

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### TRIBUTE TO YOUNG STAFF MEMBERS AND INTERNS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS

#### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2013*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, one of the major reasons why I believe the future of our country is bright and its best days lie ahead is the extraordinary quality, talent, commitment, and energy of the young people who will in time assume the responsibility of leadership.

Members of Congress know well, perhaps better than most, how blessed our nation is to have in reserve such exceptional young men and women who will go on to become leaders in their local communities, states, and the nation in the areas of business, education, government, philanthropy, the arts and culture, and the military.

We know this because we see them and benefit from their contributions every day. Many of them work for us in our offices as junior staff members, congressional fellows, or interns and they do amazing work for and on behalf of the constituents we are privileged to represent.

I rise today to pay tribute to the wonderful young men and women who have done this work in my office for my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I believe there is no higher calling than the call to serve a cause larger than ourselves. That is why I ran for public office. I was inspired to serve by President Kennedy who said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country," and by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who said:

Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. . . . You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.

By this measure, there are several other great young men and women who served as volunteers this year in my offices. They may toil in obscurity but their contributions to the constituents we serve are deeply appreciated and I wish to acknowledge them. They are: Carlos Fierros, Toulia Nwabunnia, Ziad Saqr, Michal Shinnar, Chike Achebe, Morgan Cassell, Deontae Wherry, Kern Kumar, Myron Latney, Mohammad Cifci, Hiromi Oka, Marcus Smith, Zahit Akinci, Alezeh Rauf, Elif Duran, Omorose Eguakun, Amy Akabue, Ariadna Mujica, Olivia Igbokwe, and Ayanna Costley.

Mr. Speaker, the energy, intelligence, and idealism young people bring to their internships in my office and those of my colleagues helps keep our democracy vibrant. The insights, skills, and knowledge of the governmental process they gain from their experiences will last a lifetime and prove invaluable to them as they go about making their mark in this world.

I am grateful that such thoughtful committed young men and women can be found working in my office, those of my colleagues, and in every community in America. Their good works will keep America great and good.

### ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE 2013 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD DISTRICT OF TEXAS

#### HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2013*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor fourteen distinguished military veterans, community servants, and American patriots who call the Third District of Texas home. All faithfully answered the call of duty and to place service above self for the sake of our great nation. Each one leaves a legacy to be remembered, for future generations to follow, a legacy of bravery, loyalty, dedication, and sacrifice. For their selfless service, bold leadership, and undying commitment for their neighbor and nation, the following individual has been selected as a recipient of the third annual Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Colonel Dan Prather served in the United States Army from 1963 to 1993. After participating in ROTC at West Texas State University, Mr. Prather was commissioned in the U.S. Army, beginning his military career at Fort Hood. As a company commander and aide de camp to Major General George Ruhlen, he earned his Ranger tab to improve on his infantry skills. During his two tours of Vietnam, he earned the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with Combat Valor, and Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, along with numerous other medals.

As seen from his decorations, Mr. Prather demonstrated countless moments of valor, loyalty, and leadership. One exemplary moment was his decision to change daytime patrols of the Viet Cong to nighttime patrols. The "Rat Patrol," as he called it, was instantly successful, capturing weapons, mines, and grenades while neutralizing 34 enemy soldiers, all within the first month of operation. In fact, Mr. Prather's tactical strategy proved so effective that other U.S. Infantries adopted his nighttime model to high levels of success. Perhaps even more impressive than his tactical instincts is under his command, he lost not one soldier's life through both of his tours in Vietnam. That's remarkable leadership.

To quote a man who served in Prather's battalion at Fort Polk, who later became a General, "What a great soldier, leader, and commander Dan Prather was. In my view, he was the best of all . . . whenever I faced tough situations as a commander, I often thought of how he would have handled it."

After his military career, his dedication to service never waned. He served as a City Al-

derman for two terms in Madison, Mississippi, where he created local community improvement and infrastructure projects. When a horrific flood hit the town, he hopped right in his truck with his chain saw to help homeowners clear away rubble and start rebuilding. That's the active, selfless and relentless leadership for which he will be remembered.

Colonel Dan Prather, let me both thank and congratulate you on your exceptional service to our country and our community both past and present. It is my pleasure to award you the 2013 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

### CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOBBY AND LETA AYERS

#### HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2013*

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bobby and Leta Ayers who celebrated their 60th anniversary this year. Their commitment to each other and their family is an inspiration and a wonderful reminder of the importance of family, particularly during the holiday season.

Bobby and Leta were wed on July 3, 1953, at First Christian Church, Caddo Mills, by Dr. James S. Riley. Over the past six decades, Mr. and Mrs. Ayers have been blessed with one son, Dean, and his wife Gerry Ayers and one daughter, Diane, and her husband David Lindsey, as well as four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

The Ayers have lived their lives in Caddo Mills, Texas. Bobby worked for TXU Energy for 40 years and is now retired. Leta gave private piano lessons and was a church secretary for 10 years at their church, First Baptist, Caddo Mills.

Bobby and Leta Ayers are blessed to have had so many happy years together, and I wish them many more. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebration of the Ayer's 60th wedding anniversary.

### HONORING LUISA DeLAURO AS SHE CELEBRATES HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

#### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2013*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is always an honor for me to have the opportunity to rise and recognize the accomplishments of those I so proudly represent. Today, however, is particularly special as I stand to pay tribute to my mother, Luisa DeLauro, who will celebrate her 100th birthday this December 24. She is—by any definition—an extraordinary woman,

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

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

whose passion for family and civic service made all the difference in our lives and in our community.

Born December 24, 1913, at 111 Wooster Street, my mother was one of six children. She grew up in the heart of New Haven's Italian American community and spent most of her childhood in my grandmother's pastry shop, Canestri's. It was in the Wooster Square neighborhood that my mother learned the importance of family, respect, and community. She married my father, Ted, in 1938 and they successfully balanced a life of family and community service. I have vivid memories of my parents sitting with neighbors at our kitchen table—particularly newly immigrated families—and my mother and father doing all they could to help them overcome whatever obstacle they were facing. My mother was no stranger to hard work. When I was growing up, she worked in a sweatshop, sewing shirt collars for pennies. Every day she would make me come by after school to see the horrible, cramped conditions. It is something I will never forget. The lesson was clear: work hard. Make something of yourself. Get a good education.

My mother was elected to the Board of Alderman in 1965—a position she held for 35 years and which stands today as the record for the longest serving member of that Board. In her time on the Board, she focused much of her attention on her childhood community—seeing Wooster Square designated as the City's first Historic District, initiating the annual Cherry Blossom Festival, and recognizing distinguished residents and organizations with the honorary naming of streets and corners—but she was also a fierce advocate, particularly for senior citizens and children.

My mother knew the importance of helping people—she understood that politics was an avenue for change. She also understood that women had an obligation to participate in the political process. When I first ran for Congress in 1990, I found an article my mother wrote in the 10th ward Democratic newsletter in 1933, now 80 years ago. Serving as Secretary of the organization at the time, amazingly, she wrote:

It is not my intention to be critical, rather my motive in writing this article is to encourage the female members of this organization to take a more active part in its affairs. We are not living in the middle ages when a woman's part in life was merely to serve her master in her home, but we have gradually taken our place in every phase of human endeavor, and even in the here-to-for stronghold of the male sex: politics. I have noticed that the girls, unlike the men, are timid in asserting themselves, and many a good idea is lost, having been suppressed by its creator. Come on girls, let's make ourselves heard.

And so, mom, I want to take this opportunity to say, "You made yourself heard." You continue to make us all proud. Thank you and congratulations on your centennial anniversary. You are your daughter's greatest inspiration.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE  
2013 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN  
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DISTRICT OF TEXAS

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Kevin Haines served in the United States Army from 1989 to 1996. During his ten year military career, he served in the 89th Military Police Brigade, which supported in wartime and humanitarian services to numerous U.S. Army missions across the globe. For instance, he deployed to Iraq when the United States first invaded Kuwait in 1990 and approximately one year later, deployed to Cuba to help Haitian refugees. He also deployed to Somalia, and served at Fort Hood for several years. For his dedication and years of service, Mr. Haines was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, and Humanitarian Awards: Southwest Asia Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and a Good Conduct Medal.

After Mr. Haines' military career honorably ended in 1996, he began his fire service career with the City of Temple Fire Rescue. He joined the Plano Fire Department in 1999 where he serves as a Paramedic Trainer and chairs the EMS Vision Committee. He received a Life-Saving Award in 2002 and was also awarded the Paramedic of the Year in 2007. Both in his military and civilian career, Mr. Haines has consistently demonstrated the highest level of service, putting his life on the line to protect our community, our businesses, and our homes.

Kevin Haines, let me both thank and congratulate you on your exceptional service to our country and community both past and present. It is my pleasure to award you the 2013 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF  
HEALTH

**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2013*

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, the mission of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is to seek and improve the quality of knowledge in the medical sciences, and to apply that knowledge in a meaningful way. The NIH fulfills this mission by maintaining high standards of sci-

entific integrity, public accountability, and social responsibility. The NIH also enriches many colleges and universities across the country, because, though many Americans are not aware, a large portion of the budget is sent out to all fifty states in the form of extramural research grants. Through these grants, better education yields higher return on public investment in medical research.

Thanks in part to research performed by the NIH, the life expectancy of a baby born in the United States is now 79—which is three decades longer than one born in 1900. Not only are we living longer, but our quality of life is improving. According to the NIH, the proportion of elderly with chronic disabilities has dropped by almost one third over the last 25 years.

Research and development in the medical field is the key to curing not only cancer, but also a host of other diseases that impact millions of Americans. For citizens who suffer from pancreatic cancer, one of the deadliest major cancers, such funding is not just necessary, it's urgent. It is critical that Congress do whatever is possible to support pancreatic cancer research at the NIH and the National Cancer Institute (NCI). In meetings with my constituents who have shared their stories about pancreatic cancer, it has been clear that we could do more to find a cure for this disease.

It is crucial that we, Members of the United States Congress, continue to support the NIH and its subsidiary, the NCI, by providing sustained and predictable funding. In these times of record debts and deficits and reduced budgets, it remains important that Congress continue to prioritize what is most important. The NIH is truly a national treasure. It is a light that we must not let fade.

FIVE CHINESE DAUGHTERS TO  
BEIJING: PLEASE LET OUR FA-  
THERS GO FREE

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2013*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, When China bullies, incarcerates, tortures—and even executes—a prisoner of conscience, their entire family and friends suffer an excruciating sense of loss, bewilderment, emotional pain and agony.

Often members of the family are themselves subjected to interrogation, mistreatment and house arrest in order to amplify the hurt.

In a very real sense, everyone close to a prisoner of conscience goes to jail and lives a seemingly unending nightmare. Every day, family and friends are left to wonder what terrible abuse awaits dad or mom or a brother or sister or child. Every day, the tears flow.

The people who rule China today with an iron fist resort to these ugly methods of control in the mistaken assumption that the people—the masses—can't be trusted to govern themselves, practice their faith as they see fit or create a family. China's barbaric one child per couple population control policy in effect since 1979 continues unabated to make brothers and sisters illegal and relies on ruinous fines and penalties, forced abortion, and coercive sterilization—crimes against humanity—to

achieve its ends. And all “news” content and commentary in cyberspace, TV, radio or in print media continues to be strictly controlled and manipulated by the communist party.

The Chinese government today is in the business of breaking minds, bodies and hearts. The repression is systematic, pervasive, unrelenting and unnecessary—the people of China love their nation and deserve better treatment. Even heroic persons like Chen Guangcheng, Wei Jingsheng, Rebiya Kadeer, Bishop Su, Harry Wu, and countless others who have demonstrated by their extraordinary perseverance an indomitable will to advance bedrock human rights principles regardless of cost carry the indelible scars of unspeakable mistreatment.

The people who rule China today employ these ugly methods of control to prop up their own political power and increase their personal wealth. China, a great nation, deserves better.

Far too many of us who live in freedom often fail to exert ourselves in a meaningful way to assist prisoners of conscience and their loved ones—in China and elsewhere.

Far too many of us fail to empathize with their plight. Or to see what’s just below the façade of the purported harmonious society.

How can it be that the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo remains in prison while his wife Liu Xia is forced to endure the extreme isolation of house arrest and is now reportedly experiencing severe depression?

Perhaps we are uninformed or too busy or prefer to look askance. However, with so much preventable suffering being endured by so many prisoners of conscience and their families in China today, the time has surely come for a more serious and sustained defense of these heroic individuals and their noble causes.

All of us—including the Chinese government—have a duty to protect.

At a hearing that I held several weeks ago, we heard the cries for release and freedom from five remarkable daughters on behalf of their wrongly imprisoned fathers and from a dad on behalf of his unjustly jailed son. We also received expert testimony from a previously incarcerated Christian pastor who cares deeply for the vulnerable and at risk and another human rights activist who was detained in China after an attempt to visit a dissident.

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ment for their neighbor and nation, the following individual has been selected as a recipient of the third annual Congressional Veteran Commendation:

LeRoy Myrben served in the United States Navy from 1955 to 1977. During his 22 years of service, he completed six tours aboard aircraft carriers, three of those tours during the Vietnam War, and in total, served in ten different naval commands. After his many years of active duty, he worked for 27 years as a civilian employee, developing government and corporate programs, such as the design stage of the Blackhawk Helicopter, F-18 Hornet. In 2003, he retired as the Director of National Security Solutions and as the Director of the Coast Guard Program before moving to Frisco, Texas.

Since moving to Texas, he’s been an extremely active leader and servant to the city of Frisco, advocating relentlessly on behalf of veterans and their families. Quickly after moving, he joined the Frisco Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) 8273 post and in one short year became the Post Senior Commander and then later the Post Commander. During his time as Commander, he chaired the Frisco Veterans’ Walk of Honor project to develop a memorial walkway that displays names of veterans on the Memorial in Frisco’s Commons Park. All the while, he continues to be an active Frisco Committee Parade member and has served as Frisco’s Memorial Day Master of Ceremonies for the past three years. As an advisor to Frisco’s Mayor, Maher Maso, he developed and now chairs the Mayor’s Frisco Veterans Advisory Committee, which consists of individuals from all military branches selected to advise the Mayor and City Council Members on issues pertaining to the veterans. Mr. Myrben not only put his life on the line overseas, he continues to sacrifice his time, energy, and efforts every single day at home to ensure that his fellow veterans receive the care, attention, and honor they rightfully deserve.

LeRoy Myrben, let me both thank and congratulate you on your exceptional service to our country and community both past and present. It is my pleasure to award you the 2013 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TRENT FRANKS**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2013*

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on rollcall No. 641 on H. Res. 441.

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HONORING RICHARD “DICK”  
FREELAND

**HON. TODD ROKITA**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2013*

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute a distinguished Hoosier, Richard “Dick” Freeland, who passed away on October 20, 2013. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for his leadership and service to the people of Indiana.

Mr. Freeland was a Nevada native and Iowa transplant who later moved his family to Indiana to pursue the American Dream. He started his career as an ironworker in Iowa who worked on Atlas rocket sites throughout the Midwest. In 1967, Mr. Freeland started a part-time job working for Pizza Hut for \$1.25 an hour. He eventually worked his way up to store manager, area manager, and part-owner in an Iowa Pizza Hut franchise.

Mr. Freeland moved his wife and young family to Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1972 and opened their first Pizza Hut franchise. Over the next 40-plus years, the business grew to include 48 Pizza Hut locations in Indiana and Ohio as well as four Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurants. His knowledge and business acumen was so well respected by the corporate office that he was asked to travel to Poland to advise the Pizza Hut team on improving their operations. Soon after, he became a partner in those Pizza Hut and Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurants in Poland and the Czech Republic.

Mr. Freeland sought to hire high-quality employees, train them well and empower them to make decisions for the benefit of themselves, the customer and the business. In his free time, he was involved in local, state and national politics and enjoyed hunting, fishing, traveling, and breeding Arabian horses at Freeland Farms. Mr. Freeland was a member of numerous corporate and charitable organization boards and served as the regional finance chairman of Bush/Quayle campaign in 1992.

Mr. Freeland left his loving wife, Deanna, two children, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Mr. Freeland’s legacy demonstrates the promise of hard work and the extraordinary opportunities afforded to the individual by liberty and American free enterprise. Dick’s story should serve as an example to millions of young Americans. Through hard work and perseverance, the American Dream can be realized. There are very few places in the world today where a part time hourly worker, through his own toil and dedication, can not only be promoted to management, but build an empire. And then use his success for the betterment of our nation and his fellow man. Mr. Freeland’s life and story are a testament to the unlimited potential of every individual, our great nation, and America’s bright future. America is quite exceptional indeed.

Rest in peace my friend, and thank you for your example and leadership.

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IRAN’S PERSECUTION OF PASTOR  
ABEDINI WORSSENS

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2013*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, at our full committee hearing on Tuesday, December 10, I asked Secretary of State Kerry whether he had raised Pastor Saeed Abedini’s release during the Iranian nuclear talks. I read him the following advance excerpt of the testimony that Naghme Abedini—wife of Pastor Saeed Abedini who remains imprisoned and subject to torture in Iran—would offer on Thursday, December 12. “While I am thankful

for President Obama's willingness to express concern about my husband and the other imprisoned Americans in Iran during his recent phone conversation with Iran's new president, Hassan Rouhani, I was devastated to learn that the Administration didn't even ask for my husband's release when directly seated across the table from the leaders of the government that holds him captive. My husband is suffering because he is a Christian. He is suffering because he is an American. Yet, his own government at least the Executive and diplomatic representatives has abandoned him. Don't we owe it to him as a nation to stand up for his human rights, for his freedom?"

Secretary Kerry acknowledged that he had not done so—confirming the awful report that Naghmeh had already heard.

Pastor Abedini remains imprisoned in Iran, sharing a cell with violent criminals who have more than once surrounded Pastor Abedini as he tried to sleep, wielding knives and threatening his life.

Saeed Abedini is an American citizen. He went to Iran last year to build an orphanage for Iranian children. He had been arrested in Iran before, but released and told he could enter and exit the country for humanitarian aid work if he agreed to cease pastoring house churches.

As Pastor Abedini's wife, Naghmeh, testified last week, he accepted that proposal—but Iran did not uphold its end of the agreement.

Abedini was arrested in July 2012, imprisoned, and tried for sharing his religious beliefs and thereby supposedly undermining the security of Iran.

He was denied contact with his attorney until just before the trial. The trial was not public, and he and his attorney were barred from participating in key portions of the trial—following which a judge sentenced him to 8 years in prison. His appeals have been denied.

In prison, he has been repeatedly beaten, denied medical care, and held in solitary confinement. While nuclear talks played out on the world stage—Iran moved Pastor Abedini to a prison notorious for housing the worst criminals in Iran, Rajai Shahr.

The very fact that Pastor Abedini was moved to a dangerous prison in the middle of negotiations confirms that the Iranians recognized him as a potential factor in the negotiations. Since August of 2012, the United States has reportedly released four Iranians, including most recently a high-ranking scientist, who were imprisoned in the U.S. for sanctions violations.

Speaking for myself, I question whether these releases are unrelated to the nuclear talks.

Yet American citizen Saeed Abedini remains in a hell-hole prison in Iran.

The U.S. government must not waste another opportunity to secure the release of Pastor Abedini—his case needs to be front and center in the next round of U.S.-Iranian negotiations. Time is running out. Naghmeh, Rebecca, and Jacob need their husband and father home.

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Colonel Richard H. Graham served in the United States Air Force from 1964 to 1989. He entered pilot training at Craig Air Force Base in Alabama. Once he graduated he remained at Craig AFB as a T-37 instructor pilot and flight examiner. In 1970, Mr. Graham was assigned to the 555th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Udom Air Force Base in Thailand. During this time he flew 145 combat missions over North Vietnam and Laos in F-4C/D/E aircraft. He ended his military career honorably with more than 4,600 flying hours.

For his years of distinguished service, Mr. Graham received numerous decorations including a Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Meritorious Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal with 18 Oak Leaf Clusters, and an Air Force Outstanding Unity Award with Valor.

Mr. Graham has continued to serve since his retirement from the military. He is actively involved in many charities and contributes his time and life experiences giving motivational speeches around the country. His main charitable work is through the four books he wrote on the SR-71. He donates the royalties from these books to aviation museums including the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum in D.C. and the Frontiers of Flight Museum in Dallas.

Colonel Richard Graham, let me both thank and congratulate you on your exceptional service to our country and community both past and present. It is my pleasure to award you the 2013 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

HONORING LINDA CRAYTON

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2013*

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career of Linda Crayton as we celebrate over 40 years of her dedicated service to the community and her wide reaching accomplishments. Ms. Crayton is an outstanding individual, who throughout her distinguished career has cham-

ioned public private partnerships, led efforts for gender equality, advocated for justice in her community, and supported our youth.

Ms. Crayton's esteemed career has spanned over four decades as an employee of Comcast, where she is currently the San Francisco Regional Senior Director of Government Relations. Along the way, she has been a staunch advocate for the advancement of women by leading efforts with Black Women Organized for Political Action, California Women Lead, EMERGE, Women In Cable and Telecommunications, and 100 Black Women of the Bay Area, Inc. Ms. Crayton has been recognized numerous times for her commitment to gender equality. The San Francisco League of Women Voters accorded Ms. Crayton "The Woman Who Could Be President" award in 2001. In 2006, she was named "Woman of the Year" for the 9th senatorial district by California State Senator and President Pro-Tempore Don Perata, as well as "Corporate Woman of the Year" by 100 Black Women, Inc. In 2011, Ms. Crayton was recognized by the National Women's History Month with a History Makers Award.

Among her many contributions, Ms. Crayton has tirelessly served her community and church as a civil rights leader. She has worked with the NAACP, Urban League, and countless other community justice organizations. She also supports the East Oakland Youth Development Center, Oakland Boys and Girls Club, and the Spanish Speaking Citizens Foundation. For her tremendous commitment to the community, she has been recognized by the San Francisco African American Chamber with a "Lifetime Achievement" award and by the National Association for Multi-ethnicity in Communications (NAMIC) as a Black History Month—Living Legend. In 2007, the Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Committee and the Bayview Hunters Point Family Resource Center further honored Ms. Crayton with a "Distinguished Community Service Award," and a "Humanitarian Award," respectively.

Moreover, Ms. Crayton boasts an impressive commitment to local government. In 1996, San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown first appointed her to the San Francisco Airports Commission, a role that she has been appointed to by successive San Francisco mayors continuously till this day. She has worked hard to ensure that San Francisco International Airport is the best run, cleanest, and most welcoming airport in the world.

Additionally, Ms. Crayton provided much needed support and leadership to the restructuring of the San Francisco Department of Health in her capacity as President of the San Francisco District V Mental Health Board. For these efforts she was recognized by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors with the prestigious Leadership Award.

Throughout her prolific career, Ms. Crayton has not only been a hardworking professional, but also a compassionate and generous individual. She has been a mentor for countless men and women throughout the years, taking them under her wing to help them grow professionally and pursue job opportunities.

Therefore, on behalf of California's 13th Congressional District, Ms. Linda Crayton, I salute you. Your many years of service have made an indelible mark in our community. Best wishes to you and your loved ones in the years to come.

HONORING THE MOTOR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2013*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to the Motor Transport Association of Connecticut for their many efforts to combat human trafficking, including their most recent action in honoring Kendis Paris and "Truckers Against Trafficking" with their highest honor, the "Good Buddy Award."

As you know, each year hundreds of thousands of women and children are abducted and forced into prostitution and enslaved under some of the most abusive of circumstances. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has identified truck stops and rest areas as places where these abductions can occur. The Motor Transportation Association of Connecticut (MTAC), an organization dedicated to promoting the interests of Connecticut's trucking industry, has taken a leadership role in the national effort to combat this terrible epidemic. Truckers are the eyes and ears of our nation's highways—indeed just this past July, in one weekend, with the help of truckers and others, more than 100 teenagers were rescued. The leadership and members of MTAC have taken a special interest in this cause, making it a top priority.

At their most recent annual meeting, MTAC demonstrated their commitment to this effort by recognizing "Truckers Against Trafficking," a national non-profit organization that exists to educate, equip, empower and mobilize members of the trucking and travel plaza industry to combat domestic sex trafficking, and its co-founder, Kendis Paris, with their 2013 Good Buddy Award—a demonstration of the high level of esteem that MTAC holds for both the program and Kendis. I am proud to say that, in addition to these actions, MTAC has been working with me to develop a legislative agenda focused on combatting human trafficking.

Human trafficking is a rampant issue that is impacting the lives of millions across the world, hundreds of thousands in our nation alone. I applaud the Motor Transport Association of Connecticut, Truckers Against Trafficking, and Kendis Paris for their remarkable work in combating this appalling practice. I look forward to continuing to work with them and to someday realize the goal we all share—to ensure that every woman and child is protected from such a dreadful fate.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE 2013 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD DISTRICT OF TEXAS

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2013*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor fourteen distinguished military veterans, community servants,

and American patriots who call the Third District of Texas home. All faithfully answered the call of duty and placed service above self for the sake of our great Nation. Each one leaves a legacy to be remembered, for future generations to follow, a legacy of bravery, loyalty, dedication, and sacrifice. For their selfless service, bold leadership, and undying commitment for their neighbor and nation, the following individual has been selected as a recipient of the third annual Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Sergeant Major Daniel Huff served in the United States Marine Corps from 1981 to 2010. After graduating high school, he enlisted in the Marine Corps, starting his career at Boot Camp and Administrative Clerk School. In 1983, then-Corporal Huff was transferred to the United Nations Command in Seoul, South Korea, where he earned his first Navy Achievement Medal. He was then assigned to the Inspector-Instructor Staff, 25th Marines, in Massachusetts and earned his promotion to Sergeant.

Later on in his career, Mr. Huff served as Senior Drill Instructor to mold young men into exemplary character with traits of honorable service to God and country and then as Administrative Chief to several Marine bases, the last being in Quantico, Virginia. He served in Operation Iraqi Freedom I and II, earning the Meritorious Service Medal and Bronze Star with Combat V Medal for heroic actions in intense combat situations. For instance, on April 14, 2004 in Karabilah, Iraq, a roadside bomb exploded and enemy fire unleashed on all sides of the Battalion Commander's convoy. During this attack, Mr. Huff provided first-aid to a critically wounded Marine while simultaneously returning fire. He then ensured the medical evacuation of 22 other wounded comrades and led the Marines to secure the medical evacuation route. During the following five days, the Battalion destroyed over 80 enemy insurgents, safeguarding the city from an attempted takeover by anti-Iraqi Forces. Mr. Huff's extensive career and numerous decorations only scratch the surface of his exemplary leadership, dedication, and sacrifice.

Currently, Mr. Huff works for Dyncorp International in Fort Worth, Texas, where he oversees approximately 10,000 to 11,000 personnel at the Afghanistan base. He also volunteers in the community with the Toys for Tots Program, as a USMC JROTC mini-boot camp program supervisor, and represents the Marine Corps in various community events around the DFW metroplex.

Sergeant Major Daniel Huff, let me both thank and congratulate you on your exceptional service to our country and community both past and present. It is my pleasure to award you the 2013 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

OCEAN ENERGY SAFETY AND TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2013

**HON. RUSH HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2013*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Ocean Energy Safety and Technology Improvement Act of 2013, a bill to fa-

cilitate the development and use of technology to make offshore drilling safer for workers and the environment.

A little more than three and a half years ago, the Deepwater Horizon exploded and sank off the coast of Louisiana, killing eleven workers, and allowing its unfinished well to pour millions of barrels of crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico until it was finally capped several months later. This event—the greatest single environmental disaster in American history—exposed as a myth the idea that such tragic offshore events, such as the Montara explosion in Australia, the Piper Alpha disaster in the North Sea, or the Ixtoc blowout in Mexico, could not happen in the United States.

There was no question that the industry had gotten complacent. And the regulators had gotten complacent. And even Congress had gotten complacent. The only debate before the Deepwater Horizon tragedy was where drilling should occur, not how safe it would be. Those of us whose states depend on clean beaches and clear water to fuel a multi-billion dollar tourism industry were assured that technology had reached the point that there was no risk whatsoever: that offshore drilling could coexist with clean beaches, that vacationers and merchants would never have to fear oil-soaked seabirds dying on their shores, or tarballs staining the coasts for years to come.

Those assurances, we learned in April 2010, were completely false. The technology the industry boasted of was about drilling deeper and faster, not about being cleaner or safer. And while there is a requirement in the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act for companies to use the "best available and safest technology," in reality companies were allowed to simply meet regulatory minimums. The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, or BSEE, recently proposed to close that loophole and ensure that companies really are using the best and safest technology; naturally that proposal was met with the predictable wails from industry.

But despite those complaints, this is clearly an idea whose time has come. In October, the National Academy of Sciences released a report with recommendations on how to implement a true requirement for using the best available and safest technology available in the offshore industry. The Academy endorsed BSEE's formation of an Ocean Energy Safety Institute, but said that the institute needed more funding, more stability, and more authority.

That is what my legislation does. It adopts the National Academy's recommendations by giving BSEE the authority to stand up a robust, permanent Ocean Energy Safety Institute with a steady source of funding. The Institute will facilitate collaboration between academia, regulators, and industry, serve as a center of excellence for offshore safety research and education, and most importantly, help BSEE identify the best available and safest technologies currently in use, and facilitate the development of better and safer technologies.

This legislation also implements other recommendations from the Academy, including providing the authority for the review of drilling plans and permits to be prioritized if they would use particularly innovative safety technologies, and promoting safety research by small businesses, where many of the best innovations arise.

Let me be clear: I do not believe that offshore drilling can ever be made safe enough to put the beaches and tourist economy of New Jersey at risk. There will always be the chance of equipment failure or human error that produces a catastrophic result, regardless of the level of technology employed. No amount of oil or gas is worth the potential destruction of the state's lifeblood. I also believe that a continued dependence on offshore oil and gas, from any part of the country, keeps us from addressing the real issue that we should be focusing on: how to move to a renewable energy economy and ensure long-lasting energy and climate security.

However, I acknowledge that we cannot get there overnight, and offshore drilling will continue in places like the Gulf of Mexico, at least for the time being. But while it is happening, we should ensure that it is being done with the absolute best safety and environmentally responsible technology available, and I urge my colleagues to join me in getting to that point by supporting the Offshore Drilling Safety Technology Improvement Act of 2013.

HONORING THOMAS E.  
SCHWEDHELM

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2013*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Chief of Police for the City of Santa Rosa, California, Tom Schwedhelm, who is retiring after a 26-year career in law enforcement.

Chief Schwedhelm worked as a cadet and then a correctional officer in the Sonoma County Jail prior to graduating from the Santa Rosa Training Center's Police Academy in 1983.

In 1996, Tom Schwedhelm was promoted to Sergeant working with Sex Crimes & Family Violence investigations. He also had several collateral assignments: Special Response Unit Team Member and Team Leader; an Instructor in Use of Force, Chemical Agents, and Crowd Control; and an Ethics Facilitator.

In 2002 he was promoted to Lieutenant and was promoted to Captain in 2004 as the Captain in charge of both the Field Services Division and the Special Services Division. In March 2009, he was appointed as the Acting Chief of Police; he was subsequently appointed as the official Chief of Police for the City of Santa Rosa on May 3, 2009.

Chief Schwedhelm was instrumental in developing one of the first Victim Services Programs, and assisted in the implementation of CHOICES Grant Program, a community-wide effort to address gang violence in the community, as well as the Family Justice Center, the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force and the Police Department Succession Planning.

Chief Schwedhelm is a second generation law enforcement officer. He and his wife, Jackie, have lived in Santa Rosa for 22 years, where they have raised their two children.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Schwedhelm has served the City of Santa Rosa well during his distinguished career. It is therefore appropriate that we commend him for his many years of public service and wish him well on his retirement.

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN EGYPT

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2013*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, a hearing that I convened last week examined the escalating human rights abuses in Egypt. It was fitting that we held the hearing on December 10, International Human Rights Day, because we are witnessing grievous violence and other abuses directed against religious and political minorities, particularly the Copts and other Christians, about which our government and the media has said far too little—which seems to be a pattern worldwide.

The persecution of Christians is escalating. Witness the slaughter of Christians in the Central African Republic (CAR). Bishop Nongo of the CAR told my committee that Christians were being targeted because of their faith while the U.N., the United States, and the rest of the world looked on. Last Thursday, I chaired a hearing on American pastor Saeed Abedini who is jailed and suffering torture in Iran. Pastor Abedini's wife, Naghmeh, told my committee: "While I am thankful for President Obama's willingness to express concern about my husband and the other imprisoned Americans in Iran during his recent phone conversation with Iran's new president, Hassan Rouhani, I was devastated to learn that the administration didn't even ask for my husband's release when directly seated across the table from the leaders of the government that holds him captive. My husband is suffering because he is a Christian. He is suffering because he is an American. Yet, his own government, at least the Executive and diplomatic representatives, has abandoned him. Don't we owe it to him as a nation to stand up for his human rights, for his freedom?"

After President Mubarak resigned in February of 2011, the world hoped for a new Egypt, a just government for all Egyptians, which would not make President Mubarak's mistakes—but reality has been just the opposite.

Horrible anti-Christian pogroms have taken place under each of the post-Mubarak governments. For some of these abuses, the governments bear the responsibility of inaction. For others they bear direct responsibility. In recent months, undercurrents of abuse and contempt for human dignity long existing in Egypt have turned into flash floods of violence.

For example, the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces presided over the Maspero protest massacre in October 2011. At least 25 people were killed and more than 300 injured—almost all of them Copts—when the military drove trucks through the crowd and used live ammunition against the unarmed protestors.

Under the now-displaced Morsi government three low-level soldiers involved were charged with minor crimes and received two- to three-year sentences. No commanding officers were held responsible for ordering or failing to prevent the deadly assaults.

While Mr. Morsi of the Muslim Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party, at times voiced support for an Egypt that was home to Muslims and Christians, his inaction belied his rhetoric. In April of 2012, St. Mark's Cathedral,

seat of the Coptic Pope, was attacked by 30–40 Muslim youths. While dozens of Copts were sheltering inside, security forces joined the mob. Rather than dispersing the crowd, they participated in the all-night attack or stood idly by as rocks, gasoline bombs, and gas canisters were lobbed into the iconic cathedral. Despite this, President Morsi denied that the clash was sectarian in nature.

After Mr. Morsi was removed in July of this year, the military ended the Muslim Brotherhood's sit-in with violence, killing hundreds of protestors. Tragically, some in the Muslim Brotherhood scapegoated the Copts although the Copts had nothing to do with the military's violent response.

On August 14, a day that will be remembered as the worst day for Copts in 700 years, thirty-seven churches, five schools, three Bible societies, four other Christian institutions, and many homes and businesses were burned or damaged by mobs. More than 100 deaths were documented in the initial spate of violence and its aftermath.

Some Copts have charged the current military government in Egypt with allowing the attacks on Coptic persons, businesses, churches, and homes to continue—often in sight of police stations and in spite of repeated and direct calls for help—in order to solidify government power as the only alternative to the Muslim Brotherhood, as well as to justify their own heavy-handed crackdown on the Muslim Brotherhood.

The Muslim Brotherhood denies any involvement in the attacks occurring across the country, and has at times condemned them.

Yet the Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party Branch in Helwan reportedly posted a statement holding the Coptic Pope responsible for Morsi's removal and otherwise linked Copts to attacks on the Muslim Brotherhood. The Brotherhood also called for Friday prayers to be held in an evangelical church in Minya after it was occupied and converted into a mosque on August 15.

Whoever the attackers are—and that is one thing we hope to learn more about today—the bottom line is that Coptic citizens are having their most basic human rights—freedom of religion, freedom of association, and equal protection of the laws—denied.

We can never rest while human dignity is so grossly trampled on—nor can we ever accept the suffering that has marked Coptic life for decades, very much including the abductions, forced conversions, and forced marriage of Coptic girls and women. These abuses have continued unabated, and, by some reports, have escalated sharply following the Arab Spring, as has the abuse of the Egyptian courts to prosecute blasphemy cases against Christians, moderate Muslims and secularists.

Moreover, despite the nearly 1.5 billion dollars in foreign aid American taxpayers give Egypt each year, neither the Mubarak government nor the Morsi government, or now the military government, has seen fit to return kidnapped American citizen children Noor and Ramsey Bower, who were abducted by their mother to Egypt in 2009 in violation of valid U.S. court orders, to the United States. They, along with about 30 other American children in Egypt, are forced to live without the love and guidance of an American parent who daily fights for their return, while being stripped of half of their culture and half of their identity.

In addition, freedom of expression continues to be under fire. The current interim government has been arresting and jailing journalists critical of the military government, jamming the broadcast signals, deporting foreign reporters, and otherwise closing the offices of news outlets that are "broadcasting lies."

In his September 23rd speech to the United Nations General Assembly, the President stated that his ". . . approach to Egypt reflects a larger point: the United States will at times work with governments that do not meet the highest international expectations, but who work with us on our core interests." These core interests were earlier defined in the speech to include the "Camp David Accords and counter-terrorism" efforts but not, I believe mistakenly, to include human rights.

Human rights, and the intrinsic dignity of every human being from womb to the tomb, are important in and of themselves. But for those who fail to grasp this, there is another important point to be made: It is in the strategic interest of the United States to encourage governments to respect the rights of their people, because governments that fail to do so are in the final analysis unstable: This should be the abiding lesson of the Arab Spring.

The president also stated that future U.S. support to Egypt "will depend upon Egypt's progress in pursuing a democratic path." Again, it is unclear what criteria this entails. What if the democratic path does not include protection of human rights, such as what we saw under the Morsi government and now the interim government?

It is not democracy per se that is to be the goal, but rather a duly-elected constitutional government that respects minorities, the separation of power, and human rights. Tyranny of the majority is not an acceptable option.

What is clear is that the U.S. needs a new approach. This administration's short-sighted approach of not clearly linking aid to the protection of human rights in Egypt has been unequivocally ineffective. It is my hope that our hearing today will shed light on what went wrong and how the United States can be more effective in protecting human rights going forward.

HONORING BISHOP PRINCE E.W. BRYANT, SR., OF HOUSTON, TEXAS, "SOLDIER OF THE CROSS" WHO HAS MINISTERED THE GOSPEL FOR 50 YEARS

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Bishop Prince E.W. Bryant, Sr., the legendary pastor of the legendary Island of Hope Church of God in Christ Church in Houston, Texas. This year marks the 50th anniversary of Bishop Bryant's service in the ministry of the Gospel.

To mark this great occasion, Bishop Bryant is being honored as a "Soldier of the Cross" by the Texas South Central Jurisdiction of The Church of God in Christ, Inc.

Born in East Texas, Bishop Bryant was the fifteenth child of Deacon Bishop and Mamie Bryant. He was saved and filled with the Holy

Ghost on March 18, 1963, and began preaching on March 25, 1963 at the age of 15 under the late Elder Eddie Davis. He was licensed under the late Bishop C. H. Nelson and ordained by the late Bishop S. M. Crouch of Los Angeles, California.

Bishop Bryant was attended public school at Concord High School in Mt. Enterprise, Texas. He later attended LIFE Bible College, Los Angeles, California, from which he received his Bachelors of Theology; and the Family Bible Institute in Denver, Colorado, from which he was awarded a Doctorate of Divinity in 1993.

Bishop Bryant began his pastoral ministry on August 6, 1969. Over the next 50 years, pastored six churches: Bethlehem COGIC in Mt. Enterprise, Texas; Evangelist Temple COGIC in Bay City, Texas; Eastside COGIC in Lufkin, Texas; and The City of Refuge COGIC, Livingston Memorial COGIC, and The Island of Hope COGIC (formerly Anderson Memorial), all in Houston, Texas. He remodeled or built three of these churches.

Bishop Bryant has served the church from his youth to present in many capacities: as Sunday School Superintendent, Jurisdictional Chaplain, Jurisdictional Young People's Willing Worker President, District Superintendent, Jurisdictional Executive Secretary, President of Jurisdictional Minister's and Worker's Institute, Chairman of Jurisdictional Annual Leadership Conference, and as Administrative Assistant to the late Jurisdictional Bishop, Bishop N. H. Henderson.

Nationally, Bishop Bryant has served the Church of God in Christ as a member of the General Assembly Executive Committee, Commissions for Constitutional Convention Committee, General Council of Pastors and Elders Judiciary Review Committee, and Executive Board Member of the Church of God in Christ Urban Initiative.

Bishop Bryant has also actively involved himself in the civic life of the community. He served two terms as President of the Advisory Board to the Mayor of Houston under Mayors Kathryn J. Whitmire and Mayor Bob Lanier.

Bishop Bryant also served on the Civilian Review Committee for the Houston Police Department, as Chairman of Religious Committee, as founder of the Project David Ex-Felon Re-Acclimation Job Program, as Vice President of the Houston Northeast Quadrant Citizens Chamber of Commerce, as Chairman of Houston-Harris County Regional Substance Abuse Faith-Based Task Force Committee, and member of the Executive Board of the Minister's Conference at Prairie View A & M University.

In times of disaster, Bishop Bryant can be counted on to provide comfort and assistance. In 1983, he organized and chaired the Emergency Disaster Relief Texas Inter-Jurisdictional Council, which coordinated government entities and non-profit charity organizations such as FEMA, Red Cross and United Way.

When Tropical Storm Allison hit in 2001, Bishop Bryant facilitated a benefit service. In 2005, during Hurricane Katrina he organized the Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund and was the Coordinator of the Church of God in Christ Distribution Center, a 20,000 square foot warehouse which distributed food, clothing, and non-perishable goods to thousands of displaced Katrina victims.

In 2008, in response to Hurricane Ike, Bishop Bryant again chaired the Emergency Disaster Relief Texas Inter-Jurisdictional Council.

During his fifty years of ministry, Bishop Bryant has been the recipient of many awards and honors, including the following: Meritorious Services To The Community by Mayor Fred Hofheinz; Meritorious Service To the Community by Mayor Kathryn Whitmire; Houston Police Department Public Service Award; Service Recognition Citation by Councilman Shelia Jackson Lee; Distinguished Service Award and Outstanding Leadership Award from COGIC Texas South Central Jurisdiction; Excellence In Service Award by United Minister's Institute of Texas Southern University; Special Achievement Award from The Religious Workers Guild; Outstanding Leadership AIM 2000 Church of God in Christ National Auxiliaries In Ministry Convention; by Bishop J. W. Macklin-AIM Chairman, Charles Harrison Mason Award The Religious Workers Guild, Visionary Pastors Award from the Houston Forward Times.

On October 17, 2013 in Abuja, Nigeria, the African Children's Hostel was named The Bishop Prince Bryant, Sr. African Children's Hostel in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, Bishop Bryant is married to Mrs. Yolanda Howard Bryant and they are the proud parents of five children: Superintendent Prince E. Bryant, II (Candies); Dommonique Jeannie Bryant; Phillip Paul Bryant; Elder Desmon Ryan Bryant (Franchell); and Tymorra Mishon Bryant.

They also have been blessed with five wonderful grandchildren: Prince E. Bryant, III, Paiton Anise Bryant, Pierce Edward O'neal Bryant, Madison Danielle Bryant, and John Patrick Bryant.

Mr. Speaker, for 50 years Bishop Bryant has provided remarkable service to our nation as a community, state, and national leader.

I am proud to call this remarkable American hero my friend and I offer him my heartfelt congratulations on the 50th Anniversary of his service in the ministry of the Gospel.

Bishop Bryant truly is a "Soldier of the Cross." I offer my best wishes for his continued success in ministering the Gospel for many years to come.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE 2013 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD DISTRICT OF TEXAS

### HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor fourteen distinguished military veterans, community servants, and American patriots who call the Third District of Texas home. All faithfully answered the call of duty and placed service above self for the sake of our great nation. Each one leaves a legacy to be remembered, for future generations to follow, a legacy of bravery, loyalty, dedication, and sacrifice. For their selfless service, bold leadership, and undying commitment for their neighbor and nation, the following individual has been selected as a recipient of the third annual Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Lance Corporal John Wangler served in the United States Marine Corps from 2007 to 2011. His commitment to the military began at

a young age, learning from his grandfather, a Korean War Veteran, the value of placing duty to country above self. Immediately after graduating from high school, he enlisted in the Marine Corps in February 2007, because eighteen years was long enough for him to wait to serve. In 2008, Mr. Wangler deployed to Iraq where he completed more than 200 combat patrols throughout the Al-Anbar province. The following year he deployed to Afghanistan where he led mortar missions as the adjusting gun squad leader and commanded a six-man vehicle checkpoint that implemented security measures and registered local population. Because of his service and leadership, he was awarded the Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, Afghanistan and Iraq Campaign Medals, as well as numerous other medals.

After returning to civilian life, he redirected his commitment to the college classroom at Collin College. Recognizing the difficulty of transitioning from military to civilian life, Mr. Wangler became an officer of the Student Veterans of America (SVA) organization where he currently helps other student veterans navigate through the GI Bill. He also volunteers as a mentor in the new Veterans Welcome and Resource Center on campus. Additionally, he is one of only three student veteran advisors, which plans and hosts events to honor the sacrifice of our service members. Mr. Wangler truly represents the best of our young generation. We need more young people like him who will give their time, energy, and efforts to make this community a better place.

Lance Corporal John Wangler, let me both thank and congratulate you on your exceptional service to our country and community both past and present. It is my pleasure to award you the 2013 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

GABRIELLA MILLER KIDS FIRST  
RESEARCH ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 11, 2013*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this bill, the so called Kids First Research Act.

The bill that we are considering here today has been brought up under the pretense of providing funding for pediatric research at the National Institutes of Health by redirecting the funds from the Presidential Election Campaign Fund to the amount of \$12.6 million per year.

As I am sure my colleagues know, I have always been a strong supporter of research at the NIH.

But the legislation before us is nothing more than a duplicitous attempt by Republicans to act as if they are providing support to the NIH. Yet in reality, NIH has seen its budget attacked and slashed in recent years. In 2011, the Republican budget proposed a \$1.6 billion cut to the NIH in a single year. I wonder where the compassion for children was then.

This very day the Republicans are bringing forward a budget agreement they want us to support that cuts \$172 billion in discretionary spending from levels President Obama and Democrats proposed in 2011. This so called

compromise will maintain a majority of cuts imposed by sequestration.

When sequestration went into effect, the NIH saw a \$1.55 billion cut to its budget. Of that, sequestration cut \$255 million from the NIH's cancer institute and \$66 million from the child health institute. Where was the outrage when those cuts went into effect?

If we truly cared about research at the NIH, we would not be proposing a \$12.6 million dollar increase in funding, we would be talking about restoring the \$1.55 billion cut by sequestration and then some.

The Kids First Research Act has a nice name and a noble intent, but no substance, and thus I cannot support this sad pretense.

JONATHAN SEROTA YALE MODEL  
CONGRESS SPEECH

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2013*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, for 408 hours, the government of the United States of America shut down its facilities and closed its doors. Over the course of that tumultuous time, national parks, museums, and public grounds were barred to visitors. 800,000 Federal workers were sent home from their jobs, and many more were forced to work with delayed pay. Veterans, and active duty military personnel and their families were kept in a constant state of fear, worried about making ends meet. This period of panic was not caused by some foreign aggressor, some archenemy of state, or some ruthless tyrant. No, the crisis that shook the very faith that the American people had in their government, was caused by that very body itself. So who is to blame for the government shutdown? Shall we point fingers at Republicans? How about the Democrats? It must be someone's fault right? That is what our political system has taught us isn't it? Well, it appears that recently, that is just what it has done. As the ominous clouds descended upon the capital in the early hours of October the 1st, the government shutdown that took place in the District of Columbia, and all across the country, had effects that will continue to be impactful for years to come.

Model Congress. The word 'model' implies a want or desire to replicate, to recreate and imitate. For years now, thousands of students have come to Yale and other conferences alike, and taken pride in acting as Senators, Representatives, Cabinet Members, and Presidents. We have touted our accomplishments on our resumes, shined our gavels and framed our certificates. My question to you tonight is: Do we really, want to model Congress? The body which we have all gathered here tonight to replicate has, over the past several years, produced a stalemate and inefficiency that has rarely been seen in the long and arduous history of both man and this nation. Complete ideological division, refusal to compromise, and the inability to put national interest above self interest has weakened our country, as well as its image both at home and abroad. Why is it as teenagers, we are able to sit down, talk, work out our problems, and come to productive agreements, but as adults, we put our fingers in our ears and stomp our feet on the ground until we get

what we want? The roles seem to be backwards if you ask me.

People would like to have you believe that we are naive, we are inexperienced, and we know too little about the world to make decisions on our own. Well I argue the contrary. I think that they are too rigid, they are too closed minded, and they are too pleased with pushing the blame onto others, that they fail to see that the problem is caused by no one else but themselves.

Is this what America is about? Surely the land of the free and the home of the brave is not just some idealistic nonsense that we were told about in second grade, and then by the cruel hand of fate, forced to rule out as anything but true. The American ideal that we all hold dear to our hearts, the feeling of honor that sweeps over our senses and rushes down our spine when we publicly declare, "I am proud to be an American!" is only true because our government is about us, the people. We, the people, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity. We are that posterity.

We have come to this conference to argue for things which we are passionate about, and argue against those which we are passionately not about. We have come to this conference to test each other, and our ability to work together to shape both foreign and domestic policy. We have come to this conference to gain experience, to gain knowledge, and to make progress not only for ourselves, but also for those who feel that their opinion doesn't matter. While most of us came here tonight with distinct political agendas, we have always been able to open our minds, challenge our beliefs, and move together in the hope that we may one day truly create what Ronald Reagan famously described as, "that shining city on a hill".

I love what we do here at Model Congress. If you ask me, I don't think we imitate Congress, we act better than it. We don't aspire to be like them, we aspire to be better than them. Here, at this conference, we have come together to act like the body of government that the founders intended. There are no special interest groups, no superpacs, no shady campaign deals, and no political parties. There is only the work we have set out to do, and the goals which we wish to achieve.

As I sat to write this speech, I decided that I wanted to talk about something that really mattered to us, the youth of America. Now, I could have simply gotten up here, shouted a couple of phrases like "legalize marijuana", "Make the playing field fairer", "lower taxes", "feed the hungry" and "help the poor." And while I'm sure that I would have gotten a couple of apathetic rounds of applause, I thought that it would be more prudent to get up here, and as I have, talk about something that we, both as citizens and as young adults, are frustrated with in the hopes of bringing about change.

If elected I vow to each and every one of you, that I will help us take those first frightening steps into the obscure and unsure future. I will do my best to lead this conference in a way so that Congressmen, Senators, Governors, and Presidents alike know that we won't accept anything less than that second grade idealistic dream, so that our peers both

here and at home know that we mean business, and so that we may all realize that we must join hands and look into the unknown abyss that is our future, and conquer it with the fearless determination that is so quintessentially American.

With hope and faith, we move forward together. With knowledge and determination, we strive, to make a better tomorrow. May God Bless each and every one of you, and may God Bless the United States of America.

CONGRATULATING JACOB CURTIN JOHNSON ON ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize, honor and congratulate an outstanding constituent of my district, Jacob Curtis Johnson of Scout Troop 100 in Oviedo, Florida, for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The rank of Eagle Scout is the highest achievement in scouting. To attain this rank, he has demonstrated the qualities of leadership, self-discipline and perseverance while serving his family, friends and community. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the rank of Eagle Scout. The awarding of the Rank of Eagle Scout is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well maintained over the past century.

Jacob Johnson has met every test and challenge to pass through the ranks of the Boy Scouts. Those aspiring to be Eagle Scouts must fulfill requirements in the areas of leadership, service and outdoor skills. To demonstrate proficiency as a scout, each Boy Scout must achieve merit badges in the areas of First Aid, Citizenship, Environment, Fitness, Family Life and much more.

The work ethic Jacob has shown in his Eagle Scout projects, and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank, speaks volumes about his commitment to assisting his community and serving a cause greater than himself. It is my honor to commend Daniel Moon for his achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout. Jacob will join the ranks of fellow Eagle Scouts like President Gerald R. Ford, Neil Armstrong and Florida Governor Rick Scott.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. Jacob's devotion to the Boy Scouts over the past decade is laudable, and I congratulate him on his achievement. I thank him for his dedication to service and know we can expect great things from him in the future. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Jacob Curtis Johnson on obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout, and I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE 2013 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor fourteen distinguished military veterans, community servants, and American patriots who call the Third District of Texas home. All faithfully answered the call of duty and placed service above self for the sake of our great nation. Each one leaves a legacy to be remembered, for future generations to follow, a legacy of bravery, loyalty, dedication, and sacrifice. For their selfless service, bold leadership, and undying commitment for their neighbor and nation, the following individual has been selected as a recipient of the third annual Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Captain Richard "BJ" Bjorklund served in the United States Air Force from 1966 to 1975. After graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy, Mr. Bjorklund headed to pilot training at Reese Air Force Base in Lubbock, Texas. Later, he was assigned to the 668th Bomb Squadron, at Griffiss Air Force Base in New York and was shortly deployed to Anderson Air Force Base in Guam. He served two tours of duty at Anderson, and flew 75 Arc Light combat missions over Southeast Asia as a B-52 pilot. For his distinguished service, he received the Vietnam Service Medal and the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters.

Since his honorable discharge in 1975, Mr. Bjorklund has worked as an investment advisor in Dallas, Texas, and has tirelessly devoted his time and efforts in service to our community. Back in 1985, he helped Congressman Dick Arme establish his Service Academy Selection Board. Mr. Bjorklund served as chairman of that board for the next 18 years until Congressman Arme retired as the House Majority Leader. Also involved in local politics, Mr. Bjorklund has been a delegate to the Texas GOP State Convention in both 2010 and 2012 and currently serves in an appointed position on the Collin County Health Care Advisory Board. He is also an active member in his church, Christ Church in Plano, Texas, and has served as chairman of the Building Fund Campaign as well as chairman of the Stewardship Campaign. On Memorial Day 2012, he hiked 35 miles with the Carry the Load Campaign in memory of veterans that have lost their lives for our great Nation. What a fitting reminder that all gave some, but some gave all.

Captain Richard "BJ" Bjorklund, let me both thank and congratulate you on your exceptional service to our country and community both past and present. It is my pleasure to award you the 2013 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

WHAT GIFT CAN I BRING? IN HONOR OF OUR ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES THIS CHRISTMAS

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of America's Armed Forces, and their Families during this Christmas and Holiday Season. The ones who are separated by death, war, and plagued with life altering health conditions throughout America, are paying the price of freedom for us all. The ones who give us the greatest gifts, "That Last Full Measure". Say a prayer for them, and keep them in your hearts this Christmas and Holiday Season. Say a prayer for peace, I ask that this poem penned in their honor by Albert Carey Caswell be placed in the RECORD.

WHAT GIFT CAN I BRING?

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

"What gift can I bring?" . . .  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 "That's fit for a King" . . .  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 What gift can I give?  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 All in this life I live . . .  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 While,  
 into the valley of death I walked!  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 Out into that darkness standing tall!  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 My arms and legs I gave . . .  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 For you I limp this day!  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 And in my arms my love ones I shall never  
 hold this way . . .  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 All so we may live in peace this day!  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 And . . . my eyes I gave . . .  
 so all in darkness I must stay . . .  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 As another beautiful sunset I shall never so  
 see portrayed . . .  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 And my ears I gave,  
 so I can never hear the words "I love you"  
 say . . .  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 And all those scars upon my face . . .  
 In the mirror I must look at each day . . .  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 All for the beauty of peace on earth this day  
 . . .  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 As all in such nightmares I awake . . .  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 All in the name of Freedom I paid . . .  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 What greater gift can I give?  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 That's fit for a King . . .  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 As I did . . .  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 As all in such pain and worry my family now  
 lives . . .  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 And all of those Doctors and Nurses,  
 Corpsmen and Medics who witness such  
 death and carnage each day!  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 Who so many lives so save!  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 Creating such demons inside they must now  
 so face!

Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 And my life I gave!  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 As approached the face of death . . .  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 As out to me so called . . .  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 As its hand upon me I felt and saw . . .  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 As my Brothers In Arms gathered around  
 cried,  
 praying with tears in eyes . . .  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 I gave my best for them!  
 I gave my life for them!  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 And I'd do it all over again my son!  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 All so one day more they could live!  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 As they so lowered me into my quiet grave  
 . . .  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 As my family so wept upon that day . . .  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 As ever the tears they made!  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 As they now live with the kind of pain which  
 won't go away!  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 All so,  
 we may have peace on earth this day . . .  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 Was but the price of Freedom I paid . . .  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 Pum . . .  
 Pum . . .  
 What gift can I bring?  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 That's fit for a King!  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 And then,  
 he smiled at me . . .  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 As my Lord said,  
 "come to heaven son" . . .  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 Smiled at me!  
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .  
 Pum!  
 Pum!  
 Pum!

HONORING THE EDDIE VALLUS  
 POLKA BAND

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2013*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the harmonious and melodious career of Eddie Vallus and the Eddie Vallus Band. The sweet sounds of the Eddie Vallus Polka Band included talented musicians John Ross, Ed Wasacz, Al Martini, Lou Tofil, and of course Eddie Vallus. They spent their lives on the bandstand sharing their music with their fans who love to dance, dance, dance. Since the release of their debut album in 1963, the Eddie Vallus Band has been recognized as a musical force. They were honored by former mayor of Youngstown Pat Ungaro and the Mahoning County Commission in 1985. The band's success garnered them a Grammy nomination in 1989, the Cleveland Polka Hall of Fame Trustee Award in 2003, and a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012.

I am convinced that the world needs more polka but after a lifetime of extended bookings, it saddens me that the Eddie Vallus Band has decided to put their instruments down. Many of my friends and neighbors continue to cherish their music. On October 26th, the band played its final concert at St. Paul Church in New Middletown, Ohio. As a 77 year resident of Boardman, Ohio, incomparable Eddie Vallus is an inspiration to our community. Although the Eddie Vallus Band will be no more, Eddie will continue to perform with the Rex Taneri Band. Eddie has led a long and happy life marked by success and a love of the arts. For Eddie there is never a sour note and he is always on key and in rhythm. I wish Mr. Vallus all the best and know he will spend time with his wife Pat of 51 years, his three daughters, and his five grandchildren. And a one and a two and a three for Eddie Vallus.

HONORING KARYN SINUNU-  
 TOWERY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2013*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the service of Ms. Karyn Sinunu-Towery to the County of Santa Clara.

For over 30 years, Ms. Sinunu-Towery has served the people of Santa Clara County in the District Attorney's Office. She has made enormous contributions to the office, and after her final day of service on December 20, 2013, she will undoubtedly be missed.

Ms. Sinunu-Towery began her career in 1983 as a law clerk for the Santa Clara District Attorney. Two years later, on December 12, 1985, she became a member of the California Bar and joined the office as a staff attorney.

After serving eleven years as a Deputy District Attorney and the Supervisor of the Sexual Assault Unit, prosecuting over 50 jury trials, Ms. Sinunu-Towery was promoted to the executive position of Assistant District Attorney. In this role, she has lead-by-example, and provided valuable counsel to the District Attorney.

Throughout her career Ms. Sinunu-Towery has been known for her fairness, resilience, professionalism, and commitment to justice.

Ms. Sinunu-Towery has a reputation as a reformer who truly cared for the victims she was charged with protecting. She wrote Victim's Rights manuals that were distributed throughout California and developed a model procedure for the investigation of child-abuse investigations with the goal of reducing the trauma to the children involved.

Ms. Sinunu-Towery was just as vigilant when it came to ensuring that the accused received fair treatment. She worked with local police chiefs and the Sheriff to create fairer line-up procedures to accurately identify suspects, and guidelines for the interrogation of mentally ill suspects. She personally worked to free defendants wrongly convicted and is a model for prosecutors everywhere in this regard.

Ms. Sinunu-Towery was a trailblazer when it came to the use of technology to better administer justice. She was instrumental in the office's transition from paper to electronic data

storage, and continued to push for greater technology use.

I wish to congratulate Ms. Karyn Sinunu-Towery on her impressive career and commend her for 30 years of service to the Santa Clara County community. She leaves the District Attorney's Office a better place and will be dearly missed.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE  
 2013 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN  
 COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD  
 DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2013*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor fourteen distinguished military veterans, community servants, and American patriots who call the Third District of Texas home. All faithfully answered the call of duty and placed service above self for the sake of our great nation. Each one leaves a legacy to be remembered, for future generations to follow, a legacy of bravery, loyalty, dedication, and sacrifice. For their selfless service, bold leadership, and undying commitment for their neighbor and nation, the following individual has been selected as a recipient of the third annual Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Sergeant Paul Gade served in the United States Navy from 1979 to 1991 and currently serves in the Naval Reserves. During his time in service, Mr. Gade served isolated duty at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. During his 3rd Duty Station, Mr. Gade became interested in the SEAL program and in 1986 he qualified for the program. Having started the SEAL class with 120 participants, Mr. Gade was one of only 12 original classmates to complete the training. During graduation, he was selected as the Lead Petty Officer to ring out his class. To date, Mr. Gade is the only enlisted man to have that honor while officers present.

Mr. Gade continued his relentless service by joining the McKinney Police Department. He has served in the Patrol Division, as a Detective, in the Special Operations Division, and was a SWAT member for several years. When the McKinney Police Department was attacked in August 2010, Mr. Gade was among the officers to respond to the shooting by running into the fray to protect his fellow officers and citizens nearby.

Additionally, on July 4, 2009, Mr. Gade was sworn into the Naval Reserves, it's clear his desire to serve his community and country after all of these years continues. His contributions leave a legacy for us to recognize and honor as he goes out of his way to help fellow officers and citizens and has received numerous commendations for his actions.

Sergeant Paul Gade, let me both thank and congratulate you on your exceptional service to our country and community both past and present. It is my pleasure to award you the 2013 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

## TRIBUTE TO RAY GAESSER

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2013*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ray Gaesser of Corning, Iowa for being named the next President of the American Soybean Association.

Founded in 1920, the American Soybean Association represents America's soybean farmers on issues vital to the soybean industry across the country and across the globe. The national, grassroots membership that comprise this great organization creates, promotes, and implements policies to improve the thriving soybean industry.

Ray Gaesser has farmed since his father's passing when he was just 15 years old. In 1979, two years after marrying his wife Elaine, the couple moved to the Corning area to begin a modest farming partnership. Today, the Gaessers farm nearly 6,000 acres of corn and soybeans and are an essential component of the Iowa farming community. As a member of the Iowa Soybean Association for nearly 30 years, Ray has won numerous awards while serving in several leadership roles. Mr. Gaesser served as President of the Iowa Soybean Association in 2007, was a member of Iowa's Products Advisory Committee from 2006 to 2011, and was awarded the Iowa Master Farmer Award in 2012.

Mr. Speaker, Ray's selection as the next American Soybean Association President is the culmination of a lifelong commitment to farming and a testament to the world-class agriculture industry of our great state. It is an honor to represent Mr. Gaesser, his family, and all of the hardworking farmers of Iowa in the United States Congress and I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in thanking our nation's farmers, congratulating Ray on his outstanding efforts, and wishing him continued success on the job ahead. Thank you.

## RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF DR. SANDRA E. MADRID

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2013*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Dr. Sandra E. Madrid, who was recently awarded the 2013 Latino Heritage Award by the City of Seattle's Latino City Employees organization and Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn.

The Latino Heritage Award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to Seattle through initiative, innovation, leadership, and commitment to the Latino community. Dr. Madrid has been an active member of her community for many years and has made it her priority to empower minority groups and promote Latino involvement.

Dr. Madrid recently retired from the University of Washington School of Law and has worked diligently on issues important to diverse communities in our region. Sandra has long advocated on behalf of women and children and the underrepresented. She is also an inspirational mentor and educator to young individuals and professionals.

Dr. Madrid currently serves as a board member for the United Way of King County, Seattle Children's Hospital, Seattle Art Museum, and YMCA. In addition to serving on more than 30 boards in the past 20 years, she was also the first Latina to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Seattle Children's Hospital.

Dr. Madrid's dedication to the Latino community has made her a widely respected advocate and leader. Her work is commendable and we are fortunate to have her expertise representing our region.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Dr. Sandra E. Madrid on her contributions to the City of Seattle.

## ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE 2013 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD DISTRICT OF TEXAS

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2013*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor fourteen distinguished military veterans, community servants and American patriots who call the Third District of Texas home. All faithfully answered the call of duty and placed service above self for the sake of our great nation. Each one leaves a legacy to be remembered, for future generations to follow, a legacy of bravery, loyalty, dedication, and sacrifice. For their selfless service, bold leadership, and undying commitment for their neighbor and nation, the following individual has been selected as a recipient of the third annual Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Dr. Stephanie Abramoske-James served in the United States Army from 1986 to 2007. She joined the Military Police Corp in 1986 where her first assignment was in Fort Hood, Texas, and was later deployed to Honduras. In 1990, she joined the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, where she protected three Secretaries of Defense and investigated, processed, and supervised thousands of criminal investigations. In 2003, she deployed to Iraq as a part of Operation Iraqi Freedom as a Forensic Science Officer to gather evidence against Saddam Hussein for the offense of genocide. In her 21 years of distinguished service to the U.S. Army, Dr. Abramoske-James has received the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, four Meritorious Service Medals, two National Defense Service Medals, and numerous other decorations.

As a resident of Plano, Texas, Dr. Abramoske-James continues to be an active servant to her local community. She created an ongoing CSI summer camp to mentor high school students interested in forensic science. She has been a volunteer consultant with the Dallas Area Rape Crisis Center, and is currently working on mentoring programs for at-risk youth in Plano ISD. She is also one of three faculty advisors to the Student Veterans of America at Collin College. Her vast knowledge, remarkable experiences, dedication to justice, as well as her commitment to her students makes her a superb educator and a role-model for all.

Dr. Stephanie Abramoske-James, let me both thank and congratulate you on your ex-

ceptional service to our country and community both past and present. It is my pleasure to award you the 2013 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

## CHARLIE AND MARILYN WALLACE CELEBRATE THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2013*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two of my constituents, Charlie and Marilyn Wallace, who will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with a vow renewal ceremony in my Texas district office this week. These two native Texans have spent half of a century together, and I am proud to honor them.

Charlie and Marilyn first met on April 6, 1963, at the University of Texas at Austin during its famous, festive tradition of Round-Up weekend. In a series of random events, some acquaintances conspired to set Charlie and Marilyn up on a blind date. Marilyn, a senior English major, reluctantly accepted Charlie's invitation to the Round-Up talent show and dance with great reservation because Charlie was an Aggie! Yes, prior to his graduate studies at UT, Charlie earned his bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from Texas A&M.

That evening, Charlie called Marilyn from her dorm lobby where male students were required to wait for their dates. He told her he was wearing a blue suit with a red tie and to "look for the ugliest one in the room." [Marilyn mistakenly first approached the wrong guy, also wearing a blue suit and red tie, who gave her a strange look when she said, "Charles?"] Fortunately, she found the right man soon thereafter.]

Midway through the evening, Marilyn had the uncharacteristic, passing thought: "It might be fun to be married to a man like this." It wasn't a typical date for Charlie either: In addition to the talent show and dance, he gave Marilyn a tour of his chemical engineering research lab and even played his guitar for her.

Marilyn graduated in August of 1963 and went on to teach English at Houston ISD's Austin High School, her alma mater, but Charlie made sure she didn't get away before she finally accepted his proposal on August 1, 1963. Charlie presented Marilyn with an engagement ring on September 21, 1963, and they were married December 21, 1963, in Houston at the Epworth Methodist Church.

Upon Charlie's completion of his master's degree in August 1964, he accepted a job with Shell Oil Co. that started with an intensive training program and work assignments at Shell's locations throughout Louisiana. During the Louisiana years, Marilyn was a substitute teacher, and she also held various administrative assistant positions that included one at LSU's agronomy department where she was well-regarded for her outstanding work and professionalism. Of particular note is that Marilyn served as a volunteer teacher during the Integration of the Louisiana Public School System and taught typing to Special Education students. Charlie and Marilyn also were involved in a Prison Ministry that they started at

Angola Prison. The couple bought their first home and settled in Slidell, Louisiana, in the summer of 1967, and their daughter Sheryl was born in New Orleans later that fall. Their son David was born in Slidell in the summer of 1970, just a few weeks before Charlie was transferred from New Orleans to Shell's Head Office in New York City.

In 1971, when Shell's Head Office Engineering was moved to Houston, the Wallaces were thrilled to return home to Texas. After 35 years of service to Shell, Charlie "retired" in 1999. However, Charlie immediately started his own full-time chemical engineering consulting business. His career has presented him with opportunities for international travel to Canada, The Netherlands, France, Hungary [when it was still behind the Iron Curtain,] China, England, Scotland, and Italy.

Marilyn has always been a supportive wife and mother and a committed homemaker. She is an "independent agent of good" who dedicates her time, resources, creativity, and advocacy to improve the quality of life for a diverse array of people including the seriously ill, the disadvantaged, the disabled, and the elderly.

Their children describe Charlie and Marilyn as fiercely committed to each other and extremely compatible. They enjoy travel, the outdoors, fitness and nutrition, and music. It is an honor to represent such decent, hardworking, civic-minded Texans. I want to congratulate Charlie and Marilyn on their 50th anniversary and may God bless them with many more years together. They are truly an outstanding couple from the second district of Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE WASHINGTON  
HIGH SCHOOL WILDCATS AS THE  
2013 SWIMMING CLASS 2A FLORIDA  
CHAMPIONS

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2013*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate the First Congressional District of Florida's Booker T. Washington High School Wildcats for winning their first Class 2A State Swimming Championship. This victory marks the swim team's first state title, as well as, the first title for a girls swim team in Escambia or Santa Rosa counties.

Truly an outstanding team effort put forth by the swimmers, under the leadership of their talented coach, Ms. Megan Oberholtzer, there is no question that several performances contributed to the overall title. Jacquie Kinman and Chloe Berens swam the 100-yard breaststroke, which ended up putting the team in first place as they entered the final event. Brooke Ferrara, Miss Kinman, Rachel Martin and Brianna Mount swam the 400-yard freestyle relay in the All-American consideration time of 3:31.98. Miss Ferrara and Miss Kinman also joined Sophia Diagne and Abigail Goram in the 200 medley relay winning with the All-American consideration time of 1:47.16, and Miss Mount, Miss Martin, Miss Goram, and Miss Kinman won the 200 freestyle at 1:36.57, again, an All-American consideration time. Exceptional individual swimming achievements included Miss Mount's second place finish in the 50 freestyle in 23.57 sec-

onds and Miss Kinman's second-place finish in the 100 breaststroke in 1:04.77, both All-American consideration times. Finally, Miss Ferrara finished third in the 50 freestyle and 100-yard backstroke with All-American consideration times, 23.68 and 56.56 respectively.

The Washington Wildcats ended their undefeated season with a final team score of 233, triumphing over the second-placed team by 17 points. I commend the team for challenging themselves and setting an example for their fellow students and youth in our community.

Washington High's victory at the 2013 Florida Swim Team Championships is a testament to the commitment and dedication of all the members of the team, and it is a great reflection on the entire Washington High and Northwest Florida community. On behalf of the United States Congress, my wife Vicki and I congratulate the Wildcats for this extraordinary accomplishment and wish them continued success.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS  
RESOLUTION, 2014

SPEECH OF

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2013*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, the bipartisan budget agreement represents some modicum of compromise, something that has been sorely lacking in this Congress. It is by no means a perfect deal, but both sides have made concessions so that we may avert a repeat of the disastrous government shutdown and begin to restore some of the draconian cuts caused by sequestration.

For me, and many of my colleagues, this will be a "hold-your-nose and vote yes vote," given our disappointment and concern about yet another cut in benefits for new federal employees. No other group in America has been asked to make the same sacrifices as the dedicated men and women of our federal workforce.

Federal employees already have contributed \$114 billion to deficit reduction as a result of a 3-year pay freeze, a reduction in retirement benefits for new hires, and lost pay as a result of furloughs. Thankfully, we were able to beat back the worst proposals to further encroach on their benefits, and I believe this bipartisan deal will minimize the prospect of additional furloughs by replacing some of the sequestration cuts.

Nonetheless, I will continue fighting for our federal employees until they receive the respect they deserve and have earned. I will continue to push back against those in Congress who unfairly impugn federal workers for partisan political gain. And I will continue to protect the rights and dignity of federal workers and the valuable public service they provide to the nation.

For Northern Virginia, which was disproportionately affected by sequestration, this agreement for the first time will replace a portion of those indiscriminate cuts with a more balanced approach. It will actually increase federal investments in research, innovation, and transportation. That in turn will help unleash business investments, which have lagged due

to a sense of uncertainty fueled by the political brinkmanship in Congress.

No one got everything they wanted out of this deal. Indeed, I along with many of my colleagues would have preferred to see an extension of long-term unemployment benefits, which has a very direct and significant benefit on more than 1 million families and our national and local economies. Every dollar of assistance generates \$1.64 in economic activity in the community. Sadly, it was not addressed here, but we will continue to push the Speaker to bring it up separately to help those still struggling to find work.

Congress faces many more serious challenges in the coming weeks and months, including the need to raise the debt ceiling, renew long-term transportation funding, and reform our broken immigration system. Perhaps this bipartisan breakthrough will provide the model we need to avoid the "my-way-or-the-highway" shutdown brand of politics that has characterized the Republican philosophy of governance for the last three years.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE  
2013 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN  
COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD  
DISTRICT OF TEXAS

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2013*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor fourteen distinguished military veterans, community servants, and American patriots who call the Third District of Texas home. All faithfully answered the call of duty and placed service above self for the sake of our great nation. Each one leaves a legacy to be remembered, for future generations to follow, a legacy of bravery, loyalty, dedication, and sacrifice. For their selfless service, bold leadership, and undying commitment for their neighbor and nation, the following individual has been selected as a recipient of the third annual Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Justin Arsenault served in the United States Army from 2003 to 2006. After enlisting, he served one tour of duty in Iraq from 2005 to 2006. During his tour, Mr. Arsenault was his unit's primary pilot for the Raven Unmanned Aerial Vehicle where he was to utilize the Raven to clear supply routes. During one particular mission, he used the Raven to maintain an aerial perimeter for troops whose vehicle had been disabled by a roadside explosive device. He continued to monitor the area for enemy combatants until ground support could reach the disabled troops and escort them to safety. For his acts of bravery and courage during this mission, Mr. Arsenault received a second Army Commendation Medal.

Since returning home, Mr. Arsenault has continued to faithfully uphold his calling to defend, protect, and serve his fellow Americans across the community. In 2007, he began his service as a police officer in Allen, Texas where he currently serves as a Field Training Officer. If all of that is not enough, off duty he volunteers his time for the Carry the Load campaign, which is held over Memorial Day weekend every year. To him, Memorial Day ought to be more than cookouts and retail

sales events, but a day to remember and honor the ultimate sacrifice given by members of our Armed Forces. This is a man who truly embodies the spirit of America.

Justin Arsenault, let me both thank and congratulate you on your exceptional service to our country and community both past and present. It is my pleasure to award you the 2013 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS  
RESOLUTION, 2014

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2013*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on H. J. Res. 59, the "Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 and Pathway for Sustainable Growth in Medicare Reform Act of 2013."

On the positive side: Republicans—and the bipartisan deal does not cut Medicare, Social Security, or Medicaid benefits by a penny even though our friends across the aisle went into the talks insisting on cuts to programs like Head Start, Housing, Social Security, Medicaid, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs that sustain children, families, and seniors.

The agreement increases discretionary spending caps under the 2011 Budget Control Act (BCA) for FY 2014 and FY 2015 to partially restore spending cuts that would otherwise be made those two years under the sequester required by the BCA.

Under the measure, the sequester for FY 2014 and FY 2015 would be reduced to restore \$63 billion in spending authority for those two years—while \$85 billion in cuts to mandatory programs and revenue increases would be made to more than offset that increased spending and provide for a net \$23 billion in deficit reduction.

BUDGET CAPS & SEQUESTRATION

The budget proposal increases FY 2014 discretionary spending by \$45 billion and FY 2015 spending by \$18 billion compared with their scheduled sequestration levels, with the increases equally split each year between defense and non-defense spending (a \$22.4 billion increase for each category this year and a \$9 billion increase for each in FY 2015).

Those increases would set a \$1.012 trillion limit on discretionary spending for FY 2014 and a \$1.014 trillion limit for FY 2015. Under the current stopgap funding law, discretionary spending set at the woefully inadequate sequestration level of \$986 billion.

Under the new caps, defense spending for FY 2014 would be set at \$520.5 billion (about \$2 billion more than current funding), while nondefense spending would be increased to \$491.8 billion.

Because of the circumstances that led to the budget impasse during the first session of the 113th Congress, I introduced H. Res. 375, a bill expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should refrain from shutting down the Federal government or conditioning the resolution of fiscal and budgetary disputes on the taking of action relating to non-germane legislative matters.

I invite members from both sides of the aisle to co-sponsor H. Res. 375.

The budget proposal before us is not perfect—far from it—but it is a modest and positive step toward preventing Republicans from shutting down the government again and manufacturing crises that only harm our economy, destroy jobs, and weaken our middle class.

A self-manufactured crisis by the Republican majority resulted in a government shutdown that lasted 16 days and cost taxpayers \$24 billion.

The cost to Federal employees and the people they serve cannot be calculated.

As with any compromise there are some things in the agreement that I support and some things that I strongly oppose.

The agreement allows Congress to move forward in meeting its obligations to the American people by alleviating some of the damage being caused by sequestration.

It is useful to chronicle the severity of the suffering and pain inflicted by sequestration on the most vulnerable residents of Texas and the Constituents that I serve.

SEQUESTRATION IMPACTS ON TEXAS

Head Start and Early Head Start services were eliminated or severely impacted with approximately 4,800 children being impacted throughout the state of Texas.

Families in my district who rely on Federal Government programs like Head Start are hurting. The pain did not start with the shutdown, but with sequestration which hit Head Start programs for 3 to 4 year olds in the Houston area hard: \$5,341 million cut; 109 Employees cut; 699 Slots for children cut.

Head Start and Early Head Start Programs were further stressed by the federal government shutdown.

On October 2, I joined hundreds of Head Start supporters from across the country and many of my colleagues to protest the closing of Head Start programs due to the federal government shutdown.

I picked up one of the tiny blue chairs that represented the thousands of Head Start children from around the nation and said that an empty Head Start chair represents a future doctor, engineer, president, or teacher who is at risk because of the Federal Government shutdown.

My support of Head Start and Early Head Start is based on what I have seen and heard about programs like the AVANCE-Houston Early Head Start program serving parents and children in the 18th Congressional District.

The AVANCE-Houston Early Head Start is a program serving low income families in my Houston Texas District.

I visited with AVANCE-Houston administrators earlier this month because I wanted to get an update on how low-income families with infants and toddlers and pregnant women served by the program were doing.

The AVANCE-Houston Early Head Start's mission is simple: AVANCEHouston works for healthy prenatal outcomes for pregnant women, enhance the development of very young children, and promote healthy family functioning.

AVANCE-Houston serves nearly 1,800 children city wide. Each of these families and their children are suffering the effect of the legislative malpractice of the House majority.

Sequestration has cost AVANCE-Houston \$842,518 Head Start and Early Head Start in lost funding for ending the harmful effects of Sequestration on programs like Head Start had to be a priority.

SEQUESTRATION AND HOUSE BUDGET BILL'S NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANT PROGRAM (SNAP)

The House Republicans' Farm Bill proposed cutting our nation's food assistance programs, known as SNAP, by \$20.5 billion to stay within the unrealistic funding limitations set by sequestration even though a cut of this magnitude would deprive millions of children, seniors, disabled persons, and families of the benefits they need to survive in an economy that has not yet fully recovered from the worst recession since the Great Depression.

SNAP FACTS

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

According to the Census my city of Houston more than 442,881 persons live near the poverty level.

The percentage of Texas households experiencing food insecurity (18%) ranked second only to Mississippi.

WE KNOW THAT THERE IS HUNGER IN AMERICA

For more than 40 years, SNAP has offered nutrition assistance to millions of low income individuals and families. Today, the SNAP program serves over 46 million people each month. Households with children receive about 75 percent of all food stamp benefits. 23 percent of households include a disabled person and 18 percent of households include an elderly person. The FSP increases household food spending, and the increase is greater than what would occur with an equal benefit in cash. Every \$5 in new food stamp benefits generates almost twice as much (\$9.20) in total community spending.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), 16.7 million children under 18 in the United States live in households where they are unable to consistently access enough nutritious food for a healthy life.

FOOD INSECURITY

16.7 million Children lived in food insecure households in 2011.

20 percent or more of the child population in 37 states and D.C. lived in food insecure households in 2011.

EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE

Nearly 14 million children are estimated to be served by Feeding America, over 3 million of which are ages 5 and under.

54 percent of client households with children under the age of 3 participated in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

POVERTY

In 2011, 16.1 million or approximately 22 percent of children in the U.S. lived in poverty: Participation in Federal Nutrition Programs.

In fiscal year 2011, 47 percent of all SNAP household contained children.

During the 2011 federal fiscal year, more than 31 million low-income children received free or reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program.

Unfortunately, just 2.3 million children participated in the Summer Food Service Program that same year.

This proposed budget protects SNAP programs from crippling cuts for 2014–2015.

In addition to providing relief from sequestration there are a number of other good provisions in the Budget Agreement. For example:

## THE BUDGET AGREEMENT PROTECTS SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE

The budget agreement blocks a scheduled 23.7 percent reduction in the Medicare reimbursement rate for physician services set to occur January 1, in order to meet the sustainable growth rate. Instead, the measure's so-called "doc fix" provides a 0.5 percent increase for the first three months of 2014, and it also extends more than a dozen Medicare-related programs.

The budget deal makes sure that doctors who treat seniors have a guarantee of payment for the medical services they provide.

The budget agreement also addresses the issue of payments to hospitals that treat large numbers of uninsured patients.

The budget also makes changes to payment rates for inpatient services in long-term care hospitals.

Congressional Budget Office estimates that the three-month doc fix would cost \$7.3 billion and that the efforts to reduce the burden to taxpayers would reduce spending by \$9 billion.

The net direct spending for health care related programs, after factoring expansion of health care programs, would be an overall budget reduction of \$300 million over 10 years.

The agreement scales back the proposed cuts to federal employees sought by Republicans and exempts current federal employees.

Federal employees under the budget agreement would receive a pay increase—the first in three years.

Sequestration cuts would be diminished under this budget agreement, which opens the Federal government up for new hires in the coming year.

Federal employees are making contributions toward budget reduction considering the three years of no cost of living increases and the increased contributions toward retirement plans for new government hires and military retirees.

## ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE:

Mr. Speaker, it is outrageous—it is scandalous—that the budget agreement does not include an extension of unemployment insurance for the 1.3 million jobless workers will have their benefits cut off on December 28, and nearly another 1.9 million will lose their unemployment benefits over the first half of next year.

If Congress does not extend unemployment insurance, an additional 3.6 million workers will lose access to benefits in 2014.

In Texas, 68,900 jobless workers will lose their unemployment benefits on December 28th.

An additional 106,900 Texas workers will lose access to benefits in 2014.

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

The national unemployment rate remains at 7 percent and the unemployment rate in Texas sits at 6.4 percent.

This is no time to reduce unemployment insurance.

Unemployment Insurance was not designed to be a lifelong program, but a means of addressing short-term unemployment that most Americans experience over the course of their work lives.

The unusual circumstances of a global recession that began in the United States with the access and abuse of our nation's financial and mortgage insurance systems that trapped homeowners with mortgages that were much higher than the value of their homes.

This fiscal situation strained our nation's economic system then to add the cost of two wars fought at the same time for nearly a decade the nation's economy could not take the strain and by the end of 2008 the Great Recession could not be ignored.

It took time to create the economic down turn and it will take time for communities, families and workers to recover. The unemployment insurance program should reflect that reality by providing support to workers until the economy is fully recovered.

If Congress does not act immediately to extend these benefits, a devastating blow will be dealt not only to the millions of Americans who are already struggling, but to our economy.

That is why yesterday I joined more than 170 of Democratic colleagues in calling upon Speaker BOEHNER not to adjourn this House for the year without extending the vital unemployment insurance desperately needed by millions of our fellow citizens.

To let their benefits expire in the middle of the holiday season is cruel and heartless and unworthy of a great and generous nation.

Cutting off unemployment benefits at the end of the year will only further hurt an economy already injured by sequestration and the Republican government shutdown.

The Congressional Budget Office estimated that 750,000 fewer jobs will be created or retained in calendar year 2013 because of the budget cuts under sequestration.

The government shutdown cost our economy an additional 120,000 jobs and \$24 billion in tax dollars in the first two weeks of October alone, according to the Council of Economic Advisors.

The Economic Policy Institute estimates that cutting off extended unemployment benefits would cost our economy 310,000 jobs next year because of reduced consumer demand.

Other experts, like Michael Feroli, the chief economist at JPMorgan Chase, indicate that allowing the federal unemployment insurance (UI) program to expire could shave as much as 0.4 percentage point off our economy's growth in the first quarter of 2014.

Letting unemployment benefits expire will deprive our economy of the positive impact unemployment insurance provides since financially stressed unemployed workers spend any benefits they receive quickly.

CBO also concluded in a 2012 report that assistance for the unemployed has one of the "largest effects on employment per dollar of budgetary cost."

This is why I will be introducing a bill to extend the emergency Unemployment compensation program by an additional 12 months.

A colleague recounted what happened when Wal-Mart sought to fill 600 positions—23,000 people came to apply for positions.

Although employment rates have improved the numbers of unemployed persons still has the nation at a 7 percent unemployment rate.

The length of time people are unemployed is a serious indication that this recovery is not vigorous enough or strong enough to take away money that is needed to keep people in housing and allow them more time to find employment.

It is estimated that there are approximately 4 million jobs available and 12 million persons unemployed.

There is speculation that businesses are reluctant to hire because of the uncertainty cre-

ated by the dysfunction exhibited by Congress especially during 2013.

This is yet another reason why the budget agreement is important to pass, although it does not have everything I would want. It may signal to business that Congress is ready to get down to work on our nation's problems and not threaten economic calamity by not raising the debt ceiling and thereby threatening not to meet our fiscal obligations.

Congress cannot close its eyes and hope that businesses will start hiring—the purpose of unemployment insurance is the same purpose of any insurance—when it is needed for as long as it is needed it must be available.

I am not closing my eyes, Mr. Speaker; I will be introducing a bill to extend unemployment insurance for the 12 million Americans who are still in need of support until the economy is healthy again.

## CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2014

## SPEECH OF

## HON. RUSH HOLT

## OF NEW JERSEY

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this new Ryan-Murray budget agreement because it is a strong continuation of an anti-government, pessimistic policy that has been plaguing Washington in recent years.

Make no mistake about it; this budget agreement is the direct result of the Budget Control Act, which I strongly opposed when it was being debated 2011, and this agreement takes us backwards. I knew then sequester would wreak havoc on our economy, threaten our quality of life, and squeeze the most vulnerable among us.

Here we are, over two years later, and the worst of it is coming true. The sequester has cut research, education, infrastructure, Medicare, and a number of other critical investments that are vital to a growing economy. It is robbing America of the opportunity to rise from the Great Recession as a stronger, more vibrant nation. Instead, the sequester is continuing to weaken our country with a shrunken government that is hampered by deep cuts to the safety net and hobbled by a refusal to invest in our future. This budget agreement from Congressman RYAN and Senator MURRAY is a way to partially and minimally reverse cuts that should never have happened in the first place.

It is a compromise in a narrow, Washington kind of sense: It will gain some votes from Democrats and some votes from Republicans. But let's remember how the BCA came to be enacted: In 2011, Republicans held hostage America's credit rating by threatening to default on our debts if they didn't get what they wanted. No true compromise was possible then because the negotiations were conducted in the midst of a hostage crisis. No compromise is possible now because we are still operating within the framework created by that hostage crisis.

The question we should ask ourselves is, "Where are we trying to go as a country?" We should be striving toward an optimistic future—one where we invest in research, education, infrastructure, and more. By that measure, this is a bad deal.

The agreement—not really a compromise—slashes discretionary spending and tinkers with a few other things like raising fees on airline tickets, decreasing reimbursement to Medicare providers, and lowering military retirement pensions. How could we actually think this is the kind of path forward for our country?

There is no attempt to close tax loopholes on corporate jet or on expenses of oil and gas companies, and makes no effort in asking the wealthiest among us to pay their fair share to live in an orderly, humane, equitable society. Favored corporate interests, millionaires, and billionaires will continue to receive special tax breaks as far as the eye can see while unemployment insurance expires, leaving millions struggling to find work out in the cold just weeks after Christmas. That is not the sort of fair, balanced deal that Americans have asked for and expect from their leaders.

IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME  
OF THE YEAR

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2013*

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, it's the most wonderful time of the year. Families across the fruited plain decorate their houses with red and green lights, hang ornaments on their trees, and think about new recipes to spice up this year's menu. Holiday party invitations flow in, carolers line the neighborhood streets at night, everybody is in the holiday spirit. In the midst of all the cheer, we are reminded that many families are sitting down this year to a table with an empty chair. They are not together because their loved ones (our American warriors) are oceans away from their families, fighting for the rest of us.

They say the worst casualty of war is to be forgotten. In our community we have a tradition to make sure that our men and women overseas know that we will never forget them. For seven straight years, Texans from the Second Congressional District and beyond have joined forces and collected handmade Christmas cards from the community to send overseas to our military. People from young school children to community leaders contribute, and this joint effort makes my annual Christmas Cards for Troops drive a success. Whether they are students, teachers, area Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, churches, and non-profits, they have been relentless in their efforts to express how grateful they are for our men and women on the front lines of battle by decorating and personalizing holiday cards for the troops. In my opinion, there's no better way than spreading the joy of the holidays overseas to the ones that can't be with their families for Christmas dinner and unwrapping gifts from under the tree. Each year is better than the last.

There is no greater sight than watching our troops open up the colorful, heartwarming cards. It wasn't until a few years ago that I witnessed firsthand what it means to them. One year, I decided to pack my bags and visit the Landstuhl Military Base in Germany, a hub for wounded Americans who come from Afghanistan and Iraq. With me, I carried two suitcases full of 6,000 handmade cards piled high from

third, fourth, and fifth graders of the Second Congressional District.

I checked one of my suitcases but decided to carry on the smaller of the two. The temptation to read the cards overtook me. I couldn't hold back so about half way through the flight, I opened the bag and began reading some of the cards. Curiosity sparked the person in the seat next to me so I shared a few of the cards with him. Then the person next to him wanted to see the cards, too. Before I knew it, the whole plane was reading them. The cards were being passed up and down the aisles, and some tears were shed. You wouldn't believe the kind words written in those cards by these Texas school children.

When I arrived at the base and hand-delivered these cards, I was amazed to see what they meant to our troops. They didn't personally know the child who the card was from but every one of them read it and smiled proudly at the words of support. Soon, nurses were scrambling to tape as many cards as they could to the hospital walls above their beds. Red, green, yellow, and blue cards were decorated with snowmen, gingerbread men, candy canes, menorahs, or even their favorite football team. There is something about a homemade card that doesn't compare to anything else, especially when it's from a child.

This year was our most successful card drive yet with a record-breaking collection of 113,000 cards. A special thank you City of Baytown, Goose Creek CISD, Humble ISD, Spring ISD, Huffman ISD, Klein ISD, Cy Fair ISD, Spring Branch ISD, as well as area Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, local churches and non-profits. It could not have been done without them.

In a few weeks, hundreds of thousands of soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines will open up their packages from Operation Interdependence, along with their holiday card from a fellow Texan. Although the military member has never met the child or person on the other side of the world who took the time to create the card, there is nothing like receiving the holiday cheer from the land of the free and home of the brave.

And that's just the way it is.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE  
2013 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN  
COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD  
DISTRICT OF TEXAS

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2013*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor fourteen distinguished military veterans, community servants, and American patriots who call the Third District of Texas home. All faithfully answered the call of duty and placed service above self for the sake of our great nation. Each one leaves a legacy to be remembered, for future generations to follow, a legacy of bravery, loyalty, dedication, and sacrifice. For their selfless service, bold leadership, and undying commitment for their neighbor and nation, the following individual has been selected as a recipient of the third annual Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Serving in the United States Navy for ten years, Commander Jeff Hensley began his

military career after graduating from the University of Texas in August 1988. After finishing top of his class in flight school, he was assigned to fly an F-14 and deployed with Fighter Squadron 2 and 211. He later moved to Dallas where he served with the Navy Recruiting Office, which led him to Baghdad in 2005. From deployment to civilian services, Mr. Hensley has seen the whole spectrum of military service. Due to his exemplary leadership and patriotism, Hensley was awarded the Bronze Star, an Air Medal, and three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals.

Having retired from active duty in 2008, his service to his country and the military continue to this day. He used the benefits of the new GI Bill to earn a master's degree in counseling to help other veterans make the transition from military life to civilian life. With his degree, Mr. Hensley worked with Rocky Top Equine therapy program and Equest's Hooves for Heroes program, where he serves as Program Coordinator. Furthermore, he now serves as the Texas head of the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Association, IAVA, which serves over 10,000 IAVA members in Texas alone. Daily, he seeks the betterment of his fellow veterans and their families. His life work leaves a legacy to be honored, setting an example for future generations of a man whose commitment to serve never faded. IAVA's motto, "building the next greatest generation" couldn't be more fitting.

Commander Jeff Hensley, let me both thank and congratulate you on your exceptional service to our country and community both past and present. It is my pleasure to award you the 2013 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE WEYER-  
HAEUSER COMPANY, RECENTLY  
NAMED ONE OF THE MOST COM-  
MUNITY-MINDED COMPANIES IN  
THE NATION

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2013*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate the Weyerhaeuser Company for being recognized as one of the most community-minded companies in the United States. The National Conference on Citizenship and Points of Light, in partnership with Bloomberg named Weyerhaeuser to The Civic 50 list as one of 50 companies that have demonstrated socially responsible practices and substantial civic involvement in their communities.

The Weyerhaeuser Company, based in Federal Way, Washington, began more than a century ago in the forest industry. The company currently owns and operates nearly 21 million acres of timberland with offices throughout North America and produces wood and fiber products for a variety of applications.

Weyerhaeuser also makes giving back to the community a company priority. Through the Weyerhaeuser Active Volunteer Employees (WAVES) Program, the company recognizes employee volunteers who contribute their time. The organizations where employees volunteer are also eligible to apply for WAVES grants, ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Last

year, 1,357 of Weyerhaeuser's employees participated in more than 164 service projects and contributed more than 31,820 volunteer hours. Through their efforts, 164 WAVES grants were awarded last year to the community. Additionally, Weyerhaeuser has instituted an Employee Volunteer of the Quarter program to honor Weyerhaeuser employees who significantly impact their communities through their personal efforts.

Recently, Weyerhaeuser teamed up with World Vision, a non-profit faith-based organization focused on fighting poverty and injustice, creating Operation Diaper Drive. Operation Diaper Drive is an annual event held by Weyerhaeuser employees where diapers are collected and donated to low-income families. In March of this year, nearly three quarters of a million diapers were distributed to families throughout the United States.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate the Weyerhaeuser Company on their recognition. Weyerhaeuser continues to strive as a leader in the community and in the nation for their impressive philanthropic work.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE  
2013 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN  
COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD  
DISTRICT OF TEXAS

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2013*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor fourteen distinguished military veterans, community servants, and American patriots who call the Third District of Texas home. All faithfully answered the call of duty and placed service above self for the sake of our great nation. Each one leaves a legacy to be remembered, for future generations to follow, a legacy of bravery, loyalty, dedication, and sacrifice. For their selfless service, bold leadership, and undying commitment for their neighbor and nation, the following individual has been selected as a recipient of the third annual Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Sergeant James Fairbairn served in the United States Marine Corps from 1950 to 1954. After completing boot camp, James headed to Korea in December of 1950 where he joined the 2nd Platoon of Able Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment of the 1st Division. It was in this assignment that Mr. Fairbairn served as a fire team leader during an attack against a strong enemy force. Without regard for his personal safety, he was able to rush and attack the enemy, which ultimately resulted in overrunning the enemy and completing the mission.

For his heroism in battle and his distinguished years of service, James Fairbairn earned the Bronze Star Medal with Combat Valor, a Presidential Unit Commendation Ribbon, United Nations Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, and numerous other decorations.

As a resident of Richardson, Texas, Mr. Fairbairn has continued to serve his community. He served as the president of the Dallas Chapter of the 1st Marine Division Association. He has also worked extensively with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots pro-

gram. He currently represents the Sons of the American Revolution on the Volunteer Board of the Dallas Veterans Affairs Hospital.

Sergeant James Fairbairn, let me both thank and congratulate you on your exceptional service to our country and community both past and present. It is my pleasure to award you the 2013 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFESERVE  
BLOOD CENTER

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2013*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to National Blood Donor Month and to recognize the great work being done by the volunteers and professionals who comprise the LifeServe Blood Center.

Established in 1969 by President Nixon, National Blood Donor Month is celebrated in January to bring awareness to the immeasurable difference made by blood donations. During National Blood Donor Month, we thank those across the country who have saved lives by donating in the past and encourage previous and first-time donors alike to schedule an appointment. Each year, only 10 percent of those eligible to donate blood choose to do so, although nearly 38,000 pints of blood are needed every day to sustain a sufficient and secure blood supply.

As one of the largest blood centers in the country, LifeServe Blood Center assists more than 100 hospitals in Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota by providing much-needed blood and blood supplies. In addition to their role as a local blood supplier, LifeServe also provides a wide range of healthcare solutions to our communities including transfusion medicine, cellular therapy, and research. It is blood centers like LifeServe that stand ready, in the face of disasters and emergencies, to meet the blood supply needs of our cities, states, and nation.

Mr. Speaker, the great work done every day by LifeServe, and all blood centers across the country, provides a crucial and life-saving service to our communities. In honor of National Blood Donor Month, I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in encouraging regular blood donations in this time of need and thanking all blood donors for their invaluable and selfless contribution. It is a great honor to represent the men and women of LifeServe in the United States Congress and I look forward to all of Iowa's participation in the busiest National Blood Donor Month yet. Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO NACARSIA "NIKKI"  
MAYES

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2013*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to bring your attention to a very special person, someone I respect and whose friendship I value. I'm referring to Nicarsia "Nikki" Mayes

who after 36 years of dedicated public service, will be retiring this December.

Nikki started work here in 1977 as an elevator operator and it was not long before her professional and cheerful manner caught the eye of her superiors. In 1980, she became the first African American woman ever hired by the Office of the Doorkeeper. It was a tremendous achievement then and it remains an exceptional moment in both her personal history and the history of this body.

As her career progressed she joined the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and served as a member of the Chamber Security Division. Her career is a testament to what dedication, hard work and a positive attitude can accomplish.

Mr. Speaker, I don't need to remind you that our work here can be difficult and stressful. But that's what makes Nikki such a treasure. Even when there was tension inside the House Chamber, there was friendship and kindness waiting at the door.

Nikki, I wish you the best of luck as you embark on this next part of your life. You will be greatly missed by me and every one of my colleagues.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE  
2013 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN  
COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD  
DISTRICT OF TEXAS

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2013*

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Captain Shep Stahel served in the United States Navy from 1955 to 1989. After earning a Navy ROTC Scholarship to Tulane University, Mr. Stahel's Naval career began during his college years where he served on summer midshipman cruises; one in the North Sea with NATO forces and the other in Hong Kong. After graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Economics, he commissioned as Ensign and served for two years as Navigator on the USS Matthews and then as Executive Officer on the USS Duval County. During the Cuban Missile Crisis, the USS Duval County operated out of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, training soldiers to conduct amphibious landings.

After transitioning from active to reserve duty, he served as commanding officer of Surface Warfare Units in both Trenton, New Jersey and Buffalo, New York until he moved to Dallas to command a unit at Naval Air Station Dallas.

This year, Mr. Stahel retired from IBM after 50 years of service. During his time there, he managed business affairs for IBM Corporation's legal department in the South-Southwestern region of the U.S. Additionally, for the

past twenty plus years, Mr. Stahel has served as the founder and chairman of countless city and transportation boards for crucial city development of Dallas and Plano.

Captain Shep Stahel, let me both thank and congratulate you on your exceptional service to our country and community both past and present. It is my pleasure to award you the 2013 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE TOWN OF SEYMOUR'S RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE BLUE WATER NAVY VIETNAM VETERANS ACT

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2013*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with my full support of the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act that I rise today at the request of First Selectman Kurt Miller, the Board of Selectmen, and the Town of Seymour to officially submit the following town resolution into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Whereas, During the Vietnam War, the United States military sprayed 22 million gallons of Agent Orange and other herbicides over Vietnam to reduce forest cover and crops used by the enemy; these herbicides contained dioxin, which has since been identified as carcinogenic and has been linked with a number of serious and disabling illnesses affecting thousands of veterans; and

Whereas, The United States Congress passed the Agent Orange Act of 1991, to address the plight of veterans exposed to herbicides while serving the Republic of Vietnam; the Act amended Title 38 of the United States Code to presumptively recognize as service-connected certain diseases among military personnel who served in Vietnam between 1962 and 1975; this presumption has provided access to appropriate disability compensation and medical care for Vietnam veterans diagnosed with such illnesses as Type II diabetes, Hodgkin's disease, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, prostate cancer, Parkinson's, multiple myeloma, peripheral neuropathy, AL Amyloidosis respiratory cancers, and soft tissue sarcomas and others yet to be identified; and

Whereas, Pursuant to a 2001 directive, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs policy has denied the presumption of a service connection for herbicide-related illnesses to Vietnam veterans who cannot furnish written documentation that they had "boots on the ground" in-country, making it virtually impossible for countless United States Navy, Marine and Air Force veterans to pursue their claims for benefits; moreover, personnel who served on ships in the "Blue Water Navy" in Vietnamese territorial waters were, in fact, exposed to dangerous airborne toxins, which not only drifted offshore but washed into streams and rivers draining into the South China Seas; and

Whereas, The United States Navy has been excluded ever since, Agent Orange has been verified, through various studies and reports, as a wide spreading chemical that was able to reach Navy Ships through the air and waterborne distribution routes; and

Whereas, Warships positioned off the Vietnamese shore routinely distilled seawater to obtain potable water, a 2002 Australian study found that the distillation process, rather than removing toxins, in fact concentrated dioxin in water used for drinking, cooking,

and washing; this study was conducted by the Australian Department of Veterans Affairs after it found that Vietnam veterans of the Royal Australian Navy had a higher rate of mortality from Agent Orange-associated diseases than did Vietnam veterans from other branches of the military; when the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention studied specific cancers among Vietnam veterans, it found a higher risk of cancer among United States Navy veterans; and

Whereas, Herbicides containing TCDD did not discriminate between soldiers on the ground and sailors on ships offshore, and

Whereas, More than 30 Veterans Service Organizations support the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2013; by not passing H.R. 543, a precedent could be set to selectively provide certain groups with injury-related medical care while denying other groups without any financial, scientific or consistent reasoning, and

Whereas, When the Agent Orange Act passed in 1991 with no dissenting votes, congressional leaders stressed the importance of responding to the health concerns of Vietnam veterans and ending the bitterness and anxiety that had surrounded the issue of herbicide exposure, the federal government has also demonstrated its awareness of the hazards of Agent Orange exposure through its involvement in the identification, containment, and mitigation of dioxin "hot spots" in Vietnam; and

Whereas, The United States Congress should reaffirm the nation's commitment to the well-being of all of its veterans and direct the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to administer the Agent Orange Act under the presumption that herbicide exposure in the Republic of Vietnam includes the country's inland waterways, offshore waters, and airspace; similarly, now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Town of Seymour hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to restore the presumption of a service connection for Agent Orange exposure to United States Veterans who served on the inland waterways, in the territorial waters, and in the airspace over the combat zone.

THE INNOVATION ACT

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2013*

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for H.R. 3309, the Innovation Act.

While not perfect, this legislation would take significant steps toward reducing the number of costly and abusive patent lawsuits.

"Patent trolls," or non-practicing entities that take advantage of the legal process for their own economic gain, are a massive cost to businesses and a significant strain on our already overburdened justice system.

I strongly agree that we should be addressing this critical problem especially at a time of continuing economic recovery.

However, like many, I had serious concerns about specific portions of this legislation.

That is why I voted in strong support of an amendment introduced by my dear friend and colleague Congressman JOHN CONYERS, the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee.

His amendment would have improved the Innovation Act by adding provisions that pro-

tect customers targeted in infringement suits, promote transparency in patent ownership, and direct the Patent and Trademark Office to develop educational materials for small businesses.

Unfortunately, while his amendment failed, I hope we will continue to work to implement many of his suggestions.

As we vote on this legislation today, it is also important that we remember other issues affecting our ability to fight patent fraud.

For example, the sequester cost the Patent and Trademark Office nearly \$150 million this year. It also resulted in 1000 fewer patent examiners and delayed the construction of a satellite patent office in Silicon Valley.

I commend this legislation's well intentioned goal to curb abusive patent litigation and look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to end this destructive practice.

THE U.S. POST-TYPHOON RESPONSE IN THE PHILIPPINES: HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2013*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, Recently, the deadliest typhoon ever to hit South East Asia devastated portions of the Philippines, including the islands of Leyte, Samar, and Cebu. With sustained winds of 155 miles per hour, Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda reached as high as 270 miles per hour at one brief point. The storm surge reached a maximum height of 40 feet. It is the deadliest Philippine typhoon on record, killing more than 5,600 people. Another 1,759 are listed as missing. Approximately 26,000 were injured. Yolanda is also the strongest storm ever recorded at landfall, and unofficially the fourth strongest typhoon ever recorded in terms of wind speed. Philippines Foreign Secretary Alberto Del Rosario told us the storm was "three and a half times the size of Katrina."

Several weeks ago, I led a congressional delegation to the Philippines to witness the devastation unleashed by Typhoon Haiyan—known locally as Typhoon Yolanda—and to gain a better understanding of the unmet needs going forward.

Joined by my distinguished colleagues TRENT FRANKS and AL GREEN—and staff director Greg Simpkins and counsel Piero Tozzi—we were unanimous in our deep respect and abiding gratitude for the accomplishments of the U.S. military, USAID leaders, and NGOs on the ground including Catholic Relief Services—who alone has committed over \$20 million to assist victims. For their part, the Philippine military was also playing a vital role along with the remnants of local governing bodies.

In the immediate aftermath of the storm—right up until arrival—highly motivated U.S. service members brought desperately needed supplies, including food, water, medicine, and housing materials by the plane-load to the ruins of Tacloban, with homeless, destitute victims—over 19,000 and counting—hitching flights back to Manila for safety and shelter.

As was the case after the 2004 tsunami, the United States deployed an aircraft carrier—this

time the USS *George Washington*—and other major military assets to provide assistance. Smart, rapid response, combined with unique airlift capability has made all the difference in the world.

In the Philippines, I had the privilege of meeting Col. Eric Mellinger, Chief of Staff of the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force. I nominated Eric to the Academy in 1982—and it was clear watching him in action that he has earned extraordinary respect. His leadership—and that of Generals Kennedy and Wissler—ensured that a desperate, shell-shocked population of victims got immediate, tangible help. Every Marine we saw, including three from New Jersey—Lance Cpl. Anthony Pellegrini, Lance Cpl. James Soccodato, and Lance Cpl. Michael Nappa—was working around the clock to protect victims. “Sleep—what’s that?” one Marine told me with a smile. “We’re saving lives.”

Al Dwyer, Principal Regional Advisor for East Asia and the Pacific at the USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Relief said “when the U.S. hit the ground things got moving . . . this was a model response . . . we saved lives here—I know that for a fact.” The cooperation and teamwork of the military and disaster assistance leaders from USAID, including Jeremy Konyndyk—Director of the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance—who traveled with us, the NGO community, and Philippine officials was a textbook example of how disaster assistance ought to be done. But of course the relief efforts are far from over. The emergency phase has matriculated into recovery.

With Donald Reilly from Catholic Relief Services, our delegation visited a sanitation kit distribution at a local parish church, and received a briefing from Mayor Remedios Petilla of Palo—whose daughter Jessica Petilla is a medical doctor in New Jersey—and met with numerous survivors who told us heartbreaking stories yet radiated a calm and inner peace. One man told us how his father drowned only a few feet from where we stood and how he had stoically carried many waterlogged dead bodies to a mass grave. He said he nearly collapsed emotionally however when he carried the lifeless body of a three year-old girl. He said he just broke down, overwhelmed, and felt he could continue no more. Yet amazingly, a few hours later, there he was—determined to rebuild and overcome and full of faith in God.

That resiliency was best summed up by Archbishop Jose Palma of Cebu who said “the Typhoon was the strongest in the world . . . but our faith in the Lord is even stronger . . . no calamity or natural devastation can quench the fire of our hope. The Filipino soul is stronger than Yolanda.”

Enroute from Tacloban to Manila aboard a C130 commanded by Major Jason Kauffman, our plane was diverted to seek the whereabouts and rescue of a helicopter that crashed into Manila Bay. After a flawless, just above the deck, systematic search for survivors in the water—kind of like looking for a needle in a haystack—the pilot spotted two individuals, opened the back end of the C130, and kicked out a yellow life raft to two lifejacketless swimmers. With night darkness fast approaching, it was clear that their lives had been saved. Aboard was the crew’s superior officer, Colonel John Peck, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade Chief of Staff, along with copilot Captain Kim and Crewmasters MSgt. Holdaway, Sgt. Weins, Cpl. Oliver, and LCpl Lopez.

Back in Manila, we had productive meetings with both the Health Minister Enrique Ona and Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert del Rosario. Matt Bohn, Resident Country Director of the Millennium Challenge Corporation told us that roads that had been constructed pursuant to a \$435 million 5-year MCC grant had been only minimally damaged but had provided—after debris removal—an additional artery for humanitarian aid.

We also met with a plethora of NGOs and U.N. agencies. Our interest was not only in seeing how effective our emergency aid coordination has been throughout it all, but going forward where our assistance ought to be directed in the medium- and long-term. We felt that two areas deserved special attention: preventing or addressing potential epidemics and minimizing human trafficking.

It normally takes two to three weeks for a marked increase in disease prevalence after a natural disaster such as the typhoon, but international health experts on the scene told us that dengue fever already was endemic in the storm-ravaged areas and could increase four- to five-fold in the coming weeks. In addition to dengue fever, cholera, hepatitis A, typhoid fever, leptospirosis, shigelosis, pneumonia and other diseases can proliferate in a post-storm environment. There are vaccines for cholera, hepatitis A and typhoid fever (as well as some other diseases likely to spread post-storm), but there are no such vaccines for dengue fever, leptospirosis or shigelosis.

Efforts to address potential epidemics are complicated by several factors. First, the Philippines is undergoing a rainy season that will not only increase breeding grounds for mosquitoes and other disease-bearing pests, but also will hamper relief efforts. Furthermore, the many residents without shelter or with inadequate shelter will be more susceptible to the elements. Second, the lack of electricity means no cold chain for medicines that must be refrigerated to remain usable. Third, many roads remain uncleared or badly damaged, making transportation for health workers or patients more difficult. Fourth, many Filipino health workers have either left the affected areas or died in the storm, and the continued presence of foreign health workers will depend on ongoing donor funding and the health needs demanded by subsequent crises elsewhere.

Internationally-funded protection efforts currently focus on family reunification, personal identification and creation of safe spaces for women and children. USAID grantees are establishing women-friendly and child-friendly spaces in strategic locations to address the needs of women and adolescent girls, as well as male children. The lack of electricity and insecure housing raises their risk of falling prey to abusers, especially at night.

However, while there is acknowledgement of the increased risk of human trafficking in the wake of the storm, the lack of reports of increased trafficking may be a good thing—or could mean that this issue is not yet a sufficient focus of protection efforts. This is despite the fact that the Philippines had a problem with human trafficking even before the latest typhoon. The Philippines was raised from Tier II Watch List to Tier II in the current human trafficking report by the Department of State. Nevertheless, that report states that trafficking of men, women, and children remains a significant problem, but child sex trafficking is a

special danger, with children being forced to perform sex acts on the internet. Clearly, there needs to be more involvement of trafficking-in-persons experts on recovery planning teams.

Also important will be providing shelter for the 1.2 million families whose homes have been damaged or destroyed. Schools have been so widely destroyed on Leyte that officials told us the school year may be over now—months before it normally would have ended in March. Livelihoods have been severely affected as the coconut industry—the leading agricultural producer—has been decimated, and it will take 5–7 years to replace the trees lost in this storm.

The Philippines is a major American ally and trading partner. There are an estimated 350,000 Americans living in the Philippines, and 4 million Filipinos living in the United States. We have an important stake in seeing that our friends and neighbors in the Philippines can recover from this devastating storm.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE  
2013 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN  
COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD  
DISTRICT OF TEXAS

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2013*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor fourteen distinguished military veterans, community servants, and American patriots who call the Third District of Texas home. All faithfully answered the call of duty and placed service above self for the sake of our great nation. Each one leaves a legacy to be remembered, for future generations to follow, a legacy of bravery, loyalty, dedication, and sacrifice. For their selfless service, bold leadership, and undying commitment for their neighbor and nation, the following individual has been selected as a recipient of the third annual Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Keeshaun Coffey served with honor in the United States Navy from 2008 to 2012. He began his military career by enlisting as a Religious Program Specialist. Selected for the Fleet Marine Force, he served at the Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Virginia, where he trained chaplain candidates and facilitated over 150 religious services and over 200 field services.

Mr. Coffey’s next assignment led him to Yokosuka, Japan, where he served with the Forward Deployed Naval Forces. In this position, he planned and implemented community service events which allowed the USS Cowpens to log 3,059 community service hours. Following his service with the USS Cowpens, Mr. Coffey remained in Japan where he was assigned to the Chapel of Hope and the United States Naval Hospital Yokosuka. He was stationed there when the 2011 tsunami and earthquake struck Japan. As his final act of military service, Mr. Coffey spent long hours creating general ledgers for Operation Tomodachi in order to maintain 100 percent accountability in the expenditure of government and donated funds.

After Mr. Coffey’s service to the military honorably ended, he enrolled in the University

of Texas at Dallas to continue his education. On campus he has continued serving the community by co-founding and serving as President of the Veterans of Dallas at UTD's student organization. In 2012, he played an

active role in the creation and establishment of the UTD Veteran Services Center.

Keeshaun Coffey, let me both thank and congratulate you on your exceptional service to our country and community both past and

present. It is my pleasure to award you the 2013 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

## 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, December 17, 2013 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 18

10 a.m.

## Committee on Finance

Subcommittee on Social Security, Pensions, and Family Policy

To hold hearings to examine the role of Social Security, defined benefits, and private retirement accounts in relation to retirement crisis.

SD-215

## Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs

To hold hearings to examine rebalance to Asia IV, focusing on economic engagement in the Asia-Pacific region.

SD-419

## Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 1417, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act, S. 1719, and H.R. 3527, bills to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the poison center national toll-free number, national media campaign, and grant program, and the nominations of David Weil, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, France A. Cordova, of New Mexico, to be Director of the National Science Foundation, Steven Joel Anthony, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Railroad Retirement Board, James H. Shelton III, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of Education, and any pending nominations.

SD-430

## Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 1486, to improve, sustain, and transform the United States Postal Service, and an original bill entitled, "Cybersecurity Recruitment and Retention Act".

SD-342

2 p.m.

## Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer, focusing on measuring the effectiveness of the

reauthorization act and maximizing research dollars to America's small businesses.

SR-428A

2:15 p.m.

## Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, "Egypt Assistance Reform Act of 2013", S. 653, 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. Res. 314, commemorating and supporting the goals of World AIDS Day, S. Res. 288, supporting enhanced maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea and encouraging increased cooperation between the United States and West and Central African countries to fight armed robbery at sea, piracy, and other maritime threats, S. Res. 312, calling on the government of Iran to fulfill their promises of assistance in this case of Robert Levinson, one of the longest held United States civilians in our Nation's history, S. Res. 75, condemning the Government of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights, S. Res. 318, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the critical need for political reform in Bangladesh, S. Res. 317, expressing the sense of the Senate on the continuing relationship between the United States and Georgia, an original resolution entitled, "in support of the Ukrainian people in light of President Yanukovich's decision not to sign an Association Agreement with the European Union", and the nominations of Dana J. Hyde, of Maryland, to be Chief Executive Officer, Millennium Challenge Corporation, Mark E. Lopes, of Arizona, to be United States Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank for a term of three years, and Keith Michael Harper, of Maryland, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as United States Representative to the UN Human Rights Council, Department of State.

S-116

## Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine the future of long-term care policy, focusing on continuing the conversation.

SD-562

2:30 p.m.

## Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine what information data brokers have on consumers, and how they use it.

SR-253

## Committee on Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 1352, to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, and the nomination of Vincent G. Logan, of New York, to be Special Trustee, Office of Special Trustee for American Indians, Department of the Interior.

SD-628

## Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Daniel D. Crabtree, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas, Cynthia Ann Bashant, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, Jon David Levy, of Maine, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maine, and Theodore David

Chuang, and George Jarrod Hazel, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

SD-226

DECEMBER 19

9:30 a.m.

## Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider S. 37, to sustain the economic development and recreational use of National Forest System land and other public land in the State of Montana, to add certain land to the National Wilderness Preservation System, to release certain wilderness study areas, to designate new areas for recreation, S. 404, to preserve the Green Mountain Lookout in the Glacier Peak Wilderness of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, S. 974, to provide for certain land conveyances in the State of Nevada, S. 1237, to improve the administration of programs in the insular areas, S. 1300, to amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to provide for the conduct of stewardship end result contracting projects, S. 1301, to provide for the restoration of forest landscapes, protection of old growth forests, and management of national forests in the eastside forests of the State of Oregon, S. 1341, to modify the Forest Service Recreation Residence Program as the program applies to units of the National Forest System derived from the public domain by implementing a simple, equitable, and predictable procedure for determining cabin user fees, S. 1491, to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to improve United States-Israel energy cooperation, H.R. 1158, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to continue stocking fish in certain lakes in the North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area, and H.R. 2337, to provide for the conveyance of the Forest Service Lake Hill Administrative Site in Summit County, Colorado.

SD-366

10 a.m.

## Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 619, to amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent unjust and irrational criminal punishments, S. 1410, to focus limited Federal resources on the most serious offenders, S. 1675, to reduce recidivism and increase public safety, S. 975, to provide for the inclusion of court-appointed guardianship improvement and oversight activities under the Elder Justice Act of 2009, and the nominations of John B. Owens, of California, and Michelle T. Friedland, of California, both to be a United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Nancy L. Moritz, of Kansas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, David Jeremiah Barron, of Massachusetts, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit, Matthew Frederick Leitman, Judith Ellen Levy, Laurie J. Michelson, and Linda Vivienne Parker, all to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, Christopher Reid Cooper, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, Gerald Austin McHugh, Jr., and Edward G. Smith, both to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, M. Douglas

Harpool, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri, Sheryl H. Lipman, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee, Stanley Allen Bastian, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington, Manish S. Shah, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, and Peter Joseph Kadzik, of New York, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Robert L. Hobbs, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Texas, and Gary

Blankinship, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Texas, all of the Department of Justice.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight

To hold hearings to examine the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security.

SD-342

2:30 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219