

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SSGT. SKY MOTE

**HON. TOM McCLINTOCK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 05, 2014*

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marine Staff Sergeant Sky Mote, a man who faithfully served and then made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. He was recently awarded the Navy's second highest commendation for valor, the Navy Cross.

Growing up in El Dorado, California, Sky enjoyed 4-H, Civil Air Patrol, and loved camping with his family. At Union Mine High School, he lettered in track and cross country. From an early age, Sky was motivated to join the military by a deep desire serve his country. Upon graduation, he promptly enlisted in the Marine Corps.

Sky spent nine years serving his country in the United States Marine Corps, including a deployment to Iraq and two deployments to Afghanistan. To those who knew him, it is no surprise that Sky not only served, but served with gallantry and meritorious distinction. Sky was awarded the Navy Cross, a Purple Heart, the Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal, a Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal, two Combat Action Ribbons and three Good Conduct Medals.

On August 10, 2012, Sky was serving with the prestigious 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion as an Explosive Ordnance expert in Helmand Province of Afghanistan. During an attack inside the base perimeter by a rogue Afghan policeman, SSgt. Mote rushed into action rather than escaping to safety. Sky's courage and initiative in engaging the gunman, while exposing himself to mortal gunfire, halted the enemy assault and undoubtedly saved lives that day.

Sky Mote will be deeply and sorely missed. He leaves behind his mother and father, as well as four brothers. The United States is blessed to have young men of character and heroism to defend our freedoms.

Mr. Speaker, SSgt. Sky Mote lived and died as an embodiment of the virtues that built and continue to preserve our country and it is my privilege to rise to honor his memory today.

HONORING ALEXANDER MILES BURNS

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2014*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alexander Miles Burns. Alexander is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

SPORTSMEN'S HERITAGE AND RECREATIONAL ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 4, 2014*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3590) to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, our nation's public lands have always required balanced management for a variety of uses for the American people. And while I am pleased to see a public lands bill on the Floor of this House that acknowledges uses beyond oil and gas drilling, I regret that it once again fails to meet the balance necessary to responsibly manage our lands for generations to come.

I don't think there is any disagreement in the House over the importance of outdoor recreation on public lands. More than 75 percent of federal lands are open to hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting. However, in order to ensure that these areas are available for the future, all uses must be balanced with conservation. And today's bill would override critical environmental protections while depriving hunters and fisherman from offering input on land use decisions.

The bill also replaces the only federal advisory committee with a voice for the hunting community with a new council, removing representation from hunting outreach and education groups and sportsmen and sportswomen at-large in favor of representatives from the firearms, ranching, and agriculture industries. Finally, it would allow for guns at certain Army Corps facilities, without exemption for public safety or national security concerns.

I have joined with Mr. Holt and members of the House Sustainable Energy and Environment Caucus to offer an amendment to this bill to clarify that the Secretary of Interior has the authority to plan for a changing climate, which poses a real threat to outdoor recreation through sea level rise, drought, and wildfire. It will also lead to changes in hunting seasons, migratory patterns, and invasive species populations. While we should be taking action here

in Congress to address climate change and its impacts on recreational hunting and fishing, this amendment ensures that we don't limit the Secretary's ability to plan for these developments. I urge my colleagues to support it.

While there are parts of this bill that would get unanimous support from the House, it contains deeply flawed provisions that jeopardize the condition of public lands. I urge my colleagues to reject it and work on a consensus bill that guarantees recreational opportunities for generations of American sportsmen and women.

RECOGNIZING THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN NOAA AND THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SHARK CONSERVATION ACT OF 2010

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2014*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased that NOAA has decided not to interfere with the progress California and other states have made in ending the cruel practice of shark finning. Federal preemption of state law should be extremely rare—the federal government should not stop states from raising the bar on environmental protection, and I'm glad NOAA has agreed to revise its position on our state's landmark shark fin law.

I submit an exchange of letters between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,  
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC  
ADMINISTRATION, NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE,

*Silver Spring, MD, February 3, 2014.*

Mr. CHARLTON BONHAM,  
*Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Sacramento, CA.*

DEAR MR. BONHAM: Thank you for your February 3, 2014, letter regarding your assessment of the relationship between the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Shark Finning Prohibition Act of 2000 and the Shark Conservation Act of 2010, and the California Shark Fin Prohibition and the impact of California's law on federal shark harvesters.

NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region confirms that revenue from the sale of sharks harvested in federal waters off California derives mostly from the sale of the meat of the shark, not from the sale of fins sold after the shark is legally harvested and landed with fins naturally attached. Further, you confirm that all federal fishers who land sharks in California, including those who operate in federal waters pursuant to a federal license, are also required to hold state licenses and are therefore exempt from the ban on possession of shark fins. Based on the full information about the California law set forth in your letter, and the current facts specified

• 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.

there regarding the scale and nature of the federal shark fishery in California, we agree with your conclusion that California's Shark Fin Prohibition law will have minimal impact on federally licensed and permitted shark harvesters in California, and does not unlawfully burden their ability to achieve the benefits from federal fisheries provided under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended. Accordingly, it is our position, based on the information that you have provided, that California's Shark Fin Prohibition law is not preempted by the Magnuson-Stevens Act, as amended.

We agree that this has been a very productive process. Our consultations have addressed fully our initial concern, as expressed in the amicus brief of the United States *Chinatown Neighborhood Association et al., v. Brown, et al.*, Ninth Circuit Case No. 13-15188, that California's Shark Fin Prohibition might conflict with or obstruct the Magnuson-Stevens Act, as amended. In light of our present conclusion that California law does not conflict with or obstruct the purposes, goals, or methods of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, we do not intend to seek authorization from the Department of Justice to further participate in the case of *Chinatown Neighborhood Association, et al. v. Brown, et al.*, No. CV 12 3759 WHO (N.D. Cal.). We request that you contact us if there are significant changes to the facts described in your letter as this could necessitate further consultation.

We appreciate your willingness to work with us on this important matter and we hope this letter addresses your concerns.

Sincerely,

EILEEN SOBECK,  
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—NATURAL  
RESOURCES AGENCY, DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH AND WILDLIFE,  
Sacramento, CA, February 3, 2014.

EILEEN SOBECK,  
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National  
Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,  
Silver Spring, MD.

DEAR MS. SOBECK: We write to memorialize a series of conversations between our respective offices and legal counsel beginning on September 6, 2013, regarding the relationship between California's Shark Fin Prohibition, Cal. Fish & Game Code §§ 2021 & 2021.5, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1801-1884, as amended by the Shark Finning Prohibition Act of 2000, Pub. L. No. 106-557, 114 Stat. 2772 (2000), and the Shark Conservation Act of 2010, Pub. L. No. 111-348, 124 Stat. 3668 (2010). We appreciate the opportunity to consult with you and believe that this process has been highly productive. This process was initiated after the United States filed an amicus brief in *Chinatown Neighborhood Association et al., v. Brown, et al.*, Ninth Circuit Case No. 13-15188, and in that filing the United States observed that California's Shark Fin Prohibition may conflict with or obstruct federal law. However, in light of our discussions and the full information and analysis we have provided regarding the scope and effect of California's law, we now agree that California law and federal law are consistent and that there is no basis for finding California's Shark Fin Prohibition to be preempted by the Magnuson-Stevens Act, as amended.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act governs the management of federal fisheries, including shark fisheries. As we have discussed, the Shark Fin Prohibition and the Magnuson-Stevens Act, as amended, share a goal of promoting conservation and ending the practice of shark finning. To this end, the California

Shark Fin Prohibition proscribes the possession, sale, trade, and distribution of detached shark fins in California. See Cal. Fish & Game Code §§ 2021(a)&(b). Of particular significance here, and unlike federal law, the California Shark Fin Prohibition does not regulate the act of finning or the taking and landing of sharks within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Moreover, under California law, a federally-licensed fisher may land a shark in California with the fins attached, as required by the Shark Conservation Act of 2010. See id. § 2021(a) (defining "shark fin" as the "raw, dried, or otherwise processed detached fin, or the raw, dried, or otherwise processed detached tail, of an elasmobranch.")

With respect to your concern regarding the ability of fishers to possess fins (from sharks caught in the EEZ), pursuant to California Fish and Game Code sections 2021(d) and 2021.5(a)(1), properly-licensed fishers are exempt from the ban on possession. Because all fishers, including those who operate in federal waters pursuant to a federal license, are required to hold state licenses in order to land sharks in California, see id. §§ 7850, 7881, this exemption applies equally to federal and state fishers.

Finally, California's Shark Fin Prohibition does not interfere with the management of federal fisheries. As you are aware, and as set forth in our reply to your amicus brief, we reject the notion that simply because a state ban might have an effect on fishing within federal waters and consequently on the attainment of "optimum yield," that it conflicts with and/or is preempted by the Magnuson-Stevens Act. While we may continue to disagree on this point, as a practical matter, the California Shark Fin Prohibition has no meaningful effect on fishing behavior or "optimum yield." Relatively few sharks are landed in California. The California-based drift gillnet fleet and the Hawaii-based pelagic longline fleet account for the majority of shark landings in California from federally-managed fisheries. Both of these fleets target swordfish and thus fishing behavior in these fleets is driven primarily by swordfish, and not by sharks. The relative importance of swordfish and sharks is apparent in both landings and revenue. For example, in 2012, according to PacFIN data, shark landings in California (from both federal and state waters) totaled 107.5 metric tons, and represented \$189,910 in revenue. By comparison, 402.5 metric tons of swordfish were landed in California in 2012, with an ex-vessel value of \$2,092,050. With respect to the relatively small number of sharks that are landed in California, state law permits the sale of all of the parts of a shark caught in federal waters and landed in California, excluding its detached fin and tail. Accordingly, we do not expect an appreciable impact on income to federally-licensed shark harvesters in California as a result of California's law.

For these reasons, we believe that California's Shark Fin Prohibition is consistent with and does not conflict with the Magnuson-Stevens Act, as amended by the Shark Finning Prohibition Act of 2000, and the Shark Conservation Act of 2010.

Please feel free to contact Thomas Gibson, General Counsel, if you have further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

CHARLTON H. BONHAM,  
Director.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, January 27, 2014, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: "yes" on rollcall vote No. 24 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2166, as amended), and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 25 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3008, as amended).

## RECOGNIZING KATIE PORTA

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Katie Porta. Katie has devoted her life to serving the Central Florida community. She is an amazing woman and a source of inspiration to us all.

Katie was born in Indiana as Mary Katherine Hartman. She spent much of her childhood shadowing her mom, a nurse who conducted in-home hearing tests for people with disabilities. The experience of visiting rural homes and serving her community remained with Katie into adulthood and drove her apply to Purdue University, where she eventually earned a degree in speech and hearing. Following graduation, Katie became a speech and hearing therapist initially serving the public school system, and later working with military families stationed in Japan through the Department of Defense. Katie's service was rewarded with a new position in Germany, where she supervised an initiative that assisted servicemen as they transitioned from the military back into society.

After her time in Germany, Katie accepted a job working with mentally disabled children at the Sunland Center in Tallahassee. She was shocked by the hospital conditions and immediately resolved herself to becoming a powerful advocate for the disabled. One of Katie's first opportunities to serve as that advocate came in form of legislation: a bill of rights for the developmentally disabled. Katie fought to secure these rights—rights that are now enshrined in Florida law. As Katie says, the developmentally disabled "have the same needs you and I have . . . People don't want to be treated down; they want to be treated up."

Katie later took over Life Concepts, Inc. a non-profit organization that operated group homes, sheltered apartments and vocational training for adults with developmental disabilities (who had previously lived in large state institutions). She spent time visiting state institutions to personally meet the individuals who would be discharged into their assigned community homes. Katie said she wanted to make sure that the settings Life Concepts provided would meet their individual needs. The non-profit had few resources, so Katie worked hard to develop relationships with Florida legislators and stakeholders to ensure that her clients could count on quality care. Her quick wit, persistence, and passion for her clients earned her a reputation for getting things done.

Katie also served her community as Chairwoman of the Orlando Utilities Commission and in her capacity on other community boards, such as the City of Orlando's Nominating Board, the Orange County Membership Advisory Board, and the Heart of Florida United Way. Katie's love for her community is reflected in her two children, Michael and Stephanie. Stephanie is a community organizer in Central Florida and demonstrates the same commitment to equality and justice that her mother has shown.

Katie's work has earned her recognition in Central Florida. In 1996, she was presented with the Distinguished Leadership Award by the National Association of Community Leadership. In 2000 she was recognized as one of the "Top 10 Central Florida Women Who Mean Business." In 2003, our local public radio station, WMFE, called her the "Can-Do Woman of the Year." Last month, our local newspaper named Katie the "Central Floridian of the Year" for her lifetime commitment to serving our community.

I want to recognize Katie for creating a legacy of care and compassion for the voiceless—and as an inspiration to those of us who dream of serving our community.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I enter these remarks into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of history for my friend, and Central Florida's hero, Katie Porta.

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#### HONORING KIDS ALIVE

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#### HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2014*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kids Alive, an organization that is working around the world to improve the lives of children.

America is the most generous nation in human history. When tragedy strikes and innocent people are suffering, Americans respond. Kids Alive is an organization that exemplifies that great American tradition by supporting girls and boys who are orphaned or struggling just to survive extreme poverty. For nearly 100 years, Kids Alive has helped thousands of children with their housing and medical needs, along with providing food, clothing and education assistance. Children from all over the world have seen their lives improve thanks to this faith-based organization.

I am proud that this organization, based in Indiana, has received so much support from the 6th Congressional District. Churches and individuals from across the district have stepped up to help children in the most desperate situations. By donating their time and resources, these Hoosiers have helped give countless kids a better future.

I ask the entire 6th Congressional district to join me in recognizing the important work of Kids Alive and all those who contributed to their success.

#### HONORING ZACHARIAH FRANKLYNN PIXLER

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2014*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Zachariah Franklynn Pixler. Zachariah is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

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#### HONORING AMBASSADOR VICTOR ASHE

#### HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2014*

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, Ambassador Victor Ashe retired in 2009 as the longest-serving U.S. Ambassador to Poland.

Prior to his distinguished service abroad, Ambassador Ashe served 16 years as Knoxville's longest-serving Mayor.

Ambassador Ashe has held many other positions in service to Tennessee and our Nation, and he has had one of the most distinguished careers of anyone from my State.

Even following his retirement, Ambassador Ashe is being cited for his expertise and continued devotion to our Nation. I call the following article from the website BBG Watch, in which Ambassador Ashe is quoted many times and is reprinted in part below, to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD. I am glad to see my good friend is still working to protect the taxpayers of our Nation:

BBG Watch has learned that officials of the International Broadcasting Bureau (IBB) at a federal agency, Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG), are alleged to have violated IRS tax rules by employing thousands of private contractors as full-time, long-term employees but failing to withhold taxes from their salaries as they were required to do, according to IRS and the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). . . .

BBG Watch has also learned of allegations that some IBB officials suspected of these irregularities may be trying to cover up their alleged violations by refusing or delaying release of information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests from private individuals, including news reporters and NGO representatives. . . .

Allegations have been made that some of IBB officials responsible for employing thou-

sands of poorly-paid full-time contractors who have been denied by these officials basic employment protections and benefits, such as vacations and health insurance, may have also been involved in an attempt to silence and remove from the BBG board a former member, Victor Ashe, and to undermine reputation of some of the still serving BBG members who have questioned their management practices.

Alleged retaliation against Ashe is strongly suspected because he was most active among BBG members in trying to expose and prevent waste of taxpayers' money at the agency, but at least two other BBG members who are still serving may have also been a target of a smear campaign. BBG Watch has learned that FOIA requests for documents that may show alleged efforts by IBB officials to silence BBG members and to undermine their reputation are the ones which are not being answered by IBB officials who have not yet produced any documents several months after these FOIA requests were submitted. BBG Watch also learned that there is still a pending FOIA request for additional information about an incident in which a senior Voice of America executive allegedly tried to get officials at the United Nations to revoke a press accreditation of an independent American journalist. BBG's mission is to support media freedom. Some of these officials are still employed by BBG.

One of BBG Watch volunteer-reporters contacted Victor Ashe by phone at his home at Knoxville, TN to get his perspective on the developing scandal over violations of IRS tax rules by agency officials where he was a board member until late last year. Ashe is a former U.S. Ambassador to Poland and former popular long-term mayor of Knoxville. He had served many U.S. administrations of both parties in various federal positions. This is how BBG Watch reporter summarized for BBG Watch the phone conversation with Ashe:

"After years of neglect from prior management, Broadcasting Board of Governors is now moving to remedy the mistreatment from a pay standpoint for 35% of BBG's employees who are on contract as opposed to being fulltime federal employees," former BBG member Victor Ashe said.

"Of course this is due to the heavy pressure from the Internal Revenue Service and the Office of Inspector General," Ashe added.

"One reason BBG has ranked so poorly in Office of Personnel Management (OPM) morale surveys is the way contract employees are treated, as well as the fallout from the Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB) Radio and TV Marti lawsuit from former Cuban American employees in Miami who were illegally dismissed, according to findings by an impartial Federal Arbitrator and legal panels. This lawsuit, which management has lost at every step along the way, continues with costs exceeding \$3.5 million. While it may last two more years, cost may exceed \$5.3 million by the time it is over. No one seems bothered by this use of tax dollars," Ashe added.

"Morale at the three entities, which are Radio Free Asia (RFA), Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) and Middle East Broadcasting Networks (MBN), remains much higher," he added.

"International Broadcasting Bureau (IBB) has a terrible history of mistreating contract employees," Ashe said.

"Congress needs to act swiftly to correct these problems and monitor carefully how BBG is handling the IRS audit and OIG findings. BBG owes the public an explanation on why this has occurred and how they plan on finding \$12 to \$18 million," he added.

"This is all about righting a wrong. IBB past management thought they could get

away with this violation of federal practices and law. Now this seems to be at an end.”

“Now the BBG board should review the Radio and TV Marti lawsuit by Cuban Americans laid off wrongly over 4 years ago and attempt to settle it. Otherwise, BBG may face \$5 million in legal expenses,” Ashe added.

“I commend Jeff Shell, the new chair, for his efforts to correct the problems he inherited,” Victor Ashe stated.

Jeff Shell and the renewed BBG board have already announced several key personnel and management changes at the IBB and further management reforms are expected. Former IBB director retired at the end of November 2013. But some remaining IBB officials are alleged to be engaged in an attempt to cover up their previous mistakes by unnecessarily prolonging the FOIA process, sources told BBG Watch.

Ashe and some of his colleagues on the BBG board have been vindicated in a number of cases where their initial concerns were first strongly resisted by agency officials and later turned out to be correct and their proposed solutions embraced by other BBG members.

Among three BBG members who seem to have most annoyed IBB senior staff with demands for accountability, Ashe is credited along with Susan McCue and Michael Meehan with saving Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) from a major management and journalistic crisis last year. Ashe received the Glasnost Award for these efforts from a Russian human rights organization. He is also believed to have helped new RFE/RL CEO Kevin Klose rehire Radio Liberty journalists who had been fired by the previous management—an incident which produced a major public relations and public diplomacy crisis for the United States in Russia.

In a phone conversation about his previous difficult dealings with IBB officials, Ashe recalled discovering that flu shots were being denied to contract employees at the agency because of their status. IBB officials declined to correct the problem until he went public with the issue and shamed them into recognizing it was a health risk for the entire workforce, since contract employees and federal employees work daily side by side. “Today I am glad to say all can receive flu shots,” Ashe was quoted as saying.

Alleged attempts to silence inconvenient BBG members and alleged attempts by IBB senior executives to remove Ashe from the BBG board with unfounded accusations to the OIG were described in recent editorials published by the American Federation of Government Employees, AFGE Local 1812, a union representing BBG’s federal workforce. One OIG team sided with IBB officials against Ashe and incredibly accused him of being too aggressive in pursuing his oversight responsibilities, although it did not mention him by name. That particular OIG team repeated assurances received from IBB executives and, also incredibly, did not discover any substantial waste or irregularities in the agency, which has a budget of over \$700 million. It took another, different OIG team to find widespread irregularities in the work of IBB officials, including nonpayment of IRS required taxes.

Ashe is widely admired by rank and file agency employees and contractors, as are Governors McCue and Meehan. Chairman Shell has also developed a good reputation among BBG employees for his energy, willingness to listen to critics and some of the initial reforms he has proposed.

Ashe’s departure from the board was particularly mourned by BBG employees. Their union has arranged with the Knoxville, TN city administration to have a tree planted in

one of its parks in honor of former BBG Governor and former U.S. Ambassador.

In a recent article in *Ambassador Perspectives*, a forum of commentary on current world issues by non-career U.S. Ambassadors who have served presidents of both parties, Ashe has proposed several solutions to management problems at the BBG, including appointing a single agency head, confirmable by the Senate, dissolving the current part-time nine-member board, or making it much smaller. The CEO proposal, but without Senate confirmation, is also being pursued by Chairman Shell and the current BBG board.

Ashe has also called for bringing Congress more closely into the process of reforming U.S. international media outreach to those countries where independent press is either severely restricted or completely repressed. Ashe told a reporter that “hopefully, Congress will start holding annual oversight hearings on U.S. international media outreach, which have not been held for six years.”

The key questions, however, are whether anyone among IBB’s current government executives who are still in their positions will answer for alleged violations of tax and other federal rules? Who will pay millions of dollars, which have not been appropriated by Congress, to correct alleged mistakes? Can IBB officials get away with not releasing FOIA documents that may expose their alleged attempts to cover up corruption and abuse of power.

BBG Watch has learned that at the urging of a least one NGO, a member of Congress known for his support of U.S. international broadcasting mission abroad plans to make inquiries to the BBG to find out why IBB officials are dragging their feet on answering FOIA requests for information that may expose their alleged misdeeds.

It’s not the first time, and not the last, that we ask: who’s in charge of this Agency?

As the new Broadcasting Board of Governors members get down to business, we recognize their role of being in charge of ensuring that the broadcasting arm of the United States government carries out its mission for the 21st century. However, we get the feeling that some in top and mid-level management take the position that the bureaucracy is still in charge, will remain in charge, and will make sure the BBG understands who is really in charge.

Why should there be any concern? Flash back to the arrival at the Agency several years ago of a former BBG Governor, the Honorable U.S. Ambassador Victor Ashe. A politician, in addition to a diplomat, with extensive managerial experience, he engaged in behavior any official on the BBG should feel comfortable engaging in: he met with the staff, listened to their concerns, opened a communication channel by providing his personal e-mail and started asking questions of management.

The backlash was swift and fierce. Ambassador Ashe was warned in private, then warned again more forcefully in public, against assuming his full role as Governor. Apparently he did not get the message. The General Counsel’s office—whose main purpose sometimes seems to be not to assist management in respecting the law, but rather in how to circumvent it—drafted new rules that essentially tried to muzzle BBG members, trying to prevent them from freely discussing Agency business.

But that did not silence Ambassador Ashe. He had the courage to publicly deplore the diplomatic mess created by the firing of most of the staff at the Russian Service of Radio Liberty. Payback time came in many forms including a rather silly and spiteful incident, when Governor Ashe was refused entry to an event to which he was invited.

Other blockades were erected by the resident bureaucracy to thwart any attempts by Governor Ashe to find out what was going on in the Agency including a scandalous contracting-out process. Even the OIG, in its January 2013 report, characterized Governor Ashe’s actions as somewhat of a transgression when it wrote: “He visits widely throughout the agency, offering to bypass IBB management to assure Board attention to employee concerns.”

And yet, Ambassador Ashe did not budge. He continued his fight. So, he was disposed of thanks to a blistering and factually-challenged OIG report that the Union described, and still does, as a ‘hatchet job’. He could have stayed in his position as a Republican Governor on the BBG. There was no need to push out the only BBG member who had a perfect attendance record at all meetings and seemed to genuinely care, and was competent as well. The Agency would not stand for that and the White House somehow found time to name someone to replace him.

AFGE Local 1812 will always be grateful to former Governor Ashe for his intrepid efforts to try to find out what was wrong in the Agency and to fix it. We are also grateful that he did not look at the Union as a pariah. For its part, the Union has arranged with the Knoxville, TN, city administration to have a tree planted in one of its parks in honor of Governor Ashe where he served five terms as mayor. We are considering another project in his honor as well.

#### REMEMBERING GENERAL BLAZ

#### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2014*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and remember former U.S. Representative and Brigadier General Vicente T. “Ben” Blaz, who passed away on January 8, 2014 in Fairfax, Virginia at the age of 85.

Gen. Blaz was born on February 14, 1928, in Hagatna, the capital of Guam. At 13, he was forced into a Japanese detention camp following the Japanese seizure of the island immediately after the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941. While a detainee, Gen. Blaz witnessed the torture and murder of his fellow Chamorros—natives of Guam—until American Marines liberated the island in 1944.

Following the war, Blaz learned English and received a scholarship to study at the University of Notre Dame. Soon after graduation, he joined the Marine Corps, where he served in both the Korean and Vietnam Wars, earning the Bronze Star. He then served in the Joint Staff for a number of years, including under General Lemeul Shephard, who liberated his home from the Japanese many years earlier.

Blaz was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in 1977. He was the first non-white soldier to attain this rank within the Marine Corps.

Gen. Blaz served three more years before retiring from the military and returning home to Guam. There he worked as a teacher and farmer until his election to the U.S. Congress in 1982. For eight years, he served as Guam’s non-voting representative in the House, and held committee assignments on the Foreign Affairs Committee and Armed Forces Committee. During his time in Congress, he focused on veterans’ education issues, as well as the reorganization of Guam’s judicial system.

Following his retirement in 1992, Gen. Blaz published a memoir, as well as books and television documentaries about Guam's history and culture. He also spent time in Virginia's 10th District in Fairfax County, where he passed away last month. He is survived by his two sons, Tom and Mike Blaz, as well as two brothers, one sister and five grandchildren.

I submit the following obituary from the Washington Post on Gen. Blaz's amazing story.

[From the Washington Post, Jan. 27, 2014]

VICENTE T. 'BEN' BLAZ, MARINE GENERAL AND GUAM DELEGATE, DIES AT 85

(By Matt Schudel),

Vicente T. "Ben" Blaz, who survived a Japanese prison camp during World War II and later became a Marine Corps brigadier general and Guam's representative in Congress, died Jan. 8 at Inova Fair Oaks Hospital in Fairfax County. He was 85.

The cause was acute respiratory failure, his son Tom Blaz said.

Gen. Blaz was 13 when he was captured by Japanese forces who overran the U.S. territory of Guam on Dec. 8, 1941, one day after the Japanese attack on the American naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. He was one of many native Chamorros, as natives of Guam are often called, held in a detention camp and pressed into forced labor, building airfields for the Japanese.

He was later held in a Japanese prison camp, where he saw fellow inmates beheaded.

"As a boy, I stood behind barbed wire," he told The Washington Post in 1977. "There was a pervasive sense of personal insecurity. That probably is more damaging to your feeling of wellbeing than hunger."

In 1944, he was freed when U.S. Marines reclaimed Guam from the Japanese. He asked a young Marine how he could go to the United States.

"The first thing you have to do is learn to speak English," he recalled the Marine saying. Gen. Blaz spoke primarily the local Chamorro language at the time. "He taught me a few words and told me, of all things, to listen to the radio, and talk as they do."

After graduating in 1951 from the University of Notre Dame, in Indiana, Gen. Blaz joined the Marine Corps. He served during the Korean War and was an artillery officer in the Vietnam War, where he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

He held several jobs with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and once served under Lemuel C. Shepherd Jr., a Marine general who led the U.S. forces that recaptured Guam in 1944.

When he was promoted to brigadier general in 1977, Gen. Blaz became the first person from Guam and the first non-white Marine to reach the rank of general. At the time, he was director of information for the Marine Corps, in charge of rebuilding the image of the Marines after the Vietnam War.

After retiring from the military in 1980, Gen. Blaz returned to Guam to farm and to teach. He made an unsuccessful bid as a Republican for Guam's non-voting congressional seat in 1982.

Two years later he won a closely contested election, defeating Antonio B. Won Pat, who had served as Guam's delegate since 1973, when the territory first received representation in Congress.

Gen. Blaz, who was a member of the Armed Forces and Foreign Affairs committees, was the only retired general serving in Congress at the time. He had few legislative victories in his limited role in Congress, but he was instrumental in reorganizing the judicial system on Guam and was a strong advocate for improved educational benefits for veterans.

Gen. Blaz served four terms before losing a reelection bid in 1992 to Robert A. Underwood.

Vicente Tornas Blaz Garrido was born Feb. 14, 1928, in what is now Hagatna, the capital of Guam, and grew up in a farming community. Guam, which is about 30 miles long, has a population of about 140,000 and is the southernmost island in the Marianas chain. It became a U.S. territory after the Spanish-American War in 1898.

In 1947, Gen. Blaz received a scholarship to attend Notre Dame. After a 22-day boat trip, he arrived in San Francisco and told a cabdriver to take him to Notre Dame. He was dropped off at a Catholic girls' school with a similar name, where he presented his papers to the nuns. They put him on a train to Indiana.

While serving in the Marine Corps, he received a master's degree in public administration from George Washington University in 1963. He had a home in Fairfax County since 1969 and was a member of St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church in Fairfax.

His wife of 58 years, Ann Evers Blaz, died in May 2013. Survivors include two sons, Tom Blaz of Fairfax and Mike Blaz of Fairfax Station; two brothers; a sister; and five grandchildren.

After Congress, Gen. Blaz wrote a memoir and books about Guam and also made a series of historical and cultural television documentaries about his native island.

In Congress and later in life, Gen. Blaz became known for a useful description of the people of Guam, U.S. citizens who serve in disproportionate numbers in the military but do not have full representation in Congress: "Equal in war, unequal in peace."

IN HONOR OF MILLIE MARSHALL  
ON HER RECEIPT OF THE MANUFACTURING INSTITUTE'S WOMEN  
IN MANUFACTURING STEP  
AWARD

### HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Millie Marshall of Hurricane, West Virginia on the occasion of her selection to receive a STEP Award from The Manufacturing Institute. As an inspiration to young women interested in technical careers, I am pleased to recognize her contributions to Toyota, the automotive industry, the state of West Virginia, her community, and our country.

Manufacturing is revitalizing our economy and making America strong. Investments in manufacturing, particularly in automotive manufacturing, multiply across the economy, creating jobs and growth in other sectors. Manufacturing is the backbone of our nation's middle class. Today's manufacturers offer competitive wages in high-tech fields while working hard to encourage women into the field.

STEP Award Honorees, such as Ms. Marshall, help to attract more women to manufacturing careers by educating young workers that this is not your grandfather's manufacturing industry. By telling the real stories of these women, we can inspire the next generation to pursue careers in the industry and encourage women currently working for the manufacturing industry.

Ms. Marshall's 20-year career progression, beginning as a specialist all the way to her

current position as president of Toyota's West Virginia engine plant, is a direct result of her technical knowledge and ability, her drive and determination, and her passionate commitment to her fellow team members and Toyota's customers. Her accomplishment of becoming the first female president in Toyota's history is tied to her many successes.

Ms. Marshall is a lifelong learner. She has always seen her career as a journey. Her desire to learn and try new things led to many different positions, functions, and locations. In every experience at Toyota so far, she has left her positive mark. She has always been a strong advocate for self-development, team development, and for the growth of Toyota as a whole.

Ms. Marshall is a role model and mentor for other women in business. She shares her talents with women internally and is also actively involved in SOAR, a program that assists in the professional development and career advancement of women in business. With the support of her family, she has learned balance, patience and the ability to see the bigger picture with a variety of perspectives.

We are thankful for the years of dedication and hard work by Millie Marshall. We congratulate her for setting an example of professional excellence and advocacy of women in manufacturing, as well as her commitment to the greater community.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND WAYNE  
BRIDEGROOM

### HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Reverend Wayne Bridegroom for receiving the Martin Luther King Legacy Award. After 40 years of being a pastor, this is a well-deserved recognition.

In 1973, Rev. Bridegroom started at Central Baptist Church in West Modesto, where he still lives today. In 1981, he became the pastor and opened his doors to many ethnic groups. He began by ministering to Southeast Asian and Latino immigrants, but soon Central Baptist became home to the Laotian, Hmong, Cambodian and Hispanic populations as well. In 1980, he brought many of the Anglo churches from across town to form Modesto Outreach Ministry, which later became the Christian Challenge Ministries.

Pastor Bridegroom has a unique ability to develop networks and put his talent to work, becoming the co-founder of Harvest of Hope. Harvest of Hope is a collaboration of church, neighborhood and county government which focuses on providing goods for needy families. In 1989, he spearheaded a group called Love Inc., which paired people in need with agencies and volunteers in churches. He also helped in the founding of Weed and Seed, which led to First Tee, a golf mentoring program on the city's municipal course, and started Boy and Girl Scouting programs on the west side.

In the last 20 years, Rev. Bridegroom has worked with the West Modesto King Kennedy neighborhood collaborative and helped improve relationships between police and the community. In 2000, Pastor Bridegroom

helped form Congregations Building Communities, the PICO affiliate in Modesto. In addition, he assisted in forming a street lighting district to add streetlights to an unincorporated area of Southwest Modesto in 2005.

More recently, he's been involved in calls for immigration reform. His church's congregation has been a mixing pot of Latino, Hmong, Cambodian and Laotian people sharing space and worshipping together. In June, he plans to officially retire as the Senior Pastor of his congregation, but plans to continue as an unpaid volunteer in that role.

Pastor Bridegroom has also served as interviewer for Stanislaus County Sheriff candidates and City of Modesto police captains. He has organized a baseball league in west Modesto and chaired block parties for the National Night Out.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in praising Pastor Wayne Bridegroom, for his significant contributions as a bridge between evangelicals and Catholics, U.S. citizens and immigrants, and his overall effort to provide a thriving foundation for our community.

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#### HONORING JACKSON MOHR

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2014*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jackson Mohr. Jackson is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 360, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jackson has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jackson has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jackson has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Jackson built a loafing shed to protect the horses at the Northland Therapeutic Riding Center, a local equine center for youth and adults with special needs.

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

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#### RECOGNIZING JEFFREY D. ROUCH

### HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2014*

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and accomplishments of Jeffrey D. Rouch, on the occasion of his passing from this life to the next.

Jeff was an avid political and government affairs professional, spending twenty-one years of his career with the Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. Jeff began his professional career in the Pennsylvania Senate in 1982 as the Director of Policy Development and Research, before becoming the Director of Government Affairs for the Insurance Fed-

eration of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia in 1985. He later became an integral member of the Nationwide team, and he retired as the Senior Vice President of Corporate Relations and Public Affairs. His more than twenty-five years as an advocate for the insurance industry enhanced the industry's ability to see to the needs of countless individuals affected by unforeseen misfortune.

He was instrumental in providing Nationwide Insurance and its members a voice in Washington, DC by establishing an office in the nation's capital in 1997. I and my colleagues are fortunate to work with dedicated private citizens such as Jeff, who advocate for public policies that address the needs of millions of our friends and neighbors.

On behalf of the citizens of Ohio's 12th Congressional District, I thank Jeffrey Rouch for his contributions and his unrelenting service to his industry. I offer my deepest sympathies to his family. Their sense of loss at this time is shared by many who knew and loved Jeffrey Rouch, and he will be dearly missed.

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#### CELEBRATING RUDY HANLEY'S RETIREMENT

### HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2014*

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Rudy Hanley. As a former State Senator and Congressman for the last 30 years, I have met many people along the way who are advocates for one cause or another, resources that I come to rely on for advice, supporters, and a few that become friends. But there are really very few, who become all of those things, and who are trusted confidants, respected advisors, and true friends. Rudy Hanley is all of those things to me.

I've known Rudy since my days as a California State Senator. I wasn't the Chair of any committees, I wasn't in leadership, but Rudy came to talk to me about something that he was passionate about—credit unions, and what they could do for their members, who were often low to middle income, and who sometimes needed a little extra help.

One of my favorite Rudy stories is that of his "Turkey Loan." One year, Rudy noticed that some of his members were having a hard time buying the groceries for their Thanksgiving dinner, because they didn't get paid until the following week. So, Rudy offered them a "Turkey Loan," where they could come into the credit union, sign a piece of paper, and walk out with a hundred dollars in cash to purchase their groceries. It wasn't a formal loan, but you know, Rudy told me that they never had anyone who didn't pay the loan back. And I think that was probably due in large part to the fact that they respected Rudy, and appreciated the fact that he respected them, and cared for them.

I also respect Rudy immensely. He is a man of great integrity, who works hard, studies hard, and who has been very successful in life. But despite that success, he has never forgotten who he works for—and that is his members. And he has continued to go above and beyond his job at the credit union, to ad-

vocate for them in Sacramento and in Washington, DC. He also has been my "go to guy" when it comes to policy questions that affect credit unions. Not only does he understand the issues better than anyone I know, he is honest and I know that he will always give it to me straight.

And so, I am really going to miss having Rudy at the helm of Schools First, and as an official advocate for credit unions in DC. But I also know that Rudy will always be fighting for credit unions, if even in an unofficial capacity.

And as a friend, I am happy for Rudy and for Catherine, who have earned this retirement. And I hope that it means that Marie and I will get to see more of them in the years to come.

God Bless you Rudy! And Congratulations!

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#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2014*

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

Today, it is \$17,263,040,455,036.20. We've added \$6,636,163,406,123.12 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

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#### HONORING DAWSON MOHR

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2014*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Dawson Mohr. Dawson is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 360, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Dawson has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Dawson has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Dawson has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Dawson erected a playground at the Northland Therapeutic Riding Center, a local equine center for youth and adults with special needs.

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

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2014*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on February 3, 2014, I missed two recorded

votes on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 32 and “yea” on rollcall No. 33.

HONORING THE LIFE OF  
KIMBERLY SUZANNE RATHER

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2014*

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a gifted educator and beloved member of the Rockwall community, Kimberly Suzanne Rather, who passed away on November 29, 2013 at the age of 45. Born and raised in Rockwall, Kimberly graduated from Rockwall High School and earned a scholarship to Tyler Junior College where she was selected to be a member of the renowned Apache Belles dance team. She then continued her education at Stephen F. Austin where she graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor's in education. She began her teaching career in the Hurst Euleless Bedford School District and later taught in the Garland School District. She then became an Educational Consultant with the Cheryl Cox Consulting Firm, an organization which provides teachers with educational materials to assist their students with required state testing. In 2000, Kimberly retired to stay home with her three children.

We join Kimberly's family—husband Chris and children CJ, Abby and Jacob, parents Ron and Gale, brother, grandparents, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins—in remembering her radiant smile and warm heart. Kimberly Rather was a lovely and intelligent young lady and successful at every crossroads she met all of her life. I ask the U.S. House of Representatives to close today's session in honor and remembrance of this talented and loved young lady.

ELEANOR GREMILLION'S 90TH  
BIRTHDAY

**HON. VANCE M. McALLISTER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2014*

Mr. McALLISTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride and pleasure to commemorate Ms. Eleanor Gremillion on the occasion of her 90th birthday.

Eleanor was born and raised in Marksville Louisiana. She graduated from Marksville High School in 1940 and laid the groundwork for her career in the finance business with her first job in the office of an attorney. Ms. Gremillion worked as the manager of Gulfco Finance Company in Marksville for thirty-two years and served the company as vice president, operations manager and was on the board of directors. Until the age limit forced her to step down, she served as a director of the Cottonport Bank for fifteen years. As civil service director for the City of Marksville, Eleanor's focus was to secure the best possible employees for the town of Marksville.

A daughter of a World War I veteran, Eleanor has been a lifelong member of the American Legion Auxiliary and today, she continues

to be actively involved with the organization at the state level. She served with great distinction as state president and subsequently served as a national officer for several years. Eleanor's devotion of time and effort to her community is second to none and since its inception in 1974, she served the Marksville Chamber of Commerce in various capacities and currently serves the Chamber with unwavering dedication as secretary-treasurer.

Eleanor also serves as a board member of the Avoyelles Society for the Developmentally Disabled, secretary of the Hypolite Bordelon Home Society and is on the board of directors of the Avoyelles Commission on Tourism. She served as chairwoman of Marksville's birthday celebrations in the years of 1959, 1969, 1979, 1989 and 1999, Marksville's year of celebration for the bicentennial in 2009 and the Marksville July Fourth parade and activities, which is the longest running event of its kind in the State of Louisiana. She was named Avoyellean of the year in 1969, Citizen of the Year in 1974 and 1989, Woman of Excellence by the Town Talk and the Rapides Foundation in 2005 and received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Louisiana Tourism Promotion Association Summit in 2009.

Ms. Gremillion has earned the respect and admiration of everyone she has met along her journey. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to her years of dedication and achievements.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD BRUNER,  
PH.D.

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2014*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the career of a distinguished servant of Congress in the field of foreign affairs, defense and trade. Later this month, Edward Bruner, Ph.D., will retire from the Congressional Research Service after 23 years of outstanding service to the legislative branch.

Dr. Bruner joined CRS in 1991 after a 27-year career in the United States Army that was highlighted by service in Vietnam, teaching Geography at the United States Military Academy at West Point, and command of an armor battalion at Ft. Knox, Kentucky. From 1991–94, he was a specialist in national defense at CRS, where he advised on such topics as Army transformation and modernization, peacekeeping operations, and the appropriate size of the U.S. military. In 1994, in recognition of his leadership abilities, he was asked to head the Defense Policy and Arms Control Section of the Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division, where he supervised the day-to-day research activities of a team of senior CRS analysts and specialists. In 2004, he was asked to assume a greater leadership role and was named Deputy Assistant Director of the Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division, where he has served for the past ten years.

Dr. Bruner's tenure at CRS has been marked by his unparalleled dedication to the U.S. Congress and the men and women of CRS' Foreign Affairs, Defense and Trade Division. Whether as a national defense specialist, Section Head, or, ultimately, as Deputy Assistant Director, Dr. Bruner's high professional

standards ensured that Congress received timely and authoritative policy analysis of the highest order. When he assumed a leadership role at CRS, he focused his efforts on helping to build a world-class team of managers, analysts, and support staff designed to support the rapidly evolving needs of Congress. No matter how demanding his day-to-day schedule, he always found time to be a mentor, counselor and friend to others, whether it was to CRS staff, new congressional staffers, or newly-elected Members of Congress. His ability to frame policy issues and organize research efforts for complex and multi-faceted policy challenges, combined with his deft personal touch, inspired the respect and loyalty of the entire Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division team.

Dr. Edward Bruner leaves behind him not only a distinguished public service career but a legacy of leadership and mentorship that will have a lasting impact on CRS. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest gratitude and appreciation to him for his 50 years of service to our nation.

IN CELEBRATION OF 20 YEARS OF  
TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN  
THE UNITED STATES AND VIETNAM

**HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2014*

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, as a Vietnam veteran, I rise today to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Trade Relations between the United States and Vietnam.

On February 3, 1994, President Bill Clinton lifted the U.S. trade embargo against Vietnam and ushered in a new era of U.S.-Vietnam relations, which led to the establishment of full diplomatic relations in 1995. These achievements were made possible by the support of Senator JOHN McCAIN, then Senator John Kerry, and many other distinguished Americans.

Today, U.S.-Vietnam relations are deeper and more diverse. In November 2000, President Clinton became the first U.S. President to visit Vietnam since President Nixon's 1969 trip to South Vietnam during the Vietnam War.

On July 25, 2013, President Truong Tan Sang's visit to the United States became only the second by a Vietnamese head of state since the “normalization” in 1995. I was honored to host President Sang on July 24, 2013 in Room S-115 of the U.S. Capitol at an event held one day prior to his visit with President Barack Obama at the White House.

U.S. Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID provided the venue for this historic meeting which included a select, bipartisan group of five U.S. Senators and five Members of the U.S. House of Representatives. In an open and frank conversation with President Sang, we discussed trade, security, the East Sea, human rights, religious freedom, Agent Orange, Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations, and many other topics of interest and concern. President Sang and U.S. lawmakers expressed a deep commitment to strengthening our bilateral relations, and I was personally impressed by President Sang's extraordinary vision and leadership. President Sang

serves Vietnam with distinction, and I thank him for all he has done to advance the U.S.-Vietnam relationship, a relationship which is based on mutual trust and understanding.

During my visit to Hanoi in December 2012, I also had the privilege of meeting with Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung and, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of trade relations between the U.S. and Vietnam, I wish to praise him for the remarkable service he renders. His leadership has led to improved relations between our two countries, and I acknowledge his significant contributions.

I also acknowledge the contributions of Madam Tong Thi Phong, Vice-Chair of the National Assembly, who I met again in December 2012 while in Hanoi. Madam Phong is an exceptional leader and one of only two female members of Vietnam's Politburo. I commend Madam Phong for the significant contributions she has made to her country and ours. Her work is of great consequence.

I also recognize Vietnam's Politburo which is comprised of 16 members who are actively engaged in promoting cooperation between the United States and Vietnam. The Politburo's past and present contributions to the bilateral relationship are the reason we are celebrating 20 years of trade relations between our two countries.

Having served in Vietnam during the War and having since visited Vietnam on several occasions in my official capacity both as Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, I have seen Vietnam in many ways. I stand as a witness to the beauty, progress, goodness and strength of the U.S.-Vietnam Comprehensive Partnership.

I have worked side-by-side with many of Vietnam's Ambassadors to the United States and have acknowledged their work accordingly. But, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of trade relations between our two countries, I pay special tribute to His Excellency Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong who I consider to be a colleague, a friend, and a brother.

Ambassador Cuong represents the government and people of Vietnam with full integrity and unwavering commitment. In recognition of his tireless efforts in building a forward-looking relationship between our two countries and, in special consideration of our abiding friendship, I enter his name in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to stand as a testament of our work together.

I am thankful for the twists and turns of life that have led me back and forth to Vietnam. I returned to Vietnam after 40 years and, at a dinner hosted by the National Assembly of Vietnam, I had long discussions with my counterparts who had also served in the Vietnam War. Although we were once enemies, we embraced each other as friends who share the same hopes and dreams for our families, friends and nations. We recognized that the broken times of Friday are behind us. Sunday has come. Peace is here.

And so, I applaud former President Bill Clinton, President George W. Bush, President Barack Obama, former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Senator JOHN MCCAIN, former Senator and now U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, members of the House and Senate and, on Vietnam's part, President Sang, Prime Minister Dung, the Politburo, and the National Assembly for building a path of peace and

prosperity. I especially honor those who have gone before us, because nothing we accomplish is possible without the perseverance of those who went first. I also acknowledge the contributions of those unnamed who have contributed in small and great ways to make this day possible.

The U.S.-Vietnam partnership is stronger than it has ever been, and I would be remiss if I did not attribute much of the strength of our partnership to the veterans from both sides who have brought about change. While we should not rest until the United States fully addresses and rectifies the Agent Orange issue, I am pleased for now that both governments and our people are about the business of deepening U.S.-Vietnam ties. I am proud to be part of this historic undertaking. I am proud to be a friend of Vietnam and, without doubt, I believe the best is yet to come.

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HONORING THE OHIO STATE  
UNIVERSITY MARCHING BAND

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2014*

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of The Ohio State University Marching Band. Their outstanding innovation and halftime shows were recently featured in a national commercial for the Apple iPad that aired during the Super Bowl.

Since being founded in 1878, the all-brass and percussion Marching Band at Ohio State has led the way by creating new techniques and utilizing innovative technologies. Their iconic Script Ohio has in recent years been joined by animated formations that seem to float across the field.

Recently the Band gained more national prominence as their performances have garnered a lot of attention on YouTube. The Band's halftime show on October 6, 2012, celebrated many popular video games including Super Mario Bros., Tetris, and The Legend of Zelda, and has received over 16 million views.

For the 2013 season, the Band began using iPads to learn formations more quickly and more effectively, while saving money and paper. Seniors Ryan Barta and Charlie King deserve recognition for the idea, while the Band's director, Jon Waters, deserves credit for embracing it. The project would not have been possible without support from Ohio State's Digital First Impact Grant and its Office of Energy and the Environment. As a result, the 2013 season saw many halftime shows grab national headlines, with tributes to Hollywood and Michael Jackson receiving over 16 million and almost 10 million views respectively. Their use of cutting-edge technology while honoring the Band's traditions has made it a well-respected part of Buckeye Nation.

As an alumnus of the band, I am proud to extend heartfelt congratulations to all those who have helped The Ohio State University's Marching Band—The Best Damn Band in the Land—continue to be such a complete and resounding success!

IN RECOGNITION OF BRIDGEWATER INTERIORS ON ITS DESIGNATION AS THE 2013 MINORITY MANUFACTURER OF THE YEAR BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2014*

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the executive team and employees of Bridgewater Interiors, LLC on their company's distinction as the 2013 Minority Manufacturer of the Year by the Minority Business Development Agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The Greater Detroit region has a rich history of innovation and is a community that is made strong through the diversity of its residents. Launched in 1998, as a joint venture between Detroit-based Epsilon Technologies, LLC and Johnson Controls, Inc., Bridgewater Interiors is a modern embodiment of these legacies. From its local beginnings, the management team and employees of Bridgewater Interiors embarked on a commitment to deliver high quality products that range from automotive seating systems to overhead systems and center consoles. As a testament to its success, Bridgewater Interiors has grown into a national Tier 1 supplier to the Big Three with over 1,500 employees at four sites across the country.

Bridgewater Interiors prides itself on being a goal-oriented organization that promotes and recognizes the dedication of its employees. To promote high morale amongst its employees, Bridgewater's leadership team has created a work environment that is responsive to employee concerns, creates an open-door policy for access to senior management and that strives to recognize employees for their contributions to their organization's success. In support of its commitment to the ongoing training of its workforce, Bridgewater Interiors provides its employees with a tuition reimbursement program for college studies. Given these commitments to product quality and its employees, it is little wonder that Bridgewater Interiors has been named one of Metropolitan Detroit's 101 Best and Brightest Companies to Work for by the 101 Best and Brightest organization.

As the leader of a certified Minority Business Enterprise, Bridgewater Interiors' President and CEO, Ron Hall, Sr. has been committed to supporting diversity both within his company and the manufacturing industry. As a result of his commitment to the principles of diversity, Mr. Hall effectively leveraged his leadership at Bridgewater Interiors to hone the organization and mission of the Michigan Minority Supplier Development Council—now one of the premier minority business organizations in the country. In addition to his work within the manufacturing industry, Mr. Hall serves as the Vice President of Minority Business Development at New Detroit, Inc., the nation's first urban coalition, as well as taking a leading role at other local organizations, including the American Diabetes Association of Michigan, Southeastern Michigan Junior Achievement and St. John's Hospital of Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent some of the brightest and most innovative individuals and companies in our nation—individuals like Ron Hall, Sr., his leadership team and the employees of Bridgewater Interiors. I congratulate Mr. Hall and the employees of Bridgewater Interiors on their recognition as the 2013 Minority Manufacturer of the Year and I look forward to their continued success as we build the future of the American manufacturing industry.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM  
OVERSTREET, JR.

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2014*

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and Representatives ROBERT HURT and MORGAN GRIFFITH, I submit these remarks in honor of the remarkable life of William Overstreet, Jr. and his dedicated service to the United States of America.

Mr. Overstreet, a native of Clifton Forge, VA and a longtime resident of Roanoke, VA, was a veteran of World War II. He served as a Captain in the U.S. Army Air Force with the 357th Fighter Group. He flew more than 100 missions in Europe. While on a mission in 1944, Mr. Overstreet's flight turned into a moment that will forever be captured in history. In pursuit of a German aircraft, Mr. Overstreet flew his plane beneath the arches of the Eiffel Tower in Nazi-occupied Paris, shooting down the enemy plane. His actions were a source of great encouragement and motivation for the French people and French Resistance troops on the ground.

Mr. Overstreet received numerous honors for his actions, including France's Legion of Honor in 2009 from the French ambassador to the United States at the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, VA. When presenting the medal, the French ambassador lauded the actions of Mr. Overstreet and the role he played in the liberation of France.

Mr. Overstreet passed away on December 29, 2013 at the age of 92. To many in the Roanoke community, he was known as a selfless man who was dedicated to serving others. For those who knew Mr. Overstreet, it was certainly a well-deserved honor.

His heroic actions in the face of the enemy have inspired many and will live on in stories told of "The Greatest Generation" of Americans who fought to preserve the principles we hold dear. As we remember the life of Mr. Overstreet and his valiant flight, it is a reminder that we must always pay tribute to our veterans and active military who have made tremendous sacrifices to ensure that the United States of America remains a country where liberty and freedom prevail.

RECOGNIZING THE SOUTH LAKE  
PRESS ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF PUBLICATION

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2014*

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the South Lake Press on its 100th anniversary of publication.

The South Lake Press was founded in 1913 by Mr. W.E. Rorabaugh as the Clermont Clarion. In 1921, Mr. John Lochner purchased the Clarion and renamed it the South Lake Press to reflect its news coverage of south Lake County. Through changes in ownership and a quickly evolving community, the publication has remained an integral piece of life in Lake County.

George and Ann Dupee bought the paper in 1968, and, after George passed away in 1986, Ann continued to lead its publication until 1992. A passionate journalist and photographer, Ann actively reported on local government, businesses, and the community at large. Ann's dedication to the news is apparent in her extensive work throughout south Lake County. To this day, she continues to write a weekly column showcasing the South Lake Press' rich history in Central Florida.

It is with sincere appreciation that I thank my friend Ann Dupee for her commitment to our community and the South Lake Press for a century of service to south Lake County.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE CIVIL  
WAR DEFENSES OF WASHINGTON  
NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK  
ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2014*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, as we commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, my colleagues Representatives DONNA EDWARDS, JIM MORAN and FRANK WOLF join me to introduce a bill to recognize and preserve the Civil War Defenses of Washington located in the District of Columbia, Virginia and Maryland. The defenses of Washington, including forts, unarmed batteries and rifle trenches, created a ring of protection for the nation's capital during the Civil War. This bill would redesignate the 22 Civil War Defenses of Washington currently under National Park Service jurisdiction as a national historical park, and allow other sites associated with the Civil War Defenses of Washington that are owned by a unit of local government in Maryland, Virginia, or the District of Columbia to be affiliated with the national historic park through cooperative agreements. This bill would also require the Secretary of the Interior to facilitate the storied history of the Civil War for both the North and the South, including the history of the defenses of Washington and the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864, being assembled, arrayed and conveyed for the benefit of the public for the knowledge, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.

The Civil War Defenses of Washington were constructed at the beginning of the war, in

1861, as a ring of protection for the nation's capital and for President Abraham Lincoln. By the end of the war, these defenses included 68 forts, 93 unarmed batteries, 807 mounted cannons, 13 miles of rifle trenches, and 32 miles of military roads. The major test of the Civil War Defenses of Washington came with the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864, when Confederate Lieutenant General Jubal Early, directed by General Robert E. Lee, sought to attack the nation's capital from the north, causing Union Forces threatening to attack Richmond, the capital of the Confederacy, to be withdrawn. General Early was delayed by Union Major General Lew Wallace at the Battle of Monocacy on July 9, 1864, and was stopped at the northern edge of Washington at the Battle of Fort Stevens on July 11–12, 1864. The Shenandoah Valley Campaign ended when Union Lieutenant General Philip Sheridan defeated General Early at the Battle of Cedar Creek, Virginia, on October 19, 1864.

Nearly all the individual forts in the Civil Defenses of Washington—on both sides of the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers—were involved in stopping General Early's attack, and the Battle of Fort Stevens was the second and last attempt by the Confederate Army to attack Washington.

Taken together, these battles were pivotal to the outcome of the war and the freedom and democracy that the war represented for this country. It is therefore fitting that we recognize these sites by redesignating them as a national historic park as we commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF GUY  
EMANUELE JR.

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2014*

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the life and legacy of Guy Emanuele Jr., an exceptional educator and school administrator from Fremont, California. Guy passed away on January 5, 2014, at the age of 83.

Guy's long and distinguished career in education began in 1956 when he began teaching at Barnard Junior High School in Union City, California. In 1976, after 20 years of service as a teacher, school counselor, and administrator, he was hired as the superintendent of New Haven Unified School District—a position which he held until his retirement in 1998.

During his tenure as superintendent, Guy was known for bringing leadership and stability to the school district. He also oversaw the expansion of the district, including the building of several new schools and an alternative school.

Guy's commitment to students can be seen in his quote from a 2006 interview, during which Guy stated his goal was "to educate the whole man, not just in science and language, but in music and athletics. That is part of developing a positive character, a good character."

His commitment to the arts and athletics, as well as many other extra-curricular activities that promote students' academic involvement, is illustrated by James Logan High School's

marching band and forensic team earning national recognition and its sports programs winning numerous Mission Valley Athletic League titles.

After retiring in 1998, Guy was elected to two terms on the Fremont School Board. Because of his outstanding legacy of service, Union City named Guy Emanuele Jr. Elementary School in his honor.

The communities of Union City and Fremont have lost an outstanding educator, but Guy leaves his school district and community better prepared to provide an excellent education to all students.

I want to express my deepest condolences to Guy's wife, Kay Emanuele, daughters Rosalyn Reasor and Lisa Lockyer, sons Guy Emanuele III and Pete Emanuel, as well as his eight grandchildren. Guy will be dearly missed.

#### INTRODUCTION OF FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ENHANCEMENT ACT

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2014*

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, far too often, families feel constant competing pressure between home and work life. Since being signed into law in 1993 by President Clinton, the Family and Medical Leave Act has been used 100 million times by men and women across the United States to meet these dual demands. These individuals and their families have benefited from up to 12 weeks of job protected unpaid work leave to care for new children or to help a loved one or the individual recover from a serious health condition.

Today, 21 years later, federal workplace policies have not kept pace with work and family life needs. As a result, many families must unfairly prioritize work and family duties. It is time to enhance this legislation so that more families can access leave to help loved ones who need their assistance. That is why I am introducing the Family and Medical Leave Enhancement Act. This legislation will expand the Family and Medical Leave Act so that it covers businesses with 25 or more employees, from the current threshold of 50 or more employees. It also provides up to 24 hours each year of unpaid Parental Involvement and Family Wellness. This new addition allows parents and grandparents to attend to parent-teacher conferences and to take their children, grandchildren, or other family members to the doctor for regular medical or dental appointments.

We as a country must show we truly value families by investing in our workforce and implementing new policies that support working parents and grandparents. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2014*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, February 3 and Tuesday, February 4, 2014, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: "yes" on rollcall vote No. 32 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1791, as amended); "yes" on rollcall vote No. 33 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 357, as amended); "no" on rollcall vote No. 34 (on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 470); and "no" on rollcall vote No. 35 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 470).

#### DELTA DAYS AT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

### HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2014*

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the women of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated as they use their collective strength to engage in public advocacy during Delta Days in the Nation's Capital.

101 years ago, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated's 22 trailblazing Founders started an organization of college educated women devoted to sisterhood, scholarship and service.

Since 1989, women of Delta from across the country gather annually to hold their representatives accountable and stand up for the issues critical to their communities and our country. Delta Days in the Nation's Capital, a creation of the sorority's National Social Action Commission, ensures the members of the sorority are active participants in the public policy-making process.

I am proud of the legacy and expectation of activism that forms the backbone of this sorority.

I welcome my Sorors to the Nation's Capital as they work for change in their communities.

#### 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 Thursday, February 6, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's record.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

##### FEBRUARY 10

6 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Business meeting to consider S. 1856, to repeal section 403 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013, relating to an annual adjustment of retired pay for members of the Armed Forces under the age of 62.

TBA

##### FEBRUARY 11

9 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine certain nominations.

SD-226

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine current and future worldwide threats to the national security of the United States; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine prospects for Democratic reconciliation and workers' rights in Bangladesh.

SD-419

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Christopher P. Lu, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary, and Portia Y. Wu, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, both of the Department of Labor.

SD-430

10:30 a.m.

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine the budget and economic outlook for fiscal years 2014-2024.

SD-608

##### FEBRUARY 12

10 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold an oversight to examine the report of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board on Reforms to the Section 215 telephone records program and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.

SD-226

Committee on Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine bipartisan support for improving United States elections, focusing on an overview from the Presidential Commission on Election Administration.

SR-301

Special Committee on Aging

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold a joint hearing to examine the challenges and advantages of senior entrepreneurship.

SD-562

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Indian Law and Order Commission Report, focusing on a roadmap for making Native America safer.

SD-628