

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this important policy to promote wind power, which produces no harmful greenhouse gas emissions, involves no environmentally damaging natural resource extraction, and is made right here in America.

HONORING MS. PATRICIA JACKSON

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Ms. Patricia Jackson, whose energy and initiative has helped a number of people in the Philadelphia region through her corporation Alpha Security & Consulting Incorporated.

After graduating from Perdue University, Ms. Jackson began working for General Mills in Human Resources and Labor relations, where she spearheaded a minority equality reform campaign for the corporation. She soon left to join Lever Brothers Company. There she worked tirelessly in its Training and Development Department to aid women climbing the corporate ladder. Ms. Jackson couldn't stay still for too long, soon beginning work at Conrail, which brought her to Philadelphia. Soon after, the University of Pennsylvania asked her to join their staff where she was the head of the Department of Affirmative Action for the University. As CEO and founder of Alpha Security & Consulting Incorporated, she worked with local construction companies to create nearly 600 jobs. She helped in building the New High School for Creative and Performing Arts, and as a result served as chairs of both the Ridgway Library and the Performing Arts Theater. Ms. Jackson extended Alpha to create a Culinary Arts Training Program for underprivileged youth. In 2005, Ms. Jackson took a position as the Director of Immigration Reform at the National Union of American Families. She now serves on the Board of Directors for the National Historical Marian Anderson Society and is an advisory director for a number of other boards and organizations. Ms. Jackson will be honored by the Marian Anderson Historical Society on May 31, 2014.

It is a privilege to recognize a person whose leadership and initiative have aided so many in the Philadelphia region. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Ms. Jackson for her lifetime of service and dedication to Pennsylvania's First Congressional District.

HONORING THE WORK OF
GUSTAVO RAMOS, JR.

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Gustavo Ramos, Jr., who will be retiring this month from his position as Executive Director for the Housing Authority of Skagit County.

Mr. Gustavo Ramos, Jr., has dedicated a lifetime of hard work in the field of affordable housing and community development. With

more than 40 years of combined service within six different housing authorities since 1972, Gustavo has helped numerous families in Skagit County and throughout Washington State.

Gustavo's hard work and dedication to the communities, families, and housing authority of Skagit County earns him a well-deserved and honorable retirement celebration. Upon retirement, Gustavo will be returning to Nevada to be near his family and begin a new chapter in his career in economic and community development.

I would personally like to thank Gustavo for his many years of service and commitment to helping families. He has been a tremendous contributor to the Housing Authority in the Skagit County area and will be missed dearly.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MARTIN SEVERANCE CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Martin Severance Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution upon its 100th anniversary.

The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) is a historic institution, with more than 120 years of service. The NSDAR has 177,000 members across the world; they aim to preserve history and improve their communities.

The Martin Severance Chapter of the NSDAR was founded by Mrs. Adeline Belle Barry and named in honor of her ancestor Martin Severance, a sergeant and veteran of both the Revolutionary War and the French and Indian War.

The Martin Severance Chapter has been a part of the Pasadena community since the beginning. Its members supported the Pasadena Red Cross during both World Wars and have participated in storied local institutions including the Tournament of Roses Parade. The Martin Severance Chapter currently supports high school students, homeless veterans, local libraries, and teachers. The Chapter has reinstated the American History Essay contest, and "adopted" the women at Villages of Cabrillo, Long Beach, a part of the homeless veterans' community Advance program. Additionally, the Chapter annually presents DAR Good Citizens Awards and JROTC Medals to local high school students.

In honor of their centennial, the Chapter is preserving the memory of the American Independence and those who fought for freedom. The Chapter will award grants to Pasadena Unified School District teachers who meet core curriculum standards in Colonial American History. The Martin Severance Chapter is also working on a living history project that presents female patriots to elementary school children in the Pasadena area—chapter members will portray historically significant revolution-era women and share their stories, costumes, and legacies with students and community organizations.

I ask all members to join with me in commending the Martin Severance Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution for preserving the history of the American Revolution for future generations and for 100 years of dedicated service to the greater Pasadena community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VERIFY IT ACT

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce my bill, the Verify It Act, which requires Federal agencies to provide notice to American families that they owe a debt to a Federal agency and verify the debt is a legally enforceable debt.

Mr. Speaker, by introducing this bill people will not have their tax refunds seized without proper notification and justification. Federal agencies have the right to try to collect debt that is owed to the government; there is a legal process that must be followed before any action can be taken. Each Federal agency must provide 60 days notice to the debtor. This notice requires a written notification of the nature and amount of the debt, the intention of the agency to collect the debt through administrative offset, and an explanation of the debtor's rights. If the agency is unable to collect from the debtor, the debt can be referred to the Department of the Treasury for administrative offset. Through its Treasury Offset Program (TOP), the Treasury reduces or withholds certain payments, often a Federal tax refund, to individuals who owe debts to the government.

Mr. Speaker, the legal process to collect outstanding debts from Americans owing money to the Treasury is simply not being followed. As reported by the Washington Post, Federal agencies are collecting delinquent debt without providing proper notice or that the debt being collected was incurred by the person the Federal agency claims owes the debt. It appears that in certain cases, Federal agencies are collecting money from children in order to pay the outstanding debts to the U.S. Treasury their parents incurred. What legal reason or law gives a Federal agency the right to collect a debt from a person when the debt is incurred in someone else's name? How many years is this Administration going to go back to collect debts? How can the government justify collecting debts from the children of deceased parents?

This bill is all about transparency and accountability. My legislation will ensure that Americans are given proper notification and have time to dispute the debt. This legislation will ensure every Federal agency determines the debt is legally enforceable and restore the 10 year statute of limitations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House (and Senate) to support me in passing the Verify It Act, in order to ensure American families and taxpayers have trust in their government and policies implemented.