

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING DR. MICHAEL B. McCALL ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS PRESIDENT OF THE KENTUCKY COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

### HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 8, 2014*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor, commend, and congratulate Dr. Michael B. McCall, founding president of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), on the event of his retirement. Dr. McCall has led KCTCS all of the 17 years since its creation in 1997, and during that time has overseen the coordination of Kentucky's community colleges, technical institutes, and the University of Kentucky into an education system that is now the largest provider of postsecondary education in the Commonwealth.

Dr. McCall, a strong advocate for a robust community college system even before coming to Kentucky, was recruited to KCTCS due to his knowledge, experience, and personal drive to see students succeed. As both an educator and an administrator, he has overseen the physical expansion of KCTCS and a dramatic upgrade in the system's academic quality. Dr. McCall oversaw 45 capital projects totaling approximately \$500 million, giving 95 percent of all Kentuckians access to a KCTCS institution within a thirty minute drive. This enhanced presence has helped train the skilled workforce that Kentucky needs in order to compete in the modern economy.

Under Dr. McCall's leadership, enrollment at KCTCS increased by nearly 110 percent, contributing to the education of more than 500,000 Kentuckians. Dr. McCall also established or integrated several specialized programs to provide specialized skills for emergency services and some of Kentucky's signature industries, including emergency medical services, fire and rescue science technology, automotive manufacturing technical training, coal mining, and horseracing. The high-skilled, high-paying jobs in these fields will reinforce the readiness of Kentucky communities to guarantee public safety, grow and develop our local industries, and expand Kentucky's competitive advantage.

Dr. McCall's stewardship of KCTCS has provided the Commonwealth of Kentucky with an academic tradition that will benefit generations to come. I congratulate Dr. McCall on a terrific career improving the lives of my fellow Kentuckians as he enters retirement and wish him all the best for whatever the future may hold.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVIE GREER ON HER RETIREMENT AS BARREN COUNTY JUDGE-EXECUTIVE

### HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 8, 2014*

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Judge Davie Greer. After serving 12 years as the Barren County Judge-Executive, Judge Greer will retire at the end of the year. First elected in 2002, Judge Greer was the first woman to serve as the Judge-Executive for Barren County.

Among Judge Greer's many accomplishments in office is the construction of the Barren County Detention Center, the creation of the Barren County Drug Task Force and her work with the Industrial Development Economic Authority of Glasgow-Barren County. Under Judge Greer's leadership, the Barren County Drug Task Force has expanded to cover Edmonson and Allen counties.

Judge Greer has also lead several measures to improve the emergency response resources of Barren County. Likewise, her efforts to enhance and grow the parks and recreation system have improved the quality of life for Barren County's residents.

While Judge Greer may be passing the torch for her elected duties, she vows to remain active in the community. Presently, Judge Greer is the Treasurer of the Salvation Army, a member of the Glasgow Business and Professional Women's Club and a member of the Glasgow-Barren County Chamber of Commerce.

I am grateful for Judge Greer's hard work and dedication to the people of Barren County. I wish her well on her retirement and look forward to continuing to work with her in the community.

IS ACADEMIC FREEDOM THREATENED BY CHINA'S INFLUENCE ON AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES?

### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 8, 2014*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last week, I convened a hearing that was the first in a series probing the question whether China's 'soft power' educational initiatives are undermining academic freedom at U.S. schools and universities. We see it manifested primarily in two ways. The first is in the building of satellite campuses in China for American universities, where Chinese "rules of engagement" are said to hold sway—in other words, places where no criticism of the government, or promotion of democracy and freedom, is allowed. Second, we see it in the myriad outposts of Chinese soft power that have opened on campuses throughout the United States,

so-called "Confucius Institutes," whose curricula integrates Chinese Government policy on contentious issues such as Tibet and Taiwan and whose hiring practices explicitly exclude Falun Gong practitioners. It should be noted that we are seeing emerging faculty opposition to these Institutes, as well as to the all-too cozy and lucrative arrangements which American universities have with institutions affiliated with the Chinese government.

This prompts us, however, to ask the question: Is American higher education for sale? And, if so, are U.S. colleges and universities undermining the principle of academic freedom—and, in the process, their credibility—in exchange for China's education dollars?

A number of years ago the author James Mann wrote a book called "The China Fantasy," where he recounts how in the 1990s some American business leaders and government officials put forward the "fantasy" that free trade with China would be the catalyst for political liberalism.

I was in China in the early 1990's. Despite the ongoing jailing and executions of dissidents, American businessmen in China told me that if we just trade more, the dictatorship will soon matriculate into a democracy.

As we all now know now, China has failed to democratize, despite increases in the standard of living of its citizens. Political repression is an all-too-common occurrence. Yet U.S. policy toward China continues to overlook abuses of fundamental human rights for the sake of business opportunities and economic interest.

But what about U.S. universities, who often tout their adherence to higher ideals, and equate their "non-profit" status of a badge of good citizenship which puts them above reproach. Perhaps they too are engaged in their own version of a "China fantasy," willing to accept limitations on the very principles and freedoms that are the foundation of the U.S. system of higher education, justifying quiet compromises they would never entertain at home by telling themselves that they are helping bring about change in China.

As Dr. Perry Link brilliantly argued, these compromises often take the form of self-censorship of what universities and faculty teach, who they invite to speak, what fellows they accept in residence. So long as the dragon is not provoked, they think they will be allowed to continue doing their work, slowly changing China from the inside. But are these American universities changing China, or is China changing these American universities?

What is the reason that New York University, for example, terminated the fellowship of the world class human rights advocate and hero, Chen Guangcheng? NYU is one of those prestigious universities for which China built a campus, a satellite of the university in Shanghai. Though the Chinese Government laid out the funds, the transaction involved a moral cost: As certain members of the NYU faculty wrote in a letter to the university's Board of Trustees, the circumstances surrounding the launch of NYU satellite campus

● 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.

in Shanghai and the ending of Chen's residence created a "public perception, accurate or otherwise, that NYU made commitments in order to operate in China."

We have repeatedly invited NYU's President and faculty to testify before this committee, without success. On five separate occasions, we gave NYU 15 dates to appear. As this is the first hearing in a series of hearings we intend to hold on this topic, I hope that they will agree to come at another time, so they can fully state their case.

On a personal note, I spent considerable time with Chen Guangcheng when he first came to the United States, having worked his case since 2004 which included four Congressional hearings exclusively dedicated to his freedom. It is my impression that NYU officials and others sought to isolate him from supporters viewed as too conservative or from those they considered Chinese dissidents. We may never know if NYU experienced what Chen himself termed as "persistent and direct pressure from China" to oust him, or if it was simply an act of prudent self-censorship to keep in Beijing's good graces.

I don't know the answer, but it is my conviction that self-censorship and the chilling effect this has is an even more pernicious threat to fundamental freedoms and the principle of academic freedom. One of our witnesses, the respected academic Dr. Perry Link, has made this case repeatedly over the years, drawing on his own personal experiences, and I thank him for being here today.

We were not there to re-litigate the sad divorce of Chen Guangcheng and NYU. It is only a small, disheartening part of the larger issue: whether American universities will compromise academic freedom to get a piece of the lucrative Chinese education market which is roughly \$27 billion dollars a year.

The hearing I held last week marked the beginning of a long hard look at the costs and benefits of the growing number of Chinese educational partnerships started by U.S. universities and colleges, including exchange programs and satellite campuses in China and Confucius Institutes in the U.S.

While foreign educational partnerships are important endeavors—for students, collaborative research, cultural understanding, and even for the host country—I think we all can agree that U.S. colleges and universities should not be outsourcing academic control, faculty and student oversight, or curriculum to a foreign government. Unfortunately, there is now some evidence emerging that gives rise to the need for this hearing.

The American Association of University Professors, or AAUP, along with its sister organization in Canada, published a report in July, blasting the Confucius Institute model as a partnership "that sacrificed the integrity of the [host] university and its academic staff" by requiring "unacceptable concessions" that allow "the Confucius Institutes to advance a state agenda in the recruitment and control of academic staff, in the choice of curriculum, and in the restriction of debate."

The AAUP concluded by saying that "Confucius Institutes function as an arm of the Chinese state and are allowed to ignore academic freedom" and recommended shutting down U.S. Confucius Institutes unless they could meet certain standards of academic freedom and transparency.

The Confucius Institutes are China's major soft power push, an attempt to increase the

number of young people studying (and ideally coming to admire) Chinese culture and language. This is not harmful in itself, for Chinese culture and language—as distinct from its political culture—is, indeed, admirable. But while some U.S. university administrators say the influence of Confucius Institutes is benign, University of Chicago professor Marshal Salhins, has called Confucius Institutes "academic malware" inimical to the U.S. model of academic freedom.

What we should do is welcome U.S.-China educational partnerships that promote cultural understanding and critical language skills and protect academic freedom, that allow the teaching of sensitive topics, and are not subject to any of the same rules that govern Chinese academic institutions—where professors are fired or jailed for exercising the universal right to free speech.

Indeed, there is a U.S. national security interest in having U.S. students learn Chinese, but such language skills should be taught on our terms and without the baggage brought by Confucius Institute ties. And, if those freedoms are violated or compromised, we need to find some recourse, whether through withholding Department of Education funds or State Department exchange program funds from schools that willingly compromise the principles of academic freedom and human rights to gain a small share of the Chinese educational market.

I will be asking for a GAO study to review the agreements of both satellite campuses in China and of Confucius Institutes in the U.S. I would like to know if those agreements are public, whether they compromise academic or other freedoms of faculty, students, and workers and whether Chinese teachers are allowed the freedom to worship as they please and teach about Tiananmen, Tibet, and Taiwan.

I will also ask the GAO to study whether U.S. satellite campuses in China operate differently from Chinese universities and whether there is a two-tier system in place, where Chinese students and faculty have more restrictions placed their activities and research than U.S. students and faculty. I will also ask whether Communist Party committees operate on campus, whether fundamental freedoms are protected for both Chinese and U.S. students and faculty—religious freedom, Internet freedom, freedom of speech, freedom of association, and whether the universities are required to enforce China's draconian population control policies.

These are important questions. We need to look at whether these issues can be handled by the universities, their faculties, and trustees themselves or if there is something the U.S. Congress must do to ensure academic freedom is protected.

U.S. universities and colleges should reflect and protect the highest principles of freedom and transparency. They should be islands of freedom where foreign students and faculty can enjoy the fundamental freedoms denied them in their own country.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT MERWIN CEO OF MILLS-PENINSULA HEALTH SERVICES ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

## HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 8, 2014*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplished career of a distinguished Californian, Mr. Robert Merwin of San Mateo County, who is retiring at the end of 2014 from his position as Chief Executive Officer of Mills-Peninsula Health Services, a post he has held since January, 1996.

A resident of San Carlos, California, Bob Merwin is a 1971 graduate of the United States International University, and earned his M.B.A. from UCLA in 1973. He began his career in hospital management in 1973 as Assistant Executive Director of the Long Beach Community Hospital. He progressed up the corporate ladder at Long Beach, joined Pacific Presbyterian Medical Center, then came to Mills-Peninsula in 1987 as Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer.

Bob Merwin has served his community as a member of the San Mateo Rotary Club, the American College of Health Care Executives, and as Chair of the West Bay Hospital Conference, and Chair of the Hospital Consortium of San Mateo County.

He is a past director of the American Red Cross Bay Area and a member of the Finance Committee of the Health Plan of San Mateo.

Mills-Peninsula has thrived under Bob Merwin's leadership. He has improved relations between physicians and management, contained costs while increasing productivity and helped develop a strategic plan for the combined hospitals. Under his leadership a new 241 bed acute care facility, Mills-Peninsula Medical Center was constructed. It is a state-of-the-art, \$640 million, 450,000 square foot facility that is a source of pride to our entire community.

Bob Merwin is married to Jean Merwin and he is the father of Michael and Megan. He enjoys golf, tennis and photography.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Bob Merwin for his stellar career in hospital management and for his extraordinary contributions to our community and our country.

PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE,  
PASTOR DUONG KIM KHAI

## HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 8, 2014*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Pastor Duong Kim Khai, a prisoner held in Vietnam, has nurtured the spiritual lives of his parishioners and helped those of all faiths that have been victims of injustice in Ben Tre and Dong Thap. He has also served as an advocate for Vietnamese farmers whose land was confiscated by the government. If he is guilty of anything it is of living to serve others and stand up to an oppressive government. I call on the Vietnamese government to release him immediately.

During the 1990s, the Pastor was detained thirteen times, often for organizing prayer sessions. Soon after, he turned his home into a place of worship, as well as a community center where farmers could seek assistance in petitioning authorities. Because he did not have the government's permission to worship, his home was seized by the local government, and he was imprisoned for two years.

On August 16, 2010, he was arrested for supposedly trying to overthrow the Vietnamese government, a convenient charge from a government bent on silencing him. For the next two months, his place of detention and his condition of health were kept secret from his family.

Denied legal representation and with diplomats denied access to his trial, Pastor Duong Kim Khai was sentenced to 2–8 years in prison and 3–5 probation. Unfortunately, his wife, who was never able to visit her husband in prison, has since passed away.

Pastor Duong Kim Khai's trial was a sham and his imprisonment is unacceptable. Freedom to worship is a human right, and the Vietnamese government should immediately release him. Furthermore, I call on the State Department to finally recognize Vietnam as a Country of Particular Concern.

And that's just the way it is.

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIRE-FIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 4, 2014*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment with a House Amendment to H.R. 3979, the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

This legislation authorizes \$495.5 billion in discretionary spending for the base budget for the Department of Defense and \$17.9 billion in discretionary spending for the defense-related activities of the Department of Energy in Fiscal Year 2015, totaling \$513.4 billion, which is \$31 billion less than authorized in Fiscal Year 2014.

The legislation also authorizes \$63.7 billion in Fiscal 2015 for Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO).

I thank Chairman MCKEON and Ranking Member SMITH and the members of the Armed Services Committee for their work on this important legislation.

I especially wish to thank Chairman MCKEON for his friendship and his service to the nation as he concludes his long and distinguished tenure as a member of the People's House.

The National Defense Authorization Act's purpose is to address the threats our nation must deal with not just today, but into the future. This makes the work on this bill vital to our national interest and it should reflect our strong commitment to ensure that the men and women of our Armed Services receive the benefits and support that they deserve for their unwavering service to this great nation.

This is the 53rd consecutive National Defense Authorization Act, which speaks to the

long term commitment of the Congress and successive Administrations to provide for the defense of our nation.

The bill encompasses a number of initiatives designed to confront sexual assault in the military, making more efficient the work of protecting America, addresses the mental health needs of men and women in the armed services, and extends economic opportunity to small minority and women owned businesses.

There is much in the legislation before us that I strongly support. For example, the House-Senate agreement:

1. Significantly improves readiness by restoring \$818 million in cuts made by House Republicans to the readiness accounts below what was requested by the President;

2. Supports a 1.0 percent pay raise for the troops for FY 2015, equal to the President's request;

3. Authorizes the awarding of the Purple Heart Medal to those killed domestically as a result of a foreign terrorist attack like the tragedies that occurred at Fort Hood in my home state of Texas;

4. Creates a flexible \$1.3 billion Counter Terrorism Partnership Fund that supports partner nation operations and U.S. Building Partnership Capacity programs to combat terrorism in the Middle East and Africa and bring to heel notorious terrorist organizations such as Boko Haram;

5. The bill also addresses serious health and well-being challenges faced by our men and women in the armed services such as post-traumatic stress disorders by requiring the Department of Defense to report on improvements in the identification and treatment of mental health conditions and traumatic brain injury among members of the Armed Forces, as well as providing a person-to-person mental health assessment for active duty and selected reserve members each year and, through 2018, a person-to-person mental health screening once during each 180-day period in which a member is deployed;

6. Requires the establishment of a Defense Advisory Committee on Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Military, eliminates the "good soldier defense," which allows alleged attackers to avoid charges by showcasing a positive military record in court, and builds upon the provisions included in the FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014 Defense Authorization bills that contained dozens of provisions, including stripping commanding officers of the unilateral authority to dismiss a finding by a court martial; prohibiting commanding officers from reducing guilty findings by a court martial to guilty of a lesser offense; and requiring that service members found guilty of sexual offenses, including rape or sexual assault, be dismissed or honorably discharged;

7. Authorizes \$622 million for Israeli Cooperative Missile Defense Programs, which is \$349 million more than the President's request, a total that includes \$350 million for Israel's "Iron Dome" short-range rocket defense system, which is \$175 million more than the President's request;

8. Includes provisions to allow the Department of Defense to reprogram funds to carry out both the Syria train-and-equip program and the Iraq Train and Equip program to combat ISIL; and

9. Creates the National Commission on the Future of the U.S. Army, which will have four

members appointed by the President and four appointed by Congress that is tasked to report back to Congress with recommendations for optimizing Army and National Guard Force Structure by February 1, 2016.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most important lessons we learned from the long war in Iraq is the importance of military readiness which imposes on the Congress the obligation of ensuring that every woman and man sent into battle in defense of our nation must be properly trained and equipped.

This is why I will not forget the troops killed and wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan when their vehicles were attacked by "improvised explosive devices."

To ensure that the Armed Forces of the United States remains the best trained, best equipped fighting force in the world, we must provide them the resources needed to adapt and meet any challenge they may face, from global military conflicts to an Ebola virus outbreak.

I am also pleased that the bill includes authorization for awarding the Purple Heart Medal to those killed or wounded in domestic terrorist attacks, like the attack at Ft. Hood.

The Army National Guard is a critical component of our national defense structure.

The men and women of the National Guard serve our nation as a reserve force in times of military conflict and at home in responding public emergencies natural disasters.

Mr. Speaker, the threat posed by the terrorist organization Boko Haram be addressed before it becomes become a problem of the level of ISIS to our national interests.

For this reason I offered an amendment to the House version of this bill that was adopted as Section 1266, which would have required the Secretary of Defense to report to Congress on the nature and extent of the crimes against humanity committed by Boko Haram in Nigeria.

I am disappointed that Section 1266 of the House bill was not included in the final version of the bill but I am pleased the legislation reauthorizes the Africom command and recognizes the importance of combating terrorist activity on the continent of Africa.

Mr. Speaker, the threat posed by ISIS is serious and real and the President has reached out to Congress to work with him to develop a unified and international response to meet the threat.

For this reason I support the provision in the legislation authorizing \$3.4 billion for sustaining U.S. personnel forward-deployed to the Middle East, providing enablers such as intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance platforms, replenishing munitions expended while conducting airstrikes against ISIL, and financing operations and maintenance costs for air, ground and naval operations to date.

Specifically, I support the provision authorizing the President's \$1.6 billion request to train and equip Iraqi security forces to re-build the capability and capacity of our Iraqi partners in the region so they can sustain the long-term fight to defeat ISIL and provide security and stability to the Iraqi people, so that large numbers of U.S. combat forces are not required.

The \$1.6 billion is being provided to fund a two-year program with robust oversight and notification requirements to support Peshmerga, Sunni tribes, and other forces beyond the traditional Iraqi Security Forces.

The legislation also extends the McKeon Amendment, which I supported, that provides funding to train and equip moderate Syrian forces to combat ISIL.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to emphasize that nothing in the legislation before authorizing the training and equipping of Iraqi and Syrian forces by U.S. advisors to combat ISIS derives from the 2002 Iraq AUMF.

The decision to send American men and women into harm's way is the most consequential decision the Constitution vests in the President and the Congress.

For this reason, the Constitution wisely divides the responsibility of deciding when to use military force to protect the nation and its interests between the President and the Congress, the representatives of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I remain strongly opposed to the deployment of the U.S. Armed Forces inside the territorial borders of Syria without a vote of Congress explicitly authorizing such action.

Moreover, any vote regarding the authorization to use military force against Syria must be preceded by meaningful, substantive, and thoughtful dialogue and robust debate governed by a rule that affords Members of the House the opportunity to offer and debate amendments.

I must stress that before any vote is held, Members of Congress must be apprised of all facts material to the decision and have access to relevant documentation, classified and otherwise, and afforded the opportunity to meet in small groups and in secure locations with senior members of the Administration's national security team who can answer detailed and pointed questions and provide requested information.

Mr. Speaker, the war in Iraq taught this nation the importance of having accurate and reliable information when deciding whether to use military force and the painful costs in lives and treasure of acting precipitously.

We cannot and dare not repeat that mistake.

That is why it is essential that all Members of Congress have access to the relevant information and the responsible Administration officials before any vote to authorize the use of military force to defeat ISIS is scheduled.

Mr. Speaker, the health and well-being of our men and women in uniform on and off the battlefield is of critical importance.

The House version of the National Defense Authorization Act included an amendment I introduced authorizing an increase of \$10 million in breast cancer research funding and directing the Department of Defense to identify specific genetic and molecular targets and biomarkers for Triple Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC).

I am disappointed that the Jackson Lee Amendment was not included in the final

version of the legislation because my amendment would save lives that may otherwise be lost.

Mr. Speaker, breast cancer has been as brutal on women in the military as combat.

More than 800 women have been wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to the Army Times; 874 military women were diagnosed with breast cancer just between 2000 and 2011, and according to that same study, more are suspected.

The Jackson Lee Amendment, however, provided funding for the additional research that is desperately needed since women are joining the Armed Services in increasing numbers and serving longer, ascending to leadership.

With increased age comes increased risk and incidence of breast cancer.

Not only is breast cancer striking relatively young military women at an alarming rate, but male service members, veterans and their dependents are at risk as well.

With a younger and generally healthier population, those in the military tend to have a lower risk for most cancers than civilians—including significantly lower colorectal, lung and cervical—but breast cancer is a different story.

Military people in general, and in some cases very specifically, are at a significantly greater risk for contracting breast cancer because life in the military can mean exposure to a witch's brew of risk factors directly linked to greater chances of getting breast cancer.

With the expansion of women in the military, it is extremely important that more funding be allocated for research for early detection, treatment, and cure of breast cancer, including TNBC.

I will continue fighting until this objective is achieved.

I strongly support the provisions in the legislation before us intended to combat the epidemic of sexual assaults in the military, including the elimination of the "good soldier defense," which is defined as a consideration of general military character toward the probability of innocence in sexual assault prosecutions.

Houston is home to one of the largest populations of military service members and their families in the nation.

There are over 200,000 veterans of military service who live and work in Houston; more than 13,000 are veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan.

Although some of a soldier's wounds are invisible to the naked eye they are still wounds that should be properly treated.

Another important component of the legislation that I strongly support is are the provisions designed to increase the number of medical facilities and mental health professionals who are available to serve the active duty personnel and veterans.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, let me express again my appreciation to Chairman McKEON and Ranking Member SMITH for their work in crafting a Defense Authorization bill that

strives to enhance the readiness of our troops, provides for the care of our military personnel and their families, and authorizes the investments needed to keep our nation strong, safe, and respected in the world.

HONORING VICE MAYOR OF THE  
RIPON CITY COUNCIL, ELDEN  
"RED" NUTT

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2014

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the Vice Mayor of the Ripon City Council, Elden "Red" Nutt, who passed away November 21, 2014.

Elden "Red" Nutt was born on May 19, 1937 and raised in Fowler, California. He enlisted in the United States Navy in 1954 and worked as a boiler operator on the USS Hornet (CVA-12).

Red's long history of service to the community of Ripon first started in 1965 when he was hired as a Ripon police officer. Red later became a sergeant in 1972 and was appointed police chief in 1982. He served as chief until retiring in 1991.

Red was appointed to the Ripon planning commission in 2002 and first elected to the city council in 2004, serving stints as vice mayor and mayor. While on the City Council, Red served on various committees and commissions, most notably the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFco) where Red served as Board Chairman.

Notable projects completed during Red's tenure include: Main Street & Stockton Ave. Enhancements, Mistlin Softball Fields, purchase of Ripon's first bus and the start of a fixed route transit service, Stanislaus River Bike Path, Boesch and Lan Parks, City Hall & Police Department expansion, annual fireworks show made possible by community donations, Veterans Museum and memorial wall, and the Police Memorial.

Red's involvement in the community went far beyond his role on the City Council. Red served as the post commander for the American Legion Post 190 in 2004–2005, and again in 2010–2011. Red also served as the president of the Ripon Lions Club, was a two-time past president of the Ripon Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and auxiliary member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1051. Red also volunteered his time with the Friends of the Library and the Ripon Historical Society, serving as a docent at the Veterans Museum.

Red and his wife Bonnie have been married for 55 years. They have raised three children, John, Debbie, and Diane. They have six grandchildren and one great grandchild. After retirement, Red enjoyed spending time with

his wife traveling the country in their RV and collecting antiques.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the life of Ripon City Council Vice Mayor Elden "Red" Nutt and all of his admirable contributions to the safety and betterment of his community.

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HONORING MR. HASTING BULLOCK

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 8, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a courageous and remarkable veteran, Mr. Hasting Bullock.

Mr. Hasting Bullock was born on August 8, 1920 in Yazoo City to the late Elnora Young, and the late Thomas Bullock. They later moved to Pickens, Mississippi where he was reared.

Mr. Hasting Bullock later met his wife of 70 years, the late Elmira Howard, and to this union they had 12 children. He joined the U.S. Army in 1942 and served as a 740 Air crafter for 3 years.

He was stationed at New Ginning, and fought in World War II. After departing from the military he began his farming career from 1946–1983. He retired from his farming career and began to work as a local barber. He is now 94 years old and a widower still residing in Pickens, Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Hasting Bullock for his time and dedication to serving our country and others.

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HONORING REGINALD N. "REGGIE" TODD

**HON. JANICE HAHN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 8, 2014*

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reginald N. "Reggie" Todd, who is retiring at the end of this year, after his distinguished and illustrious career spanning more than thirty-eight years representing and advocating for the interests of local governments before the Legislative and Executive Branches of government in Washington, D.C. I wish to extend to Mr. Todd, currently the Chief Legislative Representative for the County of Los Angeles, my appreciation for the decades of dedicated service that he has given to Los Angeles County and the nation.

Mr. Todd has served as the Chief Legislative Representative for the County of Los Angeles for the past sixteen and a half years, leading and coordinating a team of legislative advocates who have been working tirelessly on behalf of the over 10 million people who live in Los Angeles County. My office has worked closely with Mr. Todd and his team on a broad variety of federal issues having an impact on Los Angeles County including appropriations, health care, social services, community development, public safety, transportation and infrastructure, and municipal services. He has advanced the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors' federal legislative agenda with great skill, intelligence, and accomplishment.

Prior to establishing the Los Angeles County Washington Office, Mr. Todd served as Legislative Director of the National Association of Counties (NACo), implementing a broad array of coalition-building around NACo's legislative priorities. Before joining NACo, Mr. Todd served as the Chief Executive Officer of the National Community Development Association, the Legislative Counsel at the National League of Cities, and the Washington Activities Coordinator for the National Association of Regional Councils.

Mr. Todd was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. A veteran, he served in the United States Air Force at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, NATO. He received a B.A. in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland-College Park. He has been married to his wife, Saralee S. Todd, for 36 years and has two children, Dr. Elizabeth Todd Breland and Jonathan E Todd, and a son-in-law, Alex Breland. Mr. Todd also is a very proud, first-time grandfather of Natalie Juanita Breland.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives and Los Angeles County, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for Mr. Todd's contributions throughout his remarkable career. With our sincere best wishes, we congratulate him upon his retirement from public service.

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HONORING TRAVIS WOOD

**HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 8, 2014*

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Travis Wood, a devoted husband, loving father and proud New Mexican.

While born a Texan, Travis was raised as a New Mexican. In 1912, Travis was born near the small town of Wellington, Texas; three short years later, his family traveled to New Mexico, where he would devote a lifetime of service to a community he loved dearly.

Travis was a man of great integrity. He grew up enduring the extremely difficult hand-to-mouth existence as a member of a homestead family. Along with the hard times, however, came many lessons that would serve him throughout his life. At the onset of World War II, Travis enlisted in the United States Navy as a motor machinist first class on the Navy sub-chaser SC 1354, often referred to as the "Splinter Fleet". The Splinter Fleet was detailed to Omaha Beach on D-Day and Travis would later be awarded the bronze star for his courage and valor.

In 1952, following the war, Travis and his wife Clara moved the family to Roy, New Mexico, where Travis accepted a job as a rural letter carrier. Anyone who knew Travis will tell you that his commitment to his country and the State of New Mexico was unwavering. He became an icon in his community as a tireless public figure, serving several terms as Mayor of the Village of Roy, on the Roy School Board, the ENMR Tele-communications Board and the Eastern Plains Council of Governments (COG). In addition, he was an avid member in the Roy Lions Club, the American Legion, the Roy and Springer Masonic Lodges, and a board member of St. Paul's Methodist Church/United Church of Roy.

Travis was always searching for ways to stimulate the economy in his cherished community. For his lasting and effective contributions, his fellow citizens honored his name with the Travis Wood Senior Center. But Travis's most treasured triumph was a private one: building a family. He passionately loved his son Gary Wood, daughter Cheryl Wood Scott, and his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Gentle, patient, compassionate, loving and selfless—Travis was a helper to many and a friend to all. Travis demonstrates the impact that one individual can have on an entire community and his warmth was felt by all those who knew him. Today, Travis is not with us, but his legacy and lessons will endure in all those he touched. May the memory of Travis live on in our hearts.

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HONORING AIRMAN FIRST CLASS LAWRENCE DAVID FRIAR

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 8, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a courageous and remarkable veteran, Retired Airman First Class Lawrence David Friar.

Lawrence Friar is a strong believer in the value of family land and property ownership. It is through this belief that prompted him to return to his native home in Lexington, Mississippi in 1972 from Compton, California where he was reared. He was born in Lexington, Mississippi April 20, 1940, but moved out West with his family not long after that.

He returned to his home state to look after his families' land, because so many boundaries and lines were being moved and timber being cut from his property that he had to come home to watch over things for his other siblings. Born to the late Mack Friar and Lettie Wright Friar, Holmes County, Mississippi natives, there were four boys and six girls. He has been a faithful citizen of the Second Congressional District ever since his return in 1972.

Protecting land is nothing new for Friar for he is a proud American Veteran who protected and served his country in the United States Air force from 1958 until 1962.

He joined the military immediately after high school in Compton. "When I joined the service, the Vietnamese Conflict has started, and it was still going on when I left the service," he said. Friar had temporary duty in the War Zone, in which they would leave Hawaii and go to the war and work the jets that needed repairing, and then they would return to Hawaii, where he was stationed.

During his tour of duty in the U.S. Air force, Friar earned and retired with the rank of (E4) Airman First Class.

The Retired Airman First Class Lawrence Friar says "Most importantly, it taught me patience and how to get along with people." he said about his most memorable experience about serving in the U.S. Air force.

Today, one will find this retired U.S. Air force veteran home in Lexington, Mississippi as a local leisurely farmer doing some gardening and planting; what people in the south call "truck patches." He hopes to return to

California one day to check on some siblings there, but for now he will remain with a watchful eye on his family's land.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Retired Airman First Class Lawrence David Friar for his time and dedication to serving our country and others.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM  
SCHEIDE

**HON. RUSH HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 8, 2014*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a great American citizen and a dear friend. William Scheide, of Princeton, New Jersey, passed away on November 14, 2014, at the age of 100. Bill was a humanitarian, a philanthropist and a supporter of civil rights who, although born into great wealth, was anything but indolent.

Bill was born in Philadelphia on January 6, 1914, the only child of two musicians: John, a pianist, and Harriet, a singer. He developed a love for music early on, and that passion inspired him throughout his hundred years. Bill's family earned their fortune in oil when northwestern Pennsylvania was the center of the oil industry. His grandparents and parents began collecting books, and Bill developed that collection carefully, studiously, and energetically, and built it into one of the greatest collections of rare books and manuscripts in private hands anywhere in the world. Bill attended Princeton University, graduating with the class of 1936, and eventually gave his collection to his university. His collection is huge and hugely impressive, and includes an early fourteenth century manuscript of the Magna Carta; the first four Bibles printed; an original copy of the Declaration of Independence; the first four folios of Shakespeare; and musical manuscripts of Beethoven, Mozart, Schubert, Wagner, and Bill's beloved Johann Sebastian Bach. Today, the Scheide Library at Princeton continues to be a resource for Princeton students and faculty and for scholars around the world.

In Princeton and throughout the country, Bill Scheide is synonymous with support for the arts—particularly music. He was a renowned pianist, organist, and oboist. After graduating from Princeton, Bill went on to earn a master's degree in music from Columbia and thereafter became one of the world's most renowned Bach scholars. He was the founding director of the Bach Aria Group, which performed and recorded over a period of more than three decades. He eventually returned to Princeton where he held regular concerts in his home, inviting guest musicians or even performing himself.

Bill's impact on Princeton University stretches far beyond his library collection. Over the years, Bill's generosity has allowed hundreds of students to attend the university through the Scheide Scholars Program. His philanthropy also extended beyond the university's gates and into the Princeton community. Through Scheide Concerts, Bill brought to the community classical music performances by some of the world's most sought-after performers. He was an avid supporter of charitable organizations in the area, including Cen-

turion Ministries, which works to free wrongly convicted individuals from prison, and Isles, a community development organization serving our capital city of Trenton. And far beyond central New Jersey, Bill's philanthropy changed the history of our nation. When a young lawyer named Thurgood Marshall asked him to support a case called *Brown vs. Board of Education*, Bill Scheide provided funding that allowed the NAACP Legal Defense Fund to pursue the case to its stupendous conclusion. He later served on the board of the Legal Defense Fund for nearly four decades. Here in Washington, at the Newseum, exhibits funded by Bill Scheide teach the public about freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution. He also served as a trustee of, and generous benefactor to, Westminster Choir College and Princeton Theological Seminary, both of which have buildings bearing his name.

I had the pleasure of spending a great deal of time with Bill over the years. And while Bill will certainly be remembered for his generous charitable endeavors, I believe he will be remembered most by those who knew him for his intellect, his humility, and his generosity of spirit. He was thoughtful about his philanthropy and worked hard at it, and expected nothing in return. His happiness was found in watching the eyes of concertgoers or library visitors light up with joy, or seeing a new young leader emerge from Nassau Hall at Princeton commencement who was only able to attend the university because of the Scheide Scholars Program. He was so humble, in fact, that he asked the university to change the name of the Scheide Music Library to the Mendel Music Library, to honor another Princeton faculty member and renowned Bach scholar, Arthur Mendel, who he thought deserved the recognition.

Bill is survived by his loving wife, Judy; his daughters, Louise and Barbara; his son, John; three stepchildren; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Bill Scheide's legacy of generosity and studious philanthropy will not soon be forgotten.

WAYZATA HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS  
CROSS COUNTRY

**HON. ERIK PAULSEN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 8, 2014*

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Wayzata High School Girls Cross-Country team on their recent victories in the state and national championships.

Their 2A Minnesota State Championship, the third in a row for Wayzata, was the result of a strong performance at the state meet in Northfield.

In addition to their third consecutive state championship win, the Wayzata girls' team won the Nike Cross Nationals Meet in Portland, Oregon by beating out teams from New York, Utah, and Indiana.

The Trojans were led by the performance of Anna French who took 3rd place at state and 8th at the national meet.

The Wayzata Girls Cross Country team took on this latest challenge in the midst of difficult practice schedules, academic expectations, and various other commitments. Their success

this season is a tribute to their excellent teamwork and tenacity, qualities they will no doubt maintain as they move forward.

I commend Coach Dave Emmans and the entire Trojans team for their passion and hardwork. Cross Country is athletics at its purest and requires mental toughness and physical endurance to excel. By pushing each other every day, Wayzata reached truly exceptional heights this season.

It is truly an honor to congratulate and represent these hard-working student-athletes and congratulate them on their success.

HONORING CHOPPA STYLES  
BARBER SHOP

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 8, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable business, Choppa Styles Barber Shop.

Choppa Styles Barber Shop is owned by Ramirez Lee, who was born and raised in Leeland, Mississippi. "Choppa Styles" is the name of his shop and is a new age term for the latest in music, fashion, and even hairstyles.

After Lee graduated from barber school, he went to work for other barbershops, but knew that he wanted his own business. He was very particular and wanted to please his customers while giving them the advantage of his knowledge.

Many people have the mistaken belief that men just walk into a barbershop, sit down and get a haircut. Lee doesn't have that attitude at all.

Lee states that "it's very important for a professional barber to look at the person's facial structure, the type of hair he might have as to whether it is thick or thinning, curly, straight, all those things. A good barber will then style that person's hair to compliment his facial structure."

Lee said that he tries to influence his customers on the necessity of a healthy scalp. Lee also said that he hopes to include hair care products at his shop soon.

Lee doesn't make appointments. All of his customers are walk-ins. He welcomes new customers and invites them to stop by his shop.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Choppa Styles Barber Shop for its dedication to serving and giving back to the community.

HONORING DAVE JONES

**HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 8, 2014*

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, Dave Jones lived a life of service to freedom, to his faith, and to his family. Dave's wife Sally was a patient of mine, and I've had the opportunity to get to know their family over the past few years.

Dave passed away late last month—a loss not only for his family, but also for fellow members of his church and the people of Cincinnati's East End who he served through his church's outreach program.

Dave served in the military, returned home, raised a family, and ran a successful insurance business.

Dave was a rugged man, but a tender husband, father and grandfather. At their church Dave and Sally taught Sunday School.

Dave and Sally raised five sons and are proud grandparents to three girls and two boys. Today we share their sorrow, but also share the faith that Dave is enjoying his eternal reward.

Dave Jones' legacy will continue through his children and grandchildren who learned firsthand from Dave's daily demonstration of faith through action, dedication to others, and love of family.

It has been a true honor to know Dave and to represent him in Congress. Godspeed.

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#### THE PASSING OF JIMMY RUFFIN

### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 8, 2014*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and music of a great Detroit Motown Records singer and songwriter, Jimmy Ruffin, who passed away on November 17th, 2014, at the age of 78.

His contribution to popular music left a huge mark on the music industry and Rhythm and Blues music.

As the Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee, I have worked on music and copyright issues over the years and have a deep appreciation for the contribution that Mr. Ruffin made for lovers of Rhythm and Blues music across the world.

Mr. Ruffin, born in Collinsville, Mississippi, was the older brother of the late Temptations singer David Ruffin. Both of them sang gospel music in the South and Detroit where their family later moved. They also worked with Barry Gordy and Motown Records, where they became widely known for their style of music.

After serving honorably in the U.S. Army here and overseas he returned to Motown Records to continue his career. Jimmy Ruffin not only wrote but sang many of his musical creations which included his song "What Becomes of the Brokenhearted," which went on to become a Top 10 pop hit.

His reputation grew in this country and around the world. His popularity through the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s continued to grow as he put out songs including "I've Passed This Way Before" and "Gonna Give Her All the Love I've Got." Jimmy and David Ruffin went on to work together on the 1970s album "I Am My Brother's Keeper." In the 1980's he had a major hit, "Hold on to My Love," which the Bee Gees' Robin Gibb produced.

Mr. Ruffin will be missed for his singing and as a musician he produced music that was legendary. We are grateful for the songs and music that Mr. Ruffin provided to the Nation over the years and his songs will live on to be enjoyed by future generations.

I am sad that we have lost a great performer, a consummate artist and one of Motown Records' biggest stars.

Our condolences go out to his family and friends around the world.

HONORING GEORGE REED, JR.

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 8, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a courageous and remarkable veteran, Mr. George Reed, Jr.

Mr. Reed was born in Enid, Oklahoma in April of 1943. He is the only child of the late Mr. George Reed, Sr., who was a World War II Veteran, and Mrs. Estella Hunt Reed.

Mr. Reed graduated from Gentry High School in 1962. In May of 1963, he did basic training in San Diego, California for the United States Navy.

From 1964–1965, Mr. Reed did two tours in Vietnam on the USS *Oriskany* CVA–34. Then, he transferred to USS *John Archibald Bole* DD 755 and served the next four years on this ship. Two of the places he toured on this ship are Japan and Fort Malaysia.

Mr. Reed served six years, and retired in 1969 as a Machinist Mate E5. He now serves as Post Adjutant at the American Legion Post #205, where they have 30 active members.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. George Reed, Jr. for his time and dedication to serving our country.

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#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 8, 2014*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,993,726,181,400.08. We've added \$7,366,849,132,487.00 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$7.3 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

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#### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WAYZATA HIGH SCHOOL BOYS CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM

### HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 8, 2014*

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Wayzata High School Boys Cross Country team on winning the Minnesota Cross Country 2A Championship Meet, held at St. Olaf College in Northfield.

The Trojans—led by Coach Bill Miles—dominated the field and finished with the lowest score in school history of 47 points. This is the eighth state championship in Coach Miles 40 years of coaching.

Wayzata truly made it a team effort as six different runners made the All-Lake team. The team was led by Connor Olson's championship effort, clocking in at 15 minutes, 17.1 seconds. Jaret Carpenter and Ian Ekin both had top ten finishes as well for the Trojans.

The dedication it takes to become a state championship athlete should be commended. It means skillfully juggling practice, academics, and other commitments to be prepared physically and mentally for each race. Their success this season is a tribute to their effort and focus and they should take pride in their victory.

Cross Country is athletics at its purest. It takes hard work day after day, pushing oneself to the limit in order to achieve your personal best. It takes a strong mental will to reach the point of exhaustion and then push past it. Wayzata's success this year is evidence of this effort.

It is truly an honor to congratulate and represent these hard-working student-athletes. Congratulations Trojans!

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#### HONORING DR. HASKELL S. BINGHAM

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 8, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a courageous and remarkable veteran, Dr. Haskell S. Bingham.

Dr. Bingham was a native son of Vicksburg, Mississippi, born to the late Rev. Judge R. Bingham, Sr. and Mrs. Julia E. Bingham.

Dr. Bingham attended Vicksburg schools, Jackson State College, University of Denver, Peabody College/Vanderbilt University and served in the U.S. Army, and became a Korean War veteran.

Dr. Bingham was a former teacher at Brinkley High School in Jackson, Mississippi. He also retired having served as former Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Virginia State University, former Assistant to the President at St. Paul's College (Virginia) and former Dean of Admissions and Records at Jackson State University.

Dr. Bingham was greatly respected and loved as the historian/genealogist of the Bingham's of African descent in America. He identified over 2500 relatives in his historical research in South Africa and the United States. He also achieved recognition for his ancestors including the Freedom Fighter Gabriel of Gabriel's Rebellion in Virginia, from the National Parks Service, City of Richmond City Council, and former Governor Kaine of Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Haskell S. Bingham for his time and dedication to serving our country.

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#### IN RECOGNITION OF DR. JOSEPH OVICK

### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 8, 2014*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. Joseph Ovick as he retires from his long-held position as Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools and to congratulate him on the culmination of a truly outstanding 45-year career in education.

Joseph Ovick began his career as a Special Education teacher, working diligently to ensure

that each student in his classroom was given every opportunity to succeed. Although classroom teaching has always been his passion, Joe's ability to develop strong coalitions of educators, community members and legislators has led him into a variety of important leadership roles. He served as Assistant Principal, Principal, Director of Special Education, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, and Associate Superintendent for Business. For the past 18 years, Dr. Joseph Ovick has been at the helm of Contra Costa County Office of Education working tirelessly to assure that all students receive the very best education. In addition to his administrative work, Dr. Ovick has taught in a variety of schools including Chapman University's Graduate School of Education and San Jose State University.

Joe has also devoted a great deal of his time to community service. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the East Bay Leadership Council, Contra Costa County's Children and Families Policy Forum and has served as the President of the Executive Board of the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association. He has also served as Chairman of the Bay Area Leadership Foundation, the Federal Policy and Legislation Committee for the Council of Administrators for Special Education, as vice-chair of the Federal Advocacy for California Education, he is past president of the Association of California School Administrators and a former chair of the Bay Area Region Superintendents Association.

It is easy to see why in 2008 Dr. Joseph Ovick was named Citizen of the Year by the East Bay Leadership Foundation. He has also been awarded the Superintendent of the Year Award and the Ferd Kiesel Memorial Award by the Association of California School Administrators and he received the President's Circle Award for Outstanding Service to Education and the Community from Diablo Valley College Foundation. These are only a few of the many commendations that over the years have recognized Dr. Ovick's outstanding service to our students, teachers, and our entire community.

But what is most important to know about Joe Ovick is that he has always been a "students first" type of educator. He has made it a point to personally visit students and teachers throughout the year, lending freely his support and hands-on experience to ensure that every child has an opportunity to thrive in the classroom. And it is clear from the energy and enthusiasm Joe brings to every facet of his job, that this has been a 45-year love affair with the learning process.

I ask my colleagues to join with me today in commending my friend, Dr. Joseph Ovick, on

his outstanding career and to thank him on behalf of the thousands of students and teachers who have been the beneficiaries of his work over the years. We join with his family, friends and colleagues in wishing him the very best as he begins his well-earned retirement.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of 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, December 9, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

##### DECEMBER 10

- 10 a.m.  
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
To hold hearings to examine the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, focusing on the effective enforcement and the future of derivatives regulation.  
SR-328A
- Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
To hold an oversight hearing to examine cybersecurity, focusing on enhancing coordination to protect the financial sector.  
SD-538
- Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
Business meeting to consider the nomination of Colette Dodson Honorable, of Arkansas, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.  
SD-366
- Committee on the Judiciary  
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Michelle K. Lee, of California, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for

Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and Daniel Henry Marti, of Virginia, to be Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, Executive Office of the President.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations  
Subcommittee on African Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Ebola epidemic, focusing on the keys to success for the international response.

SD-419

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security

To hold hearings to examine passenger rail, focusing on investing in our nation's future.

SR-253

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the President's executive action on immigration and the need to pass comprehensive reform.

SD-226

#### DECEMBER 11

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold a joint oversight hearing to examine the implementation of the President's executive order on Improving Chemical Facility Safety and Security.

SD-406

10 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider an original resolution entitled, "to authorize the limited use of the United States Armed Forces against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, and the nomination of Antony Blinken, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of State.

SD-419

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Joan Marie Azrack, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, Loretta Copeland Biggs, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina, Elizabeth K. Dillon, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia, and Michael P. Botticelli, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy.

SD-226