

Congressional funding—despite a growing problem of toxic contamination throughout the River Basin.

Toxics are present throughout the Columbia River Basin, and are harmful to humans, fish, and wildlife. These contaminants make their way into fish tissues, which, when consumed, can be harmful for human health. Some of these toxics are known to cause cancer, and have been linked with neurological, developmental and reproductive problems, including birth defects and learning disabilities. This concern is particularly pressing for tribal populations, who consume local fish in large quantities.

Last year, the States of Oregon and Washington issued fish advisories warning the public to protect itself against mercury and PCB contamination by limiting consumption of resident fish species living in the 150 mile stretch of river between Bonneville and McNary Dams.

This bill would authorize the EPA to establish a voluntary, competitive Columbia River Basin grants program for projects that assist in eliminating or reducing pollution, improving water quality, monitoring, and promoting citizen engagement. Eligible entities may include States, Indian tribes, local governments, nonprofits, and private landowners. The legislation authorizes \$50 million per year for five years for this effort, which are estimated to create between 700 and 1,000 family wage jobs per year in the region.

This bill is supported by a diverse group of stakeholders including the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Pacific Northwest Waterways Association, and Salmon-Safe. Now is the time to clean up the Columbia River and improve water quality and river health for generations to come.

CHILD TAX CREDIT IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2014

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4935, the Child Tax Credit Improvement Act. Under current law, the child tax credit is not indexed for inflation. The bill before us today would index the child tax credit for inflation, as well as achieve the important step of abolishing the so-called “marriage penalty” in current tax code.

Importantly, the Child Tax Credit Improvement Act also contains a provision to require those filers claiming the refundable portion of the tax credit to provide a Social Security Number. This seems like pure common sense, but right now, the IRS accepts the use of the Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) to get this credit. An ITIN number demonstrates only that someone has taxable income, not that they are in the country legally. In fact, a 2011 Treasury Inspector General report found that \$4.2 billion in refundable tax credits were issued to individuals not authorized to work in the United States.

In this Congress and in the 112th Congress, I cosponsored legislation to require the inclusion of a Social Security Number on a tax re-

turn as a prerequisite to receiving the refundable portion of the child tax credit, and I am glad to see the inclusion of that language in the bill before us today.

Mr. Speaker, while we must take steps to reduce the burden on hardworking parents in this nation, I also believe that we must work to ensure that people do not abuse our tax system to receive tax credits for which they are not eligible. The legislation before us today accomplishes both of those goals.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GRADUATION OF JANICE JENNINGS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 28, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for the House’s attention today to recognize Janice Jennings who is graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from the Capstone College of Nursing at the University of Alabama.

Mrs. Jennings was born in Anniston, Alabama. She graduated from Saks High School and went on to attend Gadsden State University, where she got her degree in Nursing. In 1983, Jan married her husband Jeff and soon after in 1987, her only daughter, Jessica, was born. Jan went on to receive her Business degree from Jacksonville State University in 1989. Perhaps most notably, Jan welcomed another addition into the Jennings’ household in 2010: a labradoodle named Tully.

Although she lives in North Carolina now, Jan remains a dedicated fan of the University of Alabama. This dedication to her beloved Crimson Tide has led her to pursue a degree from the University. Through hard work and dedication, she will be achieving a lifelong goal on August 2, when she walks across the stage in Coleman Coliseum to receive her degree.

Mr. Speaker, we join her family and friends in celebrating Jan’s accomplishments and congratulating her with a hearty Roll Tide.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ALEKSEY BOLOTNIKOV, AND DR. RALPH JAMES OF BROOKHAVEN NA- TIONAL LABORATORY

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 28, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brookhaven National Laboratory, located in my congressional district and recognized by R&D Magazine for developing a novel radiation detection technology.

Often referred to as the “Oscars of Innovation,” the annual R&D 100 Awards are given to the top 100 most technologically significant products each year from around the world. I am proud that this prestigious honor has been bestowed upon Long Island’s own Brookhaven National Laboratory, which is jointly managed by Stony Brook University and Battelle for the Department of Energy (DOE).

A team of scientists led by Dr. Aleksey Bolotnikov and Dr. Ralph James at Brookhaven developed GammaScout, a compact hand-held high-resolution radiation detector, as well as the electronics and software to make it functional. This project was funded by the National Nuclear Security Administration’s Office of Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation research and development program.

The GammaScout technology will be especially useful in tracking the movement of radioactive materials and the imaging of radiopharmaceuticals in oncology and cardiology. Its application could also be used in real-time dosimeters, x-ray radiography, mineral exploration, and materials sorting and recycling. As a result, this new technology has the potential to improve our homeland and national security, protect first responders and the environment, and even make it easier to diagnose disease and save lives.

This detector technology works at room temperature, making it particularly unique and useful in the field. Previous technologies had to be cryogenically cooled for the same high-resolution radiation detection, thus confining critical work to a laboratory setting.

I am very proud to recognize Dr. Bolotnikov, Dr. James and their team of scientists, which also included colleagues from Korea University for winning one of only 32 R&D 100 Awards given to DOE laboratories. This speaks volumes about the value of these labs and the importance of their contributions to the nation, economy, and national security.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of New York’s First Congressional District, I congratulate the scientists and laboratory leadership for this well-deserved award. It is a timely reminder that Brookhaven National Laboratory remains a valuable asset to Long Island, New York, and our nation.

TRIBUTE TO RALPH FROEHLICH

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 28, 2014

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to pay tribute to Union County Sheriff Ralph Froehlich, posthumously, and the many contributions he has made as a dedicated public servant in Union County and a beloved leader in the State of New Jersey.

Sheriff Froehlich was a great man and an incredible public servant. Following his eight year service in the United States Marine Corp, he had sought a career in law enforcement. He had faithfully served as Sheriff of Union County since 1977 and was in his thirteenth term.

Sheriff Froehlich was a pioneer in law enforcement, starting many programs to protect the county, including gun safety programs for children and teens; ‘Union County’s Most Wanted’ television program, which led to the apprehension of over 80 Union County murderers and felons; the Missing Persons Unit and Domestic Violence Unit; and a K-9 Search and Rescue Unit. In an effort to share services with other law enforcement agencies, Sheriff Froehlich implemented a Municipal Transportation Program to assist local police departments. He also vociferously spoke out in favor of more regulations on guns.