

commercial sealift capability and trained U.S. citizen merchant mariners available to crew the government and privately owned vessels needed by the Department of Defense in time of war or other international emergency. Most importantly, the Maritime Security Program and the uninterrupted operation of its maritime security fleet of 60 U.S.-flag militarily useful commercial vessels ensures that America will in fact be able to support and supply our troops overseas. It guarantees that American-flag vessels and American crews will continue to be available to transport the supplies and equipment our troops need to do their job in behalf of our nation.

Failure to approve the requested funding for the Maritime Security Program not only will put American troops at risk but will weaken America's overall security interests and will cost the American taxpayer significantly more than the amount requested for FY 2015 for the MSP. Without having the MSP and its maritime security fleet to rely upon, the options available to the Department of Defense and to our country to meet America's commercial sealift capability requirements are totally unacceptable.

On the one hand, our country would be faced with the option of giving foreign-flag shipping interests and their foreign mariners—interests who may not share America's goals, objectives and values—the responsibility for supporting and advancing America's security interests overseas. These foreign-flag shipping services will have to be paid for by the United States, and it means our country will be encouraging the outsourcing of American maritime jobs as we spend taxpayer dollars on foreign-flag ships and their foreign crews.

On the other hand, our country would be faced with the option of having the Department of Defense build, maintain, and operate the requisite vessels itself, at a tremendous cost to the American taxpayer. In fact, a 2006 report prepared for the National Defense Transportation Association—Military Sealift Committee concluded that “the likely cost to the government to replicate just the vessel capacity provided by the MSP dry cargo vessels would be \$13 billion.” In addition, the United States Transportation Command has estimated that it would cost the U.S. Government an additional \$52 billion to replicate the “global intermodal system” that is made available to the Department of Defense by MSP participants who are continuously developing, maintaining, and upgrading their systems. In contrast, the commercial maritime industry, through the MSP, will provide the Department of Defense with these same vessels and global intermodal system at a cost to the taxpayer of \$186 million in FY 2015, a fraction of what it would cost our government to do the job itself.

In other words, without funding the MSP and ensuring the continued operation of its maritime security fleet, America would either have to place the safety of our troops and the security of our nation in the hands of foreign shipping interests or be forced to spend billions of dollars more of the taxpayers' dollars to achieve the commercial sealift capability that will be lost if the requested funds for MSP are not appropriated.

During congressional consideration of the reauthorization of the MSP in 2003, General John W. Handy, then-Commander in Chief, United States Transportation Command, told Congress that: “As we look at operations on multiple fronts in support of the War on Terrorism, it is clear that our limited defense resources will increasingly rely on partnerships with industry to maintain the needed capability and capacity to meet our most demanding wartime scenarios . . .

MSP is a cost-effective program that assures guaranteed access to required U.S.-flag commercial shipping and U.S. merchant mariners when needed . . . MSP is a vital element of our military's strategic sealift and global response capability.”

We again ask that you support this highly efficient and low-cost public-private partnership by including \$186 million in your Subcommittee's FY 2015 appropriations legislation in order to fully implement the MSP. In so doing, you will be saving the American taxpayer billions of dollars because the Department of Defense will be able to utilize privately owned U.S.-flag vessels to meet its commercial sealift requirements rather than buying and maintaining this capability on its own.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

HOWARD P. “BUCK” McKEON,

Chairman,

Committee on Armed Services.

ADAM SMITH,

Ranking Member,

Committee on Armed Services.

Duncan Hunter; Corrine Brown; Scott Peters; Frank LoBiondo; Elijah Cummings; Nick Rahall; Bennie Thompson; John Garamendi; John Duncan; Don Young.

Dutch Ruppersberger; Gary Miller; Rick Larsen; Randy Forbes; Robert Wittman; Derek Kilmer; Jim Brindenshine; Scott Rigell; Peter King; Leonard Lance.

Suzanne Bonamici; Carol Shea-Porter; Michael Michaud; Daniel Lipinski; Suzan DelBene; Michael Grimm; Frederica Wilson; Cedric Richmond; Sean Maloney; Chris Gibson.

William Enyart; David Joyce; Brian Higgins; Linda Sánchez; Howard Coble; Paul Cook; Janice Hahn; David McKinley; Tim Bishop; Jim McDermott.

Joe Courtney; Steve Israel; Michael Turner; Alan Lowenthal; Tulsi Gabbard; Denny Heck; Marc Veasey; Lois Frankel; Madeleine Bordallo; Albio Sires.

Peter DeFazio; Karen Bass; Pete Gallego; Rick Nolan; Tim Walz; Ed Perlmutter; Ron Barber; André Carson.

HONORING JACOB ALAN CROUSE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob Alan Crouse. Jacob 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 309, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jacob 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, Jacob has led his troops as Junior Scoutmaster. Jacob has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project by building a picnic shelter for his church.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jacob Alan Crouse for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of Amer-

ica and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING TY MICHAEL
KIXMILLER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ty Michael Kixmiller. Ty 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 397, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ty has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Ty 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, Ty has earned the rank of Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and is a Brotherhood Member of the Order of the Arrow. Ty has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Ty renovated and landscaped Lion's Park in Kearney, Missouri, rehabilitating the front signage, replacing the park grills and mulching the entire park.

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

HONORING LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL,
AND TRANSGENDER (LBGT)
PRIDE MONTH

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following.

RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP OF STATE
REPRESENTATIVE JOE SAUNDERS

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize State Representative Joe Saunders. Representative Saunders was elected to the Florida House on November 6, 2012 to serve House District 49 in East Orange County, and made history as one of Florida's first openly gay state lawmakers.

A graduate of the University of Central Florida's Political Science, Women's Studies, and Legal Studies programs, Joe began his political work as a community organizer on campus. As a campus leader, Joe fought for environmental protections, affordable tuition rates, and stronger anti-discrimination policies. He also ran civic engagement programs to register and empower young voters.

After graduating in 2005, Joe began working for Equality Florida, a statewide civil rights group dedicated to educating and advocating for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities. Over the past ten years, he has led coalitions that have won non-discrimination

protections for over 1.5 million people in Central Florida. Joe was also a key leader in the 2008 passage of the Jeffrey Johnston Stand Up for All Students Act, Florida's first anti-bullying law.

In addition to his legislative duties, Representative Saunders currently serves as the Director of Civic Engagement for the Equality Florida Institute where he works to register and engage progressive voters in the political process. He also directs the Equality Florida Institute's Equality Means Business program where he works to improve Florida's national and international reputation by spotlighting major employers in Florida who are leading the way on inclusion and diversity.

Joe has held leadership roles with Planned Parenthood of Greater Orlando, the Central Florida Disability Chamber of Commerce, Orange County Democratic Executive Committee, and was a board member at Mad Cow Theatre.

A respected leader in arts education, for several years Joe has chaired the Osceola Arts for a Complete Education Coalition which advocates for quality arts education in K-12 public schools. He is a member of "The Circle" coalition for the Dr. Phillips Performing Arts Center and a past board member for the arts education non-profit, Applause Academy. Recognizing Joe's contributions, the Florida Alliance for Arts Education awarded him with their 2013 Leadership Award.

During the 2013 and 2014 legislative session, Rep. Saunders filed the Florida Competitive Workforce Act which would ban employment and housing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. The bi-partisan bill earned 35 co-sponsors including 10 Republicans.

Rep. Saunders serves on the House Education Committee, Higher Education and Workforce Subcommittee, Health Quality Subcommittee and is the Ranking Democratic member of the Choice and Innovation Subcommittee.

I am happy to honor Representative Joe Saunders, during LGBT Pride Month, for his leadership and service to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MICHAEL SLAYMAKER

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Michael Slaymaker. Michael has a phenomenal record of success in his career as a fundraising professional and a gay rights advocate. Whether the nonprofit organization was large or small, Michael's knowledge, skills, abilities, and dedication to the mission of these organizations earned the same results—he doubled the fundraising revenues, in some cases increased the revenues ten-fold. During his career, Michael Slaymaker has generated over \$33 million for nonprofit organizations.

Michael started out as a volunteer fundraiser for the Orlando Gay Chorus (OGC) in August 1998, but was quickly hired as a part time contract employee to help the small arts organization. During his tenure, he helped OGC increase their annual budget from \$28,000 to \$189,000. Raising funds for a gay organization in Orlando was a challenge, but Michael's commitment to diversity and his belief in the chorus' vision to use music to change images and attitudes, build a stronger community, and make the world a better place

created a tremendous impact. Many local arts organization in Orlando have closed their doors, but due to the ten years of success from Michael's fundraising efforts, OGC continues to entertain audiences and remain solvent.

Orlando Youth Alliance (OYA) provides a safe space for Central Florida gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning teenagers through support groups, and social, educational, and recreational activities, so that none of the youth will ever feel that suicide is the answer. In 2007, Michael Slaymaker became the volunteer Board President. Although the organization was founded in 1990, it took Michael's leadership and knowledge to secure a 501(c)(3) designation and take this tiny nonprofit organization to new levels. Michael strengthened the board and volunteer structure and increased the number of chapters, so that the number of youth being served could increase significantly. Michael serves as the main volunteer fundraiser and leader today. He has increased their annual campaign from \$1,900 to a high of \$49,000 for this all-volunteer organization. Over the past 25 years, OYA has impacted the lives of 1,300 young people and not a single one has committed suicide.

After being denied a job by a local non-profit because he was gay, Michael recruited a group of volunteers to change local ordinances and policies to make sure what happened to him would never happen to anyone else. In April, 2000, Michael founded the Orlando Anti-Discrimination Ordinance Committee (OADO). The mission of OADO is to secure protection for Central Florida residents from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression. Under Michael's leadership, drive, and direction the group has amended or updated a staggering 15 ordinances and policies in Orange County, Florida.

I am happy to honor Michael Slaymaker, during LGBT Pride Month, for his contributions to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF RANDY STEPHENS

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Randy Stephens. Raised in rural Alabama by blue collar parents, Randy learned activism at an early age. Both parents were officials with local unions and were role models for employee activism. The picket line was Randy's childhood playground. Upon graduation from Talladega High School, Randy attended Auburn University where he became involved in student government. His interest in government grew while attending Cumberland School of Law from which he graduated in 1981.

After serving as staff attorney for Justice Eric Embry of the Alabama Supreme Court, Randy took a position with the Alabama Education Association (AEA). While serving as attorney and lobbyist, Randy worked on influencing politics by using a statewide network of teachers and support personnel in local campaigns. As a result, AEA was a dominant voice in state politics for decades.

Looking for a change, Randy relocated to Florida in 1992. The activist in him began to get restless. He became involved in, and later chaired, the Rainbow Democratic Club and became the GLBT Democratic Caucus's Region Director for Central Florida. Randy helped lay the groundwork for identifying and reg-

istering LGBT persons in Orange County. Thousands of members of the community were registered, giving the community increased influence in many local and statewide elections. Randy also served as a member of the Orlando Anti-Discrimination Ordinance Committee (OADO) which successfully championed for equality rights in both the City of Orlando and the Orange County Board of Commissioners.

Randy has served as the Executive Director of the GLBT Community Center of Central Florida for the past four years. During this time "The Center" has become a vital part of the GLBT Community, hosting numerous Town Hall meetings and providing the community with useful information on issues like marriage equality. Also, during Randy's tenure, The Center expanded its HIV testing hours, becoming the first center in Florida to test seven days a week and one of the largest HIV testing centers in the state.

Recently married to his partner, Thomas Berthier, Randy anticipates the overturning of the remaining sections of the Defense of Marriage Act and the Florida ban on same sex marriage. Randy always looks for ways to ensure equality for all.

I am happy to honor Randy Stephens, during LGBT Pride Month, for his contributions to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MARIA RUIZ MARGENOT

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Maria Ruiz Margenot. Born in Cuba during Castro's Revolution, Maria witnessed the debilitating effect of a culture robbed of its freedoms, rights, and voice. Her parents, Victor and Rosaura Ruiz, at immense personal sacrifice, took their young children and fled political oppression. Upon arriving in the United States, her family was classified as political refugees and they were able to obtain green cards.

Maria's family began anew at the Jersey shore. From her experience as a refugee, Maria learned to value the right to vote, to speak out, and to seek social justice.

Maria moved to South Florida, where she found her niche in the hospitality industry, as well as a large community of Cuban exiles. There, she was able to raise her daughter, Ashley, and experienced and embraced both her Cuban and American heritage.

Through passion and commitment, Maria has become a formidable leader in both her industry and community. She is an instrumental figure at Wyndham Vacation Ownership, one of the most recognized and respected hospitality companies in the world. She serves as Senior Vice President of Sales Development, Recruiting and Training. Maria has impacted her company by fostering a culture of inclusion and diversity. She has championed diversity efforts to ensure everyone will feel accepted and valued in the workplace. As a result of employees like Maria, Wyndham Vacation Ownership is consistently named a Best Place to Work for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Equality.

As her company's highest-ranking Hispanic woman, she was the founding executive sponsor of FUERTE!, a Hispanic employee resource group. Maria has shared her personal story through WynPride, her company's group for LGBT employees and straight allies. Her work isn't confined to the walls of her office

building, as she's a strong voice for the LGBT population in the business community.

Maria volunteers for the Human Rights Campaign and serves as Fed Club co-chair. She's a member of various civic groups, such as Equality Florida, 100 Women Strong, the Florida Diversity Council, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Orlando, MBA Orlando, and NCLR (National Council of La Raza). Following in her mother's footsteps as a strong supporter of organizations committed to women's reproductive health, she also serves on the board of Planned Parenthood of Greater Orlando.

Maria has represented Wyndham Worldwide at the Top 50 Latina Women Award at the White House, has received the Multicultural Leadership Award from the Florida Diversity Council, and has been recognized as Woman of the Year by the National Professional Women's Association.

I am happy to honor Maria Ruiz Margenot, during LGBT Pride Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MARY MEEKS

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Mary Meeks. As a child Mary learned fearlessness from her mother, Syble Meeks, who taught her to recognize injustice and stand up for herself and others. Even back then Mary knew she wanted to be an attorney and when she grew up and entered law school, civil rights and constitutional law became her passion and life's work.

Mary has practiced law in Central Florida since 1988, where she has represented individuals, small business owners, and Fortune 500 companies for over 26 years. But nothing has been more important or gratifying to her than fighting and dismantling discrimination, whether on behalf of a client or on behalf of an entire community.

Currently, Mary is a member of the legal team representing six plaintiff couples and Equality Florida who have filed a historic lawsuit challenging Florida's two state statutes and state constitutional amendment which ban marriage equality. She is honored to be working alongside Shannon Minter of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the most influential attorney in the national LGBT rights movement, to bring marriage equality to Florida.

Mary has worked extensively with municipal and state government to write and advocate for legislation to legally protect LGBT individuals, couples, and families in Florida. Her work has resulted in numerous Human Rights Ordinances and Domestic Partnership Registries, and a multitude of Employee Benefits being implemented throughout the state. Mary co-authored the 2012 Orlando/Orange County Domestic Partnership Registry Ordinance which became model legislation for other local communities in Florida. She is also the co-author of Florida Senate and House Bills which have been introduced to create a statewide domestic partnership registry to provide important legal protections to same-sex couples no matter where they live or travel.

Mary has served the LGBT and wider community in many leadership positions, including serving on the Boards of the National LGBT Bar Foundation, the Central Florida ACLU Legal Panel, the Orlando Anti-Discrimination Ordinance Committee, the Central Florida Association for Women Lawyers, the Central

Florida Gay and Lesbian Law Association, and Equality Florida's Central Florida Steering Committee. Mary has taught Employment Discrimination Law and Florida Civil Practice as an Adjunct Professor at Barry University School of Law, and has served as a consultant to The Orlando Business Journal and The Orlando Sentinel on employment issues.

Mary is a frequent speaker and author on employment and civil rights issues. Her column, "Living Loud," is featured regularly in The Watermark, Florida's statewide LGBT publication. Mary and her wife, Vicki Nantz, have produced a series of acclaimed documentaries on social justice subjects and have traveled together throughout the state advocating for equality.

I am happy to honor Mary Meeks, during LGBT Pride Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida community.

HONORING JACOB TODD HILEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob Todd Hiley. Jacob 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 397, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jacob 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, Jacob has earned the rank of Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, has become a Brotherhood Member in the Order of the Arrow and currently serves as his troops' Junior Assistant Scoutmaster. Jacob has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Jacob built a storage mezzanine in the bus barn for First United Methodist Church of Kearney.

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

HONORING CHRISTIAN POLOVICH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christian Polovich. Christian 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 404, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Christian has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Christian has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most no-

tably, Christian has earned the rank of Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and serves as his troops' Senior Patrol Leader. Christian has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Christian constructed a workout station on the fitness trail on the campus of A. T. Still University in Kirksville, Missouri.

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 29, 2014, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On rollcall No. 243, "nay"; on rollcall No. 244, "yea"; on rollcall No. 245, "yea"; on rollcall No. 246, "yea"; on rollcall No. 247, "nay"; on rollcall No. 248, "nay"; on rollcall No. 249, "nay"; on rollcall No. 250, "nay"; on rollcall No. 251, "nay"; on rollcall No. 252, "yea"; on rollcall No. 253, "nay"; on rollcall No. 254, "nay"; on rollcall No. 255, "yea"; on rollcall No. 256, "yea"; on rollcall No. 257, "nay"; on rollcall No. 258, "nay"; on rollcall No. 259, "yea"; on rollcall No. 260, "nay"; on rollcall No. 261, "yea"; on rollcall No. 262, "nay"; on rollcall No. 263, "nay"; on rollcall No. 264, "yea"; on rollcall No. 265, "yea"; on rollcall No. 266, "yea"; on rollcall No. 267, "yea"; on rollcall No. 268, "nay"; on rollcall No. 269, "yea."

HONORING SULLIVAN J. EASLEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sullivan J. Easley. Sully 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 391, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Sully has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Sully 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, Sully has led his troops as Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. Sully has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Sully organized and constructed six bird houses in four different parks. He also led a team in building new trails along a new expansion in a nature preserve for the Friends of Webster Trails organization near Rochester, New York.

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