

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ELIZABETH ALVIDREZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Elizabeth Alvidrez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Elizabeth Alvidrez is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Elizabeth Alvidrez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Elizabeth Alvidrez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2014

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 90 I had to depart DC to fly to Georgia in order to attend the funeral for a longtime friend. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

DOMINIC SANCHEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Dominic Sanchez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Dominic Sanchez is a 12th grader at Arvada West High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Dominic Sanchez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Dominic Sanchez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the

same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

ON THE 49TH ANNIVERSARY OF "BLOODY SUNDAY" AND THE IMPORTANCE AND CONTINUING NEED FOR AN EFFECTIVE VOTING RIGHTS ACT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday marked the 49th anniversary of "Bloody Sunday." On Sunday, March 7, 1965, more than 600 civil rights demonstrators, including our beloved colleague, Congressman JOHN LEWIS of Georgia, were brutally attacked by state and local police at the Edmund Pettus Bridge as they marched from Selma to Montgomery in support of the right to vote.

"Bloody Sunday" was a watershed moment in the history of Civil Rights Movement and of our country. It crystallized for the nation the necessity of enacting a strong and effective federal law protecting the right to vote of every American.

Nearly a half century later, I rise today to address the House on the continuing need for an effective Voting Rights Act. As a senior member of the House Judiciary Committee, I strongly supported and worked for the successful reauthorization in 2006 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which proudly bears the name: Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, Coretta Scott King, Cesar E. Chavez, Barbara C. Jordan, William C. Velasquez, and Dr. Hector P. Garcia Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006.

Mr. Speaker, in signing the Voting Rights Act on August 6, 1965, President Lyndon Johnson said:

The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men.

In answering the call of history and justice, great legislator-statesmen strongly supported the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and worked across the aisle and with President Johnson to ensure its passage. Men like Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Montana), Senate Minority Leader Everett McKinley Dirksen (R-Illinois), Speaker John McCormack (D-Massachusetts), House Majority Leader Hale Boggs (D-Louisiana), House Judiciary Committee Chairman Emanuel Celler (D-New York), and House Minority Leader and former President Gerald Ford (R-Michigan).

Mr. Speaker, since its passage in 1965, and through four reauthorizations signed by Republican presidents (1970, 1975, 1982, 2006), more Americans, especially those in the communities we represent, have been empowered by the Voting Rights Act than any other single piece of legislation.

Section 5 of the Act requires covered jurisdictions to submit proposed changes to any voting law or procedure to the Department of Justice or the U.S. District Court in Washington, DC for pre-approval, hence the term "pre-clearance." Under Section 5, the submitting jurisdiction has the burden of proving that the proposed change(s) are not retrogressive, i.e. that they do not have the purpose and will not have the effect of denying or abridging the right to vote on account of race or color.

In announcing his support for the 1982 extension of the Voting Rights Act, President Reagan said, "the right to vote is the crown jewel of American liberties." And Section 5 is the "crown jewel" of the Voting Rights Act.

But a terrible blow was dealt to the Voting Rights Act on June 25, 2013, when the Supreme Court handed down the decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, 570 U.S. 193 (2013), which invalidated Section 4(b), the provision of the law determining which jurisdictions would be subject to Section 5 "pre-clearance."

In 2006, the City of Calera, Alabama, which lies within Shelby County, enacted a discriminatory redistricting plan without complying with Section 5, leading to the loss of the city's sole African-American councilman, Ernest Montgomery. In compliance with Section 5, however, Calera was required to draw a non-discriminatory redistricting plan and conduct another election in which Mr. Montgomery regained his seat.

According to the Supreme Court majority, the reason for striking down Section 4(b) was that "times have changed." Now, the Court was right; times have changed. But what the Court did not fully appreciate is that the positive changes it cited are due almost entirely to the existence and vigorous enforcement of the Voting Rights Act. And that is why the Voting Rights Act is still needed.

Let me put it this way: in the same way that the vaccine invented by Dr. Jonas Salk in 1953 eradicated the crippling effects but did not eliminate the cause of polio, the Voting Rights Act succeeded in stymying the practices that resulted in the wholesale disenfranchisement of African Americans and language minorities. But it did not eliminate them entirely. The Voting Rights Act is needed as much today to prevent another epidemic of voting disenfranchisement as Dr. Salk's vaccine is still needed to prevent another polio epidemic.

Many of us remember what it was like before the Voting Rights Act but for those too young to have lived through it, let us take a stroll down memory lane. Before the Voting Rights Act was passed in 1965, the right to vote did not exist in practice for most African Americans. And until 1975, most American citizens who were not proficient in English faced significant obstacles to voting, because they could not understand the ballot.

Even though the Indian Citizenship Act gave Native Americans the right to vote in 1924, state law determined who could actually vote, which effectively excluded many Native Americans from political participation for decades.

● 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.

Asian Americans and Asian immigrants also suffered systematic exclusion from the political process.

In 1964, the year before the Voting Rights Act became law, there were approximately 300 African-Americans in public office, including just three in Congress. Few, if any, black elected officials were elected anywhere in the South. Because of the Voting Rights Act, there are now more than 9,100 black elected officials, including 43 members of Congress, the largest number ever.

The Voting Rights Act opened the political process for many of the approximately 6,000 Latino public officials that have been elected and appointed nationwide, including 263 at the state or federal level, 27 of whom serve in Congress. Native Americans, Asians and others who have historically encountered harsh barriers to full political participation also have benefited greatly.

Aided by Section 5, the Voting Rights Act was successful in preventing the states with the worst and most egregious records of voter suppression and intimidation from disenfranchising minority voters. So successful was the Voting Rights Act that the Supreme Court apparently saw no harm in invalidating the provision that subjected those states to the federal supervision responsible for the success it celebrated.

Now to be sure, the Supreme Court did not invalidate the preclearance provisions of Section 5; it only invalidated Section 4(b). But that is like leaving the car undamaged but destroying the key that unlocks the doors and starts the engine.

According to the Court, the coverage formula in Section 4(b) had to be struck down because the data upon which it was based—registration rates and turn-out gaps—was too old and outdated. Like many others, I disagreed. I thought the Court got it wrong and said so in an op-ed published in the Forward Times of Houston, in which I wrote:

The Court majority confuses the symptom with the cause. Congress' focus was not on voter registration or turnout rates. Congress instead was focused on eliminating the causes or at least eradicating the effects of racial discrimination in voting in states that had a "unique history of problems with racial discrimination in voting." *Shelby*, 570

U.S. 193, (Ginsburg, J., dissenting), slip op. at 19 (June 25, 2013).

I believe Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was exactly right when she wrote in her dissent that the question in 2006 was not which states were to be covered by Section 4(b) and thus subject to pre-clearance as was the case in 1965. Rather the question before Congress in 2006:

Was there still a sufficient basis to support continued application of the preclearance remedy in each of those already-identified places?

There were many commentators, pundits, and opponents of the Voting Rights Act who viewed the Court's *Shelby* decision as the death knell of the Act.

But they underestimated the resolve of men and women of good will across the country who revere the Voting Rights Act. They underestimated the determination of my colleagues in the House and Senate, on both sides of the aisle.

They discounted the commitment of persons like: Republican JAMES SENSENBRENNER and Democrat JOHN CONYERS, each a former Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee; Congressman JOHN LEWIS, who shed his blood on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama on "Bloody Sunday"; Northern members of Congress like Democratic Whip STENY HOYER, Republicans STEVE CHABOT of Ohio and SEAN DUFFY of Wisconsin; and Southern members like SPENCER BACHUS of Alabama, ROBERT "BOBBY" SCOTT of Virginia and SHEILA JACKSON LEE of Texas.

These members, joined by several of their colleagues, refused to let the Voting Rights Act die. They recognized and understood that for all the progress this nation has made in becoming a more inclusive, equitable, and pluralistic society, it is the Voting Rights Act "that has brought us thus far along the way." And so we went to work. You know the saying: "Don't cry about it, be about it." And so we were.

Led by Congressman JIM CLYBURN of South Carolina, I was honored to be a member of the working group tasked with sharing ideas, making recommendations, and crafting and drafting the legislation that would repair the damage done to the Voting Rights Act by the

Supreme Court decision and capable of winning majorities in the House and Senate and the signature of the President. After months of hard work, consultation, negotiation, and collaboration, we were able to produce a bill, H.R. 3899, "Voting Rights Amendments Act of 2014," that can achieve these goals.

To be sure, this legislation is not perfect, no bill ever is. But—and this is important—the bill represents an important step forward because it is responsive to the concern expressed by the Supreme Court and establishes a new coverage formula that is carefully tailored but sufficiently potent to protect the voting rights of all Americans.

First, H.R. 3899 specifies a new coverage formula that is based on current problems in voting and therefore directly responds to the Court's concern that the previous formula was outdated. The importance of this feature is hard to overestimate. Legislators and litigators understand that the likelihood of the Court upholding an amended statute that fails to correct the provision previously found to be defective is very low indeed.

H.R. 3899 replaces the old "static" coverage formula with a new dynamic coverage formula, or "rolling trigger," which works as follows:

1. for states, it requires at least one finding of discrimination at the state level and at least four adverse findings by its sub-jurisdictions within the previous 15 years;
2. for political subdivisions, it requires at least three adverse findings within the previous 15 years; but
3. political subdivisions with "persistent and extremely low minority voter turnout" can also be covered if they have a single adverse finding of discrimination.

The "rolling trigger" mechanism effectively gives the legislation nationwide reach because any state and any jurisdiction in any state potentially is subject to being covered if the requisite number of violations are found to have been committed.

Prior to *Shelby County v. Holder*, the Voting Rights Act covered 16 states in whole or in part, including most of the states in the Deep South. Those states originally covered in whole were:

Original States Covered	Applicable Date	Fed. Register	Date
Alabama	Nov. 1, 1964	30 FR 9897	Aug. 7, 1965
Georgia	Nov. 1, 1964	30 FR 9897	Aug. 7, 1965
Louisiana	Nov. 1, 1964	30 FR 9897	Aug. 7, 1965
Mississippi	Nov. 1, 1964	30 FR 9897	Aug. 7, 1965
South Carolina	Nov. 1, 1964	30 FR 9897	Aug. 7, 1965
Virginia	Nov. 1, 1964	30 FR 9897	Aug. 7, 1965
Arizona	Nov. 1, 1972	40 FR 43746	Sept. 23, 1975
Texas	Nov. 1, 1972	40 FR 43746	Sept. 23, 1975
Alaska	Nov. 1, 1972	40 FR 49422	Oct. 22, 1975

The rolling trigger contained in H.R. 3899, however, does not cover all of these states. To compensate for the fact that fewer jurisdictions are covered, the bill also includes several key provisions that are consistent with the needs created by a narrower Section 5 trigger.

For example, H.R. 3899:

1. Expands judicial "bail-in" authority under Section 3 so that it applies to voting changes that result in discrimination (not just intentional discrimination);
2. Requires nationwide transparency of "late breaking" voting changes; allocation of poll place resources; and changes within the boundaries of voting districts;

3. Clarifies and expands the ability of plaintiffs to seek a preliminary injunction against voting discrimination; and

4. Clarifies and expands the Attorney General's authority to send election observers to protect against voting discrimination.

The right to vote, free from discrimination, is the capstone of full citizenship conferred by the Civil War Amendments. And it is a source of eternal pride to me that in pursuit of extending the full measure of citizenship to all Americans that in 1975, Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, who also represented the historic 18th Congressional District of Texas, introduced, and the Congress adopted, what are now Sections 4(f)(3) and 4(f)(4) of the Voting Rights

Act, which extended the protections of Section 4

(a) and Section 5 to language minorities. Language minorities in emerging communities have distinct and particular interests that ought to be considered.

"Emerging communities" are those located in states such as Alabama, Arkansas, Tennessee, and South Carolina that historically were not home to large numbers of Hispanics or Asian-Pacific Americans but have in recent years experienced tremendous population growth which is expected to accelerate. The concern is that as these Hispanic and Asian-Pacific voters in these areas become more numerous in these states and capable of having

a tangible influence on electoral outcomes, some communities may respond by adopting measures that violate principles of fair and equal treatment.

Such measures may include:

1. Changes from single-member to at-large election districts;
2. Changes to jurisdictional boundaries through annexation; or
3. Changes to multilingual voting materials requirements.

I think we can all agree that language minorities and those residing in emerging communities deserve protection from any such retaliatory election changes. The question is how this can best be achieved consistent with the overriding goal of bringing to the floor a bill that can pass both houses of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is no ordinary piece of legislation. For millions of Americans, and many of us in Congress, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is sacred treasure, earned by the sweat and toil and tears and blood of ordinary Americans who showed the world it was possible to accomplish extraordinary things. In 2006, during the floor debate on the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act, I said:

With our vote today on H.R. 9, each of us will earn a place in history.

Therefore, the question before the House is whether our vote on the Voting Rights Act will mark this moment in history as a “day of infamy,” in FDR’s immortal words, or will commend us to and through future generations as the great defenders of the right to vote, the most precious of rights because it is preservative of all other rights.

For my part, I stand with Fannie Lou Hamer and Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King, great Americans who gave all and risked all to help America live up to the promise of its creed.

I will vote to reauthorize the Voting Rights Act for the next 25 years.

I am as committed to the preservation of the Voting Rights Act today as I was then and will not rest until the job is done. As I stated during the historic 2006 debate:

I stand today an heir of the Civil Rights Movement, a beneficiary of the Voting Rights Act. I would be breaking faith with those who risked all and gave all to secure for my generation the right to vote if I did not do all I can to strengthen the Voting Rights Act so that it will forever keep open doors that shut out so many for so long.

This is why I intend to work with my colleagues and others as H.R. 3899 works its way forward and to do all I can to protect the voting rights of all Americans.

DIANA ARANDA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Diana Aranda for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Diana Aranda is a 12th grader at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Diana Aranda is exemplary of the type of achieve-

ment that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Diana Aranda for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALEXANDRIA TRANSIT COMPANY AND DASH BUS SYSTEM

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the honoring of the 30th anniversary of the Alexandria Transit Company’s (ATC) and the initiation of the city’s DASH bus system.

Mayor Charles “Chuck” Beatley was the champion and father of DASH, and had a vision over 30 years ago of a bus system that would serve the local transit needs of the community and provide high quality transit service to the residents, workers, and visitors of the City of Alexandria. The ATC Chairman of 22 years, Mr. William “Bill” B. Hurd shared the Mayor’s vision and helped to create the organization that became so successful under his leadership; and who fostered a back-to-basics approach of operating safe and reliable service with clean buses and friendly and courteous drivers.

The DASH transit plays a vital role in the city of Alexandria by providing clean, safe, affordable, and reliable transportation service every day to thousands of commuters, city residents, workers, and visitors. The total ridership over the past 30 years has increased by over 360%, with a total annual ridership of over four million, an average of 14,500 passengers riding DASH every weekday and 12,000 passengers riding on the weekends; and expanded service from 582,000 miles in the first full year of service to over 1.6 million miles today.

I am pleased to say that DASH contributes to the quality of life and preserving the livability of Alexandria by mitigating traffic impacts, improving circulation and mobility throughout the city, and providing easier access to local businesses, retail and employment centers, residential developments, and to the regional Metrorail and the Virginia Railway Express commuter rail systems. Over the past four years, DASH has been purchasing environmentally friendly and low-floor hybrid electric buses and trolleys, which have provided great benefits including: reduced air pollutant emissions, reduced fuel consumption, increased transmission and brake life, and reduced engine noise, while improving accessibility and dwell times, and providing a smoother ride overall.

Metro Magazine named DASH one of the “10 Great Transit Systems to Work For,” and the Alexandria Commission for Women recognized the DASH General Manager, Sandy Modell, with the Salute to Women Leadership in Business and Career Development Award.

On behalf of the residents of the 8th Congressional District of Virginia, I congratulate the entire DASH bus system, its employees, and the Board of Directors, for their efforts and significant contributions to the Alexandria community to improve mobility and accessibility throughout the city, and for their achievements that have been recognized both nationally and by the Commonwealth of Virginia, in providing the highest quality of transit service to Alexandria residents, workers, and visitors, and in helping to make Alexandria a truly Livable, Green, and Prospering City.

DANIA HERNANDEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Dania Hernandez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Dania Hernandez is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Dania Hernandez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Dania Hernandez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2014

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, due to a meeting with members of the House Armed Services Committee, I missed one recorded vote on March 6. I would like to indicate at this point how I would have voted had I been present for that vote.

On rollcall No. 110, agreeing to the amendment offered by Mr. NADLER of New York to exempt from the bill any construction project for a nuclear facility planned in an area designated as an earthquake fault zone, I would have voted “aye.”

EDGAR HERNANDEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Edgar Hernandez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Edgar Hernandez is a 12th grader at Jefferson High

School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Edgar Hernandez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Edgar Hernandez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2014

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 69, I had to depart DC to fly to Georgia in order to attend the visitation of a funeral for a longtime friend. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

COZBI ESCOBAR

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Cozbi Escobar for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Cozbi Escobar is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Cozbi Escobar is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Cozbi Escobar for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING WHITICAR BOAT WORKS FOR THE 50-YEAR CELEBRATION OF THE "ELEGANTE"

HON. PATRICK MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2014

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Whiticar Boat Works on the occasion of the 50-year celebration of their 1961 Motor Yacht *Elegante*, built in the same location that this family-run business still resides at in Stuart, Florida. Founded in 1947 by Curt Whiticar, who just celebrated his 103rd birthday last month, this renowned business has expanded but still remains family-run by Curt's son John Whiticar, and nephew Jim Dragseth.

Fifty years ago, Whiticar built the *Elegante* on the very location where they now celebrate the motor yacht's anniversary. Originally called *Aphrodite*, the yacht was built for Fishers Island, New York resident John Hay "Jock" Whitney, a U.S. Ambassador to the United Kingdom and publisher of the New York Herald Tribune. For many years, Jack Whiticar, a brother of the company's founder, served as the captain of the yacht for Mr. Whitney. The yacht, now known as the *Elegante*, is currently owned by Pat and Bill Anton and remains the sole motor yacht ever produced by Whiticar Boat Works.

I am extremely proud of Whiticar for the great work they have done for so many years on the Treasure Coast. From its founding over 66 years ago to the present day, Whiticar has demonstrated a commitment to excellence in serving the boating community and producing excellent custom sport fishing boats. Passed from fathers to sons, Whiticar is a testament to hard work and dedication, a reminder of the important role family-owned businesses play in strengthening our economy. But not only has Whiticar Boat Works contributed greatly to our local economy and boating industry, but has played an integral role in our community, supporting coastal cleanups and efforts to clean our local waterways, encouraging boating safety, and benefiting local organizations such as the Boys & Girls Club. We are so very lucky to have Whiticar as part of our Martin County community.

Mr. Speaker, I again congratulate Mr. Whiticar and Whiticar Boat Works for the 50-year celebration of the *Elegante*, and I am honored to recognize the work they have done over these many years. I am proud that such a terrific organization has made its home in my district, and I wish them continued success and many more milestones to celebrate.

CASSIDY OSBORNE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Cassidy Osborne for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Cassidy Osborne is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Cassidy Osborne is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Cassidy Osborne for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS, PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICE, AND COURT SERVICES AND OFFENDER SUPERVISION AGENCY ACT OF 2014

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce an important bill for the administration of justice in the District of Columbia. The bill would make minor, technical changes to the authorities of the District of Columbia Courts (Courts), the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia (PDS) and the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia (CSOSA), placing these entities in the same position as their federal counterparts for more effective management and operation.

This bill would allow the Courts to collect debts owed to it by its employees (e.g., debts from loss or damage to property, improper credit card payments, erroneous payments to employees). The Executive Officer of the Courts would have to provide employees with at least 30 days' written notice regarding the debt collection, and employees would have the right to a hearing conducted by an independent officer. The bill would also give the Courts the authority to purchase uniforms to ensure the safety of its building engineers, facilities maintenance workers and mail personnel. These service employees must regularly access buildings run by the Courts at all hours. The increase in the number of security incidents in courthouses throughout the country and the location of the Courts in the nation's capital require visual security and uniformity of staff to help ensure that unauthorized persons do not enter secure areas.

The bill would expressly allow PDS to accept and use public grants, voluntary and uncompensated services, such as unpaid law clerks and interns, and private contributions made to advance PDS's work. It would also allow PDS board members to be treated as PDS employees for purposes of liability. Apparently, a drafting oversight in the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997 makes PDS's volunteer board of trustees District of Columbia employees for purposes of any action brought against board members. This bill would rectify this oversight.

Finally, the bill would allow CSOSA to develop and implement incentive-based programming to accompany its current sanction policies. Combining both sanctions and incentives has been proven to be more effective in improving compliance with supervision. The bill also would authorize CSOSA to solicit, receive and use gifts for the purpose of advancing its work, and would require the Director to keep detailed records on the use of CSOSA's gift authority. It would also permit the Director to enter into cost-reimbursable agreements with the D.C. government for space or services provided. The D.C. government is a frequent partner of CSOSA due to its location in D.C. and CSOSA's mandate to assist in the reintegration of D.C. code offenders into society. Giving CSOSA the authority to enter into reimbursable agreements with the District is necessary to assist CSOSA in its daily work.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

DAKOTA TURNER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Dakota Turner for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Dakota Turner is a 12th grader at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Dakota Turner is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Dakota Turner for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2014

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize passage of several pieces of legislation as well as to voice strong opposition to another bill for recorded votes during the week of March 3, 2014. Unfortunately, I was not able to vote for final passage of these bills because I was out on medical leave recovering from much needed hip replacement surgery.

H.R. 3370, the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act, is poorly crafted legislation that will make an already insolvent program worse. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is currently \$24 billion in debt. This legislation will continue the federal governments failed involvement in administering flood insurance. H.R. 3370 undoes important reforms that were just passed in 2012 and were our only hope in making this terrible program sustainable. When it became clear the House did not have the votes to pass this legislation last week, the bill almost tripled in size over the weekend and came back a worse bill than even the Senate version in order to get enough Democrats to support these piece of junk. I strongly oppose this wasteful and inefficient bill.

H.R. 938, the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014, recognizes the importance of Israel as our closest ally and allows for new partnerships in relation to cyber-security, economic prosperity and defense. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this important legislation.

H.R. 4118, the Suspending the Individual Mandate Penalty Law Equals Fairness Act, is legislation that seeks to delay Obamacare's individual mandate by one year. This bill would bring parity for the American people as President Obama has twice suspended the employer mandate for businesses. Obamacare is a train wreck. The President should not selec-

tively choose by executive order what parts of this terrible law to enforce. If the President thinks this law is good enough for the American people then it should be good enough for his cronies and everyone else. I will continue to fight to repeal and replace Obamacare.

H.R. 2126, the Energy Efficiency Improvements Act, is a bill that will assist with increasing energy efficiency throughout commercial buildings.

H.R. 3826, the Electricity Security and Affordability Act, seeks to reinstate economic sanity to EPA proposed regulations and give Congress a role in the process. This legislation allows the EPA to propose regulations for existing American power plants, but requires Congressional approval before they can take effect. More importantly, it will prohibit the mandate for CSS technology for new power plants until it is viable and has been tested at a few select power plants around the country. This Administration has waged a war on coal and I'm proud to be a cosponsor of this critical bill that pushes back against this overreach by the EPA.

H.R. 2641, the Responsibly and Professionally Invigorating Development Act, is important legislation that streamlines the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to allow for a more timely completion of construction projects. This bill will create jobs and allow for projects that are critical to our economy to move forward.

H.R. 4152, to provide for the costs of loan guarantees for Ukraine, would add Ukraine to the list of countries eligible for loan guarantees from the state department. This legislation seeks to undermine Mr. Putin's atrocious behavior and support the Ukraine interim government. This bill does not require any new appropriations, but merely adds Ukraine to a list of nations eligible for State Department monies. I personally condemn the actions of Russia, and I am hopeful this crisis is resolved soon for the Ukrainian people.

Had I been present for these votes, I would have voted in support of these important bills with a yea vote on roll call numbers 95, 97, 98, 106, 113 and 114.

Additionally, I would have opposed the dangerous flood insurance reform bill with a nay vote on roll call number 91.

DANIEL ZHURBA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Daniel Zhurba for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Daniel Zhurba is a 12th grader at Arvada West High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Daniel Zhurba is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Daniel Zhurba for winning the Arvada Wheat

Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

COMMENDING THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE'S 'SMART ON CRIME INITIATIVE'

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, last August, at the direction of the Attorney General Eric Holder, the Justice Department launched the "Smart on Crime" initiative, a set of internal policies and reforms to ensure federal laws are enforced more fairly and efficiently. These reforms are consistent with the President's constitutional obligation to take care that the laws are faithfully executed.

One of the smart reforms is a modification in the department's charging policies so that certain low-level, nonviolent drug defendants, with no significant ties to large-scale organizations, gangs, or cartels, will no longer be charged with offenses triggering mandatory minimum sentences. Instead, they will be charged with offenses that allow judges to impose sentences appropriate to their conduct.

The "Smart on Crime" initiative is an exciting development that should be welcomed and supported by everyone because the status quo simply was not making the criminal justice system better, it was creating more problems than it solved. And we are spending more than \$6.5 billion annually to incarcerate inmates, money that could be better used to fund job training, and educational opportunities, invest in infrastructure, support veterans, and promote reentry programs to reduce recidivism.

Thirty years ago, there were less than 30,000 inmates in the federal system; today, there are nearly 216,000, an increase of 800 percent. The United States incarcerates nearly 25 percent of the world's inmates, even though it only has 5 percent of the world's population. No other country imprisons a larger percentage of its population than the United States or spends anywhere near the amount we do to incarcerate our citizens.

The cost of imprisoning so many non-violent offenders is fiscally unsustainable and morally unjustifiable and it will take the combined efforts of policy makers, reform advocates, legal professionals, and private citizens to solve the problem.

There is no shortage of stories chronicling the damage done to the lives of thousands of individuals and their families by the draconian sentencing laws passed by Congress and state legislatures beginning in the late 1980s in the so-called "War on Drugs." Few are as tragic as the story of Clarence Aaron, who grew up in a public housing project in Mobile, Alabama.

In 1992, shortly after his grandfather's death, Clarence made a mistake that would change his life. He agreed to introduce an old high school football teammate to a college classmate whose brother was a drug dealer. Clarence was present during one of the brother's drug transactions and during another attempted transaction for which he received \$1,500.

Clarence was later arrested by federal law enforcement officers and charged with conspiring to process 20 kilograms of powder cocaine and distribute it as crack cocaine. Even though this was his first offense, Clarence was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Shocking as this sounds, the judge was powerless to adjust the punishment to fit the crime because he was required by law to impose the sentence called for by the then-mandatory federal sentencing guidelines.

It would be comforting to think that the case of Clarence Aaron is an aberration, a rare miscarriage of justice in a system that otherwise works well for all Americans. It would be comforting but it would also be wrong.

The sad fact is that for thousands of inmates in the federal penal system, especially African Americans and Hispanics, the case of Clarence Aaron is not the exception but the rule. As recently as 2010, more than half of all inmates in the federal system (52%) were incarcerated for drug offenses, a rate more than three times as great (17%) as found in the state penal system.

And the racial and ethnic composition of federal inmates incarcerated for drug offenses is equally troubling story because while whites and African Americans use drugs at similar rates, African Americans are much more likely to be arrested and sentenced for drug offenses. Indeed, African Americans and Hispanics comprise more than 6 in 10 federal inmates incarcerated for drug offenses.

Moreover, according to the U.S. Sentencing Commission African American offenders receive sentences that are 10 percent longer than white offenders for the same crimes and, according to a report by the Sentencing Project, African Americans are 21 percent more likely to receive mandatory-minimum sentences than white defendants.

Many persons concerned about the fair administration of justice were alerted to and alarmed by the danger posed by the imposition of mandatory-minimum sentences for non-violent drug offenses and worked to restore balance and justice to sentencing policy.

In 2005, I introduced the "No More Tulias Act of 2005" (H.R. 2620) in response to the infamous drug task force scandal in Tulia, Texas that occurred six years earlier, during which 15 percent of the town's African American population was arrested, prosecuted and sentenced to decades in prison based on the uncorroborated testimony of a federally funded undercover officer with a record of racial impropriety.

This legislation, which was endorsed by more than 50 of the leading civil rights, religious, and criminal justice reform organization was designed to help put an end to these abuses by enhancing the evidentiary standard required to convict a person for a drug offense, improving the criteria under which states hire drug task force officers, and denying federal money to states that do not have laws preventing convictions for drug offenses based solely on uncorroborated testimony.

Later, in 2007, I introduced the "Drug Sentencing Reform and Cocaine Kingpin Trafficking Act of 2007" (H.R. 4545), bipartisan legislation eliminating the unjust and discriminatory 100 to 1 disparity between crack and powder cocaine sentences in federal law. Companion legislation in the Senate was introduced by then Senator JOSEPH BIDEN of Delaware (S. 1711).

This legislation attracted widespread support because scientific research had by this time clearly refuted the myth upon which the 100 to 1 ratio was based that use of crack cocaine was far more addictive and dangerous than powder cocaine. Instead, the pharmacological effects of crack cocaine were repeatedly shown by scientific and medical experts to be no more harmful than powder cocaine and that the effect on users is the same. Since there was no pharmacological difference between the two drugs, the "Drug Sentencing Reform and Cocaine Kingpin Trafficking Act" removed the distinction in federal law between them for sentencing purposes. Similar bills to remedy the inherent unfairness in federal drug sentencing were introduced by Senators Edward M. Kennedy and ORRIN HATCH, and JEFF SESSIONS.

In 2010, after years of working to reform our drug sentencing laws, our efforts finally bore fruit when the Congress passed and President Obama signed into law the "Fair Sentencing Act of 2010" (P.L. 111-220), which finally ended the 100:1 ratio that had resulted in unconscionable racial disparities in the average length of sentences for comparable offenses. Indeed, the 100:1 regime was so draconian that it typically resulted in African Americans serving as much time in prison for non-violent drug offenses as whites did for violent offenses. The "Fair Sentencing Act" incorporated all of the key components of my "Drug Sentencing Reform and Cocaine Kingpin Trafficking Act" and is a watershed moment in the fight for fair and equitable drug sentencing policy.

But since the provisions of the "Fair Sentencing Act" are not retroactive there is still much work left to be done. The federal prison system still houses thousands of inmates sentenced under the old, unfair 100-1 ratio regime. We need to keep working for reform until all federal inmates sentenced under the old regime are afforded the opportunity to have their sentences reconsidered under the provisions of current law.

Happily, Clarence Aaron will not be one of those who still must wait. For after serving more than 20 years in federal prison, Clarence Aaron will be freed on April 17 because he was one of eight persons granted executive clemency, or a reduction in sentence, by President Obama on December 19, 2013. The power to grant a reduction in sentence is among the powers vested exclusively to, and committed to the sound discretion of, the President by the Pardon Clause (Art. II, § 2, Clause 1) of the U.S. Constitution.

President Obama's grant of executive clemency to Clarence Aaron and seven others was an act of simple justice and a welcome development. So too is the recent announcement by the Department of Justice that it intends to be more aggressive in identifying and recommending to the President additional candidates for executive clemency consideration. This is not amnesty. These inmates have been incarcerated for many years.

Applications for executive clemency that are most likely to receive favorable consideration are those submitted by non-violent, low-level drug offenders who were not leaders of, or had any significant ties to, large-scale organizations, gangs, or cartels. Petitions from first-time offenders and offenders without an extensive criminal history also may be good candidates for favorable consideration.

In light of these recent positive developments, I am optimistic that Congress can build upon the progress made to date by passing the "Federal Prison Bureau Nonviolent Offender Relief Act," (H.R. 62) that I have introduced. This legislation directs the Bureau of Prisons to release prisoners who have served one half or more of their terms of imprisonment if they have (1) attained age 45; (2) never been convicted of a crime of violence; and (3) not engaged in any violation involving violent conduct of institutional disciplinary regulations.

The benefits of such a law are two-fold. First, it will give non-violent offenders who have paid their debt a second chance to redeem their lives while they are still young enough to contribute to society. Second, it will go a long way toward reducing the \$6.5 billion that the Nation spends annually on prisoner incarceration.

Another area in which reform advocates and legal professionals can make an immediate difference is in identifying and assisting potential candidates for executive clemency and in assembling commutation petitions which effectively present the information needed by the Department of Justice and the President.

It is past time for us to get not only our fiscal house in order but the penal one as well. Increased exercise of the executive clemency power by the President is a step in the right direction.

DISA BATTAGLIA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Disa Battaglia for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Disa Battaglia is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Disa Battaglia is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Disa Battaglia for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2014

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 67 I had to depart DC to fly to Georgia in order to attend the visitation of a funeral for a longtime friend. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING DANIELLE CLARK AS THE 2015 SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA, TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mrs. Danielle Clark as the 2015 Santa Rosa County, Florida, Teacher of the Year. True educators, like Mrs. Clark, are an inspiration not only to their students but to their peers and the surrounding community, and I am proud to honor her great achievements.

Mrs. Clark graduated from the University of West Florida in 2003 earning a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. Her accomplishments in the realm of academia are evi-

denced by her induction into the Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society. She began her teaching career shortly thereafter, as a fourth grade teacher at Holley Navarre Intermediate School in Gulf Breeze, Florida, and for the past ten years, Mrs. Clark has established herself as an integral part of the Santa Rosa County School District.

Unwavering in her commitment to excellence and achievement in the classroom, Mrs. Clark has been instrumental in the implementation of cutting-edge learning techniques such as the use of iPads in the classroom, differentiated math instruction, data analysis, and a book study focusing on reading entitled "Strategies that Work." Additionally, she is a mentor for student teachers and practicum students in Santa Rosa County, while also serving in various leadership roles.

Her extensive involvement in the Santa Rosa County community is another accolade of Mrs. Clark's. From the Caring and Sharing

Food Drive to a campaign of Share the Love Santa Rosa, Mrs. Clark's philanthropy knows no bounds. She has inspired her students to do good deeds for one another ranging from giving a greeting card of appreciation to a peer to passing out cookies at Thanksgiving.

Mr. Speaker, teachers who empower their students to not only learn within the classroom, but grace the outside community with their leadership, knowledge, and benevolence, are a blessing to Northwest Florida. It is a privilege to recognize Mrs. Danielle Clark as the 2015 Santa Rosa County, Florida, Teacher of the Year. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Mrs. Clark and thanking her for her service and commitment to the students and families of the Northwest Florida community. We wish her; her husband David; and their two sons, Brandon and Garrett; all the best for continued success.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on 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, March 11, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 12

- 9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the situation in Afghanistan. SH-216
- 9:45 a.m.
Committee on Rules and Administration
To hold hearings to examine election administration, focusing on innovation, administrative improvements and cost savings. SR-301
- 10 a.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development
To hold hearings to examine Superstorm Sandy recovery, focusing on ensuring strong coordination among Federal, state, and local stakeholders. SD-538
- Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine how a fair minimum wage will help working families succeed. SD-430
- Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine management, focusing on creating a 21st century government. SD-342
- Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Cheryl Ann Krause, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, Richard Franklin Boulware II, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada, Salvador Mendoza, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington, Staci Michelle Yandle, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Illinois, and Leon Rodriguez, of Maryland, to be Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security. SD-226
- Committee on Veterans' Affairs
To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to ex-

amine the legislative presentation of the Air Force Sergeants Association, American Ex-Prisoners of War, Fleet Reserve Association, Gold Star Wives, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, Non Commissioned Officers Association, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and Wounded Warrior Project. SD-G50

- 10:30 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of Defense
To hold hearings to examine defense health programs. SD-192
- Committee on the Budget
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request and revenue proposals for fiscal year 2015. SD-608
- 2 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Homeland Security. SD-138
- Committee on Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2015 for Veterans' Programs. SR-418
- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
To hold hearings to examine military space programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program. SR-222
- Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Subcommittee on Economic Policy
To hold hearings to examine the state of United States retirement security, focusing on the middle class. SD-538
- Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine national security and foreign policy priorities in the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2015 for International Affairs. SD-419
- MARCH 13
- 9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine United States Northern Command and United States Southern Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program. SD-G50
- Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine the Food and Drug Administration's initiatives and priorities, focusing on protecting the public health. SD-430
- Committee on the Judiciary
Business meeting to consider the nominations of Gregg Jeffrey Costa, of Texas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, Tanya S. Chutkan, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, M. Hannah Lauck, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, Leo T. Sorokin, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, and John

Charles Cruden, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice. SD-226

- 9:55 a.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Business meeting to consider the nomination of L. Reginald Brothers, Jr., of Massachusetts, to be Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Science and Technology. SD-342
- 10 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine an overview of proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Transportation. SD-138
- Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Stanley Fischer, of New York, Jerome H. Powell, of Maryland, and Lael Brainard, of the District of Columbia, all to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Gustavo Velasquez Aguilar, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and J. Mark McWatters, of Texas, to be a Member of the National Credit Union Administration. SD-538
- Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine innovative ideas to strengthen and expand the middle class. SD-215
- Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Homeland Security. SD-342
- Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine tribal transportation, focusing on pathways to infrastructure and economic development in Indian country. SD-628
- 10:30 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of State and Foreign Operations. SH-216
- 11 a.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security
To hold hearings to examine the United States aviation industry and jobs, focusing on keeping American manufacturing competitive. SR-253
- 11:15 a.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine Keystone XL and the National Interest Determination. SD-419
- 2 p.m.
Select Committee on Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. SH-219

2:30 p.m.
 Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
 Subcommittee on Emergency Management, Intergovernmental Relations, and the District of Columbia
 To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2015 for the Federal Emergency Management Agency. SD-342

Joint Economic Committee
 To hold hearings to examine the Economic Report of the President 2014. LHOB-1100

MARCH 25

9:30 a.m.
 Committee on Armed Services
 To hold hearings to examine U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Forces Korea in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program. SD-G50

MARCH 26

10 a.m.
 Committee on Veterans' Affairs
 To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of The American Legion. SD-G50

2:30 p.m.
 Committee on Armed Services
 Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support
 To hold hearings to examine the the current readiness of United States forces in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program. SR-232A

MARCH 27

9:30 a.m.
 Committee on Armed Services
 To hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Navy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program. SD-G50

APRIL 1
 9:30 a.m.
 Committee on Armed Services
 To hold hearings to examine U.S. European Command and U.S. Transportation Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program. SD-G50

2:15 p.m.
 Committee on Armed Services
 Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities
 To hold hearings to examine proliferation prevention programs at the Department of Energy and at the Department of Defense in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session. SR-222

APRIL 2

9:30 a.m.
 Committee on Armed Services
 Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support
 To hold hearings to examine military construction, environmental, energy, and base closure programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program. SR-232A

APRIL 3

9:30 a.m.
 Committee on Armed Services
 To hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Army in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program. SD-G50

APRIL 10

9:30 a.m.
 Committee on Armed Services
 To hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Air Force in

review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program. SD-106

POSTPONEMENTS

MARCH 12

2:30 p.m.
 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 Business meeting to consider S. 1014, to reduce sports-related concussions in youth, S. 1406, to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, S. 1468, to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Network for Manufacturing Innovation and for other purposes, S. 2022, to establish scientific standards and protocols across forensic disciplines, S. 2028, to amend the law relating to sport fish restoration and recreational boating safety, S. 2049, to curb unfair and deceptive practices during assertion of patents, H.R. 2052, to direct the Secretary of Commerce, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, to conduct an interagency review of and report to Congress on ways to increase the global competitiveness of the United States in attracting foreign direct investment, an original bill entitled, "U.S. Merchant Marine Academy of Visitors Enhancement Act", and the nominations of Kelly R. Welsh, of Illinois, to be General Counsel of the Department of Commerce, Kathryn B. Thomson, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, David J. Arroyo, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and nominations for promotion in the United States Coast Guard. SR-253