

HONORING BRAD CUMMING

**HON. E. SCOTT RIGELL**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 12, 2014*

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Mr. Brad Cumming, a resident of Virginia Beach, Virginia, on the occasion of his retirement from the U.S. Navy's Program Executive Office for Aircraft Carriers after more than 32 years of dedicated service to the federal government.

Mr. Cumming has a long history of service to the aircraft carrier community and has emerged as one of the leaders in lifecycle engineering. His keen leadership, innovation, dedicated teamwork, and proven technical and programmatic expertise were critical to his success in ensuring that *Nimitz* Class Aircraft Carriers are ready to provide 50 years of service defending our national interests.

Mr. Cumming's current duties as the Deputy Program Manager's Representative for the Carrier Planning Activity (CPA), located at Norfolk Naval Shipyard, include oversight of the overall planning, direction and timely execution of CPA's mission to provide centralized aircraft carrier life cycle management and maintenance engineering. Prior to his joining the PEO Carriers Team, Mr. Cumming spent over 26 years with the Engineering Division at Norfolk Naval Shipyard where he progressed from a design engineer for electronics countermeasures to eventually becoming the Planning Yard Division Head.

His post retirement plans include more traveling, spending time with family, gardening and continuing to work with youth through the Young Life Ministry. Mr. Cumming currently lives with his wife Laurie in Virginia Beach.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Mr. Cumming. His long and dedicated service to the United States of America is an inspiration to all of us. It is with great pride that I congratulate Mr. Cumming on his retirement and wish him the best of luck in the future.

HONORING THE LIFE OF COACH  
DON SHOWS

**HON. VANCE M. McALLISTER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 12, 2014*

Mr. McALLISTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Coach Don Shows, who passed away on Monday, March 3, 2014 at the age of 75.

I am proud to recognize the life of such an accomplished and admirable man, worthy of high recognition. Coach Shows had the pleasure of coaching at four high schools in Louisiana, being named head coach of the West Monroe Rebels in 1989. No stranger to success, Coach Shows led his team to eight state championships during his tenure and was inducted into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame in 2011.

Amongst his list of impressive achievements, perhaps the most notable is the life he led both on and off the field, impacting the lives of not only the players he coached, but the student body as well. Many students and

players credit Coach Shows for inspiring their own achievements and success in life.

As we honor his life and legacy today, let us always remember that with dedication, hard work and sacrifice, we can achieve anything. I thank Coach Shows for displaying this valuable lesson and for the pride he has brought to the Fifth District of Louisiana. He was a tremendous leader and example to all who had the honor of knowing him and his example and leadership will remain in our hearts forever.

JILLIAN BLUE-NORTON

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 12, 2014*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jillian Blue-Norton for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jillian Blue-Norton 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 Jillian Blue-Norton 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 Jillian Blue-Norton 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.

A RECORD OF SERVICE

**HON. SCOTT H. PETERS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 12, 2014*

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Todd Gloria on his excellent service as San Diego's Interim Mayor.

When Todd stepped in as Interim Mayor, San Diegans needed a leader more than ever. Even during his short tenure, Todd was able to reenergize San Diego's government. He continued his work from his position on the City Council, building the manufacturing and technology sectors, creating more jobs for San Diegans. He also continued developing an innovative solution for San Diego's backlog of infrastructure projects. A true public servant, he has worked diligently at forward-thinking strategies to maintain San Diego as one of America's finest cities.

In addition to his service as Interim Mayor, Todd has served as City Council President since 2013. We share many priorities: ensuring the livelihood of the middle class, protecting our environment in ways that actually address climate change, and keeping infrastructure in San Diego up-to-date and functional. I admire Todd for his commitment to practical solutions and for his ability to get things done.

It came as no surprise in 2013 when he was recognized by the Aspen Institute as one of the nation's most promising young political leaders, a fellowship bestowed on him because of his commitment to sensible and bipartisan governance. I eagerly look forward to Todd's continuing service leading the City Council, and expect him to continue doing great things for San Diego.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Todd Gloria for his hard work for the City of San Diego. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Todd for his excellent service as San Diego Interim Mayor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 12, 2014*

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 64 (On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 1123) I was unavoidably detained and did not cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted, "yea."

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 938 AS  
AMENDED

**HON. MIKE KELLY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 12, 2014*

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 938, the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014.

At a time of regional turmoil and uncertainty, as Iran continues its relentless drive for a nuclear weapons capability, it is absolutely crucial that we stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Israel, our close friend and ally.

H.R. 938 strengthens this key alliance by designating Israel as a "major strategic partner" of the United States. The U.S.-Israel relationship is truly multifaceted and thus this bill expands our cooperation in military and homeland security areas as well as in the areas of trade, energy, water, and agriculture.

Passing this bill will give continued assurance to our ally Israel that the United States is no fair weather friend but is truly a friend for all seasons.

I urge support for H.R. 938.

REGARDING H.R. 938

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 12, 2014*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a cosponsor of H.R. 938, the U.S.-Israel Strategic Partnership Act. I want to thank Representatives ROS-LEHTINEN and DEUTCH for their work on this important and broadly bipartisan bill.

H.R. 938 will help strengthen the strategic partnership the U.S. shares with Israel in addition to helping Israel better meet the new security challenges it faces in the region. By enhancing cooperation between the U.S. and

Israel in such areas as intelligence, trade and energy, H.R. 938 continues our commitment to helping Israel maintain its qualitative military edge while creating opportunities for U.S. companies and educational institutions to benefit from the deepening academic and commercial ties that will arise as a result of the bill.

H.R. 938 also addresses homeland security priorities shared by our two countries by encouraging our cooperation against cyber threats and by advocating for the participation of Israel in the Visa Waiver Program—when it has fully met the requirements of membership. Permitting Israel to join the Visa Waiver Program should help reduce paperwork and make travel easier for citizens of both our countries. Membership in the program carries with it the obligation of full reciprocity. To that end, as the process moves forward, the State Department must work with Israel to ensure that all Americans are treated fairly in the program without any discrimination based on ethnicity, religion or race.

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HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT  
HARPER

**HON. VANCE M. McALLISTER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 12, 2014*

Mr. McALLISTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Robert Harper, who passed away on Tuesday, March 4, 2014, at the age of 88 at his home in West Monroe, LA.

Mr. Harper was born on August 9, 1925, in Center, TX. He was an Army Veteran and a World War II Prisoner of War. It is with great respect that I commend the service of this brave man who joined hands with countless others to fight for our great nation. We owe a debt of gratitude to all POWs and MIAs for weathering agonizing uncertainty during such trying times. We, and countless people around the world, are the beneficiaries of their courage, vigilance and bravery.

In addition to his selfless service to our country, Mr. Harper was a faithful servant to Mt. Olive Baptist Church and his family. A devoted husband, father and grandfather, he will be dearly missed by his wife, Ellen, his chil-

dren, grandchildren, friends, and community. It is my hope that today's generation of young men and women will follow the example of patriotism and dedication to freedom set by Mr. Harper.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the life of Robert Harper. He was a leader, parent, husband, friend, and example to all of us. Countless lives have been changed for the better by his brave efforts, and he will remain in our hearts forever.

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JEREMY NELSON

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 12, 2014*

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

The dedication demonstrated by Jeremy Nelson 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 Jeremy Nelson 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.

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SUSPENDING THE INDIVIDUAL  
MANDATE PENALTY LAW  
EQUALS FAIRNESS ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 5, 2014*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4118, the 50th vote to undermine the Affordable Care Act.

First, let me say, I'm concerned that many Marylanders, including my constituents, are struggling to sign up for health insurance through the state-based Marketplace due to technical issues. With open enrollment coming to a close at the end of the month, I urge the Administration, state governments, and insurance carriers to come together to assist applicants in getting eligibility determinations and enrolling in coverage as soon as possible. I appreciated the guidance provided by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) last week that would allow consumers the possibility of qualifying retroactive health insurance, tax credits and cost-sharing assistance. It's critical that CMS clarify that those individuals who take retroactive coverage will be protected from any undue penalties for the months prior to the effective date of retroactive coverage.

The bill on the floor today is not about helping Marylanders or any other Americans, but rather about dismantling the Affordable Care Act and putting health insurance further out of reach for them. I want to be clear: the requirement that individuals take responsibility for ensuring they have adequate health insurance coverage was an idea espoused by the Heritage Foundation in the late 1980s. It was carefully crafted and includes exemptions for individuals facing hardships and those who can't afford insurance. Delaying the provision for everyone for a year, according to the Congressional Budget Office, would increase the number of uninsured by one million this year and two million in 2015, and lead to higher premiums. It's obvious that delaying the provision will undermine the protections and reforms that have taken effect and will introduce more instability into market.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House leadership to put an end to these Affordable Care Act repeal votes. We want to work with you to identify parts of the law that can be improved and develop serious solutions. Unfortunately, today's bill is not one of them. I urge my colleagues to oppose it.