceration, we need to make sure that we realize that his fight for freedom is a reminder of how important it is that we remain a beacon for the fundamental right of religious freedom and the ability to live your life openly and freely on the basis of your convictions. We must defend Pastor Abedini and advocate for his immediate release to the safety of his family.

As we honor Constitution Day, let us remember the fundamental right of religious freedom enshrined in the First Amendment. Members of the Prayer Caucus have not forgotten our first freedom. We stand ready to guard and protect it.

I'm proud to partner with my good friend, Mr. MCINTYRE, in leading this extraordinary group of Members known as the Congressional Prayer Caucus.

I'm so pleased to be joined this evening by my colleagues who are working to protect religious freedom in America and around the world, and at this time I'd like to yield to my good friend, Mr. TIM WALBERG from Michigan.

Mr. WALBERG. I thank my friend from Virginia and, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak on an issue of ultimate importance tonight, the First Amendment liberties.

□ 1945

We go back to those brave men whose shoulders we stand upon, and here in the Chamber today, people like Jonathan Witherspoon, who said:

> A republic once equally poised, must either preserve its virtue or lose its liberty.

Congressman FORBES, we are standing for that virtue today. We are standing for that virtue in a country that, sadly, has walked away from accepting it out of hand. And assuming that there will be differences—there will be theological differences, there will be religious differences—America was known from its inception as a place where we could be free to have those foundational principles.

Benjamin Franklin himself said:

> This will be the best security for maintaining our liberties. A Nation of well-informed men who have been taught to know and prize the rights which God has given them cannot be enslaved. It is in the religion of ignorance that tyranny begins.

And so I went to some statements that were made in the constitutions of our States—specifically, those States that were our 13 colonies—to look at what our Framers and Founders, those back in the States that said we want a Federal Government, but we want a Federal Government that comes under the control of the States. What did they say about religion and those First Amendment liberties? I picked out three. I picked them out related to the highest offices of our land.

The first was New York. Our Attorney General, Eric Holder, was born, raised, and educated in New York. In its constitution, New York State says:

> The free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination or preference, shall forever be allowed in this State to all humankind.

That was New York.

I went then to the State of Delaware, the State of our Vice President. And in that State, the preamble to the constitution starts out by saying:

> Through Divine goodness, all people have by nature the rights of worshiping and serving their Creator according to the dictates of their consciences.

That's Delaware.

And so then ultimately I went to the last State that I looked at. And I went to that because our President comes from Illinois. But that wasn't one of the 13 colonies, my friend from Virginia will inform me. So I went to Massachusetts, where he was educated at Harvard Law School. Article II in that constitution says:

> It is the right as well as the duty of all men and society, publicly, and at stated seasons to worship the Supreme Being, the great Creator and Preserver of the universe. And no subject shall be hurt, molested, or restrained in his person, liberty, or estate, for worshiping God in the manner and season most agreeable to the dictates of his own conscience.

Mr. Speaker, I would say those are the foundational principles that led to the adoption of our Constitution and, ultimately, the First Amendment. And so a danger comes when we come to areas like prayer, where we have a municipality like Greece, New York, that is fighting in the case Greece v. Galloway for the opportunity to continue their tradition of opening with prayer.

Patrick Henry said:

> An appeal to arms and the God of hosts is all that is left us.

An appeal. Isn't that a prayer? An appeal to God?

> An appeal to arms and the God of hosts is all that is left to us. But we shall not fight our battle alone. There is a just God that presides over the destinies of nations. The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone. Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery?

And then he appeals to God again. A prayer:

> Forbid it, almighty God. I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death.

So today we come to a situation in our country where we have people who are saying, basically, the same thing: give me liberty or give me death. Give me the opportunity to pray. Give me the opportunity to worship without Big Government collapsing on me.

Mr. Speaker, there are enemies of our freedoms. And they have somehow caught it right.

Joseph Stalin said:

> America is like a healthy body and its resistance is threefold: its patriotism, its morality, its spiritual life. If we can undermine these three areas, America will collapse from within.

He's right: we are collapsing, to our detriment and to those who yearn for freedom.

I end with this. A patriot, a President, a believer in prayer, a believer in the First Amendment. President Eisenhower stated in 1954:

> Atheism substitutes men for the Supreme Creator and this leads inevitably to domination and dictatorship.

He went on to say:

> We must jealously guard our foundation in faith. For on it rests the ability of the American individual to live and thrive in this blessed land and to be able to help other less fortunate people to achieve freedom and individual opportunity. These we take for granted, but to others they are often only a wistful dream. In God we trust, our motto. Often have we heard the words of this wonderful American motto. Let us make sure that familiarity has not made them meaningless for us. We carry the torch of freedom as a sacred trust for all mankind.

And then President Eisenhower concluded:

> We do not believe that God intended the light that He created to be put out by men.

I thank my friend for allowing me these statements tonight. And may we stand firmly to the point that ultimately our First Amendment liberties—and even more than that—the God-blessed opportunities that come from His truth will be applauded in this land.

Mr. FORBES. I thank the gentleman from Michigan for his great leadership on these First Amendment rights and for his words tonight.

We have another great leader on First Amendment rights, Mr. Speaker, and that's DOUG LAMBORN for Colorado.

DOUG, it's a pleasure to have you tonight. I would love to yield to you for any comments you might have.

Mr. LAMBORN. I want to thank my friend and colleague, Representative RANDY FORBES of Virginia, for his leadership in this vital area of religious liberty and for putting this time together.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our constitutionally granted right to religious liberty and in support of our military. I am grateful for our Nation's military, and I feel privileged to represent thousands of men and women in uniform who serve at the five military installations in my district. Our military is made up of brave, peace-loving men and women of all faiths serving to protect our freedom and our way of life. But there is a growing and troubling pattern of religious discrimination against our men and women in arms.

Earlier this year, an Army Reserve training brief listed Catholics, Evangelical Christians, Sunni Muslims and some Jews as ''religious extremists,'' along with groups like al Qaeda, Hamas, and the KKK. Also, in July of this year, a Christian chaplain was ordered to remove a religious column he had written which simply detailed the history of the phrase:

There are no atheists in foxholes.

Furthermore, in drafting religious freedom policies and regulations, officials within the Pentagon have consulted with radical atheists who once characterized Christians as ''monsters who terrorize their fellow Americans who are die-hard enemies of the United States Constitution.'' This same radical atheist is calling on the Pentagon to prosecute military chaplains who share their faith with servicemembers, claiming that even speaking about your Christian faith amounts to ''unconstitutional religious proselytizing and oppression.''

Mr. Speaker, this is an affront to our civil liberties and demeaning to this Nation that has always believed in the First Amendment freedom of self-expression. Religious freedom is an integral part of America's greatness and has been a pillar of our Nation from the very beginning. We must remain firmly committed to defending religious freedom.

Mr. FORBES. I thank the gentleman for his hard work in this area and for being with us tonight.

We heard Mr. WALBERG mention Patrick Henry; and from the State that Patrick Henry came from is my good friend, ROB WITTMAN.

ROB, thank you for being here and your fight in all this.

Mr. WITTMAN. Thank you, Representative FORBES. I want to thank you for your leadership in the Congressional Prayer Caucus and for taking the time to make sure we got together today to recognize the importance of today's date and the efforts by our forefathers to make sure that we have those liberties and freedoms to make sure that we can freely practice our religious beliefs here.

I'm pleased to be here as a member of our Prayer Caucus and join with my other colleagues on the Prayer Caucus to honor Constitution Day and the religious freedoms of all our citizens.

September 17, 2013, marks the 226th anniversary of the signing of the greatest governing document the world has ever known: our Constitution. Religious freedom is the very first freedom protected in the First Amendment. And just as Chairman FORBES has spoken of, it was really a discussion that took place years ago in Virginia.

Governor Patrick Henry, there in the church at St. John's in Richmond, got up and spoke about the importance of the individual liberties and freedoms and the importance to make sure that we as a Nation had a Constitution that preserved those. As you know, he led that fight to make sure that James Madison, the author of the Constitution, provided in the Constitution just those individual liberties and freedoms. In fact, I think a lot of folks don't know he actually voted against ratifying the Constitution originally because it did not contain those basic individual liberties and freedoms, and it was his work that made sure that we enjoyed those individual liberties and freedoms today, based on our Constitution.

It was that First Amendment that read:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.

In today's world, there are far too many obstacles for many of our citizens to truly practice what is promised in the First Amendment. There are challenges to religious symbols. Religious freedom for members of our military is under attack.

Air Force Senior Master Sergeant Phillip Monk was recently dismissed from his position and reassigned after he refused to voice his opinion when his commanding officer asked him if he could agree with her belief that openly voicing a religious or moral opposition to same-sex marriage is discrimination. He stood by his beliefs and paid the price professionally for that.

Religious liberties are threatened, for many, each and every day.

The Commonwealth of Virginia, as has been so eloquently stated, has a direct tie to the First Amendment. I stated Governor Patrick Henry's efforts there; but also Thomas Jefferson was very, very adamant and passionate about preserving those religious freedoms.

The Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom was authored by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison in 1779, and it states:

No man shall be compelled to frequent or support any religious worship place, or ministry whatsoever, nor shall be enforced, restrained, molested, or burthened in his body or goods, nor shall otherwise suffer on account of his religious opinions or belief; but that all men shall be free to profess, and by argument to maintain, their opinions in matters of religion, and that the same shall in no wise diminish, enlarge, or affect their civil capacities.

Thomas Jefferson, the second President of the United States, and one of our Nation's Founding Fathers, understood the need for protecting our natural rights, those provided to us by our Creator, those protected by our government, all of which were more important to him than any other element of what he espoused in the creation of our government. And we know that none meant more to him or to our Nation than the freedom of religion. The statute declares that compulsory religion is wrong, that no religion should be forced on an individual, and that the freedom of religion is a natural right.

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The statute's doctrine and principles have inspired individuals throughout the Commonwealth and across our Nation.

Thomas Jefferson requested that three of his greatest accomplishments be listed on his epitaph. Freedom of religion was so important to him that the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom was listed along with the founding of the University of Virginia and the writing of the United States Declaration of Independence as his greatest lifetime achievements. Thomas Jefferson believed deeply in that freedom of religion and wanted to make sure that it was something that our Nation continued to espouse today, and it was his moral foundation.

The statute ultimately facilitated the path to complete religious freedom in the United States. As we know, the discussions that took place took place based upon that Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom. That was eventually included in the First Amendment to our Constitution.

It is our duty to ensure that the Congress continues to protect our First Amendment freedoms for now and for future generations. And I want to thank all of my colleagues in the Congressional Prayer Caucus to make sure that we remember each and every day as we are here the practice of religious freedom, and to make sure that we understand that our projection of that freedom is what makes us the great Nation that we are today.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. WITTMAN, I thank you for your dedication to First Amendment rights and to our military.

One of the deep thinkers that we have in this area in all forms of policy, especially as it comes to First Amendment liberties, is the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD).

Mr. LANKFORD, we are delighted to have you tonight, and I would love to hear some of your thoughts on this.

Mr. LANKFORD. It is absolutely my honor to have the chance to be here as well to be able to speak out on the issue that was critical in the foundation of our own Constitution and of our Nation as a whole, and that is the right to believe.

We in America have this unique thing, the right to believe or the right to not have a belief at all; but if you believe, to also have the right to actually live what you believe. It is this unique American freedom that people around the world sometimes stare at with awe because they are bound to have a certain set of beliefs to be in that country, but not so with us in America. You can have a belief, not have a belief; but if you have one, you may live your faith.

Coptic Christians in Egypt would love to be able to live their faith and not live in fear right now. The Baha'i in Iran would love to be able to live out their faith and not live in fear right now. The Christians in Syria would love to be able to live out their faith and not live in fear. And the multiple religions that try to practice in countries like China and Vietnam and other

places that constantly live in fear because of their own faith would love to have that. But not so in America. Whether you be a Member of Congress, whether you be an individual in the administration, whether you be any person walking down the streets of America, you have the right to be able to live out your faith, and it is essential for us. It's a great value that we share, but it is essential that we also continue to protect. And on days like today, it is ironic that we are discussing again this unique value to say: Can we still live out our faith as Americans?

Let me just give you a couple of examples where the challenge has been put to the test recently. It wasn't but a couple of years ago that the Obama administration challenged the Missouri Synod Church on whether that church and Hosanna-Tabor could choose their own minister or whether they would be fought from the outside, that the government could step into the church and say, No, we have to help be a part of selecting who the minister is. That was argued all the way until it got to the Supreme Court, where they lost 9–0, and the Supreme Court reaffirmed again that a church has the right to select their own minister.

It is ironic that we are dealing with a great business that employs thousands upon thousands of people around the country, called Hobby Lobby, that the founders of that company are Christians, they live out their faith—they practiced their faith from when they were a craft/framing shop in the garage of the family, and they continue to practice that business the exact same way now—to say: Can they live out their faith?

They are currently facing a set of fines right now where the administration has stepped in to say, if you provide health care insurance that we choose, you're fine; if you don't provide any insurance at all, I'm going to fine you $2,000; but if you provide insurance that doesn't meet the administration's religious belief, you will be fined, as a company, $36,500 per employee.

Let me run that past you again. In a country where you are free to live out your faith, if this particular company chooses not to provide insurance that violates their faith and it doesn't follow up with the administration's policy, they will be fined $36,500 per employee per year. And so they changed their insurance to meet the faith of the administration. It's not right. We are a place where we cannot only have a belief in a label, but also choose to live out that label. That's important for us as a Nation.

Two things that I wanted to be able to encourage us as well. One is that students, on September 25—just a few days from now—will stand at flag poles around this Nation. They will gather early in the morning before other kids even get up and stand at a flag pole for an annual celebration called ''See You at the Pole,'' where students will gather to pray. It's not a demonstration; it's not a declaration. It is just students doing publicly what they do privately every single day, and that's pray for our Nation. They can do that because of our freedom.

Today, I remember three Oklahomans that 2 years ago lost their life in Afghanistan. They are heroes. They were individuals that were protecting the freedom of people they had never met and protecting our Nation. Jane Horton, one of the widows, not long after her husband, Chris, was killed in Afghanistan, dropped by my office and got a chance to visit with me. We talked for a long time, and she handed me a tie that her husband had. I chose to wear it today, 2 years after he was killed, so that we would not forget those who stand for our freedom and that we will not forget what they have done for us and our Nation.

Mr. FORBES. Thank you, Mr. LANKFORD, and for your great work on this subject.

Probably no one has defended the rights of our military and their First Amendment rights and the rights of our chaplains more than the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING).

Mr. FLEMING, thank you for your efforts in that and for being here tonight. We would love to hear your thoughts on this very special amendment and right for Americans.

Mr. FLEMING. I would like to thank my good friend from Virginia for having this Special Order this evening and the leadership that the gentleman has provided in this area with the Prayer Caucus and so many other things, both on Armed Services and outside of Armed Services, in that realm.

Mr. Speaker, I am greatly inspired and moved this evening with the speeches that I've heard talking about religious liberty and all of the things that we are struggling with right now with religious liberty.

Religious freedom is at the center of who we are as Americans. With foresight and clarity, the Founding Fathers enshrined religious freedom as a First Amendment right. Quote: ''Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof''—the First Amendment.

Despite these undisputed facts, time and again we have witnessed a whittling away of this freedom. The passage of the President's signature legislation, ObamaCare, ushered in a new wave of government oppression for businesses, religious organizations, faith-based schools, charities, and hospitals.

Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned this evening that with ObamaCare and with many other things that we're seeing on the religious front, on the military front, that Washington and this administration is actually substituting its religious beliefs for our own; a very dangerous precedent.

What have we talked about? ObamaCare. You know, we discuss ObamaCare and all the problems, the cost and the rationing board and all of these things, but what's left out of that discussion are some very, very important points.

ObamaCare's HHS mandate requires that all insurance plans cover various items and services that are in direct conflict with deeply held religious beliefs or moral convictions. Three groups are singled out for this:

Number one is health care providers themselves, who in many cases will be forced to participate in certain techniques, certain types of treatment that are against their deeply held religious beliefs, such as abortion, such as getting abortion pills—what we call abortifacients—sterilization procedures, and such as that.

Another important group is religious institutions. The Catholic Church has, for many decades—really, centuries—gone about the work of the Lord to provide health care to individuals but will be required, under the HHS mandates, to actually provide certain procedures, such as sterilization and birth control pills, that are against their deeply held beliefs. Regardless of whether you agree with that or not is beside the point. According to the First Amendment, the church and its institutions should be allowed to do what is right by their own personal religious beliefs.

The third group is private businesses. You have already heard about Hobby Lobby and many others who, because of the HHS mandate, will have to provide coverage through insurance for certain things, which may include abortions, and yet that's against their own deeply held religious beliefs—and suffering fines of tens of thousands of dollars per episode and per day for having done so. That is not right under the First Amendment.

There are 67 cases and over 200 plaintiffs that have filed suit against the administration to protect the First Amendment right to religious freedom. They are working their way through the courts.

Tyndale House, a Christian publishing company, well known for their production of the Bible, as well as family-owned and operated business Fresh Unlimited, Inc., a fresh produce processing and packing company in Ohio, and Beckwith Electric, a Florida-based electric company, are among the 37 for-profit companies seeking relief from the HHS mandate.

Hospitals, charities, Catholic dioceses, and religious colleges, including Louisiana College in my own State, are at various stages of defending their first freedom against the administration's constitutional HHS mandate.

Instead of supporting publishers, grocers, electricians, doctors, nurses, teachers, and professors, ObamaCare strips away the ability for these individuals to live their lives in a manner consistent with their religious beliefs.

This administration has relentlessly lambasted the religious freedom of hardworking Americans, threatening ruinous fines for noncompliance. And again, companies such as Hobby Lobby,

a well-known arts and crafts store that started out just as one single store, faced crippling fines for their religious beliefs.

Congressman FORTENBERRY, Congresswoman BLACK, and myself have put together a compendium of conscience protections through legislation. We've attempted many times to get this up for a vote and passed through the House and through the Senate that would block many of these HHS mandates that come down from ObamaCare. So far we have not gotten the support from the other side of the aisle to get this done, but we will continue until this is completed.

Then, finally, military religious freedom. We know that the military oftentimes is a microcosm of what happens in the demographics across America. And today, religious freedom is under tremendous pressure. We have situations where military members can no longer put a Bible out on their desk, that somehow that's offending someone and that's breaking a statute or a law.

You heard the recent case of Master Sergeant Monk, who, because he wouldn't champion something that was against his religious beliefs—closely held and taught by his own church—is now facing potential court-martial for speaking out against that. The list goes on and on, Mr. Speaker, of what's happening, and it's very recent.

This is not your father's military. This is not really the military you were in even 5 years ago. This is a new military in which religious freedom is being pushed away and substituting Washington's morality, Washington's faith—this administration's faith—instead.

So with that, I do want to thank my colleagues who are here tonight talking about the important things. What could be more important than religious freedoms? I think many would say that's the foundation, the basic foundation upon which this Nation was created and why many people have immigrated over the centuries here and many people even today continue to immigrate to the United States because of its religious freedom.

Let's hold this dear. Let's not let go of the First Amendment, the ability to not only believe what you choose to believe in religion, but also to speak out and express as well, even to take action. All of these are fundamental and very important.

So with that, I thank you again, Mr. FORBES, for the opportunity.

Mr. FORBES. Dr. FLEMING, we thank you for your expertise in both the health care area and the military, and thanks for fighting this fight so well.

One of the truly great champions on religious freedom issues has been the chairman of the Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution. He was actually selected as Christian Statesman of the Year because he truly practices what he preaches, and we are delighted to have with us the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) tonight.

Mr. FRANKS, it's good to have you here, and we would love to hear your comments.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, tonight, as we talk about religious freedom, it is especially appropriate that this group is led by one Congressman RANDY FORBES.

Mr. Speaker, I came into Congress approximately 11 years ago, and Mr. FORBES has been a prescient and noble voice among us during that time. I truly believe that as long as there are men like RANDY FORBES in Congress that America will continue to be a great and hopeful Nation.

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Mr. FORBES understands the importance of religious freedom. He understands that religious freedom is truly the cornerstone of all other freedoms.

I want to make sort of a layman's analysis of a quote sometime back from a great English statesman. He said:

> Out of deep dark bondage arises great faith. And that faith leads to great courage. And courage leads ultimately to freedom. And freedom leads to abundance. And abundance leads to apathy. And apathy leads to dependence. And dependence leads back to bondage.

That has been the litany so often of great countries down through the ages, Mr. Speaker. I would just suggest to you tonight that there is a solution to breaking that pattern. That is for us to hold, as we are trying to do this evening, to the great foundations of religious freedom. Because, as we so clearly see in the insights of this great English statesman, that faith oftentimes is the precursor to all other freedoms. It is vitally important that we protect it, and to fail to do so is to imperil our entire Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that's exactly where we are in many places today. I want to give one special example tonight:

Saeed Abedini is a United States citizen who has been imprisoned in Iran for exercising his Christian faith in a manner that is both legal and protected under Iranian law and international law.

A few days ago, the 36th branch of the Tehran Court of Appeals confirmed Saeed Abedini's prison sentence and he is expected to serve the rest of the 8-year sentence in a hostile Iranian prison.

The following statement is by Naghmeh Abedini, his wife and a resident of Idaho, in reaction to the news that Iran had upheld her husband's prison sentence. She said:

> When I learned that the Iranian Appeals Court confirmed Saeed's 8-year imprisonment I was heartbroken. As tears streamed down my face, I pondered how I could crush the child-like hope with this news as my children tightly closed their eyes and prayed in hope and expectation for their daddy's swift return.
>
> Discouragement and disappointment washed over me. I was discouraged that after a year of travel and numerous media interviews, I felt no closer to Saeed's release. I am also disappointed that the leader of my country, a country founded on religious freedom, has been awkwardly silent when an American citizen is wasting away in an Iranian prison.
>
> For an entire year, my husband has faced threats and abuse daily by radicals in Evin Prison for refusing to deny his Christian faith. And still, President Obama has never spoken a word about him. I am grateful for congressional pressure, but I do hope that as a Nation we realize that if we do not collectively speak out against injustice it will only be a matter of time before all our children will have to face what my children are facing today.

Mr. Speaker, the American people would be outraged to truly know that the Obama administration has responded with deafening silence when an American father, husband, pastor, and an American citizen, Mr. Speaker, was thrown into a harsh prison under an oppressive regime for having the nerve to practice his Christian faith. The Obama administration should be utterly ashamed of its disgusting failure to speak out on behalf of Saeed Abedini and his precious family. No wonder the oppressive Iranian regime holds the Obama administration in such total derision as it arrogantly proceeds to build nuclear weapons with which to threaten the peace and security of the entire free world.

I hope that the American people will hold the Obama administration accountable for its absolutely criminal silence in the face of such heartless injustice forced upon this beloved American pastor, his innocent family, and so many others.

Mr. Speaker, on September 26, Saeed Abedini will have served in Iran's harsh Evin Prison for an entire year. The appeal that Saeed Abedini just lost was his last hope of being released under a heartless and unjust Iranian judicial system that still demands that he serve his 8-year sentence. Now, Saeed's wife, Naghmeh, is faced with ''crushing the child-like hope'' she speaks of of her two young children who have patiently ''prayed in hope and expectation for their daddy's swift return,'' and telling them that it will be a very long time before they see their daddy again.

Mr. Speaker, when I hear the words of Naghmeh Abedini and I roll them over in my mind and I think of my own two little children at home, I am at once heartbroken for the Abedini family and enraged at the lackadaisical attitude and silence of President Obama.

Iran has demonstrated an utter disregard for fundamental religious freedom by continuing to unjustly hold Pastor Abedini, an American citizen, Mr. Speaker—an American citizen—in a hellish Iranian prison for practicing his faith.

Iran's tyrannical attempts to, in the words of Ronald Reagan, ''stifle the freedom and muzzle the self-expression of the people'' have again been exposed to the world after the imprisonment of this beloved American pastor, who at

the time was working to build an orphanage in Iran when he was imprisoned.

Mr. Speaker, Martin Luther King once said: ''Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere,'' and Pastor Abedini's case has starkly shown the far-reaching implications of even a single instance of oppressing religious freedom.

By relentlessly refusing to forget this noble and gentle man, Pastor Saeed Abedini, we are upholding the sacred principle of international religious freedom as a ''first freedom'' that, Mr. Speaker, is fundamental to all of humanity.

Mr. FORBES. Congressman FRANKS, we thank you for speaking out for this great pastor whose big sin was that he loved children who did not have parents and he loved his faith and his God. We just thank you for doing that.

Our next speaker is someone who has been recognized for a lot of things—his fight on the Judiciary Committee—but tonight he's here to share and to stand up for First Amendment rights for religious freedom, LOUIE GOHMERT from Texas.

Congressman GOHMERT, thank you for being here.

Mr. GOHMERT. Thank you, my dear friend, RANDY FORBES, for all that you do on behalf of religious freedom. I know it is not merely Christian freedom, but it is religious freedom, and it is under attack. When we look at what the Constitution says, I know it has already been read, but so often we forget the first word. We just blow right past the first word of the First Amendment, and that is that ''Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.''

Why was it that they singled out Congress, because they mentioned States in some of the other amendments. In the 10th Amendment, anything that is not prohibited to the States, that power is reserved to the States and the people.

So why is it that they singled out Congress? It is because this was intended for Congress and not for the States. Because the people that voted for these amendments knew that every one of the States had some laws that dealt with some aspect of Christianity, whether it was the oath that was required to be taken, or in some cases, a belief in Jesus Christ. There were all kinds of State and local university laws that had to do with religion, and that, if you wanted to be part of this, you had to believe this way.

It was supposed to be a restriction on Congress. We've gotten so far afield from that now we think that we are not allowed to even bring up a hymn here in Congress. Whereas, my friend RANDY FORBES knows, and TRENT FRANKS—you all know, right down the hall the man who coined the phrase ''separation of church and State,'' Thomas Jefferson, as President came to church every Sunday he was in Washington, and on some occasions he brought the Marine band to play the hymns. It was the biggest church in Washington for much of the 1800s right down the hall in what was the House Chamber back then.

Now look at what has happened. We see these incursions on the freedom of belief, and Christians are persecuted and forced to endure the slams and the arrows that should never be endured. Like SEAL Team 6, for example, those heroic members that were put in harm's way in a situation they should never have been put in in Afghanistan, after SEAL Team 6 was outed as the one that took out Osama bin Laden. You can see the DVD, a recording of the Ramp Ceremony. They have an imam come up in his language and do a Muslim prayer over the American flag-draped caskets, and we know some of those guys were devout Christians. He says a prayer that when you get the interpretation, basically it condemns them to hell, that they will never defeat the Muslims, the followers of Allah.

It turns out today we see persecution after persecution of Christians. When you look at the underpinnings of this Nation, it was Christians. About a third of the people that signed the Declaration of Independence were ordained Christian ministers.

If you look at what drove Lincoln, it was coming closer and closer to a walk with God. Some of the most powerful Christian messages ever delivered include the second inaugural address of Lincoln. Why? Because the Christian faith that he heard John Quincy Adams right down the hall talk about drove him to come back into politics and to get back involved to try to eliminate slavery. He knew that it was difficult for God to bless America when we were treating brothers and sisters by putting them in chains and bondage.

The next big step toward true Christian brotherhood and sisterhood in America came from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. What was he? He was an ordained Christian minister. And now within 50 years it has become only acceptable to persecute Christians. This administration and so many have taken a stand—yes, it is an outrage that poisonous gas was used by anyone in the Middle East, but you don't hear the administration or others talking enough, including us in Congress, about the persecution of Christians.

One article here says ''Syrian Rebels to Christians: Flee or Die,'' an article by Bob Unruh, who used to be with the AP. He talks about the report. Over and over Christians were told, you either denounce your Christianity or die, and we've done nothing about it. That was written in June.

We have an article September 9. The village of Maaloula has been taken over by Syrian rebels associated with al Qaeda, who have stormed the Christian center and offered local Christians a choice—conversion or death—as they screamed ''Allah Akbar.''

Well, there is too much persecution of Christianity. That was never supposed to be the case. That was what so many said would be the salvation of our little experiment in democracy. It is time to stand for freedom of religion, not freedom to persecute Christians from Washington.

I appreciate my friend very much for yielding.

Mr. FORBES. I thank the gentleman from Texas for his words.

The Wall Street Journal has recently written a big article about our next speaker, about how hard he works for constituents, but tonight he's here to work for the First Amendment and for freedom of religion. That is STEVE PEARCE from New Mexico.

Mr. PEARCE. I thank the gentleman from Virginia for leading this discussion.

> Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.

Now, what would be in the minds of the people who wrote those words? It would do well to look at where they came from. They came from countries where kings ruled. The kings could tell you what church you had to be in. They could tell you what you had to believe, what you had to profess. If it conflicted with what you said, they had the ultimate power over you. And so they came here to establish a new government. They wanted this Constitution, this contract with the people and the government that said the government cannot bridge certain lines. And the establishment of religion and the free practice thereof were protected.

The gentleman from Virginia mentioned early in his comments, there was a young couple in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the State that I represent. She had a way with cameras and started a little in-home photography business. Elaine Huguenin and her husband, Jonathan, just wanted to give expression. But they also wanted to defend their rights to believe what they did, so they made a pact between themselves that they would do nothing that compromised their faith, their religious beliefs. The Constitution protects that.

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Very soon after establishing their business, they had an inquiry from a gay couple, asking that they photograph their vows. The young couple in the photography studio refused and were surprised when they were taken before the New Mexico Human Rights Commission. They were equally surprised when that commission found they had no rights of religion in this country. The New Mexico Human Rights Commission said that you are guilty of violating a different law, one that did not comport with the Constitution. They fined them $6,000. The young couple appealed to the New Mexico appeals courts, and just recently, the New Mexico Court of Appeals found also that they were in violation—a court of appeals in this country ignorant of what the Constitution protects.

It's exactly these kinds of things that our Founding Fathers were alarmed about—commissions that would show up and tell you what you had to believe, what you had to profess. Catholics are afraid they're going to have to provide contraceptives from a government of the same mind. Doctors who are opposed to abortion fear that this government is going to tell them what they must do in violation of their consciences.

Are we, the American people, supposed to stand by? I think not. I think it's time for us all—not just Congress, not just your Representatives, but all—to raise their voices and speak out against a government that is too strong and that has forgotten its limitations written into that Constitution, especially under the First Amendment—protecting our free exercise of religion. Speak with us. Stand up and speak with us.

Mr. FORBES. I thank the gentleman for his words tonight.

My dear friend from Virginia, Congressman GRIFFITH, we are glad to have you with us tonight for your comments.

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. I am so glad to be with you this evening.

So many people in Washington and in other parts of the country believe that it was the intent of the Founding Fathers to bleach from our society our religious beliefs, and you have heard others speak this evening that that is not the case. In particular, I would like to share with you, in the short time that we have remaining, the words of Thomas Jefferson from that famous letter to the Danbury, Connecticut, Baptists, because everybody focuses on one phrase and not the entire letter.

He opens with salutations to the Danbury, Connecticut, Baptists, and then begins the meat of the letter:

> Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between man and his God, that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship, that the legitimate powers of government reach actions only and not opinions, I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should ''make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,'' thus building a wall of separation between church and State. Adhering to this expression of the supreme will of the Nation in behalf of the rights of conscience, I shall see with sincere satisfaction the progress of those sentiments which tend to restore to man all his natural rights, convinced he has no natural right in opposition to his social duties.

Now, the next paragraph—the closing paragraph—of the letter is very instructive because the man who some now say wanted to bleach religion out ends the letter as President of the United States as follows:

> I reciprocate your kind prayers for the protection and blessing of the common Father and Creator of man, and tender you for yourselves and your religious association, assurances of my high respect and esteem.

Obviously, it was never his intent to bleach out of our society religion, and the Statute for Religious Freedom today still stands on the wall of the House of Delegates where you and I both served.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, we thank you for the time tonight.

Over your head stands the phrase ''In God We Trust.'' A few years ago, when they opened the Visitors Center, they tried to take that phrase out of it. Members of the Prayer Caucus came here and stood, and because of that it's now written and engraved in the walls over there. We believe that, if you can engrave it there and if you can engrave it here, we can engrave it once again in the hearts of the people in this country.

I want to thank you for the time that you've allowed us today. I want to thank the majority leader for yielding us this time. I want to thank our Founders for giving us this great right of freedom of religion, and my prayer and our prayer tonight is that the American people will be wise enough to keep it.

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

THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS—AFRICAN AMERICANS AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JEFFRIES. It is an honor and a privilege, Mr. Speaker, to once again have this opportunity to stand here on the floor of the House of Representatives and to anchor the CBC Special Order where, for the next 60 minutes, members of the Congressional Black Caucus have an opportunity to speak directly to the American people on an issue of great significance to us, which is the future of the organized labor movement and how that relates to the economic viability of the African American community and to America as a whole.

Now, today, we've all just returned from the August recess. We are here back at the Capitol, and of course we're in the midst of a very robust period of deliberation as it relates to the administration's request for us to grant authorization for this country to strike militarily against Syria for what appears to be the use of chemical weapons, which is in violation of international law, against the Syrian people. That debate will play itself out over the next few days and, perhaps, even the next few weeks; but while we undertake that solemn obligation to make the best decision for this country and for our constituents as it relates to such a critical issue of war and peace and possible military engagement, we also have a similar responsibility to deal with the domestic issues that continue to impact our constituents as well as the American people.

We know that we are still in the midst of a very sluggish economic recovery and that the American worker has fallen behind relative to the position that that worker was in coming out of World War II and through the sixties and the seventies, into the eighties and the nineties. This is a matter of urgent concern to the members of the Congressional Black Caucus, and it should be a matter of urgent concern to everyone who is a Member of this august body. Part of the deterioration of the American worker, I believe, empirically can be shown to be directly related to the deterioration of unionized membership here in this great country. So we will explore those topics.

We are a week removed from the Labor Day celebration, and we are also a few weeks removed from the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington, a march that was projected as one both for jobs and for freedom. We often focus on the civil rights aspect of the march—and it produced some tremendous pieces of legislation—but the March on Washington was also about jobs and economic opportunity, and it was put together with the significant assistance of the organized labor movement here in America.

I've been joined by several distinguished colleagues, Members of the House of Representatives, but also of members of the class of 2012—this wonderful freshman class. I believe the first speaker will be the distinguished gentleman—my good friend from the other side of the Hudson River, the always nattily dressed—Representative Donald Payne, Jr.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from New York for that kind introduction and for his consistent leadership on the CBC's Special Order hours. Tonight's topic is ''African Americans and the Labor Movement.'' It is an American story.

Historically, union members have played a critical role in the civil rights struggles of the past, and the involvement continues today. When Dr. Martin Luther King was jailed for civil disobedience, it was unions and union members who came to the legal and financial aid of Dr. King. African American workers have played a pivotal role in strengthening our unions and our economy. The path to the middle class for African Americans has always been through union jobs. What we see is an erosion of that dream. People's ways of life—what they're used to, the levels at which they're used to living—are eroding. It is because there is an attack on organized labor in this country, for there are forces within this Nation

that are eroding the quality of life for hundreds and thousands of Americans throughout this Nation.

So I am really here to say and to point out to this august body that labor has been the pathway for many Americans—not just for African Americans, but for people of all walks of life—to live the American Dream. To own a home, to feed their children, to send them to school, to take care of their parents, to have health care, job security has all been through labor. We stand here today and count the countless number of times that the labor movement has been there for us in America. This is a kinship that you can expect from a fellow union member.

I have been in two unions in my lifetime. Yes, I'm a Member of Congress today, but there have been times in my life during which I've worked hourly jobs, and it was because of the unions I was able to get a living wage and have the resources to raise my family. So I don't come to you, preaching to you, not knowing how it is to have to get up every morning and punch a clock and look for overtime and hope that you can get it in order to increase the wages that you bring home. The reasons to support unions are clear. Union workers are more likely to have health insurance and are more likely to have pension plans. Receiving this preventative care now helps lower health care costs later.

Let me also say something about the Affordable Care Act at this point in time. It is a great piece of legislation. It will go down in history just as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid have changed this country, because I can see the goal line. It's going to take some time to get there, and, yes, it will have to be tweaked and looked at and changed in some areas; but it is a monumental piece of legislation that is going to change health care in this Nation for millions of people who have never had health care. To my fellow Americans, that lowers the costs for all of you, because you pay for people who do not have health care.

□ 2045

So now you will have millions of Americans paying into their own system which lowers the cost for you.

Today, labor unions are still at the forefront of improving equality in the workplace. Right now in New Jersey, we're fighting to raise the minimum wage. Despite overwhelming support by the people of New Jersey, the Governor of New Jersey vetoed a bill that would have raised the minimum wage to $8.25. But our workers will not be deterred. This November, New Jerseyans will have the chance to right that ship at the ballot box and raise the minimum wage for millions of workers.

In Jersey City, the second largest city in the State, in my district, it is expected the city will require paid sick leave to all workers. This is important to our workers and to our economy because it has been proven that paid sick leave reduces turnover, increases productivity, and lowers health care costs for all.

I spoke about my experience in labor. I worked for a manufacturing firm as a young man of 20 or so. It was a business that manufactured computer forms. It was the only African American company of its kind in the United States of America at that time, and I was proud to work there because my vocation was printing in school. So I was very glad to go there and work in that atmosphere.

But as a 20-year-old does sometimes when you're young and you make mistakes, I was fired by that company. The owner of the company that fired me was my uncle. My father was the hearing officer against me, and my grandfather was a witness against me.

Let me say that no one knows how important it is to be represented, because the union got my job back. In spite of everything that I was up against, the union got my job back. I stand here to let you know I understand what it is to be represented firsthand.

Mr. Speaker, the people of this country and this great State of New Jersey deserve a wage that they can live on.

Several months ago, colleagues of mine in the Congressional Black Caucus took the SNAP challenge and we lived on what a person would have to live on for a day and try to make ends meet and eat. It was an eye-opening experience. I had two bottles of water, a microwave macaroni and cheese, and a half a can of tuna fish is what I had for a day. So if we think people are living well on $4.17 a day, then you have another thought coming.

People need to have a living wage. We know what it costs to live in this Nation. We will continue as the CBC, as a group, to voice our opinion and be heard on these issues that impact our districts, our States, and our Nation.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank my good friend from New Jersey for those very insightful and thoughtful observations.

I think the organized labor movement has a pretty simple objective in that a hard day's work should be compensated by a good day's pay; and anybody that works hard to provide for their family should be able to take care of their family, possibly even with a solidly middle class existence. That seems like that is consistent with the idea of who we are as a country. We, of course, right now have a minimum wage that is so low—$7.25 an hour—that you can work 40 hours a week and a family of four will still fall below the poverty line.

We've seen income inequality reach levels that are as bad as they were during the Great Depression. Part of the reason for these economic phenomena clearly have to do with the decline of Americans and their participation in the workforce as union members. It's something that we just have to confront here in this country in deciding what type of America we're going to become as we move forward into the future.

I've been joined by another extremely distinguished, eloquent, thoughtful colleague from the great State of Ohio, and I'm pleased to yield the floor now to Representative JOYCE BEATTY.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to join and thank my colleague, Mr. JEFFRIES, for leading the Congressional Black Caucus' important discussion on achieving economic security through the labor movement.

Labor unions played an important role in the civil rights movement. Today, the labor movement continues to be an important issue for African Americans, just as important as it was 50 years ago during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

The labor unions and civil rights groups share the struggles of fighting for better pay and equal rights. The overall goal of this movement remains the same. We must invest in education, fair wages, and workers' rights. We must continue to fight for those in our community who are denied economic opportunity and equality. Labor unions are at the forefront of these endeavors. They ensure the gains that workers have made in the past are maintained and that workers' rights will be protected in the future. Union members have played a critical role in the civil rights movement, and their involvement continues today.

Historically, the path of the middle class for African Americans was through a union job, and today unions continue to provide African Americans with economic security. You see, 13.3 percent of all union jobs in the United States are African American, despite African Americans only making up 11.4 percent of the overall domestic workforce. African American union jobs earn up to $10,000, or 31 percent, more per year than nonunion workers.

If we really want to rebuild America's middle class, we need strong unions. Labor unions play a major role in our economy and on behalf of workers. The essence of what labor unions do is to provide workers with a strong voice so they receive a fair share of the economic growth that they help create. They have always been an important player in making sure that the economy works for all Americans.

Labor unions have paved the way for middle class people, for millions of American workers, and pioneered benefits such as paid health care and pensions along the way. Even today, union workers still maintain more benefits and job protection than nonunion workers.

Union jobs continue to offer higher salaries, pensions, health care, and benefits that give families the economic security that they deserve, the security to be able to send their children to college or trade schools. I know this firsthand because my dad was a

union worker. Oftentimes I say that I was able to go to college because of union dollars. This is the American Dream, and unions have helped ensure that more Americans have a chance to live it.

In central Ohio, the Third Congressional District of Ohio that I represent, labor unions are strong and a significant part of the community. During my August recess, I had the opportunity to visit the Sheet Metal Workers Union, Local 24, located in Columbus, Ohio. I also had the opportunity to have a labor town hall meeting where I had the opportunity to speak. Whether it's a teacher educating our children, a skilled tradesman improving our infrastructure, police and first responders keeping us safe, electric workers, those working in transportation, the Postal Service, nurses, automotive workers, local, State, Federal, and municipal government employees, these individuals assist us every day and their work improves our communities and our local economy.

It is so important for us to come here today as Members of Congress and, yes, as members of the Congressional Black Caucus. Let me tell you why. In our current economic climate, unions are more important than ever before. We need fair wages. We need a higher minimum wage. As our economy continues to recover from the worst recession in 80 years, many workers are experiencing decreased wages, forcing them to spend their savings or try to figure out how to make ends meet.

Yes, unions are a vital part of our society and so important as we continue to rebuild America. We must ensure that workers can retire with dignity. We must preserve the ideals and the principles of the middle class. We must make sure that we preserve the values of that civil rights movement 50 years ago and that labor movement that defines our country. When unions are strong and able to provide a voice to American workers, our communities, our States, and our Nation grows.

So tonight I say ''thank you'' to all my friends in labor, because you are making us have a better America.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Thank you, Congresswoman BEATTY, for those very comprehensive, thoughtful, and insightful remarks, and for pointing out, of course, the historic connection between the struggle for civil rights here in America and the organized labor movement.

Of course we know that A. Philip Randolph was very central in the 1963 March on Washington, that great labor leader who, in 1937, formed the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. A. Philip Randolph once made this observation:

> The essence of trade unionism is social uplift. The labor movement traditionally has been the haven for the dispossessed, the despised, the neglected, the downtrodden, and the poor.

He echoed those words several decades ago, but I think they ring true today in America in 2013, and we're thankful for that.

I've been joined by another distinguished colleague, a member of the freshman class, my colleague from the Lone Star State. It's now my honor and my privilege to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas, MARC VEASEY.

□ 2100

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, Mr. JEFFRIES, thank you very much for having us here to talk about the importance of wages and labor unions in our country. I want to thank my friend from the Empire State of New York for putting this together. This is very important and very timely as we try to pull our country out of the economic glut that it was in, as we are turning things around and we're getting job numbers back and things seem to be getting better slowly but surely. But we want to make sure, as things get better, people have a living wage, one where they can earn a good salary and have dignity and respect and be able to feed their families and take care of them.

I was listening to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) talk about his life when he was growing up and the importance that labor unions played in his life. I can tell you, when I was in high school, that I worked at a grocery store and it was a union grocery store, probably the only one in the Dallas-Fort Worth metro area. I remember, we had benefits. We had time and a half. We were paid extra on holidays. We were young people, but we were allowed to make a little extra money. No one got rich off it, but at least when we were working extra on those days that people would normally have off, when we worked those extra hours during the summer and when school was out, we were compensated for it and compensated for it fairly. I am really proud of that.

Also, thinking back to my childhood, I often think about the people who would come over to our house and play dominoes and cards on Friday and Saturday night, and when the men would talk about trying to uplift themselves and getting that better job and better salary, and the companies that they often talked about.

How do you get on there? That was a saying back then: Do you have a friend that can get me on over there? When people were talking about getting on someplace that had a good salary, it was a place that had a union. It was a place that had one of our labor forces fighting for good wages, fighting so your family could have health care insurance, fighting so your family could have dental insurance, and just basic things like that that so many people take for granted every day, but it certainly helped shape the person that I am today.

A strong labor force is the key to economic security. Labor unions have historically sought to fight for workers' rights—to increase wages, raise the standard of living for the middle class, ensure safe working conditions, and increase benefits for both workers and their families.

Unionized workers are more likely to receive paid leave, have employer-provided health insurance, and to participate in employer-provided pension plans. They reduce wage inequality by raising wages for low- and middle-wage workers and blue-collar workers without a college degree. And they raise wages of unionized workers by roughly 20 percent and raise compensation, including both wages and benefits, by about 28 percent.

Today, the labor movement is an important tool for African Americans and, as unions, continue to play a pivotal role in both securing legislative labor protections, such as safety and health, overtime, family and medical leave, and making sure that those rights are enforced on the job.

Labor unions are critically vital to the African American community's economic security. They have been historically and will continue to be in the future. African American union workers' earnings are nearly 24 percent higher than nonunion counterparts, and labor unions provide key bargaining power by organizing the workers to negotiate an agreement with management. This agreement covers things such as a safe place to work, decent wages, and fringe benefits.

Unionized workers are 28 percent more likely to be covered by employer-provided health insurance and are almost 54 percent more likely to have employer-provided pensions and are more likely to receive paid leave.

Fifty years ago, the March on Washington was led with a labor message to increase economic security. Today we must work together to continue that charge. Working people need the collective voice and bargaining power unions provide to keep employers from making the workplace look as it did in the past.

Unions are vital in ensuring that corporations do not focus on creating profits at the expense of their employees.

African Americans are serving in key leadership roles in the larger labor movement. Arlene Holt Baker currently serves as the AFL–CIO's executive vice president, and Lee A. Saunders serves as the president of AFSCME.

Today, labor unions are still on the forefront of efforts to ensure that the gains of the past are maintained and that those who fight for our dignity and equality continue to march on.

I encourage my colleagues in Congress to continue to honor the traditions of the Davis-Bacon wage protections that have helped cement labor agreements and other fair practices that have helped the African American community and all Americans achieve prosperity and economic security.

And as we think about what transpired last month with the March on

Washington and as we commemorated 50 years, we think about all of the great things that Dr. King did in his service to our country while God allowed him to live on this Earth, and one of my favorite quotes by Dr. King is, and I'll close out with this:

As I've said many times and believe with all my heart, the coalition that can have the greatest impact in the circle for human dignity here in America is that of the Negro and the forces of labor because their forces are so closely intertwined.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. JEFFRIES, thank you very much for this time. Let's continue to march on.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Thank you, Representative VEASEY, for your very eloquent thoughts and observations.

Of course, we understood that Dr. King was very close with organized labor, with 1199 in New York, with the retail workers, and a variety of other unions. And of course on that tragic day down in Memphis, Tennessee, when he was assassinated in 1968, he was there in support of striking Black sanitation workers, so he leaves behind a tremendous legacy. Part of that legacy, of course, includes standing up for the rights of workers to organize and fight for decent wages and health care and a pension. These are all things that Dr. King would advocate for were he around today.

We have been joined by one of the leaders of the CBC, someone who was a distinguished civil rights attorney prior to his arrival here in the Congress and a judge, and now he serves as vice chair in the Congressional Black Caucus, one of the most eloquent voices in the CBC, and I am pleased to yield the floor to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD)

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Thank you, very much, Mr. JEFFRIES, for those very kind words and thank you for yielding me time this evening to talk about this very important subject. Mr. JEFFRIES, your leadership on this issue, the issue involving strong labor unions and bringing American jobs back to American workers is so critically important, and for that we appreciate your leadership.

Mr. Speaker, the economic success of the United States is something that other nations every day try to emulate. The success of our country is not because of us here in Congress, the policymakers, but it is because of the hard work of so many Americans who helped build a strong and resilient Nation.

The role of African Americans has been particularly important over the years. The role African Americans played in the early economic success of our country is one that is not well known to some people, but it was so vital to building the world power that we are today. Even before the Civil War, Black Americans were critical in helping to build ships and other seagoing vessels that were used to move agricultural goods and equipment to the growing Nation by serving as caulkers, a job that was dominated by African Americans.

Those same shipbuilders formed the Caulker's Association back in 1838 to protect African American caulkers by negotiating for higher wages and safer working conditions from their employers. The Caulker's Association counted Frederick Douglass, who worked as a caulker in Baltimore, as one of its members.

After the end of the Civil War, 4 million former slaves were set free. African Americans who were freed found it very difficult to find work because of racial tension. They were often used by White employers as strikebreakers so that their businesses could continue to operate while White employees were on strike.

Well, as time went on, by 1902, at the turn of the century, more than 40 national unions didn't have any members, not a single one, who were African American. But as the quest for civil rights began in earnest, African Americans would soon find a home—a good home—with labor unions all across the country.

By the 1930s, the Congress of Industrial Organizations welcomed everyone and counted both Blacks and Whites as members and was among the most integrated organizations in the United States at that time. By 1945, more than half a million African Americans were members of unions that comprised the Congress of Industrial Organizations.

Labor unions played a critical role—we've heard that tonight—in the civil rights movement, and served as one means by which African Americans could fight for civil rights and fair pay and safe working conditions.

Mr. Speaker, we recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. On August 28, 1963, more than 300,000 people, including myself, witnessed the call for civil and economic rights for African Americans. And on that hot day in August, we heard Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., deliver his historic ''I Have a Dream'' speech. The march was one of the largest rallies for civil rights in the history of our country, and it was organized in large part—I want to make this point—it was organized in large part by labor unions, including the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and the United Auto Workers.

The large role labor unions played in organizing the March on Washington cemented their place in history in providing for racial and economic equality.

In 2012, more than 14 million people were members of a labor union. But you know what? That is down from almost 18 million 30 years ago. That is very sad. Why is that?

The U.S. economy and Federal and State laws have changed since the heyday of industrial manufacturing where unions could organize with relative ease. Jobs that once required a human being are now being performed by a machine. Good paying American jobs have been relocated overseas where labor is cheap and working conditions are not as heavily regulated. And, perhaps most damaging, have been the onslaught of disgraceful antiunion policies that we have sadly seen on television that have been signed into law in States all across the country.

For African Americans, labor unions continue to be vitally important because they are committed to maintaining the hard-fought gains of opportunity and equality. Since their inception, labor unions have helped African Americans fight for equal rights and equal pay and safe working conditions. Now, African Americans are more likely than any other group to be a union member and earn more than 30 percent more than their nonunion counterparts. Labor unions will continue to be a vital part of our economy, and we must do all that we can to ensure that the labor movement thrives with the same intensity as it did 60 years ago.

I urge my friends in labor to continue their work. It is appreciated. I recently visited the A. Philip Randolph Institute. Ms. Clayola Brown is the president. I went to their dinner just a few days ago here in Washington, and I wanted to commend them publicly for the work they are doing. I thank them for invoking the name of A. Philip Randolph who, as Mr. JEFFRIES said earlier, founded the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

Let me also recognize the important work of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, headed by my good friend Bill Lucy, who was secretary-treasurer of AFSCME for many years. And now the Reverend Terry Melvin is carrying on the work of Bill Lucy. So I thank my friends in labor and urge them to continue the great work that they are doing in this country.

Mr. JEFFRIES, I thank you for yielding me this time and for your leadership.

□ 2115

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina for those observations and for your continued leadership here in the Congress.

I would ask the Speaker how much time is remaining on this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York has 15 minutes remaining.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, one of the things that's been troubling to me and to many of the people that I represent back home in Brooklyn and parts of Queens has been to witness the attack on organized labor, on unions all across the country. Particularly in 2011, 2012, we witnessed it in Wisconsin, we witnessed it in Ohio, taking place in other parts of the country.

And I think that it's unfortunate that there are some forces out here in the country determined to crush the ability of the American worker to organize and fight collectively for a decent way of life.

And I think it's important to point out some of the reasons why all Americans should be thankful for unions and

for the organized labor movement. I'm just going to highlight quickly 10.

We should be thankful to organized labor because of overtime pay.

We should be thankful because of child labor laws.

We should be thankful because we now have the 40-hour workweek. We should be thankful because of workers' compensation, there to provide a safety net for folks who are injured on the job.

We should be thankful because we now have the presence, as a result, in significant part, of the organized labor movement, for unemployment insurance.

We should of course be thankful because many Americans, as a result of the efforts of organized labor, enjoy pensions, increasingly under assault, increasingly being taken away, but pensions have provided a vehicle for retirement security important to the American way of life and standard of living.

We should be thankful to organized labor because it fought for employer health care insurance coverage, something that many folks in this country still don't have, and that's one of the reasons why I strongly support the Affordable Care Act, an effort to correct that inequity that exists in America. But the fact that many employers do provide health insurance is an outgrowth that resulted from, in large measure, the effort of organized labor.

We should be thankful to organized labor because of the presence of whistleblower protection laws that give, in many instances, workers the capacity to identify something that's wrong, and to be able to move forward and reveal it, often, in some instances, when public funds are being squandered or the law is being broken; to reveal a wrong without having to have the same level of fear that retaliation would take place as a result of simply doing the right thing.

We should be thankful to organized labor because it fought for sexual harassment laws designed to allow the workforce to be an environment where men and women could exist without fear of inappropriate behavior poisoning the atmosphere. We still have a long way to go in that regard, but we've got some good laws on the books designed to protect against repulsive behavior in the workforce.

Lastly, we should be thankful, and this in no way is an exhaustive list, just a representative sample, but we should be thankful for holiday pay, thankful that organized labor fought for the opportunity for many Americans to be able to enjoy Thanksgiving or Christmas or New Year's or other holidays with their families, still have an opportunity to be compensated as a result of the ability to get certain holidays, perhaps most significantly, the Fourth of July, where we celebrate the birthday of this great Nation—off in remembrance of who we are and where we need to go in this country.

We've got a lot of reasons to be thankful to organized labor. Several of my colleagues earlier today referenced their own personal experiences as it relates to the labor movement. And as I was listening to those experiences, from Representative DONALD PAYNE and Representative MARC VEASEY, I thought about the experience of myself and my own family, growing up in Brooklyn to two parents in a working class neighborhood in Crown Heights.

My parents were married in April of 1967. At the time they got married, they were both members of the Social Service Employees Union, SSEU, which subsequently became Local 371 and DC 37. But they were both SSEU members. They got married in April of 1967.

And just a short while thereafter, the union decided to go out on strike because they were fighting for improved conditions, both for the workers and for the clients that Social Service workers served.

My parents, newlyweds at the time, confronted what I imagine was an extremely difficult decision: Do we strike with our union brothers and sisters, even though we'll have no possible means of providing for ourselves, and we don't know how long we'll be out of work, or do we cross that picket line in defiance of the collective action of the SSEU workers who went out on strike?

I'm proud that my parents joined with their union brothers and sisters and went out on strike. And as I look back at that decision, it's a lot of reason for me and for my brother and for our family to be thankful, because when I think about it, in 1973, my younger brother was born with some heart difficulty, and I'm confident, looking back on it, that it was that union-negotiated health care that helped our family get through what was otherwise a very difficult time. And my brother's alive and well and doing wonderful things as a professor at Ohio State University right now.

And then in 1980, my parents bought their first and only home in Crown Heights, the home that my brother and I grew up in, the home that they still live in back in Brooklyn right now. And it was that union-negotiated salary that helped them put together the money to make the down payment and to pay the mortgage all of these years.

Then in 1988, it was time for me to go off to college. And one of the reasons why I was able to come out of college relatively debt-free is because my mother borrowed against her union-negotiated pension in order to send her children to college.

And so the organized labor movement never has to worry about whether I'm going to stand up for them because they've always stood up for me and so many others just like me, as we heard from my colleagues in the freshman class here in the Congress. And that's simply representative of stories that so many folks across America could share.

Now, unfortunately, we know that organized labor is under attack. About 60 years ago, in 1953, about 35 percent of the American workforce had collective bargaining coverage. But as of 2010, we went from about 35 percent in the 1950s to just under 7 percent in 2010.

Where has that gotten us?

I think it's put us, not in a better position, as middle class America or working families; it's put us in a worse position.

And we saw the attacks in Wisconsin, and we saw the attacks on collective bargaining in Ohio that the folks had to roll back after the people of Ohio rose up in opposition.

I was proud, as a member of the State legislature at the time, in 2012, to support the effort to unionize by a group of very courageous cable workers in Brooklyn. Organized by the Communication Workers of America, they voted, in the face of significant pressure to the contrary, to join the union and to organize a chapter in order to fight for better wages and for stronger health care and the possibility of a better retirement.

Unfortunately, the courageous nature of those workers has not been met with a negotiated contract. The collective bargaining process has failed them to date. In fact, more than 20 of them were unceremoniously terminated earlier this year, and they were only brought back in the face of tremendous pressure by public servants at all levels of government.

But more than 18 months later, from the moment in which they voted to join the union, they still are in limbo. They have no contract, and in many ways, their lives have been turned upside down. In fact, every other worker in the company that employed these cable workers has been granted a substantial raise, while these individuals remain in limbo.

We're hopeful that we can do better, that we can bring the NLRB back to life, that it can serve as an objective entity to regulate the relationship between the workforce and employers across America.

There are a lot of employers who want to do the right thing. We should encourage that because it's good for America. And in this economic recovery that we have right now, there are a lot of companies that are doing pretty well. But there are a lot of workers who are still struggling.

One of the things that I think we have to confront here in the Congress is the fact that we have a very schizophrenic economic recovery. The stock market is way up, corporate profit's way up, the productivity of the American worker is way up, yet, unemployment remains stubbornly high, and wages remain stagnant.

How can that be when corporate America is doing so well, when investors in the stock market are doing so well, when objective measures show that the productivity of the American worker has increased significantly?

But the American worker, in terms of their ability to live and pursue the

middle class dream, has, in many ways, been left behind.

These are questions that I'm hopeful this Congress will confront. As we fight our way through sequestration and deal with the debt ceiling and the potential default, God forbid, that we have to confront next month, and we work our way, deliberatively, through the question of whether a military strike in Syria is appropriate, let's not forget the fact that what makes America great is the capacity for people to work hard, to purchase a home, to raise their family in safety, in security, with the ability to live a life where they provide for themselves and for their families and are able to hand to a generation of Americans that come behind them, hopefully, an America that is more prosperous, not less prosperous.

□ 2130

We in the CBC believe that the best way to get there is not to continue to attack organized labor but to recognize what it has done for this country and to strengthen organized labor as we move forward.

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

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues Congressmen JEFFRIES and HORSFORD for once again leading the Congressional Black Caucus Special Order Hour.

African Americans have had a long history with the labor movement.

Within the labor community, African Americans joined with individuals of other races to advance efforts to create ladders to prosperity in an environment of economic and racial discrimination.

In the 1800s, such efforts led to African American union visionaries, such as Isaac Myers, who realized the collective power of African Americans within the Trade Union movement.

Under Myers, an organized group of ship caulkers purchased and operated the Chesapeake Marine Railway and Dry Dock Company in Baltimore.

Within months, the cooperative employed 300 African American caulkers and received several government contracts.

Nearly 100 years later, A. Phillip Randolph would organize the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

Randolph was instrumental in uniting the African American Civil Rights community and the labor movement with the shared ideals of collective prosperity and economic security.

Randolph proposed a 1941 March on Washington that heavily influenced the economic and social themes echoed by Bayard Rustin, Martin Luther King, Jr., and others who were instrumental in making the 1963 March on Washington a success.

During celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington last month, we recalled the message of social and economic justice that union leaders spoke of in 1963.

Dr. King was noted for saying, "it's not enough to have a right to sit at a lunch counter if you can't afford to buy a meal."

This message echoed the call of labor leaders who asked "what good is it to be able to serve at the counter when you can't afford to buy a meal?"

Sadly, today, we must still ask this question.

As the wealth gap continues to grow, income and food insecurity remain prevalent.

The ladders to prosperity that Myers, Randolph and King spoke of are still inaccessible to many in our society—whether they are African American or another race or ethnicity.

Many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle speak of disbanding labor unions and limiting collective bargaining rights.

I proudly stand with our labor allies to fight these efforts because I know weakened organized labor means continued erosion of the middle class.

The Members of the Congressional Black Caucus will continue to oppose devastating cuts to programs that will only increase economic despair.

Together we will continue to propose and support policies that create economic opportunity for all people rather than for a select few.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I join in support of my colleagues Representatives HAKEEM JEFFRIES and STEVEN HORSFORD in leading tonight's Congressional Black Caucus Special Order on the topic of Achieving Economic Security Through the Labor Movement.

I want to offer special recognition for the men and women of labor who are dedicated to the working people of the 18th Congressional District and the Greater Houston area.

I began my remarks with a special tribute to one of the greatest labor leaders that I have known and to honor the memory of Ronnie Raspberry of Houston, Texas. He passed away in April of this year, and he will be remembered as a champion of working people, one of the great community leaders in the cities of Houston and Harris in Texas.

People like Harris Country AFL–CIO Council President E. Dale Wortham, IBEW, Local 716, Secretary-Treasurer Richard C. Shaw, Steven Flores, a member of the Latino Labor Leadership Council, Tawn E. MacDonald, CWA, Local 6222, Houston Chapter and Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW), Zeph Cappo, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) and Scott Vinson, with the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU), and Gayle Fallon, President—Houston Federation of Teachers improve the lives of working people in the city of Houston.

This list is not complete with a special mention of Houston Educational Support Personnel Union President Wretha Thomas who works with local school bus drivers to be sure that their rights are included when district negotiate labor agreements.

I want to say a word about Clyde Fitzgerald who was appointed to the Port of Houston Authority Commission by Harris County in June 2013. I cannot complete the Us of outstanding labor leaders in Houston with mentioning Dean E. Corgey who was appointed to the Port of Houston Authority Commission in January 2013. He represents the City of Houston, and serves on the Community Relations and Pension and Benefits Committees.

John Bland with the Transport Workers Union (AFL–CIO) and leader of Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) is doing outstanding job as well.

My thanks to the unions that represents Houston's First responders. I want to recognize Houston Police Officers Union President Ray Hunt and the Immediate Past President J.J. Berry.

I count the International Association of Fire Fighters Houston Local 341 President Jeff Caynon and General President Harold Schaitberger as friends and I am like all Houstonians proud of how that serve the fire fighting community and our city as true selfless public servants.

The most important thing to remember about unions is wrapped up in the answer to one question—What does labor want? Samuel Gompers—Founder of the American Federation of Labor provided the answer:

> More. We want more school houses and less jails; more books and less arsenals; more learning and less vice; more constant work and less crime; more leisure and less greed; more justice and less revenge; in fact, more of the opportunities to cultivate our better natures, to make manhood more noble, womanhood more beautiful and childhood more happy and bright. These in brief are the primary demands made by the Trade Unions in the name of labor. These are the demands made by labor upon modern society and in their consideration is involved the fate of civilization. (1893)

Quote: Martin Luther King:

> Unless man [and women are] . . . committed to the belief that all mankind are [our sisters and] . . . brothers, then [we] . . . labor . . . in vain and hypocritically in the vineyards of equality.

The right to earn a living wage, to work in safe conditions, to enjoy a forty hour work week, have health care, be free of discrimination, have sick leave, receive overtime pay, have a pension, be free of sexual harassment have holiday pay and enjoy countless other protections comes as direct result of what Unions mean to working men and women of this nation.

Some would have you believe that the working life of men and women is just the way it is—but in truth it is what the blood, sweat and tears of working people made it to be.

Labor Day is celebrated in recognition of the toil and trials that millions of workers endured before they earned the right to collective bargaining and with that right the power to change the fate of working people for generations. The fruits of their effort extended to those in management as well as the poorest of the poor.

Unions are the reason that the basic standard of living in the United States has risen, without the protection of unions advocating the behalf of workers those gains would be completely lost.

During the last Congress I introduced the New Jobs for America Act, that directs the Secretary of Labor to make grants to state and local governments and Indian tribes to carry out employment training programs to aid unemployed individuals in securing employment in a new area of expertise, particularly in emerging markets and industries

I also co-sponsored the American Jobs Act of 2011 which would have provided tax relief for American workers and businesses, to put workers back on the job while rebuilding and modernizing America, and to provide pathways back to work for Americans looking for jobs.

I supported the Job Opportunities Between our Shores Act or JOBS Act that Amends the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to direct the Secretary of Labor to make grants to or enter into contracts with eligible entities to carry out demonstration and pilot projects that provide

education and training programs for jobs in advanced manufacturing.

My heart where Fannie Lou Hamer's was during the civil rights movement—which was really more about economic rights to move up in our nation's socio-economic system. People were held down because they were women, black, Hispanic, Native American, Asian, or poor.

It is not a crime if you sweat when you work for a living and we should end the practice of dividing how workers are treated based on how they earn a living.

Fannie Lou Hamer Quotes:

To support whatever is right, and to bring in justice where we've had so much injustice.

That is the reason, we are here tonight—to bring justice where we've had so much injustice in the unwillingness of the current Republican controlled Congress to acknowledge the value of your worth to the American economy by securing for your labor a living minimum wage.

There is not America without the American worker. This is as true today was it was from the nation's earliest beginnings. At our earliest history workers were indentured servants, bonded persons, or slaves. The sweat of their brow carved a nation out of stone, swamp, and dense wilderness to become one the greatest nation the world has ever known.

Historically, the path to the middle class for African Americans was through a union job. African-American workers are more likely to be union members because they know that acting as one is stronger than acting alone. This is the message of the civil rights movement and one that African Americans have learned well over the decades of struggle for equal rights.

Equality also requires equal access to education, employment and pay.

Coretta Scott King Quotes:

The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members, . . . a heart of grace and a soul generated by love.

Unionized workers promote greater income equality and prevent wage discrimination.

African American union workers earn up to $10,000 or 31% more per year than non-union members.

In 2011, nearly 20 percent of employed African Americans worked for state, local, or federal government compared to 14.2% of Whites and 10.4 percent of Hispanics.

African Americans are less likely than Hispanics and nearly as likely as Whites to work in the private sector, not including the self-employed.

Few African Americans are self-employed—only 3.8 percent reported being self-employed in 2011—making them almost half as likely to be self-employed as Whites (7.2 percent).

Unionized workers are more likely to receive paid leave, more likely to have employer-provided health insurance, and are more likely to be in employer-provided pension plans.

The tools of unions must be part of the landscape for poor working Americans and the way forward for equity and fairness in income and the benefits of the success of our society.

Unions play a pivotal role by ensuring workers has continued educational access for their current roles as well as encourage workers to pursue higher education. Nationally, 77 percent of union employees in 2009 were covered by pension plans that provide a guaranteed monthly retirement income. Only 20 percent of non-union workers are covered by guaranteed (defined-benefit) pensions 20 percent.

Union workers are 53.9 percent more likely to have employer-provided pensions. These are not isolated facts, when unions are strong and able to represent the people who want to join them, these gains spread throughout the economy and the overall community.

Unions are not just good for workers. They are the best friend that a successful business can have. When workers form unions they are able to boost wages, which helps attract and retain staff for employers. When non-union companies increase their wages, it gives all workers more purchasing power.

The benefits of unions flow to the entire community with a strong middle class have sufficient tax revenues to support schools, hospitals and roads.

Today, labor unions are still on the forefront of efforts to ensure that the gains of the past are maintained and to fight for those still denied opportunity and equality

Unions are a great community and I will tell you why you should be standing up with them for your rights.

In 1968, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King went to Memphis to help sanitation workers who were fighting for their rights and dignity as people who worked hard for a living, but had no living wage.

In 1968 Memphis the color of the skin of two black workers were prevented by Jim Crow laws from finding shelter from a cold rain sought warmth in the back of a sanitation truck and were crushed to death—Martin Luther King could not keep silent nor turn away.

He was killed in Memphis at the Lorraine Motel because of the power of his message to move the hearts and minds of people so that they would fight for the rights and dignity of working people everywhere.

Talking Points:

The 2013 Federal Poverty guidelines stipulate $23,550 for a family of four as poverty level. A $7.25 minimum wage earns $15,080 a year. Even at the poverty level of $23,550 for a family of four, families are unable to make ends meet and often have to sacrifice basic necessities.

Fast food jobs used to be considered entry level jobs and often held by teenagers but now, in the new economy, the average age of a fast food worker is 28, many of which have families to support. A family living on $15,000 a year must sacrifice many basic necessities most of us take for granted—like healthcare, transportation, and food—to say nothing of the luxuries many of us enjoy on a regular basis.

In Houston, nearly 500,000 people make poverty wages or less, or nearly one quarter of all Houstonians. The ripple effects of this amount of people given more spending power would create a tremendous amount of economic activity spurring job creation and new markets for small business. Fast food workers paid a living wage of $15/hr. not only puts food on their tables but also puts more money into the local economy. This is an economic engine that needs to be started.

With 1.07 million restaurant and food service workers, Texas has the second-largest restaurant workforce in the nation. And it leads the nation in projected restaurant job growth between 2013 and 2023, according to the National Restaurant Association. The trade group predicts a nearly 16 percent jump in Texas restaurant and food service jobs in 10 years.

Texas also had the nation's largest collection of minimum-wage workers last year, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Texas accounted for nearly 13 percent of such workers across the country, the data showed.

My thanks to my colleagues' Representatives HAKEEM JEFFRIES and STEVEN HORSFORD for hosting this important special order.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the working people of this great Nation.

My fellow members of the Congressional Black Caucus and I are here tonight to honor the Labor Movement. We do so one week after our Nation celebrated its 119th Labor Day, and two weeks after we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Justice. It is only appropriate that we pay homage to both tonight, as the Labor Movement and the Civil Rights Movement are sisters in the fight for dignity, freedom, and justice.

Over the years, Labor Day like many holidays has lost much of its meaning. Today, most Americans simply think of it as the end of summer, or the beginning of school. One last moment to enjoy the beach or the backyard with friends and family.

However, Labor Day is also a day during which we should honor those who paid the ultimate price to secure their children a more perfect union. At Bay View in 1885, at Haymarket in 1886, at Pullman in 1894, and in Memphis in 1968, members of the Labor Movement laid down their lives so that others might earn a living.

My own support for collective bargaining rights started early on with my father, John Conyers Sr., who worked with the United Auto Workers to integrate factories in Detroit, before the Civil Rights Movement took that battle to the buses of Alabama and the lunch counters of North Carolina. His battle—Labor's battle—was one which Dr. Martin Luther King would later recognize as the final frontier for the Civil Rights Movement. Specifically, the availability of jobs that paid a fair wage—wage upon which one could raise a family, plan for old age, and live a life beyond mere survival.

Dr. King once spoke of the Labor Movement as the ''first and pioneer anti-poverty program.'' In his last battle, Dr. King went to Memphis, TN, the city that would claim his life, to stand with the sanitation workers of that city who sought what so many of us take for granted and so many of us only dream of: a fair day's pay, for a fair day's work.

Speaking to the sanitation workers of Memphis, he acknowledged the threats he had received, but he told them that he stood before them unafraid of any man, for he had been to the mountain top, and even if he didn't reach the Promised Land, he knew that others would one day.

Today, we are still on that mountaintop, waiting for the Promised Land. Through the sacrifices of labor and civil rights leaders, we were led out of bondage, but we still have not reached the land promised in the American dream. It is my hope that in the 21st Century, we will see the same progress we saw through the middle part of the 20th Century. I hope to see the middle class prosper, I hope to see management work with labor to produce wonders that we could not hope to achieve without cooperation, and I hope to finally see poverty conquered through the

power of fair wages and honest toil. Together, workers can seize the dream that will slip out of any one person's grasp. Together, workers have the power to ford any river, cross any valley, and come down from the mountain where we have been for too long.

AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM IN THE FACE OF WAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENTIVOLIO) for 30 minutes.

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today as a former soldier. Like many of my colleagues in this room who served, I took an oath to honor and defend the Constitution of the United States against enemies both domestic and abroad. American soldiers do not swear to defend the President; they don't swear to defend Congress or political parties. They swear to defend the Constitution because this document is the bulwark that protects our freedom.

American soldiers swear to protect this document because our Founding Fathers understood that elected officials, from the President to us here in the House of Representatives, are fallible human beings. They swear to protect this document because they know that the principles it defends are true and its wisdom will last long after we're dead, just as it lasted long before we were born.

The Constitution of the United States of America is the key difference between us and other countries. It is what makes our Nation exceptional. Forged on the anvil of liberty, it has protected our Nation as we have grown from a fledgling Republic into a world superpower. The soldier that we ask to fight on our behalf knows that. We must honor our military by looking to the wisdom of the Constitution whenever we discuss sending our troops to war.

The Constitution itself makes clear that we should go to war ''for the common defense.'' This statement, ''for the common defense,'' was so important that it was used twice by our Founding Fathers: once in the preamble, then again in laying out the duties of Congress.

We live in a fallen world. Bad things happen to innocent people every day across the globe. Drug cartels beheading people in central America, Christians being burned alive in Nigeria, human trafficking in Asia—all of these things are heart-wrenching but none of them involve our common defense.

When I see what is happening in Syria and read the intelligence given to us, I do not see how this terrible civil war involves our common defense. I understand the horrors of the Assad regime and it sickens me. It hurts to see the pictures of dead children brutally gassed by a hateful dictator. Yet the actions our President wishes us to take would do little to prevent such a man from continuing to murder his people, nor would help those our soldiers were sworn to protect—our constituents.

In his farewell address, George Washington said:

> We may choose peace or war, as our interest guided by justice shall counsel.

There is nothing just, or in our interest, in lobbing a few bombs into a country and walking away.

The Secretary of State and the President have both stated that we need to go to war because Assad broke a treaty that the entire world supports. The U.N., they say, cannot act. Mr. Speaker, I am asking the same question my constituents are asking: Why do we spend billions of dollars supporting an international organization for peace that cannot enforce a treaty supported by the entire world? If the U.N. is so hamstrung that it cannot rally the world to stop Assad and we have to unilaterally attack Syria, what exactly is the point of having a U.N.?

The Secretary of State also had the gall to tell both the Senate and the House Foreign Relations Committees that bombing Syria is ''not a war in the classic sense.'' Let me tell you something, Mr. Speaker. If another nation attacked us the way our President wants to attack Syria, everyone in this room would call it war. Let me tell you something else, Mr. Speaker: war has consequences.

The Secretary of State told the House Foreign Relations Committee that the goal of bombing Syria was to ''degrade'' Assad's chemical weapons and cause a stalemate in the fighting. In other words, Assad will still have the capability of using chemical weapons and could very well use them again to break the stalemate we create. Does anyone really think that we will just stop with the first round of bombings? That's not how war works. Wars are a ''yes'' or ''no'' question. You cannot, as Secretary Kerry and the White House suggest, only kind of fight a war. If we break it, we're going to be forced to fix it.

Like I said, I'm an old soldier, and old soldiers need mission plans. When I look at this mission plan, I don't see anything that suggests we will simply be able to walk away after this bombing campaign.

America's role in the world is not to play parent to the rest of the nations, chastising bad actors and picking winners and losers in battles that don't directly threaten us. The point of our Nation is to show the world the wisdom of a free and representative government.

My fellow Members of Congress, we can show that wisdom here today with this vote. We can show the world that our Nation will not plunge itself into war because our President drew an artificial red line and feels embarrassed that a dictator crossed it.

Our military does not belong to the White House. It belongs to the people. I ask you, show the power and wisdom of our Founding Fathers when they granted the representatives of the people with the decision to go to war.

I strongly urge everyone in this room to vote ''no'' on attacking Syria and involving ourselves in their civil war.

God bless America.

I yield back the balance of my time.

OMISSION FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2013, AT PAGE H5408

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
August 8, 2013.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Washington, DC.

SPEAKER BOEHNER: I cannot express what a tremendous honor it has been to serve the people of Louisiana's Fifth Congressional District, and from the bottom of my heart, I am eternally grateful and I thank them for the trust they have placed in me.

I write to you today to officially let you know that, effective September 27, 2013, I will be resigning as a Member of the United States Congress.

I am honored that Governor Jindal has given me the opportunity to serve as a member of his cabinet as his Secretary of Veterans Affairs. I am eager to get started and begin reaching out to our state's veterans in order to make sure they know that our state and nation are grateful for their service.

I look forward to continue serving the great state that I love and the men and women who have given us so much.

Sincerely,

RODNEY ALEXANDER.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
August 8, 2013.

Governor BOBBY JINDAL,
State Capitol, 20th Floor, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA.

GOVERNOR JINDAL, I cannot express what a tremendous honor it has been to serve the people of Louisiana's Fifth Congressional District, and from the bottom of my heart, I am eternally grateful and I thank them for the trust they have placed in me.

I write to you today to officially let you know that, effective September 27, 2013, I will be resigning as a Member of the United States Congress.

I am honored that you have given me the opportunity to serve as a member of your cabinet as your Secretary of Veterans Affairs. I am eager to get started and begin reaching out to our state's veterans in order to make sure they know that our state and nation are grateful for their service.

I look forward to continue serving this great state that I love and the men and women who have given us so much.

Sincerely,

RODNEY ALEXANDER.

COMMUNICATION FROM CONSTITUENT SERVICES LIAISON, THE HONORABLE BRAD WENSTRUP, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Teresa Lewis, Constituent Services Liaison, the Honorable BRAD WENSTRUP, Member of Congress:

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. YOUNG of Florida (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today and September 10 on account of a family medical emergency.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker on Friday, August 2, 2013:

H.R. 267. An act to improve hydropower, and for other purposes.

H.R. 678. An act to authorize all Bureau of Reclamation conduit facilities for hydropower development under Federal Reclamation law, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1171. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to improve veterans service organizations access to Federal surplus personal property.

H.R. 2576. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to modify requirements relating to the availability of pipeline safety regulatory documents and for other purposes.

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, further reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore, Mr. THORNBERRY, on Tuesday, August 6, 2013:

H.R. 1344. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to provide expedited air passenger screening to severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 38 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, September 10, 2013, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

OMITTED FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2013 AT PAGE H5408

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2738. A letter from the President Of The United States, transmitting Draft Legislation Regarding Authorization for Use of United States Armed Forces in Connection with the Conflict in Syria; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

2739. A letter from the President Of The United States, transmitting the Continuation of the National Emergency with respect to Export Control Regulations; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

2740. A letter from the President Of The United States, transmitting An Executive Order prohibiting the importation into the United States of any jadeite or rubies mined or extracted from Burma; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Ways and Means and ordered to be printed.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2741. A letter from the President Of The United States, transmitting an alternative plan for monthly basic pay increases for members of the uniformed services, pursuant to 37 U.S.C. 1009(e); (H. Doc. No. 113–58); to the Committee on Armed Services and ordered to be printed.

2742. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 13-41, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2743. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report identifying, for each of the Armed Forces (other than the Coast Guard) and each Defense Agency, the percentage of funds that were expended during the preceding fiscal year for performance of depot-level maintenance and repair workloads by the public and private sectors; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2744. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Rhett A. Hernandez, United States Army, and his advancement on the retired list in the grade of lieutenant general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2745. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report concerning efforts made by the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies to employ an adequate number of Americans during 2012, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276c-4; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2746. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 13-36, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2747. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, certification regarding the proposed transfer of major defense equipment (Transmittal No. RSAT-13-3520); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2748. A letter from the Associate Director for PP&I, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Technical Amendments to Counter-terrorism Sanctions Regulations Implemented by OFAC received August 10, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2749. A letter from the Associate General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting four reports pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2750. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2751. A letter from the President Of The United States, transmitting an alternative plan for locality pay increases payable to civilian Federal employees covered by the General Schedule (GS) and certain other pay systems for 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 5305(a)(3); (H. Doc. No. 113—57); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and ordered to be printed.

2752. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Recreational Management Measures for the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fisheries; Fishing Year 2013 [Docket No.: 130403319-3545-02] (RIN: 0648-BD13) received August 10, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2753. A letter from the Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Annual Specifications [Docket No.: 121210694-3514-02] (RIN: 0648-XC392) received August 10, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2754. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast (NE) Multispecies Fishery; Framework Adjustment 48; Final Rule; Correction [Docket No.: 120814336-3495-03] (RIN: 0648-BC27) received August 10, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2755. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Shrimp Fishery Off the Southern Atlantic States; Amendment 9 [Docket No.: 120919470-3513-02] (RIN: 0648-BC58) received August 10, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2756. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Snapper-Grouper Fishery off the Southern Atlantic States; Regulatory Amendment 13 [Docket No.: 120815345-3525-02] (RIN: 0648-BC41) received August 10, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2757. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Crab Rationalization Program [Docket No.: 120806311-3530-02] (RIN: 0648-BC25) received August 10, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2758. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 120918468-3111-02] (RIN: 0648-XC739) received August 10, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2759. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2013 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for South Atlantic Gray Triggerfish [Docket No.: 100812345-2142-03] (RIN: 0648-XC728) received August 10, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2760. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Adjusted Closure of the 2013 Gulf of Mexico Recreational Sector for Red Snapper [Docket No.: 130212129-3474-02] (RIN: 0648-XC715) received August 10, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2761. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Revisions to Framework Adjustment 50 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan and Sector Annual Catch Entitlements; Updated Annual Catch Limits for Sectors and the Common Pool for Fishing Year 2013 [Docket No.: 130219149-3524-03] (RIN: 0648-BC97) received August 10, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2762. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Shark Management Measures; Amendment 5a [Docket No.: 110831548-3536-02] (RIN: 0648-BB29) received August 10, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2763. A letter from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting a report on applications for delayed-notice search warrants and extensions during fiscal year 2012; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2764. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's 2013 annual report on recommendations made by the Intelligent Transportation Systems Program Advisory Committee; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2765. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's report entitled, ''Department of Energy FY 2012 Methane Hydrate Program Report to Congress'', pursuant to Section 968 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

2766. A letter from the Assistant Secretary For Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Certification of Factual Information to Import Administration During Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings [Docket No.: 0612243022-3538-03] (RIN: 0625-AA66) received August 10, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2767. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Update of Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates [Notice 2013-52] received August 10, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2768. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — 2013 Section 43 Inflation Adjustment [Notice 2013-50] received August 10, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2769. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting Third Quarterly Report of FY 2013 under The Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2008; jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Veterans' Affairs.

2770. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting Second Quarterly Report of FY 2013 on the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994; jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Veterans' Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of the rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 2844. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to consolidate the reporting obligations of the Federal Communications Commission in order to improve congressional oversight and reduce reporting burdens; with an amendment (Rept. 113–189). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself and Mr. VEASEY):

H.R. 3064. A bill to establish scientific standards and protocols across forensic disciplines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GARRETT:

H.R. 3065. A bill to repeal the War Powers Resolution; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COTTON:

H.R. 3066. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to prohibit a government subsidy or contribution for the premiums of a health plan by a Member of Congress or Members' staff or congressional leadership or committee staff; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. LATTA, Mr. BARR, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. LANCE, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, and Mr. TIPTON):

H.R. 3067. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to prohibit a government subsidy for the purchase of a health plan by a Member of Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. BENISHEK:

H.R. 3068. A bill relating to members of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians of Michigan; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. COHEN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. PETERS of Michigan):

H.R. 3069. A bill to improve public safety through increased law enforcement presence and enhanced public safety equipment and programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 3070. A bill to amend section 501 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to reform access to certain business records for foreign intelligence and international terrorism investigations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GINGREY of Georgia:

H.R. 3071. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide that no Government contribution may be made toward the cost of Exchange coverage for any Member of Congress or congressional staff; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 3072. A bill to provide for the establishment of the Local Food for Healthy Families Program; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.J. Res. 58. A joint resolution prohibiting the use of funds available to any United States Government department or agency for the use of force in, or directed at, Syria by the United States Armed Forces; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. WOLF, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. MARINO, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. PITTS, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. FORTENBERRY):

H. Con. Res. 51. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the need for investigation and prosecution of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, whether committed by officials of the Government of Syria, or members of other groups involved in civil war in Syria, and calling on the President to direct the United States representative to the United Nations to use the voice and vote of the United States to immediately promote the establishment of a Syrian war crimes tribunal,

and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BENISHEK:

H. Res. 335. A resolution to refer H.R. 3068, a bill making congressional reference to the United States Court of Federal Claims pursuant to sections 1492 and 2509 of title 28, United States Code, the Indian trust-related claims of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians of Michigan as well as its individual members; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H. Res. 336. A resolution expressing support for designation of the week beginning September 8, 2013, as ''National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week''; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. NORTON:

H. Res. 337. A resolution recognizing the contributions of musician Chuck Brown, the Godfather of Go-Go, to music and to the District of Columbia and expressing support for the designation of a Chuck Brown Day; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 3064.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. GARRETT:

H.R. 3065.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 11 (The Congress shall have power . . . to declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water).

By Mr. COTTON:

H.R. 3066.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9—No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law;

By Mrs. CAPITO:

H.R. 3067.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

No Obamacare Subsidies for Members of Congress Act

Article I Section 1: All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States.

Article I Section 6 Clause 1: The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States.

Article I Section 8 Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. BENISHEK:

H.R. 3068.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8 which allows Congress to regulate trade amongst the Indian Tribes. This bill is enacted pursuant to treaties lawfully entered into and ratified pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article II, Section 2, Clause 2. This bill is enacted pursuant to Article III Section 2 which grants Congress power to regulate jurisdiction in courts inferior to the United States Supreme Court.

By Mr. CONYERS:

H.R. 3069.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8, clauses 1 and 18.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 3070.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Mr. GINGREY of Georgia:

H.R. 3071.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

United States Constitution Article I, Section 8

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 3072.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 gives Congress the power to creates laws that provide for the general welfare of the United States.

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.J. Res. 58.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 1, 11, and 12

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 7: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.

H.R. 23: Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 24: Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MEADOWS, and Mr. DIAZ-BALART.

H.R. 38: Mr. ROYCE.

H.R. 73: Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 75: Mr. FINCHER.

H.R. 148: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 176: Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 199: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 262: Mr. POE of Texas.

H.R. 301: Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. RADEL, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. SMITH of Texas.

H.R. 303: Mr. GOODLATTE and Mr. BENISHEK.

H.R. 320: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.

H.R. 383: Mr. NOLAN.

H.R. 449: Mr. POMPEO and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.

H.R. 495: Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. LONG.

H.R. 508: Mr. CARNEY and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 521: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 525: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 565: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 647: Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. FARR, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. LEE of California, and Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 685: Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. YOHO, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. JENKINS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MARINO, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. PETRI, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. GARCIA, Mr. PERRY, Mr. HOLT, Ms. HAHN, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, and Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 688: Ms. LEE of California and Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 690: Mr. WELCH, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mr. NUGENT.

H.R. 705: Mr. ROE of Tennessee and Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.R. 721: Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 725: Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 744: Mr. GARCIA.

H.R. 755: Mr. RADEL, Mr. YOHO, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mr. CASSIDY.

H.R. 792: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. PERRY.

H.R. 801: Mr. RENACCI.

H.R. 833: Mr. RADEL.

H.R. 920: Mr. BRIDENSTINE and Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 946: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

H.R. 961: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. FOSTER, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 980: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 984: Mr. MAFFEI.

H.R. 997: Mr. LAMALFA and Mr. LONG.

H.R. 1008: Mr. HINOJOSA.

H.R. 1024: Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 1077: Mr. COBLE, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. CULBERSON, and Mr. PERRY.

H.R. 1078: Mr. BARR and Mr. LATHAM.

H.R. 1095: Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 1130: Mr. JOYCE.

H.R. 1155: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Ms. ESTY, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, and Mr. STOCKMAN.

H.R. 1173: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 1199: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 1238: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 1239: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 1249: Mr. COBLE.

H.R. 1250: Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, and Mr. SMITH of Texas.

H.R. 1251: Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 1252: Mr. BARLETTA, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 1254: Mr. CRAWFORD and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 1281: Mr. MORAN.

H.R. 1286: Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 1384: Mr. HUFFMAN and Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 1461: Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. PITTS.

H.R. 1563: Mr. VARGAS, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. BENTIVOLIO, Mr. ADERHOLT, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 1572: Mrs. BACHMANN.

H.R. 1591: Mr. GINGREY of Georgia.

H.R. 1598: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 1623: Ms. WATERS and Mr. TIERNEY.

H.R. 1726: Mr. DENT, Mr. PETRI, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 1734: Mr. WELCH and Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 1735: Mr. FLORES, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. FLEMING, and Mr. NUNNELEE.

H.R. 1771: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Mr. FORTENBERRY.

H.R. 1775: Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. ANDREWS.

H.R. 1779: Mr. GOSAR, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. JONES, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SALMON, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. MARINO, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. DAINES, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. KLINE, and Mr. GUTHRIE.

H.R. 1798: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 1830: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 1842: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 1843: Mr. MORAN.

H.R. 1869: Mr. BENISHEK.

H.R. 1890: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 1893: Mr. TAKANO, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 1921: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. CHU, and Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 1941: Mr. CONNOLLY and Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 1945: Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 1976: Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 2023: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 2030: Ms. SCHWARTZ.
H.R. 2039: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 2043: Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 2045: Mr. BURGESS.
H.R. 2046: Mr. YOHO.
H.R. 2086: Mr. HORSFORD and Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 2129: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 2146: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 2202: Mr. COLLINS of New York.
H.R. 2224: Mr. HOLT, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. LOBIONDO, and Mr. REICHERT.
H.R. 2274: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
H.R. 2328: Mr. PETRI, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. YOHO, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. COFFMAN, and Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2330: Mr. MARINO and Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 2347: Mr. GINGREY of Georgia.
H.R. 2349: Mr. ELLISON, Mr. RUSH, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. ENYART, Mr. PETERS of California, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. FARR.
H.R. 2415: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mr. DELANEY.
H.R. 2468: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 2478: Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, and Mr. LANKFORD.
H.R. 2485: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 2495: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
H.R. 2502: Mr. RANGEL, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. ISRAEL, and Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 2504: Mr. HIMES, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, and Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 2512: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 2520: Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 2522: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 2527: Ms. WATERS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 2548: Mr. COHEN, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. LONG, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. SCHOCK.
H.R. 2549: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 2557: Mr. WESTMORELAND.
H.R. 2575: Mrs. NOEM, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. MCKEON, and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
H.R. 2590: Mr. HANNA.
H.R. 2591: Mr. ELLISON, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. ESTY.
H.R. 2606: Mr. MCDERMOTT and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 2682: Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. TERRY, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. COOK, Mr. SANFORD, and Mr. CARTER.
H.R. 2689: Mr. HANNA.
H.R. 2697: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2707: Ms. FUDGE.
H.R. 2717: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN and Mr. RADEL.
H.R. 2720: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 2728: Mr. LANKFORD.
H.R. 2760: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 2772: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. FARR, Mr. HONDA, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. BARLETTA, and Mr. GERLACH.
H.R. 2775: Mr. RENACCI, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. WOODALL, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. ADERHOLT, and Mr. YOHO.
H.R. 2805: Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. PITTENGER.
H.R. 2837: Mrs. CAPITO.
H.R. 2847: Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HOLT, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. CHU, and Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H.R. 2871: Mr. HARPER and Mr. PALAZZO.
H.R. 2894: Mr. JOYCE, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, and Mr. DUFFY.
H.R. 2901: Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 2916: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. WESTMORELAND.
H.R. 2936: Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, and Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 2967: Mr. PITTS.
H.R. 2969: Mr. HECK of Nevada.
H.R. 2997: Mr. RADEL and Mr. WESTMORELAND.
H.R. 3023: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
H.R. 3043: Mr. HUNTER.
H.R. 3050: Ms. MENG and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.
H.J. Res. 19: Mr. ROONEY, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mr. YOUNG of Florida.
H.J. Res. 21: Mr. CLAY and Mr. DOGGETT.
H.J. Res. 55: Mr. CARTER, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. NUNNELEE, and Mr. BARR.
H. Con. Res. 34: * * *
H. Con. Res. 48: Mr. PRICE of Georgia and Mr. RICE of South Carolina.
H. Res. 30: Mr. SHIMKUS and Mr. RENACCI.
H. Res. 35: Mr. PITTENGER.
H. Res. 36: Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. REED, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. TERRY, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. PAULSEN.
H. Res. 75: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H. Res. 101: Mr. THOMPSON of California and Mr. HECK of Nevada.
H. Res. 109: Mr. FOSTER, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. COBLE, and Mr. COURTNEY.
H. Res. 123: Ms. LOFGREN.
H. Res. 131: Mr. PITTENGER.
H. Res. 147: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
H. Res. 187: Mr. CICILLINE.
H. Res. 188: Ms. MENG.
H. Res. 227: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H. Res. 238: Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H. Res. 254: Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. SCHOCK, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. ANDREWS, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H. Res. 293: Mr. JONES, Mr. SIMPSON, and Mr. WELCH.
H. Res. 302: Mr. ROYCE, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.
H. Res. 313: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. CAMP

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Ways and Means in H.R. 2775, to condition the provision of premium and cost-sharing subsidies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act upon a certification that a program to verify household income and other qualifications for such subsidies is operational, and for other purposes, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives.

OFFERED BY MR. UPTON

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Energy and Commerce in H.R. 2775 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

CORRECTION

Congressional Record

United States of America

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 159 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2013 No. 117

Senate

The Senate met at 2:00 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TIM KAINE, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Shepherd of our souls, the center of our joy, we look to You today for strength and wisdom. Lord, we acknowledge that unless You guard our Nation, our efforts to find security are futile.

Today illuminate the minds of our Senators with the light of Your insights, enabling them to act decisively. As they anticipate the forces that threaten freedom in our world, lead them on the path that will bring life, liberty, and joy.

We pray in Your merciful Name.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter.

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 9, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TIM KAINE, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. KAINE thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

THE CHAPLAIN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I just had a brief conversation with the Chaplain, who came down to wish me well on my return. He indicated he was going to do a special prayer this afternoon for the Senate in this time of crisis. I am always aware of how he looks out for us spiritually. The prayer is for Democrats, Republicans—all of us. His prayers are very heart-warming. Not only is he our chaplain, but he is a retired admiral in the U.S. Navy. He has been all over the world in that capacity. We appreciate him very much. We don't acknowledge him as often as we should. I appreciate how he is always available and so kind and thoughtful to everyone.

AUTHORIZING THE LIMITED AND SPECIFIED USE OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES AGAINST SYRIA—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to consider S.J. Res. 21.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 21 to authorize limited and specified use of the United States Armed Forces against Syria.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this evening the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider a couple of would-be judges, Caproni and Broderick, both from the Southern District of New York, at 5:30 p.m., and then there will be two rollcall votes on the confirmation of those nominations. We may only have one rollcall vote and one voice vote, but we will get both of them done today.

I just moved to proceed to the joint resolution reported last week by the Foreign Relations Committee to authorize the limited use of force against Syria. This matter demands the attention of the Senate and this country. It is this resolution the Senate will turn to. Regardless of where Senators stand on the merits of this issue, we should have this debate. I hope all Senators will support proceeding to this measure. That vote will occur sometime on Wednesday on the motion to proceed.

Under a previous order, at 11 tomorrow morning, the Senate is to have a motion to proceed to the energy efficiency bill. It is obvious we are not going to be able to do that. I will work with the Republican leader to reach a consent agreement to defer consideration of that bill to a later time.

On the Syria resolution, I intend that the Senate should have a full and open debate. I encourage Senators to come to the floor to begin that debate.

Also this week, President Obama will come to the Capitol to address the Democratic caucus. He has also extended his invitation to the Republicans. I have not heard back from the Republicans as to whether they wish to hear from the President.

President Obama will address the Nation tomorrow evening. Senior administration officials will brief all Senators in a classified session on Wednesday. There will be other meetings in the White House today with Democratic and Republican Senators. The Senate will give this matter the serious attention it deserves.

CHEMICAL WEAPONS

Mr. President, the first large-scale military use of deadly military weapons occurred almost 100 years ago when the Germans deployed chlorine gas during World War I. During that war,

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

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World War I, there were 1,200,000 casualties from attacks with deadly toxins—chlorine gas, mustard gas, and other deathly and destructive chemical agents. Great Britain, Austria, Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, and the United States all suffered losses.

''This is a horrible weapon,'' wrote German Major Karl von Zinger, who reported a firsthand battlefield account of the carnage to his superior officers.

One hundred thousand soldiers died, and most of the other casualties were debilitated for life by the exposure to these deadly toxins. The effects of these killers were horrific. Those who didn't die suffered blindness, burns, blisters, and labored breathing. For those dying, it was as terrible as anyone could imagine. The great World War I era poet Wilfred Owen from Great Britain wrote that gassed soldiers cried out like men on fire as they drowned in air thick with poison. The world was horrified by the gruesomeness of these new evil weapons of war, and so, as a global community, we agreed these weapons should be banished from the battlefield forever.

Despite the success of global efforts to eliminate their use, today the Syrian Government is the second largest holder of chemical weapons in the world—only shortly behind North Korea. The well-documented use of these toxic and unsavory stockpiles by President Bashar al-Asad's regime is a certain violation of the overwhelming international consensus forged against these weapons nearly 10 decades ago. It is a clear violation of human decency. This is not the first time Asad has used chemical weapons against his own citizens. We all heard in our classified briefings that these weapons have been used a number of times, but this is the most gruesome and extensive.

This morning I watched some film in my office. The film takes about 13 minutes. It was pictures that were taken following the dropping of those horrible weapons. I will never get that out of my mind. There were little baby boys and girls dressed in colorful play clothes. Some of the boys and girls looked like teenagers. They were retching and had spasms with their arms. Of course there were older people as well. These poisons kill the kids first. Their little bodies cannot take this as well as older folks. It kills the older people also but more slowly.

The well-documented use of these unsavory stockpiles by Asad is a certain violation, I repeat, of the overwhelming international consensus forged against these weapons 10 decades past. I have talked about human decency. It is a clear violation of human decency.

The August 21 attacks killed more than 1,000 civilians—including hundreds of these children. This week we will further examine the evidence that is growing which proves the viciousness of these attacks and discuss their brutal results.

The innocent civilians who were killed by the Syrian Government during those attacks died terrible deaths. Their death was just as painful and shocking as those suffered on the battlefields of World War I. These deaths were just as terrible as those that convinced the global community to outlaw the use of such brutal tactics against soldiers, and, of course, against innocent civilians such as those Asad murdered last month.

The evidence of the Asad regime, and their using outlawed nerve agents against its own citizens, is clear and very convincing. The Syrian Government has worked to hide the gruesome evidence. They have done it a number of different ways. After the bodies had been cleared away, they sent a barrage of weaponry in there—artillery and tanks—and blasted the ground and destroyed the evidence. They couldn't destroy it; it is still there, but they did try. They worked very hard to hide these gruesome attacks by repeatedly bombing the site of these grisly and unforgettable occurrences. Without question, this brutality demands a response. The satellite imagery and amateur video shot by eyewitnesses—and I talked about that—paint a clear picture of the brutality of this awful regime.

President Obama sought approval 2 weeks ago for targeted military action—action that will hold President Asad accountable for these heinous acts. Congress has done its due diligence. Since President Obama announced he would seek congressional approval for the limited military action against Syria, the Senate has held many committee hearings and briefings as well as five classified all-Members briefings. There are more briefings and much debate to come this week—including open debate here in the Senate.

On a bipartisan basis the Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed a resolution that restricts the use of military force to 60 days, with a single 30-day extension. The resolution reflects President Obama's proposal for limited military action—including strikes of limited duration and limited scope.

The resolution plainly states there may be no U.S. military boots on the ground. America's intention, as specified in the resolution, is not to engage in an open-ended conflict or invasion. Nor is it the Commander in Chief's intention to commit ground troops to this conflict or to effect regime change. Rather, the Senate will be voting to uphold the century-long international consensus that chemical weapons have no place on the battlefield and certainly no place in attacking innocent civilians. This standard demands any government—a dictator or any other government—that has used chemical weapons to be held accountable.

Some may disagree with my conclusions. I don't expect everyone to agree with the statement I am giving here today, as is anyone's right, but this is my firm conviction.

Today, many Americans say that these atrocities are none of our business, that they are not our concern. I disagree. Anytime the powerful turn such weapons of terror and destruction against the powerless it is our business.

The weapons in question are categorically different. Chemical weapons, we know, can kill not just dozens or hundreds of people but tens of thousands of innocents in a single attack—tens of thousands. These weapons don't just pose a threat to the Syrian people or to our allies in the region; they pose a threat to every one of us, every American, and, in particular, every member of the U.S. Armed Forces.

If we allow Asad's use of chemical weapons to go unchecked and unanswered, hostile forces around the world will also assume that these terrible tactics of demons such as Asad are permissible, that they are OK. That America cannot allow. That is why the massacres in Syria are our business and our concern, both as humans and as Americans. America's willingness to stand for what is right should not end at its borders.

Our intervention on behalf of those in danger hasn't always been popular. Look back at history. There has always been part of our society that prefers isolation. Look prior to World War I. Look prior to World War II. Some prefer isolation. That is the easy thing to do. But sitting on the sidelines isn't what made the United States of America the greatest Nation in the world in years past and, yes, today, and sitting on the sidelines won't make us a better Nation tomorrow.

As America faces yet another crisis of conscience, another opportunity to intervene on behalf of humanity, my mind returns to that turning point in the world's history when the United States of America faced down an evil regime that murdered millions of innocent citizens. Millions of civilians and prisoners of war were murdered by gas in Nazi death camps—Belsen, Treblinka, Auschwitz. Never again, swore the world. Never again would we permit the use of these poisonous weapons of war.

Fourteen blocks from here, down Constitution Avenue, is the Holocaust Museum. We walk in there and see a quote on the wall from Dante's famous ''Inferno.'' Here is what it says: ''The hottest places in hell are reserved for those who, in times of great moral crisis, maintain their neutrality.'' I repeat: ''The hottest places in hell are reserved for those who, in times of great moral crisis, maintain their neutrality.'' I have thought about those words very often—and very often lately—as I have considered whether America should take action to avert further atrocities in Syria.

In Europe, in World War II, far too many were neutral. Far too many around the world were neutral. Far too many in America were neutral, and in Europe, in World War II. Six million

Jews and tens of thousands of gypsies, disabled people, gay people, and political dissidents were murdered. Never again.

Now we are faced with that choice again. Some say it is not our fight. Some say Syria is too far away. Some say it is not in our security interest. Russia, China, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, and the United States—we should all remember our history. There were 1.2 million casualties in World War I from these poisons.

We should remember our history. Rabbi Hillel, a respected and famous scholar, said more than 2,000 years ago: ''If I care only for myself, what am I? If not now, when?''

I, HARRY REID, say: If not now, when?

I believe America must set the example for the rest of the world. If America must once again lead—as we have before and we will again—to set an example for the world, so be it. This is America. It is who we are as a country. That is what we do as a country. That is where we stand as a country. That is the American tradition of which I am proud and a tradition which I have faith will continue.

We are the United States of America.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there is an order outstanding. I ask unanimous consent that the order until 5 o'clock today be modified on the motion to proceed, with the other aspects of the order remaining in place.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of debate on the motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 21 until 5 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak to the issues the majority leader just addressed. I don't anticipate speaking for more than 12 to 15 minutes. I know the minority leader is delayed in being able to be here. I would be happy to defer to him when he arrives or I would be happy to defer to someone coming back to speak on the business of the day.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, President Obama will finally make his case to the American people tomorrow, explaining why he wants to take military action against Syria. His explanation is long overdue.

I think I have a pretty good idea of what I expect he will say. First, he will explain that we have compelling evidence that it was Asad himself who used long-banned chemical weapons to murder his own people. This is not seriously contested. Neither I nor perhaps I think any of my colleagues here dispute these sad facts. It has been well documented by our intelligence sources. As a member of that committee, I have had access to those sources, and I don't doubt the conclusion of the President and others that Asad is responsible for this attack.

The President will also most likely explain that such a horrendous violation of international norms deserves a worldwide response of condemnation. Who could possibly look at those standards and those rooms full of dead children and not agree that the perpetrators have to face consequences for their crimes?

The President will also surely discuss the issue of credibility. He is likely to maintain, as he did recently in Stockholm, that it is not his own credibility at stake, nor even American credibility, but the credibility of the international community that will be harmed by inaction.

I agree with those who say the President's credibility and our Nation's credibility are linked. They are. However, with his now notorious and, I believe, ill-considered ''red line'' comment, President Obama has forced us to debate a military attack in yet another Middle Eastern country. Unfortunately, it appears that the purpose of this military attack first and foremost is perhaps to defend his own credibility. I am certain that if the President had not drawn his red line, we would not be having this discussion. In that case, Asad's use of such weapons would be roundly condemned as yet another example of his horrendous brutality, but we would be no more eager to engage militarily in his civil war than we have been as the other 100,000 Syrian people were being slaughtered by more conventional means.

Make no mistake—it is the credibility issue that has brought us to this pass, and the credibility issue is of President Obama's own making—his and his alone.

So tomorrow evening the President will need to explain to the American public exactly what will be achieved by this limited, focused attack, as described by the administration, beyond simply a token punishment for a horrendous crime in defense of his credibility. The President has said the proposed limited attack is to be a ''shot across the bow.'' His Secretary of State, Secretary Kerry, has said it is going to be unbelievably small. We need to know what the plan is, and will be, should President Asad be undeterred by this unbelievably small, shot-across-the-bow attack. What if he isn't? What then? What do we do next? The President needs to explain that.

We need to know how this escalation is likely to influence extremist radical fighters now active in Syria—extremist radical fighters. There is not a line between good guys and bad guys here. There is the infiltration of Al Qaeda, al-Nusra, and other terrorist organizations and individuals with those seeking to overturn Asad. So it is not clear just how Syria will turn out should Asad be deposed. I don't think these extremist fighters will be overly concerned with an ''unbelievably small, shot across the bow'' response by the United States.

What will Hezbollah and Hamas and Al Qaeda affiliate fighters do when this ''show of force'' is over? What is the President's plan of action if the chemical weapons fall into the hands of these anti-American jihadists? And how about the always-threatened spillover of the Syria conflict into Lebanon or Turkey or Jordan? Will an attack intended to slap Asad's wrist while defending President Obama's credibility make expansion of the conflict more likely or less likely? Most importantly, the President needs to explain to the American people more thoroughly exactly how America's national security and best interests will be served by this response.

The President, in my opinion, must also address additional concerns that are widely—almost universally—shared by the American people. We all know that taking America to war without support from the people is the surest path to disaster. I suggest this must be avoided, and the President is going to have to make his case as to how to avoid that.

Over this last week I visited with Hoosiers from across Indiana to gather their input. Through these visits, as well as calls and e-mails by the thousands, the vast majority—shockingly, the majority of Hoosiers I have heard from are opposed to U.S. military engagement in Syria. As all conscientious lawmakers, I know I have to balance the views of my constituents with my own judgment on how best to represent their interests and the interests of our country.

In this case, I must first ask myself, what do the people back home in my State know that many of the rest of us here in Washington perhaps do not, or at least have expressed?

First, the people back home know that America has been at war in far-off lands for more than a decade—12 years on. They have seen long repeated deployments of their loved ones, and they have seen the body bags come home. They are aware of sacrifices that have been made in the name of protecting our interests, but they are less aware of positive results of those sacrifices.

They see Iraq descending again into conflict as its own citizens continue to slaughter one another because of different interpretations of the Koran or different political motivations or just pure outright quests for power. They see a corrupt government there that authorizes overflights of Russian aircraft bringing modern weapons to Syria to fuel a similar conflict.

Hoosiers see an Afghanistan so deeply corrupt and ungrateful to the United States that the current regime tries to extort huge ransom payments simply

to permit us to remove equipment and personnel from that sorry country. They do not see meaningful progress toward a democratic, stable, and humane government that was to be the objective of American sacrifice of blood and treasure. They do not see how our 12 years of effort have contributed to our own national security interests.

Hoosiers look at the spiraling disaster in Egypt, where the choices have been an extremist, deeply anti-American Islamic radicalism or a brutal and undemocratic military dictatorship. both benefiting from billions of American taxpayer dollars spent on weapons or lining uniform pockets. In the meantime, fellow Christians are being killed in their churches.

Simply put, the people of Indiana do not see that American policy and action have attained meaningful results in the Middle East. Instead, they see a region of continuing and increasing violence, chaos, and disintegration. They are war weary and they are discouraged after more than a decade of wars that have not produced the desired outcomes.

What they do not see is an articulate response. They do not know what our regional strategy is in the Middle East because no one is explaining it, much less pursuing it. They cannot measure progress because they do not know the destination. And they cannot evaluate this latest proposal for a fourth military engagement in the Middle East because they cannot see how it contributes to our own security here at home.

More importantly, they worry that a focused, limited attack on Syria will end up being something else entirely because so little thought has been devoted to potential unintended consequences. Yes, they are war weary, but the American people are also war wise.

In addition to the above unanswered questions, for me, one of the most important questions is how this proposed limited strike will affect Iran's perception of our resolve and our ability to prevent that country from acquiring nuclear weapons capability. It is not so much what we do or how we do it but how Iran perceives the action we take. This may be the most significant question of all because, unlike Syria, Iran poses threats to our core national security interests.

Part of the administration's argument is that to do nothing would embolden the Iranian regime as they pursue their own weapons-of-mass-destruction programs. But I think we have to raise the question, is that really so, or is it, perhaps, the reverse? Will a limited punitive attack discourage the mullahs in Iran because of some degree of destruction—remember, unbelievably small—or will it actually encourage the Iranians because there is no followup option or broader strategic context informing our policy? If an attack is ineffective in altering Asad's behavior or fortune, will it not actually encourage Iran in pursuing its own weapons program? I have not heard the administration address this question.

Also, will a fourth military engagement in the Middle East make it harder to assemble popular and political support for action should Iran's behavior make that necessary? My constant fear here during the past several years, as I have been engaged on the Iranian issue of the pursuit of nuclear weapons, has been that our country will be too militarily, politically, and economically exhausted to confront the real strategic enemy when our core interests require it. I fear a Syria attack will make this problem even more difficult. To my knowledge, no one has yet to address this question within the administration, which President Obama, like the previous three Presidents, has declared a nuclear-weapons-capable Iran to be ''unacceptable.''

I think this is a critical question we must have to ask ourselves. For all of those who are saying: We will change the perception of Iran to the point where they will change their behavior in the pursuit of nuclear weapons by a, quote, unbelievably small shot across the bow or a military response that could lead us into further conflict in the Middle East—I think this undermines our credibility. I think the question has to be asked: Is the reverse going to happen as a consequence of all of this?

This is a deeply historic and profound moment for our Nation. It carries an importance that goes well beyond Syria or even the Middle East. This debate carries important consequences for the relationship between the executive and legislative branches of our government.

To refuse the Commander in Chief war-making authorities when he has asked for them is not a decision any of us can take lightly.

We must all balance the views of the people we represent—even when they have been nearly unanimous—with other elements, such as the abstract, unknowable geostrategic factors that could carry profound consequences not just for this year or next year, for this generation, but for many generations; and such as the compelling moral arguments that resonate with special strength in our unique Nation guided from birth by moral principles; and now even the constitutional challenges that could affect the delicate balance we have maintained for two centuries.

I will weigh all I have said before I announce how I intend to vote on the resolution before us. I will defer to the President's request to address the Nation. In my opinion, consequential actions proposed by the President need to be clarified and numerous questions need to be answered before we grant the authority to the President to engage America in yet another Middle East conflict.

With that, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I wish to address the subject of Syria.

First of all, I wish to commend to anyone who is listening to my voice to view the videos the intelligence community has released. They came from social media. There are 13 videos that came from a body of in excess of 100 videos, but they show the horror of what happens to the human body with an attack by a weapon of mass destruction—in this case, chemical weapons, a gas called sarin.

It is my hope the President, when he speaks to the Nation on Tuesday, will show clips of those videos because I think very few Americans have seen the extent of those videos, even though they have been shown on some cable shows in some limited amounts. They could see the range of why, almost a century ago, in 1925, the nations of the world came together in a treaty after the use of chemical weapons in World War I. This treaty banned the use of chemical weapons anywhere, any time, including in war, because of the horrific nature their use causes. In the 1990s this was subsequently reaffirmed in a convention or some kind of conclave which the nations of the world—I believe in excess of 180 nations—signed banning the use of chemical weapons.

If you watch the videos, you will see why. You will see what happens to innocent human beings as they struggle for life before the throes of death overtake them. You will see this on the videos. Of course, parents may wish to use discretion because it is going to make a lasting impression. You will see how the body starts to shut down by the nerves being attacked.

Interestingly, for the first time in a CBS interview today, President Asad of Syria has said, has admitted, today, that Syria has chemical weapons. Up to this point that was denied. No wonder he would want to deny, because when you see what happens in the use of them and what it does to the human nervous system—and I don't wish to be graphic, because I want anybody listening to what I am saying to watch them. I hope the President will show them Tuesday night, to see how the human body convulses when it attacks the nervous system—the convulsions, the twitching, what happens to the face, the respiratory system, and all of the evidence that comes from that.

The American people need to know what we are dealing with, not only in Syria but in other nations that possess chemical weapons. This is not only sarin, which was the gas used here, but also mustard gas and a toxin called VX that directly attacks the nervous system. It does not have to be inhaled,

like mustard gas or sarin, to do its evil deed. Instead, VX can be absorbed through the skin.

If the American people understand the consequences of the use of this, they will understand why it is classified as a weapon of mass destruction, along with biological weapons of mass destruction introducing some plague among a community of innocents and, of course, the weapon of mass destruction that most everybody recognizes, the nuclear weapon.

There are three weapons of mass destruction: chemical, biological, and nuclear. This is why, in the family of civilized nations, we have said their use is so abhorrent that civilized humans say they should be banned. But they weren't. They were used extensively on August 21.

Before I give the unclassified evidence, I wish to point out that maybe there is a little opening on the occasion of the Russian Foreign Minister today, since our Secretary of State, almost in an offhanded comment a few days ago, said it would certainly be a game changer if he, Asad, would allow the international community to come in and take control of his Syrian chemical weapons. The Russian Foreign Minister today picked that up. Supposedly there is a comment by an official out of Syria who says that is worth looking into. I can't speak to the authenticity of that comment. I have heard it was said.

Whatever it is, of course, Asad is the decisionmaker and it is ultimately going to come down on him. But in the meantime, what the United States ought to do—and the Congress of the United States ought to authorize what the President of the United States has requested, that the Congress back him in giving him the authority to use a limited, short duration retaliation in degrading Asad's capability of utilizing these weapons in the future.

If Congress will give the President that authority, it may well be the additional incentive for the ultimate decisionmaker, President Asad, to do what the Russian Foreign Minister has suggested. That would be a good thing.

In the meantime, they are going to be debating this and we are going to be put to the question: Do we support the President in this time of peril?

Let us look at the facts. I think when you see the videos, clearly, most every reasonable human being is going to conclude chemical weapons were used on innocents in the Damascus suburbs on the night of August 21.

The question then, of course, is, is there a chain of custody to show in fact they came from the Syrian army? There is an unclassified body of evidence that clearly shows, to put it in the speak of the intelligence community, we have high confidence. That means it happened.

How did that happen? The assessment is the Syrian chemical weapons personnel, who are associated with the chemical weapons part of the Syrian command, were preparing chemical munitions prior to the attack. This is all unclassified. There were streams of data of human signals and geospatial intelligence that revealed regime activities that were associated with the preparations for that chemical weapons attack. Syria chemical weapons personnel, we know, were operating in the Damascus suburb from August 18 all the way through August 21. That was the suburb that was attacked. Multiple streams of intelligence indicate the Syrian army executed the rocket and artillery attack against those suburbs in the early morning hours of August 21. We have satellite detections that corroborate those attacks from a regime-controlled neighborhood to where the attacks landed. At the same time, social media reports started exploding about a chemical attack in the Damascus suburbs. Those social media reports started coming at 2:30 in the morning. Three hospitals in Damascus received approximately 3,600 patients displaying the symptoms of a nerve agent exposure, and they received them in less than 3 hours on the morning of August 21.

As I said earlier, there have been over 100 videos attributed to the attack. This has been distilled down into 13 videos, many of them showing large numbers of bodies exhibiting the physical signs of nerve agent exposure. Any Member of the Senate will have access to the classified information that shows the Syrian opposition does not have the capability to fabricate those videos or the physical symptoms verified by the medical personnel.

So when we put all of this together, with past Syrian practice and some of the small-scale attacks they have done previously, the conclusion is obvious: The Syrian regime of Bashar Asad was willing and directed the attack on August 21.

To this Senator, who has had the privilege of seeing and hearing classified information—and I have visited with President Asad three times, the last time being 6 years ago where the two of us had a sharp exchange over what was happening in Lebanon and the fact he was harboring Hamas and Hezbollah, which of course he denied—the conclusion is obvious: There is a substantial body of information that corroborates that the Syrian Government was responsible for the chemical weapons attack on August 21.

There is additional information for the Senators to see, but the question is, Are we going to agree to the President's request that we authorize him to attack? If we don't, where does that leave the President on any kind of negotiations in the future? If the President decides to go ahead and attack, we automatically give to the opponents in these countries—especially President Asad and North Korea and Iran—the obvious scenario that the American people are so divided that they won't support the President. So if he were to decide to attack—knowing it is his responsibility to provide for the national security, and he has sworn to provide for that national security—we will look so divided at that point, whatever the scenario is for the future.

What about the mindset of other people who want to do harm to the United States? Does it give additional license to North Korea if we were to do nothing? North Korea is sitting on a huge stockpile of chemical weapons, not to mention their nuclear weapons. What about Iran? We are very concerned as they continue to energize weapons material and march down the road perhaps to building a nuclear weapon. What kind of message does it send to Iran? Just game that out. If Iran had a nuclear weapon or felt free to use chemical weapons, what would that do to the interests of the United States in that region of the world, not to mention our allies in the region, of which there are many.

So it is clear to this Senator. I will admit I don't know why the President did not keep his own counsel and make the decision without saying he wanted to come to Congress, but he made that decision, and now it is up to us.

Hopefully, there may be some validity to this report coming from the Russian Foreign Minister, but we won't know that for a long while, until, as we say, the proof is in the pudding with Asad turning over control of all the chemical weapons to an international body. In the meantime, are we going to support the President? Clearly, in the interest of the national security of this country and our allies, I think that is a position we must take. I will vote yes on the resolution.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, what is the pending business before the Senate?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate is on the motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 21.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Which is?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Syria resolution.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, it is to that ominous resolution that I would like to speak.

Within a few days the Senate will be called upon to vote on whether to give the President of the United States limited authority to use military action in response to Syrian President Asad's use of chemical weapons against his own people. It is an enormous and grave decision. It is the most serious vote I can take.

When a U.S. Senator is called upon to authorize America's use of military action or military might, it calls for the

most sober reflection, the most due diligence analysis of the facts and the compelling need because once you vote to authorize the use of military might, you cannot take it back. It is one of the few votes you can't take back. We can vote on our budget this year, but there will be another vote next year. You can vote to confirm a member of the Cabinet, but they serve at the pleasure of the President. But once you vote to use military might or military action, it is irrevocable, so I take it very seriously.

I say to the men and women of our military that we owe them a tremendous debt of gratitude. I think that should not only be with yellow ribbons, but we also owe it to them to do the due diligence to choose the wisest, most prudent course.

This is what I have done as I have contemplated my vote on the Syria resolution. I went to numerous briefings before Asad used chemical weapons, and I have gone to all of the briefings since then. I participated as a member of the Intelligence Committee in a variety of meetings. I went to a classified House and Senate briefing. I have listened carefully to the President, to the Secretary of State, to the Secretary of Defense, and even had the opportunity to sit with the Vice President of the United States in the Situation Room at the White House to go over this situation and what options are available to the United States of America.

In addition to listening here in Washington, I have also listened to my Marylanders, whether at events or meetings going around the State, whether it has been grocery shopping or just being out in the Maryland community. I have also gotten thousands of e-mails and calls from Maryland constituents, and I want to thank them for their civic engagement. They overwhelmingly oppose military action in Syria. My constituents have spoken loudly and clearly. They don't want a war. They don't want boots on the ground. They don't want an all-in effort. They don't want to use or expend America's talent and treasure on another military expedition. They don't want war, and neither do I.

Yet the use of chemical weapons—a weapon of mass destruction—grim and ghoulish, mandates a response. The use of chemical weapons flies against all international law and international norms. It is an act that should have consequences or I believe it surely will happen again—in Syria, possibly in Korea, possibly used by Iran.

Since the attack, I have been waiting and hoping for a worldwide reaction because if it is serious enough for the world to be aghast, then it is serious enough for them to respond.

I have been waiting to hear from the 189 countries that are signatories to the Chemical Weapons Convention. I believe if you sign a treaty or a convention, you sign up for the responsibility that comes with that, which means stop proliferation of the weapons you signed against; stop the proliferation of chemical weapons; also, if necessary, to take action if mandated.

I am waiting to hear from the Arab League. I wanted to hear from the Arab League, beyond: Yes, we want Asad to be accountable. I don't know what that means—hold him accountable. What does that mean? Does it mean if we use missiles they will send in Arab men to defend Arab women and children? I have not quite heard that.

I have waited to hear from our allies, and there are a hearty, reliable few who have supported us. Are they going to help support the chemical weapons treaty? Are they going to help support the moderates in the opposition? Have they called for a donor conference on refugees? Hello out there.

Then there is the U.N. Security Council. By the way, I applaud the work of the U.N. weapons inspectors and the U.N.'s work on refugees, but where is the Security Council? People will say: Oh, we can't act unless the Security Council acts. Three times Asad enablers at the U.N., Russia and China, have vetoed every effort to move to a political solution—vetoed three times efforts to move to a political solution. The U.N. seems paralyzed in this effort.

In deciding my vote, I had to be sure that chemical weapons were used by the Asad regime. I was 1 of 19 Senators who voted against going to war in Iraq. I did vote after 9/11 to use lethal action against the Taliban, but when it came to the Iraq war, as a member of the Intelligence Committee I had reviewed these briefs and I did not believe Saddam Hussein had nuclear weapons so I voted no. I was right.

This time is different because, after extensive briefings and the evidence that has been outlined to members of the Intelligence Committee, I am satisfied that, indeed, chemical weapons were used in Syria and I am satisfied the Asad regime gave the order to do so.

There are those who say to me: Senator BARB, aren't you concerned about the risks and the retaliations if we take action? You bet I am. I worry about that. I worry about my own country. I worry about our own military. I worry about treasured allies such as Jordan, Israel, Turkey. But I also worry about the risk of doing nothing because, as I weigh this, I believe the risk and retaliatory possibilities are the same even if we do not act because if they do not use them in retaliation against us there is a very good chance that if we leave it unresponded to, they will use them anyway. There is no guarantee that by doing nothing the bad guys, who have chemical weapons, will do nothing. In fact, I fear that Asad, Iran, and North Korea will be further emboldened.

Last, I had to review the President's resolution that is pending before us, that came out of the Foreign Relations Committee, modified, and the President's plan. The President's plan is very straightforward, his proposal is very straightforward, a targeted limited attack. His purpose is to deter and to degrade; to deter Asad from using those weapons again and to degrade Asad's capability and capacity to use them.

I also listened to the President's promise—and I take him at his word—that any action would not be boots on the ground; that it is not an extended air campaign; that it is not another Iraq or Afghanistan; that we are not in it to try to do regime change. That must come from the Syrian opposition themselves, and I hope others help do that. It is meant to deter the use of chemical weapons and to degrade Asad's capability.

I believe the President's plan is the best response to protect U.S. security interests in the region and to show commitment to our common security interests with allies such as Turkey, Jordan, and Israel. Therefore, after great reflection and as much due diligence as I could do, I want to announce today to my colleagues, and most of all to the people of Maryland who supported me, that I will support the President's request for a targeted, limited military action against the Syrian President Bashar Asad's regime in response to the horrific, grim, and ghoulish use of chemical weapons.

Let me be clear: I have no grand hopes or illusions about what this strike will do. I do not believe this strike will stop Syria's brutal civil war. I do not believe this strike will stop Asad from being a ruthless, brutal dictator. I do not believe a strike will eliminate all of his chemical weapons. But I do believe it will deter and degrade his capability to strike again, and I do believe when you sign up for a convention to ban the use of chemical weapons, the United States of America acts in accordance with its responsibility.

Syria is one of the toughest foreign policy issues on which we have focused; there are not many good options. Yet I believe the President's plan is the best way and, as of this moment, the only way forward. He has my support.

In today's late-breaking news, I understand Russia has now said: Oh, let's put these weapons under international control. Where were the Russians during the U.N. Security Council meetings on those three other occasions? Is this another tactic for delay? Is this just another tactic to enable Asad to have more time to focus?

I remain skeptical, but I will leave that to the President to analyze the Russians' intent about what their followthrough is on that. Today is not to mandate the strike. My vote does not mandate a strike. But my vote is to say: Mr. President, you are the Commander in Chief. We can only have one at a time. You analyze the situation and if you think it is necessary to protect the security of the United States of America and to fulfill our responsibilities under the conventions we

have signed on chemical weapons, you have my support to act in what you think is the best way and in our best interests.

I look forward to additional debate with my colleagues and also further in this debate, in coming to closure, hopefully this week.

I yield the floor.

I note the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the situation in Syria and the historic choice facing this Congress and America. I have been deeply concerned about the situation in Syria since March of 2011, when thousands of Syrians from all backgrounds peacefully protested for a change in the politics and the economy of their country. I think many of us believed these peaceful protests would lead to the end of an autocratic Asad regime, just as other despots have fallen in other parts of the Arab world.

Yet President Bashar al-Asad, like his father before him, Hafez al-Asad, instead responded with horrific violence to suppress the aspirations of his own people. With the disturbing help of Russia, Hezbollah, and Iran, Asad has managed to hang on to power and turn his country into a humanitarian nightmare.

I met with the Russian Ambassador to the United States here in my office in Washington on this issue. I visited the refugee camps along the Turkish border. I talked with the moderate Syrian opposition in Istanbul. I discussed this situation with the Turkish President, Mr. Gul, and their Foreign Minister, Davutoglu, and met with many Chicago-area Syrian Americans.

I hoped diplomatic and economic pressure would bring an end to the mayhem and human suffering in Syria. I know the American people feel a responsibility for those overseas in need and those who are struggling to find freedom. But I also know something else about the people of my State of Illinois, and I believe of this country: They are weary of war.

Then came the August 21 chemical attack in the suburbs of Damascus in the middle of the night. At that moment an important challenge was thrown down to the international community. That is not in any way to diminish the violence that has taken place in Syria over the last several years. Over 100,000 died in that violence.

But when it comes to the use of chemical weapons, the world made a decision almost 100 years ago about their use—even in war. How did we reach this international consensus on this horrible weapon? We saw firsthand what it could do. The large-scale use of chemical weapons in World War I killed many and left many wounded and disabled.

Those who have some memory of this war—either from a history class or having spoken to someone who served there—understand what it meant. These photos can't do justice to the devastation of chemical weapons and poison gas, but this is a German gas attack on the Eastern Front in World War I. We can see that as the gas billowed, the victims were anyone who happened to be in its wake.

This is also a photograph of British troops from World War I who were subjected to the poison gas, the chemical weapon of the day, and blinded during the battle of Estaire in 1918. These photos show just a snapshot of the use of poison gases which don't reach the level of virulence of those used today. Yet maybe even more poignant are the audio recordings of the actual former World War I British soldiers maintained by the BBC for generations so the experience would not be forgotten.

This is one excerpt of British troops struggling to cope with the effects of chemical warfare:

> Propped up against a wall was a dozen men—all gassed—their colours were black, green and blue, tongues hanging out and eyes staring—one or two were dead and others beyond human aid, some were coughing up green froth from their lungs—as we advanced we passed many more men lying in the ditches and gutterways—shells were bursting all around.

This BBC report went on to say:

> My Respirator fell to pieces with the continual removal and readjustment—the gas closed my eyes and filled them with matter and I could not see. I was left lying in the trench with one other gassed man and various wounded beings and corpses and forced to lie and spit, cough and gasp the whole of the day in that trench.

Another soldier recorded by the BBC said:

> . . . the faces of our lads who lay in the open changed colour and presented a gruesome spectacle. Their faces and hands gradually assumed a blue and green color and their buttons and metal fittings on their uniform were all discoloured. Many lay there with their legs drawn up and clutching their throats.

As a result of the horrors of World War I, in 1925 the Geneva Protocol prohibited the use of chemical and biological weapons in war. It was drawn up and signed at a conference held in Geneva under the auspices of the League of Nations, the precursor of the United Nations. This happened in June of 1925, and it became a force of law in February of 1928. Syria was a signatory to this agreement.

Let me read the opening of this protocol. It is even relevant today.

> Whereas the use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases, and of all analogous liquids, materials or devices, has been justly condemned by the general opinion of the civilized world; and
>
> Whereas the prohibition of such use has been declared in Treaties to which the majority of Powers of the world are Parties; and
>
> To the end that this prohibition shall be universally accepted as a part of International Law, binding alike the conscience and the practice of nations.

What the world was saying in 1925 was clear: These chemical weapons would never, ever be accepted in the civilized world. This message was reaffirmed by the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Use of Chemical Weapons, which went into effect in 1997 and to which almost every country in the world has signed—almost every country. Those who have not signed: Angola, Egypt, North Korea, South Sudan, and Syria.

While not completely taken off the world's battlefields—notably in the case of Iraq, which used poison gas against Iran and its own Kurdish people in the 1980s—the global prohibition against using chemical weapons has been largely upheld for almost a century, that is, until last month in Damascus, Syria. Syria has one of the largest stockpiles of chemical weapons in the world.

At our hearing last week, I asked General Dempsey whether the reports which we have from the French were accurate. They reported the Syrians now have almost 1,000 tons of chemical agents and hundreds of tons of the deadly gas sarin, which has been detected in the pathological investigation of those who were victims on August 21 in Damascus, Syria.

Despite all international warnings not to do so—the Syrian Government is literally a superpower when it comes to chemical weapons and has an arsenal on such a large scale—on August 21, in the desperation of war, Bashar Asad unleashed these chemical weapons in his own city on his own people.

These are horrible pictures of what happened as a result of that attack. I have seen worse. One room of children stacked like cordwood—victims of these chemical weapons. We don't believe it was the first time he has used them, and his father used them before him. But it is the largest scale we have ever seen of the use of chemical weapons by Asad in Syria.

Syria has crossed the line the civilized world said must never be crossed. Not only has the community of nations agreed that such weapons are never to be used but other regimes with weapons of mass destruction or plans for such weapons—including North Korea and Iran—are undoubtedly watching to see what the world will do now.

Now that Bashar Asad has used chemical weapons in Syria, now that the world has reported it, now that the photos are there for the world to see, and now that the pathological investigations are completed, what will the world do? Ideally there is a place to resolve it—the U.N. Security Council. But, sadly, both Russia and China have said they will veto not only any effort

to hold Asad to account, they have literally vetoed efforts to even pass resolutions condemning the use of chemical weapons without specificity in Syria.

Russia's behavior is incredible and particularly perverse given the thousands of Russian soldiers who were victims of chemical weapon attacks in World War I. In May 1915 alone, Russian soldiers on the Eastern Front suffered 9,000 casualties—1,000 of them fatalities—as a result of German chemical weapons.

Today I was in the airport in Chicago, and the news was flashing about an overture made by President Putin to try to put an end to this controversy. I, of course, salute and applaud any effort to resolve this the right way and verifiable way, and to do it with dispatch.

What I understand this proposal to be is that the Syrians will somehow destroy their cache of chemical weapons and, of course, forswear never to use them. That would be a good opportunity, but it will be a difficult outcome because investigating with a third party, such as the United Nations, verifying where these weapons are, removing them from Syria in the midst of a civil war, is particularly challenging. If there is a way to do this diplomatically, safely, and to do it in a fashion where we can be certain this type of atrocity will not occur again, we absolutely have a responsibility to pursue it.

I don't understand how Russia and China can be signatories to the 1925 Geneva Protocols and the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and then turn around and protect Syria in the Security Council of the United Nations. If there is one international agency that should be involved in any major diplomatic effort to resolve this peacefully, it should be the United Nations.

We should call on Mr. Putin to step forward with the leaders in China and say they will work with the Security Council to execute any diplomatic policy that can avoid further military confrontation. Until then, make no mistake, President Putin's proposal today, and the activities we are seeing and hearing from Syria, are a direct result of President Obama's leadership. He has stepped up—even though it is an unpopular position with some in this country—and said we cannot ignore this redline created by the world when it came to chemical weapons. It is time for others to stand and join us in stopping the advancement and use of chemical weapons once and for all.

I have been listening to this Syria debate, and I cannot say how many times I have harkened back to that time 12 years ago when we debated entering the war in Iraq. It was another one of those votes that come along in the course of a congressional career that keeps you awake at night.

I was serving on the Intelligence Committee in the Senate. I sat through hour after hour of hearings about the suspected weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, but it never came together in a credible way as far as I was concerned. There was such a rush to war 12 years ago. Twenty-three of us voted no—22 Democrats and 1 Republican. I can recall the scene. It was late at night, after midnight, right here in the well of the Senate when three of us were left. It was Kent Conrad of North Dakota and, of course, from Minnesota our friend, the late Senator who served with so much distinction and spoke out so many times on issues of morals and ethics. We cast the vote no and waited in this empty Chamber.

I thought about that vote so many times. I think it was the right vote to vote no, but there comes a moment in history when we have to stand as civilized nations and say to those who are willing to ignore the rules and to break the rules that a line cannot be crossed. I hope we can get that done, and not just for the memory of Senator Wellstone and Senator Conrad, but in memory of so many who served here and faced these challenges in the past in our history. I hope we can find a diplomatic solution that will avoid any military use, but I know the reason we have reached this point in diplomacy with this Putin overture has more to do with the President being determined to stand for a matter of principle than almost anything else. We have to continue to make it clear that we find it unacceptable to use these chemical weapons. We paid a bitter price for the war in Iraq as a nation when we were misled as to weapons of mass destruction.

I have seen the evidence in briefings of this deadly attack in Damascus. I think the evidence is overwhelming and convincing. I think at this point many Americans are reluctant to even consider the use of military force. So we sat down and drew up a resolution in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last week. There are strict limitations within this resolution about the President's authority and power. He has 60 days to execute a military strategy—if nothing else intervenes, 60 days. He can extend it 30 days, but even Congress can object to that if it wishes. He can use military weapons but only for the purposes specified. No troops on the ground. No troops in combat operations. As Senator MCCAIN said yesterday, that will be part of the law. The President has already said that is his standard as well. So for those who are worried about mission creep and where this might lead us, if, God forbid, we are faced with that possibility, this resolution strictly limits what the President can do.

It was about 8 days ago that I got a phone call I will never forget at my home in Springfield late on a Sunday night from the President himself. We talked for about half an hour. We talked about a lot of things because we go back a long way. He talked to me about his thought process and what he is taking under consideration in trying to lead the world in this response to chemical weapons.

I was one of the early supporters of this President. I believe in him. I believe in his values. I believe he has been honest with me and with the American people about the situation we face. I know the options are not good. They never are under these circumstances. But I also know that if we turn our backs on this situation, there will be some dictator in Iran or North Korea who will be emboldened to do even more—to perhaps use not just chemical weapons but even nuclear weapons. There comes a point when we have to take a stand.

I understand when the people I represent across Illinois have said to me so many times in the last week: Why is it always the United States? Why is it that we have to be involved in this so many times? Why do we have to be the policemen to the world?

Well, there is a basic answer to that. I would like to believe we have values the rest of the world looks up to. Oh, we have stumbled in our own history, and we will continue to do so, but we continue to fight for those basic values all around the world.

Secondly, if someone is in trouble in their country somewhere in the world and they have one 9–1–1 call to make, they pray to God the United States will answer because we have the best military in the world. We have responded to challenges around the world throughout history, and seldom do we leave a residual power base behind. We go in, we do the job, we come home. That is something we can't say for a lot of nations. It is an awesome responsibility.

I think the President is doing the right thing. I think his appeal to the leaders around the world and his appeal to the American people is consistent with our values as a nation.

The President doesn't come quickly to war. He is a person who understands, as I do, the heavy price that has to be paid, and he understands there are moments when a leader—a commander in chief, a person with the responsibility of protecting his nation in a dangerous world—has to step forth and lead. If the United States did not take this onerous leadership role, I doubt anyone else would have.

I take very seriously the President's promise that he won't be putting boots on the ground in Syria. I have been to too many funerals and visited too many disabled veterans to ever want to see us do that again, except when it is absolutely necessary for America's survival.

I think what we are doing this week in the Senate is a step in the right direction, and I believe it is a step that can move us toward a safer world. If we can find, because of the President's leadership, a diplomatic response that avoids further military conflict but keeps us safe from these deadly chemical weapons, we should pursue it.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WHITEHOUSE). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, almost all of this week on the floor of the Senate will be dedicated to one of the most serious, if not the most serious, matters this body ever considers—that of war and peace and the question of whether we engage American military assets in conflicts across the globe. I am sure I will be back to the floor later this week to speak on that weighty matter. I appreciate the very passionate remarks of the Senator from Illinois on this subject.

Almost every week over the last several months when the Senate has been in session, I have come to the floor to talk about another subject of life-and-death consequence; that is, the growing number of individuals across this country who have been killed by guns. We are going to debate life and death on the Senate floor this week as we try to figure out what the course of American intervention may or may not be in a place on the other side of the Earth in which far too many innocent people, little babies and adults alike, are being killed. We also need to debate what we are going to do to prevent the fact that babies and teenagers and adults right here in the United States of America are being killed. So I have brought this poster down—or a variant of it—a couple of times a month every single month since about April of this year, and it shows a number. The number is a pretty simple number. It represents the number of people in the United States who have been killed by guns since December 14.

As we get further away from that date, maybe people forget what it is, but in Connecticut we will never, ever forget what that date means. December 14 is the date on which 20 little 6- and 7-year-old boys and girls were killed inside Sandy Hook Elementary School, along with 6 teachers and professionals who protected them, as well as the gunman and his mother. Twenty-eight people in all were killed that day. It has lit a spark under the American consciousness about this issue, which has frankly been lingering for far too long.

Twenty-eight people died in Newtown on December 14, but every day across this country, on average, 30 people die due to homicide from guns. So I am back here today to try to tell the stories of just a handful of the 7,907 people who have been killed at the hands of gun violence since December 14. When I started back in April, I think this number was somewhere around 4,000. It has marched upward and almost doubled since then.

This has been a really bad summer in Connecticut. For instance, in places such as New Haven and Hartford and Bridgeport, we thought we were making some real progress when it came to the number of homicides by guns. This summer, unfortunately, we saw far too many, people such as Devaante Jackson, 18 years old, who was killed on August 15 of this year in New Haven. He was killed in a driveby shooting while simply standing on a sidewalk just after 8 o'clock on the evening of August 15. A friend of Devaante's said:

> I don't understand why somebody would do this to him. He's real good. I never knew he had any problems with anybody because he always (got) along with everybody.

Another friend said:

> He wasn't a bad kid; he was just in the wrong spot at the wrong time . . . everybody should know . . . stop the violence, put the guns down.

A few days later in Hartford, at the same nightclub, in two separate incidents, two young men—Miguel Delgado, age 21, and Brian Simpe, age 19—were killed. Disputes started in the nightclub and spilled out onto the streets of Hartford—two different disputes, two different incidents, and both of these boys were killed.

Brian was 19 years old. He graduated from Manchester High School and attended Manchester Community College. He worked at ShopRite in order to make enough money to go to community college. He wanted to start his own business. He was a kid who wanted to do something great with his life. Before he headed out that night, he tweeted, ''Just another summer night out.'' Unfortunately, in places such as Hartford and New Haven and Bridgeport and Baltimore and Chicago and Los Angeles, this is just another summer night out. Too many people are being killed simply as a result of common disputes, this time happening in a nightclub in Hartford.

Domestic violence, as we know, unfortunately, often leads to tragic homicidal incidents. Janice Lesco, from Coventry, CT, died on August 24—just a few weeks ago—from a gunshot wound to the chest. Her husband, who shot her, then committed suicide. Her husband had a well-documented and decade-long history of threats and abuse. Ms. Lesco was a mother and a grandmother. She had lived in Coventry for most of her life.

Luckily, in Connecticut we have an agreement that people who have a history of domestic violence shouldn't get their hands on a gun, but they can if they walk into a gun show or if they buy their gun on the Internet. We can't simply make the decision here that if a person buys a gun online or a person buys a gun at a gun show, they should be stopped from doing so if they have a history of domestic violence.

Frankly, I was struck by this one newspaper article describing one night in New Haven. This is even earlier—on August 11, 2013. It starts by talking about Torrance Dawkins, a 22-year-old Waterbury man who was celebrating his birthday in a New Haven nightclub when he was shot and killed at about 1:30 on August 11.

The article goes on and sort of casually says that later that day New Haven police responded to more gun violence. A local rapper was putting up sheets on an upcoming concert he was going to be holding in town, and he suffered a single gunshot wound to his neck. Davon Goodwin, who was 18 years old, was later that day shot in the thigh on Hamilton Street. And just before 5 p.m. that day, police were called to an area near Dixwell Avenue and found out that Jermaine Adams, 41, had received a gunshot wound to his face. Those last three people miraculously survived. But we can see how casual gun violence can be on a summer Sunday in New Haven, CT. One young man died as a consequence of a dispute at a nightclub, and three other people luckily survived who were shot later in the day.

Every single day in this country—in the United States of America—30 people are dying due to gun violence. Almost 8,000 people have died since the tragedy in Sandy Hook, and this body has done nothing to stop it. We have had commonsense legislation before this Senate that would just say: You know what. If you have a criminal history, you should not be able to buy a gun, no matter where you buy it—at a gun show, from a gun dealer, online.

We have had commonsense bipartisan legislation on the floor saying: You know what. It should be a crime to buy a whole mess-load of guns from a gun store and then go out and intentionally sell them to criminals. We cannot get that passed either.

We even tried to just say: Let's beef up our mental health system to make sure people who have serious mental illnesses get the treatment they need so they do not resort to violence—the very few who do. That was part of the bill we could not get passed.

So I am going to continue to come down to the floor to give voices to these victims, to talk about the real people, the stories behind the dozens of people who are killed every day by guns and the 8,000 people who have been killed since Sandy Hook. We are going to make an important decision this week about whether we are going to commit military assets to the Middle East, and maybe that debate will stretch into next week and the week after. But we should not forget that while people are dying overseas, people are dying due to gun violence right here in the United States, and before it is too late—before another 8,000 people

die from guns in this country—we should do something about it.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, we come to this Chamber as we have many times before—to make one of the most difficult decisions we are tasked to make: the authorization of the use of American military power—this time in Syria, to respond to the horrific attack, including the use of chemical weapons, of August 21 that took the lives of 1,429 Syrians, including at least 426 children.

The world is watching, America is waiting to see what we do in this Chamber in response to the threat the world faces from those who cross the line of human decency and use chemical weapons against anyone, anywhere in the world.

The images of August 21 were sickening and, in my view, the world cannot ignore the inhumanity and horror of what Bashar al-Asad did.

As I have had to say too many times before as a Member of Congress: I do not take the responsibility to authorize military force lightly or make such decisions easily. I voted against the war in Iraq when it was popular, according to the polls, to vote for the war and strongly supported the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan. But today I urge my colleagues to support this tightly crafted, clearly focused resolution to give the President authorization to use military force in the face of this horrific crime against humanity.

Yes, there are clearly risks to any action we authorize, but the consequences of inaction—the consequences of standing down from fully upholding the norms of international behavior—are greater and graver still: further humanitarian disaster in Syria, regional instability, the loss of American credibility around the world, an emboldened Iran and North Korea, and the disintegration of international law.

This vote will be among the most difficult any of us will be asked to make. But the American people expect us to make the hard decisions and take the hard votes. They expect us to put aside political differences and personal ideologies, forget partisanship and preconceptions, forget the polls and personal consequences.

This is a moment for a profile in courage—a moment for each of us to do what we know is right—based on what we know is in the best interest of the United States, regardless of the polls or pontifications of political pundits.

To be clear, the authorization Senator CORKER and I seek is for focused action, with a clear understanding that American troops will not be on the ground in combat.

We have worked closely to put politics aside, weigh the facts, search our consciences, and pass a resolution in committee that we believe is in the national security interest of the American people.

I have said before and will say again: This is not a declaration of war but a declaration of our values to the world.

I want to thank Senator CORKER for being a close partner in helping to tailor and focus the language of this resolution so it reflects the will of the committee, the interests of the American people, and gives the President the authority he needs to respond to Syria's use of chemical weapons against its own people.

What we know. What we know is clear, notwithstanding Asad's interview and his denials.

According to the declassified intelligence assessment, we know—with high confidence—that the Syrian Government carried out a chemical weapons attack in the Damascus suburbs on August 21.

We know that the buck stops with Asad—his interview-denials aside. We know that he controls the regime's stockpiles of chemical agents, including mustard, sarin, and VX gas, and has thousands of munitions capable of delivering them, again, under his control.

It is inconceivable—and defies all logic—that he would not know about the preparations and deployment of these horrific weapons.

We know that personnel involved in the program are carefully vetted to ensure loyalty to the regime and the security of the program.

We know that chemical weapons personnel from the Syrian Scientific Studies and Research Center, subordinate to the regime's Ministry of Defense, were operating in the Damascus suburb of 'Adra from Sunday, August 18 until early in the morning on Wednesday August 21 near an area the regime uses to mix chemical weapons including sarin.

Human intelligence, as well as signal and geospatial intelligence have shown regime activity in the preparation of chemicals prior to the attack, including the distribution and use of gas masks.

Some may still be skeptical about Asad's direct involvement, but clearly the buck stops with Asad when it comes to the use of these weapons.

Some may also be skeptical that we have not done enough to allow diplomacy to work, but the fact is we have tried diplomacy. We have gone to the UN on many occasions, and it has only bought Asad more time.

Notwithstanding Russia's belated offer today to take action, which, by the way, only be on the table today specifically because of the threat of the use of force, let us not forget it has been their intransigence that brought us to this point in the first place.

The fact is, on August 28, a week after the attack, Russia blocked a UN Security Council resolution that called ''for all necessary measures'' to be taken, and simply called for any state that used chemical weapons to be held accountable.

On the day of the attack, August 21, Russia blocked a Security Council press statement simply expressing ''concern'' that chemical weapons might have been used.

On August 6, Russia blocked another press statement welcoming the news that a UN investigations team would investigate three sites, and calling for their full and fettered access to those sites.

Russia has also vetoed a Security Council resolution enshrining the June 30 Geneva Communique brokered by Kofi Annan, vetoed a resolution calling for an end to violence in Syria, vetoed a draft resolution endorsing the Arab League's plan of action that would have condemned human rights violations.

They blocked a press statement calling for humanitarian access to the besieged city of Homs, and one calling for Syrian authorities to provide the UN with humanitarian access.

Over the course of the conflict in Syria, the United States Government, specifically the State Department, has met consistently with its close allies and partners, as well as with Syria's neighbors, to help prepare the region to detect, prevent, and respond to potential use or proliferation of chemical weapons.

As Ambassador Power acknowledged in her remarks at the Center for American Progress on September 6, the United States has regularly engaged with the Russians and Iranians to attempt to get them to use their influence to stop the Asad regime from using chemical weapons.

The same day, September 6, the United States and 10 other countries issued a joint statement condemning the Asad regime's use of chemical weapons. They were: Australia, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Turkey, and Great Britain. Since then 14 other nations have also signed onto that statement: Albania, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Honduras, Hungary, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Morocco, Qatar, Romania, and the United Arab Emirates.

It is only the threat by the President, and this resolution, that would drive both Russia and Syria to the negotiating table.

The facts are clear. We have tried diplomacy.

Let us understand that this action is not a choice of force or diplomacy. It is about both.

It is about enforcing international norms that will, at the end of the day, leverage necessary UN action and help bring about a political solution.

For those who want to see UN Security Council action, those who want to

push Syria to sign a chemical weapons agreement and give up their weapons, this resolution is the best path to getting there.

Let me say to my colleagues who believe that the authorization of the use of military force will be nothing more than a pin-pick. This resolution will have clear and verifiable consequences.

It will help keep these weapons in check, degrade Asad's ability to deploy them, and prevent the proliferation of chemical weapons and their use by anyone, anywhere in the world.

The resolution will have clear consequences, but it is also not open-ended.

It appropriately narrows the scope, duration, and breadth of the authority granted to meet Congressional concerns, and the concerns of the American people.

It is tightly tailored to give the President ''necessary and appropriate'' authority to use military force to respond to the use of weapons of mass destruction by the Syrian government; protect the national security interests of the United States and our allies and partners; and degrade Syria's capacity to use such weapons in the future.

It has a requirement for determination that the use of military force is necessary, that appropriate diplomatic and other peaceful means to prevent the deployment and use of chemical weapons by Syria have been used, and that the United States has both a specific military plan to achieve the goal of responding to the use of weapons of mass destruction by the Syrian government and that the use of military force is consistent with the broader goals of U.S. strategy toward Syria, including achieving a negotiated settlement to the conflict, and a limitation that specifies that the resolution ''does not authorize the use of United States Armed Forces on the ground in Syria for the purposes of combat operations'' assuring there will be no ''boots on the ground.''

The authorization would end after 60 days, with the President having the ability to request and certify for another 30 days, and with Congress having an opportunity to pass a resolution of disapproval. It provides for an integrated United States Government strategy for Syria, including a comprehensive review of current and planned U.S. diplomatic, political, economic and military policy towards Syria, and requires a Report to Congress on the status of the military operations. I know my colleagues on both sides will want to offer a range of amendments.

Let me say in conclusion, history has taught us harsh lessons when it comes to the use of chemical weapons.

The images we saw of children lined on the floor on August 21 were not the first images the world has ever seen of the horrors of chemical attacks.

We saw them almost 100 years ago in World War I.

If we do not learn from and live by the lessons of the past, if we fail the test of history then we are destined and doomed to repeat it.

If we allow the use and proliferation of chemical weapons despite the world's horror at the gruesome and horrific use of mustard gas, phosgene, and chlorine at the beginning of last century, then we risk the same horrors again in this century.

Let us not fail the test of history.

Let us say to the world that we cannot allow anyone to use chemical weapons again, and that we can never allow such weapons to fall into the hands of stateless-actors and terrorists who would unleash them against America or American interests around the world.

I repeat what I said earlier: Let us understand that this action is not about force or diplomacy. It is about both. It is about enforcing international norms that will, at the end of the day, leverage necessary UN action and help bring about a political solution.

For those who want to see UN Security Council action, those who want to push Syria to sign a chemical weapons agreement and give up their weapons, this is the best path to getting there.

Make no mistake, the use of chemical weapons by the Syrian regime ultimately represents a national security threat to the United States, a global security threat we cannot ignore.

Let me read what our former colleague and respected Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Lugar, recently said in the press: ''We are talking about weapons of mass destruction. We are talking about chemical weapons in particular which may be the greatest threat to our country of any security risk we have—much more than any other government, or another nation—because they can be used by terrorists, by very small groups.

The use of those weapons has got to concern us to the point that we take action whenever any country crosses that line and use these weapons as we have seen in Syria.''

Senator Lugar is right. We must be concerned—deeply concerned—and that is why we must act. The danger of proliferation is too great—too much of a risk—for us to stand silent and stand down.

I urge my colleagues to put aside politics, polls, and preconceptions and do what we know, at the end of the day, is in the national security of the American people.

Again, I want to thank Senator CORKER and members of the committee for working quickly together to respond to this crisis with a well-crafted resolution that is a declaration of our values and will send a clear message that we—and the world—cannot and will not tolerate the use of chemical weapons anywhere—by anyone.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I would like to thank the chairman for his comments for a historical analysis of what has occurred and his comments regarding our ability to work together. I do wish to reiterate a point that the chairman made partially through his comments. I do not think any of us know at this time whether the offers that today have been made from Russia and responses that have been given from Syria, I do not think we have any idea whether there is credibility at present.

What I do know is there would be absolutely zero conversation about that had our committee not passed an authorization out on a 10-to-7 vote and if we were not taking this up this week. So I wish to commend the chairman for his leadership on this issue. I have enjoyed working with him. I have enjoyed working with him on all the issues relative to Syria and all the other things we have done in a bipartisan way.

I think it has been the tradition—I know it has been the tradition of this body, when it comes to issues beyond our shorelines, to set aside partisanship, as was mentioned a moment ago, and do things that are in the best interests of our Nation. There is nothing more important that each Member of this body will take up than the authorization for the use of military force. I sensed it the other day in our committee. I have sensed it with those whom I have talked to since. Each Member is looking at this with a sense of humility and soberness. I truly believe it is up to each Member to make this decision.

I will say the issues of Syria are something I am familiar with. I have traveled to the region, as I know the chairman and many others have. I have traveled three times this year. I wrote an op-ed in the New York Times in April regarding what our response to Syria should be. Our committee thankfully passed, on a 15-to-3 vote on May 21, with the chairman's leadership, the Syria Transition Support Act.

This was to support the vetted moderate opposition and require the administration to develop a comprehensive strategy. I know Members of this body know I support this authorization. I helped write it with the chairman. I am very comfortable with my position in supporting this and believe what we have done with this authorization we have done in the right and correct way.

I will say I have been very dismayed at the administration's lack of response after stating publicly that they were going to support the vetted moderate opposition in certain ways. I have been very frustrated at the response and the lack of support in that way. As I mentioned, I was just in the area 3 weeks ago. I visited the same refugee camp in Turkey on the Syrian border and in Jordan on the Syrian border. I saw some of the same refugees whom I saw there less than 1 year ago.

Candidly, I am dismayed we have not supported the vetted opposition in a better way. I know we have urged out of our committee that we have a much

more comprehensive strategy. I wish that bill had come to the floor. I wish the Senate had taken action. But, candidly, I also am dismayed this administration has not taken action to do something in a more comprehensive way.

No question the introduction of chemical weapons has changed the dynamic tremendously. I think the chairman was very articulate in explaining why this is important. I wish to say to everybody in this body, to me an equally important issue for our Nation is the credibility of the United States of America. I believe our President, whether you support him, whether you like him, I believe the President spoke for our Nation when he established a red line some months ago regarding the use of chemical weapons.

I believe it is very important for our Nation's credibility in the region and in the world that we have an appropriate response when we have a dictator such as Asad take the actions he has taken against international norms the way he has but especially when the Commander in Chief of our Nation has spoken the way he has about this issue. To me this is twofold. Certainly, it is about the international norms that have been spoken to eloquently by many, but to me it is also an issue of this Nation's credibility of the response as people are looking on to what we are going to do.

That is why I support this authorization. I do wish to go back over a couple points the chairman referred to relative to the substance of the authorization. I think most people know the White House sent over an authorization that to me was very broad. It did not define what we were going to do in a specific way.

I know the chairman just talked about the fact that this authorization is tailored. It is specific. Let me go over again specifically what this authorization does. It is specific purposes only: to respond to the use of weapons of mass destruction to dissuade future use, degrade ability, and to prevent transfer, no boots on the ground for combat operations.

I know there have been some discussions about that in our committee. Very emphatically, this authorization eliminates and keeps any boots on the ground for combat operations from occurring.

This has a time limit of 60 days with a 30-day extension which Congress can disapprove. It is geographically limited to Syria only, which the original authorization was not. It is against legitimate military targets only, which again the original authorization was not.

There are a series of determinations the President has to make prior to taking action with this authorization, including that it is in the core national interests of the United States and that he has a military plan to achieve the objectives.

In addition, this authorization requires a comprehensive strategy for a negotiated end to this conflict.

I wish to refer to something else the chairman mentioned; that is, the type of activity. I know there have been a number of editorial comments in papers and publications around the country referring to this as a pinprick. There have been other concerns by Members of this body as to the duration of this effort, as to how long it will be.

I have had the privilege, because of the position I serve in on the Foreign Relations Committee, to be involved in multiple phone calls and personal meetings. There was one last night that lasted at great length with the President and Vice President.

I wish to say to every person in this body, I have no belief whatsoever that if military action is taken, it is going to be a pinprick—none. The American military has incredible ability to deal with issues in a forceful way but also do so in a very short timeframe.

I do believe, based on the many meetings we have had, both with military and civilian leadership, that to characterize what is proposed as a pinprick or to characterize what is proposed as inserting ourselves into a long-term civil war, I think both of those characterizations are wrong.

Obviously, one of the dilemmas people here deal with is that we write policy and then it is up to the administration to carry that out—and no question, none of us will be involved in the direct carrying out. But it is my firm belief that there is not a thread of thinking by the administration that what they are considering is a pinprick.

On the other hand, I have not a thread of thought that they are also considering doing something that is going to involve us in a long-term civil war. Obviously, conflicts such as this are complex.

In closing, let me say this. Each Senator has to make their own decision. This is one of those things where lobbying is not something that is going to make up the minds of Senators. I think each Senator has to make up their own hearts and minds.

What I can say is we are going to have an open process. I know we have talked about the process going forward. I hope Senators will keep their amendments germane. I hope we have a sober debate about an issue that is the most important type of decision any Senator will make.

I am thrilled the President decided to come to Congress for an authorization. I know a lot of people have made many comments regarding this. Candidly, I am pleased the President has come to us for a debate. It is my hope the Senate, after hearing the facts and after having a thoughtful debate, will approve the authorization for the use of military force.

I couldn't agree more with the chairman that if people wish to see a diplomatic solution—which is the only way we are going to end this conflict—I do not think this conflict ends militarily. I believe we have learned a lot from the last two episodes we have been through.

I believe it is important for us to have this authorization because I believe it is the only thing at this point, the fact that we passed it out of committee, the fact that it is on the floor, that might possibly lead to a diplomatic settlement.

I also believe it is time for the President to lead. I know there have been a lot of statements over the last week, and the President had multiple audiences in which to speak. I understand this, and I understand reports out of these meetings can come in many ways not to be accurate.

The President is coming to the Hill tomorrow. He will be making a major speech to the United States, the citizens of our country, tomorrow night. I know many of them have lives, where all of them, most of them, get up in the mornings, go to work, they raise their families, and they haven't had the opportunity to spend as much time on these issues. That is why we are elected to do this.

I will say this. It is very important for the President of the United States to come to Congress and for the President of the United States to make his case to the American people.

He is asking for this authorization. I believe it is important for us to give him this authorization.

Again, I wish to thank the chairman for working with us to make sure we have narrowed this authorization in such a way that I think it meets the test of what the American people and what all of us wish to see happen. But I do believe now it is up to the President, over the next several days and this week, to make his case to the American people as to why the Senate should give him this authorization for the use of military force, which I hope we will do.

I thank you for the time, and I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF VALERIE E. CAPRONI TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

NOMINATION OF VERNON S. BRODERICK TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Valerie E. Caproni,

of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, and Vernon S. Broderick, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 30 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. I ask that all time during this debate on the Executive Calendar be equally divided on both sides and any quorum call that is called be equally divided as well in terms of charging time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today we will be voting on just 2 of the 11 district and circuit nominees left pending on the Senate floor prior to the August recess. Ten of these nominees had been reported by voice vote, and there was no good reason we could not have confirmed them then and allowed them to get to work on behalf of the American people. I hope that Senate Republicans will not seek to drag out the nominees who will be left pending on the floor after today, as they did for the nominations left pending at the end of last year. It took us until May of this year to confirm 9 of the 10 circuit and district nominations that were ready for votes last year, and it will likely take us another month or two to work our way through this new backlog.

One effect of this obstruction is that for the first time in nearly 2 years, our Federal district courts are again facing what the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service calls ''historically high'' vacancies. This could have been avoided if Senate Republicans had simply followed Senate tradition and allowed votes on the nine consensus district nominees before the recess.

The Republicans' effort to obstruct and delay the confirmations of nominees means that over the course of President Obama's administration the number of judicial vacancies nearly doubled. In January 2009, there were 53 Federal district and appellate court vacancies. Today, there are 94 Federal district and appellate court vacancies—37 of which have been designated as judicial emergency vacancies by the nonpartisan Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. This is unacceptable. We have the nominees we need to make progress, but we do not have the consent we need from Senate Republicans.

Republicans have argued that we do not need to pick up the pace of confirming Federal judges, because we have confirmed more of President Obama's nominees than at the same point in 2005, the fifth year of George W. Bush's Presidency. The facts tell a different story. President Bush made just 5 new circuit and district nominations in 2005, compared to 43 new circuit and district nominations by President Obama this year. With more nominees to consider, it only makes sense that we have held more hearings and confirmed more judges this year than in 2005.

Today the Senate will vote on the nominations of Valerie Caproni and Vernon Broderick to fill vacancies in the Southern District of New York. Since the time of her nomination until today, the seat to which Ms. Caproni is nominated has been added to the list of judicial emergency vacancies by the nonpartisan Administrative Office of the Courts. Ms. Caproni is currently vice president and deputy general counsel for Northrop Grumman Corporation. She has served the public in various capacities, including as General Counsel of the Federal Bureau of Investigation from 2003 to 2011, as Regional Director of the Securities and Exchange Commission's Pacific Regional Office from 1998 to 2001, and as a Federal prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York from both 1985 to 1992 and 1998 to 2001. During her tenure as a Federal prosecutor, she served as Chief of the Criminal Division, Chief of the Organized Crime & Racketeering Unit, and Chief of the Special Prosecutions Unit. Ms. Caproni also has extensive experience in private practice, having served as counsel in the New York office of Simpson, Thacher & Bartlett and as an associate at the law firm Cravath, Swaine & Moore. Following law school, Ms. Caproni clerked for the Honorable Phyllis Kravitch of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

Mr. Broderick has split his career between Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, where he is currently a partner and was previously counsel and an associate, and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, where he was an assistant U.S. attorney. A graduate of Yale University and Harvard Law School, Mr. Broderick has extensive experience in Federal court. He has also tried 11 jury cases to verdict. Since he was appointed in 2003 by Mayor Bloomberg, Mr. Broderick has served on the Commission to Combat Police Corruption.

Both nominees have the support of their home State Senators, Senator SCHUMER and Senator GILLIBRAND. Both nominees were also unanimously rated ''well qualified'' by the nonpartisan ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary, its highest rating. They were reported by the Judiciary Committee by voice vote nearly 3 months ago.

I hope the Senate moves to confirm these nominees, but reducing Federal judicial vacancies from 94 to 92 is not enough. It is well past time for the Senate to get serious about giving our Federal courts the resources they need to provide justice for the American people. In July the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Bankruptcy and the Courts held a hearing on the impact of sequestration that highlighted the damage that these senseless cuts are doing to our justice system. Tomorrow, Senator COONS will chair another hearing in that subcommittee to evaluate the judgeship needs of Federal courts across the country and hear testimony on the Coons-Leahy Federal Judgeship Act of 2013, which would implement the judicial conference's recommendations for desperately needed new judgeships. I hope that Senators from both sides of the aisle will support this bill, which is based on what judges across the Nation believe they need to administer justice effectively. Addressing the resources of a coequal branch of our government should not be politicized. We need to end sequestration and act responsibly in addressing the staffing needs of our justice system so that it can continue to serve the American people and be a model for other countries.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I will not support the nomination Valerie E. Caproni to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York. However, I expect that she will likely be confirmed, as will Mr. Broderick. These will be the 30th and 31st judicial confirmations this year. With today's confirmations, the Senate will have confirmed 202 lower court nominees; we have defeated 2. That is 202–2 for President Obama. That is an outstanding record. That is a success rate of 99 percent. I think we have had a pretty outstanding record this Congress.

And we have been doing that at a fast pace. During the last Congress we confirmed more judges than any Congress since the 103rd Congress, which was 1993–94.

So far this year, the first of President Obama's second term, we have already confirmed more judges than were confirmed in the entire first year of President Bush's second term.

At a similar stage in President Bush's second term, only 10 judicial nominees had been confirmed. So we are now at a 31 to 10 comparison, with President Obama clearly ahead of where President Bush was at a similar time frame.

And, as I said, we have already confirmed more nominees this year—31—than we did during the entirety of 2005, the first year of President Bush's second term, when 21 lower court judges were confirmed.

So I just wanted to set the record straight—again—before we vote on these nominations.

I also want to explain why I oppose the confirmation of Ms. Caproni. From 2003 to 2011, she served as the General Counsel of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. During that time, she was involved in the national security letters—NSL—program at the FBI. This program was the subject of a report by the Office of Inspector General—OIG—within the Department of Justice—DOJ, published in 2010.

In that report, the FBI was criticized for its role in the potential abuse by the FBI's use of national security letters. The report also detailed her office's knowledge of the use of exigent

letters to short-circuit the NSL process. The IG also found problems regarding the inaccurate reporting of NSLs.

When the Committee reported out her nomination earlier this year, I voiced my concern over the fact that I had made a request to the FBI over 6 years ago, asking for documents regarding exigent letters.

In March 2007, Chairman LEAHY and I requested copies of unclassified emails related to the use of national security letters issued by the FBI. I only received a few of these emails, and they were heavily redacted, so in 2008 I asked for the rest.

Ms. Caproni was general counsel of the FBI at the time and told me that the documents I was waiting for were on her desk, awaiting her review. Well, in 2013 as we approached her hearing, I still had not received those documents.

I asked Ms. Caproni about this in her hearing and she had no specific recollection of this request. So, I asked her again in writing. This led to a set of FOIA documents being produced, which are a poor substitute for properly answering a Committee request. It also raises further questions as to why it took 6 years and why Ms. Caproni told me years ago that she was working on responding to our request.

I subsequently followed up with the FBI with specific requests regarding Ms. Caproni's involvement in the matter. The FBI has not responded to my requests.

I also made requests from the DOJ Inspector General. While the IG did make some materials available to me, there are outstanding requests to which they have not responded.

At issue is the correspondence between Ms. Caproni and OIG about the OIG's draft report. These are not ''internal documents'' as the IG has claimed which relate to the internal deliberative process of the OIG. They are not ''internal'' communications because the Inspector General's office is supposed to be separate and independent from the FBI, and Ms. Caproni was the FBI's counsel.

They are, however, a critical component required both for oversight of the underlying program as well as to ensure that the back-and-forth between an independent IG and the agency is transparent and arms-length.

At the time we reported her nomination out of Committee, I stated that while I would not hold her nomination in Committee, I reserved my right to do so on the Senate floor. So now, even though I have consented to the vote going forward, I will not support the nomination.

Ms. Caproni received her B.A. at Tulane in 1976 and her J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law in 1979. Upon graduation, she clerked for 1 year for the Honorable Phyllis Kravitch, United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Following her clerkship, she entered private practice as a civil litigator for Cravath, Swaine & Moore focusing on defense work on behalf of large companies primarily with respect to libel, antitrust, and securities matters. She was in this position from 1980 to 1985.

In 1985 Ms. Caproni became an Assistant U.S. Attorney where she prosecuted a number of narcotics and other criminal cases. In 1989, Ms. Caproni became the General Counsel of the Urban Development Corp—now Empire State Development. There her primary responsibility was to provide legal advice to the executives and directors of the corporation, focusing on administrative law, banking and bankruptcy law, environmental and land use, real estate, and products liability. She returned to the U.S. Attorney's Office in 1992 where she prosecuted criminal cases and became part of the administration of the Criminal Division. She served as Chief of the Criminal Division from 1994 to 1998. In 1998 Ms. Caproni became the regional director of the SEC's Pacific Regional Office where she worked on enforcement of Federal securities laws.

From 2001 to 2003, she returned to private practice at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett where she worked on white collar criminal defense. After this she became General Counsel of the FBI where her primary responsibility was to provide legal advice to executive management. She served there from 2003 to 2011.

In 2011 Ms. Caproni was hired by Northrop Grumman to be vice president and deputy general counsel where she remains today. She is currently responsible for supervision of all litigation and internal investigations, specializing in civil litigation and investigations and setting strategy in cases and investigations that affect the corporation. The ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary gave her a unanimous ''Well Qualified'' rating.

Vernon S. Broderick is also nominated to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York. Mr. Broderick received his B.A. from Yale University in 1985 and his J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1988. Upon graduation, he joined Weil, Gotshal & Manges as an associate. His practice there mainly focused on civil litigation, specifically large commercial disputes that involved breach of contract, products liability, patent and bankruptcy.

In 1994, he joined the United States Attorney's Office, first in the General Crimes Unit, then in the Narcotics Unit and the Violent Gangs Unit. He was Chief of the Violent Gangs Unit from 1999–2002.

Mr. Broderick rejoined Weil, Gotshal & Manges as a Counsel in 2002 and was made a Partner in 2005. His practice focused on white collar criminal investigations and prosecutions, regulatory investigations and proceedings, and business litigation. The ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary gave him a unanimous ''Well Qualified'' rating.

Mr. MENENDEZ. In view of the fact I don't see any Members at this point, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I rise to urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support Valerie Caproni for U.S. district judge for New York's Southern District. I know Ms. Caproni to be a woman with impeccable credentials, incredible intellect, and the kind of fair-minded judgment we need on the Federal bench.

Ms. Caproni serves as vice president and general counsel for Northrop Grumman Corporation, where she leads all aspects of litigation. Ms. Caproni joined Northrop Grumman from her former position as general counsel to the FBI, a position Director Robert Mueller personally asked Ms. Caproni to serve in, in the wake of the horrific attacks of September 11. Ms. Caproni knows full well the task at hand for the FBI is never easy—from protecting America from terror and other attacks—a balance of defending our civil liberties and civil rights. But as she puts it:

> They always strive to do the right thing, and to maintain as a loadstar fealty to the Constitution and the rule of law.

That is what Ms. Caproni believes to her very core.

Ms. Caproni also served in the Securities and Exchange Commission, where she enforced regulatory programs in the nine-State Pacific region. She and her staff strengthened cooperation between the SEC and the U.S. Attorney's Offices to crack down on financial fraud.

Ms. Caproni also served as Chief of the Criminal Division for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York and in private practice at several top firms.

Through her breadth of experience, her talent, her intellect, and her strong character, I know Ms. Caproni will be an outstanding jurist.

I strongly believe this country needs more women such as she serving in the Federal Judiciary, an institution that I believe needs more exceptional women.

I have no doubt that having Ms. Caproni serve in the Federal Judiciary will bring us closer to achieving that goal of a Federal judiciary that reflects our Nation.

I was honored to recommend her for this position, and I urge all my colleagues to vote in support of her confirmation.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of another outstanding New Yorker, Vernon Broderick, to also be a U.S. district judge for the Southern District of New York.

Mr. Broderick served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Southern District

of New York, where he helped protect New Yorkers by prosecuting cases involving organized crime, international narcotics trafficking, and violent crimes. I urge the Senate to vote in full support of Mr. Broderick's nomination.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the nomination of Valerie Caproni to serve as a judge on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

When the Senate Judiciary Committee considered Ms. Caproni's nomination on June 13 and reported her nomination out of committee, I asked to be recorded as a ''pass'' on the vote. I did so because I wanted to meet in person with Ms. Caproni to discuss matters that she worked on when she served as general counsel of the Federal Bureau of Investigation from 2003 to 2011.

During Ms. Caproni's tenure, the FBI adopted controversial new investigative policies and implemented sweeping new surveillance authorities granted by the USA PATRIOT Act.

For example, revised Attorney General's guidelines for FBI investigations and the FBI's Domestic Investigations and Operations Guide allow the FBI to conduct ''assessments'' using intrusive surveillance techniques on innocent Americans with no indication of wrongdoing or other factual predicate. And while the Justice Department's ''Guidance Regarding the Use of Race by Federal Law Enforcement Agencies'' prohibits the use of profiling by Federal law enforcement in ''traditional law enforcement activities,'' this ban does not apply to profiling based on religion and national origin, and it does not apply to national security and border security investigations.

The Justice Department's Inspector General concluded that the FBI was guilty of ''widespread and serious misuse'' of the National Security Letter authority when Ms. Caproni was general counsel. Also during Ms. Caproni's tenure, the FBI interpreted section 215 of the PATRIOT Act to permit the collection of noncontent ''metadata'' on every phone call of every American, including the numbers of both callers and the time and duration of the call.

As general counsel, Ms. Caproni would have been the final word in the FBI on the legality of these and all other Bureau activities.

As a result of my concerns about Ms. Caproni's involvement in these activities, I asked for her commitment, if confirmed, to recuse herself from matters on which she had been involved or provided legal advice while working for the FBI or on which her impartiality might reasonably be questioned.

I met in my office with Ms. Caproni on June 25, and on July 8, Ms. Caproni sent me a letter memorializing her commitment to recuse herself from such matters. I appreciated receiving this letter, and I ask unanimous consent that the letter be printed in the RECORD.

In light of our meeting and Ms. Caproni's commitments to me, I will not oppose her nomination to the district court.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Washington, DC, July 8, 2013.

Hon. RICHARD DURBIN,
Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR DURBIN: Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you to discuss my nomination as a judge for the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. It was a pleasure to meet with you and your staff.

As I indicated in my Senate Judiciary Committee Questionnaire, if confirmed, I would follow the Code of Conduct for United States Judges, as well as any other applicable ethics rules or federal statutes to resolve any potential conflicts of interest. As I further stated, if I had personal or supervisory involvement in a matter while at the FBI or Northrop Grumman, I would not participate in it as a judge.

To follow up on our conversation and to be more specific, as required by 28 U.S.C. § 455, I would recuse myself from any case in which my impartiality could reasonably be questioned. I would certainly recuse myself if I were presented with a case that would require me to rule on the legality of a national security program as to which I provided legal advice while I was a government employee, unless there were controlling precedent already in place regarding such a program. If such precedent did exist, I nonetheless would consider recusal on a case-by-case basis, carefully considering any arguments and consulting with appropriate experts on judicial ethics and, if appropriate, my colleagues. In those cases in which I did not recuse, I would apply controlling law.

Please let me know if you have any other questions or matters you would like to discuss.

Very truly yours,

VALERIE CAPRONI.

Mr. DURBIN. I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I yield back the time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Valerie E. Caproni, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York?

Mr. CARDIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that if present and voting, the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) would vote ''yea.''

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted ''yea.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 73, nays 24, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 201 Ex.]

YEAS—73

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Murray
Baucus	Graham	Nelson
Begich	Hagan	Portman
Bennet	Harkin	Pryor
Blumenthal	Hatch	Reed
Boxer	Heinrich	Reid
Brown	Heitkamp	Rockefeller
Burr	Hirono	Sanders
Cantwell	Isakson	Schatz
Cardin	Johanns	Schumer
Carper	Johnson (SD)	Sessions
Casey	Kaine	Shaheen
Chambliss	King	Stabenow
Chiesa	Klobuchar	Tester
Coats	Leahy	Thune
Collins	Levin	Toomey
Coons	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Corker	Markey	Udall (NM)
Cornyn	McCain	Vitter
Donnelly	McCaskill	Warren
Durbin	McConnell	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Menendez	Wicker
Fischer	Mikulski	Wyden
Flake	Murkowski	
Franken	Murphy	

NAYS—24

Ayotte	Enzi	Merkley
Barrasso	Grassley	Moran
Blunt	Heller	Paul
Boozman	Hoeven	Risch
Coburn	Inhofe	Roberts
Cochran	Johnson (WI)	Rubio
Crapo	Kirk	Scott
Cruz	Lee	Shelby

NOT VOTING—3

Alexander	Landrieu	Warner

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON VERNON S. BRODERICK

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Vernon S. Broderick, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table. The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

The majority leader is recognized.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we proceed to a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SYRIA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, tomorrow the President is going to brief the Democratic caucus and the Republican caucus separately. He is going to address the Nation tomorrow night. As we all know, there are international discussions relevant to the matter in Syria.

Normally what I would do in a situation such as this is file cloture today, but I don't think that is to our benefit. I don't think we need to see how fast we can do this; we have to see how well we can do this, so I will not file cloture this evening on the Syria resolution.

I have spoken to the Republican leader. I have talked to virtually all of my Democratic Senators. We have enough votes to get cloture, but I don't think we should be counting numbers tonight. I think what we need to do is to make sure the President has the opportunity to speak to all 100 Senators and all 300 million American people before we do this.

As I have said before, when we get on this, we are going to deal with this in a manner that is dignified and move forward in a way that is expeditious, yet thorough.

I have discussed this with the President and other people in the administration. I repeat: I wish to make sure the President has a full opportunity to make his case to the Senate and the American people before we vote on this matter.

As always, I will continue to discuss this with Senator MCCONNELL, and we will see if we can reach some kind of agreement to move forward without cloture. If that doesn't work out, I will file cloture when it is appropriate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as if in morning business for up to 15 minutes. After I conclude my remarks, I ask that Senator INHOFE of Oklahoma and Senator CASEY of Pennsylvania be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Ohio.

LABOR DAY

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, most of us were in our States over Labor Day. I usually come to the floor a few days after Labor Day to talk about the importance of Labor Day and what it means to working Americans, what it has meant to our country, and what it has meant to building a strong middle class.

I would like to read a letter sent to me by Bill Ross, who is an Ohio business leader. Mr. Ross writes:

> I grew up in a first generation immigrant family in a small Ohio town.
>
> My father, who obtained only an 8th grade education (not uncommon for his generation), worked hard in an industrial job.
>
> My mother worked at home to care for our family of 5 children. When able to do so, she went to work outside the household too.
>
> We rented a home for $25 a month, ate nutritious meals at home, and all walked to school with clean clothes each day.
>
> All five children went to college, obtained post-graduate professional degrees, and pursued rewarding professional careers in law, education and business.
>
> How did that happen?
>
> Because, first and foremost, my father had a job with a living wage and health care for his family that his union protected. Because we had access to good quality public education. Because we had access to affordable state universities and student loan programs that we could later afford to repay. Because blue collar working people had a chance.
>
> I hope we can restore all that in America again.

Bill Ross's story is very much like my wife Connie's story. Bill Ross was born in Ashtabula a bit before my wife who was also born there. Bill Ross's dad carried a union card and his mother went to work when she could. My wife's father carried a utility worker's union card for more than 30 years in Ashtabula, OH. Her mother was a home care worker who worked, when she could, after the children were a little older.

My wife, as did Bill Ross, was able to go to school with minimal debt. She graduated from Kent State University in the 1970s with not much more than $1,200 in student debt.

The ability of a living wage and carrying a union card gave them a reason to celebrate Labor Day because it gave so many working families a chance.

The Presiding Officer comes from a State much like mine. He understands the importance of carrying a union card and getting a living wage gives people the kind of opportunity that people in this country deserve.

For generations hard-working Americans left their homes every morning, and some at night, to earn an honest living. They bent with swollen knees to put on steel-toed work boots to provide for loved ones. They put up with calloused hands to build a better life for their children.

Middle-class Americans and people struggling to enter the middle class labored to ensure that children have enough food and clean clothes and an adequate education to thrive.

We know steelworkers, nurses, mechanics, teachers, and plumbers are not always treated with the dignity they deserve—especially, far too often, from our elected officials.

American history is a history of struggle for working people—fighting for representation and fair wages, for access to good-paying jobs, and for the dignity every human being deserves. It is about fighting for democracy and civil rights—as we were reminded a few days ago when we marked the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington for jobs and freedom.

More than a century ago, when John Patterson Green, an Ohioan, and Cedarville native John Henderson Kyle introduced a bill to establish Labor Day as a State holiday in Ohio, they were not thinking of any one segment of the population. They were focused on the rights of all Americans who work hard and play by the rules.

Since then, we have seen how the middle class grew when we ensured that hard work is rewarded with fair pay and decent benefits.

Seventy-five years ago, President Roosevelt signed the Fair Labor Standards Act, which ultimately ensured that American workers would receive a minimum wage, reasonable work hours, and an end to child labor.

One of the authors of that bill, Senator Hugo Black, sat at this specific desk in the Senate and supported Social Security, minimum wage, and paying for overtime. He initially introduced that legislation in 1932.

President Roosevelt led us to decades of prosperity by ensuring that hard work is met with fair wages and decent working conditions. A minimum wage helped to lift millions of Americans from poverty and allowed them to join the middle class.

Today workers face new challenges. While corporate executives and Wall Street banks are earning record profits, too many families in Ohio, Indiana, Oklahoma, and across the country are still struggling. Some politicians have used the recession and the budget crisis it created as grounds for attacking worker's rights. We have seen vicious attacks on workers' rights across the country. We have seen it in North Carolina. We saw it last year in Indiana and Michigan. We have seen it over the last 3 years in Ohio.

Ohio passed one of the worst attacks on collective bargaining rights in Ohio's history, trying to convince people that public employees caused the financial crisis, not Wall Street. Workers fought back and shattered a record for signatures needed to establish a ballot initiative and energized 2 million voters who came out to overturn that wrong-headed law.

Today, because the unity of not just labor union members but the huge majority of voters in Ohio, police officers, firefighters, sanitation workers, teachers, and other public sector workers continue to have the right to bargain and work with management through collective bargaining to ensure safety and fairness on the job.

In Akron, OH, UAW workers at Meggitt do high-quality and efficient work which allows them to be competitive with workers in Mexico and has prevented operations from being outsourced and helped to attract new investment in Ohio.

In Toledo, Youngstown, Cleveland, and beyond, union autoworkers helped bring back the American auto industry. They are building the cars of the future that people want to drive. I met with business owners across Ohio over this August and the month before and the month before and the month before

that—during my 7 years in the Senate—Ohio business owners who want to pay their workers a fair wage and have joined in efforts to raise the minimum wage. They know increasing the minimum wage to $10.10 per hour will increase domestic production by nearly $33 billion over 3 years as workers spend their raises in their local businesses and communities. This economic activity would generate 140,000 new jobs over the course of 3 years.

It is no surprise that the American public is anxious about our place in an increasingly multipolar, complicated, dynamic global economy. People know that after NAFTA and CAFTA and permanent China trade relations were passed, plants closed and we lost 5 million good manufacturing jobs. Never in history has company after company implemented a business plan where they close down production in Stuebenville or Toledo or Dayton, OH, to move overseas to Wuhan or Shanghai, China, and sell the products back to the United States. That business plan led us to this.

In 1977 manufacturing was 20 percent of our GDP and financial services represented significantly less. That flipped by 2010, where manufacturing is now only about 11 percent of GDP. Between 2000 and 2010, because of wrong-headed trade agreements, because of tax policy that has given incentives to move offshore, our country lost 5 million manufacturing jobs and 60,000 plants closed down.

Since 2010 we have seen manufacturing jobs grow by more than 500,000. That is not good enough. We have to enact an agenda that includes the best trained workers, the most developed and sophisticated infrastructure, the most robust manufacturing base, and the strongest defense against currency manipulation. Until every American worker is able to rise out of poverty, we still have work to do. Labor Day, celebrated last week, shouldn't simply mark the end of summer; it should mark the beginning of a renewed commitment to fighting for American workers, American businesses, and strengthening our middle class.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

SYRIA

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, first of all, let me thank my friend the distinguished Senator from Ohio for including me in his unanimous consent request. I will briefly speak about an amendment.

We all understand that the issue is going to come before this body to send activity into Syria. I am very much opposed to any kind of force in Syria, but if it happens, we want to be sure there is some protection there. So I have an amendment that even if my amendment passes, I will still oppose the effort of this President to send activity into Syria, and I believe it would precipitate a war.

My amendment is very simple. If the President takes military action against Syria, sequestration of our Armed Forces would be delayed for 1 year. We are talking about the fiscal year where we would take another $52 billion out of our military.

What Asad has done and continues to do is reprehensible, but the United States can't afford another war given the current state of our military. The threats from Syria and the Middle East are not emerging threats. These threats have been around for decades. We knew they were there. There is nothing new about them. Yet the readiness capabilities of our military continue to be decimated by drastic budget cuts.

Sixteen Air Force combat flying squadrons have been grounded. We finally, after 3 months, put them back in the air again, and right now we know it costs more to get them back in a state of readiness than the money we saved from grounding them for 3 months. Our naval fleet has been reduced to historically low levels, the end strength of our ground forces has been cut by more than 100,000 personnel, and hundreds of thousands of DOD civilian employees have been furloughed. Just in my State of Oklahoma, in one of my installations, 14,000 civilian employees have been furloughed.

We can't have it both ways—continuing to cut the funding of our military while still expecting to meet our national security requirements. As military readiness and capabilities decline, we accept greater risk, and, as I have always said, risk equals lives. Every time we have a hearing, we have our combatant commanders come in and talk about the risks. Risk means lives. As I have always said, risk equals lives, and allowing these cuts to continue while proposing to send our forces into harm's way is immoral and reprehensible.

Over the last week I have heard a lot from the President and his administration about how any action in Syria will be limited. I suggest there is no such thing as limited war. Once we decide to strike, we can't predict where it will end or how the situation might escalate. Let's not forget that we have troops currently on the ground in Jordan and Turkey, marines guarding our Embassies, and sailors and airmen stationed around the region. We have already heard that Iran is ordering its terrorist proxies to retaliate by attacking U.S. interests in the region, including our Embassy in Iraq. The State Department has ordered nonessential personnel to evacuate our Embassy in Lebanon. The threats to our forces are real.

I wish to read for my colleagues excerpts from a letter that was written by two ladies, Rebekah Sanderlin and Molly Blake. These are spouses of two of our servicemen. They are responding—much more eloquently than I could ever hope to—to the immense hardship our military is enduring under sequestration and to the misguided belief that a military strike on Syria can be done in isolation—that it won't affect our troops and their families.

I ask unanimous consent that the entire letter be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

AN OPEN LETTER TO CNN REPORTER BARBARA STARR

[From The Huffington Post, posted Sept. 4, 2013]

DEAR MS. STARR: We are writing to let you in on a secret. It's a big one—so get to a fresh page in your reporter notebook and have your pen poised and ready.

You told your viewers last Thursday that there was ''no question'' that the military could afford to go into Syria and that you ''don't think it's really going to affect military families at all.''

Here's some inside information for you: There is no such thing as a person-less war. Our military cannot afford for Americans to forget that wars and battles and military strikes are fought by troops, that troops are people, and that those people have families.

In our military communities this summer we couldn't even afford to pay federal employees for a five-day work week. Military families can't get doctors' appointments and can't get the counseling services needed to grapple with the problems we already have, problems largely created by almost 12 years of war. And while Congress was busy sending a warning letter to the president to ensure they get to sign off on whether or not we go to war, they managed to ignore military families when the sequester hit. Today clinic hours are being slashed—along with pretty much every other service military families need. Walking around our communities lately, it doesn't look like we can afford much of anything—and certainly not a whole new war.

And that's just taking 'afford' literally.

Figuratively, the picture is even grimmer. An entire generation of military kids have grown up with a parent they know primarily through Skype. Couples are trying to piece together marriages that have been badly fractured by more years spent apart than together. We grew hopeful that better days were coming as we watched the end of the Iraq war, and we're thrilled that the end of our involvement in Afghanistan is nigh, and yet now all of cable news is breathless and giddy with talk of war in Syria.

You boast, in your bio, that you have exclusive access to Lt. Gen. Russel Honore and you've interviewed several secretaries of defense and other important people at the CIA. You may very well have Sec. Hagel on speed dial—but that doesn't give you the right to toss around your thoughts on how military families may or may not be affected by military action. Not until you've stood in our shoes for longer than a three-minute live shot.

You see, Barbara, there's no such thing as 'no boots on the ground.' We in the military community sigh and shake our heads when we hear talk like that from the people on TV. Perhaps you consider a relatively small number of troops to be the same as zero—but we don't. We know that each of those service members is somebody's somebody.

As journalists, we like to show both sides of the story. So we would like to also voice our thanks. For your careless words have aimed a giant floodlight on the military-civilian divide. Blue Star Families Director of Research and Policy, Vivian Greentree said it best:

We hear a sense of angst in our membership and throughout the military community. How can we be in the middle of the fall out of sequestration—furloughs, program cuts, loss of mission readiness—we have families who can't get medical appointments. They are all wondering how they will manage if the situation in Syria continues to escalate. They wonder how will it affect them. Not, if it will affect them. But, how.

''That statement, in all its small-minded glory, captures the civilian-military divide more clearly than any survey ever could.''

And maybe someday we will be able to fight whole wars without using a single human . . . And Rosie the Robot will clean our kitchens while we tackle our morning commutes in flying cars. But today, in 2013, we can't have a 'surgical strike' without someone saying where to drop the bombs or where to aim those missiles. And those planes that drop the bombs? The destroyers that carry the missiles? They have pilots, captains and crews. All humans. Even the ''unmanned'' drones have human pilots, and the psychological wear and tear on them is staggering. Planes take off from airfields in foreign lands or from aircraft carriers, both of which are staffed by thousands of American somebodies, just like those destroyer ships. At every turn in a military operation you will find people. Intel analysts, linguists, flight crews, and cooks. Even war plans, regardless of whether they were, as you stated, ''on deployment anyway'' rely on thousands of people who will be pulled to a new duty, which causes reshuffling far and wide in the military community.

And this, most definitely, affects military families.

The big question is, as you said, ''will it work?'' and, as we learned from the most recent wars, it bears recalling that things don't always go as planned. But that's not the only question. Do not kid yourself, Barbara, and don't you dare kid the viewers who trust your reporting.

Sincerely,

REBEKAH SANDERLIN and MOLLY BLAKE,
Military Spouses.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I wish to quote from the letter I just submitted for the RECORD, and I ask my colleagues to listen to the quote. These are two ladies who are spouses of servicemen. They said:

There is no such thing as a person-less war. Our military cannot afford for Americans to forget that wars and battles and military strikes are fought by troops, that troops are people, and that those people have families. In our military communities this summer we couldn't even afford to pay Federal employees for a five-day work week. Military families can't get doctors' appointments and can't get counseling services needed to grapple with the problems we already have, problems largely created by almost 12 years of war. Today clinic hours are being slashed—along with pretty much every other service military families need. Walking around our communities lately, it doesn't look like we can afford much of anything—and certainly not a whole new war.

I am still quoting now these wives of our military men:

And maybe someday we will be able to fight whole wars without using a single human, but today, in 2013, we can't have a surgical strike without someone saying where to drop the bombs or where to aim those missiles. And those planes that drop the bombs? The destroyers that carry the missiles? They have pilots, captains, and crews. All humans. Even the ''unmanned'' drones have human pilots, and the psychological wear and tear on them is staggering. Planes take off from airfields in foreign lands and from aircraft carriers, both of which are staffed by thousands of American somebodies, just like those destroyer ships. At every turn in a military operation you will find people. Intel analysts, linguists, flight crews, and cooks. Even war plans . . . rely on thousands of people who will be pulled to a new duty, which causes reshuffling far and wide in the military community. And this, most definitely, affects our military families.

Again, that is a quote from two of the wives of our current servicemen. I hope all of my colleagues will read this letter. I hope they understand that the decisions we make this week about whether to go to war in Syria have a human dimension.

If we expect the brave men and women in our military to go to foreign lands and risk their lives on our behalf, we have a moral obligation to ensure that they and their families have the support and the resources that are required. Sequestration has already inflicted severe damage on our military, and we are now only a couple of weeks from another $52 billion being slashed from an already devastated military budget.

I have been clear that I don't support the President's call for military action in Syria. He still hasn't presented Congress and the American people with a plan for what he wants to accomplish, how he intends to accomplish it, or how he intends to pay for it. Will the President pay for this operation with more furloughs and by grounding more squadrons again? The CNO has already come forward and stated that if operations against Syria extend into October, he won't be able to afford it and will likely require supplemental funding from Congress.

Furthermore, the President hasn't told us how a strike in Syria fits into a broader strategy for the Middle East. What we decide to do is not just about Syria. It is bigger than that. This is about the growing threat from Iran, stability in the Middle East, and our commitment to Israel and allies and our ability to respond to other contingencies that are there.

I recall knowing what was going to happen. This is 4½ years ago, back when President Obama was first elected, his first election. I knew that when he came out with his first budget, he was going to do something devastating to the military. So I put myself into Afghanistan, knowing, with the tanks going back and forth, that I would be able to get the interest and the attention of the American people, and it worked. So in that very first budget 4½ years ago, he did away with the early fifth-generation bomber then, the F–22; did away with our future combat system—the first ground capability increase in about 50 years; did away with our lift capacity, the C–17. Then, the worst thing, which I hope doesn't turn out to create the worst problem for America, he did away with the ground-based operation in Poland. That was just the first budget. That was 4½ years ago. Since that time, in his extended budget, he has taken $487 billion out of the military, and with sequestration it will be another $½ trillion. This just can't happen.

It is not just me who is saying this. People would expect it more from me. I am the ranking member on the Senate Armed Services Committee. I have gone there and worked with these guys and noticed the problems they have. I would suggest that not just me but Admiral Winnefeld, who is the second highest military guy, the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said:

There could be, for the first time in my career— An admiral speaking now, the second highest person in our military—

instances where we may be asked to respond to a crisis and we will have to say we cannot.

And then we go to the very top person, General Dempsey, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who said, ''Our military force is so degraded, so unready, it would be immoral to use force.''

I only say this because we are going to be facing this, and I would be opposed to this even with my amendment to postpone the sequestration of the military for 1 year. However, if that passes, I will still oppose this taking place. I don't think many people in America realize what has happened to our military under the Obama administration.

Well, I have just stated what has happened. This is certainly not a time when we would use force in Syria. Keep in mind that General Dempsey said it would be immoral to use force, we are so degraded, and that is exactly what we will be voting on in the next couple of days.

With that, I yield the floor.

CHIRIBIQUETE NATIONAL PARK

Mr. LEAHY. Mr President, I want to speak briefly about a recent development in Colombia of which many Senators may not be aware.

Colombia is ranked as the second most biologically diverse country in the world. The variety of plant and animal life is staggering, which reflects its similarly diverse geography—from Amazon rainforest to glacier-covered mountains, and Caribbean and Pacific coastlines.

To its credit, Colombia has an extensive system of national parks and biological reserves. I have long been convinced that as security improves in that country and long after the oil wells are depleted, its national parks and other protected areas will be among Colombia's greatest resource, attracting eco-tourists from around the world.

On August 21 President Santos took an historic leap forward by doubling the size of Chiribiquete National Park, which is home to a myriad of species including jaguars and is comprised of extraordinary rock formations and

dense jungle. Chiribiquete was already Colombia's largest park, and it has now become the size of Belgium.

There is more that needs to be done to protect Colombia's environment, particularly from the damage caused by mining and other extractive industries which has often occurred in, or adjacent to, environmentally fragile areas or indigenous reserves.

But President Santos' single stroke of the pen has done more for environmental conservation and species protection than what most heads of state do in a lifetime. I commend him for it and congratulate the Colombian people. Colombia has set an example for all of us who care about the environment and recognize that we have a responsibility to protect it for future generations.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH ROBERTS

• Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, Today I wish to recognize one of my staff members who is currently battling cancer. Joseph F. Roberts has worked in my Rapid City congressional district office since September 2002. Combined with service in the Peace Corps and the U.S. Air Force, Joe has served our Nation for approximately 19 years in Federal and military service.

As a member of my staff, Joe has provided exemplary constituent service to veterans and their families, as well as servicemembers and constituents facing numerous issues. He has always approached his work with a high degree of professionalism and a genuine caring attitude. That caring attitude stems from years of therapy and counseling services in the private sector he provided to the people of western South Dakota.

His service in the U.S. Air Force has served him well in working with veterans, and he has taken particular interest with veterans who suffer from military sexual assault, Traumatic Brain Injuries, and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Veterans and their families know they have a true advocate with Joe in their corner when it comes to obtaining answers and decisions on claims, searches for records and medical care issues. Joe's time in the Peace Corps brought him to Romania and Guyana where he served in a number of capacities including education and training on domestic violence, sexual abuse, substance abuse and communication, as well as working on infrastructure issues and providing psychotherapy and other counseling assistance. These experiences helped him greatly in my district office as he assisted constituents with local, State and Federal issues and problems, including a wide array of immigration and passport issues.

I have always been impressed by Joe's sense of dedication and commitment to helping people. One of the great rewards in life is helping others and whether it has been his work in the Peace Corps, his private work as a therapist and counselor, or his work in constituent service in my office, Joe has helped many people. Over the years, I have received numerous thank you notes and letters from constituents praising the work of Joe Roberts.

And he has approached his battles with cancer over the years with commitment, humor and perspective, always sharing, teaching and counseling despite the challenges of the disease.

I take this opportunity to thank Joe for his service and his work on my behalf with the people of South Dakota. I congratulate him on his many years of service to the people of South Dakota and to his country and commend him for a job well done.•

RECOGNIZING THE ORPHEUM THEATER CENTER

• Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the Orpheum Theater Center in Sioux Falls, SD on its centennial anniversary. Since 1913, the Orpheum Theater has established itself as a place of excellence in the arts.

On a breezy Thursday evening in October, exactly 100 years ago today, the Orpheum Theater opened its doors and charged patrons an unheard of price of $5 per seat. The opening night performances stunned the audience with a broad spectrum of entertainment including the Orpheum Concert Orchestra, two comedy acts, and headlines from around the world via a state-of-the-art newsreel.

Over the past 100 years, the Orpheum Theater has changed owners several times and has undergone many renovations, most recently in 2009. Thanks to its dedicated staff and exceptional volunteers the Orpheum Theater has consistently provided a superb place to experience performing arts and annually 100,000 people visit this world-class venue.

South Dakotans have congregated at the Orpheum Theater for elegant performances by entertainers both from within our community and around the world. I congratulate the Orpheum Theater Center on reaching this milestone, and wish it continued success. Encore!•

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY CHAPEL DEDICATION

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the Cadet Chapel at the U.S. Air Force Academy. In the half century since its founding, the Cadet Chapel has become a National Historic Landmark and the most popular manmade attraction in Colorado. Each year more than 750,000 visitors explore this iconic and unique building.

Today, the Cadet Chapel is a multifaith house of worship specifically designed to provide multiple distinct worship areas under a single roof, meeting the spiritual needs of the Academy's cadets. The chapel's aluminum, glass and steel structure features 17 spires that soar 150 feet toward the Colorado sky.

Annually, over 4,000 cadets are provided 850 religious worship and educational opportunities to practice their personal faith. The chapel also provides religious rites and observances such as baptisms and dedications, weddings, funerals and memorial services. Most worship services are open to the general public and thousands of visitors each year attend worship.

The Cadet Chapel fosters outstanding civic involvement by partnering with the local community to host four annual free concerts with over 2000 attendees. The U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Chapel is truly unique. Its iconic architectural structure serves as a symbol of the Academy and is recognized worldwide. Most important, the Cadet Chapel enables the free exercise of religion for cadets in this unique campus setting and aids the Chaplain Corps at the Air Force Academy to inspire men and women to become leaders of character through spiritual formation.

In the 50 years since the Cadet Chapel was dedicated our Nation has sent Air Force Academy graduates to serve in the skies and jungles of Vietnam and the deserts of Iraq. Those that once bowed their head beneath the spires of the Chapel served our country in the former Yugoslavia and in the mountains of Afghanistan, and they continue to serve the cause of freedom around the globe today. We thank them for their service, and we congratulate the Air Force on the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the Air Force Academy's Cadet Chapel.•

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:04 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 367. An act to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law.

H.R. 1582. An act to protect consumers by prohibiting the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from promulgating as final certain energy-related rules that are estimated to cost more than $1billion and will cause significant adverse effects to the economy.

H.R. 1897. An act to promote freedom and democracy in Vietnam.

H.R. 2009. An act to prohibit the Secretary of the Treasury from enforcing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010.

H.R. 2879. An act to provide limitations on bonuses for Federal employees during sequestration, to provide for investigative leave requirements for members of the Senior Executive Service, to establish certain

procedures for conducting in-person or telephonic interactions by Executive branch employees with individuals, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 803(a) of the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Act (2 U.S.C. 803(a)), and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Congressional Award Board: Mr. Hudson of North Carolina.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on August 2, 2013, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 22. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and an adjournment of the House of Representatives.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H. R. 1344) to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to provide expedited air passenger screening to severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on August 2, 2013, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 267. An act to improve hydropower, and for other purposes.

H.R. 678. An act to authorize all Bureau of Reclamation conduit facilities for hydropower development under Federal Reclamation law, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1171. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to improve veterans service organizations access to Federal surplus personal property.

H.R. 1344. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to provide expedited air passenger screening to severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2576. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to modify requirements relating to the availability of pipeline safety regulatory documents, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the enrolled bills were subsequently signed on August 6, 2013, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. LEVIN).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 367. An act to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1582. An act to protect consumers by prohibiting the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from promulgating as final certain energy-related rules that are estimated to cost more than $1 billion and will cause significant adverse effects to the economy; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 1897. An act to promote freedom and democracy in Vietnam; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 2879. An act to provide limitations on bonuses for Federal employees during sequestration, to provide for investigative leave requirements for members of the Senior Executive Service, to establish certain procedures for conducting in-person or telephonic interactions by Executive branch employees with individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–2609. A communication from the Program Manager, Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Practitioner Data Bank and Privacy Act; Exempt Records System; Technical Correction'' (RIN0906–AA97) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 8, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2610. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Appeals Settlement Guideline—New Qualified Plug-In Electric Drive Motor Vehicle Credit (Revision)'' (UIL: 30D.00–00) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 12, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2611. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''2013 Section 43 Inflation Adjustment'' (Notice 2013–50) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 12, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2612. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Branded Prescription Drug Fee; Guidance for 2014 Fee Year'' (Notice 2013–51) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 12, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2613. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Update of Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates'' (Notice 2013–52) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 12, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2614. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Deadline to Submit Opinion and Advisory Letter Applications for Defined Benefit Mass Submitter Plans is Extended to January 31, 2014'' (Announcement 2013–37) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 8, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2615. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Certain Transfers of Property to Regulated Investment Companies (RICs) and Real Estate Investment Trusts'' (RIN1545–BI84) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 8, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2616. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Reimbursed Entertainment Expenses'' (RIN1545–BI83) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 8, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2617. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Applicable Federal Rates—September 2013'' (Rev. Rul. 2013–18) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 22, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2618. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulations Pertaining to the Disclosure of Return Information to Carry Out Eligibility Requirements for Health Insurance Affordability Programs'' (RIN1545–BK87) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 22, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2619. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Uniform Late S Election Relief Revenue Procedure'' (Rev. Proc. 2013–30) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 22, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2620. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Requirement of a Section 4959 Excise Tax Return and Time for Filing the Return'' (RIN1545–BL58) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 22, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2621. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicare Program; Prospective Payment System and Consolidated Billing for Skilled Nursing Facilities for FY 2014'' (RIN0938–AR65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the

Senate on August 5, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2622. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicare Program; Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Prospective Payment System for Federal Fiscal Year 2014'' (RIN0938–AR66) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 5, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2623. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicare Program; FY 2014 Hospice Wage Index and Payment Rate Update; Hospice Quality Reporting Requirements; and Updates on Payment Reform'' (RIN0938–AR64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 5, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2624. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicare Program; Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems for Acute Care Hospitals and Long Term Care Hospital Prospective Payment System and Fiscal Year 2014 Rates; Quality Reporting Requirements for Specific Providers; Hospital Conditions of Participation; Payment Policies Related to Patient Status'' (RIN0938–AR53) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 5, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2625. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, a legislative proposal regarding Authorization for the Use of United States Armed Forces in connection with the conflict in Syria, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2013; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–2626. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''OMB Sequestration Update Report to the President and Congress for Fiscal Year 2014''; to the Committees on the Budget; and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2627. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Disapproval of State Implementation Plans; State of Utah; Interstate Transport of Pollution for the 2006 PM2.5 NAAQS'' (FRL No. 9844–9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 6, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2628. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans: Alaska; Fairbanks Carbon Monoxide Limited Maintenance Plan and State Implementation Plan Revision'' (FRL No. 9844–8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 6, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2629. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Partial Disapproval of State Implementation Plan; Arizona; Regional Haze Requirements'' (FRL No. 9843–7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 6, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2630. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Update of the Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets for the Lancaster 1997 8-Hour Ozone Maintenance Area'' (FRL No. 9841–8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 6, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2631. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Texas; Victoria County 1997 8-Hour Ozone Section 110 (a) (1) Maintenance Plan'' (FRL No. 9842–6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 6, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2632. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances'' (FRL No. 9393–4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 6, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2633. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Disapproval of State Implementation Plan; Infrastructure Requirements for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard; Montana'' (FRL No. 9843–2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 6, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2634. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Tennessee; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards'' (FRL No. 9845–2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 6, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2635. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Oil and Natural Gas Sector: Reconsideration of Certain Provisions of New Source Performance Standards'' (FRL No. 9844–4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 6, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2636. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Wyoming; Revised General Conformity Requirements and an Associated Revision'' (FRL No. 9846–8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2637. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to California State Implementation Plan, Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District and Ventura County Air Pollution Control District'' (FRL No. 9845–5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2638. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Disapproval of Air Quality State Implementation Plans; Arizona; Regional Haze and Interstate Transport Requirements'' (FRL No. 9845–5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2639. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment to Standards and Practices for All Appropriate Inquiries'' (FRL No. 9845–9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2640. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulation of Fuels and Fuel Additives: 2013 Renewable Fuel Standards'' (FRL No. 9834–5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2641. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Electronic Reporting of Toxics Release Inventory Data'' (FRL No. 9835–5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2642. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Nevada; Regional Haze Federal Implementation Plan; Extension of BART Compliance Date for Reid Gardner Generating Station'' (FRL No. 9843–8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 22, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2643. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Iowa'' (FRL No. 9900–39–Region 7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 22, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2644. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Ohio; Redesignation of the Ohio Portions of the Parkersburg-Marietta and Wheeling Areas to Attainment of the 1997 Annual Fine Particulate Matter Standard'' (FRL No. 9900–28–Region 5)

received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 22, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2645. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Wisconsin; Disapproval of PM2.5 Permitting Requirements; Correction'' (FRL No. 9900–30 – Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 22, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2646. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program: Final Amendments and Confidentiality Determinations for Subpart I'' (FRL No. 9845–6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 22, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2647. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle and Nonroad Technical Amendments'' (FRL No. 9900–11–OAR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 27, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2648. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Virginia: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions'' (FRL No. 9900–47–Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 28, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2649. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Connecticut; NOx Emission Trading Orders as Single Source SIP Revisions'' (FRL No. 9900–63–Region 1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 29, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2650. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Determination of Attainment for the West Central Pinal Nonattainment Area for the 2006 Fine Particle Standard; Arizona; Determination Regarding Applicability of Clean Air Act Requirements'' (FRL No. 9900–58–Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 29, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2651. A communication from the Division Chief of Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Minerals Management: Adjustment of Cost Recovery Fees'' (RIN1004–AE32) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2652. A communication from the Division Chief of Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Application Procedures, Execution and Filing of Forms: Correction of State Office Address for Filings and Recordings, Including Proper Offices for Recording of Mining Claims; New Mexico/Oklahoma/Texas/Kansas'' (RIN1004–AE33) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 02, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2653. A communication from the Deputy Secretary, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Commercial Filming and Similar Projects and Still Photography Activities'' (RIN1004–AD30) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 27, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2654. A communication from the Director, Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Freedom of Information Act Regulations'' (RIN1093–AA15) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2655. A communication from the Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Endangered Status for Sphaeralcea gierischii (Gierish Mallow) Throughout Its Range'' (RIN1018–AY58) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 8, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2656. A communication from the Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Sphaeralcea gierischii (Gierish Mallow)'' (RIN1018–AZ46) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 8, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2657. A communication from the Chief of the Branch of Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Diamond Darter'' (RIN1018–AY12) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 8, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2658. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Branch of Recovery and State Grant, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Establishment of a Nonessential Experimental Population of Topeka Shiner (Notropis topeka) in Northern Missouri'' (RIN1018–AY45) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 8, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2659. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Branch of Recovery and State Grant, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reclassification of Acmispon dendroideus var. traskiae (=Lotus d. subsp. traskiae) and Castilleja grisea as Threatened Throughtout Their Ranges'' (RIN1018–AY04) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 8, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2660. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Guidance for Assessment of Flooding Hazards Due to Dam Failure'' (JLD–ISG–2013–01) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 8, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2661. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of the General Counsel, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Guidance for Assessment of Flooding Hazards Due to Dam Failure'' (JLD–ISG–2013–01) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2662. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Administration, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''The Rulemaking Process'' (Management Directive 6.3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2663. A communication from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Report to Congress on Abnormal Occurrences: Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Revision 1''; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2664. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Secretary of the Army's recommendation to increase the authorized total project cost of the Corpus Christi Ship Chanel, Texas, Deep-Draft Navigation and Ecosystem Restoration Project; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2665. A communication from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005–69; Introduction'' (FAC 2005–69) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2666. A communication from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Acquisition Regulation; Iran Threat Reduction'' (RIN9000–AM44) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2667. A communication from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Acquisition Regulation; Definition of Contingency Operation'' (RIN9000–AM48) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2668. A communication from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Acquisition Regulation; Documenting Contractor

Performance'' (RIN9000–AM09) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2669. A communication from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Acquisition Regulation; Least Developed Countries that are Designated Countries'' (RIN9000–AM62) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2670. A communication from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Acquisition Regulation; Update to Biobased Reporting Requirements'' (RIN9000–AM63) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2671. A communication from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005–69, Technical Amendments'' (FAC 2005–69) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2672. A communication from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005–69, Small Entity Compliance Guide'' (FAC2005–69) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2673. A communication from the Associate Attorney General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2674. A communication from the General Counsel, Executive Office of the President, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, Office of Management and Budget, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 27, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2675. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Pay Under the General Schedule and Recruitment, Relocation, and Retention Incentives'' (RIN3206–AM13) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 29, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2676. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–112, ''Vending Regulation Temporary Amendment Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2677. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–119, ''Telehealth Reimbursement Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2678. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–118, ''Workers' Compensation Statute of Limitations Temporary Amendment Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2679. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–121, ''Closing of a Public Street and Alley and Elimination of Building Restriction Lines in and abutting Squares 5641 and N–5641, S.O. 07–2117, Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2680. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–122, ''Delta Sigma Theta Way Designation Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2681. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–123, ''Atlas Court Alley Designation Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2682. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–134, ''Board of Elections Petition Circulation Requirements Amendment Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2683. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–135, ''Dimitar Peshev Plaza Designation Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2684. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–136, ''Capitol Hill Business Improvement District Amendment Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2685. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, ''District of Columbia Agencies' Compliance with Fiscal Year 2013 Small Business Enterprise Expenditure Goals through the 2nd Quarter of Fiscal Year 2013''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2686. A communication from the Acting Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Fiscal Year 2012 Annual Report on The Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2687. A communication from the Executive Director for Operations, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Commission's commercial activities inventory; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2688. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Labor, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2012 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2689. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–120, ''Testing Integrity Act of 2013''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of August 1, 2013, the following reports of committees were submitted on September 4, 2013:

By Mr. SANDERS, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, without amendment:

S. 572. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the conditions under which certain persons may be treated as adjudicated mentally incompetent for certain purposes (Rept. No. 113–86).

S. 893. A bill to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2013, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–87).

By Ms. STABENOW, from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:

Report to accompany S. 954, An original bill to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018 (Rept. No. 113–88).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. SCOTT, and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. 1487. A bill to limit the availability of tax credits and reductions in cost-sharing under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to individuals who receive health insurance coverage pursuant to the provisions of a Taft-Hartley plan; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COATS (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. COBURN, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. ISAKSON, and Ms. AYOTTE):

S. 1488. A bill to delay the application of the individual health insurance mandate, to delay the application of the employer health insurance mandate, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. NELSON:

S. Res. 218. A resolution honoring the legacy of A. Philip Randolph and saluting his efforts on behalf of the people of the United States to form ''a more perfect union''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. Res. 219. A resolution calling for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and others to be tried before the International Criminal Court for committing war crimes and crimes against humanity; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 220. A resolution to authorize representation by the Senate Legal Counsel in the case of Wade v. Miller, et al.; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 54

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 54, a bill to increase public safety by punishing and deterring firearms trafficking.

S. 119

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 119, a bill to prohibit the application of certain restrictive eligibility requirements to foreign nongovernmental organizations with respect to the provision of assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

S. 122

At the request of Mr. CHAMBLISS, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 122, a bill to promote freedom, fairness, and economic opportunity by repealing the income tax and other taxes, abolishing the Internal Revenue Service, and enacting a national sales tax to be administered primarily by the States.

S. 123

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 123, a bill to modernize voter registration, promote access to voting for individuals with disabilities, protect the ability of individuals to exercise the right to vote in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes.

S. 264

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 264, a bill to expand access to community mental health centers and improve the quality of mental health care for all Americans.

S. 314

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 314, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life.

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 314, supra.

S. 346

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 346, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit veterans who have a service-connected, permanent disability rated as total to travel on military aircraft in the same manner and to the same extent as retired members of the Armed Forces entitled to such travel.

S. 367

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 367, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 373

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 373, a bill to amend titles 10, 32, 37, and 38 of the United States Code, to add a definition of spouse for purposes of military personnel policies and military and veteran benefits that recognizes new State definitions of spouse.

S. 375

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 375, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 381

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) were added as cosponsors of S. 381, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the ''Doolittle Tokyo Raiders'', for outstanding heroism, valor, skill, and service to the United States in conducting the bombings of Tokyo.

S. 398

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. 398, a bill to establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum, and for other purposes.

S. 411

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 411, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 412

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 412, a bill to authorize certain major medical facility leases for the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 569

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 569, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to count a period of receipt of outpatient observation services in a hospital toward satisfying the 3-day inpatient hospital requirement for coverage of skilled nursing facility services under Medicare.

S. 623

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 623, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure the continued access of Medicare beneficiaries to diagnostic imaging services.

S. 641

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 641, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, and other programs, to promote education in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

S. 653

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 653, a bill to provide for the establishment of the Special Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Religious Minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia.

S. 709

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 709, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, leading to better care and outcomes for Americans living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

S. 734

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 734, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation.

S. 783

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 783, a bill to amend the Helium Act to improve helium stewardship, and for other purposes.

S. 896

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 896, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 917

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 917, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a reduced rate of excise tax on beer produced domestically by certain qualifying producers.

S. 955

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 955, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide liability protections for volunteer practitioners at health centers under section 330 of such Act.

S. 1007

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1007, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include biomass heating appliances for tax credits available for energy-efficient building property and energy property.

S. 1012

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1012, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve operations of recovery auditors under the Medicare integrity program, to increase transparency and accuracy in audits conducted by contractors, and for other purposes.

S. 1053

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1053, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to strengthen and protect Medicare hospice programs.

S. 1064

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1064, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for treatment of clinical psychologists as physicians for purposes of furnishing clinical psychologist services under the Medicare program.

S. 1069

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1069, a bill to prohibit discrimination in adoption or foster care placements based on the sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status of any prospective adoptive or foster parent, or the sexual orientation or gender identity of the child involved.

S. 1114

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1114, a bill to provide for identification of misaligned currency, require action to correct the misalignment, and for other purposes.

S. 1130

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1130, a bill to require the Attorney General to disclose each decision, order, or opinion of a Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court that includes significant legal interpretation of section 501 or 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 unless such disclosure is not in the national security interest of the United States and for other purposes.

S. 1149

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1149, a bill to reauthorize the ban on undetectable firearms, and to extend the ban to undetectable firearm receivers and undetectable ammunition magazines.

S. 1204

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1204, a bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to protect rights of conscience with regard to requirements for coverage of specific items and services, to amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit certain abortion-related discrimination in governmental activities, and for other purposes.

S. 1217

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1217, a bill to provide secondary mortgage market reform, and for other purposes.

S. 1226

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1226, a bill to promote industry growth and competitiveness and to improve worker training, retention, and advancement, and for other purposes.

S. 1228

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1228, a bill to establish a program to provide incentive payments to participating Medicare beneficiaries who voluntarily establish and maintain better health.

S. 1271

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1271, a bill to direct the President to establish guidelines for the United States foreign assistance programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1292

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1292, a bill to prohibit the funding of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 1300

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1300, a bill to amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to provide for the conduct of stewardship end result contracting projects.

S. 1302

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1302, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for cooperative and small employer charity pension plans.

S. 1310

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1310, a bill to require Senate confirmation of Inspector General of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes.

S. 1320

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1320, a bill to establish a tiered hiring preference for members of the reserve components of the armed forces.

S. 1406

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1406, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1423

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1423, a bill to amend the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 to strengthen the quality control measures in place for part B lung disease claims and to establish the Advisory Board on Toxic Substances and Worker Health for the contractor employee compensation program under subtitle E of such Act.

S. 1455

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1455, a bill to condition the provision of premium and cost-sharing subsidies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act upon a certification that a program to verify household income is operational.

S. 1456

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNS) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 1456, a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Shimon Peres.

S.J. RES. 2

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 2, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to limiting the number of terms that a Member of Congress may serve.

S.J. RES. 19

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 19, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

S. RES. 213

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 213, a resolution expressing support for the free and peaceful exercise of representative democracy in Venezuela and condemning violence and intimidation against the country's political opposition.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 218—HONORING THE LEGACY OF A. PHILIP RANDOLPH AND SALUTING HIS EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES TO FORM ''A MORE PERFECT UNION''

Mr. NELSON submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 218

Whereas A. Philip Randolph was born on April 15, 1889, and grew up in Jacksonville, Florida;

Whereas Mr. Randolph attended the Cookman Institute, one of the first high schools for African Americans in the United States, located in Jacksonville, Florida, and graduated valedictorian of his class in 1907;

Whereas Mr. Randolph was an inspirational person who demonstrated an unyielding struggle for human rights on behalf of marginalized groups in society;

Whereas Mr. Randolph was active in both the civil rights movement and the labor movement in the United States;

Whereas Mr. Randolph was a tireless and highly effective advocate for African-American rights during the 1930s and 1940s, focusing particularly on employment rights;

Whereas Mr. Randolph led the effort to organize the porters of the Pullman Company, one of the largest railroad car companies in the United States at that time;

Whereas Mr. Randolph founded the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, an organization that advanced the rights of African-American workers to dignity, respect, and a decent livelihood;

Whereas Mr. Randolph urged President Franklin Roosevelt to end employment discrimination against African Americans in the Federal Government;

Whereas, after the urging of Mr. Randolph, President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 8802 (6 Fed. Reg. 3109) on June 25, 1941, declaring that ''there shall be no discrimination in the employment of workers in defense industries and in government because of race, creed, color, or national origin'' and established the Fair Employment Practices Commission to oversee that order;

Whereas Mr. Randolph urged President Harry Truman to end segregation in the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas, after the urging of Mr. Randolph, President Truman issued Executive Order 9981 (13 Fed. Reg. 4313) on July 26, 1948, declaring that ''[T]here shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin. This policy shall be put into effect as rapidly as possible, having due regard to the time required to effectuate any necessary changes without impairing efficiency or morale.'' and closed the segregated Marine Corps boot camp at Montford Point in Jacksonville, North Carolina;

Whereas Mr. Randolph was actively involved in the planning and organization of many civil rights efforts, including the prayer pilgrimage for freedom in 1957, the marches for school integration in 1958 and 1959, and the March on Washington in 1963;

Whereas Mr. Randolph was the first speaker of the day at the March on Washington on August 28, 1963, during which Dr. Martin Luther King delivered his famous ''I Have a Dream'' speech;

Whereas the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Public Law 88–352; 78 Stat. 241), the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (Public Law 89–110; 79 Stat. 437), and the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Public Law 90–284; 82 Stat. 73) are the fruits of the seeds that Mr. Randolph and others like him sowed many years before;

Whereas Mr. Randolph helped to found the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights;

Whereas Amtrak named one of its luxury sleeping cars, the Superliner II Deluxe Sleeper 32503, the ''A. Philip Randolph'' in honor of Mr. Randolph;

Whereas a bust in the likeness of Mr. Randolph stands in Union Station in Washington, DC, as a tribute to his work on behalf of African-American rail workers;

Whereas, in 1964, Mr. Randolph was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Lyndon Johnson;

Whereas the civil rights revolution was launched, in no small part, based on the efforts of Mr. Randolph and the work of statesmen like him; and

Whereas, upon the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington in 2013, it is fitting to honor the work of Mr. Randolph and his commitment to a better United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate honors the legacy of A. Philip Randolph and salutes his efforts on behalf of the people of the United States to form ''a more perfect union''.

SENATE RESOLUTION 219—CALLING FOR SYRIAN PRESIDENT BASHAR AL-ASSAD AND OTHERS TO BE TRIED BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT FOR COMMITTING WAR CRIMES AND CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

Mr. CARDIN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 219

Whereas the United States intelligence community assessed with high confidence that the Government of Syria carried out a chemical weapons attack in the Damascus suburbs on August 21, 2013, killing 1,429 Syrians;

Whereas the United Nations estimates that, since the uprising in Syria began in March 2011, more than 100,000 people, mainly civilians, have been killed;

Whereas Syria and neighboring countries are facing a growing humanitarian crisis, with 2,000,000 Syrians having fled the country, and millions more being displaced internally;

Whereas, under the command of President Bashar al-Assad, Syrian government forces and shabiha forces have been accused of gross human rights violations, including heavy shelling of civilian areas, widespread pillaging and the burning of homes, denial of basic human needs such as food, water, and medical care, mass torture and arrests, unlawful detention, and brutal execution-style killings;

Whereas terrorist groups operating in Syria have reportedly engaged in kidnapping for ransom, violence, summary executions, torture, and other gross human rights violations against civilians;

Whereas the United States has implemented a series of sanctions through five Executive orders pertaining to the situation in Syria;

Whereas the United Nations Human Rights Council has held four special sessions, issued four reports of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, and adopted seven resolutions devoted to the situation in Syria;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council has adopted three resolutions authorizing an advance team to monitor the ceasefire in Syria and a short-lived United Nations Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS);

Whereas the United Nations General Assembly has adopted five resolutions regarding human rights and the situation in Syria;

Whereas the situation in Syria continues to deteriorate despite such actions by the international community;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) prohibits all United Nations member states, including Syria, from providing any form of support to non-state actors that attempt to develop, acquire, possess, transfer, or use chemical weapons or other weapons of mass destruction, and it reaffirms that weapon of mass destruction proliferation ''constitutes a threat to international peace and security'';

Whereas, on February 22, 2012, the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic found in its second report that, after further review, ''a reliable body of evidence exists that, consistent with other verified circumstances, provides reasonable grounds to believe that particular individuals, including commanding officers and officials at the highest levels of Government, bear responsibility for crimes against humanity and other gross human rights violations'';

Whereas, on February 5, 2013, the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic found in its report that Syrian forces and affiliated militia committed crimes against humanity, war crimes, and gross violations of international human rights and that anti-government forces committed war crimes;

Whereas the February 5, 2013, United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic found that government forces, affiliated militia, and anti-government forces have violated the rights of children and that government forces and affiliated militia have committed widespread sexual violence;

Whereas the report recommends that the United Nations Security Council ''take appropriate action and commit to human rights and the rule of law by means of referral to justice, possibly to the International Criminal Court, bearing in mind that, in the context of the Syrian Arab Republic, only the Security Council is competent to refer the situation to the Court'';

Whereas the United Nations conducted an investigation into the alleged August 21, 2013, chemical weapons attack in the Damascus suburbs;

Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has repeatedly called on the United Nations Security Council to consider referring the situation of Syria to the International Criminal Court; and

Whereas the International Criminal Court is an independent body whose mission is to investigate and prosecute individuals for crimes within its jurisdiction, including crimes against humanity, war crimes, and genocide: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) strongly condemns the ongoing violence, the use of chemical weapons, and the systematic gross human rights violations carried out by Syrian government forces under direction of President Bashar al-Assad as well as abuses committed by other groups involved in the civil war in Syria;

(2) expresses its support for the people of Syria seeking peaceful democratic change; and

(3) calls on the United Nations Security Council, based on evidence that war crimes and crimes against humanity have been perpetrated in Syria, to refer the situation of Syria to the International Criminal Court.

SENATE RESOLUTION 220—TO AUTHORIZE REPRESENTATION BY THE SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL IN THE CASE OF WADE V. MILLER, ET AL

Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 220

Whereas, ninety-five current and former Senators are named as defendants in the case of Wade v. Miller, et al., No. 13–708, now pending in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(1) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a) and 288c(a)(1), the Senate may direct its counsel to defend current and former Members of the Senate in civil actions relating to their official responsibilities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent the ninety-five current and former Senators named as defendants in the case of Wade v. Miller, et al.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1849. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 21, to authorize the limited and specified use of the United States Armed Forces against Syria; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1849. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 21, to authorize the limited and specified use of the United States Armed Forces against Syria; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. TERMINATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S AUTHORITY TO USE FORCE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF SYRIA.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the authority to use force resides in Congress, and the President does not have authority to carry out the military action set forth in this resolution absent passage of the resolution.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on September 10, 2013, in room SD–628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a legislative hearing to receive testimony on the following bills: S. 1448, to provide for equitable compensation to the Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation for the use of tribal land for the production of hydropower by the Grand Coulee Dam, and for other purposes; S. 1219, to authorize the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians Water Rights Settlement, and for other purposes; and S. 1447, to make technical corrections to certain Native American water rights settlements in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224–2251.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on September 10, 2013, in room SD–628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a business meeting to authorize expenditures by the Committee through February of 2015.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224–2251.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet in open session on Thursday, September 12, 2013, at 10 a.m. in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled ''Dental Crisis in America: The Need to Address Cost''

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Sophie Kasimow of the committee staff on (202) 224–5480.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Rules and Administration will meet at 10 a.m., on Tuesday, September 10, 2013, to consider the nominations of Ann Miller Ravel and Lee E. Goodman to be members of the Federal Election Commission and to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration for the remainder of the 113th Congress.

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Adam Topper at the Rules and Administration Committee at 202–224–6352,

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AUTHORIZING SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 220 which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 220) to authorize representation by the Senate Legal Counsel in the case of Wade v. Miller, et al.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 220) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2011

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, September 10, 2013; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m., with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; further, that at 11 a.m. the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. J. Res. 21, and the time until noon be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10

minutes each; finally, that the Senate recess from 12 p.m. until 2:15 to allow for the weekly caucus meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:59 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, September 10, 2013, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate September 9, 2013:

THE JUDICIARY

VALERIE E. CAPRONI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.

VERNON S. BRODERICK, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOLLYWOOD SIGN

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 90th anniversary of a true California icon—the Hollywood Sign in the hills of Hollywood, California.

First erected in 1923, the Hollywood Sign originally read ''Hollywoodland'' to advertise the new housing developments that surrounded the Hollywood Hills. In 1949, the sign was changed to simply ''Hollywood,'' and since then has become a symbol of the vibrant Hollywood movie industry, a beacon attracting talent and tourists to come to Los Angeles from all over the world, and a national treasure.

In 1973, the Hollywood sign was declared a historical and cultural monument of Los Angeles. Thus, the Hollywood Sign Trust was established to protect the icon. Throughout the years, the Hollywood Sign Trust has become an avid supporter of cultural events in and around Hollywood. The Trust's current mission is to repair, maintain, refurbish, and provide improvements to the Hollywood Sign.

Over the years, the Hollywood Sign has attracted not only those who dream of a career in film and television, but also visitors from every corner of the world. As a symbol of hope, adventure and a bit of glamour, the Hollywood Sign stretches vibrantly across Mount Lee, visible throughout Los Angeles.

I am proud to recognize the Hollywood Sign upon its 90th Anniversary, and I ask all Members to join me today in honoring this historic monument.

RECOGNIZING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 175th anniversary of St. Patrick's Church, the oldest Roman Catholic Church in the Diocese of Joliet, Illinois.

St. Patrick's Church dates back to 1838 with the arrival of Reverend John Francis Plunkett, an Irish immigrant who was assigned to provide spiritual needs to the construction workers of the Illinois & Michigan Canal project. As a result of the canal project, many immigrant families migrated to the area and as the community grew, St. Patrick's Church was born.

Throughout the next 175 years and seventeen pastors, St. Patrick's Church thrived and experienced many changes. For the first 81 years of its existence, it was located on Broadway Street, where the current Victory Center now stands. In 1919, it moved to its current location on West Marion Street.

Today, the dedicated parishioners of St. Patrick's Church continue to extend their commitment to service for their community and beyond. Whether it be from the $25,000 in aid they were able to distribute to unfortunate families who sought help with bill payments to their impressive Food Pantry program which serves more than 300 families a month, the parishioners of St. Patrick's Church truly embody the spirit of selfless service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing St. Patrick's Church on the occasion of their 175th anniversary and I wish them many more years of dedicated service to the community.

TRIBUTE TO THE DEMPSEY FAMILY

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, the birth of Ezekiel Dempsey in the state of North Carolina in the 1800's began the Dempsey family lineage which has blessed us with descendants that have helped to shape our nation; and

Whereas, the Dempsey Family has produced many well respected citizens and the patriarchs and matriarchs of the Dempsey Family are pillars of strength that have touched many throughout our nation, family members of the past and present such as Rev. Tom Dempsey, Stephen Dempsey, William Dempsey, James Dempsey and Sarah Dempsey; and

Whereas, in our beloved Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, we are honored to have members of the Dempsey family for they are some of our most beloved citizens in our District; and

Whereas, family is one of the most honored and cherished institutions in the world, we take pride in knowing that families such as the Dempsey family have set aside this time to fellowship with each other, honor one another and to pass along history to each other by meeting at this year's family reunion in DeKalb County, Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the Dempsey family;

Now Therefore, I, HENRY C. ''HANK'' JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim June 8, 2012, as Dempsey Family Reunion Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, This 8th day of June, 2012.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MAY SONG VANG PAO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay to tribute to the life of May Song Vang Pao, who passed away on August 5, 2013 at the age of 62. Mrs. Gen. Vang Pao was constantly filled with optimism and drive despite her nearly eight year battle with cancer. Although faced with increasingly insurmountable odds, Mrs. Gen. Vang Pao continued to battle the disease to help maintain the legacy of her late husband, General Vang Pao.

May Song was born in Laos on February 5, 1951 to Nhia Chou Moua and Yee Lee. Receiving an education was very important to May even though it went against her father's beliefs and the gender roles at the time. She became a nurse and focused most of her attention on caring for the disabled. May's decision to receive an education was the beginning of her lifelong message that it is important for both men and women to be educated.

In 1973, she married General Vang Pao, who was the only ethnic Hmong general in the Royal Lao Army. This achievement earned him worldwide recognition. After aiding the United States forces in the Vietnam War, Mr. and Mrs. General Vang Pao as well as many other Hmong refugees resettled in the United States. Eventually settling in California's Central Valley, Mr. and Mrs. General Vang Pao continued their roles as leaders in the Hmong community.

Mrs. Gen. Vang Pao was instrumental in helping refugees settle into their new American lives. She inspired many young men and women to strive for greatness and brought the Hmong community together under her benevolent leadership. Mrs. Gen. Vang Pao will remain an inspiration to those in both the American and Asian Hmong communities.

After the passing of General Vang Pao in January 2011, Mrs. Gen. Vang Pao remained strong and unified the entire Hmong community. She helped the community recover from the loss of their mentor and hero. In 2012, she founded the General Vang Pao Foundation in Fresno which aims to help and support disadvantaged Hmong families.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the life of May Song Vang Pao. She will always be remembered as an influential member of our very important Hmong community.

IN HONOR OF DR. EDDIE T. LINDSEY, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I pay tribute to a terrific educator and outstanding citizen of Columbus, Georgia, Dr. Eddie T. Lindsey, Jr. Dr. Lindsey passed away on Monday, August 12, 2013. A Homegoing Celebration was held on Friday, August 16, 2013 at 12:00 pm at the First African Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia.

Born on January 24, 1932, Dr. Eddie Lindsey grew up in Columbus, Georgia. He was a graduate of Spencer High School, and went on to attend Savannah State University where he found his passion for education. Upon graduating, he began his teaching career first at Carver High School and then taught at his Alma Mater, Spencer High School. From 1964–1966, he served as Assistant Principal of Carver Elementary School before serving as Principal of Marshall Junior High School for one year. Then in 1967, he was named Principal of Spencer High School, where he served for eight more years.

In 1975, Dr. Lindsey made history as the first African-American assistant superintendent in Muscogee County when he was named the Assistant Superintendent for Policy and Procedures for the Muscogee County School District. In 1980, he became the Assistant Superintendent for Policy and Student Services, where he served for over 20 years until his retirement on June 30, 1991.

Dr. Lindsey's impact stretched far beyond his immediate students, however, as he was also the first African-American teacher to get a six-year certificate, and the first African American to serve on the Muscogee County School Board, blazing a trail for many other Black teachers and administrators. He created and published the school district's first policy booklet and student behavior code, a manual that is still being used today.

Dr. Lindsey's commitment to education was reflected in his own academic achievements, as he continued to pursue a higher level of education, receiving a Master's Degree from Atlanta University and a Doctorate of Education from Auburn University in 1978.

A love for education surrounded Dr. Lindsey outside of the classroom as well. His wife of 57 years, Constance, is a retired educator of the Muscogee County School District. His two sons also followed in his footsteps; his oldest son, Eddie, is Coordinator of Edgewood Alternative School, and his youngest son, Christopher, is Principal of G.W. Carver High School.

George Washington Carver once said, "No individual has any right to come into the world and go out of it without leaving behind distinct and legitimate reasons for having passed through it." We are all so blessed that Dr. Eddie Lindsey passed this way and during his life's journey did so much for so many for so long. He leaves behind a great legacy in education to the thousands of students, teachers, and administrators whose lives he touched and brightened.

On a personal note, Dr. Eddie Lindsey was a close personal friend of mine and one of the first educators I met when I first came to Columbus in 1972. I have truly been blessed by his friendship, counsel and inspiration throughout the years.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with the more than 700,000 people of the Second Congressional District salute Dr. Lindsey for his outstanding achievements, service, and public distinction. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in extending our deepest condolences to Dr. Lindsey's family, friends and the Columbus, Georgia community during this difficult time. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

TRIBUTE TO JACK O'NEILL

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Burbank, California resident and hometown hero Jack O'Neill.

Mr. O'Neill started his career at the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) in New York in January of 1967. He rose through the ranks starting as an entry-level cost coordinator and in 2005 retired as NBC's Vice President of Facilities and Corporate Sourcing. His tireless work ethic, charisma, and commitment to the community led him to become the face of NBC in Burbank.

In 1977, Mr. O'Neill transferred from NBC's New York office to KNBC's facility in Burbank, California. In the late 1980's when the City of Burbank initiated its Media District Specific Plan and NBC proposed the NBC Plaza, Mr. O'Neill attended countless meetings with residents, the City Council, and Planning Board answering the difficult questions and creating positive dialogue in the city. Mr. O'Neill was instrumental in keeping NBC in Burbank and saved countless jobs in the Los Angeles region.

After Mr. O'Neill's retirement from NBC, he became Chief Operating Officer of the Bob Hope Family Estate in 2006, where he supervised the family's expansive real estate portfolio and advised the Hope Family businesses throughout the world. Currently, Mr. O'Neill serves as a Principal at the O'Neill Group, a real estate and business consulting firm.

Always willing to serve the community, Mr. O'Neill has volunteered and served as emcee or host at various fundraisers for groups like the Boys and Girls Club of Burbank, Burbank Unified School District, Burbank Temporary Aid Center, Burbank Public Library, and Burbank Sunrise Rotary.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me in honoring Jack O'Neill for his exemplary service to the Burbank community.

HONORING MRS. MARY EDITH BROWN COLEMAN

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincere respect that I congratulate Mrs. Mary Edith Brown Coleman as she is recognized by First Church of God in Gary, Indiana, for 73 years of continuous service to the church. Edith will be recognized for her lifetime of dedicated service on September 22, 2013 at First Church of God.

Edith Brown was born on February 13, 1917 in Muskogee, Oklahoma. She was one of four children born to Luther Albert Brown and Dora Rozolia Draper Brown. Having gone on to live in Kansas City, Kansas, and Chicago, Illinois, Edith finally relocated to Gary, Indiana, in 1940. Quite the accomplished student, Edith completed her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in education at Indiana University in Bloomington. From there, she decided to go into the teaching profession. As a teacher at Frederick Douglass Elementary School in Gary for over 27 years, Edith was able to enrich the lives of so many young people in the Gary community. For her commitment to the youth of Northwest Indiana, she is worthy of the highest praise.

Equally impressive, Edith has always been seen as the foundation of her family. She and her husband, the late William Henry Coleman, were blessed with the births of two wonderful children: Norma Louise Coleman and the late Merle Jean Coleman. Edith's family, as well as the many people whose lives she has touched, admire her for devoting unselfish love, time, dedication, guidance, and spirit to her family, her students, her church, and her community.

As well as being dearly loved and respected by her family, her students, and her community, Edith is also well known for her involvement with her church, First Church of God. Over the course of seventy-three years, Edith has taught Sunday School, been the director of the Daily Vacation Bible School, held memberships in the local and national Missionary Societies, sung in the church choir, created beautiful and meaningful bulletin board displays, served as a deaconess, and taught a manners class for young children.

For years, Edith has also been a distinguished member of the American Association of University Women, the Women's Association of the Northwest Indiana Symphony Society, the Red Hat Society, and the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority. Since her arrival in Northwest Indiana, Edith has been known as a good-hearted woman who is always willing to help the people of her church and her community. For her selflessness, she is to be commended and admired.

Mr. Speaker, Mary Edith Brown Coleman has given her time and efforts selflessly to her church and the community in Northwest Indiana throughout her illustrious life. She has taught every member of her family and extended family the true meaning of service to others. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Edith for her lifetime of service.

IN RECOGNITION OF UNITED WAY OF DENTON COUNTY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the United Way of Denton County and

its 62 years of service. The mission of the United Way of Denton County is to improve lives in Denton County by mobilizing community resources to address the critical issues of education, income, and health in people's everyday lives. The organization's hard work has taken on many challenges from the 90,000 individuals that don't know where their next meal will come from to the high rate of high school dropouts to the more than 8,000 children under the age of 5 that live in poverty.

United Way has built programs to tackle these problems, and it has made a significant difference in the lives of many people in Denton County. They have mobilized volunteers to mentor children, provided effective training for parents and caregivers, and assisted in supplying critical needs, such as food, clothing, and school supplies. Over the past year, through its Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, 612 Federal Tax returns have been prepared, free of charge, for low income Denton County households. Their work returned over $1 million to the community and saved families $137,000 in tax preparation fees. In one day alone, the organization's food bank collected more than 40,000 pounds of food donations. They have also rallied community based and faith based organizations to work together to implement Bank On Denton County, a program to provide cost effective financial services to underserved communities.

All totaled, United Way of Denton County volunteers donated more than 19,200 hours this year, valued at more than $425,000 to help more than 55,000 people in Denton County. Additionally, donors gave $2,068,024 to the United Way of Denton County to support its mission this year alone.

The United Way of Denton County has an incredible positive effect on the community. It is my pleasure to recognize its 62 years of service to the community, and I am privileged to represent the United Way of Denton County in the U.S. House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING GULFSTREAM STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of the Gulfstream Student Leadership Program and its exceptional efforts to improve high school graduation rates in Savannah, Georgia. The Gulfstream Student Leadership Program summer trip to Washington provides students with the opportunity to see first–hand the inner workings of our government and gain an appreciation of our nation's history and monuments.

The students that I met last week in the Capitol were rising seniors who had completed three years of the Student Leadership Program. The program went into effect five years ago, and 96 percent of the initial class of 150 students went on to graduate. Currently, eleven local high schools participate in the Student Leadership Program, and the 2012–2013 class includes close to 650 students.

This incredible program is made possible through the efforts of the Gulfstream Community Relations Staff, teachers and community advisors. I am pleased to recognize the students and teachers that were a part of this year's Student Leadership trip to Washington, and I look forward to working with them in the future.

CONGRATULATING THE CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN ON SETTING A NEW ATTENDANCE RECORD

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Chicago Botanic Garden on setting a new monthly attendance record. In July, the Garden attracted 159,361 people, shattering the previous record by nearly 10,000 visitors. This marks the third consecutive month with more than 100,000 visitors—a streak equaled only twice before.

Since opening its gates 41 years ago, the Botanic Garden has brought joy to hundreds of thousands of people each year. With its fabulously varied grounds, the Chicago Botanic Garden is a natural refuge from the urban environment just outside its walls.

The record–breaking attendance figures are a testament to the Botanic Garden's sustained excellence and prominent position in the community as one of the region's most popular tourist and cultural destinations.

I have visited the Botanic Garden many times with my own family, as have countless other families in our community. Visitors appreciate its beauty, are enriched by its research, and create treasured memories year round.

In its mission to further our understanding of nature and our environment, the Chicago Botanic Garden educates its visitors and the community on the critical importance of conservation efforts. The Botanic Garden has grown our understanding of and appreciation for nature's simple beauty.

Spread across 385 acres, the Botanic Garden features thousands of plant species and hosts more than 100,000 volumes in its library. The Garden offers an abundance of activities for the entire community.

This achievement demonstrates that people with access to inspired institutions like the Chicago Botanic Garden live happier, healthier lives. I congratulate the Garden, and all those who make it a distinctive paragon of the Tenth District. I am grateful it is part of the Tenth District.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION OF LARRY WILLIAMS

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, Larry Williams, the former Director of the FAA William J. Hughes Technical Center, passed away on Friday, August 9, after suffering a heart attack.

Larry Williams served as the director of the Technical Center from 1982 to 1987. After leaving the Center, he went on to work with aviation-related companies in the private sector. He was a consultant for aviation giants such as Booz Allen Hamilton, CSSI, and others. He was part of a small joint team sponsored in part by the FAA and NASA that developed NextGen architecture and related projects. In January 2012, Larry was appointed to the NextGen aviation park board of directors.

The Virginia resident spent many years working for the FAA, between New Jersey and Washington, DC, including 10 years as the automation and surveillance engineering chief. Larry was recognized as an expert in the aviation industry throughout the country.

He came in contact with and touched many people throughout his career in aviation. His dedication and loyalty to the aviation industry and to the ideals of ensuring safer skies for those who fly will be missed. He exemplified the positive human values of kindness, dedication, and dignity, and was an outstanding example to all who knew him. Larry Williams was truly a remarkable gentleman; a loving husband, father, and grandfather; and a great friend to all of us.

COMMEMORATING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'S ''I HAVE A DREAM'' SPEECH

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s ''I Have a Dream'' speech. This incredibly moving oration set the stage to bring equal rights to all people; his words are as poignant and touching today as they were when spoken fifty years ago.

From the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on August 28, 1963, Dr. King delivered this now famous speech while hundreds of thousands of onlookers participated in the March on Washington. The speech began with reference to the Emancipation Proclamation, which ended slavery in the United States and brought about hope for the future; however, Dr. King continued to highlight how there was still more work to be done, even one hundred years after Lincoln made that address. Then, through an artful combination of skilled writing and improvisation, Dr. King delivered what is arguably one of the most memorable speeches of our Nation's history.

In his speech, Dr. King envisioned a Nation where the families of former slaves and those of former slave owners would live together in harmony. He urged people to look past years of racial segregation, injustice, and inequality to join together as one. He did so, as all parents would, with the hope that his children could live in a land free from hatred. Dr. King stated that this was the freedom that our Founding Fathers fought so hard to protect, so we owed it to them and ourselves to create this change.

Perhaps Dr. King did not know how monumental this one speech would become to the American civil rights movement. It allowed many Americans to reflect on years of racial separation and realize that change was on the horizon. Unfortunately, Dr. King did not live to

see this dream realized, but his "I Have a Dream" speech helped pave the way for the success of the civil rights movement and remains an important lesson on history and equality to this day.

As organizations throughout our Nation join in commemorating the anniversary of this momentous speech, I would like to recognize and thank Operation People for Peace, and its Chairman Arthur Rocker, Sr., who has partnered with over four hundred churches and organizations throughout the Gulf Coast to collect food donations to help feed thousands of families, as well as, thank the Southern Christian Leadership Conference chapters of the Gulf Coast, the National Congress of Black Women chapters of the Gulf Coast, and all organizations across Northwest Florida for their efforts. We are truly blessed to have these organizations helping to keep the memory of Dr. King's words fresh in the minds of the people in our community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pride to recognize the Fiftieth Anniversary of the "I Have a Dream" speech. My wife Vicki joins me in thanking those throughout Northwest Florida for hosting celebrations along the Gulf Coast to commemorate this incredible speech. Most importantly, we would like to remember Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for his tremendous service to this Nation and his efforts to put an end to racial inequality.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR ROBERT S. SWENSON, USAFR, RETIRED

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and recognize Major Robert S. Swenson, USAFR, Retired. Major Swenson, a World War II veteran who did not receive his Bronze Star Medal for his bravery during the Varsity Operation in 1945, received his medal on August 10, 2013 at the Trigger Time Convention in the City of SeaTac, Washington.

In 1945, as a glider pilot in the 435th Troop Carrier Group, 75th Squadron, Major Swenson and his fellow airmen distinguished themselves when enemy infantry mounted a counter attack. The 435th Troop Carrier Group fought and repelled the attack of approximately 200 enemy soldiers, a tank, a self-propelled artillery, and two 20mm flak guns.

After the battle, a request was made by Major Charles 0. Gordon that all members of the 435th Troop Carrier Group be given due recognition. However, at the end of the war, the order was lost and went unfulfilled. The records have since been conserved at the Silent Wings Museum Archives and Major General Kenneth Dahl, Deputy Commanding General, I Corps at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, will formally present the Bronze Star Medal to Major Swenson at the convention.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Major Robert S. Swenson, USAFR, Retired, for his fearlessness and dedication to serving his country.

TRIBUTE TO BOBBY HURD

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I present the following U.S. Citizen of Distinction:

Whereas, our lives have been touched by the life of this one man, Bobby Hurd who has given so much of himself in order for others to stand; and

Whereas, his work is present in the gospel music industry for all to see, and "The Bobby Hurd Show" has been instrumental in spreading the gospel and promoting gospel artists in the Metropolitan Atlanta area and beyond; and

Whereas, this giant of a man accomplished so much during his time on earth, he was an electrician by trade, a promoter by talent, a community advocate by concern and a friend to all; and

Whereas, he gave of himself, his time, his talent and his life to uplift those in need, he never asked for fame or fortune he just wanted to help somebody and to inspire anybody by being involved in community activities and spreading the gospel; he encouraged everybody to do the same by witnessing him walk the walk and talk the talk; and

Whereas, Bobby Hurd led by doing both behind the scenes and on the front lines, he was an ambassador of goodwill who will be truly missed; and

Whereas, Bobby Hurd was a husband, a father, a grandfather, and a friend; he was our warrior, our patriarch, a man of great integrity who remained true to the uplifting of our community until his end; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia recognizes Bobby Hurd as a citizen of great worth and so noted distinction;

Now Therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby attest to the 113th Congress that he is deemed worthy and deserving of this Congressional Honor by declaring Mr. Bobby Hurd U.S. Citizen of Distinction in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, This 12th day of July, 2013.

STATEMENT ON THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF BISHOP ERIC R. FIGUEROA, SR.

HON. HAKEEM S. JEFFRIES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the achievements of Bishop Eric R. Figueroa, Sr. During his 30 years of service, Bishop Figueroa has ministered to thousands and worked tirelessly to improve the lives of all those he encountered. In honor of his three decades of service to our community, Bishop Figueroa was honored at a celebratory banquet on Monday, May 20, 2013 at Russo's on the Bay in Howard Beach, New York.

In 1983, Bishop Figueroa founded New Life Tabernacle, which has been an important part of our community. In addition to his ministry at the church, Bishop Figueroa has demonstrated a strong commitment to improving the lives of the people of Brooklyn through the Family Life Development Center. The Center provides an impressive range of services which include: a food pantry, drug rehabilitation programs, juvenile alternatives to incarceration, mentoring, counseling, college preparation, scholarships, and senior citizen programming. He recognized the needs of the people of Brooklyn and found solutions. His work has provided critical services to those most in need.

Bishop Figueroa's efforts as a founding member of Brooklyn Congregations Together, which united church communities in the borough to best meet the needs of the people, are commendable. The community remains indebted to the New Life Covenant Fellowship, which educates and empowers new leaders. Bishop Figueroa is truly a gifted teacher, preacher, and singer.

He is an inspirational leader whose work would not have been possible without the love and support of his wife Doreen Figueroa and their devoted children and grandchildren. We thank his family for sharing him with us all. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Bishop Figueroa on his 30th pastoral anniversary. For his commitment to the people of Brooklyn and to his service of those less fortunate, he is worthy of the highest praise.

COMMENDING ALPHA DELTA KAPPA INTERNATIONAL HONORARY ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN EDUCATORS

HON. MO BROOKS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Alpha Delta Kappa International Honorary Organization for Women Educators on its sixty-six years of dedicated service and proclaim October 2013 as Alpha Delta Kappa Month. Established in 1947, Alpha Delta Kappa's goals have been to establish high standards of education, give recognition to outstanding educators, build a fraternal fellowship among educators and to promote educational and charitable projects and activities enriching the lives of individuals everywhere.

With a membership of over 33,000 educators representing all fifty U.S. states, Puerto Rico, Canada, Mexico, Jamaica and Australia, Alpha Delta Kappa is committed to educational excellence, personal and professional growth and for collectively channeling their energies toward the good of their schools, communities, the teaching profession and the world.

Women in education constitute a great portion of the nation's working force and are constantly striving to serve their communities and nation in educational, cultural, and charitable programs leading to harmony, happiness, and peace among all people.

Over the last few years, the members of Alpha Delta Kappa have given altruistically to the communities they serve by raising nearly $14.5 million dollars and volunteering over 2 million service hours.

I congratulate Alpha Delta Kappa International Honorary Organization for Women

Educators on their many years of unparalleled success and wish them well and best wishes as they continue to educate our children.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF VICKIE B. MULLINS TO NORTHWEST FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Vickie B. Mullins upon her retirement from UF/IFAS Santa Rosa County Extension as the 4–H Agent for Youth Development. For over forty years, Mrs. Mullins has served the Gulf Coast community, and I am privileged to recognize her success and myriad achievements.

From a very young age, Mrs. Mullins has called Northwest Florida home. Born in Andalusia, Alabama, Mrs. Mullins and her family moved in 1955 to Pensacola, Florida, where she graduated from Woodham High School and Pensacola Junior College. She continued her studies at Florida State University, receiving both a bachelor's and master's degree in Home Economics Education. Upon graduation, Mrs. Mullins performed post graduate work at Mississippi State University and the University of Mississippi.

Leading up to her career as a 4–H Agent, Mrs. Mullins served the Gulf Coast in numerous capacities. She worked in the Escambia County School System from 1972 to 1973, taught in the Amory and Nettleton School Districts, served as the Mississippi State Board of Health Nutritionist, and directed and taught the Nettleton First Baptist Church Weekday Early Education Program. She was also an adjunct instructor at Pensacola Junior College and the University of West Florida and the Culinary Arts Instructor at Locklin Vocational Technical School 1993–1997, where she was selected as the Locklin Teacher of the Year. In 1973, Mrs. Mullins joined the Escambia County Extension Service and became the first Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program Youth Agent in Escambia County. She later joined the Mississippi Extension Service in 1979, and in 1997, Mrs. Mullins joined the UF/IFAS Santa Rosa County Extension, where she has served the last fifteen years as a 4–H Agent.

If there is one common thread sewn throughout her professional career, it is Mrs. Mullins' passion and dedication for bettering the lives of those around her. The positive impact Mrs. Mullins has made on the lives of our Nation's youth is unquestioned, and it is evidenced by the numerous accolades she has earned over the years. These include the Florida and National Extension Distinguished Service Award, the Florida and National Extension Meritorious Service Award, the Regional and National Power of Youth Award, the State, Regional, and National Beyond Youth Leadership Award, and the National 4–H Program of Distinction Award.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my gratitude to Vickie Mullins for her years of dedicated service to Northwest Florida. She is an inspiration to those around her, and we in Northwest Florida are blessed to have her as part of the community. My wife Vicki joins me in wishing Vickie; her husband Dan; their three children Katie, Sarah, and Jackson; and their entire family all the best for continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE BLESSING OF THE GRAPES CEREMONY AT THE HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN CHURCH

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Holy Trinity Armenian Church during their celebration of the 100th Blessing of the Grapes ceremony. This is a very special time for the Armenian community as they gather on this holy day.

The blessing of grapes is a special tradition within the Armenian Church. The ceremony takes place on a major feast day, "Assumption of St. Mary" which is a celebration of St. Mary being assumed into Heaven. Grapes have a symbolic significance in the Christian faith, and on this day they are considered to be forbidden fruit before being blessed by the Priest at the closing of the ceremony.

Holy Trinity Armenian Church is an historical landmark in Fresno, California. The first Armenian Church was destroyed in a fire in 1913, and the Holy Trinity Armenian Church was built at an alternate location. Armenian architect, Lawrence Cone, created the magnificent church as a sacred place for the Armenian community. It was the first traditional Armenian Church in the United States.

The Central Valley is home to thousands of Armenians, and as a community we must also celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the Holy Trinity Armenian Church. They have made everlasting contributions to the City of Fresno, and our entire country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 100th Year Anniversary of the Blessing of the Grapes Ceremony at the Holy Trinity Armenian Church. Their mission to provide an infinite amount of faith, hope, and love to the public is highly respected and praised.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF MASONIC LODGE 422

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Masonic Lodge 422 of Joliet, Illinois. Tracing their founding to the Civil War, the 250 members of Masonic Lodge 422 recently celebrated the longevity of their fraternal organization, and reflected on its early days in the Chicago neighborhood of Hyde Park.

Throughout history, Freemasons have dedicated their lives to cultivating good moral character both within themselves and their communities. They have consistently involved themselves in a variety of charitable causes, in their belief that one of their important roles is to do good for society. The charitable commitments of the Joliet Freemasons include valuable medical services like the Illinois Masonic Medical Center and the Shriners Hospital for Children, as well as contributions to affiliated women and children's advocacy groups.

Over the years, Masonic Lodge 422 has maintained steady membership and has remained devoted to restoring the charitable and philosophic legacy of old Masonic orders. Members of those old orders include our founding fathers George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin, whose prominence, accomplishments, and positive influence remain a motivational force for contemporary Freemasons.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in not only honoring Masonic Lodge 422, but also in wishing this shining example of tradition, resilience, and generosity many more years of existence.

TRIBUTE TO ABBIE BURANNICE BENN AND JACK BENN

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, On December 29, 1881, the union of Abbie Burannice Benn and Jack Benn in Morgan County, Georgia, blessed us with descendants that have helped to shape our nation; and

Whereas, to this union fourteen children were born; Carrie Benn, Emma Benn, John Benn, Jack Benn, Willie Benn, Anderson Benn, Birder Benn, Joseph Benn, Elbert Benn, Lula Benn, Corlor Benn, Mattie Benn, Arthur Benn and Rosey Benn; and from the children of Abbie and Jack Benn, and we have seen and are seeing generations of many well respected citizens, so today we honor all of the matriarchs and patriarchs, who are pillars of strength for the Benn, Brinkley and Randolph families; and

Whereas, in our beloved Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, we are honored to have many members of the Benn, Brinkley and Randolph families who are productive citizens in our District; and

Whereas, family is one of the most honored and cherished institutions in the world, we take pride in knowing that families such as the Benn, Brinkley and Randolph families have set aside this time to fellowship with each other, honor one another and to pass along history to each other by meeting at this year's family reunion in Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the Benn, Brinkley and Randolph families;

Now Therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim, July 20, 2013, as Benn, Brinkley & Randolph Family Reunion Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, This 20th day of July, 2013.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 30TH ANNUAL PITTSTON TOMATO FESTIVAL FOR ITS CONTINUED SUPPORT OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA'S AGRICULTURE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate the committee members and volunteers of the 30th Annual Pittston Tomato Festival. The City of Pittston, Pennsylvania has once again staged this remarkable and unique civic event celebrating both the exceptional tomatoes grown throughout the Northeastern Pennsylvania region and the warmth and hospitality of the City of Pittston.

The four-day festival that kicked-off on Thursday, August 15 was designed in part to showcase just how far the festival has come since its humble beginnings thirty years ago. In 1983, Valentine ''Val'' Delia founded the festival as a way to showcase the produce of his garden. Since then, the festival has grown from a small gathering of local farmers in a parking lot in downtown Pittston to a widely recognized and beloved iconic component of the region's summer entertainment.

With attractions such as local musicians, local vendors, a parade, 5K run, and the renowned ''Tomato Fights'' that raise money for food-related charities, the Pittston Tomato Festival showcases the best aspects of the community. The festival highlights the city's vibrant Italian-American culture, displays its beautiful and historic revitalization projects, and fosters an atmosphere of community and sense of service to others in each and every one of the thousands of visitors it brings to the City of Pittston.

In recognition of the 30th Annual Pittston Tomato Festival, I add my congratulations and best wishes for continued success in bringing family recreation and a strengthened sense of community to the City of Pittston and Northeastern Pennsylvania.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S ALVIN HENRY ENFINGER

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Northwest Florida's Alvin Henry Enfinger, who passed away on September 2, 2013. Mr. Enfinger spent his entire life serving those around him through his knowledge of medicine and farming and his predisposition to help his fellow man.

Born on September 27, 1925, Mr. Enfinger spent the early years of his life working on his family's farm in Chumuckla, Florida. At the age of 18, he enlisted in the Navy during World War II. After his military service, Mr. Enfinger returned home, married the love of his life Doris Gillman and looked toward his professional future.

Mr. Enfinger graduated from Auburn University in 1951 and then decided to pursue his chosen profession of pharmacy. Only three years into his practice, Mr. Enfinger opened his own pharmacy in West Pensacola named A & E Pharmacy, which is now Northwest Florida's oldest, continuously family–owned and operated pharmacy. A & E Pharmacy has been very successful throughout its nearly 60 years of operation, at one time being the largest pharmacy in Pensacola. Whereas the Gulf Coast has seen an influx of large chain pharmacies as most other areas of the country have over the years, A & E Pharmacy remains a local treasure in our community thanks to Mr. Enfinger's strong leadership.

Mr. Enfinger never veered too far from his upbringing on a farm or from his will to serve the people of Northwest Florida. In 1970, he began raising Red Angus Cattle, a mission that earned him significant recognition for his success and a term as President of The Southeastern Red Angus Association. He was also instrumental in preserving the Coon Hill Cemetery for many years: raising money for its support, restoring its grounds, and acting as steward of the cemetery's history for the entire community. We were very fortunate to have such a talented man as a friend, neighbor, and tireless servant to our community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor the life of Mr. Alvin Enfinger. My wife Vicki and I offer our prayers and sincerest condolences to his five children, Art Enfinger, Rhonda Enfinger, David Enfinger, Beth Orr, and Jan Herrera; eleven grandchildren; and eighteen great grandchildren. He will truly be missed.

HONORING WILLIAM P. CLARK

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of William P. Clark from San Luis Obispo County, who passed away on August 10, 2013.

William Clark was born in Oxnard, California on October 23, 1931. As a fourth-generation Californian, Mr. Clark served on several state courts and as a longtime advisor to President Ronald Regan. Since 1969, Mr. Clark was appointed to the SLO County Superior Court, the California State Appellate Court in Los Angeles and later to the California State Supreme Court by then Governor Reagan, where he served as an associate justice for eight years.

Recognized for his dedication to public service, he was appointed as the Deputy Secretary of State in 1981 by President Reagan. A year later, he became the National Security Advisor and then served as the Secretary of the Interior until 1985. In his later years, Mr. Clark moved to his ranch in Shandon, California where he and his wife, Joan, built the Chapel Hill that he donated to his local community.

He is survived by his five children.

On a personal note, Mr. Clark was a gracious host when he invited me to visit the beautiful Chapel Hill. He was a kind man of character who proudly served his country and I am honored to have met him.

I offer my most heartfelt condolences to Mr. Clark's family and friends. Please join me in honoring this exemplary American and San Luis Obispo County resident.

IN MEMORY OF PETE MIRELEZ

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Mr. Pete Mirelez, who served as a role model and mentor to his community. He was proud to be the first Hispanic Adams County Commissioner and stated that after his family and friends his second love was Adams County.

Pete Mirelez was born in LaSalle, Colorado and was the first person in his family to receive a college degree, completing his studies at Chadron State College in Chadron, Nebraska. Pete served as Adams County's first Director of the War on Poverty Program and was named Regional Director of the California Migrant Council in 1968. In 1972, Pete was named the National Director of the office of Economic Opportunity Migrant Division in Washington D.C., before becoming an Adams County Commissioner. During Pete's time as Adams County Commissioner, an edition of the Brighton Sentinel named him as ''one of the most influential people in Adams County''.

After serving Adams County, Pete was appointed by President Jimmy Carter as Representative to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Region 8, and served from 1979 to 1981. Afterwards, Pete served the Colorado Department of Transportation Highway Commission for twelve years until becoming a lobbyist for Adams County School Districts.

Pete was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and mentor of mine who I was proud to also call a friend. He exemplified the American dream by showing that through education and service a person could create positive change in his community. His true public service will be missed.

IN HONOR OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF TEMPLE BETH EL IN SALINAS, CALIFORNIA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of Temple Beth El in Salinas, California. On behalf of the entire House, I am privileged to extend the gratitude of Congress and the American people for the past and future service of the Beth El congregation.

The First Hebrew Congregation and Community Center of Salinas was established in 1935. During World War II, and for a few years thereafter, Chaplain Hertz of Fort Ord served the congregation as its first religious leader. In 1949, Rabbi Seymour Stern joined the congregation as the synagogue's first Rabbi. Rabbi Abraham Haseklorn took over the rabbinic duties in 1953, and served until his retirement in 1973. He and his wife Alda made an invaluable contribution to the Salinas

community. In 1963, the name of Temple Beth El was adopted for the new synagogue building designed by Temple member Jerome Kasavan, and is the home of the current congregation and Rabbi Marcy Delbick.

For several years, Temple Beth El has served members throughout Salinas, Monterey, Prunedale, Gilroy and San Benito County. Their goal has been to provide both a spiritual and social center for members and guest. Its membership has spanned the entire spectrum of Jewish thought and tradition, along with diverse age levels and religious backgrounds. Reform, Conservative, Orthodox as well as unaffiliated members have added a unique variety to their gatherings. Throughout the years they have adapted to the changing needs of the times, while maintaining the respect for the traditions of their ancestors.

The objective of Temple Beth El has been both religious and cultural, providing Sunday and Hebrew school for children as well as education programs for adults. At the start, the religious school began with ten students, though soon outgrew the available space and often spilled into congregants' homes. Today, Temple Beth El offers education programs for children throughout the school year. A vast array of adult education classes are provided, from an introduction to Judiasm to the Lunch and Learn program.

Tikkun Olam, ''repairing the world'', is a major part of the Temple Beth El congregation community outreach. Members often prepare meals at the homeless shelter for the less fortunate, and are principle bell ringers for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Drive on Christmas Eve. For over 50 years the yearly Kosher Luncheon is a much heralded community event where corned beef and pastrami sandwiches are served, providing Jewish outreach of the most delicious kind.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I say Mazel Tov to the Temple Beth El congregation for their years of service devoted to the advancement of religious, cultural, and educational opportunities. I know I speak for the House in saluting their dedication, in making the community a better place and congratulating them on the celebration of their Golden Anniversary.

IN HONOR OF THE PERKASIE LIONS CLUB

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, for 75 years, the Perkasie Lions Club has dedicated their time to bettering both the lives of those in their community and disadvantaged individuals abroad. Currently meeting only five blocks from where it first assembled, and the club's reach and positive impact has only grown with its age. Since 1938, they have completed a variety of projects, with their main focus being assistance to the blind. Not only does the Lions Club provide medical equipment and glasses to those unable to afford them, but they also help enrich the lives of children within the community. The members have made comprehensive improvements to Lions Camp Kirby, where hearing and visually impaired children can take part in a variety of activities. From exploring the outdoors to toasting marshmallows around the camp fire, deserving young people are able to enjoy these opportunities regardless of financial standing. The Perkasie Lions Club has an impressive history in Bucks County, and I look forward to their continued contributions to the community.

RECOGNIZING FIRE AND RESCUE AND EMS PERSONNEL OF FLORIDA'S 16TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize fire and rescue and EMS personnel who have provided distinguished service to the people of Florida's 16th Congressional District.

As first responders, fire departments and emergency medical service teams are summoned on short notice to serve their respective communities. Oftentimes, they arrive at scenes of great adversity and trauma, to which they reliably bring strength and composure. These brave men and women spend hundreds of hours in training so that they are prepared when they get ''the call.''

Last year, I established the 16th District Congressional Fire and Rescue and EMS Awards to honor officers, departments, and units for outstanding achievement.

On behalf of the people of Florida's 16th District, it is my privilege to congratulate the following winners, who were selected by an independent committee comprised of a cross-section of current and retired fire and rescue personnel living in the district.

Battalion Chief Stacey S. Bailey of the East Manatee Fire Rescue received the Career Service Award.

The Sarasota K–9 Search and Rescue Team received the Associate Service Award.

Battalion Chief Russell McCord of the Englewood Area Fire Control received the Career Service Award.

Firefighter/Paramedic Brian Kolesa received the Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award.

I appreciate this opportunity to recognize 16th District fire and rescue and EMS personnel.

STATEMENT ON THE 114TH BIRTHDAY OF MS. SUSANNAH MUSHATT JONES

HON. HAKEEM S. JEFFRIES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 114th birthday of Ms. Susannah Mushatt Jones, who is affectionately called Miss Susie. Considered the oldest resident in New York State by the Gerontology Research Group, she is a beloved member of the Brooklyn community I am proud to represent in Congress. In honor of her birthday, Miss Susie was honored on July 12, 2013, at the Vandalia Senior Center in Brooklyn, NY. We revel not just the years since her birth, but the history she has witnessed in three separate centuries. From experiencing segregation in the South to being a first-hand witness of the Civil Rights movement in New York, we commemorate her birthday with awe and inspiration.

Miss Susie was born into a large, loving family on July 6, 1899, in Lowndes County, Alabama as the third of eleven children. In 1923 she moved to New York as part of the Great Migration of African Americans from the rural South to cities in the North, Midwest, and West. Miss Susie dedicated her professional pursuits to children, first as a schoolteacher and then as a childcare provider. At one point, she moved to Hollywood to work for a family in the film industry. During her time on the west coast, she enjoyed socializing with movie stars and attending movie premieres. She fondly remembers meeting Ronald Reagan, Clark Gable, and Cary Grant.

Family has always surrounded Miss Susie: she takes great delight in being an aunt to over 100 nieces and nephews. Throughout her life, she has brightened many lives with her positive attitude and infectious laugh. She resides in Vandalia Houses and was an active member of the Vandalia Houses Senior Center tenant patrol through her 100th birthday. Miss Susie credits her healthy lifestyle free of smoking and drinking for her longevity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in celebrating Ms. Susannah Mushatt Jones on her 114th birthday.

TRIBUTE TO THE CHARLES FAMILY

HON. HENRY C. ''HANK'' JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, the birth of Oliver Charles, son of Mr. Handy and Mrs. Alfhosine Batiste Charles in Freetown, Louisiana, on December 27, 1897, began the Charles family lineage which has blessed us with descendants who have helped to shape our nation; and

Whereas, Mr. Oliver Charles united in holy matrimony to Mrs. Laura Livingston Charles on March 18, 1927 in Freetown, Louisiana, their union has produced many well respected citizens and the patriarchs and matriarchs of the Charles Family are pillars of strength who have touched many throughout our nation, family members of the past and present, giving us generations of the Charles family lineage; and

Whereas, in our beloved Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, we are honored to have members of the Charles family for they are some of our most beloved citizens in our District; and

Whereas, family is one of the most honored and cherished institutions in the world, we take pride in knowing that families such as the Charles family have set aside this time to fellowship with each other, honor one another and to pass along history to each other by meeting at this year's family reunion in Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this

day to honor and recognize the Charles family; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim July 6, 2013, as Charles Family Reunion Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 6th day of July, 2013.

HONORING SHERIFF JEFF CAPPA

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sheriff Jeff Cappa of Richmond, Indiana.

My friend, Sheriff Jeff Cappa, of the Wayne County Sheriff's Office was recently honored as the Indiana Sheriff's Association 2013 Sheriff of the Year at the Association's annual gathering. Among his many accomplishments as Sheriff, Jeff returned the department to a true merit-based system for both hiring and promotions, created a 24-hour supervision of the jail and enforcement division, expanded medical coverage at the jail to full-time and around-the-clock service, and launched a strategic plan for the department.

Sheriff Cappa is known throughout the county and region as a Sheriff willing to work with the community to better serve its citizens. His working relationship with the county council and county commissioners is a testament to efficient local government. Jeff's outreach and leadership is a key to the continued growth, safety, and development of the communities throughout Wayne County.

I ask the 6th Congressional District to join me in thanking Sheriff Jeff Cappa and his team for their tireless effort towards increased public safety in Wayne County and in congratulating Jeff for his designation as the 2013 Indiana Sheriff's Association Sheriff of the Year.

COMMEMORATING THE DEDICATION OF THE JOSEPH NAPER STATUE

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Joseph Naper, founder of Naperville, and to commemorate the dedication of a statue in his honor. The statue, which stands at his former homestead, serves as a permanent testament to the strength, compassion, and ingenuity of this pioneer of the West.

Joseph Naper held many diverse professions in life—he was at various times a ship captain, frontiersman, trader, land surveyor, soldier and politician—but to all of them he brought the same care for community. Through hard work and endurance of spirit, Naper raised the physical foundations of the town we know today as Naperville from a spot of land on the West Branch of the DuPage River that he settled in 1831. Equally importantly, Naper built the cultural and spiritual foundations of his community, helping to provide educational, intellectual, and religious opportunities for fellow settlers.

Despite his many achievements, no plaque or monument has been dedicated in Naper's memory since his death in 1862. On August 23, this unfortunate oversight was corrected by the Naperville Heritage Society in partnership with the City of Naperville, who erected a statue in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the legacy of Joseph Naper and commemorating the unveiling of a statue in his honor. Men and Women like Naper helped to build the America we know today, and for that great service they are owed our eternal gratitude and honor.

TRIBUTE TO ARLOENE WATTS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a dear friend of mine, Arloene Watts. Arloene passed away on Monday, August 5, 2013. A resident of Corona for over half a century, she was a pillar of the community and will be deeply missed.

Arloene was born August 13, 1922 in Carson, Oregon, before moving with her family to Minnesota. Arloene grew up on the family farm, where her work ethic and values were formed. In 1941, she moved to Auburn, California to attend school at Sierra College. She and her husband, Ed, were married shortly thereafter in 1943. In 1957, the pair packed up and moved to a small town in Southern California—Corona. Arolene began her community work almost immediately, taking on roles with the Girl Scouts and Boys Scouts of America, and in parent-teacher groups.

Arloene's passion for service took shape early, and she became a champion for the development of women's rights in business throughout the community. With experience in personal finance and secretarial training, Arloene started her own business, an employment agency, in 1963. During a time when less than four percent of American businesses were owned by women, Arloene became a pioneer. Her knack for career planning led the business to become very successful, eventually leading to its sale in 1990 after having Arloene at the helm for 27 years. She continued to pave the way for women in the community over the years, becoming the first woman to serve as Corona Planning Commissioner. In addition, she earned a spot by appointment on the Temescal Valley-El Cerrito Community Plan Advisory Committee. Her continued interest in business development within the city led her to become actively involved in the Corona Chamber of Commerce, becoming its first female president in 1974.

It is hard to imagine that Arloene would have any free time on her hands, yet she always found time for her community. She served as Trustee of Circle City Hospital, Director of the local YMCA, and Executive Director of Corona-Norco United Way. In addition, Arloene was President of Soroptimist International of Corona, and President of the Women's Improvement Club. She was also a dedicated member of the Corona-Norco Unified School District's Partner in Education Program and the Inland Empire Better Business Bureau. It is no surprise that Arolene was the recipient of numerous community awards including Corona Citizen of the Year, Award of Merit-Chamber of Commerce, Distinguished Citizen of the Year-Corona Jaycees, Outstanding Citizen-Riverside County Board of Supervisors, Distinguished Citizen of the Year-Boy Scouts, Woman of the Year-73rd Assembly District, YMCA Ira D. Calvert Distinguished Service Award, and the Women of Distinction Award for her achievements in helping advance the status of women in Corona.

Arloene is survived by the love of her life, her husband, and their three children: son, Edwin, of Massachusetts, and two daughters, Michelle, of Corona, and LaJune Hughes, of Oklahoma.

On Tuesday, August 13, 2013, what would have been her 91st birthday, a memorial honoring Arloene's extraordinary life was held. Arloene will always be remembered for her incredible work ethic, generosity, advancement of women, contributions to the community and love of family. Her dedication to her work and community are a testament to a life lived well and a legacy that will continue. I extend my condolences to Arloene's family and friends; although Arloene may be gone, the light and goodness she brought to the world remain and will never be forgotten.

IN RECOGNITION OF REV. DR. DWIGHT C. NORTHINGTON

HON. FRANK PALLONE JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rev. Dr. Dwight C. Northington on his retirement as Senior Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Red Bank, New Jersey. Dr. Northington has led Calvary Baptist Church for over 21 years and his dedication is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Before entering the ministry, Dr. Northington worked as an executive for Travelers Insurance Company. He was born in Baltimore, Maryland. He is married to his wife Rebecca and together they have two daughters, Bianca and Alisha, a granddaughter Aniya and grandson Nukeil.

In addition to his 21 years of service to Calvary Baptist Church, Dr. Northington is an active member of the community. He has served as the past moderator of the Seacoast Missionary Baptist Association, past member of the Red Bank Board of Education and past president of the Westside Ministerial Alliance.

Dr. Northington is committed to learning and teaching. He graduated from Morgan State University, Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary and Drew University and has taught homiletics at New Brunswick Theological Seminary and worked as an Adjunct Professor of the Brookdale Community College Psychology Department.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Dr. Northington on his pastoral retirement and thanking him for his many years of dedicated service and leadership to the Calvary Baptist Church congregation and the greater community.

RECOGNIZING JAMES MARTIN OF MIRAMAR, FLORIDA AS A HASTINGS STAR STUDENT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of James Martin of Miramar, Florida, and to honor him as a Hastings Star Student.

At the age of 17, James recently graduated Suma Cum Laude from Florida Atlantic University with a GPA of 3.9. He earned a Bachelor's of Science in Molecular Biology. Having been home-schooled by his mother from a young age, James started college at the age of 14. He is a shining example of what hard work and dedication can accomplish.

While in college, James worked alongside a Nobel Prize winner Dr. Eric Wieschaus at Princeton University. After graduating, James was offered a job with Dr. Wieschaus as a paid lab assistant while he decides which PhD programs to apply to. His goal is to pursue a career as a professor, and I have no doubt he will contribute greatly to the Molecular Biology field.

I would also like to recognize the dedication of Joan Martin, James' mother, to her son's education. The active participation on the part of one's parents is important to a good education, and Joan has gone above and beyond in that regard and is to be commended.

Mr. Speaker, the accomplishments of James Martin are an inspiration to students everywhere, especially within the minority community. I am proud to honor such an outstanding individual. We can all look forward to the bright future this young man has ahead of him.

IN HONOR OF THE JAMES MICHENER ART MUSEUM

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, we are proud to recognize the 25th anniversary of Bucks County's cultural treasure—the James A. Michener Art Museum. In the span of 25 years, the museum in Doylestown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania has preserved the artistic heritage of the county through its extensive permanent art collection and by reaching out to diverse audiences with national and regional exhibitions, scholarly publications and educational programs. Its art collection has grown from 115 objects to nearly 3,000, including 182 Bucks County related exhibitions featuring over 300 local artists. The museum is housed in an historic 19th century jail that has been expanded to 72,000 square feet of gallery and event space and two beautiful public gardens. We know that last year nearly 150,000 people visited this outstanding repository of Bucks County's creative tradition. And so we proudly acknowledge the James A. Michener Art Museum as a cultural pillar in Bucks County and congratulate those who gave the museum life and sustain it today.

IN RECOGNITION OF LOUIS CATALDO AND ALICE GEORGE

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding civic contributions of Mr. Louis Cataldo and Mrs. Alice George on the occasion of their retirement from the Mercy Otis Warren Woman of the Year Selection Committee.

Mr. Cataldo first conceived the Mercy Otis Warren Award as a way of recognizing the contributions of Cape Cod's women, past and present. The honor has been bestowed upon twelve women since 2002 for their exceptional leadership, involvement in local institutions, and community enrichment. Mr. Cataldo's love of history and the Cape Cod community are evident in the award's namesake, as Mercy Otis Warren was a citizen of Barnstable County and a vocal advocate for civil liberties in the midst of the American Revolution. Mr. Cataldo's initiative has helped preserve the memory of an often–overlooked American patriot while praising the distinguished women who continue Warren's legacy today.

A charter member of the Mercy Otis Warren Woman of the Year Selection Committee, Mrs. Alice George has presided as its chair from the beginning. In partnership with Mr. Cataldo and the Barnstable County Commissioners, Mrs. George has led the charge to bring Cape Cod's most inspiring women to the forefront. She has long been a central figure in Barnstable and actively serves in many charitable and community organizations. Mrs. George also worked with Mr. Cataldo in bringing the Mercy Otis Warren statue to the grounds of the county courthouse.

Following eleven wonderful years at the helm, Mr. Cataldo and and Mrs. George will step down from their positions on the selection committee. Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Mr. Louis Cataldo and Mrs. Alice George for over a decade of service to southeastern Massachusetts. I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding them for their selfless advocacy efforts.

BLACK MUSIC DAY

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, many individuals and organizations strive to bring awareness, enlightenment, and entertainment to our community through African American culture and music; and

Whereas, June is recognized as Black Music Month, this is a unique opportunity for our Nation to showcase the different musicians, writers, producers, promoters, performers, managers, attorneys, agents, and accountants who have contributed to making Black Music a heavyweight in the industry of entertainment around the world; and

Whereas, today we celebrate the kickoff of Black Music Month at the Artist Factory in Atlanta, by witnessing the music, dance, food, art, and fashion that Black Music has inspired on an international stage; and

Whereas, our beloved District has found a jewel in the music that touches the minds and souls of untold millions; and

Whereas, our community has been strengthened in times of joy and sorrow through music; putting rhythm in our feet, adrenalin in our blood, and pizzazz in our spirits; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Black Music as a unique and wonderful cultural contribution to our District, the Nation, and the world;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim June 4, 2013 as Black Music Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 4th day of June, 2013.

HONORING THE CALIFORNIA HISPANIC CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, CHCC, as it celebrates its 35th anniversary at its annual convention being held at Oakland, California. I commend CHCC for their choice to hold this important event in my congressional district, known for its spirit of diversity and innovation, as well as its proud history of Hispanic and Latino entrepreneurship.

In 1978, a group of local Hispanic chamber leaders from throughout California convened to discuss the lack of representation of Hispanic businesses in State government. These leaders also recognized the need for an organization that would effectively represent the interest of the rapidly growing number of Hispanic-owned businesses in California. From those beginnings, the CHCC has grown into a network of over 65 Hispanic chambers and business associations throughout the State of California. Through its network, the CHCC represents the interest of over 700,000 Hispanic business owners in the State, making it the largest ethnic business organization in the Nation.

As a longtime advocate for the advancement of disadvantaged and minority-owned businesses, I applaud the CHCC's mission to promote, support, and encourage the advancement and development of Hispanic and minority-owned businesses, and to provide an organizational forum for the exchange of ideas, information, technical assistance, procurement opportunities, and any other form of business opportunities that enhance the Hispanic and minority business communities. I also commend its development of a program of advocacy in order to inform and educate elected and appointed officials, legislative bodies, agencies, and public and private organizations about the concerns, needs, and opportunities which affect the Hispanic and minority business communities of California, and to foster unity and communication between organizations, corporations, and individuals who support the goals and objectives of the CHCC.

CHCC's numerous programs are making real impacts in this State. Through their

Project Homeowner initiative, CHCC has worked to help borrowers understand their financials, and in some cases reach agreements on home loan modifications. The ABC/ETP program works to connect minority and women-owned firms with tools and non-traditional capital streams, while providing educational opportunities to bolster budding businesses through an innovative, original curriculum.

Since 2008, the CHCC Foundation has worked to promote charitable programs to create and develop educational and economic development programs to increase adult leadership for CHCC and its members, and to provide scholarship opportunities for qualified students to attend educational institutions to study business and economic development. The Foundation also partners with the United Health Care Foundation to provide scholarship opportunities to promising students entering the medical field.

Therefore, on behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, I would like to salute the CHCC, and all of those who have contributed to its 35 years of success. Thank you for your long-term belief in entrepreneurship and for your contributions to our community. Once again, congratulations, and I wish you the very best as you strive for another 35 years of excellence.

IN RECOGNITION OF COL. CHARLES JACKSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exemplary career of Col. Charles Jackson who recently retired from his position as Assistant Vice President for Facilities at the University of North Texas (UNT) in Denton, Texas. For over a decade, he has competently overseen the rapid growth of new construction and renovation of numerous campus buildings. Prior to his work at UNT, Col. Jackson spent the majority of his career serving his country on active duty with the United States Air Force (USAF). As a registered professional engineer and member of the Association of Physical Plant Administrators, Col. Jackson has distinguished himself as an accomplished military and civilian engineer through his successful direction of numerous projects and developments, domestically and abroad.

Col. Jackson received a B.A. in civil engineering from the U.S. Air Force Academy and a M.A. in engineering/facilities from the Air Force Institute of Technology. He served as the commander of the 7th Engineering Squadron at Carswell Air Force Base at Fort Worth, Texas. His civil engineer leadership positions include duty assignments stateside in Colorado, Texas, Nebraska, and Oklahoma and overseas in Japan, Germany and Belgium. Col. Jackson dedicated 30 years of his life as a civil engineer in the Air Force and achieved the rank of Colonel upon his retirement in May 1998.

Following his departure from the Air Force, Col. Jackson began employment at UNT as Facilities Maintenance Manager and was selected for his current position in 2005. Since 2000, the UNT campus has rapidly expanded to accommodate the growing number of incoming students. Col. Jackson has overseen the construction of four residence halls, seven major buildings and additional renovation projects. His proudest accomplishments include the Library Mall, the Net Zero Energy Lab, and the recent completion of the SMART project which will have a long-term beneficial impact for the UNT campus. Col. Jackson acted as a vital proponent of this project that will save the University over $3 million in utility and operation costs annually and ensure reliable systems to support UNT into the future. The SMART project recently received a Green Ribbon Award in the infrastructure category from the U.S. Green Building Council North Texas as the best example of the implementation of sustainable infrastructure design, construction or management practices.

On a personal level, I am grateful to Col. Jackson for his advice and expertise as a member of my Service Academy Board. As a USAF Academy graduate and higher education representative, Col. Jackson's role was to comprehensively screen and interview high school and college applicants wishing to receive a congressional nomination and to advise me upon the selection of qualified service academy candidates.

I join his family, friends and colleagues in congratulating Col. Charles Jackson upon his exemplary service to our community, state and nation and extend my warmest wishes upon a well-earned retirement. His positive contributions and dedicated efforts will continue to enhance The University of North Texas for years to come, and I am privileged to represent the University of North Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives.

STATEMENT ON THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF LUCY T. DAVIS

HON. HAKEEM S. JEFFRIES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 100th birthday of Mrs. Lucy T. Davis. Mrs. Davis is a beloved member of the community; throughout her life, she has brightened the lives of all she encountered. In celebration of her centennial birthday, Mrs. Davis was honored on May 11, 2013 at the Bishop Hucles Nursing Home in Brooklyn, NY.

Mrs. Davis was born in Macon, Georgia on May 12, 1913, and in 1931 her family moved to Brooklyn, NY as part of the Great Migration of African Americans from the rural South to cities in the North, Midwest, and West. While doing domestic work during the day, Mrs. Davis took night courses to learn office skills. During World War II she moved to Washington, DC to work for the United States Department of Defense as a typist. After World War II, Mrs. Davis returned to Brooklyn, NY where she became a supervisor at the Department of Motor Vehicles.

She has been an active member of Cornerstone Baptist Church since 1950. In 1984, Dr. Harry S. Wright appointed Mrs. Davis as the third chairperson of the Board of Christian Education at Cornerstone Baptist Church. During her tenure as chairperson, the board sponsored a Youth Speak Out; a Cinema Club; and a series of family activities including an annual family church outing, family night, and a family Sunday where the board honored three families from the congregation—a young family, a middle-aged family, and a senior family. She greatly contributed to the vitality of the Church through the numerous roles that she held. From 1985 to 1993 she led the Tuesday afternoon Bible Study. She also led the Circle South in the Missionary Society. Mrs. Davis was an outstanding Sunday School teacher, who my brother, Hasan, and I were very fortunate to have learned from.

Throughout her life, Mrs. Davis has been an avid student. She took many courses in adult education from the City of New York. She received her first, second, and third certificates of progress from the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education. Mrs. Davis also greatly enjoys reading and painting.

We thank her beloved goddaughter, Rose Davis Utendahl, for traveling from Alabama for this celebration. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Mrs. Davis on her 100th birthday. For her dedication to the community, she is worthy of the highest praise.

IN RECOGNITION OF BOB DuBOIS

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Bob DuBois as he prepares to step down from his role as Executive Director of the Yarmouth Area Chamber of Commerce.

A longtime fixture on Cape Cod, Mr. DuBois has worked tirelessly to strengthen the Chamber of Commerce, the thriving business community it represents, and the entire Yarmouth community. For the past twenty-three years, Mr. DuBois has served as the Chamber's Executive Director, and he has touched many lives in this role. Many of his colleagues and friends recall the many early mornings and late nights he spent in the Chamber's office, seeing him at countless events and meetings around town, and his diligence in promoting Yarmouth's thriving businesses. His many years of hard work have been invaluable to the town's success, and he will certainly be missed by those who work and live in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to recognize Mr. Bob DuBois for the service that he has given to the Town of Yarmouth. I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking him for all that he has done for the town, and in wishing him well in his future endeavors.

DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, since 1913, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., has been and continues to be a worthy instrument for good; and

Whereas, the Decatur Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., was chartered on October 5, 1973, in Decatur, Georgia,

by sixteen stellar sorors who had the foresight and vision to establish a Delta chapter in DeKalb County, Georgia; and

Whereas, the Decatur Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., is celebrating its forty year anniversary; and

Whereas, its members give of themselves tirelessly and unconditionally to serve our community through projects such as voter registration, health walks, mentorships and scholarships; and

Whereas, the lives of many in our district are touched by the leadership and service given by the ladies of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., our nation and the world are better places due to their commitment to excellence in all of their endeavors; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize their outstanding service to our District for the past forty (40) years and to wish them well on their anniversary;

Now Therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim October 5, 2013 as Decatur Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 5th day of October, 2013.

RECOGNIZING DONALD LARSON AS HE CELEBRATES HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Donald Larson as he celebrates his 80th birthday. His many years of dedication to education and service deserve both acknowledgement and appreciation.

Don and his twin brother, Phil, were born on September 5, 1933, to Bengt John and Olive Emmingham Larson. He grew up in Kerman, California, and graduated from Kerman High School in 1951. After attending the College of the Sequoias, Don continued his education at the University of California, Berkeley. Immediately following graduation, Don began his teaching career in Caruthers, California. He taught sixth grade for two years, and then went on to teach at Kerman High School for two years. During his first few years of teaching, Don was also completing a Masters at California State University, Fresno. He taught six years for Fresno Unified and ended his teaching career after 35 years with Fresno City College.

Staying active and involved in the community has always been very important to Don. He takes great pride in his lifelong membership at the First Covenant Church in Fresno where he has taught Sunday school for over six decades. Don has served at various organizations including Fresno County Housing Authority, Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission, and Fresno County Democratic Central Committee. He has also served on the State Center Community College Foundation and was the co-chair of the Capital Campaign for the Old Administration Building on the Fresno City College campus. In addition to these impressive undertakings, Don also found time to be the scorekeeper at basketball games for Kerman and McLane High Schools, and Fresno City College. He also ran the football chain gang for over fifty years, and taught a current events class to high school seniors from 1965 to 2010.

During Don's retirement he enjoyed spending time with his late wife Carol Kraft Larson. Carol passed away in 2004, but her kindness and love for teaching will always be remembered. They raised one daughter, Lynn, who has furthered the family's tradition by working as an elementary school teacher.

Furthermore, Don has a tremendous interest in the World's Fair. His vast collection of World's Fair memorabilia is housed in the Special Collections Department of the Henry Madden Library at California State University, Fresno. The collection has been named in his honor and is considered second only to that of the Smithsonian in Washington DC.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to recognize Donald Larson on his 80th birthday. He serves as a pillar in our community, and I thank him for all of his contributions to our education system.

CONGRATULATING JOE A. RAVER

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Joe A. Raver, the incoming president and CEO of Hillenbrand, Inc., headquartered in Batesville, Indiana, in my congressional district.

Mr. Raver is the current president of Hillenbrand's Process Equipment Group and senior vice president of the company. Previously, he had been president of Batesville Casket Company. Joe had also served as vice president and general manager of the respiratory care division of Hill-Rom Holdings, where he first served as vice president of Strategy and Shared Services. Prior to joining Hill-Rom, Joe spent 10 years in a variety of senior leadership positions at Batesville Casket Company and Hillenbrand Industries.

For more than a century, the Hillenbrand companies have served as a staple in the Indiana and American corporate landscape, premiering innovative products in the funeral services, and process equipment industries. I have no doubt that Hillenbrand will continue to be a dynamic company that Hoosiers can be proud of with Joe at the helm.

I congratulate Joe on this new chapter in his life and wish him the very best as he takes the lead at Hillenbrand.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOOKS FOR AFRICA

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the staff, board, donors, and volunteers of Books for Africa on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of this nonprofit organization based in Saint Paul, Minnesota. Since its founding in 1988, Books for Africa has grown into the largest shipper of donated text and library books to the African continent, having shipped over 27 million books to 48 countries. In 2012 alone, Books for Africa shipped more than 2.2 million books to 22 African countries.

Ending the book famine in Africa is the mission that led Thomas Warth to found Books for Africa. Troubled by a chronic shortage of books in Africa and the reality that 40 percent of school-age children do not attend school, Mr. Warth put his vision and enthusiasm into an ongoing commitment to transform lives by facilitating the shipment of container after container of books that put real books in the hands of real people. By sending textbooks to areas with empty shelves and into the hands of children eager to read, learn, and explore the world of literature, Books for Africa is making a difference in the lives of young people. Books for Africa is promoting literacy, and empowering the next generation to break the endless cycle of poverty that will improve quality of life.

This success would not have been possible without the joint partnership of public and private sectors. Books for Africa frequently works with USAID, Peace Corps, and the Sir Emeka Offor Foundation to deliver books. Together with the generous support of publishers, schools, libraries, organizations and individuals who donate books, Books for Africa is making a positive impact in the lives of people in African countries.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of Thomas Warth and the dedicated staff, partners, donors, board, and volunteers, I am pleased to submit this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD recognizing the 25th anniversary of Books for Africa.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORLANDO, INC.

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 09, 2013

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a special occasion for Orlando, Inc. (Orlando Regional Chamber of Commerce). In 1913, Orlando, Inc. was first established and this year they celebrate their 100th anniversary. It is my pleasure to recognize them on their Centennial.

During the past century, Orlando, Inc. has been through many phases of growth and change to create the longstanding history they have today. From their establishment in 1913 as the Board of Trade, followed by becoming the Downtown Chamber, then as the Greater Orlando Chamber, then the Orlando Regional Chamber of Commerce and now today, Orlando, Inc., their goal and focus of serving the Central Florida region has always remained constant. They have been and continue to be a leader in connecting Central Florida's businesses and communities and maintain success by focusing on what matters most to Central Floridians.

Orlando, Inc. specifically focuses on regional entrepreneurship and is one of four lines of businesses which make up the Central Florida Partnership. The Central Florida Partnership, comprised of Orlando, Inc.,

BusinessForce, myregion.org and Leadership Orlando, is committed to advancing Central Florida's entrepreneurs and moving ''Ideas to Results.'' In their quest to build the best entrepreneurial environment, Orlando, Inc. is positioned to serve the growing demands of entrepreneurs and businesses throughout the Central Florida region by offering some of the most powerful and influential business programs in Central Florida. After a century, Orlando, Inc. has thousands of member businesses that they serve.

Through the high quality, expertise and strong leadership displayed by Orlando, Inc., they have earned and have been accredited a ''Five–Star Chamber'' by the United States Chamber of Commerce. This honor is the highest level of achievement awarded by the United States Chamber of Commerce, and with nearly 7,000 Chambers in the US, only 217 currently remain accredited.

The excellence with which Orlando, Inc. and the Central Florida Partnership serve Central Florida's business community and enterprises is evident from their history and recognitions. I commend them for their many achievements and I am pleased to congratulate them on the celebration of their 100th anniversary. May their leadership, service and dedication inspire many to follow in their footsteps.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS WESLEY HARRIS

HON. HENRY C. ''HANK'' JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I present the following U.S. Citizen of Distinction:

Whereas, our lives have been touched by the life of this one man, Thomas Wesley Harris, Jr., who has given so much to our state and nation; and

Whereas, Thomas ''Tom'' Harris has been instrumental as a pioneer in the beauty industry with his artistic talents, his high standards in creating and innovating cosmetology, being a mentor for hair stylists and in propelling many careers in Atlanta and beyond; and

Whereas, this giant of a man accomplished so much during his time on earth, he served our country honorably in the U.S. Army, he was an entrepreneur, creating Tom Harris Hair Designers, he was a strong community advocate, a motivator and a friend to all; and

Whereas, he gave of himself, his time, his talent and his life to uplift those in need, he never asked for fame or fortune he just wanted to help somebody and to inspire anybody by being involved in community activities and taking the time to encourage and train young stylists into using their skills to impact an industry; and

Whereas, Tom Harris led by doing both behind the scenes and on the front lines, he was an ambassador of goodwill who will be truly missed; and

Whereas, Tom Harris was a husband, a father, a grandfather, and a friend; he was our warrior, our patriarch, a man of great integrity who remained true to the uplifting of our community; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia recognizes Tom Harris as a citizen of great worth and so noted distinction;

Now Therefore, I, HENRY C. ''HANK'' JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby attest to the 113th Congress that he is deemed worthy and deserving of this Congressional Honor by declaring Mr. Thomas Wesley Harris, Jr. U.S. Citizen of Distinction in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 15th day of July, 2013.

HONORING KENNETH A. CAMP

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary accomplishments of Kenneth A. Camp, President and CEO of Hillenbrand, Inc., headquartered in Batesville, Indiana, in my congressional district.

Mr. Camp was elected President and Chief Executive Officer of Batesville Casket Company May 1, 2001, and as President, CEO and Director of Hillenbrand, Inc., March 31, 2008. Previously he had served as senior vice president of Hillenbrand Industries, Inc., and as vice president before that. Mr. Camp joined Hillenbrand in 1981, and has held various positions with both Hillenbrand and Batesville Casket. During the course of his career, Ken has had senior responsibilities in sales, marketing, human resources, manufacturing and logistics. From 1972 to 1978, Ken served his country as a commissioned officer and aviator in the United States Army.

The Hillenbrand companies have been a premier example of corporate success in Indiana by developing and producing innovative products in the funeral services, and process equipment industries. Ken's hard work and leadership within the company has been vital to that success.

Ken soon will retire from his duties leading this dynamic Hoosier company. I ask the entire 6th Congressional District to join me in thanking Ken for his long career and service to both his business and community.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 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 $16,932,605,798,305. We've added $6,305,728,749,392 to our debt in 4 years. This is $6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF MARION ALICE FALKNER GASH

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Marion Alice Falkner Gash, who passed away on July 31, 2013, two weeks before her 100th birthday. She had an exceptional spirit with an ''I-can-do-it'' attitude. Marion inspired others through her military service, professional achievements, excellence in teaching, support of her community, and devotion to family and friends.

Marion Alice Falkner was born at her family's Germania Farm in Yazoo County, Mississippi on August 14, 1913. She was born to Marion and Minniealice Falkner and was the eldest of seven children. Marion graduated from Hinds Junior College in Raymond, Mississippi and continued onto Maryville College in Tennessee to obtain her teaching credential. After graduation, Marion taught for six years in Bentonia, Mississippi. In 1940, she moved to New Orleans to attend Soule Business College and worked for attorney John Minor Wisdom who later became a judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Shortly after Congress declared war, Marion moved to Washington, D.C. to serve her country. She worked at the Pentagon in the Office of the Budget of the War Department. In 1943, she joined the Navy WAVES and rose to the rank of Lieutenant J.G., serving as the Administrative Officer to Admiral W.K. Romoser, Commander of the Naval Training School in Hollywood, Florida.

In 1946, Marion married Navy Lt. Russell Warner Gash, and they raised two sons, Frank and Warner. At the time, Navy policy did not allow female officers to have children so Marion reluctantly resigned her commission and assumed the role of navy wife for the rest of Russell's naval career. Over the next 15 years, the family moved to eight duty stations in six different states and Cuba. In 1961, the family settled in Fresno, California, and Mrs. Gash returned to teaching.

Mrs. Gash taught English and speech, directed plays, coached debate teams, and established a forensics program at Central Union High School. While working full time, she earned her Master's degree in education at California State University, Fresno in 1967. After retiring in 1978, she continued to volunteer in school, church, military, veterans and community activities. Mrs. Gash was a great teacher who positively affected the lives of thousands of students.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the life of Marion Alice Falkner Gash, a veteran of World War II and a beloved mother, grandmother, aunt, teacher, and friend.

TRIBUTE TO THE JORDAN FAMILY

HON. HENRY C. ''HANK'' JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, the birth of James Jordan in Jackson County, Georgia on August 15, 1837 began the Jordan family lineage which has blessed us with descendants that have helped to shape our nation; and

Whereas, through the union of James and Dicey Shields Jordan (1858), Summie, John, James, Hilliard (Hill), Mary, Woodie, Henry Arthur, Babe, Alice and Emma were born; In 1885, James was united in marriage to his second wife Nancy Polk Jordan wherein, Bertha, Gilbert, Luther, Pledger, Judson and Lucy were born. The Jordan Family has produced many well respected citizens and the patriarchs and matriarchs of the Jordan Family are pillars of strength that have touched many throughout our nation, family members of the past and present such as Mrs. Janice Anderson Edwards, Rev. Frankie Jordan, Rev. Darrell White, Mrs. Evelyn Boynton, Miss Beverly Gray, Mrs. Annie Ruth Johnson, Mrs. Martha Ann Whitlock, Mr. Jerome Anderson, Mr. Summie Jordan, Ms. Rheba Brackery, Miss Rasheedah Carter, Ms. Vel Ford and Mrs. 0llie Brooks; and

Whereas, in our beloved Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, we are honored to have members of the Jordan family for they are some of our most beloved citizens in our District; and

Whereas, family is one of the most honored and cherished institutions in the world, we take pride in knowing that families such as the Jordan family have set aside this time to fellowship with each other, honor one another and to pass along history to each other by meeting at this year's family reunion in DeKalb County, Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the Jordan family;

Now Therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim June 28, 2013 as Jordan Family Reunion Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 28th day of June, 2013.

IN HONOR OF JOE DUARTE

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I rise in honor of Joe Duarte, who passed away on July 23 in Sacramento, at the age of 84. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Duarte as his family and friends gather to celebrate his life and legacy.

Mr. Duarte, a former Merchant Marine, devoted his life to helping our community. A lifelong athlete who played professional baseball with the St. Louis Browns, Mr. Duarte was committed to promoting recreational and academic activities for the youth of Sacramento. As a member of the Greater Sacramento Evening Optimist Club, in 1971 Mr. Duarte founded the Optimist All-Star baseball, basketball, and football games. He organized the best high school seniors from the Greater Sacramento area into teams to participate in these games. Not stopping with baseball, basketball, and football, Mr. Duarte also organized girls softball and volleyball games.

Mr. Duarte created and organized the Youth Appreciation Night for Students from more than ten schools, which for over 20 years has recognized students who excel in academic, athletics and community service. In 2005, he created the Respect for Law program which honors seniors from the Criminal Justice Academies at Grant Union, John F. Kennedy, Hiram Johnson, and C. K. McClatchy high schools at a banquet which included their parents and Sacramento law enforcement officers.

Mr. Duarte's honors include inductions into the San Francisco Parks and Recreation Hall of Fame in 1975, the Greater Sacramento Softball Association Hall of Fame, and the La-Salle Club Baseball Hall of Fame at Christian Brothers High School in Sacramento in 2001.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in paying honor to Joe Duarte for being an exemplary member of the Sacramento community. His life and commitment to our community is an inspiration to us all. The Greater Sacramento area has lost a true citizen of the community who always put service above self. I ask that we take a moment and give our utmost respect and condolences to his wife, Phyllis, and their three children.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF KENNETH ABRAHAMIAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Kenneth Abrahamian as he receives his World War II (WWII) Medals. He is the recipient of the Philippine Liberation Medal, WWII Victory Medal, WWII Asiatic Pacific Medal, Navy Good Conduct Medal, and American Campaign Medal. Mr. Abrahamian is a source of pride for our Central Valley and our entire nation.

Mr. Abrahamian grew up in the Valley and graduated from Central High School in 1941. Following his graduation, he enlisted in the United States Navy to serve his country in WWII. He served honorably and proudly from 1942 to 1946. Mr. Abrahamian was stationed in the Pacific as a machinist mate aboard the USS *Spangler* and the USS *Ajax*.

Mr. Abrahamian married Isabelle Zadurian at the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church in Fresno, California. They have three children; Jeanette, Patricia, and Kenneth, daughter-in-law, Sue, and two grandchildren; Kenneth Andrew and Allyson Marie.

The Abrahamians have spent their entire lives in the Rolinda area, a small unincorporated community in Fresno County. They farmed raisins, almonds, alfalfa, barley, blackeyed peas, broccoli, corn, cotton, oats, onions, sugar beets, turkeys, and wheat. Mr. Abrahamian truly understands the importance of hard work and he has shown that through his labor on the farm and service in the military. As a resident of the Rolinda area, Mr. Abrahamian is known to be a great neighbor and friend.

Staying involved and supporting the community has always been very important to Mr. Abrahamian. He is an active member of his church, and he always participates in the annual Rolinda Charity BBQ. Mr. Abrahamian's spirit and drive keep him going every day. A couple months short of 90 years old, Mr. Abrahamian is still out on his farm daily. He is an inspiration for all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the service of Mr. Kenneth Abrahamian. He truly is a shining example of a proud American, and we must thank him for his service to our country.

STATEMENT ON 30 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE OF COUNCILMAN ALBERT VANN

HON. HAKEEM S. JEFFRIES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the achievements of Councilman Albert Vann. During his years of service, Councilman Vann has helped thousands and worked tirelessly to improve the lives of all those he encountered. In celebration of his 30 years of outstanding service, Councilman Vann was honored on May 9, 2013, at Boys and Girls High School in Brooklyn, NY, where the library was renamed in his honor.

As both a teacher and elected official, Councilman Vann has served the people of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, the community in which he was born and raised. Councilman Vann graduated from Franklin K. Lane High School and went on to earn his B.B.A. from Toledo University, his Master's Degree in Education from Yeshiva University, and his Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling from Long Island University. He served as a sergeant in the United States Marine Corps. Prior to being elected to public office, Councilman Vann taught at PS 256, JHS 35, and JHS 271 in Brooklyn, NY.

Councilman Vann served in the New York State Assembly from 1974–2001. Throughout these years, he continually and fervently represented the needs of his constituents. As Chairman of the New York State Black & Puerto Rican Caucus, he worked to prevent racial gerrymandering of the New York City Council. In 1982 he filed a lawsuit that increased the representation of communities of color—this landmark victory led to the creation of two additional Congressional Districts, three additional State Senate Districts, and six additional State Assembly Districts that represented communities of color in New York State.

In 2001, Mr. Vann was elected to the New York City Council. He has done a tremendous job as Chair of the Council's Committee on Community Development, where he has addressed poverty, foreclosures, and predatory equity. While in the New York City Council, Councilman Vann founded the 36th Council District Katrina Relief Effort, the Black Brooklyn Empowerment Convention, and New York City Works, which strives to reduce the disproportionately high unemployment rate in Black and Latino communities.

Recognizing the importance of empowering residents to improve their communities, he created several taskforces including: Education Taskforce; Senior Taskforce; Community Safety Taskforce; Youth Taskforce; and the Coalition for the Improvement of Bedford-Stuyvesant. Through his leadership with the Council's HIV/AIDS Faith-Based Initiative, Councilman Vann has improved HIV/AIDS

prevention outreach throughout New York City. Councilman Vann's vision led to the co-naming of Fulton Street as Harriet Ross Tubman Avenue and New York State's recognition of Harriet Tubman Day.

Councilman Vann has truly been a trailblazer, whose positive influence will have an everlasting effect on the community. His record of achievement would not have been possible without the love and support of his wife, Mildred Vann, their four children and eight grandchildren. We thank his family for sharing him with us all. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Councilman Vann on his 30 years of outstanding service. For his commitment to the people of Brooklyn, he is worthy of the highest praise.

TRIBUTE TO JORDAN AND SYLVIA WEDLOWE

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation:

Whereas, the union of Jordan and Sylvia Wedlowe in Twiggs County, Georgia in the 1800's began the Wedlowe family lineage which has blessed us with descendants that have helped to shape our nation; and

Whereas, the Wedlowe Family has produced many well respected citizens and the patriarchs and matriarchs of the Wedlowe family are pillars of strength that have touched many throughout our nation, family members of the past and present; and

Whereas, in our beloved Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, we are honored to have members of the Wedlowe family for they are some of our most beloved citizens in our District; and

Whereas, family is one of the most honored and cherished institutions in the world, we take pride in knowing that families such as the Wedlowe family have set aside this time to fellowship with each other, honor one another and to pass along history to each other by meeting at this year's family reunion in DeKalb County, Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the Wedlowe family;

Now Therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim June 29, 2013 as Wedlowe Family Reunion Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 29th day of June, 2013.

IN MEMORY OF SEAN FRANKLIN SASSER

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sean Franklin Sasser. Sean was an educator and an activist, and dedicated his life to speaking out about HIV/AIDS. Sadly, Sean passed away on August 7th, 2013 at the age of 44 after a short battle with Mesothelioma.

Sean was diagnosed with HIV in 1988 when he went to enlist in the Navy, and lived for 25 years with the disease. As a young black homosexual man living with HIV, Sean organized support for the HIV/AIDS community. He was active in Bay Positives, an organization established in 1990 as the first peer-run agency in the world for young people living with HIV/AIDS. In 1993, he was photographed by celebrated American photographer Annie Leibovitz as part of one of the first public awareness campaigns about HIV, organized by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

In 1993, Sean met Pedro Zamora, who gained fame as part of the cast of MTV Real World, San Francisco. Sean and Pedro's on-air relationship and marriage was thrown into the national spotlight, bringing international attention and putting a human face to the realities of HIV/AIDS. Though Sean's on-air presence was short, the impact of their televised relationship was great, and after Pedro's tragic death from AIDS at the age of 22, Sean went on to become an even greater advocate for the HIV/AIDS community.

Throughout his life, Sean travelled across the country to educate others about HIV/AIDS and living with the disease. He spoke at colleges, universities, and many organizations including the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, the Human Rights Campaign, Health Initiatives for Youth, and the AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families. Sean was also a celebrated pastry chef, and just last May could be found making homemade ice cream at RIS restaurant in Washington D.C.

Mr. Speaker, this week we lost a great voice for the HIV/AIDS community. There are approximately 50,000 new HIV infections every year, and only through education, public awareness and community outreach can we prevent the spread of the HIV virus. Sean used his voice to bring attention to the HIV community, and as we pay tribute to his life, we must also continue his efforts. One day at a time, we move closer to an AIDS-free generation.

I offer my heartfelt condolences to Sean's family and his partner Michael. Undoubtedly, Sean touched the lives of countless friends and strangers alike. He leaves behind a legacy of activism, bravery, and service to the HIV community. He will be dearly missed.

HONORING THE COURAGEOUS ACTIONS OF SIX INDIVIDUALS

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courageous actions of four young individuals, and two members of the Aurora Police Department, Sergeants Dan Eppard and Rick Ahlgren. With great valor and heroism, all six individuals, including Sergeants Eppard and Ahlgren risked their lives to save those of others who were trapped in a dam while rafting on the Vermillion River near Oglesby, Illinois.

On June 28, 2013, a 45 year-old man and his 10 year-old son were rafting on the river when they became trapped in a dam. After forty minutes had elapsed, four boys on a second raft came across the two individuals, and demonstrated immense bravery in attempting to rescue them. After successfully bringing the 10 year-old boy aboard the second raft, they unfortunately became caught in the damn, trapping all five boys. The 45 year-old man was able to escape the dam, swim to shore, and dial 9–1–1.

At this same time, off-duty Sergeants Eppard and Ahlgren were kayaking down the river, and in an act of great courage rescued all five boys, whose ages ranged from 10 to 14. Sgt. Eppard has a history of heroism, having once rescued a woman at the exact same dam in 2009.

The selfless heroism of these extraordinary people serves as an example to us all. These individuals put their own lives in harm's way for the well-being of others. While the 10 year-old boy was treated for hypothermia, no one else was injured in an event that could have ended in tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these brave individuals for their courageous acts and altruistic service.

IN CELEBRATION OF MRS. GRACIE G. SIMPSON'S 85TH BIRTHDAY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a beloved role model and gracious woman of faith, Mrs. Gracie G. Simpson. On Sunday, September 1, 2013, Mrs. Simpson was honored by her family and friends at a birthday celebration at the Howard Community Club in Macon, Georgia.

Gracie Mae Peck was born on August 29, 1928, in Macon, Georgia, to the late Willie B. Peck and the late Claire Mae Fulton. She was the second child, with one older sister, one younger sister, and two younger brothers, all of whom are now deceased.

Back in the days when she was young, many children did not have the opportunity to complete school and had to begin working at a young age. For 43 years of her life, Mrs. Simpson worked at Tom's Foods, Inc., known to many as "the candy company." However, she was able to return to school to take computer classes before retiring.

Mrs. Simpson was married to J. Z. Simpson, Sr., for 54 years until his death in October of 2008. She has three sons, Donald Gibson, Jr., Zebbie Simpson, and Michael Simpson, and one daughter, Jan Simpson Walker.

She has eight grandchildren: Donald, Eunicer, Christen, Jerome, Marcus, Marvin, Keisha, and Kelicia. She also has six great-grandchildren: Grace, Hannah, Abigail, Katelynn, DJ, and Christian.

Mrs. Simpson has achieved numerous successes in her life, but none of this would have been possible without the love and support of her adoring family. Voted "Reigning Queen" at Pearl Stephens Village Senior Apartments, she enjoys fishing and going on walks. She loves spending time with her family and is a great cook. She makes a mean sweet potato pie and a delicious peach cobbler. She is full of life and spunk and her family knows very

well that ''if you don't want to hear the truth, don't ask her a question.''

Most important to Mrs. Simpson is her sturdy and enduring relationship with the Lord. She has been a member of Greater Little Rock Baptist Church for over 60 years. She has served on the Mother Board Association, Choir, Deaconesses, Food Bank, Women of Flow Ministry, and Kitchen Ministry.

The race of life isn't given to the swift or to the strong, but to those who endure until the end. Mrs. Simpson has run the race of life with grace and dignity and God has blessed her over her lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mrs. Simpson for her 85 fruitful and productive years of life.

RUBY MARIE SINGS LANGFORD JOHNSON

HON. HENRY C. ''HANK'' JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I present the following U.S. Citizen of Distinction: Whereas, our lives have been touched by the life of this one woman . . . who has given of herself in order for others to stand; and

Whereas, Mrs. Ruby Marie Sings Langford Johnson's work is present in DeKalb County, Georgia for all to see, being an advocate for the youth, the elderly, the poor and ordinary citizens like you and me; and

Whereas, this remarkable woman gave of herself, her time, her talent and her life; she never asked for fame or fortune to uplift those in need, she just wanted to do what was right; and

Whereas, Mrs. Johnson led by doing behind the scenes, front and center for the state of Georgia, DeKalb County, her church, Beulah Baptist Church and for the DeKalb County chapter of the NAACP; this virtuous Proverbs 31 woman was a mother, grandmother, a daughter and a friend; she was our warrior, our matriarch, a woman of great integrity who remained true to the uplifting of our community until her end; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to bestow a Congressional recognition on Mrs. Ruby Marie Sings Langford Johnson for her leadership, friendship and service to all of the citizens in Georgia and throughout the Nation; a citizen of great worth and so noted distinction; now therefore, I, HENRY C. ''HANK'' JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby attest to the 113th Congress that Mrs. Ruby Marie Sings Langford Johnson of DeKalb County, Georgia is deemed worthy and deserving of this ''Congressional Honor'' Mrs. Ruby Marie Sings Langford Johnson U.S. Citizen of Distinction in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 28th day of June, 2013.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY BIODESIGN

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Arizona State University president Dr. Michael Crow on the impressive progress that ASU has made since Dr. Crow began leading there in 2002. I would like to recognize the Arizona State University Biodesign Institute, which I was able to visit and tour on July 11th.

The Biodesign Institute is an outstanding example of success in transdisciplinary research, with the Institute's technologies and fields of research coming together to address national and global challenges with ''bio–inspired'' solutions in: new vaccine discovery and delivery; early detection and treatment of cancer and infectious diseases; techniques for detecting and removing contaminants from air and water and the application of nanotechnology for biomedicine and electronics.

Arizona State University Biodesign researchers generate an average of 50 invention disclosures and patents annually and have fostered more than a dozen spinout, startup companies. In 2009, the institute won Arizona's ''Excellence in Economic Development Award'' for its innovative contributions to the state's economic growth.

The Biodesign Institute embodies the guiding principles of the New American University, as defined by Arizona State University President Michael Crow. ASU is a comprehensive metropolitan university that has become the largest in the U.S. and recently ranked among elite 100 world universities. ASU ranked #17 in the country for research expenditures at a university without a medical school. The Wall Street Journal asked corporate recruiters which schools produced the best qualified graduates in the country and they ranked ASU #5. There has been significant progress at ASU.

Congratulations to Dr. Crow and to the Arizona State University Biodesign Institute for successfully fusing intellectual disciplines to conduct use–inspired and impactful research which are advancing our country's technology development and economy.

HONORING FATHER MICHAEL O'MARA

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute a remarkable Hoosier, Father Michael O'Mara. Father O'Mara is a true leader in his community and the Hoosier state. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for his leadership and service to his country, his community, and the State of Indiana.

Father O'Mara grew up in Greensburg, Indiana and was ordained on June 18, 1988 in the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul in Indianapolis. Father O'Mara has served dutifully to the church for many years and presided over many congregations over the years. He was appointed as pastor of St. Pius X in Indianapolis in 1990. From 1993 to 1999, he was appointed as pastor and/or co-pastor for the parishes of St. Philip, St. Bernadette, St. Patrick, and St. Mary all in Indianapolis as well as the St. Paul Catholic Center in Bloomington, Indiana. Since then, Father O'Mara has been reappointed as pastor to St. Mary in 2004 and 2011. On July 3, 2013, he was appointed as pastor to the St. Gabriel Parish in Indianapolis.

The commitment that Father O'Mara has made has not stopped at serving the church, but to the community as well. He has also been greatly involved with the Hispanic community in Indianapolis. He immersed himself in the Spanish language and took classes through Indiana University in order to become bilingual so that he could preach to all members of the congregation.

He has committed his life to the church and has served the church for 25 years now. That kind of commitment is not made lightly. Committing your life to the church is one of the greatest sacrifices a person can make and Father O'Mara had to have put in a lot of time, thought, and prayer before deciding to commit himself fully to the church.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF AN ORGANIZED WORKFORCE AND LABOR UNIONS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of an organized workforce, and the critical role that labor unions play in the building of a robust and diverse economy. The United States has benefitted greatly from the labor movement, and protecting workers' rights is more important now than ever before, particularly for African Americans.

Labor unions have provided a range of benefits for working men and women throughout our history, many of which we take for granted as being a normal part of life in the workplace. Simple concepts such as weekends and paid vacation time are thanks to the efforts of labor unions. More complex protections such as workplace safety standards and anti-discrimination laws also are the result of an organized and informed workforce coming together to resist unfair demands by employers.

Within the African American community, labor unions have provided a pathway to greater income equality and fairness in the workplace. While African American union workers can earn up to $10,000 or 31 percent more than non-union members, workers across all races enjoy better wages when they are a member of a union. More simply, organized labor enables fair wages, safe working conditions, and equality in the workplace.

Mr. Speaker, as our economy continues its recovery, it is important that we preserve a sense of decency and respect among our workers. Fifty years ago, the March on Washington was as much a civil rights movement as it was a labor movement. Labor unions have fought to protect working men and women across all races, and I encourage my colleagues to continue this legacy by standing

up for the rights of all working men and women across our great nation.

HONORING MONICA NINO

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Monica Nino, former Stanislaus County Chief Executive Officer, and to thank her for her leadership and dedication to the citizens of Stanislaus County.

After 25 years of devoted service to Stanislaus County, she is now San Joaquin County's new Chief Executive Officer. In her short 18 months as CEO for Stanislaus County, Nino proved herself a very competent executive, providing the thorough information needed for the five elected supervisors to make good decisions, especially on budget matters.

Ms. Nino was born and raised in Stanislaus County. She earned her Associate's degree from Modesto Junior College, her Bachelor's degree in Accounting from California State University, Fresno and her Master's degree in Public Administration from California State University, Stanislaus.

In 1988, Monica started as an accountant in the Stanislaus County's Auditor-Controller's Office. She joined the executive office in 1991. She helped oversee the budget during heavy cuts to deal with reduced income resulting from the housing crash of the past half-decade and related economic woes.

Ms. Nino was appointed Stanislaus County Chief Executive Officer in January 2012. Prior to her appointment as CEO for Stanislaus County, she had held the position of Assistant Executive Officer with Stanislaus County since 2005. Nino is the first woman and first Latina to hold the permanent post.

As Chief Executive Officer with Stanislaus County, under the direction of the Board of Supervisors, Ms. Nino oversaw all aspects of Stanislaus County government, which included 26 County departments, an operating budget of $891 million, and over 3,700 employees.

Ms. Nino also sat on the Stanislaus County Animal Services Agency, Joint Powers Agency, Stanislaus Regional 911, and Doctors Medical Center Governing Board.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending Monica Nino, former Stanislaus County Chief Executive Officer, for her numerous years of selfless service to the betterment of our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DONOHO SCHOOL

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to honor an extraordinary college preparatory school in my district. The Donoho School, founded in 1963, will celebrate its 50th anniversary this month.

The Donoho School was founded in 1963 as a secondary school and was called the Anniston Academy. In 1976, the name was changed to The Donoho School in recognition of Mrs. Harriet Wallis Donoho, a founder of the school. The Lower Division of the school was founded as The Episcopal Day School in 1961 as an independent elementary school. Housed originally in the facilities of the Church of St. Michael and All Angels, the school moved into Grace Episcopal Church in 1967. In 1976, The Episcopal Day School merged with The Donoho School and became the Lower Division.

The Donoho School currently enrolls more than 400 students in Pre-K through 12th grade. It is an active member of the Alabama Association of Independent Schools, Alabama High School Athletic Association, College Board, National Association for College Admission Counseling, National Association of Independent Schools, National Association of Secondary School Principals, National Honor Society and Southern Association of Independent Schools. The school will celebrate its 50th anniversary with an awards ceremony on September 16th.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating The Donoho School's achievements and thanking them for their dedication to providing Anniston's children with a quality education.

CONGRATULATING CHAD RUSSELL

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and congratulate Turlock High School Agriculture Department Chair Chad Russell, upon being awarded the ''Instructor Sweepstakes Award'' by the California State Fair for a fifth year. This award is a tribute to Mr. Russell's professional accomplishments in the field of education, as well as his dedicated commitment to his students and the art of welding.

Chad Allen Russell was born on May 23, 1982, in Turlock, CA to Bev and Tom Russell. He grew up in Turlock, CA, the second largest city in Stanislaus County, which has a population of 68,549. It is home to California State University, Stanislaus, and has earned the title ''Heart of the Valley'' for its extensive agricultural production.

As a child, Mr. Russell attended Mt. View-Chatom Schools and from 1996–2000 Mr. Russell was a standout FFA student at Turlock High School, mentored by several renown agriculture instructors including Dale Pollard, Joe Digrazia, and Lori Marchy. While at THS, Mr. Russell was an active participant in FFA and distinguished himself by winning several awards including the State FFA Star Agribusinessman Award and, in his senior year, Outstanding Project at the CA State Fair.

Mr. Russell's facility with welding led him after high school to a job in that industry, where he worked for three years. Although Mr. Russell's salary as a welder was nearly double what a teacher earns, he felt called to this new profession and moved back to Turlock to begin attending Modesto Junior College, where he earned an A.A. degree in Agriculture. After MJC, Mr. Russell transferred to California State University, Fresno, where he majored in Ag Mechanics. While at Fresno State, Mr. Russell subcontracted for GEA Niro, who flew him around the country on weekends to weld.

With degree in hand, Mr. Russell was hired by Turlock Unified School District in 2006 as a part-time ROP welding instructor and eventually worked his way into a full-time position as an Agriculture teacher. Alice Pollard, former Principal of Adult and Career Education at Turlock Unified School District has praised Mr. Russell's devotion to his students, ''Chad selflessly gives up his weekends, his spring and winter breaks, as well as spending more hours that you want to know during the summer helping his students.'' Cindy Young, Director of Yosemite ROP in Stanislaus County, relayed her awe at his commitment to his students, ''When I visit his classroom, I see more than a classroom, I see a business. His students are involved and engaged. They are committed to excellence. They are respectful and he is respectful of them. Mr. Russell is building tomorrow's workforce.''

It didn't take long after starting his career at THS for Mr. Russell to make a reputation as one of the foremost Ag Mechanics instructors in the State as his students began to win award after award at the Stanislaus County and California State fairs. In 2009, Dominic Agresti-Assali, one of Mr. Russell's stand-out welding students, custom-made two 54 foot almond trailers that went on to win 1st place in the State Ag Mechanics over-$10,000 division, earning Best in Division and Best in Show honors along with two other corporately-sponsored awards.

That same year, eight other THS students earned first place and Best of Show honors at the State Fair. Most recently, in 2013, Mr. Russell earned his 5th Instructor Sweepstakes award at the State Fair based on his students' outstanding performance and THS junior Trey Smith won a Golden Bear Award, the fair's highest honor. Mr. Russell's students are highly sought after for welding jobs at local businesses due to the reputation he has established in the community as a result of his students' extensive accomplishments.

Based in part on his students' numerous accomplishments and his own stellar record as a welding instructor, Mr. Russell was recently awarded the Yosemite Regional Occupation Program (YROP) Teacher of the Year award from Stanislaus County Office of Education. ROP is a program designed to prepare students for a career by providing a wide variety of specialized career education programs for high school students. The goal is for students to develop marketable skills, abilities, attitudes and work habits so that they can secure jobs, upgrade skills, and prepare for advanced careers.

For the past five years, Mr. Russell has served as the Department Chair of the THS Agriculture Department and has overseen its expansion to five teachers. He has been instrumental in helping to secure University of California approval for many of the agriculture courses at THS, allowing students to participate in a Career Technical Education program while maintaining four-year college eligibility. Mr. Russell's long-term plans are to pursue a Master's in Agriculture and continue to build the THS Agriculture Department into one of the premiere programs in the State. With his outstanding commitment to THS students and

passion for Agriculture, it is only a matter of time before this dream becomes a reality.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Chad Russell for his hard work and dedicated service at Turlock High School, and congratulating him upon receiving the California State Fair ''Instructor Sweepstakes Award'' not once but five times.

IN RECOGNITION OF ARKY MARKHAM

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Arky Markham of Northampton, Massachusetts.

Ms. Markham has dedicated her entire life and professional career to a simple pursuit: helping those in need, and giving a voice to the voiceless.

As a social worker, she has spent a career protecting and promoting the human rights of vulnerable populations, including war veterans, and those without healthcare.

As a political activist, she has stood up time and again for the causes that matter to her, demonstrating against nuclear weapons, and leading her community for peace, and against wars.

Ms. Markham has routinely volunteered and founded groups on behalf of social justice causes, including the American Friends Service Committee, where she was a co-organizer and chief fundraiser for the first Martin Luther King celebration in Northampton; Social Workers for Peace and Justice; The Middle East Peace Coalition; the Franklin/Hampshire Health Care Coalition which later helped to form Mass-Care, a state-wide organization that continues to advocate for single-payer health care; the Northampton Bill of Rights Defense Committee and the Alliance for Peace and Justice.

As Ms. Markham's community, friends, and colleagues gather this month to celebrate her 98th birthday and her life's work of 'doing good,' I ask that the House of Representatives join me in honoring a true champion of human rights.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD E. HARTMAN, SR.

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of a remarkable individual, Donald E. Hartman, Sr., who passed away on August 15, 2013. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for his leadership and service to the state of Indiana.

Throughout his life Mr. Hartman served our country and Indiana with honor. He joined the U.S. Army in 1965 as a member of the military police and served overseas in Heidelberg, Germany. He then gave 26 years to the Indiana State Police. During his career he was recognized numerous times for his dedication to public safety and in 1996 was awarded the Indiana State Police's highest honor, the Gold Star Award for Valor, after saving a woman from a burning vehicle on I–65.

Upon retirement from the police force, Mr. Hartman continued to offer his time and energy to the people of Indiana. He was elected as Sheriff of Newton County and began his first term in 2007, a position he still held at the time of his passing. He was a selfless, respectful, and gracious leader, always putting the people and department before himself and working to provide the best service and safety possible to Newton County residents.

On and off the job, Mr. Hartman was invested in Indiana. He was the Vice-President of the Newton County Fair Board and the President of the Newton County 4–H Council. In his youth, he was an active member of 4–H as well as Future Farmers of America.

Mr. Hartman was a true family man who is survived by Teri, his loving wife of 41 years, three children, his mother, and his brother. Mr. Donald E. Hartman, Sr. was a man committed to his family, his community, and his country. America is a better nation because of Mr. Hartman. He will be truly missed. Thank you for all you have given to this country and the state of Indiana. Rest in peace, Mr. Hartman.

ACKNOWLEDGING WILLIAM ''BILL'' BASSITT

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor William ''Bill'' Bassin, President and CEO of the Stanislaus Economic Development and Workforce Alliance on his retirement and to thank him for his dedicated, life-long spirit of community service.

Bill Bassitt holds a Bachelor's Degree from Xavier University and a Master's Degree from Bowling Green State University. He has also completed course work in economic development at the University of Oklahoma and was a graduate of the U.S. Chamber's Institute for Organizational Management from the University of Delaware, as well as the Center for Creative Management. He is a member of numerous professional organizations and has been the keynote speaker at many local, state, regional, and national conferences.

Since 2002, Mr. Bassitt has held the position of President and CEO of the Stanislaus Economic Development and Workforce Alliance. As CEO, Bill Bassitt conducted three private sector fundraising campaigns to provide private sector funding to support the operations of the Alliance. Under his direction, the Stanislaus Economic Development and Workforce Alliance has been successful in bringing public and private sector leaders together to breed change, address systemic issues and market Stanislaus County as a place to do business.

With 28 years experience in the Chamber of Commerce and economic development management in four states, Bill Bassitt has had an exceptional impact on the community. His career includes several years in the international business arena, working in over 24 countries, covering four continents, developing reciprocal trade agreements and seeking to bring direct foreign investment and corporate operations to the United States.

Bassitt previously served as Senior Vice President of the Detroit Regional Chamber and Executive Director of the Detroit Regional Economic Partnership, where he built a large regional organization. In addition, he led numerous highly successful marketing missions involving complex interaction and negotiations with international business and government leaders. Adding to his list of accomplishments is the development and marketing of several business parks.

After working for over 30 years in economic development in 25 countries and on four continents, and leading six separate economic development organizations, Bill Bassitt and his wife Nancy, will relocate to their home in Ohio. Married for 45 years, they have four children and 7 grandchildren, which they look forward to spending more time with in the coming years.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Alliance CEO Bill Bassitt on his retirement and in thanking him for his exemplary leadership and service to the community.

HONORING BOBBY E. COLLINS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Bobby E. Collins, the newly appointed Postmaster for the Dallas Post Office. In this new position, Mr. Collins will oversee 1,435 employees across 31 stations, managing more than 540,000 deliveries throughout Dallas and its suburbs.

Mr. Collins spent decades refining his career with the U.S. Postal Service, which dates as far back as 1980 when he started as a letter carrier in Houston, Texas. Throughout his career, Mr. Collins advanced quickly within the Postal Service. He served in a number of supervisory roles in various parts of the country such as Texas, Arizona, and Missouri. Today, after devoting 33 years of service to assist the Postal Service with its mission to reliably deliver mail to every corner of our Nation, Mr. Collins takes this new responsibility with much enthusiasm.

The United States Postal Service is an important American institution that is fortunate to have such dedicated employees on board. Mr. Collins has demonstrated his unwavering commitment to the Postal Service and his fellow neighbors through decades of service and this new position will enable Mr. Collins to achieve even more.

Mr. Speaker, as we work together to address the various issues that the Postal Service currently faces, it is important that we recognize the individuals working diligently behind the scenes to keep postal operations running smoothly. I am proud to congratulate Mr. Collins for achieving this milestone in his career, and I have every confidence that he will serve the Dallas area well as Postmaster.

IN HONOR OF DIANNA RUSKOWSKY AND HER 25 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

HON. JOHN KLINE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dianna Ruskowsky for her 25 years of dedicated service to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce—and the American people.

In a career spanning the terms of seven Committee Chairmen, Dianna Ruskowsky has distinguished herself as an exemplary steward of Committee resources and a true expert of her craft. She is routinely sought out for guidance and assistance from her colleagues on both sides of the aisle—from fellow Committees to House Leadership offices.

Dianna's contributions take place behind the scenes, but her work does not go unnoticed. Her guidance and advice ensures everyone from our interns to our Staff Director has the knowledge they need to make wise decisions and adhere to the letter of the law.

Dianna's attention to detail and dedication to the successful operation of the Committee are without equal. The American people can rest assured every penny of their tax dollars that flows through the Committee is accounted for and invested in the most efficient manner.

Perhaps even more admirable is Dianna's own investment in the lives of the many young staffers she has taken under her wing over the years. Dianna routinely goes out of her way to help new staff members feel welcome and at home in our Committee family.

Our Committee could—quite literally—not run without Dianna's service, and we continue to be grateful for all she does.

ACKNOWLEDGING DR. CHERYL DOMENICHELLI

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and congratulate John C. Kimball High School Principal Dr. Cheryl Domenichelli, upon being named the Association of California School Administrators' 2012 Secondary Principal of the Year. This award is a tribute to Dr. Domenichelli's professional accomplishments in the field of education, especially since the recognition is from her peers.

Dr. Cheryl Alexander Domenichelli was born on September 26 in San Francisco, California. She obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts, Interior Design, from John F. Kennedy University in Orinda, California. She continued her education by earning her Teaching Credential with and emphasis in Art and Introductory Science and Secondary Education and Teaching at California State University, East Bay and a Masters of Education, Educational Leadership and Administration at Saint Mary's College of California. Finally, she completed her education with a Doctorate in Education, Educational Leadership at the University of California Berkeley.

Dr. Domenichelli started her first job in 1978 at GTE Lenkurt in San Carlos, California. She began her teaching career in 1995 as a Teacher of Art and Sciences at Deer Valley High School in Antioch, California. She was a teacher until 2003, when she was named as Vice Principal. In 2008, she accepted the position of Principal at John C. Kimball High School in Tracy, California, where she continues today.

Dr. Domenichelli has received numerous awards, including the Association of California School Administrators/State of California High School Principal of the Year 2012, the 2001–2002 Internet Institute Award from the National Semiconductor Corporation, and the 1994 Parent Teacher Association/Honorary Service Award.

She is a proud member of the Association of California School Administrators, where she is a Regional Representative to the Equity, Achievement and Diversity for Success Committee. Dr. Domenichelli's memberships also include the National Association of Secondary School Principals and Phi Delta Kappa International, Contra Costa County Chapter 1072.

In addition, she has served her community as a member of the following organizations: Parent Teacher Student Association/Principal; University of the Pacific, Beyond our Gates Advisory Board; Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated/Lifetime Associate; and Parent Teachers Association/Ways and Means Committee Chair 1994.

Cheryl has been married to her husband of 29 years, Ronald Domenichelli and they have two beautiful daughters Angelica Dominique Domenichelli and Vanessa Marie Domenichelli.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Dr. Cheryl Domenichelli upon receiving the 2012 Secondary Principal of the Year by the Association of California School Administrators. This is an outstanding honor and one for which the community should be quite proud.

HONORING JERRY AND ANN KIVETT

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute a remarkable Hoosier, Jerry Kivett. Jerry is a true leader in his community and the Hoosier state. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for his leadership and service to his country, his community, and the State of Indiana.

Jerry grew up on the family farm owned by his parents, Hugh C. and Martha Kivett, in Hall, Indiana. Jerry attended Martinsville High School and graduated in 1948. He participated in sports and today is still a sports enthusiast. Jerry worked the family farm with his brother, Jack, and father, Hugh, during much of his younger years and was a natural farmer as many generations of Kivetts were farmers.

It was during a youth event in the basement of the Mt. Pleasant Christian Church in Hall that his eyes met those of Mary Ward of Monrovia. It was love at first sight and today this love has lasted 65 years. Jerry and Mary bought a farm of their own in Hall and have resided over it for over sixty years. They still attend Mt. Pleasant Church and are the fifth or sixth generation of Kivetts to do so.

To this union were born Steve, who is a vicar for the Church of England, and has resided in England with his wife, Ann, for nearly 40 years. Jerry's son, Rick, resides in Martinsville with his wife, Vickie, and they both work in their county government. Jerry's daughter, Jill Kivett, resides in Rensselaer and is a teacher at North Newton High School. Jerry's son, Monte, resides in Camby with his wife, Lisa, and was Chief Deputy Prosecutor for Morgan County. Life has continued to bless Jerry and Mary Kivett with seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Jerry worked at the IBM in Greencastle and worked nights in order to either coach or attend his children's sporting events, rarely missing any of them. Mary spent over twenty years in the Morgan County Clerk's Office. They have done some traveling to England and stateside over the years and still enjoy vacationing. They are members of the Hall Civic Association and are lifelong Republicans. As parents and grandparents they have been excellent role models in family values. They have shared years of watching sports on all levels together and can quote you names, teams, statistics, and eve have long ago forgotten.

HONORING JIM McCASLAND

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jim McCasland, recipient of the 2013 Heroes of Labor Award by Dallas American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL–CIO). Mr. McCasland recently retired as the Executive Secretary of the Dallas AFL–CIO, but his contributions to the Dallas labor community will forever stand proud. During his career which spanned over four decades, Mr. McCasland was widely recognized for his steadfast commitment to many Dallas area and national organizations.

Mr. McCasland has been a member of Communications Workers of America since 1969, where he was both a job steward and a chief steward. He also served on the community services committee, public relations committee, and the legislative committee. Mr. McCasland joined the Central Labor Council (CLC) in 1981 and was elected to be the CLC Vice President in 1983. He also proudly served as the Picket Chairman on two occasions. In 1984, Mr. McCasland was elected the State AFL–CIO Vice President from District 7.

Mr. McCasland was also active in the Dallas County Democratic Party serving on multiple committees on different occasions. In 1992, Mr. McCasland was on Bill Clinton's Dallas County steering committee and was previously on the steering committees for Michael Dukakis and Mark White. He also served as a delegate to numerous precinct conventions and State Democratic conventions.

Mr. McCasland served on the Board of Directors for both the United Way and the Dallas County Red Cross. In 1987 Mr. McCasland

was the Labor Chair of the Muscular Dystrophy campaign. Mr. McCasland's leadership and dedication to the community have made an impact on the Dallas area and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. McCasland deserves great recognition for his service to our community, as he is a true hero of labor.

CELEBRATING LABOR LEADER LEROY KING'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished San Francisco labor leader, a civil rights activist, and my dear friend, Leroy King, on the occasion of his 90th Birthday.

Committed to the principles of equality and justice for all people, King has been a fierce advocate for San Franciscans through his union, through city and state government, and through church and community groups. Today, I am proud to honor his decades of work to achieve social justice and a better life for working families in San Francisco.

King served as Northern Regional Director of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) for more than 30 years. He became a member of ILWU Local 6 in 1946 and later led a coalition of members to overturn a discriminatory system that elected only whites to union office. He dedicated years to helping create a fully inclusive, integrated workforce.

King's fire and passion for action in support of his beliefs has never dimmed. While in his 80s, he was arrested for staging an act of civil disobedience with hotel and restaurant workers who were fighting to improve working conditions. He also joined San Francisco teachers and education support professionals when they occupied the offices of the City's Board of Education to dramatize the unmet needs of students.

King was instrumental in the union's creation of the St. Francis Square Cooperative Housing development, which opened in 1963 in the Fillmore District and was a national model for creating racially-integrated housing for working families. King and his family moved into St. Francis Square when it opened, and he continues to live there today.

A staunch supporter of civil rights champion Cesar Chavez, King is often credited for bringing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to the Bay area for a civil rights rally in 1967. In 2009, the National Education Association honored King with the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Award for promoting peace and advancing social and economic justice by embodying King's inclusive leadership and nonviolent philosophy.

As a long-time civic and public affairs leader, Mr. King served on the San Francisco Redevelopment Commission for over 30 years. As Commissioner, he fought to preserve the African-American and Japanese-American heritage of the Fillmore District.

With great pride, I designated him as my appointee to California's Electoral College. On December 15, 2008, he cast my official vote for Barack Obama as the first African American President of the United States.

From his courageous service in World War II to his extraordinary dedication to the City of San Francisco and the State of California, Leroy King is peerless leader will always be a strong and unwavering voice for the voiceless.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, September 10, 2013 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's record.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 11

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the Department of Homeland Security at 10 years, focusing on examining challenges and achievements and addressing emerging threats.
SD–342

10 a.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert Leon Wilkins, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, Timothy L. Brooks, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas, James Donato, and Beth Labson Freeman, both to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, and Pedro A. Delgado Hernandez, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico.
SD–226

10:30 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2014 for the Federal Communications Commission.
SD–138

2 p.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Subcommittee on National Security and International Trade and Finance
To hold hearings to examine assessing the investment climate and improving market access in financial services in India.
SD–538

SEPTEMBER 12

10 a.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee during the 113th Congress; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine essential elements of housing finance reform.
SD–538

Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Nisha Desai Biswal, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs.
SD–419

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging
To hold hearings to examine dental crisis in America, focusing on the need to address the cost.
SD–430

Committee on the Judiciary
Business meeting to consider S. 987, to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media, S. 357, to encourage, enhance, and integrate Blue Alert plans throughout the United States in order to disseminate information when a law enforcement officer is seriously injured or killed in the line of duty, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee for the 113th Congress, and the nominations of Cornelia T. L. Pillard, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, Landya B. McCafferty, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Hampshire, Brian Morris, and Susan P. Watters, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of Montana, Jeffrey Alker Meyer, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut, and Kenneth Allen Polite, Jr., to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana, Department of Justice.
SD–226

2:30 p.m.
Select Committee on Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.
SH–219

SEPTEMBER 16

Time to be announced
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee during the 113th Congress.
S–216

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee during the 113th Congress.
S–216

SEPTEMBER 18

2 p.m.
Special Committee on Aging
To hold hearings to examine older Americans, focusing on the changing face of HIV/AIDS in America.
SD–562

SEPTEMBER 19

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Deborah Lee James, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Air Force, Jessica Garfola Wright, of Pennsylvania, to be Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, and Marcel J. Lettre II, of Maryland, to be Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Intelligence, all of the Department of Defense, Frank G. Klotz, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Energy for Nuclear Security, and Kevin A. Ohlson, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.
SD–G50

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine wildlife management authority within the State of Alaska under the Alaska National Interest Lands Act and the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.
SD–366

CANCELLATIONS

SEPTEMBER 11

2:30 p.m.
Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine the economic outlook.
SD–G50

CORRECTION

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

See Résumé of Congressional Activity.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6273–S6299

Measures Introduced: Two bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1487–1488, and S. Res. 218–220. **Pages S6295–96**

Measures Reported:

Reported on Wednesday, September 4, during the adjournment:

S. 572, to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the conditions under which certain persons may be treated as adjudicated mentally incompetent for certain purposes. (S. Rept. No. 113–86)

S. 893, to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2013, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans. (S. Rept. No. 113–87)

Report to accompany S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018. (S. Rept. No. 113–88) **Page S6295**

Measures Passed:

Authorize Legal Counsel: Senate agreed to S. Res. 220, to authorize representation by the Senate Legal Counsel in the case of Wade v. Miller, et al. **Page S6299**

Measures Considered:

Authorization for the Use of Military Force Against the Government of Syria to Respond to Use of Chemical Weapons—Agreement: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S.J. Res. 21, to authorize the limited and specified use of the United States Armed Forces against Syria. **Pages S6273–84**

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the joint resolution at 11 a.m., on Tuesday, September 10, 2013, and the time until 12 p.m., be equally divided and controlled between the two Leaders, or their designees, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to ten minutes each. **Page S6299**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 73 yeas to 24 nays (Vote No. EX. 201), Valerie E. Caproni, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York. **Pages S6284–87, S6300**

Vernon S. Broderick, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York. **Pages S6287, S6300**

Messages from the House: **Pages S6291–92**

Measures Referred: **Page S6292**

Executive Communications: **Pages S6292–95**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S6296**

Additional Statements: **Page S6291**

Amendments Submitted: **Page S6299**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S6299**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—201) **Page S6287**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 6:59 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, September 10, 2013. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6300.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

SYRIA

Committee on Armed Services: On Wednesday, September 4, 2013, Committee received a closed briefing on the situation in Syria from Charles T. Hagel, Secretary, and General Martin E. Dempsey, USA, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, both of the Department of Defense.

SYRIA

Committee on Foreign Relations: On Tuesday, September 3, 2013, Committee concluded a hearing to examine the authorization of use of force in Syria, after receiving testimony from John F. Kerry, Secretary of State; and Chuck Hagel, Secretary, and General Martin E. Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Joint Staff Pentagon, both of the Department of Defense.

SYRIA

Committee on Foreign Relations: On Wednesday, September 4, 2013, Committee concluded a closed hearing to examine the authorization of use of force in Syria, after receiving testimony from John F. Kerry, Secretary of State; James R. Clapper, Director of National Intelligence; and James N. Miller, Under Secretary for Policy, and Vice Admiral Kurt W. Tidd, Director for Operations, Joint Staff Pentagon, both of the Department of Defense.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Foreign Relations: On Wednesday, September 4, 2013, Committee ordered favorably reported S.J. Res. 21, to authorize the limited and specified use of the United States Armed Forces against Syria.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 9 public bills, H.R. 3064–3072; and 5 resolutions, H.J. Res. 58; H. Con. Res. 51; and H. Res. 335–337 were introduced. **Pages H5434–35**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H5435–36**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H.R. 2844, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to consolidate the reporting obligations of the Federal Communications Commission in order to improve congressional oversight and reduce reporting burdens, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–189). **Page H5434**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Foxx to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H5409**

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by voice vote. **Page H5409**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:14 p.m. and reconvened at 4 p.m. **Page H5411**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Global Investment in American Jobs Act of 2013: H.R. 2052, amended, to direct the Secretary of Commerce, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, to conduct an interagency review of and report to Congress on ways to increase the global competitiveness of the United States in attracting foreign direct investment, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 379 yeas to 32 nays with 1 answering "present", Roll No. 448 and **Pages H5411–14, H5416–17**

Federal Communications Commission Consolidated Reporting Act of 2013: H.R. 2844, amended, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to consolidate the reporting obligations of the Federal Communications Commission in order to improve congressional oversight and reduce reporting burdens, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 415 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 449. **Pages H5414, H5417–18**

Recess: The House recessed at 4:24 p.m. and reconvened at 6:45 p.m. **Page H5416**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H5416–17 and H5417–18. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Committee Meeting

On Wednesday, September 4, 2013, the following hearing was held:

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Syria: Weighing the Obama Administration's Response". Testimony was heard from John F. Kerry, Secretary, Department of State; Chuck Hagel, Secretary, Department of Defense; and General Martin E. Dempsey, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Department of Defense.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, *p. D780)*

H.R. 267, to improve hydropower. Signed on August 9, 2013. (Public Law 113–23)

H.R. 678, to authorize all Bureau of Reclamation conduit facilities for hydropower development under Federal Reclamation law. Signed on August 9, 2013. (Public Law 113–24)

H.R. 1092, to designate the air route traffic control center located in Nashua, New Hampshire, as the ''Patricia Clark Boston Air Route Traffic Control Center''. Signed on August 9, 2013. (Public Law 113–25)

H.R. 1171, to amend title 40, United States Code, to improve veterans service organizations access to Federal surplus personal property. Signed on August 9, 2013. (Public Law 113–26)

H.R. 1344, to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to provide expedited air passenger screening to severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled veterans. Signed on August 9, 2013. (Public Law 113–27)

H.R. 1911, of 1965 to establish interest rates for new loans made on or after July 1, 2013, to direct the Secretary of Education to convene the Advisory Committee on Improving Postsecondary Education Data to conduct a study on improvements to postsecondary education transparency at the Federal level. Signed on August 9, 2013. (Public Law 113–28)

H.R. 2167, to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish additional requirements to improve the fiscal safety and soundness of the home equity conversion mortgage insurance program. Signed on August 9, 2013. (Public Law 113–29)

H.R. 2576, to amend title 49, United States Code, to modify requirements relating to the availability of pipeline safety regulatory documents. Signed on August 9, 2013. (Public Law 113–30)

H.R. 2611, to designate the headquarters building of the Coast Guard on the campus located at 2701 Martin Luther King, Jr., Avenue Southeast in the District of Columbia as the ''Douglas A. Munro Coast Guard Headquarters Building''. Signed on August 9, 2013. (Public Law 113–31)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2013

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Wanda Felton, of New York, to be First Vice President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and Katherine M. O'Regan, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Indian Affairs: business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee from October 1, 2013, through February 28, 2015; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine S. 1448, to provide for equitable compensation to the Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation for the use of tribal land for the production of hydropower by the Grand Coulee Dam, S. 1219, to authorize the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians Water Rights Settlement, and S. 1447, to make technical corrections to certain Native American water rights settlements in the State of New Mexico, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Bankruptcy and the Courts, to hold hearings to examine an original bill entitled, ''Federal Judgeship Act of 2013'', 10:30 a.m., SD–226.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine conflicts between state and Federal marijuana laws, 2:30 p.m., SH–216.

Committee on Rules and Administration: business meeting to consider the nominations of Ann Miller Ravel, of California, and Lee E. Goodman, of Virginia, both to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission, and an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee during the 113th Congress, 10 a.m., SR–301.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine a legislative presentation of the American Legion, 10:15 a.m., SD–G50.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing on Proposed Authorization to Use Military Force in Syria, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Education Research: Exploring Opportunities to Strengthen the Institute of Education Sciences'', 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy, hearing entitled ''Implementing the Nuclear Waste Policy Act—Next Steps'', 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled ''PPACA Pulse Check: Part 2'', 10:15 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Reducing Waste, Fraud, and Abuse in Housing Programs: Inspector General Perspectives'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, hearing entitled ''Challenges to Democracy in the Western Hemisphere'', 3 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, hearing entitled ''India's Missing Girls'', 3 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Crisis in Syria: Implications for Homeland Security'', 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property and the Internet, hearing entitled ''Satellite Television Laws in Title 17'', 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation, hearing entitled ''School Trust Lands Ownership Within Federal Conservation Areas'', 11 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Preventing Violations of Federal Transparency Laws'', 9 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Research and Technology, hearing entitled ''Examining Federal Advanced Manufacturing Programs'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, hearing entitled ''Maritime Transportation Regulations: Impacts on Safety, Security, Jobs and the Environment, Part 1'', 10:30 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of September 10 through September 13, 2013

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, at 11 a.m., Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S.J. Res. 21, Authorization for the Use of Military Force Against the Government of Syria to Respond to Use of Chemical Weapons.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Appropriations: September 11, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2014 for the Federal Communications Commission, 10:30 a.m., SD–138.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: September 10, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Wanda Felton, of New York, to be First Vice President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and Katherine M. O'Regan, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, 10 a.m., SD–538.

September 11, Subcommittee on National Security and International Trade and Finance, to hold hearings to examine assessing the investment climate and improving market access in financial services in India, 2 p.m., SD–538.

September 12, Full Committee, business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee during the 113th Congress; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine essential elements of housing finance reform, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Foreign Relations: September 12, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Nisha Desai Biswal, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs, 10 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: September 12, Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging, to hold hearings to examine dental crisis in America, focusing on the need to address the cost, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: September 11, to hold hearings to examine the Department of Homeland Security at 10 years, focusing on examining challenges and achievements and addressing emerging threats, 9:30 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: September 10, business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee from October 1, 2013, through February 28, 2015; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine S. 1448, to provide for equitable compensation to the Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation for the use of tribal land for the production of hydropower by the Grand Coulee Dam, S. 1219, to authorize the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians Water Rights Settlement, and S. 1447, to make technical corrections to certain Native American water rights settlements in the State of New Mexico, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: September 10, Subcommittee on Bankruptcy and the Courts, to hold hearings to examine an original bill entitled, ''Federal Judgeship Act of 2013'', 10:30 a.m., SD–226.

September 10, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine conflicts between state and Federal marijuana laws, 2:30 p.m., SH–216.

September 11, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert Leon Wilkins, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, Timothy L. Brooks, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas, James Donato, and Beth Labson Freeman, both to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, and Pedro A. Delgado Hernandez, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico, 10 a.m., SD–226.

September 12, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 987, to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media, S. 357, to encourage, enhance, and integrate Blue Alert plans throughout the United States in order to disseminate information when a law enforcement officer is seriously injured or killed in the line of duty, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee for the 113th Congress, and the nominations of Cornelia T. L. Pillard, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, Landya B. McCafferty, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Hampshire, Brian Morris, and Susan P. Watters, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of Montana, Jeffrey Alker Meyer,

to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut, and Kenneth Allen Polite, Jr., to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana, Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Committee on Rules and Administration: September 10, business meeting to consider the nominations of Ann Miller Ravel, of California, and Lee E. Goodman, of Virginia, both to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission, and an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee during the 113th Congress, 10 a.m., SR–301.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: September 10, to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine a legislative presentation of the American Legion, 10:15 a.m., SD–G50.

Select Committee on Intelligence: September 10, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

September 12, Full Committee, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House Committees

Committee on Armed Services, September 12, Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, hearing on Undersea Warfare Capabilities and Challenges, 9 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, September 11, Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training, hearing entitled ''Keeping College Within Reach: Supporting Higher Education Opportunities for America's Servicemembers and Veterans'', 12 p.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, September 11, Subcommittee on Technology, hearing entitled ''Innovation Versus Regulation in the Video Marketplace'', 2 p.m. 2133 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, September 11, Subcommittee on Monetary Policy and Trade, hearing entitled ''The Fed Turns 100: Lessons Learned over a Century of Central Banking'', 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

September 12, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The Semi-Annual Report of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau'', 9 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, September 12, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, hearing entitled ''The Troubling Path Ahead for U.S.-Zimbabwe Relations'', 12 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, September 11, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies, hearing entitled ''The Threat to Americans' Personal Information: A Look into the Security and Reliability of the Health Exchange Data Hub'', 2 p.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, September 11, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 2655, the ''Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act of 2013''; H.R. 2871, to amend title 28, United States Code, to modify the composition of the southern judicial district of Mississippi to improve judicial efficiency, and for other purposes; and H.R. 2922, to extend the authority of the Supreme Court Police to protect court officials away from the Supreme Court grounds, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, September 11, Full Committee, hearing on the Reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, September 11, Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, U.S. Postal Service and the Census, hearing entitled ''Ensuring an Accurate and Affordable 2020 Census'', 9:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

September 11, Subcommittee on Government Operations, hearing entitled ''Oversight of the SIGTARP Report on Treasury's Role in the Delphi Pension Bailout'', 1:30 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, September 11, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, hearing entitled ''Implementation Update: Fully Developed Claims'', 3 p.m., 334 Cannon.

September 12, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing entitled ''A Review of the Performance of the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) and the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP)'', 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, September 11, Subcommittee on Human Resources, hearing on preventing the payment of unemployment benefits to incarcerated individuals and other ways to improve the integrity of the Unemployment Insurance program, 1:15 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, September 12, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Ongoing Intelligence Activities'', 9 a.m., HVC–304. This is a closed hearing.

Résumé of Congressional Activity

FIRST SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

The first table gives a comprehensive résumé of all legislative business transacted by the Senate and House. The second table accounts for all nominations submitted to the Senate by the President for Senate confirmation.

DATA ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

January 3 through August 31, 2013

	Senate	*House*	*Total*
Days in session	97	102	..
Time in session	679 hrs., 36′	503 hrs., 7′	..
Congressional Record:			
Pages of proceedings	S6,267	H5,405	..
Extensions of remarks	..	E1,247	..
Public bills enacted into law	4	27	31
Private bills enacted into law	..	..	..
Bills in conference	1	1	..
Measures passed, total	229	218	447
Senate bills	37	4	..
House bills	28	126	..
Senate joint resolutions	..	..	..
House joint resolutions	..	..	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	12	10	..
House concurrent resolutions	10	12	..
Simple resolutions	142	66	..
Measures reported, total	*124	*183	307
Senate bills	85	..	..
House bills	7	141	..
Senate joint resolutions	1	..	..
House joint resolutions	..	..	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	1	..	..
House concurrent resolutions	..	4	..
Simple resolutions	30	38	..
Special reports	12	5	..
Conference reports	..	..	..
Measures pending on calendar	109	46	..
Measures introduced, total	1,746	3,504	5,250
Bills	1,486	3,063	..
Joint resolutions	20	57	..
Concurrent resolutions	23	50	..
Simple resolutions	217	334	..
Quorum calls	2	1	..
Yea-and-nay votes	200	181	..
Recorded votes	..	265	..
Bills vetoed	..	..	..
Vetoes overridden	..	..	..

DISPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

January 3 through August 31, 2013

Civilian nominations, totaling 350, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	156
Unconfirmed	188
Withdrawn	6
Other Civilian nominations, totaling 1,000, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	16
Unconfirmed	984
Air Force nominations, totaling 5,222, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	1,029
Unconfirmed	4,193
Army nominations, totaling 5,329, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	5,315
Unconfirmed	14
Navy nominations, totaling 3,171, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	1,995
Unconfirmed	1,175
Withdrawn	1
Marine Corps nominations, totaling 762, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	761
Unconfirmed	1

Summary

Total nominations carried over from the First Session	0
Total nominations received this Session	15,834
Total confirmed	9,272
Total unconfirmed	6,555
Total withdrawn	7
Total returned to the White House	0

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, September 10

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 11 a.m.), Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S.J. Res. 21, Authorization for the Use of Military Force Against the Government of Syria to Respond to Use of Chemical Weapons.

(Senate will recess from 12 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, September 10

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of the following measures under suspension of the rules: 1) H.R. 1155—National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers Reform Act of 2013, as amended; 2) H.R. 2747—Streamlining Claims Processing for Federal Contractor Employees Act; 3) H.R. 1891—Science Laureates of the United States Act of 2013; 4) S. 130—Powell Shooting Range Land Conveyance Act; 5) S. 157—Denali National Park Improvement Act; 6) S. 304—Natchez Trace Parkway Land Conveyance Act of 2013; 7) S. 256—A bill to amend Public Law 93–435 with respect to the Northern Mariana Islands, providing parity with Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa; and 8) S. 459—Minuteman Missile National Historic Site Boundary Modification Act.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue.

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