

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING CARL LINDNER

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a very special person to our local area, Carl Lindner, as the city of Cincinnati recently moved to adorn one of its downtown streets with Mr. Lindner's name.

Mr. Lindner spent a lifetime making the Queen City the best place on earth to live and raise a family. I cannot think of a better place to honor him than on the streets of the city he loved and worked so hard to make better for us and for our children.

He was a wonderful man, and, more importantly, a good friend to so many of us. It's for these reasons that our community is so very grateful, and I ask all Members of the House to join me as we celebrate Carl Lindner's legacy.

TRIBUTE TO ELEANOR OWNBEY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Eleanor Ownbey and to honor the work of her two daughters, Maggie and Sue Ownbey, for their many years of advocacy on behalf of their mother and the Alzheimer's disease community.

Eleanor battled Alzheimer's disease for more than ten years, passing away from this tragic disease on February 18, 2014. Maggie and Sue watched as their mother not only forgot that they were her daughters, but also how to talk, to walk, and to feed herself. Eleanor spent the last three years of her life in hospice care and most of that time confined to a bed. Her daughters describe her as a brave woman with a strong spirit and an infectious sense of humor.

Inspired by their mother's courage, Maggie and Sue have spent the last eight years telling their mother's story and how much this ravens disease costs families, what caregivers need, and how desperately a cure needs to be found.

In fact, someone develops Alzheimer's disease every 67 seconds and more than five million Americans suffer from Alzheimer's disease. It is also the only cause of death in the top 10 in America without a way to prevent it, treat it, or slow its progression. This devastating disease is also taking a toll on our economy and health care infrastructure. Caring for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias cost the United States an estimated \$214 billion in 2014, and unless something changes, costs are estimated to rise to a total of \$1.2 trillion in 2050.

I call on my colleagues to recognize the growing Alzheimer's crisis and to support a

strong increase in funding for Alzheimer's disease research for Fiscal Year 2015 that will enable the National Institutes of Health to arrive one step closer to finding a cure for this tragic disease.

Eleanor Ownbey is survived by her children Maggie, Sue, Steven, and Mark and her grandchildren Jason, Summit, Netanya, Allie, and William "Finn." I wish the Ownbey family all the best in their future endeavors and express my deepest gratitude for their advocacy on behalf of the millions of families whose loved ones suffer from Alzheimer's disease.

REMEMBERING AND HONORING SALVATORE FERRARA II

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Salvatore Ferrara II who passed away on November 27, 2014.

Salvatore attended Fenwick High School in Oak Park, IL and later served on the school's Board of Trustees. He then went on to graduate from Loyola University in New Orleans. Salvatore joined his father's company, Ferrara Pan Candy Company, in the mid-1970s and climbed the ranks to CEO. According to Salvatore's father, Nello, Salvatore is the inspiration behind the Lemonheads candy because Nello joked that he was born with a lemon-shaped head. The company is now located in Oakbrook Terrace and is known as Ferrara Candy Company. During his time as CEO, Salvatore managed the merger with Farley's & Sathers Candy Company in 2012 and oversaw a period of steady growth in which the company expanded to over 500 employees.

Salvatore is survived by his wife, Andrea, and is the father of five children as well as a grandfather of three. In his free time, his daughter says he liked to drive his red Ferrari and go out on his boat named Lemonhead.

When Salvatore was diagnosed with cancer, he became a strong advocate for encouraging others to become educated and get doctor checkups. I admire him for his courage as he battled his cancer and commend him for empowering others.

Salvatore's visitation and funeral Mass were held on December 1st at Holy Family Catholic Church in Chicago, IL. As his family grieves through this difficult time, I hope Mr. Ferrara's family finds comfort in knowing that he is with God now and is no longer in any pain. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the inspiring life of Salvatore Ferrara II and extending condolences to his family.

IN APPRECIATION OF DR. ROBERT MORRIS

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Dr. Robert Morris, a Board certified Ophthalmologist, a founding physician of Retina Specialists of Alabama, and the President of the Helen Keller Foundation for Research and Education. Dr. Morris also serves as Chairman of the International Society of Ocular Trauma and an Associate of Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Dr. Morris, an outstanding professional and true humanitarian, is a leader in promoting better eyesight and vision care in Alabama and throughout the nation. It has been my honor to collaborate with him on a number of projects during my time in Congress.

Dr. Morris' strong devotion to his patients and craft is evidenced by his ability to innovate new medical techniques including Vitreoretinal surgery while simultaneously managing a large clinical practice. He regularly contributes to national and international journals and conferences of vitreoretinal surgeons and other ophthalmologists. His advanced training and surgical skills are particularly recognized in the treatment of severe eye injuries and surgeries of the macular (center of vision). Further, Dr. Morris pioneered techniques of temporary keratoprosthesis (TKP) vitrectomy to completely reconstruct injured or infected eyes. He has been consulted to treat patients who have suffered severe injury to both eyes resulting from terrorist bombs.

Dr. Morris has received numerous awards including the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Best of Show Award in 2001 and 2003 for videos of macular surgery. He is a recipient of the senior honor award from both the AAO and the American Society of Retina Specialists for extensive contributions to scientific activities.

As a teenager, Dr. Morris had a goal of becoming an astronaut. A failed eye test for the ROTC during college in Purdue led him to shift his focus to pre-medicine. Dr. Morris subsequently enrolled in Medical School at the University of Alabama. Six months before graduation, Dr. Morris signed up for the Air Force, with the possibility that becoming a pilot might provide an alternate pathway to space. However, after serving as a reconnaissance pilot in the Air National Guard, Dr. Morris made the decision to fully devote himself to the pursuit of ophthalmology and his choice has changed innumerable lives for the better.

Dr. Morris' professional accomplishments and life story are most impressive, but it is his charitable service that is unparalleled. He is quite literally a miracle worker. As President of the Hellen Keller Foundation, he and his team devote many weeks each year to treating children who have lost their sight.

• 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.

The Hellen Keller statue currently on display in the United States Capitol would not have been possible without the leadership of Dr. Morris. His tireless dedication was instrumental in ensuring the placement of this statue in the Capitol where generations of children will be inspired by Helen Keller's ability to overcome obstacles, including the loss of vision, to become one of our nation's most esteemed educators and advocates.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, let us commend Dr. Robert Morris for his accomplishments and professional and charitable service and wish him continued success in his many pursuits. He is one of Alabama's finest citizens and merits our appreciation for his dedication to his patients, charitable endeavors, the State of Alabama and the Field of Medicine.

THE FUTURE OF SPACE
EXPLORATION

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Nicolle Walters for being one of a few students in America chosen to participate in NASA's Aerospace Scholars Program. Nicolle is currently a junior at Lamar Consolidated High School in Rosenberg, Texas—go Mustangs!

Nicolle will participate in an online learning experience with actual NASA engineers this spring and spend a week this summer working with aerospace engineers at the Johnson Space Center. Nicolle will have an amazing opportunity to be mentored by NASA engineers and scientists, which will hopefully aide her interest in space exploration. Nicolle is a member of the Project Lead the Way program at Lamar Consolidated. Project Lead the Way provides engaging, hands-on STEM courses and prepares students to be leaders in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math.

I wish Nicolle the best of luck with this amazing experience and with her future endeavors. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I again congratulate Nicolle Walters for being chosen to participate in NASA's Aerospace Scholars Program.

IN RECOGNITION OF FRANCIS
CHESKO FOR EXTENSIVE MILITARY
SERVICE DURING WORLD
WAR II

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Francis Chesko, who is being recognized by the Mahanoy City Historical Society on Saturday, December 13, 2014. During World War II, Mr. Chesko took part in the D-Day Invasion and the Battle of the Bulge, reached the rank of sergeant in the 148th Engineer Battalion, received five Bronze Stars and the Army Presidential Unit Citation for his service.

In 1942, Francis received his basic training in Camp Shelby, Mississippi. In October, he was deployed and stationed in Swindon, England, where he helped construct a Bailey bridge and a landing strip. While in Swindon, Francis was informed that his brother Joseph, who was also enlisted, was stationed 25 miles away from Francis's post. The two were able to visit each other one weekend with permission from Francis's captain. Shortly thereafter, Francis's outfit was ordered to move south to Southampton and prepare to leave for German-occupied France. On June 6, 1944, Francis landed on Utah Beach as part of the Allied Invasion of Normandy.

On July 19, 1944, Francis was wounded during German shelling in the town of La Haye du Puits. He returned to Swindon for treatment. After his recovery, Francis was sent back across the English Channel and joined the 7th Armored Division in Holland. While serving with the 7th Armored Division, Francis endured the Battle of the Bulge. During the battle, while his unit was constructing a small tree-cut bridge, Francis narrowly avoided being hit by an 88-mm enemy mortar shell.

While guarding a bridge in Holland, German forces took Francis's unit by surprise. After a friendly anti-tank round misfired, Francis and comrades had to fall back from their position. While trying to avoid a German tank, Francis was knocked over by debris sent flying by enemy gunfire. Friendly reinforcements arrived and disabled the German armor. Later, German forces began bombarding Francis's position. In the midst of the shelling, he took cover in a ditch and did not discover until the next morning that a mortar struck the ground above. Fortunately, the round did not go off.

Francis's unit was dug in at the town of St. Vith, Belgium when Germans attacked the town on December 17, 1944. His division was ordered to hold their position for three days; they held it for five. German forces eventually took the town, but on January 23, Allied Forces recaptured it. After the Battle of the Bulge, Francis's unit helped construct the longest bridge of the war (1,300 feet) over the Rhine river. As he pushed into Germany, Allied Forces liberated 1,200 captive American soldiers.

Francis currently resides in Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania with his wife Rose. They have been married over 65 years and have been blessed with 3 children, 6 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren. I am sure Francis has been thanked many times for his brave service to his country, but, today, I add one more official notation of gratitude for his heroic answer to our nation's call to military duty.

HONORING THE NORTHWEST HIGH
SCHOOL JAGUARS

HON. JOHN K. DELANEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Northwest High School football team and Head Coach Mike Neubeiser of Germantown, Maryland. On Friday, December 5, the Jaguars won their second consecutive Maryland Class 4A State Football Championship.

The Northwest Jaguars capped off a 13–1 season with a 34–31 win over Old Mill. The

Jaguars rolled through the playoffs, outscoring their opponents by an impressive 147–67 margin. The Jaguars repeated last year's success by winning their second title in a row, and being the first Montgomery County team to do so in 15 years. The championship is the team's third title.

Being the reigning champion, Coach Neubeiser's squad started the season as the favorite. Their only loss came in week 9, and the Jaguars quickly rebounded to stay on the championship road. I want to thank Coach Neubeiser and his staff for their leadership, as well as all the student-athletes for their hard work and determination to be the best they can be both in the classroom and on the field. I also wish the Northwest Jaguars the best of luck as they look to win their third straight title next season.

I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues help me in honoring this significant accomplishment.

MARKING ONE YEAR SINCE CONFLICT
BROKE OUT IN SOUTH
SUDAN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, last December, a terrible civil conflict erupted in the nation of South Sudan. Two million people have been displaced, 1.5 million don't have enough to eat, and an estimated 50,000 have been killed. The scale of the human suffering and ethnic violence in the world's newest country is shocking.

It is deeply troubling that so little progress has been made towards a peace agreement between the parties to this conflict.

Today, I call on both parties to lay down their arms. It is unconscionable that the people of South Sudan should have to endure such suffering due to the irresponsible actions of their own leaders. The parties must set aside their differences and negotiate a non-violent resolution for the good of their young nation.

The U.S. government must also step up its efforts, using its political and diplomatic influence to bring a lasting end to this crisis. As we mark a year since the onset of political violence in this country, we must reaffirm our dedication to working for peace in South Sudan.

SUPPORT OF THE INSURANCE
CAPITAL STANDARDS CLARIFICATION
ACT OF 2014

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I along with Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York have authored legislation to address the capital requirements that apply to insurance companies under federal supervision pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Act. This legislation would strengthen the regulatory regime applicable to federally supervised insurance companies by

ensuring that they are not subject to bank-centric capital standards.

One of the central elements of the Dodd-Frank Act's financial reforms was stronger capital rules for both banks and certain non-bank financial institutions. Two sections of the Dodd-Frank Act expanded Federal Reserve authority to regulate large banks and imposed increased capital requirements—Section 165, which applies to large bank holding companies and to non-bank systemically important financial institutions (SIFIs), and Section 171, which applies minimum capital standards to insured depository institutions, depository institution holding companies, including insurance savings and loan holding companies, and to SIFIs.

We have been disappointed by the Federal Reserve's failure to recognize that they have the authority to implement the Collins amendment as it applies to insurers in a manner that tailors the capital requirements for the insurance business model. We continue to believe that the regulators could solve this problem using their existing authority. Our House bill, H.R. 4510, shows that there is strong bipartisan support for addressing this issue, with 227 of our colleagues cosponsoring the bill. A slightly amended version of our legislation, which we support, passed the Senate with unanimous support in early June, and passed the House as part of a larger package in July of this year. We are pleased that final action on this legislation is imminent, and hope it will be sent to the President before the end of the session.

Our bill (and the Senate version, S. 2270) is narrowly crafted to only address this issue as it relates to federally supervised insurance companies, including SIFIs and insurance savings and loan holding companies. Under the legislation banks will be subject to the full force of the Collins Amendment. That is as it should be, and we will not change that.

To accomplish the goal of directing the Federal Reserve to tailor rules for insurance, our legislation permits the Federal Reserve to create a non-*Basel III* regime for the insurance operations of supervised entities. The legislation allows the Fed to work with state insurance regulators to develop appropriate insurance-based capital standards for federally supervised insurance companies. Alternatively, the Fed could defer to state insurance regulators for the capital standards that should apply to the insurance activities that they regulate.

The bill clarifies that, in establishing the minimum leverage capital and risk-based capital standards under Section 171, the Federal Reserve Board is not required to include activities or companies that are engaged in the business of insurance and are subject to state insurance regulation, including state insurance capital requirements. Similarly, regulated foreign affiliates or subsidiaries engaged in the business of insurance and subject to foreign insurance regulation and foreign insurance capital requirements that have not been deemed to be inadequate also may be excluded from Section 171 capital standards. It is worth noting that the Government Accountability Office found that the state risk-based capital rules performed well during the financial crisis.

The bill allows the insurance capital requirements that have been effective to continue to determine the capital requirements for the ac-

tivities of insurance companies and groups that are supervised by the Federal Reserve Board. Furthermore, activities of a holding company supervised by the Federal Reserve Board that are not the business of insurance would remain subject to the capital standards under Section 171. In determining insurance versus non-insurance activities of a supervised entity, the legislation provides regulators with the flexibility to tailor the rules for certain affiliates or subsidiaries of insurance companies that are necessary to the business of insurance, including, for example, affiliates or subsidiaries that support insurance company general and separate accounts.

Our legislation defines "business of insurance" by reference to Section 1002 of the Dodd-Frank Act, and under this definition the business of insurance means "the writing of insurance or the reinsuring of risks by an insurer, including all acts necessary to such writing or reinsuring and the activities relating to the writing of insurance or the reinsuring of risks conducted by persons who act as, or are, officers, directors, agents, or employees of insurers or who are other persons authorized to act on behalf of such persons." The reference to this definition of the "business of insurance" will help ensure that insurance activities of federally supervised companies are subject to tailored capital rules, whether those activities are undertaken by the insurance companies themselves or by their affiliates or subsidiaries on their behalf.

We also want to ensure that the Federal Reserve uses its authority to tailor capital rules for insurance operations of entities under its supervision, regardless of the size of the subsidiary insured depository institution. As we have stated, under this legislation and under current law, the *Basel* banking regime and the Collins Amendment requirements will continue to apply to all insured depository institutions. It would be at odds with sound public policy and the intent of this legislation for the Federal Reserve to impose a *Basel* banking capital regime on the entire enterprise of an insurer that happens to also own a sizable insured depository institution—the depository institution in that operation will already be subject to banking rules, but the insurance operations should not be.

Another important provision of our legislation addresses the issue of insurance accounting for a small number of non-publicly traded insurance companies. While every publicly traded company in the United States is required by the Federal Securities laws to prepare consolidated financial statements under Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), all insurance companies in the United States—whether in mutual or stock form of organization—are required by their state insurance regulators to utilize an accounting method known as Statutory Accounting. Indeed, most mutual insurance companies only use Statutory Accounting in preparing their financial statements.

Statutory Accounting Principles (SAP) are generally more conservative than GAAP because they are specifically designed to promote insurer solvency and the ability to pay claims instead of measuring an insurer's value as a going concern. SAP does not allow a number of non-liquid or intangible assets to be included on an insurer's balance sheet and provides less favorable accounting treatment for certain expenses. In both the text of the

Dodd-Frank Act and its legislative history, Congress recognized the acceptability of SAP for holding companies engaged in insurance activities coming under Federal Reserve jurisdiction. Specifically, Congress (1) directed the Federal Reserve to rely on existing reports and information provided to state and other regulators (which for insurance companies would have been prepared according to SAP); and (2) included Senate report language stating that Federal Reserve assumption of jurisdiction over savings and loan holding companies engaged in the business of insurance did not reflect a mandate to impose GAAP. However, in proposed rulemakings, the Federal Reserve expressed its intention to require all companies to eventually prepare GAAP financial statements—consistent with their existing model for all bank holding companies. Imposing such a mandate on companies using only SAP would cost insurers a substantial amount to take on multi-year financial projects yielding minimal—if any—supervisory benefit to regulators. Additionally, we believe the principle of preserving SAP should apply to any international discussions relating to insurance.

This bill makes clear that under Section 171 of the Dodd-Frank Act and the Home Owners' Loan Act, such a mandate is inappropriate where the holding company is a non-publicly traded insurance company that is only required to prepare and file SAP statements. Nothing in this provision prevents the Federal Reserve from obtaining any information it is otherwise entitled to obtain from a SAP-only insurer.

We and the many other supporters of this bill are pleased that the House is poised to consider a final version of this legislation and look forward to it reaching the President's desk soon. We expect regulators to follow through with appropriate, tailored capital rules for insurers under their supervision.

HONORING NANCY L. CARRINGTON,
PRESIDENT/CEO OF CON-
NECTICUT FOOD BANK ON THE
OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and a bit of a heavy heart that I rise today to join the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered to celebrate the retirement of Connecticut Food Bank President and CEO, Nancy L. Carrington. A dear friend and outstanding advocate, Nancy has spent the last three decades at the Connecticut Food Bank and, put simply, the organization will not be the same without her.

Nancy came to the Connecticut Food Bank just two years after it was incorporated. She began her work with the organization as a food solicitor—responsible for seeking the donation of excess and unsalable products from local and regional food companies. When Nancy first came to the Food Bank, the organization was already distributing 1.3 million pounds of food a year to 188 community agencies throughout Connecticut. Just five years after starting at the Connecticut Food Bank, Nancy became the organization's Executive Director; her title later changed to President and CEO.

Over the course of the last three decades, Nancy's leadership has guided the organization as it has grown from a grassroots, volunteer organization into the largest centralized source of donated, emergency food in Connecticut. Today the Connecticut Food Bank serves nearly 700 food-assistance programs in Fairfield, Litchfield, Middlesex, New Haven, New London and Windham counties and distributes an average of 40 tons of food every business day. And, just this past summer, the Connecticut Food Bank broke ground on what will be an 82,251-square-foot building that will be the organization's new home. While her daily presence at the Connecticut Food Bank will be missed, Nancy has certainly built it a strong foundation on which it can continue to succeed in its mission.

Nancy has not only been responsible for the day-to-day operations at the Connecticut Food Bank, but is also one of Connecticut's strongest voices on behalf of the hungry. She has said that "food should not be a privilege . . . it should be a basic human right." Nancy has made it her personal mission to overcome the challenge of feeding the hungry—her work touching the lives of thousands over the years. She has volunteered to deliver groceries to homebound seniors for an emergency food pantry. She served as a founding director of End Hunger Connecticut!, a statewide anti-hunger and food security organization. Nancy also works closely with other food banks in New England and partners with Feeding America, the national network of food banks. There is no stronger or more dedicated advocate.

I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to thank Nancy for her many years of friendship. Nancy and I are kindred spirits in so many ways—both having learned the importance of public service from our parents and both passionate about the need to address hunger in our community and across the nation. She is an inspiration to me and so many others and I am proud to call her my friend. And so I stand today to express my deepest thanks and appreciation to Nancy L. Carrington, for all of her good work and many years of dedicated service to the Connecticut Food Bank and wish her all the best for many more years of health and happiness as she enjoys her retirement.

TRIBUTE TO THE COHASSET HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM, 2014 MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION VI SUPER BOWL CHAMPIONS

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and congratulate the administration, coaches and players of the Cohasset High School football team. On December 6, 2014, the Skippers won the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association Division VI Super Bowl, earning them the title, State Champions.

Cohasset High School has a long tradition of excellence in high school football. In 1957, the CHS football team went undefeated with a 9–0 record. CHS has won eight South Shore League championships since then, but 2014 is the school's first state championship.

The 2014 team finished the season this year by winning ten consecutive games, including five hard-fought victories in the MIAA Tournament. This historic playoff run included a 35–3 victory over the previously undefeated Nantucket Whalers, a 28–7 victory over the Mayflower League Champion Bishop Connolly Cougars, a 20–7 victory over the Tri-Valley League Champion Millis Mohawks, a 35–6 victory over the Catholic Conference Champion Cathedral Panthers, and the 35–22 Super Bowl victory over the Littleton Tigers.

Mr. Speaker, the young men on this football team conducted themselves in such a way as to bring honor, pride and recognition to the Town of Cohasset. They represent what is truly best about high school student athletes. Today, it is my honor to join with the families, friends and residents of Cohasset, Massachusetts, to congratulate the Cohasset High School football team on their historic achievement.

Administration: Superintendent Barbara Cataldo, Principal Carolyn Connolly, Athletic Director Ron Ford, Head Coach Pete Afanasiw, Assistant Coaches Kevin Dooley, Jeff Knight, John Maher, Phil Maloney, Brian Pattison, Bob Silvia, Don Silvia, Dave Terry, Pete Umbrianna.

Players: Xander Schubert, Michael Cohen, Danny Durkin, Luke O'Brien, Danny Axelson, Drew Skolnick, Mike Lund, Henry Butenschoen, Adam Benson, Brett Dooley, Nick Hall, Kyle Ferreira, David Burke, Liam Lynch, Cole Sullivan, Connor Curran, Christian Hanke, Patrick Haggerty, Jake Koncius, Noah Froio, Joseph Welman, Zach Silva, Mike Nolan, Nick Slamp, Cole Kissick, Ray Tolosko, Ollie Hanke, Tim Gillis, Sam Sullivan, Chris Norton, Thomas Durkin, Charlie Swartwood, Max Fitzgerald, Sean Mavilla, Jake Johnson, Jack Osten, Matt Froio, Jack Hoffman, Steve Iantosca, Bobby Driscoll, Vincenzo Kulturides, Liam Prescott, Nick Lydon, Derek Bennett, Ryan Losordo, Cal Osten, Jake Bennett, Tyler Mulhern, Victor Najjar, James Hynes, Jack Mahoney, Chris Lydon, Reed Parks, Alex Norton, Hayes Keniley, Nick Tetreault, Will Thomas, Ryan Donovan, Jack Donohue, Jack Speer.

RECOGNIZING THE NAZARETH ACADEMY FOOTBALL TEAM FOR THEIR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP WIN

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Nazareth Academy Roadrunners football team. On November 29th, Nazareth Academy captured their first Class 6A state football championship with a 26–7 victory over Lemont High School in Champaign, IL. I want to congratulate all of the players, coaches, trainers, and parents, and commend them on their hard work and on the dedication they have shown to their team, their school, and their community. I also want to congratulate Coach Tim Racki and the principal of Nazareth Academy, Deborah Tracy, for helping lead these young men to victory.

In the championship game, Nolan Dean rushed for 199 yards and two touchdowns and

Julian Love added another rushing touchdown. Wide receiver Kevin Jackson also had a touchdown catch from quarterback Jonah Beauduy. The defense held Lemont to only one first quarter touchdown and had three interceptions of quarterback Ryan Dawson, two by Matthew Flach. The victory completed an undefeated 14–0 season for the Roadrunners.

With this championship, Tim Racki became the first coach in the state of Illinois to win titles with two different schools, having won four previously as coach of Driscoll Catholic High School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Nazareth Academy Roadrunners football team and to congratulate them on their IHSA Class 6A State Championship. And I wish each player continued success as he moves forward.

THE HONORABLE CONGRESSMAN
STEVE STOCKMAN

HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, now that the 113th Congress is coming to a close, I would like to recognize my good friend and colleague from Texas' 36th District, STEVE STOCKMAN.

STEVE and I actually grew up in the same town and went to the same schools. But, when he reached adulthood, his Texas family roots called him to the Lone Star state so it was only years later, in our nation's capitol, that we should meet as Members of Congress.

Congressman STOCKMAN was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Texas in 1994, defeating a 42-year incumbent in one of the biggest upsets in political history. He was re-elected to Congress on November 6, 2012, with the same vision he'd had in the 90's of limited government, strong support for American families, and a robust national defense.

STEVE has built very effective rapport with colleagues on both sides of the aisle. His sense of humor and jovial approach to interpersonal relations endear him to us all, while we have come to recognize he has broad, but exceptionally deep understanding of many topics. He always has substantive inputs and bills, not only on specific Constitutional guarantees, but on national defense, freedoms and lack thereof in nations around the world.

You often find individuals with social interaction skills, and others with tremendous knowledge and insights. It is rare to find both qualities in a single individual. But, STEVE possesses both.

However, one would never know this about STEVE if they only read the press. That's because STEVE always stands up and speaks the truth, regardless of whether it's politically expedient. Consequently, he's vilified in the press; but Americans who are tired of business-as-usual here in our nation's Capitol applaud him and greatly appreciate Congressman STOCKMAN.

Congressman STOCKMAN has been a fierce defender of Constitutional liberties, and a leader in defending the Second Amendment. He

introduced the very first pro-gun bill in the House in 2013, H.R. 35, to repeal federal gun free zones.

When the President threatened to bypass Congress and enact gun control through Executive Orders, Congressman STOCKMAN, along with Sen. RAND PAUL of Kentucky in the Senate, introduced the "Restore the Constitution Act of 2013," which would nullify any anti-gun orders.

The gentleman from Texas blue slipped both the Senate's gun control bill and their immigration bill.

Congressman STOCKMAN serves as Vice Chairman of the House Second Amendment Task Force, and also authored legislation to strip funding to the UN should that body attempt to restrict Americans' gun rights.

As a 100% pro-life supporter, STEVE authored the 2013 Sanctity of Life Act, which declares that life begins at conception, and which also limits the federal courts' jurisdiction in cases dealing with the unborn.

Congressman STOCKMAN was the first congressman to step up and introduce a bill to defend the rights of native Americans in southeast Texas. The Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas won a Federal claim against the U.S. Government for millions, if not billions, of dollars. STOCKMAN's bill, if passed, would resolve that claim without any impingement on the Federal deficit.

Congressman STOCKMAN's district is home to NASA's Johnson Space Center, the research and training facility for all human space exploration and the location of the famous Mission Control Center.

As a member of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology, Congressman STOCKMAN highlights the importance of a vigorous space exploration program and for keeping the U.S. at the forefront of space technology. He fought to save the arc jet facility at the Johnson Space Center, and advocated for defining a serious timetable and sufficient funding to actually land on and create research bases on the moon and Mars. Further, he understands the strategic necessity to remain the undisputed leader in space, and to not let non-democratic nations like China and Russia dominate the high frontier of space and high technology.

The gentleman from Texas' district has the highest number per capita of oil and gas refineries and downstream petrochemical plants in the world. STEVE has worked tirelessly for commonsense regulatory relief for the nation's oil and gas industries, which will lead to less U.S. dependence on foreign oil and more American jobs.

His tireless efforts were instrumental in expediting the building permits for state-of-the-art new petrochemical plants to be built in his district that will bring in billions of dollars in new investment. The gentleman from Texas has used his position on the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology to question the EPA's technological criteria for evaluating applications on hydraulic fracking. Also, legislation he's promoted will facilitate improvements in current technologies used in shale oil and gas production.

Congressman STOCKMAN has spoken out about the need to dredge southeast Texas ports from which many of the Gulf Coast petrochemicals are shipped. With hundreds of thousands of jobs at stake, these Ports are and will be fueling the Texas economic miracle.

At 3.5 cents per kilowatt hour, Texas has one of the cheapest power costs in the world and STOCKMAN, with fellow members of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, has pressed EPA to release its stranglehold on latest technologies that will keep power costs low in Texas. http://science.house.gov/sites/republicans.science.house.gov/files/documents/Letters/121_913_mccarthy.pdf

The National Taxpayer's Union honored Congressman STOCKMAN with the Taxpayers' Friend Award and NFIB named him "Guardian of Small Business" in recognition of his outstanding votes for legislation fostering healthy job-creating businesses. Earning a consistent "100 percent" rating by the American Conservative Union, my colleague from Texas has been honored with the "Taxpayers Best Friend Award" from Citizens for Tax Reform, and "Taxpayer's Hero Award" by Citizens Against Government Waste.

Always on the cutting edge of up and coming technologies and economic trends, Congressman STOCKMAN recently introduced a bill in Congress that would not only extend substantial protections to cryptocurrencies, but would also require that cryptocurrencies be classified as a "currency." The bill, entitled the Cryptocurrency Protocol Protection and Moratorium Act (CryptPMA), begins by placing a five-year moratorium on any state legislation concerning, or taxation on, cryptocurrencies.

STOCKMAN believes in the future. He has predicted that three technologies will change the world. He forecasts that nanotubes, 3-D printers, and cryptocurrencies will revolutionize and change the world in fundamental ways. Furthermore, Congressman STOCKMAN has called for a study of magnetic poll shifting, resultant fluctuation of magnetic fields, and their impact on the earth's climate.

With his broad knowledge of geopolitical and socioeconomic affairs, it is appropriate that Congressman STOCKMAN sits on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, where—among other important actions—he's for greater openness about what really happened in the 2012 assault on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi. He has also been a strong voice in the House in support of the Ukrainians' passion for strengthening liberties in their country.

Congressman STOCKMAN co-founded the House South Sudan Caucus, in support of the world's newest nation. South Sudan, which is a majority Christian nation, suffered decades of oppression and genocide from North Sudan, and still endures attacks, despite the existence of a peace agreement. Congressman STOCKMAN grieves the fact that now a simmering civil war is ongoing in the new nation. He has traveled to Juba, the South Sudan's capital, and led a Congressional delegation to Nigeria to investigate how the U.S. might better help that country end the brutal atrocities of Boko Harm. STEVE has also visited other parts of Africa, in support of medical missionary work.

As the 113th Congress comes to a close, the Conservative movement will lose a great friend to liberty and individual rights in Congressman STOCKMAN. I and many of our friends will miss working alongside my good friend and colleague who has been a staunch ally and supporter for life, liberty and country.

HONORING EISENHOWER ACADEMY

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Eisenhower Academy in Joliet, Illinois, which was ranked the best elementary school in Will County by the Chicago Tribune.

I would like to recognize the teachers, administrators, and students of this magnet school for their commitment to learning. The rankings were based on the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) and found that over 94 percent of students in grades three through five met or exceeded expectations.

Although 100 percent of the students at the school come from low-income families, through hard work and with the support of teachers and parents, these students have already achieved something remarkable. I look forward to following their progress.

Congratulations to Eisenhower Academy and Joliet Public Schools District 86. I would like to thank the teachers, administrators, parents and students for their hard work and dedication.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOHN DINGELL ON HIS RETIREMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the inspiring career of Congressman JOHN DINGELL, and his retirement from this institution after 59 dedicated years of public service.

Few Americans have had a bigger, more lasting impact on the United States Congress than JOHN DINGELL. After serving his country in the Army during World War II, John was first elected to Congress in 1955, and has played a vital role in almost every significant piece of legislation passed over the last half century. During his time in office, JOHN DINGELL was a statesman who always put good policy above partisanship, and who nearly lost reelection because of his support for the Civil Rights Act of 1964. His impact on landmark legislation that includes Medicare, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and Affordable Care Act will continue to be felt for years to come.

The People's House has suffered a great loss with the Congressman DINGELL's retirement and his institutional knowledge will be sorely missed. Mr. DINGELL has been an inspiration, mentor, and friend to those who were lucky enough to know him. It has been an honor to serve alongside him, and I have no doubt that his legacy will endure for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the service of Congressman JOHN DINGELL in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING RALPH BENSON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Congressman JARED HUFFMAN, to honor Ralph Benson upon his retirement as Executive Director of the Sonoma Land Trust.

For the past twelve years, Mr. Benson has worked tirelessly to guide, expand and strengthen the Sonoma Land Trust, enabling the organization to better fulfill its goal of protecting and conserving our lands for generations to come. During his time as the Executive Director, Mr. Benson increased the Sonoma Land Trust's budget from \$1 million to \$5 million, doubled its staff and more than doubled its membership. During his tenure, the Sonoma Land Trust acquired 5,630 acres in the Jenner Headlands and opened the Baylands Center at Sears Point Ranch for use as an environmental education center. Under his leadership, Sonoma Land Trust is currently working on a tidal wetlands restoration project and trail expansion along San Pablo Bay and Highway 37.

Mr. Benson's impressive work to grow his organization and take on sizable projects has bestowed tremendous benefits upon our community. The Sonoma Land Trust now protects 48,000 acres of land, up from 15,000 acres, and has attracted outside capital to the County of Sonoma that amounts to more than \$80 million.

Mr. Benson's colleagues credit his success to his ability to foster enduring and productive partnerships and connections. A true leader, Mr. Benson inspired others to believe in his vision of what the Sonoma Land Trust was capable of achieving and with hard-work and his can-do attitude, made his vision a reality.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor and thank Mr. Benson for his invaluable contributions to land conservation in Sonoma County. On behalf of a grateful community, we wish him a most enjoyable retirement.

IN HONOR OF COLONEL (RET) ROY
GEORGE PLUMMER

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding citizen, leader, pastor and inspiration to the Columbus, Georgia community, Colonel (Ret) Roy George Plummer. Colonel Plummer will be retiring as JROTC Director of Army Instruction of the Muscogee County School District in Columbus, Georgia. A retirement dinner in celebration of Colonel Plummer will be held on Thursday, December 11, 2014 at the National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning in Columbus, Georgia.

A native of Jamaica, Colonel Plummer enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in several military assignments in the United States and Germany. He completed his Active Duty Army career as Chief of Chaplains at Fort Benning.

He currently serves as the Chaplain for Rotary International District 6900, The State of Georgia.

As JROTC Director, he was responsible for eight high school JROTC programs and four other county JROTC programs. Since 1998, he has worked to create a successful district-level JROTC program which has grown from 400 cadets to an outstanding current operating enrollment of 1200 cadets. Under Colonel Plummer's leadership, the Muscogee County School District JROTC has earned GHSA State Rifle Championships, state-level awards in drill team and raider competitions, and honorable recognition in the annual JROTC Academic Bowl.

Always pressing towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, to better improve the craft of Christian ministry and discipleship, Colonel Plummer has been the Senior Pastor and CEO of Faith Tabernacle Community Church, Inc. in Columbus, Georgia since he founded the church in 1994.

A shining light in the Columbus community, Colonel Plummer has played a leading role in several other religious-affiliated and community-based organizations, including the St. Francis Hospital Foundation, Columbus Hospice, United Way, Boy Scouts of America, and the Greater Columbus Georgia Chamber of Commerce.

To top off his diverse portfolio of service, Colonel Plummer served as an Assistant Professor at Columbus State University in the Department of Counseling Graduate Studies. He has earned a baccalaureate in Biblical Literature, Master of Arts in Human Relations and Group Process, Master of Science in Guidance and Counseling, Master of Divinity in Pastoral Care, and Doctorate in Divinity. This solid educational background coupled with his compassion and leadership inspired Colonel Plummer to create the Plummer Home for homeless and disenfranchised military veterans.

Colonel Plummer has achieved numerous successes in his life, but none of this would have been possible without the grace of God and his four daughters and seven grandchildren. He lives by Psalm 27:1, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?"

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Colonel (Ret) Roy George Plummer on the occasion of his retirement as JROTC Director of Army Instruction and recognizing him for his many great contributions to the people of Columbus, Georgia and the United States and for his life of selfless service to God, the church and to humankind.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TAX
REFORM ACT OF 2014

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of H.R. 1, the Tax Reform Act of 2014. This bill—which formalizes, without modifications, the tax reform discussion draft I released publicly on February 26, 2014—reflects the years of work undertaken

on this critical issue by the Committee on Ways and Means during my time as chairman. I want to thank the members of our committee, on both sides of the aisle, for their tireless efforts and for their outstanding contributions to this legislation and to the transparent, inclusive process that produced it. While I will not be returning to the House of Representatives next year, I very much look forward to watching the ongoing work of our great committee as the tax reform debate continues to unfold in the 114th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, the urgent need to fix our broken tax code—and the incredible progress we've made toward making tax reform a reality for the first time since 1986—has already been well documented, and I will not seek to recount all of that background and history here today. But I do hope that, going forward, Congress will continue to focus on the twin goals that have guided the tax reform process thus far—strengthening the economy, and making the tax code simpler and fairer for all Americans.

When I set out to produce a comprehensive tax reform bill, I wanted to do it the right way. So, over the last four years, the Ways and Means Committee held over 30 public hearings, including the first joint hearings with the Senate Finance Committee on tax policy since World War II. Ways and Means Ranking Member SANDY LEVIN—my home state colleague—and I formed 11 bipartisan working groups to tackle different areas of the tax code. In that time, I also launched TaxReform.Gov, which received more than 14,000 public comments and suggestions, while Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT) and I left the confines of Washington, DC to talk with taxpayers all across the country. I am proud to say that we have done this in the most open, transparent, and bipartisan way—getting input from all sides. Now, the debate about whether to do tax reform is over; the only debate now is about how.

At its core, the Tax Reform Act of 2014 is about making the tax code simpler and fairer for hardworking taxpayers. I believe every taxpayer should be able to do his or her taxes without fear that someone with better accountants or lawyers is getting a better deal. This legislation does that by ensuring that virtually all taxpayers would pay the least amount of taxes without having to keep track of every receipt and record and live in fear of an IRS audit. This legislation makes the Code more effective and efficient by getting rid of narrowly targeted provisions to lower tax rates across the board. This will enable small and large businesses alike to expand operations, hire new workers, and increase benefits and take-home pay.

The proposal flattens the rate structure by reducing rates and collapsing today's seven individual rate brackets into two brackets of 10 and 25 percent for virtually all taxable income, ensuring that over 99 percent of all taxpayers face rates no higher than 25 percent. The plan also reduces the corporate rate to 25 percent.

By making America's corporate tax rate more competitive and by modernizing our anti-competitive international tax rules, which have not been reformed since the 1960s, we would encourage companies to keep their headquarters in the United States, so they can grow, invest, and hire here, instead of moving overseas in search of a better tax environment. We need a real solution to this growing problem, and I believe a significantly lower

corporate tax rate and a more competitive tax system is just the solution we need.

Independent economists agree: Tax reform results in stronger economic growth, more jobs, and higher wages. In fact, the independent, non-partisan Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) estimates that this plan could increase the size of our economy by \$3.4 trillion—that's equivalent to 20 percent of today's economy. Based on that stronger economic growth, we could see nearly two million new jobs created. JCT also estimates that this proposal could generate up to \$700 billion in additional Federal revenues that could be used to lower tax rates even further or to reduce the debt. Indeed, based on calculations using data provided by JCT, the average middle-class family of four could, under this proposal, have an extra \$1,300 per year in its pocket from the combination of lower tax rates in the plan and higher wages due to a stronger economy. This is the kind of growth America needs, and these are the kinds of policies that can produce a stronger, more robust economy that benefits all Americans.

Before concluding, Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge the countless hours devoted to this effort by the Ways and Means Committee staff and the staffs of the Joint Committee on Taxation and the Office of Legislative Counsel. A project this large—on an issue of this magnitude—simply could not be undertaken by this institution without the dedication, the policy know-how, and the technical expertise of the professional staff. We owe all of them our sincere thanks. Indeed, their contributions to this proposal extend not just to the legislative language of the bill itself, but to a set of helpful explanatory materials as well. For those who are looking for a fuller description of the legislation I am introducing today as H.R. 1, a section-by-section summary of the proposal prepared by the Ways and Means Majority Tax Staff is available at: <http://tax.house.gov/>. Similarly, JCT's technical explanation of the proposal—along with JCT's revenue estimate, distributional analysis, and macro-economic analysis of the proposal—has been published as JCS-1-14, available at <https://www.jct.gov/publications.html?func=startdown&id=4674>.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I close by urging my colleagues who will be returning in January for the 114th Congress to keep pushing forward and to see this tax reform process through to a successful conclusion. It would undoubtedly be easier for Congress to hang its head and say that the problems with the current tax system are just too big, and that the work of tax reform is just too hard. But nothing worth doing is ever easy, and tax reform is even more necessary now than it was back in 1986. Indeed, today's generation of tax reformers should remember how the headline in the Washington Post captured the moment when the 1986 Act finally made it over the finish line—it called tax reform the "impossible that became the inevitable." I would like to see that headline again, and with today's formal introduction of the Tax Reform Act of 2014, we take another important step down that historic path.

I thank the Speaker for reserving the bill number H.R. 1 for this legislation, and I hope that the formal introduction of this proposal in the House today will help spur further action on this critical issue in the 114th Congress.

HONORING CHIEF MICHAEL HOLUB FOR MORE THAN FOUR DECADES OF SERVICE TO OUR NATION AND COMMUNITIES

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor La Grange Police Chief Michael Holub for his more than four decades of service dedicated to protecting and serving our nation and our communities. At the end of this year, Holub will be retiring as Chief of Police.

Chief Holub is a native of Berwyn, Illinois, and attended Morton West High School, graduating in 1970. From there he joined the Army and served with the Official Ceremonial Unit and Escort to the U.S. President, which is known as the Old Guard because it is the oldest active duty regiment in the Army. After serving his country, Holub returned to serve his community and joined the Stickney, IL Police Department in 1974. He spent the next twenty years with the Stickney Police Department, rising through the ranks to become Chief of Police. He subsequently served as Chief of Police for the Village of Palos Park, IL, and as the Chief of Police for the Village of River Forest, IL, before coming to La Grange.

Chief Holub has highly valued education throughout his career. He earned his Bachelor's Degree from Lewis University in Romeoville, IL, as well as his Master of Arts Degree in Law Enforcement and Justice Administration. While Chief of Police, Holub continued to serve for 15 years as a member of the adjunct faculty of Triton College in River Grove, IL, teaching courses to undergraduate students in criminal justice. Chief Holub always challenged his officers to get their degrees so that they could move forward, as his mantra has always been "to always be prepared for the next level."

In addition to being Chief of Police, Michael Holub has always shown a deep commitment to his community in many other ways. He is a fixture at community events and is active with the American Legion, always helping with charity events and aiding the men and women in our armed forces as well as fellow veterans.

Today I express my admiration for Chief Michael Holub's lifelong dedication to our nation and our communities. I ask my colleague to join me in honoring his lifetime of service and wish him the best in his retirement.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF DR. MICHAEL MCCALL TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, Dr. Michael B. McCall, the Founding President of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS). Dr. McCall has announced that this will be his last year as System president and will be retiring in January.

Under the leadership of Dr. McCall, KCTCS has served as the major gateway to post-secondary education across the Commonwealth. Since his appointment in December 1998, Dr. McCall has achieved many successes, such as merging the 28 community and technical colleges into 16 individually accredited comprehensive community colleges and leading KCTCS to its position as the largest provider of post-secondary education in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Because of his leadership, KCTCS currently serves over 92,000 students and represents over 47% of all undergraduate college students. Perhaps most importantly, KCTCS has dramatically increased participation in postsecondary education. The number of students participating in KCTCS has risen dramatically since the system was created, with enrollment increasing by 62,000 in the first decade.

I am proud to have five community colleges within the KCTCS System that serve my district: Somerset Community College, Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College, Hazard Community and Technical College, Big Sandy Community and Technical College, and Ashland Community and Technical College. Each college has seen incredible growth since KCTCS was founded in 1997.

Dr. McCall has also led the System to create major advancements in education and pioneered many new educational opportunities that are unique to Kentucky, including the North American Racing Academy (first college-affiliated horse racing academy in the United States), the Kentucky Coal Academy, Kentucky Fire Commission, and the Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services.

Dr. McCall has served for more than 40 years in community and technical colleges. He has been recognized as Kentucky Monthly Magazine's Kentuckian of the Year and was also the Board Chair of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). This marked the first time a System-level president was elected chair of the AACC board.

I am proud to have known Dr. McCall since he became KCTCS President and wish him great luck in retirement. I offer my full congratulations to Dr. McCall for his service to KCTCS and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Thank you and may God bless you.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF
IRENE PORTER POWERS MATTHEW

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents, Irene Porter Powers Mathew of Lake Havasu City, Arizona.

Irene Porter was born in Downs, Kansas, on November 20, 1917. She moved to Colorado where she attended high school at the age of 12, where she played basketball, sang in a trio, and the Glee Club. She graduated at the age of 16.

Following high school, she worked for the Colorado Agriculture Extension Service. In 1937, she went to work for the Farm Security Administration in Colorado. Around 1940, she moved to Amarillo, TX to assist in the establishment of the FSA regional headquarters.

On July 28, 1942, Irene married William (Bill) Powers, who was serving in the Army Air

Corps. They were married and raised four children: Rosemary, Gary, Suzanne, and Marilyn.

In the 1960s, Irene moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado to work as a private secretary with the Central Bank in Colorado. In 1974, she became the first female bank vice president in Colorado Springs, and likely in Colorado. This was a position she held until she retired in December 1979.

In the 1980s Irene and Bill retired and toured the country in a Holiday Rambler, including a trip to Guatemala. When they returned to the States, they returned to Colorado and spent the summer volunteering at Lutheran Valley Retreat, a Lutheran youth camp.

In 1986, as a second retirement, Irene and Bill retired to Lake Havasu, Arizona. Where they lived until Bill Powers died in 1991.

Irene married Kenneth A. Matthew, a retired lobster fisherman on February 3, 2007.

Irene is preceded in death by her parents, a brother, a sister, her first husband, Bill, two grandsons and one great-grandson. She is survived by her husband, Ken; children, Rosemary/Dave Tunnell, Gary/Sharon Powers, Suzanne/Rick Twinchek and Marilyn/Ryan Paradis; ten grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren and two sisters.

One last word from Irene, "I want Ken, all my children, all my grandchildren, and now all my great-grandchildren to know how much I love them. You are all an important and beautiful part of my life."

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BELLEVUE AVENUE LIBRARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bellevue Avenue Library, located in the Township of Montclair, New Jersey as it celebrates its 100th anniversary.

The Bellevue Avenue Library, part of the Montclair Public Library, officially opened its doors on December 7, 1914. Prior to its official opening, the library had been using a small rented space in the real estate office of John Mancini. In 1913, the Montclair Public Library received a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of \$40,000 to construct a new building for the Montclair Public Library system on Bellevue Ave. In 1914, the new building was created and opened as the Bellevue Avenue Library.

The Bellevue Avenue Library was designed by architect F.A. Nelson, who also designed other prominent buildings in Montclair, such as the Post Office and the Upper Montclair Women's Club. The library is now on the National Register of Historic Places, with the register noting "its temple-like austerity and diminutive size," along with its classical embellishment. Although the library underwent a major renovation in the 1985, it still holds the same architectural design.

Since the building of the Bellevue Avenue Library, the library has had two floors consisting of an extensive literature collection, audio, and visual files. The lower floor focuses on children's services, including the well-known 'children's place' which holds weekly

story time readings and is staffed by community volunteers. The second floor is primarily focused on adult services and literature. Although in a separate location, the Bellevue Avenue Library offers the same range of services as the main library.

As the Bellevue Avenue Library and its staff celebrate their centennial anniversary, they look forward to growing with the community they serve. They look forward to new advancements, new literature, and whatever excitement the future holds.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Bellevue Avenue Library and to salute the work of the trustees, staff and volunteers of the Montclair Public Library System.

TRIBUTE TO HOOD RIVER BOYS SOCCER CHAMPIONS

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Hood River Valley High School boys' soccer team, which brought home the title of "State Champions" this year in the 2014 Oregon 5A state championship. Hood River is my hometown, and both my son and I are proud graduates of Hood River Valley High School, so this victory is especially sweet.

Led by head coach Jaime Rivera and assistant coach Joe Dolan, the Eagles had a perfect 18-0 season and playoff run that was topped off by a 2-0 victory against Woodburn in the finals. After making it to the state finals last year, this season marks the culmination of willpower and sacrifice displayed by these dedicated young men.

The Eagles' undefeated record illustrates what happens when a team unites under one goal and exhibits the necessary work ethic, team work, and positive attitude to achieve success. I know that these skills have helped prepare these young men to be upstanding citizens of our great state and nation.

I am always proud to see how young men and women can inspire a community, and Hood River certainly rallied around the Eagles. Throughout the season, the community has rallied around and supported this team, game after game. After being engulfed on the field by supporters following their championship victory, the team was escorted by a caravan of police and fire trucks on their way back to Hood River.

I'd like to personally congratulate each member of this team: Travis Running, Marco Cuevas, Danny Romero, Manuel Mozqueda, Uriel Torrez, Joel Garcia, Marcos Trejo, Mario Sandoval, Andres Baeza, Gio Magana, Alex Gutierrez, Angel Sonato, Johnny Villafana, Luis Perez, Noah Noteboom, Antonio Bustos, Jaime Frias, Diego Rueda, Aldo Muro, Noe Magana, Coach Jaime Rivera, and Coach Joe Dolan. As a proud Hood River resident, I look forward to cheering on this year's team as they pursue their goals in the years to come. It is truly a privilege to represent the members of this team in the House of Representatives and my pleasure to congratulate them on their outstanding accomplishment of bringing home the teams' first state title. Go Eagles!

RECOGNIZING JOHN M. SAMUELS

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the enormous contributions made by John M. Samuels to the development of sound U.S. tax policy over the last 40 years. John Samuels is retiring from the General Electric Company at the end of this year, where he has been the Vice President and Senior Counsel for Tax Policy and Planning since 1988. Before joining GE, John had a successful career in private practice and spent several years at the U.S. Department of Treasury, as Deputy Tax Legislative Counsel and Tax Legislative Counsel.

Most press articles about John highlight his distinguished career at GE. And while that is important, I want to acknowledge the work he has done behind the scenes to promote sound, effective, pro-growth tax policies for the benefit of the entire U.S. economy. The progress we have made in advancing the cause of comprehensive tax reform has benefited enormously from his efforts.

One example has been his support of academic research into international corporate tax issues through the founding of the International Tax Policy Forum (ITPF). John Samuels has served as the chairman of ITPF since it was founded in 1992. ITPF, which has been called the "world's leading tax think tank," plays a unique and important role in sponsoring nonpartisan academic research, often by young, up-and-coming scholars, and hosting conferences at which such papers are presented, discussed, and debated. This gives tax policymakers in Washington access to a much broader body of research and thought than we would otherwise have, thus informing and elevating the policy discussions taking place in Congress, in the Administration, and at other think tanks.

In 2009, John received the Tax Foundation's Distinguished Service Award for his contributions to tax policy. In announcing the award, the President of the Tax Foundation said, "John's leadership in facilitating a rational debate on international tax policy is without peer."

While John is retiring from GE, he is not retiring from the world of tax policy. I know his leadership in "facilitating a rational debate on international tax policy" will carry on. I am confident his contributions will continue in the next chapter of his distinguished career. And I know that my colleagues who will push forward in Congress on the extremely important work we started in reforming our tax code will turn to John Samuels again and again for advice, ideas, and wise counsel.

SOLUTIONS TO DAILY STRESS

HON. STEVE STOCKMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. STOCKMAN. Mr. Speaker, hypnosis may be a useful tool in the field of mental and physical health as well as combatting against those who wish to kick the habit of smoking and substance abuse.

FoxNews Health recently published a column noting the effectiveness of “hypnosis as therapy for anxiety, stress,” wherein it noted that “Hypnosis was birthed from the brains of psychologists and researchers, and . . . it’s now making its way back into the mainstream.” It recommended the National Guild of Hypnotists (the NGH) as one of two national organizations from which to seek referrals. The following is a news report profiling the organization.

MERRIMACK, NH.—(Marketwired—Jan. 21, 2014)—Change is stressful, even when change comes in the form of beneficial technology and social transformation. Too often, the stress of change manifests as overeating and obesity, smoking, substance abuse, aggression and other negative behaviors. Millions are searching for a non-pharmaceutical solution that is effective, long lasting and causes no side effects. The National Guild of Hypnotists has demonstrated through its longevity and documented results that hypnosis provides proven alternatives for reducing and eliminating many of the negative responses to today’s stressful world.

The National Guild of Hypnotists, NGH, is the oldest, largest and most respected professional association of hypnotists in the world. The National Guild of Hypnotists, under the leadership of Dr. Dwight Damon, has been instrumental in raising conscious awareness of consulting hypnosis as a separate and distinct profession. Hypnosis now is recognized in the medical and scientific mainstream and its use and acceptance continue to grow.

Founded in Boston in 1950 and now based in Merrimack, NH. with over 14,000 members worldwide, the National Guild of Hypnotists includes trained, certified hypnotists, doctors, dentists and other health professionals and educators from many fields. An international organization serving members in 80 countries, the National Guild of Hypnotists established a strong universal code of ethics for the profession. In 1994, the National Guild of Hypnotists chartered the rapidly growing National Federation of Hypnotists, Local 104, a Union affiliated with the OPEIU, AFL-CIO, CLC. Those knowledgeable of non-clinical hypnosis universally acknowledge Dr. Damon as “The Father of Consulting Hypnotism as a Separate and Distinct Profession.”

The National Guild of Hypnotists established and maintains a rigorous certification program based on a standardized curriculum. Annually, the National Guild of Hypnotists conducts educational seminars around the country and an international convention and educational conference, held in Marlborough, MA, that attracts over a thousand hypnotists. Under the guidance of Convention Director Elsom Eldridge Jr., the convention is the leading and largest venue for the sharing of best practices within the profession. Each year’s convention provides a platform for teaching advanced hypnotic techniques and sharing new information and practical developments from leading members of the profession and legislative and legal updates. The most prestigious awards in the profession are presented during the event. The adjunct faculty, recruited from around the world, provides a distinguished nexus for what Dr. Damon describes as, “an open forum for a free exchange of ideas concerning hypnotism.”

Dr. Damon says, “As members of the National Guild of Hypnotists, we have accepted the invitation and have risen to the challenge that the actions we have taken over the years, lay the groundwork for our profession to soar beyond all that has been accomplished and even beyond all we can conceive. We rise to the invitation to leave a legacy of excellence.”

Respectful of licensed health care professionals, the National Guild of Hypnotists encourages its members to make their services widely available as a complementary adjunct to medical, dental and other licensed health professions. The organization’s vision is of a time when a visit to a Consulting Hypnotist will be as routine as a trip to the dentist. Consistent efforts by the National Guild of Hypnotists in fostering professionalism has been the decisive factor in bringing about the recognition of hypnosis as a separate and distinct profession.

The non-profit association publishes the Journal of Hypnotism and the Hypno-Gram quarterly, as informative publications for practitioners and recently introduced Hypnosis Today, an annual magazine created for all readers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 557 I am not recorded because I was absent due to a previously scheduled meeting. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye.

WELCOME, BABY MARY PARKS NATONSKI

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate the former communications director of South Carolina’s Second District and now Chief of Staff for RICHARD HUDSON (NC–08) Pepper Pennington Natonski, and her husband Dave, who serves as Chief of Staff for KEVIN YODER (KS–03), upon the birth of their beautiful daughter. Mary Parks Natonski arrived into the world at 7:02AM on Thursday, November 27, 2014. Born at Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington, DC, Mary Parks weighed eight and a half pounds and measured twenty-one and a half inches long. The Thanksgiving Day baby is the first child for the happy couple. I look forward to watching her grow and have no doubt that her talented parents will be dedicated to her well-being and bright future.

I would also like to congratulate Mary Parks’ grandparents, Cass and Cindy Pennington of Orlando, Florida, and General Richard and Barbara Natonski of Woodbridge, Virginia. Congratulations to the entire Pennington and Natonski families as they welcome their newest edition of pure pride and joy!

CITY OF SUGAR LAND EMPLOYEE DELIVERS RESULTS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the City of Sugar Land Risk Manager Norma Martinez for receiving the 2014

Risk Professional of the Year award from the Public Risk Management Association Chapter of Texas.

Martinez’s innovative efforts have significantly lowered costs for the City of Sugar Land. As risk manager, Norma decreased the citywide worker’s compensations cost by 62% over three years, decreased citywide auto liability costs by 64% over three years, decreased lost city time by 63% over five years, and decreased worker’s compensation cost for the fire department by 91% over five years. It’s clear that Norma delivers results.

The City of Sugar Land is fortunate to have such a proactive leader in their Human Resources Department. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to Norma Martinez for receiving the 2014 Risk Professional of the Year award.

REFLECTIONS ON CONGRESS

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, as I prepare to retire after 22 years in the House, I feel as I did when I first walked into this chamber as a freshman—it is an extraordinary privilege to be able to serve and being a U.S. representative is a humbling opportunity I never imagined I might have.

As Members of Congress, we see the Capitol Dome every day and I suspect that none of us ever fails to be inspired by its beauty and what it symbolizes. It is the incarnation of words attributed to Alexander Hamilton: “Here . . . the people govern.”

In times of peace and war, prosperity and economic crisis, and social consensus and societal change, America stands unique among nations and in history. The phrase that perfectly explains this is “American Exceptionalism,” which I truly believe in. You see it in the leadership that America provides to the world, in the service of our troops and veterans, and in the spirit of our people.

In Congress, I have served with three Presidents and five Speakers and been in this institution for the final years of the collapse of the Soviet Union, the tragedy of the 9/11 attacks, the accounting scandals and later the financial crisis of 2008, and many other historic events. Frequently, the concern expressed in our nation was, “Will we make it through?” Each time, America demonstrated its resilience and the reason for that, in my view, is because of our freedom.

It has been my privilege to serve on three great committees: the Financial Services Committee, the Judiciary Committee, and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. My colleagues accorded me the honor of selecting me as Financial Services Committee Chairman, the first to come from my home state of Alabama since Representative Henry B. Steagall in the 1930s. Little did I know that my leadership term on the committee would coincide with the most severe financial crisis to test the U.S. since the Great Depression. During the depths of the financial crisis in the fall of 2008, we worked to prevent a repeat of that catastrophe by stabilizing our weakened banking system; I am proud of my advocacy

of the successful capital purchase program as a solution.

However, if asked about my most satisfying achievement, it would be debt relief. The bipartisan agreement that emerged from Congress and the Clinton and Bush Administrations to provide debt relief to the world's poorest nations has reduced hunger, poverty and disease and lifted tens of millions of children and families from despair to hope. It is an example of what this institution is capable of doing at its finest.

As Dean of the Alabama congressional delegation, I have been honored to be part of a group of House Members and Senators that works across party lines to promote the interests of our state as a whole. Some of the projects that stand out to me are the construction of I-22 and the Northern Beltline, the creation of the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge, the location of the National Computer Forensics Center in Hoover, and especially the construction of the Alabama National Cemetery in Montevallo, a shrine to our veterans and their families.

One thing that Members of Congress learn quickly is that their effectiveness is greatly enhanced by a high quality staff. Over the years, I have had many talented and dedicated individuals on my personal and committee staffs. In the past on this floor, I have noted the contributions of Larry Lavender, Warren Tryon, and Gerry Cashin. While time does not permit me to name every staff member, I would like to acknowledge loyal staffers who have been with me during my final year in office: Michael Staley, Tim Johnson, Brett Quick, Philip Swartzfager, Thomas Crockett, Sumner Bravo, Brooks McClendon, Katherine Runkle, and Blake Lasuzzo in my Washington office and Christian Sanford, Ethan Vice and Pam Cook in my Birmingham office. Both the institution of Congress and bureaucracy of the federal government are large and complex, and experience matters when you interact with them on behalf of your constituents.

One thing I cannot stress enough is that I would not have been able to achieve anything without the support of my family. My wife Linda is my source of comfort, inspiration, and love. We are blessed with five wonderful children—Candace, Warren, Lisa, Stuart, and Elliott—and seven delightful grandchildren—Christopher, Madeline, Olivia, Rayner, Charlotte, Braden and Lillie. With great eagerness, I look forward to having more time to spend with my beautiful family.

In conclusion, I leave with great respect as well as with an abiding fondness for this institution. A departing hope is that while we vigorously debate policy, as we elected to do, we focus on doing so with respect and civility. My father gave me the advice, "If you can't say anything nice about a person, don't say anything at all." That's not an easy thing to do in politics, but it's a good standard to aspire to. A benefit, I believe, would be an increase in public regard for this legislative body, which is vital in a society where consent comes from the governed. We should strive to make the public proud of their Congress; as Members, we should take personal pride in and honor the tradition of this essential institution.

The people of America look to us for leadership and, in turn, the nations of the world look to America for leadership. This is still President Reagan's beloved "Shining City on the Hill." My hope is that during the time the peo-

ple of Alabama have given me here, brief in the scope of our country's glorious history, I have been able to contribute in some small way to maintaining the Promise of America for our children, grandchildren, and the generations to come.

HONORING THE COURAGEOUS
SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF
STAFF SERGEANT MATTHEW R.
AMMERMAN

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Ms. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute of a true American hero, Staff Sergeant Matthew R. Ammerman. Tragically, on December 3, Sergeant Ammerman was killed when his unit came under fire in the Zabul province of Afghanistan. I, along with people from across the United States, stand in eternal gratitude for the dedication, service and sacrifice of this young man.

A native of Noblesville, Indiana, Ammerman joined the Army in July 2004. He was deployed in 2006 to Iraq, where he served for 14 months. In 2009, he served as an assistant gunner, fire team leader and squad leader in Afghanistan. In 2012, he volunteered for the Special Forces and graduated in 2013 as a Special Forces communications sergeant. Sergeant Ammerman again answered the call of duty in late 2014 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

His many awards are a testament to the exceptional character of this incredibly talented and immensely brave young man. His accomplishments include the Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, the Iraq Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, the Global War on Terror Service Medal, the Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon and NATO Medal. He also received the Special Forces Tab, the Ranger Tab, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Expert Infantryman Badge, the Parachutist Badge and the Driver and Mechanic Badge.

Staff Sergeant Matthew Ammerman will forever be remembered as a man willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice to defend the freedoms that we so cherish. However, I know his wife, Emily, and his mother, Susan, will always remember him as a loving husband, and a courageous son. I join all Americans in praying for their comfort in this time of grief and the safe return of all those continuing to protect the United States abroad.

RECOGNIZING ACHIEVE HUMAN
SERVICES OF YUMA ARIZONA
AND THE ABILITYONE PROGRAM

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Achieve Human Services and the

AbilityOne® Program. The AbilityOne Program partners with participating community-based nonprofit agencies that are dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities. Organizations like Achieve, located in every state of our great nation, employ nearly 45,000 Americans who are blind or have significant disabilities through this Program.

AbilityOne affiliated non-profit agencies offer people who are blind or who have significant disabilities opportunities to acquire the job skills and training necessary to receive good wages and benefits that ultimately improve their quality of life. The value of these opportunities cannot be overstated as only 21 percent of individuals with disabilities currently have jobs.

Achieve helps Americans with disabilities lead more productive lives, support their families, gain important work experience and share in the same pride that each of us have after an honest day's work. Many of these individuals work in support of our men and women in uniform, doing their part to improve our country and ensure safety and security for us all.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize the AbilityOne Program and to Achieve Human Services. I also want to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of Ms. Carol Carr, the Executive Director of Achieve, and her staff for helping individuals who are blind or have significant disabilities find employment opportunities. Such actions greatly improve the lives of those less fortunate and make our country a better place.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CARY
MARIE FAIRCHILD

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise with Congressman EARL BLUMENAUER and Congressman KURT SCHRADER to honor the life of Cary Marie Fairchild, an Oregonian who tragically lost her life as the result of a car accident in October of 2014.

Cary was a force of nature who served her community with kindness, compassion, and joy. Born in New York City, Cary moved with her family, several times before moving to Hammond, Indiana, where she was raised with her three younger siblings. Growing up, Cary was a natural-born leader. She was the center of her family who not only depended on her, but enjoyed the wild ride. Cary graduated from Hammond Morton High School and attended Ripon College, studying language abroad in Lausanne, Switzerland. Cary graduated with honors from Indiana University and went on to receive her Masters in Psychology from Valparaiso University. She also completed the course work required for a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology at the Illinois School of Professional Psychology in Chicago.

After high school, Cary married Terry Luchene. They had two children, Aaron and Ann. Cary was a very devoted mother who adored her children and her grandson, Logan.

Cary met Jim, her husband of over 30 years, when they both worked as therapists in the same mental health center in Valparaiso. In 1989, they moved to Oregon. They sold everything that didn't fit into a rental truck and

set out for Portland. Although they didn't know anyone in Portland and didn't have jobs, they knew where they were meant to be and trusted in their ability to make a new life in a place they loved.

Cary worked at the Oregon State Hospital, where she was employed as a Mental Health Specialist for almost 25 years. She was an outspoken advocate for her patients and fellow workers. Cary championed patient rights and fought to bring the option of alternative care to the hospital. She was instrumental in starting successful yoga and mindfulness meditation programs at OHS. These programs were well-liked and well-attended. Many of Cary's patients sent her notes affirming how very helpful yoga and meditation are to their recovery.

One of Cary's colleagues said, "Speaking up for alternative care in the workplace can take courage. Cary treated her patients with compassion, dignity and respect, and they loved her for it. She was fierce!" Cary's family and friends will forever remember her for her caring, compassionate, playful nature and for the joy she brought to all their lives. Cary was loved by everyone who knew her and she is terribly missed.

Cary is survived by her husband Jim, and mother, Eileen Zneimer of Portland; father, Jack Zneimer of Sarasota, FL; son Aaron Luchene of Canby; daughter, Ann Klug of Merrillville, IN; brothers Peter Zneimer of Chicago and John Zneimer of LaCrosse, WI; and sister Maud of Mill Valley, CA.

We send our sincere condolences to her family, and join in the celebration of her life.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN HOWARD

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Howard, an indispensable member of my staff and good friend who will soon retire after ten years of faithful service to me and the people of Oregon's Second District.

John has had a long, dedicated career serving his country. In fact, this actually marks John's second retirement. In 1994, John left his beloved United States Navy after a thirty year career, rising from enlisted seaman to Commander. A passionate Fighting Illini alumnus, John received his commission in 1970 as a graduate of the Navy ROTC program at the University of Illinois. John served on five ships, including command of the USS *Saginaw* (LST-1188) and several shore assignments, including two tours in Washington D.C.

After a few years of retirement—and a brief stint as a dotcom millionaire gone bust with an independent software development company—John and his wife Cathy relocated from Virginia Beach, Virginia to Medford, Oregon in September 2001. In fact, the closing on his home was delayed because of 9/11. He persevered through and settled in to the Rogue Valley getting involved in his community through the United Way and several military organizations. I first met John when he was the president of the Rogue Valley Council of the Navy League where he presented me with an honorary Navy League membership.

A lifelong Republican, John stepped up to volunteer with the 2004 Bush/Cheney presi-

dential campaign in Jackson County, OR. John stayed in touch with my office through similar political and community volunteer efforts. Soon, when a member of my staff decided to return to school part time, I brought John on to share the workload and the following year, John joined my team full time to handle veterans and military casework and provide input on related policy matters.

Bringing John onboard wasn't without issue. John Howard is a pretty common name for one and we already had a John on staff. The communication logistics could have been daunting, yet by chance House IT averted a crisis. John was bestowed with a non-standard email address that had no "dot" between his first and last name. Thereafter and forevermore, John was referred to as NoDot amongst Team Walden.

During his ten years on staff, John has handled 4,144 cases for individual constituents and veterans, almost 1/3 of all the cases handled in 16 years by my office. That doesn't include the countless other veterans and other constituents assisted on the side with information and guidance.

Of course, it was hard for him to top the success of one of his first cases on staff where he showed an ability that surprised us all, bringing veterans back to life. John was contacted by a veteran who had received a letter from the VA containing the shocking news that he was deceased. Working with his contacts at the VA, John was able to get the error corrected and brought the veteran back to life in the VA's records. Over the years, John has had a couple other similar cases, all of which he found fascinating to resolve.

As my veterans caseworker, and later as Director of Constituent Services, John worked with veterans organizations across the district to make sure that I heard their concerns and let them know I was available to assist. John was a familiar face at veterans meetings and events in southern Oregon. Further, he was instrumental in developing a presentation for civic groups on what goes on in congressional offices, making my services more known and available to constituents.

A good naval officer is always concerned about the morale of his sailors. John carried that approach with him and became the de facto Morale Officer in my Southern Oregon District Office. Combining this with a firm belief in the importance of quality community outreach in politics, John founded "Rope Yarn/Veterans Outreach Wednesdays" which are weekly after hours gathering for staff and local veterans to discuss local veteran's issues and partake in the occasional fermented beverage—as any good sailor would!

During his tenure, John took the reins of my service academy selection process, changing and building it into the strong program it is today. He constructed a board of retired military officers to interview all candidates that was decidedly "Purple," ensuring all service components were fully represented. This system has proven to be highly successful. In fact, nine of the 18 students I nominated last year received an appointment to the class of 2018.

As John heads into retirement, he is looking forward to some increased time with his extensive family, which includes his wife Cathy, his son, five daughters; soon-to-be 13 grandchildren—including two newborn fraternal twin granddaughters—along with 2 foster grandchildren.

Always service oriented, John will continue to volunteer in his community and was recently appointed to the board of the Jackson County Retired Seniors Volunteer Program. In addition, he has been approached to serve on the board of the United Way and the Jackson County Veterans Advisory Committee.

Whether spending time with family, golfing or volunteering it will always be easy to identify John from afar in the University of Illinois characteristic orange and blue, or overhear the words to the Songs of the Illini—from Illinois Loyalty to Hail to the Orange—which he loudly and proudly belt out with the slightest provocation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring John's 40 plus years of public service and in wishing fair winds and following seas to a true gentleman, shipmate, and friend. Godspeed, NoDot!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 555, I was unavoidably detained on official business.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN H. KREBS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues, Congressman XAVIER BECERRA, Congressman AMI BERA, Congresswoman JULIA BROWNLEY, Congresswoman LOIS CAPPAS, Congressman TONY CÁRDENAS, Congresswoman JUDY CHU, Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO, Congressman SAM FARR, Congresswoman JANICE HAHN, Congressman JARED HUFFMAN, Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN, Congressman ALAN LOWENTHAL, Congresswoman DORIS MATSUI, Congresswoman GLORIA NEGRETE MCLEOD, Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY, Congressman GEORGE MILLER, Congressman RICK NOLAN, Congresswoman GRACE NAPOLITANO, Congresswoman NANCY PELOSI, Congressman SCOTT PETERS, Congresswoman LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, Congressman RAUL RUIZ, Congresswoman LORETTA SANCHEZ, Congressman ADAM SCHIFF, Congressman BRAD SHERMAN, Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER, Congressman ERIC SWALWELL, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON and Congressman HENRY WAXMAN to pay tribute to the life of former Congressman, John H. Krebs.

John Krebs was an honorable man, and a community leader whose unwavering service will be greatly missed. In addition to his two terms in the United States Congress from 1975–1979, Mr. Krebs was a civic and Democratic Party leader in Fresno, California. Additionally, he worked as an attorney for over 30 years, he was an apprentice diamond cutter during his youth in Tel Aviv, and he served in the U.S. Army.

While in Congress, he was best known for his authorship and enactment of legislation incorporating the Mineral King Valley into Sequoia National Park, thwarting Disney developers who wanted to turn the wilderness area into a major ski resort. In 2009, President Obama recognized John for his efforts, and signed legislation establishing the John Krebs Wilderness Area which covers 40,000 acres within the Mineral King Valley.

John Krebs was born on December 17, 1926, in Berlin. His parents fled Germany a few months after Hitler came to power, and he was raised in Tel Aviv. During his adolescence, John embarked on a career as a diamond cutter and joined the Haganah, a Jewish underground organization opposing the British rule, while also preparing to attend college.

In 1946, John moved to the United States to attend the University of California, Berkeley. He graduated in 1950 and became a U.S. citizen in 1952. Following his two years in the Army, he attended the University of California Hastings College of Law and passed the California Bar in 1957. For the next three decades, he practiced law with the Parichan law firm, specializing in civil defense litigation.

John wanted to make a positive difference in the community, and he quickly became an activist and leader for Fresno's Democratic Party, playing a key role in local and statewide campaigns. In March 1970, he was elected to the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, a position he held until his election to Congress in 1974. He was the first foreign-born congressman from California. John fulfilled the American Dream, and he serves as an inspiration for all of us.

John returned to Fresno after his tenure in Congress, and practiced law until his retirement. He served on numerous boards and commissions, and was foreman of the Fresno County Grand Jury for two years. John and his wife, Hanna enjoyed traveling, and loved spending time with their children and grandchildren.

John's strong values, work ethic, and compassion for others were evident to all of those who were fortunate to know him. His loving guidance as a husband, father, grandfather, and friend will be forever cherished.

John will be greatly missed by Hanna, his son, Daniel Krebs, his daughter, Karen, daughter-in-law, Susan, son-in-law, John, and grandchildren, Elizabeth, Caroline, Jack, Clay, and Peter as well as his 90 year old brother, Shlomo.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that we ask the entire House of Representatives to join us in paying tribute to the life of John H. Krebs. We all have an extraordinary role model to look up to, and his presence will be greatly missed, but his legacy will surely live on.

EMPHASIZING IMPORTANCE OF INVESTING IN EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the importance of investing in evidence-based programs with proven track records.

As we work to invest our tax dollars in the most efficient manner possible, we need to know which government programs work, which do not, and which could be improved. The Appropriations bill provides a set aside of 0.5% for program evaluations for both the Department of Labor and certain Education programs.

It has recently been brought to my attention, how the moneyball approach to government could help in our spending decisions. We all have heard about Billy Bean and how he used evidence and data to assemble his winning team.

We in Congress can use this same model by examining best practices and evaluating Federal programs.

"Investing in What Works" is not a partisan issue. This practice dates back to Presidents Clinton and Bush and continues today with President Obama.

Many of you have heard me speak about my disdain for these austere budget times and how we are forced to look at every available avenue to do more with less. Conducting program evaluations and investing in what works can help improve outcomes for children, families and communities across this nation.

RECOGNIZING DISTINGUISHED EAGLE SCOUT BERNARD QUENEAU

HON. CHRIS COLLINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, as the Chairman of the Congressional Scouting Caucus, I rise today to honor Bernard Queneau, the oldest Eagle Scout in America, who passed away earlier this week.

Born in Liege, Belgium in 1912, Bernard moved with his family to America and joined Boy Scout Troop 3B in New Rochelle, New York. He received his Eagle Scout award on March 5, 1928 and was subsequently selected as one of four scouts selected to travel the Lincoln Highway from New York to San Francisco on a 34-day Lincoln Highway Safety Tour. During this journey, Bernard and his fellow scouts gave scouting skills demonstrations and set the stage for 3,400 concrete Lincoln Highway markers to be erected by scouts from coast to coast, cementing the memory of President Lincoln onto this national roadway.

At 102 years old, Bernard was the last living member of the 1928 Boy Scout Lincoln Highway Safety Tour. Bernard recently received the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award, the National Eagle Scout Association's highest honor. He was the 2098th recipient of the 45 year old award, which honors Eagle Scouts with at least 25 years of service and exceptional career achievement or recognition.

Bernard was a lifelong scout and true believer in the values of preparedness and doing your best. He lived his life by the scout oath and law and I am honored to recognize such an exemplary man today. I know Bernard's memory will live on through this family and friends, as well as the myriad of scouts of all ages his life touched.

RECOGNIZING PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL LABORATORY'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, which is celebrating a half-century of innovation and achievement in American research and development.

For 50 years, the men and women at PNNL have worked diligently to make the Lab a leader among the scientific foundations of the United States, evolving from a laboratory supporting a nuclear materials development mission to a multi program national laboratory with significant portfolios in science, energy, and nonproliferation.

When America went to the moon in 1969, NASA chose the lab (then called the Pacific Northwest Laboratory, or PNL) as the only Northwest organization to analyze the lunar material from the Apollo program, and their work became critical to understanding the origin and history of the moon. Additionally, their research had many applications outside of the laboratory. In 1974, they developed a data storage technique called optical digital recording, and became the pioneer of a technology still popular with consumers today—CDs and DVDs.

Their commitment to the environment has consistently been a driving force in work they do. When Mt. St. Helens erupted in 1980, PNL was ready. Because of their expertise in environmental sampling and monitoring, researchers were able to collect samples of the ash and assess potential threats to health and the environment. After the 1986 disaster at Chernobyl, they were assigned the lead role in collecting air samples of the fallout using special research aircraft. They also helped to monitor the radiation levels in the plume after it arrived in America. And, in the early 1990s, PNL helped create the Global Change Assessment Model (GCAM). This model is now widely used around the world, and demonstrates the true impact of the laboratory's work on an international scale.

In 1995, they changed their name to the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory—a suitable switch, since they had always been a national lab making national impacts. Two years later, they opened the Environmental Molecular Science Laboratory (EMSL), a national scientific user facility, which narrows the gap between theoretical molecular modelling and practical physical experimentation. Since its opening, EMSL has welcomed scientific users from every state, and nearly 30 countries.

In the early 2000s, PNNL began to focus on updating the infrastructure of the United States' century-old electric grid, and incorporating it into the information age. They continue to be a leader in testing and developing new technology to manage and protect the grid, especially from new cybersecurity threats. Some of their most recent scientific missions include increasing U.S. energy capacity, and reducing dependence on imported oil; preventing and countering terrorism and

the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; and creating sustainable systems, reducing the environmental effects of human activities.

Closer to home, PNNL created a suite of modern facilities to support its national and international customers using Battelle, federal, State and third party funds . . . a complex unique in the DOE laboratory system. The Consolidated Laboratory complex allowed PNNL to vacate older facilities that were on the Hanford site.

PNNL developed and supported efforts to create a WSU Branch Campus in the Tri-Cities, including joint appointments and federal/state partnership for a research laboratory on the WSU campus. PNNL has been a strong supporter of STEM education programs throughout Washington State, including early funding to build the Delta Prep school in the Tri-Cities.

I want to thank the generations of hardworking men and women who helped bring PNNL this far. I am proud of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, its work, and the boundless spirit of American innovation that has made it possible for the last 50 years.

IN RECOGNITION OF BLAISE ALAN DENTE FOR RECEIVING THE UNICO MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR 2014

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Blaise Alan Dente for being awarded UNICO's "Man of the Year" Award for 2014. Mr. Dente is a lifelong resident of Pittston, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Seton Catholic High School. Mr. Dente received a Bachelor of Science in Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism from East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania. Today, he is the owner of Dente's Catering and Rental, which has been voted the Sunday Dispatch's "Best Caterer of Greater Pittston" in both 2011 and 2013.

Mr. Dente is a member of the American Culinary Federation, a national organization of chefs, cooks, and culinary students. Through this association, he obtained his certification as a Certified Chef de Cuisine, which he has held since 2003. He was also inducted as an "honorary fellow" in the American Academy of Chefs, the prestigious honor society within the American Culinary Federation. In addition, Mr. Dente is a member of the local chapter of ACF, Professional Chefs of Northeast Pennsylvanian. Within this local chapter, he has chaired several committees and has years of service in various chapter offices. Mr. Dente has also held the position of Chapter President and currently serves as the chapter's Chairman of the Board. In 2008, he was named Chapter Chef of the Year.

Mr. Dente is also an active member of the local community. He serves as a Eucharistic Minister, lector, and usher at his church, Our Lady of the Eucharist. Mr. Dente is a member of both the Wilkes-Barre and Greater Scranton Chambers of Commerce and sits on the Executive Board of Directors, Pittston Chamber of Commerce. In addition, Mr. Dente volunteers

for the Pittston Tomato Festival Committee and is a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus Council 372 & Assembly 948. He is also a member of the Color Guard Core Group and serves as Assembly Faithful Scribe. In 2010, Mr. Dente was named one of the "Top 40 under 40" Business Professionals. Mr. Dente is also a graduate of Leadership Wilkes-Barre.

It is a great honor to recognize Mr. Dente's many achievements and to congratulate him being UNICO's "Man of the Year" for 2014. I wish him continued success with his business and express my gratitude for his involvement in the community.

INTRODUCTION OF AMERICAN SOLUTION FOR SIMPLIFYING THE ESTATE TAX ACT OF 2014 ("ASSET ACT")

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, one area of unfinished business for the 113th Congress is comprehensive tax reform, which would have given us the chance to reduce the burden of the Internal Revenue Code on families and businesses and would have stimulated economic growth.

Recognizing that tax reform is an issue that the 114th Congress should prioritize, I am introducing today a bill that offers a creative solution to the problems associated with the current federal estate tax. I want to note at the outset that I was an early cosponsor of Congressman BRADY's legislation to repeal the estate tax. However, as part of the tax reform process, Members of the Ways and Means Committee have demonstrated a willingness to consider a variety of policy suggestions and thus, in the interest of stimulating discussion, I am introducing the American Solution for Simplifying the Estate Tax Act of 2014, the "ASSET Act." As I will explain further, the ASSET Act is intended to be a revenue-neutral solution that would provide a new voluntary simplified method for Americans with large estates to pay a fair share of taxes but without any of the distortive, inefficient effects created by the current method of collecting the estate tax.

The origins of the current federal estate tax arise out of the need to fund World War I and enactment of the Revenue Act of 1916. In that respect, this law has outlived its original purpose. It might come as a surprise to some that over the past 50 years, the much-debated federal estate tax has generated only around one percent of total federal tax collections and in 2013 brought in \$14 billion, or around 4/10th of a percent of total tax revenue. When one considers the distortive effects of the current estate tax and the disproportionately low amount of revenue actually raised, it is incumbent upon us to identify more appropriate policy solutions.

The case for reform is dramatically illustrated by reviewing the data cited by the Joint Economic Committee (JEC) in its May 2006 study and updated in a July, 2012 study issued by the Republican staff of the JEC. The 2006 study indicated that individuals' costs of complying with the estate tax (avoiding wealth transfer taxes) roughly equals the revenue

yield of the estate tax for the Treasury. Both studies demonstrated that the costs of the estate tax includes tens of millions of dollars of compliance costs, a substantial reduction in the capital stock of our economy, reduced savings/increased consumption, and the dissolution of family-run businesses. The 2006 study cited the Congressional Budget Office in saying that many estates that owed estate taxes had a tax liability in excess of their liquid assets, which is a key reason why many family-run businesses are liquidated prematurely or sold at firesale prices after the death of the primary owner.

One example of this problem is Maryland resident Jack Fitzgerald. Jack is a successful owner of a number of automobile dealerships. He has explained to me and to many others in Congress that he is kept up at night by concerns that he will pass away and that his heirs will have to liquidate his thriving small businesses in order to pay the federal estate tax. He routinely mentions the 1200 employees whose livelihoods depend to a great extent on him and his managers. To prevent against the risk of a forced liquidation, Jack says that he pays nearly \$700,000 annually in life insurance premia so that his estate would have enough funds to cover the IRS tax liability. Those are funds that he could be reinvesting in his business, his employees, or otherwise using productively if the current estate tax were not looming in the distance. We all know of farmers, ranchers, and other family-run businesses that have to consider selling at an inopportune time in order to ensure that the tax man will get his share. One famous example was captured in the film, "Secretariat," when the horse's owner almost has to sell him and the entire horse farm to pay the estate taxes after the patriarch's death, but she creatively developed an innovative syndication scheme to raise the \$6 million and to keep the trailblazing horse and the farm within the family.

My office has received letters in support of the ASSET Act from a diverse group of Marylanders, including a CPA, the owner of a minority/woman-owned public relations and advertising firm, the president of a general contracting firm, and the Maryland Auto Dealers Association. One gentleman, who is a farmer who also owns an agricultural business, wrote that "the present federal estate tax law is very detrimental for businesses (whether it be a farm or other operating business) to pass onto the next generation. During my lifetime I have seen many hardworking farmers and business owners' lifetime work be sold upon their death in order to pay for the inheritance tax. This is a bad situation for creating and keeping jobs and it also creates a real hardship on families."

Responding to their concerns and others I have heard on numerous occasions when meeting with constituents, the ASSET Act offers a new, simplified approach that will solve permanently the problems with the current estate tax. It permits individual taxpayers to opt-in to a new system in which death would no longer be a taxable event. By taking the uncertainty of death out of the question of how and when assets should be liquidated, the ASSET Act will contribute to economic growth and preserve the stability of companies. Small business owners, farmers, ranchers, and others will not have to live their lives fearing the tax liability imposed under the existing estate

tax and will not have to dismantle profitable companies, sell farms and ranches, over-purchase life insurance, and waste their money on lawyers and accountants with sheltering strategies.

Under the ASSET Act, individuals could make a “down payment” on their estate taxes during their earning years and then the government would rely upon traditional capital gains taxes to generate revenue from estate assets when sold. In the current draft of the ASSET Act, a taxpayer may “opt in” to this approach by agreeing to pay an additional one percent of his/her AGI each year. (If, based on Joint Committee on Taxation revenue estimates, the one percent rate needs to be adjusted to ensure revenue neutrality over time, that would be possible prior to enactment.) Once in the system, these payments must continue through the earning life of the taxpayer, but no tax will be levied against the estate of such a taxpayer at his death. His or her assets remain intact until they are sold, at which time they will be subject to capital gains tax at the then current rate. Taxpayers must pay the 1 percent fee for a minimum of seven years before they can take full advantage of the ASSET Act system.

There are several primary reasons to support the ASSET Act. As noted earlier, owners of small and medium sized businesses could better plan for the orderly succession of their companies and preserve critically needed jobs. This can avoid forcing the heirs to liquidate the company at just the wrong time, destroying the business and eliminating jobs. And, the government can avoid losing significant capital gains tax revenue that it would have realized had the asset been sold at the right economic opportunity in the future. The ASSET Act solves those concerns and ensures stability for vital engines of our economy.

The ASSET Act will help reduce tax avoidance scheming. Current law exempts estates that are worth less than \$5 million for an individual or \$10 million for a couple. However, it does not solve the liquidation problem for large estates, which will pay 40% on amounts above those levels. Individuals with very large estates or who expect to accrue such large estates now spend a great deal of time and significant money on strategies to shelter their assets from the estate tax. When these strategies are successful, the government receives nothing. That is why, historically, estate tax revenues have comprised only 1% of total federal tax revenues and 2.47% of the AGI of taxpayers earning more than \$1 million per year. The ASSET Act eliminates the incentive to hide assets from the IRS and to engage in unproductive strategies and avoidance schemes, so individuals will “stay within the system” and contribute their fair share of taxes to the Treasury.

The ASSET Act is intended to be revenue neutral and would offset the revenue loss of eliminating the current estate tax collection methodology for some taxpayers by imposing a very small annual prepayment surcharge and by capturing the benefits of increased capital gains tax revenues that would occur over time as estate assets are sold.

I encourage my colleagues to study the ASSET Act and to work with me to ensure that as the next Congress considers comprehensive tax reform proposals, we leave no stone unturned in the effort to rectify the problems associated with the current estate tax.

IN HONOR OF DALLAS/FT. WORTH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT'S NEWEST AIRLINE, ETIHAD AIRWAYS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, on December 3, 2014, Etihad Airways become the latest new airline to start service at Dallas/Ft. Worth International Airport (DFW), which I represent in Congress. Etihad's new service now connects DFW with Abu Dhabi and the world beyond. Though Etihad is only eleven years old, it has already become a trend setter in the aviation industry for service and onboard product offerings, winning its 6th straight “World's Leading Airline” award at the World Travel Awards this year.

Etihad and DFW based American Airlines enjoy codesharing and reciprocal frequent flier mileage agreements, making it easier for frequent fliers of both airlines to earn miles on their airline of choice and make connecting flights at DFW or Abu Dhabi. DFW is Etihad's sixth destination in the United States, further increasing ties between the United States and the United Arab Emirates. Etihad serves the DFW/Abu Dhabi route with a Boeing 777—which will be further complemented by the airline's \$40 billion order for additional Boeing aircraft in the coming years equipped with General Electric engines.

I congratulate Etihad and Dallas/Ft. Worth International Airport on this latest expansion of international service which will greatly increase travel options for my constituents and promote economic growth in North Texas.

HONORING THE FORT HILL HIGH SCHOOL SENTINELS

HON. JOHN K. DELANEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Fort Hill High School football team and Head Coach Todd Appel for winning the Maryland Class 1A State Football Championship for the second year in a row on Saturday, December 6th.

The Fort Hill Sentinels finished a second consecutive perfect 14–0 season with a 40–8 win against Douglass High School. The Sentinels have now won back-to-back state championships, their fourth in school history. They continued last season's dominance, outscoring their opponents 197–64.

Coach Appel has now compiled an impressive 80–11 record through seven seasons. The Sentinels started as the favorite and never looked back, sweeping the regular season and playoffs. I want to thank Coach Appel and his staff for their leadership, as well as all the student-athletes for their hard work and determination to be the best they can be both in the classroom and on the field. The Sentinels success over the last two years has brought pride to both Fort Hill High School and the local community. I also wish the Fort Hill Sentinels the best of luck as they look to win their third straight title next season.

I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues help me in honoring this significant accomplishment.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. STEVEN FRITZ

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise with Congressman EARL BLUMENAUER and Congressman KURT SCHRADER to honor the life and work of Dr. Steven Edward Fritz, an Oregonian whose life was tragically lost in an accident in September of 2014.

Steven Fritz was born in Frankfort, Kentucky on September 21, 1960. His parents are Salvation Army officers and Steven enjoyed moving to various assignments from Maine, Philadelphia, New Jersey, and New York City. Active in the Salvation Army, Steven was a teenager when he got his first job as a dishwasher at Camp Tecumseh, a Salvation Army children's camp in New Jersey. There he met Amanda, his wife, in 1977.

Steven graduated from Geneva College in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, and medical school at the University of Rochester, NY. He completed residency training in psychiatry at Oregon Health Sciences University and became a board certified psychiatrist, serving at the Oregon State Hospital (OSH) for 24 years. For several years he was the Chief Medical Officer at OSH, but he preferred taking care of patients so he left administrative work and returned to staffing forensics units. He was also the President of the local chapter of the Association of Federal, State, and County Municipal Employees (AFSCME). Steven was described by his colleagues as a “compassionate clinician” who was guided by kindness and what was best for his patients. He often worked with people who would otherwise be incarcerated, and his approach was valued for its philosophy of allowing patient-collaboration in guiding treatments. He was praised frequently by his colleagues, his patients, and their families.

After Steven and Amanda married in May of 1982, they did a nationwide search to choose a place to settle and raise their family. They moved to Portland in 1986. Their three children were born during the four years of Steven's residency training at OHSU. Steve and Amanda worked hard for many years raising their children, who attended Portland's public schools, and exploring natural areas in Oregon and the West Coast together as a family. They all particularly enjoyed camping in the Alvord Desert. Steve relished his relationships with his children, and was a terrific father.

Dr. Steven Fritz is survived by his wife Amanda; their three children, Luke, Maxwell, and Alessandra; his parents, Colonel Edward Fritz and Colonel Emily Fritz of Portland, OR; two brothers and their wives, Samuel and Diana of Amherst, NY and Andrew and Jody of Olympia, WA; his loving in-laws in England, including mother-in-law Pamela and siblings-in-law Peter and Sue; and many nephews and nieces.

We send our sincere condolences to his family, and join in the celebration of his life.

TRIBUTE TO KEITH H. DETERS

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to commend to the House the outstanding service of Keith H. Deters, who is retiring from the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center in Lima, Ohio, after a distinguished 32-year career.

Keith began his time at JSMC as a quality engineer in 1982. For the last 12 years, he has served as plant manager—the longest tenured manager in the modern history of that facility, which is the only remaining heavy combat vehicle production plant on the continent. A hands-on manager, he noted that there has rarely been a day that he did not walk the production floor to interact with the plant's highly skilled workforce, to which he has always paid great tribute for the facility's success.

In the face of challenges to JSMC's future, Keith has been a tireless advocate of the plant and the vital role it plays in our nation's defense industrial base. Under his leadership, JSMC has diversified beyond its traditional Abrams tank refurbishment work for the Army, providing high-quality combat vehicles and other products to other branches of the military and to our international allies.

Keith has been instrumental in the success of Task Force LIMA (Linked in Mutual Alliance), established more than a decade ago to support and promote JSMC and Ohio's other defense facilities. He is well respected throughout our congressional delegation as a man of vision and an industry expert.

Mr. Speaker, the Lima community will gather at Lima's City Club on December 17 to celebrate Keith's many contributions and distinguished record of service. On behalf of the people of Ohio's Fourth Congressional District, I am proud to join in the accolades to him and offer my warmest congratulations on his retirement. He and his wife, Donna, have my best wishes as they enter a new chapter in their lives.

PASSAGE OF THE COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2014: A CRITICAL STEP IN THE REVITALIZATION OF U.S. SHIPBUILDING AND MERCHANT MARINE

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, on December 10th, I was proud to bear witness to the passage, under Unanimous Consent, of the House and Senate compromise language for the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Reauthorization Act of 2014. S. 2444, the culmination of months of hard work and diligent analysis by Coast Guard Subcommittee Chairman DUNCAN HUNTER, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman BILL SHUSTER, Ranking Member NICK RAHALL, Senator ROCKEFELLER, Senator THUNE, myself, and our staff, is a beacon of the thoughtful compromise and responsible lawmaking we hope to see more of in the coming years.

Notably, S. 2444 contains a provision to ensure that our commitment to U.S. maritime is maintained as America considers the possible exportation of liquefied natural gas (LNG). Existing law, written before the natural gas boom when America was forecasted to be an LNG importer, authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to develop and implement a program to promote the transportation of imported LNG on U.S.-flag vessels. Under the Deepwater Ports Act, the Secretary is also required to give top priority to the processing of licenses for LNG import facilities that will utilize U.S.-flag vessels. S. 2444 includes language from H.R. 5270, the Growing American Shipping Act, to modernize these laws. LNG exports will now be included in the program to promote the use of U.S.-flag vessels in the carriage of LNG, and the Secretary will be required to give priority processing to export applications for deepwater port terminals that would utilize U.S.-flag vessels.

The U.S. shipbuilding industry and U.S. natural gas market are strategic national assets essential to U.S. national security interests. Shipbuilding is critical to the growth and flow of our economy, and to our ability to control the safety and security of the global supply chain. It is also essential to the United States Navy, which relies on a select few remaining shipyards for the construction of new ships and the repair and refitting of existing ships. Despite this importance, our foreign trade fleet has declined from 1,200 ships in the 1950s to less than 100 today, and despite having pioneered gas tanker technology, America no longer manufactures LNG tanker ships. To transport LNG by sea, the world must rely on China, Japan, and South Korea to build the requisite tankers.

Further decline of the U.S. shipbuilding industrial base will continue to erode competitive bidding among shipyards, both for commercial builds and for Navy shipbuilding needs, thus compromising efforts to reduce the deficit and balance the national budget. It will also result in the further loss of marine engineering expertise, preventing the adoption and utilization of the same cutting edge ship construction technologies used by our foreign competitors. Furthermore, tens of thousands of American jobs, both inside shipyards and throughout the U.S. supply chain, depend on the strength of the maritime industry.

The decline of the shipbuilding industry threatens another strategic national asset in reducing key personnel. The U.S. Merchant Marine is a highly trained, militarily-useful labor force, and American merchant sailors are the foundation of our marine transportation system. Further attrition of the Merchant Marine threatens American security because our nation relies on this secure source of labor for the movement of supplies and military cargo and personnel. The explosive nature of LNG strengthens the need to ensure that the transport of LNG, especially through U.S. ports, is done by U.S. seafarers, and not foreign crews that come with an increased potential for sabotage.

The export of LNG is projected to slowly ramp up over the next two or three years and will then quickly accelerate over the next decade or more. This will allow both time and a stable, long-term market demand, which—if given the correct incentives—could spur the U.S. shipbuilding industry to re-tool its infrastructure and processes to ramp up the pro-

duction of domestic tankers, paving the way for production of vessels for export of this strategic national asset. It is in the U.S. national interest to utilize the emerging LNG coastwise and export trades to provide reliable, long-term markets for U.S. commercial shipbuilding and for U.S.-flag operators, to expand and increase the U.S. shipbuilding industrial base, and to use LNG export trade to strengthen U.S. strategic interests and alliances with LNG trading partners.

Therefore, it is the purpose of this law to enhance the national security and port safety of the United States by encouraging to the maximum extent practicable the transport of LNG on U.S.-built and -flag vessels. This law aims to maintain the technological ability of the United States shipbuilding industry to build and repair vessels for the Navy and the Coast Guard by maintaining the critical industrial infrastructure and skilled human workforce necessary to build such vessels. Further, this law promotes American job creation by encouraging domestic shipbuilding and the use of U.S. mariners in the transport of American LNG.

This provision of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014 is supported by the Maritime Trades Department (AFL-CIO); the Seafarers International Union (AFL-CIO); the Transportation Institute; the Shipbuilders Council; the Navy League of the United States; the American Maritime Officers; the Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association (MEBA); the International Association of Masters, Mates and Pilots (MM&P); the Maritime Institute for Research and Industrial Development (MIRAID); the Marine Firemen's Union, Metal Trades Department (AFL-CIO); the Sailors' Union of the Pacific; the American Maritime Officers Service; and the American Maritime Congress. I thank these organizations for their commitment to national security, a strong maritime industry, and the creation of good American jobs so vital to the economic prosperity and future of this nation.

HONORING DAN MCCORQUODALE

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues, Congress members ANNA ESHOO, MIKE HONDA, and MIKE THOMPSON to recognize the four decades of tenacious, dedicated service of Mr. Dan McCorquodale to the County of Santa Clara, the City of San Jose, and the State of California.

For over 40 years, Dan has been a fixture in public service in California after becoming interested in remedying the pervasive, lingering injustices of racial, gender, and disability discrimination. Having served as a Sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps for four years, attended college, and worked as a teacher, Dan joined the City Council of Chula Vista, California in 1962 as the youngest person in history to ever be elected to the Council. Only four years later, Dan became the City's first Mayor, elected by a broad margin.

Consistent with his lifelong passion for teaching and the cause of individuals struggling with mental health issues, Dan returned to education from 1969 to 1972, teaching

learning-disabled fourth, fifth, and sixth-graders. During this time, Dan initiated the first Educationally Handicapped program for the Evergreen School District. After discovering the need to increase access to mental health centers in Santa Clara County, among other issues, Dan decided to run for the Board of Supervisors there.

In 1972, Dan was elected to the Board, serving as a Chairperson for two of his three terms. As a Supervisor, Dan took local leadership on justice and gender and racial equality, health care access, environment, and transportation issues.

Dan never backed down from his lifelong fight against discrimination and injustice. He worked to bring in women, minorities, and individuals living with developmental disabilities to the workforce. For example, Dan appointed the first woman commissioner to the Fire Commission. He also garnered Board consensus regarding supporting workshops, job training, and a program to ease job access for the developmentally disabled.

During his tenure on the Board, Dan expanded his efforts beyond local leadership, representing Santa Clara County on regional and state-wide governing Boards and Commissions, including becoming a member and Chairperson of the Bay Area Quality Management District, and a member of the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, the Association of Bay Area Governments, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, and the Advisory Council of the State Office of Planning and Research.

In 1982, Dan was elected State Senator where he served for three terms. As a Senator, Dan authored legislation in a variety of areas including: comprehensive water plans for the State, water reclamation, conservation, consumer protection, people with disabilities, LGBT issues, and humane treatment of animals.

After leaving office, Dan worked as a Commissioner on the California Medical Assistance Commission with the Office of the Governor, working to enhance access to medical care for those in need.

Throughout his career Dan has been known for his stellar work ethic, incredible resilience, professionalism, and commitment to hard work in the best interest of the people. I wish Dan the happiest of birthdays, congratulate him on his impressive career, and commend him for his invaluable service to our community and the State of California. We have been lucky to have him.

HONORING CONGRESSIONAL
BLACK CAUCUS CHAIRWOMAN
MARCIA FUDGE

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with my colleagues to pay tribute to the indelible mark my colleague and friend Representative MARCIA FUDGE has had on the Congressional BLACK CAUCUS during her time as our chairwoman in the 113th Congress.

She has been an outstanding chairwoman to the Congressional Black Caucus and I have been honored to serve under her fine leader-

ship. As the true embodiment of the "conscience of the Congress," Chairwoman FUDGE has been a tireless champion for blue-collar workers, food stamp recipients, students, and communities of color. She has also been a staunch advocate for voter protection, job creation, and fair housing. As a dedicated public servant, she has continuously represented the needs of both her constituents and underrepresented Americans across this country.

Under Chairwoman FUDGE's leadership, 14 members of the Congressional Black Caucus traveled to my district in September 2013 to honor the lives of the four little girls killed in the 1963 bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church. She has also traveled to my hometown of Selma on multiple occasions to commemorate the Selma-to-Montgomery March and Bloody Sunday.

On a personal note, Chairwoman FUDGE has and continues to serve as a great friend and mentor to me. I am inspired by her work ethic, problem solving spirit, and remarkable insight and knowledge. With these qualities and more, she has proven to be invaluable to not only the Congressional Black Caucus, but to the Congress as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, Chairwoman FUDGE has led the Congressional Black Caucus with great character and an unwavering commitment to ensuring that all Americans are given equal opportunities to reach their full potential. Thank you, Chairwoman FUDGE for your service and astute leadership.

FALLEN MICHIGAN SHERIFF'S
DEPUTY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Deputy Grant William Whitaker who was killed in the line of duty on Sunday, December 7, 2014 in Stockbridge Township, Michigan. Deputy Whitaker was 25 years old and had been with the Ingham County Sheriff's Office for one and a half years. Deputy Whitaker had previously served as a police officer with Stockbridge Police Department and Waterloo Township Police. Grant grew up with the drive to serve his community and found his calling in law enforcement. A native of Stockbridge, Grant went to Stockbridge High School where he played baseball. He was an avid outdoorsman who hunted deer, waterfowl and turkey. He enjoyed playing pool and golf and spending time with his nephews. It is tragic when any loved one passes, and to lose someone so young and so dedicated to his community is a terrible loss indeed. My thoughts and prayers are with Grant's parents and family during this difficult time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding a missed vote on Decem-

ber 10, 2014. Had I been present for roll call vote number 560, H.R. 1204, on the motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment for the Aviation Security Stakeholder Participation Act of 2014, I would have voted "yay."

CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, 2015 will be an important year for the future of African democracy. Many countries on the continent will either hold or prepare for Presidential elections. If recent history is any guide, some long-serving African leaders will be tempted to alter constitutions or take other quasi-legal steps to extend their rule. I strongly encourage these leaders, including President Sassou-Nguesso of Congo-Brazzaville, to resist this temptation and to respect the will of their people.

Congo-Brazzaville has enormous natural resource wealth, including oil, minerals and timber. In 2014, the nation's GDP will be an estimated \$12.9 billion. It has also received nearly \$2 billion in debt relief since 2010. However, it is ranked 142 out of 186 on the U.N. Human Development Index—in other words, human development is low. Political opposition is repressed, so discussion about governance and how to improve and deliver broader economic growth is limited.

In 2016, when it is time for the people of Congo-Brazzaville to go to the polls and elect a President, they deserve the chance to choose a new leader who will endeavor to deliver equitable growth to their country. According to the constitution, that should be their right—President Nguesso's two 7-year terms will have expired. However, there are indications that he is considering amending that constitution so he is eligible to run again, further extending his 30-year long rule.

The events in Burkina Faso earlier this fall should give pause to any leader considering constitutional changes that would allow them to extend their rule. President Nguesso should allow the voters of Congo-Brazzaville to select a new leader and engage in real democracy—a process that involves a peaceful change in government.

Let 2015 be a year filled with peace and prosperity for the Congolese people. Let a legitimate, democratic transfer of power be the legacy of President Sassou-Nguesso. Let his actions serve as a model and inspiration for other leaders in the region. And let democracy and the rule of law prosper in sub-Saharan Africa.

HONOR AND PRIVILEGE OF SERVING
IN CONGRESS FOR THE
PAST 18 YEARS

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, Like several members before me, as I prepare to depart, I rise to address this body in which I

have had the honor and privilege of serving for the past 18 years.

I thank God for His grace and guidance and for keeping me fit of mind and body, so that I could faithfully serve my constituents and our country.

I thank my constituents, the people of the Virgin Islands for their overwhelming support at every election from 1996 through 2012, and for their advice, counsel and their prayers during my tenure.

I thank the leadership under whom I have served—Republican and Democrat—for their support of legislation and the concerns of the people of the Virgin Islands. But I especially thank my Democratic leaders for their unwavering support and advocacy on my and my constituents behalf.

Special thanks to the leaders and the members of the Congressional Black Caucus from the first Chair MAXINE WATERS, all the way to our most recent Chair MARCIA FUDGE and all in between.

I have been successful in my ability to represent my district and to contribute to their health and wellbeing and that of all of the people of this country and beyond, because of their overwhelming support.

Being named as Chair of the CBC Health Braintrust gave me a national platform that allowed a non-voting member, from a Territory that many members could not locate on a map, the opportunity to influence not only local but national policy. And I thank the leaders and members of our TriCaucus partners—the Hispanic and Asian Pacific Caucuses—and my fellow Delegates for their support as well.

And above all I thank the very best staff anyone could ask for. Without them I could not have accomplished anything and my family who sacrificed so that I could serve.

In these 18 years I served on several committees: Natural Resources where I was a Ranking member on the Parks and Public Lands Subcommittee and chair of the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Wildlife, Oceans and Fisheries; the Committee on Small Business, the Committee on Homeland Security and finally with the Support of the CBC, I became the first delegate ever to serve on the exclusive Committee on Energy and Commerce. I particularly thank Chairwoman FUDGE, Assistant Leader CLYBURN and Leader PELOSI for that honor.

I have been blessed to serve in interesting times and during the terms of three presidents—Presidents Clinton, Bush and Obama.

Even without a vote I participated in discussions on every major issue in these 18 years both in Congress and in each White House.

And I have been fortunate with the help and support of the many who I have thanked to have been able through increased rum cover over funds, forgiveness of disaster loans, enabling borrowing and helping to ensure territories were included in the recovery act to help stave off what would have been a far worse impact from the national and global recession.

My staff and I were able to increase funding for roads and provide new funding for wastewater treatment systems and other infrastructure repair. First responder funding reached unprecedented highs.

And even though we were unsuccessful in our efforts to get state like treatment for the territories in the Affordable Care Act, I count as one of my most important legacies is the

fact that working with my TriCaucus colleagues I was able to include many provisions for us that will enable coverage, service and protections for the four and a half million of us, as well as health equity and other provisions that benefit all Americans.

I had the privilege of working with others to create and maintain the Minority AIDS Initiative, to improve Ryan White, to expand the Children's Health Insurance, and to create the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities at NIH.

There is more, but most of all I am proud of the individuals and families we have helped in our district and Washington offices.

We helped resolve immigration, veterans, military, TWIC card, VICORP, social security, and Homeland Security issues, some involving saving jobs or getting them thousands of dollars they were owed. We were not 100% successful, but we always pursued the issues on behalf of our constituents to the nth degree.

So again to everyone who voted for me, who supported my efforts and who helped to provide the tools for a better life for the people of the Virgin Islands, thank you.

I will forever be grateful to all of you and will always consider it the highest honor to have been able to serve the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands and my country for 18 wonderful years.

HONORING COMPAÑEROS EN SALUD/PARTNERS IN HEALTH, NFP

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor Compañeros en Salud/Partners in Health, a not-for-profit grass roots organization in Aurora, Illinois that is celebrating its 15th Anniversary.

Since 1999, Compañeros en Salud/Partners in Health, NFP has provided assistance for members of the Hispanic community and other diverse groups to ensure equal access to health care and other social services in the Fox Valley. I would especially like to recognize Dr. Lulu Blacksmith, Compañeros en Salud's founder, for her dedication and leadership of the organization.

Through programs such as the Latina Health Festival, the Men's Health Festival, and Language Access Healthcare, Compañeros en Salud has become an important resource for our community. Since its founding, the organization has been expanding its focus into areas such as mental health and diabetes, while still offering high quality service to those who need assistance the most.

I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to Compañeros en Salud/Partners in Health, NFP as it celebrates its 15th Anniversary.

RECOGNIZING NIU'S LEADERSHIP ON CAMPUS SAFETY

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Northern Illinois University from my district for its proactive leadership in creating safe, supportive living-learning communities by protecting all students from sexual assaults.

I commend NIU President Doug Baker for convening a Task Force on the Violence Against Women Act to bring together students, faculty, staff, administrators, public safety officials, and the DeKalb community on this important issue. To illustrate this collaboration, I would like to insert a student perspective into the RECORD offered by the President of NIU's Student Association.

Their hard work resulted in the Task Force Report which contains recommendations that enhance NIU's efforts in the prevention of sexual assault, provide support for sexual assault victims and survivors, and strengthen policies and processes related to student conduct and reporting. I am proud to say NIU is among the first universities in the nation to conduct such a comprehensive and public review.

My constituents' health and safety is a top priority. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the hard work of NIU's Task Force and look forward to continuing to work with NIU on our shared commitment to campus safety.

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

One of the most memorable days in a parent's life is the one in which they send their child off to college. Parents can only hope the well-being of their child is in good hands. It is our duty as decision makers in the university community to make sure we have a safe environment for our students. This is why as President of the Northern Illinois University (NIU) Student Association, I reached out to groups across campus, from the NIU Police to our Health Enhancement Department, to collaborate on a White House-initiated campaign called "It's On Us". The It's On Us campaign mobilizes students and advocates for their awareness of responses to and prevention of campus sexual assaults, a pressing issue facing our nation today. I commend everyone involved with the campaign for making a positive change to our campus culture.

It is exceedingly important to note this student-led movement is the bottom-up companion to a top-down approach by the university administration. I recognize and applaud the efforts of NIU President Doug Baker and his administration for their proactive approach to addressing sexual assaults on campus, embodied in the work of the Presidential Task Force on Violence Against Women Act. This task force and the report created from it will play a crucial role in the health, safety and well-being of our students, faculty, staff and community members. It makes me a proud student to see NIU as one of the national leaders paving the way on such significant issues. Judging by the energy felt around campus, I believe my fellow students agree.

JOE FRASCIELLO,
President, STUDENT ASSOCIATION,
Northern Illinois University.

IN HONOR OF RACHEL STANLEY

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Rachel Stanley for her many contributions to the House of Representatives and specifically to my office. At the end of this year, Rachel will be leaving my office to pursue opportunities away from Capitol Hill.

Rachel joined my staff in the fall of 2011 as my Legislative Assistant handling the tax and financial services portfolio. She hit the ground running and was invaluable from the start. Recognizing her growth in the office, she was promoted to Tax Counsel and will leave my office after serving for the past year as my Legislative Director. Rachel was particularly successful in working on the Cooperative and Small Employer Charity Pension Flexibility Act, which provides flexibility for multiple employer pension plans by allowing them to opt in or out of Pension Protection Act funding rules. This allows for more money to be invested into businesses and communities.

Over the past year, Rachel has served as my Legislative Director. Under her tenure, my office has a number of legislative accomplishments, including awarding the Medal of Honor to Alonzo Cushing, advocating for greater rail safety, and pushing for a tax code that encourages American manufacturing.

Next year, Rachel will join the staff of Principal Financial, where she will continue to work on tax and pension policy. While I am sorry to see her leave my staff, I wish her the best of luck in her new role. Rachel embodies the term public service and has worked tirelessly to make our nation a better place, which has not been easy given the current toxic environment. It is unfortunate that we are losing such a competent and dedicated public servant.

Mr. Speaker, on my behalf, thank you to Rachel for her service and dedication to not only the constituents of the Third District of Wisconsin, but to all Americans.

ORIGINATION CLAUSE

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address an important institutional issue. Under the Constitution, it is the prerogative of the House of Representatives to originate revenue measures. Article 1, section 7, clause 1 of the United States Constitution provides that "All Bills for raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills." This clause is commonly known as the Origination Clause. As chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, I have a special responsibility in guarding this important House prerogative.

A recent court decision has caused me to come to this floor to re-affirm the House position on the Origination Clause. The rationale used by the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals in their July 29, 2014 decision in *Sissel v. HHS*

is at odds with consistent House Origination Clause practice. Specifically, the ruling from a three-judge panel of the D.C. Circuit held that because the primary aim of PPACA was not to raise revenue, but rather to "induce participation in health insurance plans," it was not a "bill for raising Revenue" within the meaning of the Origination Clause. *Sissel v. HHS*, Op. at 13 (July 29, 2014).

Although some courts have taken a narrower view of what constitutes a "a bill for raising revenue," the "primary purpose" test articulated in *Sissel* presents heightened challenges in interpretation that not only threaten the constitutional balance in Congress but invite subjective judicial scrutiny of the legislative process. This analysis may lead to confusion between the legislative and judicial branch on measures where the primary purpose is not easily ascertainable, measures that contain multiple, competing purposes, and measures that state a purpose that is in conflict with its content.

The House's traditional provision-by-provision review of a measure and the effect of each on revenue is the more sound approach. This interpretation has served the Congress well when resolving differences between the House and Senate on the Origination Clause.

I offer H.R. 4310, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013, as a recent example. H.R. 4310, as passed by the House on May 18, 2012, was a lengthy measure that addressed nearly every aspect of our national defense. The Senate amended it on December 4, 2012 with its own version of the bill. Rather than attempting to assess the purpose of this diverse, multifaceted measure, the Committee on Ways and Means reviewed both the House and Senate measures in their entirety. This review of the Senate amendment revealed a subtitle that included import restrictions on Iran. Import restrictions invoke the revenue jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means and have been the subject of Origination Clause action in the past. In response to this institutional infringement, I offered House Resolution 829, a measure returning H.R. 4310 and the offending amendment to the Senate. House Resolution 829 was adopted by the House unanimously on December 12, 2012. In response to the House action, the Senate, also by unanimous consent, stripped the Iran sanctions content from its amendment, and the measure proceeded to conference. The bill was enacted into law on January 2, 2013.

As chair of the oldest committee in the House, I have strived to protect this venerable institutional prerogative and clarify its application when needed. I am especially grateful to the majority and minority staff of the committee for their vigilance in this area. I hope these remarks will clarify the House position on this important constitutional issue.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN DOC HASTINGS ON HIS RETIREMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to thank my distinguished colleague Mr.

DOC HASTINGS for his tireless efforts and inexhaustible service on behalf of Washington State. I had the privilege of working closely with him while he was chairman of the Natural Resources Committee on many projects including my Alpine Lakes legislation which we passed just last week. In all things, DOC stands up for his beliefs and the best interests of his constituents and I think there can be no higher praise for a member of Congress. He will be missed in the Washington Delegation as he has shared with all of us the wisdom he has gathered during his 20 years in office. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors and I know he leaves behind a wonderful legacy for Washington State and for America to remember him by.

HONORING LILLIE G. HENSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable hero, Lillie G. Henson.

Lillie G. Dean Henson was born to the late Aaron and Lillian Dean on August 10, 1949 in Sardis, MS Panola County. She is the ninth of eleven children, five boys and six girls. There were many challenges that she faced that seemed to have placed her in the line of the first born. She was blessed to be born in a Christian home where reading and studying the bible were not an option, therefore, her faith in the Lord was well rooted and grounded.

Faced with many challenges of sickness in my family, Lillie learned the application of her faith was the only true anchor. Growing up was very challenging at times. Early in her growing up years her mother was stricken with a severe heart condition which required lots of rest and carefully prepared meals.

At the age of fourteen, much of the responsibility of taking care of the family fell upon Lillie. Cooking breakfast for the family and preparing a special diet for her ailing mom before going off to school was quite an experience.

As a little girl growing up, Lillie's dad would ask her to read the bible to him, and as a child she remembers reading: "Honor your father and your mother that your days may be long upon the earth." This scripture and many others rested in her spirit as she grew into adulthood. Lillie's passion for the word of God grew greater and greater.

By the time Lillie was a junior in high school, she began to make plans for college . . . only to be asked by her ailing mother to stay home to make sure her younger sister, who was then a junior, finish high school. Her plans were shattered but she learned to be obedient to her parents through the studying of the scriptures.

In 1969, Lillie's mother went to be with the Lord, her sister completed her junior year of high school with perfect attendance and completed high school as planned.

In 1970, Lillie moved to Chicago with her older siblings. Lillie was employed at Brachs Candy Company for twenty years. She was among the first few African Americans to hold a manager's position in the Quality Control Department.

In 1990, Lillie's dad at the age of eighty two became ill. Her husband, Otha Henson, Sr., who was also employed at Brachs Candy Company and is from Kilmichael, MS., decided to move back south to care for Lillie's dad and baby sister, Rebecca, who was born with Spinal Bifida. Lillie's dad passed away in 1991 and Rebecca lived ten years after his death.

Since 1996 to present, Lillie has been employed as Program Manager at Youth Opportunities Unlimited, a Youth Development Program located in Lambert, MS.

Lillie continued her education at Northwest Community College, Senatobia, MS., Rust College, Holly Springs, MS., and in 2012, she earned a BA in Ministry and in 2013 she received a Masters in Christian Counseling from Jacksonville Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, FL.

Lillie is happily married, the proud mother of four children, eleven grandchildren and two great grand boys.

You can find her teaching Sunday school on Sunday mornings at Pleasant Green M.B. Church, Sardis, MS, also a praise and worship leader, counseling, and encouraging and nurturing those in need.

Eph. 6:2, "Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Lillie G. Henson for she is definitely the epitome of an unsung hero.

ACKNOWLEDGING BERNARD
MULLIGAN

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Bernard Mulligan and to personally thank him for his life-long spirit of public service and his unyielding commitment to the community of Morgan Hill.

Bernie graduated from Red Bank Catholic High School in New Jersey in 1960. He later went on to receive a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Political Science from Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. Following his graduation, he moved to Morgan Hill, CA where he has been an active member of the community for the past 40 years.

Among his many accomplishments, Bernie Mulligan was the Volunteer Coordinator for the community's annual Independence Day celebration. He chaired the Blue Ribbon Task Force on medical needs and is a member of the Board of Trustees for the Morgan Hill Community Health Foundation and the Saint Louise Regional Hospital Foundation. Bernie is the current President of the Morgan Hill Sister Cities program and personally founded the Headford, Ireland and Seferihisar, Turkey Sister City Associations.

Bernie has spent countless hours promoting the values of limited government through several years of service on the Santa Clara County Republican Committee and working on the 1980 and 1984 campaigns for President Ronald Reagan.

Bernie has one son, Sean, who is a programming engineer. Bernie's hobbies include traveling, music, and drinking Irish ales and stouts. He is known by members of the Mor-

gan Hill community as the "Ambassador of Good Will."

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and thanking Bernard Mulligan for his exemplary leadership and unyielding service to the community.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JAMES W.
COOKSEY

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel James W. Cooksey of Aurora, Colorado, who was awarded a Congressional Gold Medal on December 10, 2014, for his service with the Civil Air Patrol during World War II.

Colonel Cooksey began his decorated career in 1943 as a cadet in the Civil Air Patrol. During World War II, Colonel Cooksey served as a Civil Air Patrol Observer, conducting air search and rescue missions.

Colonel Cooksey continued his service with both the Army and, subsequently, the Air Force. It was during his time in the Air Force that he served in Korea, Turkey, and Thailand. Additionally, he worked in the U.S. Air Force Academy Admissions Office and was an ROTC instructor at Michigan State University. After retiring from active duty, Colonel Cooksey taught history for 20 years at Aurora Hills Middle School. Throughout his career, he continued to serve in the Civil Air Patrol and became Vice Commander of the Rocky Mountain Region.

In total, Colonel Cooksey dedicated 71 years to the Civil Air Patrol, and currently remains a dues paying member. It gives me great pride to represent such an exemplary American in Congress. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Colonel James W. Cooksey for his service to his country.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
DR. ERIC RUDENSHIOLD

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my colleague, Congressman DAVID PRICE, and the Members of the House Democracy Partnership (HDP) to recognize a dedicated public servant, Dr. Eric Rudenshiold, who recently concluded his service as staff director for HDP. As chairman of HDP, it has been my privilege to work with Dr. Rudenshiold to engage the legislative bodies of developing democracies around the world.

During his tenure with HDP, Dr. Rudenshiold has been a passionate advocate for democracy building and an expert on global political development. He was instrumental in helping to stabilize HDP after a turbulent post-sequester period and his strategic vision has helped to put HDP on sound footing for the future.

In addition to sewing as a knowledgeable and trusted counselor, Dr. Rudenshiold executed a massive logistical feat with deftness

and charm, successfully working with high profile leaders on multiple continents over a period of many months to plan and conduct the HDP curriculum. This past September he helped organize a seminar with Members of Parliament from Afghanistan, Indonesia, Kenya, Mongolia, and Pakistan, which explored ways to strengthen transparency and government oversight. In October, he led a foreign staff training seminar for HDP's partner countries teaching effective legislative oversight, budget analysis, committee operations, and constituent relations. Lastly, in November he developed a workshop for women Members of Parliament from Afghanistan, Albania, Bhutan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Georgia, Honduras, Kenya, Mongolia and Peru offering tools and resources to grow their capacity as legislators and leaders in their home countries. Through Dr. Rudenshiold's hard work, HDP successfully executed a busy 2014 program and has laid the groundwork for an equally ambitious 2015 agenda.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing Dr. Eric Rudenshiold for his years of service in pursuit of the ideal of effective, representative democracy not just in the United States, but throughout the world, and in wishing him all the best as he embarks on new challenges and a new chapter.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JAMES
MORAN

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the career of Congressman JAMES MORAN. I had the pleasure of serving alongside JIM on the Appropriations Committee, including both the Defense and Interior-Environment subcommittees. Congressman MORAN's experience and wisdom not only benefited his district and the nation, but myself as well.

Congressman MORAN has always brought passion to his work in Congress and that passion will be sorely missed next year.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the service of Congressman JAMES MORAN in the United States House of Representatives.

IN HONOR OF TRAVIS ROBEY

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Travis Robey for his many contributions to the House of Representatives and specifically to my office. At the end of this year, Travis will be leaving my office to pursue opportunities away from Capitol Hill.

Travis first came to Capitol Hill as a Legislative Assistant for Congresswoman Darlene Hooley, focusing on health policy. He joined the staff of Congressman MIKE THOMPSON in April of 2008 as a Legislative Assistant. In 2009, he joined my staff as Legislative Director. From day one in my office, Travis worked tirelessly on health care reform. Through

tough negotiations, he helped me lead the Quality Care Coalition and was successful in getting the Value Modifier for Physician payments included in health care reform. That provision incorporated quality and cost metrics as a factor in physician reimbursements for the first time. Additionally, he helped me successfully advocate for the small business exchanges and small business tax credits in the ACA, which were modeled after legislation that he had worked on.

Apart from his successes during health care reform, Travis was integral on the staff level in negotiating the successful adoption of the SMART Act Secondary Payer Reform into law. Being in the Minority can make legislative successes fleeting, but Travis had the talent to work with the Majority to get meaningful things done in one of the most dysfunctional congresses of all time.

As my Legislative Director, Travis effectively cultivated junior staff into successful Legislative Assistants who continue to be an asset to my team. Over the past year, Travis has served as my Chief of Staff in Washington, D.C. Under his tenure, my office was legislatively successful, despite being in the Minority in a very polarized Congress. I am proud that he has helped my staff to remain legislatively productive despite great challenges.

Next year, Travis will join the staff of the American Hospital Association, where he will continue to work on important health policy challenges. While I am sorry to see him leave my staff after almost 6 years, I wish him the best of luck in his new role. Travis embodies the term public service and has worked tirelessly to make our nation a better place, which has not been easy given the current toxic environment. It is unfortunate that we are losing such a competent and dedicated public servant.

Mr. Speaker, on my behalf, thank you to Travis for his service and dedication to not only the constituents of the Third District of Wisconsin, but to all Americans.

GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY ACT OF
2014

SPEECH OF

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in strong support of H.R. 5656, the Feed the Future Global Food Security Act of 2014, on the eve of passage of the Fiscal Year 2015 Omnibus that provides just over \$1 billion to the Feed the Future Program. The passage of this bill would authorize this USAID program for one year at just under Fiscal Year 2014 level, bringing stability to this successful program while giving Congress future oversight.

Feed the Future through its whole-of-government approach has been successful in promoting both agricultural-based and market-based development and in improving the nutrition of women and children. This creates healthy populations and gives livelihoods to these families, both of which grow these developing economies.

The focus on food security and agriculture development of Feed the Future started during the Bush Administration and has continued through today.

But, Mr. Speaker, today more than 800 million people around the world still suffer from

chronic hunger. Many of the world's poor live in rural areas and rely on agriculture for a living, and growth in the agriculture sector is one of the best ways to spur the kind of economic growth that reduces poverty.

In 2013 alone, Feed the Future reached more than 12.5 million children with nutrition interventions to help ensure a stronger and more successful future. It has helped nearly 7 million farmers and food producers use new technologies and management practices. And it has leveraged more than \$10 billion through complementary efforts in private sector commitments in African agriculture—the majority from African businesses.

With broad support from U.S. universities, NGOs, faith-based organizations, the private sector, and beneficiaries, Feed the Future authorization offers an opportunity for Congress to put its stamp on this program and ensure that we have the appropriate oversight measures in place.

Passage of this legislation will demonstrate that we are serious about finding common-sense solutions to one of the world's greatest challenges—hunger—creating economic stability overseas that will benefit the American people as well.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 5656, the Feed the Future Global Food Security Act of 2014.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR
ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH

HON. TONY CÁRDENAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak in support for increased funding for Alzheimer's research.

There is no other way to put it: Alzheimer's is a terrible disease. It destroys your memory and thinking skills, and eventually even the ability to carry out the simplest of tasks.

In the United States, more than 5 million Americans currently have Alzheimer's, and about half of those with the disease do not know they have it. In fact, every 67 seconds, someone in this country develops Alzheimer's—a staggering statistic, no doubt—but by 2050, it will be every 33 seconds. To make matters worse, Alzheimer's is the only cause of death in the top 10 in America without a way to prevent, treat, or slow the progression of the disease. In other words, there is no cure.

It should not be a surprise that Alzheimer's is the most expensive disease in America. In 2014, caring for people with the disease and other dementias will cost the United States an estimated \$214 billion. Medicare and Medicaid spending will shoulder the majority of the care cost, an estimated \$150 billion this year alone. This means that roughly 1 in 5 Medicare dollars are spent on someone with Alzheimer's. And unless something is done, the costs of Alzheimer's to Americans will total \$1.2 trillion, in today's dollars, including an over 500% increase in Medicare and Medicaid spending on Alzheimer's.

Congress has already taken action to address this very serious issue. Specifically, Congress unanimously passed the National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA) in 2010, calling for the creation of a National Alzheimer's Plan. That plan has resulted in some notable accomplishments, including the NIH creating a

blueprint for Alzheimer's research. However, for the progress this disease requires, scientists need additional funds to carry out the blueprint.

While Congress provided a much needed addition of \$100 million in Alzheimer's research, a chronic underinvestment in Alzheimer's research persists. Congress must continue its commitment to the fight against Alzheimer's by increasing funding for Alzheimer's research in Fiscal Year 2015 by \$200 million.

Democrats and Republicans alike should be united in tackling Alzheimer's. After all, it is a disease that affects individuals regardless of party preference, a disease that affects our very own constituents and loved ones, and a disease that we, as elected officials, have a responsibility to do something about.

HONORING DR. MICHAEL WAHL,
MD

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Michael Wahl, who I am pleased to nominate for the Wave Maker Award for the 5th Annual Unsung Heroes of Public Health Campaign. This award recognizes individuals for their work on a major regional or national program that has had a significant positive impact on an important public health issue.

Dr. Wahl has devoted his life to improving public health and safety in Illinois. Since 1998, he has served as the Medical Director for the Illinois Poison Center—the oldest poison center in the United States. During his tenure, Dr. Wahl initiated the Poison Center Hotline, which currently treats over 90% of incoming accidental poisoning calls at home without a trip to a medical facility. The Hotline saves the State of Illinois \$52 million in unnecessary health care costs each year and has prevented thousands of severe medical emergencies. Building on this successful model, Dr. Wahl has set up similar state hotlines for H1N1, Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), and currently Ebola, which provide the general public and health care providers with vital information during infectious disease outbreaks.

Dr. Wahl and the Illinois Poison Center have also done important work in conjunction with the Office of the Illinois Attorney General and law enforcement to observe trends in synthetic drug use and provide local officials with data and surveillance on these chemicals. Because of these initiatives, synthetic drug use in Illinois has not reached the high prevalence experienced by other states. Finally, Dr. Wahl lends his time and experience to the Illinois Department of Public Health Work Group to reduce the alarming rate of heroin use by prescription drug abusers. In these many challenging endeavors, Dr. Wahl brings an unparalleled passion for service and a commitment to improve lives throughout the State of Illinois.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in honoring Dr. Michael Wahl

for his dedicated work in expanding access to health care and his innovative efforts to strengthen public health for the people of Illinois and congratulating him on his nomination for the Wave Maker Award.

SUPPORTING AMERICA'S
CHARITIES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5806, a bill that seeks to extend three tax provisions that I strongly support.

Despite my interest in seeing the tax provisions before us extended permanently, I am concerned that doing so in a package without so many other important tax provisions might jeopardize our ability to achieve comprehensive reform of our tax code next Congress. Across the district I represent, my constituents support changing the tax code to make it fair and simple. This will be a difficult process that will require significant work and compromise. Accordingly, I am opposing the bill before us today, but I will seek a permanent extension of these provisions through broader tax reform next Congress.

I am committed to policies that support our social safety net, particularly as our constituents continue to recover from the effects of the economic downturn. But by passing individual extensions, we are leaving important provisions on the table that will benefit our middle-class families. What they need is comprehensive tax reform that levels the playing field and allows everyone to have a fair opportunity to succeed.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

FAREWELL TO THE HONORABLE
ENI FALEOMAVAEGA

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to say a fond farewell to our esteemed colleague, the Honorable ENI FALEOMAVAEGA.

Since 1989, ENI has honorably represented the people of American Samoa in this chamber with a no-nonsense attitude and approach to legislating.

He brought the issues that affect Asia and the Pacific regions here to Congress.

He led the first delegation of Asian American members of Congress to Asia. There he saw firsthand the devastating impact that the Vietnam War's unexploded ordnances had on Southeast Asia, especially Laos where about 2.5 million tons of bombs were dropped between 1964 and 1973.

As the Chair of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, this experience led him to chair the first-ever hearing on UXOs.

As a Vietnam veteran himself, ENI takes pride in being a strong voice for his fellow Samoans who serve in our military.

This passion led his efforts to help establish the first VA clinic in Samoa.

American Samoa, the Asian Pacific Region, Congress, and all of America have been well served by Congressman ENI FALEOMAVAEGA. Today, I say "thank you" for your work, and your friendship. We will miss you. Tofa soifua.

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF CHARLES HUTTON "BULL" RIGDON, JR.

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise today to recognize the life and service of my friend, Northwest Florida's beloved Charles Hutton "Bull" Rigdon, Jr. Throughout his long and distinguished life, Bull was a devoted family man, a patriotic veteran and civil servant, committed civic leader, an exceptional elected official, and a great friend. The entire Northwest Florida community mourns the passing of a truly remarkable man.

Bull Rigdon was born in Portland, Florida on September 29, 1929, and he spent the majority of his childhood years growing up in beautiful Northwest Florida. A true patriot, Bull served with honor and distinction in the United States Army, where he served in both World War II and the Korean War. After leaving the Armed Forces, Bull continued his service to our Nation as a civil engineer working at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. Thanks to his hard-work and commitment to excellence, Bull's 43-year career as a civil servant at Eglin Air Force Base was marked with wide-spread success and acclaim.

Both during and after his extremely successful civil service career, Bull was also deeply involved as a leader in Northwest Florida's civic society. He was an active member of First Presbyterian Church, where he served as a church elder, as well as a Mason and Shriner, serving as Past Potentate of Hadji Temple and Master Mason of Alpha Lodge #172. In these capacities, he helped touch the lives of countless individuals in Northwest Florida, and he served as a true example of selfless community service.

Bull was also a dedicated local official, serving for decades in various electoral capacities. In 1964, he won a seat on the Fort Walton Beach City Council, where he served until 1981. During this stint on the City Council, Bull also served numerous times as Mayor Pro-Tem of Fort Walton Beach. Bull rejoined the City Council briefly in 1985, when he was asked to fill a temporary vacancy, before returning to the City Council full time in 2010, where he continued to serve the people of Fort Walton Beach until his passing.

In addition to his exceptional service on the City Council, Bull also served for three decades on the Okaloosa County Gas Board, representing the people of Okaloosa County. He played an integral role helping to attract businesses and promote economic development in Northwest Florida, as evidenced by his election to serve as the first Chairman of the West Florida Regional Planning Council, as well as his service on the Tourist Development Council Board. On top of these impressive civic duties, Bull also served as CEO of the Northwest Florida Fair until his death. In recognition of

his impressive leadership and dedication, the Fort Walton Beach City Council voted in 2009 to name the fairgrounds in his honor.

To some, Bull Rigdon will be remembered as a patriot, who answered the call to serve this great Nation with honor and distinction, first in the Armed Forces and then for more than four decades of exceptional civil service at Eglin Air Force Base. To others, he will be remembered as a man of great faith, who took on important positions at his church, and as a long-time elected official who went above and beyond the call of duty to serve the residents of the community that he called home. To his family and those of us who were fortunate enough to get to know him, Bull will always be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the life and legacy of Charles Hutton "Bull" Rigdon, Jr. My wife, Vicki, and I extend our deepest prayers and condolences to his wife Helen Hunt Rigdon; children, Karen Rigdon Hughes and Charles William Rigdon; grandchildren Charles William Lamkin, Lauren Ashley Rigdon, Blake William Rigdon and Montana Dodson; sister, Ouida Rigdon Miller; stepson, Michael B. Dodson; and the entire Rigdon family.

RECOGNIZING ORLANDO REGIONAL
MEDICAL CENTER AIR CARE TEAM

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Orlando Regional Medical Center's Air Care Team as they celebrate 30 years of critical-care service.

Since 1984, the helicopter transport team has flown nearly two million rescue miles and transported more than 29,000 patients to Orlando Regional Medical Center (ORMC) and other Central Florida medical facilities. The elite crew's service area encompasses a 100-mile radius that includes Orange, Lake, and Polk counties. Highly trained and experienced medical personnel, communications specialists, pilots and mechanics comprise the team that provides emergency medical care on the scene and in flight. The commitment and expertise that the team brings to Central Florida truly saves lives, reaching patients within the critical first hour of injury.

I thank the Air Care Team for their extraordinary work in providing care for the people of Central Florida.

HONORING MS. SARAH DEER

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Sarah Deer to congratulate her on receiving the 2014 MacArthur Foundation Fellowship. This grant is given to individuals who show extraordinary dedication and originality in their field, as well as exceptional promise for continuing their work in the future. Ms. Deer demonstrated these qualities through her advocacy and knowledge of tribal and federal

law to develop policies and legislation that empower tribal nations to protect Native American women from sexual and domestic violence.

Ms. Deer is a nationally recognized activist and expert in the movement to end violence against Native American women, a professor of law, and co-director of the Indian Law Clinic at William Mitchell College of Law. As a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, she works with grassroots and national organizations to protect Native American victims of violence.

Receiving the MacArthur Foundation Fellowship is a testament to Ms. Deer's outstanding work. This includes membership on the American Bar Association (ABA) Commission on Domestic Violence and the board of the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence. In 2007, Ms. Deer led Amnesty International's report, *Maze of Injustice*, which cast domestic violence as an international human rights problem. Her efforts were instrumental in passing the 2013 Violence Against Women Act, giving tribal courts the power to prosecute non-Native Americans who assault Native American spouses or dating partners, or violate a protection order on tribal lands.

Ms. Deer has exhibited exceptional devotion to a worthy cause and continues to improve countless lives. I appreciate all that she has done to serve our nation, and I thank her for her exemplary work. She deserves this honor.

HONORING MS. DOROTHY
JOHNSON-SPEIGHT

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Philadelphia's greatest luminaries, Ms. Dorothy Johnson-Speight, Founder and Executive Director of Mothers In Charge, Inc. She is a respected leader, solid advocate and inspirational speaker against the war to end senseless acts of violent crime. Her work, though rooted in Philadelphia, has led to national appearances and presentations across the United States and abroad.

A licensed family therapist, Dorothy actively engages in championing the rights of children and families. She has a distinguished career in victim advocacy. In 2001, her life was forever changed following the tragic murder of her son Khaaliq Jabbar Johnson over a parking space dispute. That tragic incident left Mrs. Johnson-Speight needing the support of others. She reached out to other grieving mothers and together they founded the non-profit organization Mothers In Charge, Inc., a grassroots organization whose mission is violence prevention through education. Mothers In Charge engages in proactive intervention with children, young adults, families and community organizations.

The work of Mothers In Charge under the direction of Mrs. Johnson-Speight has motivated mothers from around the country who have suffered the indescribable loss of a child. Chapters of this extraordinary organization have been founded in Wilmington, DE, San Francisco, CA, Los Angeles, CA, Kansas City, MO, Atlantic City, NJ, Brooklyn, NY and Harrisburg, PA.

The extraordinary work of Dorothy Johnson-Speight and Mothers In Charge has been appreciated and acknowledged by some of the nation's most influential publications and organizations. Dorothy has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the Best Philadelphia Award from the Philadelphia Magazine; the Philadelphia Eagles identified her as one of the 75 Greatest Living Philadelphians; in 2012, the Philadelphia Tribune chose her as one of Philadelphia's Most Influential African American Leaders, and the Philadelphia Inquirer named her Citizen of the Year in 2013. The recognition doesn't stop there as Mothers In Charge has also received numerous organizational awards and recognitions. The organization was the focus of a special feature on the OWN Network's "Our America" with Lisa Ling. Villanova University produced a documentary, *No Greater Pain* which journal's Dorothy's unspeakable loss and her arduous and unexpected journey to victim advocacy.

Organizational awards include the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Director of Community Service Award, the Wells/Fargo/Wachovia Community Service Award, and the School District of Philadelphia Humanitarian Award.

I am pleased to lead the Congress in honoring Dorothy Johnson-Speight—founder of Mothers In Charge—for her unceasing efforts and outstanding progress in victim advocacy. Her legacy in Philadelphia and her mark on the national stage for victim advocacy will leave a legacy on generations to come.

HONORING PASTOR E.L. KING

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pastor E.L. King, who is a former Educator in the Greenwood Public School District, Extraordinary and public servant.

Mrs. Ethel King was born in Leflore County on June 8, 1959 to Robert and Ethel L. Lawrence. At the age of thirteen, her mother died and she was nurtured by her grandfather, Mr. Willie James Lawrence, along with her seven siblings.

Mrs. King attended Greenwood Public School. She dropped out of school in the twelfth grade in 1976 because she had her first child. She was very independent and determined to make an easier life for her child. She immediately went to work at Rocky Manufactory at the age of eighteen. She remained there 3½ years. She left Rocky Manufactory to work for Irvin Industry Automobile & Parts for 3½ years. After seven years of working in a factory environment, she felt life had more to offer her. She went on to take her GED and attended Mississippi Valley State University in 1986. Before completing college in November, 1989, her daughter fell ill and later died with Leukemia in December, 1990. While at the University Hospital, she volunteered as a coordinator to help parents cope with their children's illness. She later volunteered with a candidate for a supervisor position in the 2nd District in Greenwood.

Mrs. King was called into the Ministry in 1992. She completed her Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice in 1993. After com-

pleting her degree, her health failed. She continued to fight on in 1996. She went to work as a volunteer permanent substitute teacher at Dickerson Elementary School under the leadership of Mrs. Vivian Redmond. Later she was hired as a full-time substitute teacher. Mrs. King was very dedicated to educating children.

In 1998 she was hired at Bankston Elementary School as an assistant teacher until her health failed again. She retired in 2006. After retiring from the school system, Mrs. King worked as a Notary Public of the State of Mississippi under Governor Haley Barbour. She also volunteered with the Fannie Lou Hamer Foundation in Leflore County. Later, she became Pastor of Monument of Grace Church II in Lexington, MS for three years under the leadership of Bishop L.J. Johnson.

Pastor Ethel L. King has made an impact on the lives of many children and adults alike, encouraging them through the scripture, ". . . but seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all things shall be added unto you."

Pastor Ethel L. King is married to Edward E. King and they are the proud parents of two beautiful daughters and eight precious grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Pastor Ethel L. King, a Former Educator, a Pastor who is yet inspiring others and often giving of herself to make many lives better.

SUPPORTING AMERICA'S
CHARITIES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it is with some degree of frustration that I voted no on H.R. 5806. I strongly support some of the individual provisions; indeed, I am the leading Democratic cosponsor of the provisions relating to charitable contributions from individual retirement accounts.

I have been a leading supporter of land trusts, working closely with them to fix challenges raised by application of the estate tax for instance, and broadly supporting their work across the country to protect and preserve our nation's heritage and open spaces. I have worked hard to improve resources for Oregon's food banks and to end hunger both at home and abroad.

Today, we are abandoning any semblance that this Congress is going to work on major accomplishments before we adjourn.

With this and similar tax extender votes, Congress appears to have given up on deficit reduction, despite my colleagues otherwise voracious appetite for it—an appetite that led to House Republicans attempting to cut nutrition assistance to poor Americans by \$39 billion last year. Section five of this bill, in fact, specifically strikes the Republican's own PAY-GO rules. Budget-busting proposals are roaring through here with no semblance of honoring the Republicans' own budget rules or their budget resolution.

With this and similar tax extender votes, Congress appears also to have given up on tax reform because we are not going to be

able to have meaningful tax reform if we are just willy-nilly going to rush all these provisions through.

My colleague, Chairman CAMP, worked for years to produce a deficit-neutral tax reform, which had much to commend it, and I commend him for his hard work. All of these provisions of tax extenders were addressed in his tax reform, but they were dealt with differently. Not all were extended permanently. Some were modified and some were repealed, as part of a deliberative process to evaluate their impact and to not break the bank. This vote—like similar unpaid for permanent tax extender votes—abandons that effort.

This bill is not going to be enacted into law as the President's veto threat makes clear, and Congress will pick up where it left off—and frankly, where Mr. CAMP left off—as we work with our colleagues in the other body and our constituents to move forward on the things that we are all committed to in a way that is fiscally responsible, is bipartisan and thoughtful, to get the outcomes we all share.

RECOGNIZING 2015 ILLINOIS
TEACHER OF THE YEAR STEVE
ELZA

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Steve Elza, the 2015 Illinois Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Elza is an Applied Technology teacher at William Fremd High School in my district who teaches Automotive Technology classes and is the sponsor of the school Auto Club. He has worked in School District 211 and Fremd High School for over 7 years and strives to create an educational environment where students learn real-world skills they can take with them after graduation.

I think we can all agree that teachers are in a unique position to mold their students, and good teachers can guide and inspire students to achieve. Speaking to his students and peers, it is clear that Mr. Elza is a great teacher. Day in and day out he goes above and beyond to create a classroom environment where students can pursue projects they are passionate about, an approach that energizes his students, expands their skillsets, and reminds them that learning can be fun. Teaching students to explore their interests, and consider their career prospects, Mr. Elza has had an outsized impact on the success of his students as they go out into the workforce as young adults.

Evidence of his unique approach isn't hard to find. Through the Auto Club, students participate in various extracurricular activities like practicing maintenance repairs on cars of faculty members and competing in a national automotive competition held annually in Las Vegas. By engaging students to enjoy and apply what they are learning, Mr. Elza has broken through the bustle of busy young lives to really leave a mark on students. It's proven to be a winning formula.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues please join me in recognizing Mr. Steve Elza for his outstanding service and congratulate him on being named the 2015 Illinois Teacher of the Year.

HONORING THE LIFE OF KELLY
KNOTT

HON. JOHN KLINE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Katherine "Kelly" Marjory Krauser Knott. Kelly fought a courageous battle against breast cancer, which sadly took her life on December 3.

As demonstrated at a memorial service earlier this week, Kelly touched many lives. The gathering held in her memory overflowed with love and grief shared by her many friends, colleagues, and family members.

Kelly was a graduate of New Canaan High School and St. Mary's College in Notre Dame, Indiana. She earned a master's degree from George Washington University.

She began her career in the nation's capital as an aide to our former colleague, Rep. Mel Hancock of Missouri. She worked in and around policy with true grace and professionalism. She held various positions throughout her distinguished career and was universally respected and admired.

I met Kelly my first week as a new Member of Congress and was struck by her knowledge of both policy and politics. She had a great understanding of the Hill and worked tirelessly to advance the goals of her members. I not only considered her a colleague but a friend.

As important as her professional achievements were, they do not compare to the success she enjoyed in her personal life. Kelly was a devoted wife to her husband Stewart and beloved mother to Carson, Halle, and Kendall.

I ask the House to join me in offering condolences to the Knott family and keep them in your prayers as they mourn the loss of a remarkable woman.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 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 \$17,997,912,502,715.74. We've added \$7,371,035,453,802.66 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.

HONORING MARVIS HOOD, JR.

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the Marvis Hood, Jr., who, after proudly serving his country, passed away on December 8, 2014, from complications related to pneumonia.

Marvis "Big Daddy" Hood, Jr. was born in Marlin, Texas to Marvis and Jewelene Hood with one sibling, Graham Hood. In 1960, Mr. Hood joined the United States Air Force and later re-enlisted in the United States Army 52nd Sig BN, performing 22 years of military service. He voluntarily served three tours in Vietnam and eventually retired on Oct 6, 1984 as a Staff Sergeant. During his service, he earned five Good Conduct Medals, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal (5 campaigns), the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry w/Palm, and Expert on Rifle and Pistol awards. He earned the nickname "Big Daddy" playing football during a duty station assignment in Naples, Italy where he earned MVP as an Offensive tackle.

While in the military, he married Vera Mae Touchstone, a childhood friend. They had three sons, Roderick, Marcus, and Marvis III. Mr. Hood remarried on March 18th, 1977, to the love of his life Dora Jean Taylor. Having moved to Modesto for the remainder of his military career, he also served as a Reserve Officer with the Stanislaus County Sheriff Department.

Being a resident of Modesto for 37 years, Mr. Hood was involved in many charitable endeavors that benefited many in and outside the community of Modesto. Because of his appreciation for the opportunities his military career provided, which helped shape the man he became, Mr. Hood was deeply concerned about veteran issues; especially the health and welfare of homeless veterans. He established a yearly "Standown" for homeless veterans, that was modeled after the concept established during the Vietnam War, to help provide health services, winter clothing, food, and a warm safe place for the night.

Wanting to provide service for more than a few days a year, Mr. Hood was looking for a long term solution that led him to establish the Central Valley Homeless Veterans home. He provided a support system to aid many veterans in getting back on their feet. The Stanislaus County chapter of the American Red Cross awarded the Good Samaritan Senior Hero award to Marvis Hood, Jr. for his work helping veterans.

Mr. Marvis Hood Jr. is survived by his wife Dora; his three sons Roderick Hood, Marcus Hood and Marvis Hood III; his brother Graham Hood; and half-brothers Dwight Hood and Mike Wallace. He is loved and remembered by a host of family, friends, and the many he helped.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the life of Marvis "Big Daddy" Hood, Jr. and all of his excellent contributions to veterans and the community. Anyone who knew Marvis saw a gregarious and sometimes larger than life personality which at times hid a teddy bear heart of gold which was always willing to lend a helping hand or timely words of wisdom.

HONORING TRINA GEORGE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Trina George, who is a Director, Leader and Public Servant.

Trina George was appointed on June 29, 2009, by President Barack Obama to serve as Mississippi's Director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development. She has made history by being the first woman appointed in this position for the State of Mississippi. In her new role, she is charged with assisting residents of rural Mississippi with a range of programs such as: Affordable Housing, Water Systems Upgrades, and Economic Development Efforts. Rural development also provides grant and loan assistance to local governments and non-profit organizations for fire and police protection as well as health clinics, libraries and other facilities for public use. She is an advocate for rural communities throughout the state to assist with their growth, development and sustainability.

Prior to this appointment, Mrs. George served for 15 years as a Special Project Coordinator for Congressman BENNIE THOMPSON where she resolved community and constituency issues by thinking inside, outside and around the box. Her hands-on experience in the Congressional Office served as an ideal prerequisite for her role in rural economic development and community participation for the State of Mississippi.

Mrs. George served on many civic organizations, including education and volunteer groups. She is actively involved in the community where she is: a Board Member for the Heart of the South Girl Scouts Council, which serves Northern Mississippi and Southern Tennessee; and a Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc, and Pi Alpha Alpha Honor Society. She holds a Bachelor's Degree from Mississippi Valley State University and a Master's Degree from Mississippi State University. She is currently a Ph.D. Candidate in Public Policy and Administration at Walden University. Also, she holds a Professional Certificate in Management and Leadership from the NeighborWorks Training Institute of America in Washington, DC.

Mrs. George is an important advocate for rural communities throughout the state. She administers and manages over 40 programs which include: housing; business and cooperative programs; community programs; and community facilities which are designed to improve the quality of life in rural America. Rural Development is an agency that the Obama Administration wants to see in the forefront of efforts to promote renewable energy and conservation of natural resources while ensuring a safe, sustainable, nutritious food supply through the Agency's cooperatives for present and future users.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Trina George, a director, leader and advocate, who is improving the quality of life for rural America.

CONGRATULATING SARAH KAPLAN

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Sarah Kaplan for her many contributions to the New Democrat Coalition. At the end of this year, Sarah will be leaving the New Dem staff to continue graduate school full-time.

The New Democrat Coalition, which I have the pleasure to lead as Chair, is a group of 55

pro-growth, innovative solutions oriented Members of the House Democratic Caucus. The New Dems are committed to a growth agenda that speaks to Americans' hopes for a brighter economic future. Whether it's revolutionizing the ways we prepare people for the jobs of the future, encourage a spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship, or maintaining America's competitiveness in a rapidly-shifting global economy, the New Dems continue to work to advocate these priorities and modernize the policy and messaging of the Democratic Caucus.

Sarah joined the New Dem staff in May 2013 as a staff assistant and research associate. She hit the ground rolling and was valuable at the start to the Members and staff of the Coalition. Recognizing her growth in the office, she was promoted to Policy & Member Services Aide where she assisted the New Dem Leadership Team and the Executive Director in strengthening the cohesion of the Coalition and advancing our policy priorities. Sarah was particularly valuable in working on the Coalition's innovation, education, national security, and trade policy priorities.

Next year, Sarah expects to earn a Masters in Security Studies with a focus on Terrorism and Substance Violence from Georgetown University. After earning her graduate degree, she plans to continue serving our nation by re-joining government in national security policy.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Members of the New Democrat Coalition, thank you Sarah.

TRIBUTE TO KAREN L. DAILY

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute a truly amazing Hoosier, Mrs. Karen L. Daily, who passed from this world to the next on December 7, 2014. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for her leadership and service to our community, state, and country.

Karen served for many years as Deputy Clerk before her election by the people of Benton County to three non-consecutive terms as Clerk of the Circuit Court. As a member of the Association of Clerks of the Circuit Courts of Indiana, Karen was chosen several times by her peers to serve as Treasurer. She was actively involved in the organization, devoting time to advocate on behalf of her profession while also serving on the Legislative Committee.

Though I had known Karen for many years, it was not until after my election as Secretary of State that I realized how truly blessed the people of Indiana were to have such a tireless and professional public servant. She used her talents as a voice for rural communities on the Statewide Voter Registration System Steering Committee, a group tasked with the responsibility to develop and implement a single voter file for the State of Indiana. Each month, her leadership was evident in the actions taken by the committee to integrate the system statewide. Through her leadership, the system came online on time, worked well from the beginning, and saved Indiana millions of dollars.

Karen leaves four children, seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren to carry

on her legacy of community service and joins her late husband Larry, in eternity. I am a better leader and public servant because of the lessons learned and advice received from Karen. She was a true friend and mentor.

On behalf of all Hoosiers, I am humbled to honor Karen here today. She will be missed for her friendship, leadership and most of all, her character. God bless you, Karen.

SPEECH OF

HONORING CONGRESSMAN HENRY WAXMAN AND CONGRESSMAN GEORGE MILLER ON THEIR RETIREMENT

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the long and distinguished career of Congressman HENRY WAXMAN.

Congressman WAXMAN's career speaks for itself. He has been at the forefront of many of the most important legislative and policy battles of the past four decades. From combating Big Tobacco to championing the Affordable Care Act, HENRY has been an indispensable voice in the House. It was an honor to serve with him and I commend his long and storied career.

I had the privilege of serving alongside Congressman WAXMAN on the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. During our time together on the Oversight Committee, we focused on investigations into cost overruns and money wasted on reconstruction in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the service of Congressman HENRY WAXMAN in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING SHERIFF PATRICK B PEREZ

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Patrick B Perez and his tenure as the Sheriff of Kane County.

Sheriff Perez retired on Sunday, November 30th, 2014 after over 22 years of service to Kane County. Since becoming the first Hispanic sheriff of Kane County in 2006, Sheriff Perez had many successes, including his efforts to combat gang violence, heroin and other substance abuse problems in Kane County. During his tenure, the city of Aurora saw a 13-month period from 2012-2013 of no reported murders. Sheriff Perez oversaw the creation of the agency's website, which sees more than one million visitors a year, and the construction of a new shooting range for the 244 officers who must show competence with their weapons twice a year. He also led successful charitable efforts and community outreach programs, such as the citizens' police academy and the annual car show.

He served with professionalism, a strong work ethic, and a sense of duty to the officers under his command and the community they

serve. I congratulate Sheriff Perez on his retirement and thank him for his service to Kane County.

RECOGNIZING DONALD E. GRAHAM

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Donald E. Graham for his outstanding contributions to the nation and to the people of the nation's capital. Don Graham is best known for his unique contributions to the field of journalism, but he is also greatly admired in the District of Columbia, his hometown, as a citizen and leader.

For more than four decades, Don Graham has played a significant role in the life of the nation and here in the District of Columbia. Don served his country for two years during the Vietnam War, prior to returning to the District of Columbia and joining the D.C.'s police department, the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD). At MPD, Don courageously dedicated himself to serving the residents of the District as a patrol officer in the Ninth Precinct in the Northeast section of the District of Columbia. Only after charting his life with these experiences, life changing in themselves, did Don begin his career in professional journalism, in 1971, when he joined the family business as a reporter. Don Graham proceeded to come up through the ranks of the Washington Post and eventually became Publisher of the paper and then Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Washington Post Company. During his tenure, Don Graham shepherded a historic era at the Post. Under his leadership, the Post not only won more than 20 Pulitzer Prizes, it entered into the digital age, launched a website, and began printing in color.

Beyond his stellar accomplishments in journalism, Don Graham also has made notable contributions to the District of Columbia and its residents. He has continued a family tradition of service to the District with special attention to secondary education and higher education. Don was the driving force behind the D.C. Tuition Assistance Grant program (DCTAG), not only in our ability to achieve federal funding for higher education unique to the District, but in what it has taken to maintain it for 15 years. DCTAG has doubled college attendance in the District of Columbia, allowing D.C. students, who have no state university system, to attend any state university in the country with up to \$10,000 per year in assistance. Moreover, Don has gone even further in pursuit of higher education opportunities for D.C. residents. He is a co-founder of the D.C. College Access Program, which has assisted over 13,000 D.C. students and provided over \$18 million in scholarships. Most recently, Don has formed TheDream.US, a new scholarship program that seeks to assist undocumented students, who cannot qualify for federal financial aid programs. Don sold the Post to engage in other pursuits, leaving the paper in good hands to continue its distinctive contributions. However, Don Graham's dedicated public service as a private citizen continues to this day.

Mr. Speaker, I could only summarize Donald E. Graham's achievements. Even so, it should now be clear why I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Donald E. Graham for his service to American journalism and for his continuing service to the residents of the District of Columbia.

HONORING WEE CARE NURSERIES
AND LEARNING CENTERS, INC.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a landmark establishment within the City of Tchula that provides one of the most critical and essential services for all working parents: Wee Care Nursery and Learning Center, Inc.

Tchula's Wee Care Nursery and Learning Center began as Tchula Day Care. Tchula Day Care opened its doors on September 3, 1991. The name was later changed to Tchula's Wee Care Nursery and Learning Center, Inc. On May 15, 1995, Wee Care Nursery and Learning Center #2 opened its doors in Lexington, MS.

Tchula's Wee Care capacity is 142 and Lexington's is 169. Current enrollment is 77 and 54 respectively.

At Wee Care Nurseries and Learning Centers, their mission is to provide child care that meets the needs of each child and family in a safe, educational environment.

They take pride in the Centers and focus on the individual needs of each child, while providing quality, reliable and safe child care.

The goals of At Wee Care Nurseries and Learning Centers are: 1) To provide affordable, convenient, dependable child care services; 2) To create a child care setting for social, cognitive, and physical development; 3) To provide a nurturing environment; 4) To provide learning experiences for children; and 5) To provide a preschool program, readying children for lifelong learning.

Wee Care Nurseries and Learning Centers, Inc. believe that a high quality early childhood program provides a safe and nurturing environment that promotes the physical, emotional, social, and cognitive development of young children while responding to the needs of families. They believe in promoting an anti-bias, pro-social curriculum that teaches children to value and respect themselves and others for their own unique individuality. Each child is considered unique in temperament and rate of development. Curriculum is planned to enhance and challenge particular, distinct individual needs, interests and abilities. The curriculum includes: manipulatives, art, music, games, and outdoor play. They believe child-initiated, child-directed, teacher-supported play is an essential component of developmentally appropriate practice. Activities and relationships occur in a healthy, positive and relaxed environment in which well-qualified staff—provide personal attention, guidance and nurturing to each child.

Wee Care Nurseries and Learning Centers, Inc. strives to maintain continuity and consistency throughout the program by conducting helpful staff planning, training and a variety of joint activities involving various groups of chil-

dren. In this context, all caregivers at Wee Care Nurseries and Learning Centers are encouraged to express their individual educational strengths as they work with children and in their cooperative efforts with other staff members.

When you come to Wee Care Nurseries and Learning Centers, your child will receive the best care the industry has to offer. All you need to do is "expect more." They have been fortunate to get special recognition from: Greenwood Voters' League, Mississippi State University, The Cities of Tchula and Lexington, Mississippi Building Blocks and The Delta Foundation.

Wee Care Nurseries and Learning Center is able to care for children ages 6 weeks to 12 years. Along with regular childcare services, they also provide before and after school care and a summer reading and math enrichment program.

Wee Care Nurseries and Learning Centers, Inc. have a Motto/Slogan: Building a better world one child at a time. Learning Today . . . Leading Today!

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Wee Care Nurseries and Learning Centers, Inc. for its past and present dedication to providing impeccable, dependable childcare services in an effort to help families of all backgrounds within the Tchula community.

NIGERIA WILLIAMS HONORED AS
TRAINEE OF THE YEAR BY THE
GERMAN AMERICAN CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to recognize the accomplishment of Nigeria Williams, a senior at South Aiken High School in the Second Congressional District of South Carolina, who was recently named Trainee of the Year by the German American Chamber of Commerce.

Established in 2012, the apprenticeship program at the MTU Aiken Plant in Graniteville, South Carolina, provides high school students in the Palmetto State the opportunity to participate in the first-ever registered vocational apprenticeship program in the state of South Carolina. This two year program, developed in partnership with Aiken County Schools, Aiken Technical College, and Apprenticeship Carolina gives high school juniors and seniors a chance to experience hands on vocational learning opportunities in a real manufacturing environment. Graduates of the program earn an Industrial Mechanic-Basic certification.

Ms. Williams is the first female participant in the MTU Aiken Plant apprenticeship program. I congratulate her on this achievement and offer my best wishes for continued success.

I ask that my colleagues join me in recognition of Ms. Williams's accomplishments.

JOE BRESSI, 2014 PENNSYLVANIA
SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Joe Bressi for his recent induction into the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame.

Mr. Bressi has had a long and successful career as an athletic coach, where he has demonstrated an exceptional ability to lead his teams to victory. His career highlights include:

Ten seasons as the head coach of the Bishop McDevitt High School girls basketball program, finishing with a 238–40 record, eight conference titles, five District 3 titles, and appearances in two state championships.

Eight years with the Bloomsburg University women's basketball program, where he finished with a 175–47 record and led the team to seven PSAC East titles, one PSAC playoff title, and four NCAA Division II tournaments. During the 1988–1989 season, his team became the first NCAA Division II women's team to go undefeated.

Six years with the Lycoming College men's basketball program, where the team had a record of 97–53 and reached the NCAA Division III tournament twice.

For his hard work and dedication, Mr. Bressi was inducted into the Pennsylvania Basketball Hall of Fame, two regional chapters of Pennsylvania's Sports Hall of Fame, and the Hall of Fame at East Stroudsburg where he attended college. During his time at Lycoming, he received the Middle Atlantic Conference Coach of the Year award twice. He also coached three Freedom Conference Players of the Year, two rookies of the year, and nine all-conference picks.

In 2000, Mr. Bressi left Lycoming College to become the director of athletics for Central Dauphin High School, where he worked for 11 years. Mr. Bressi retired, but shortly returned to coaching in 2013 as the head girl's basketball coach at Bishop McDevitt High School.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Bressi has shown outstanding athletic achievement and coaching ability, leading his teams over 500 victories. Therefore, I commend him on his induction into the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN HENRY WAXMAN AND CONGRESSMAN GEORGE MILLER ON THEIR RE- TIREMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the career of Congressman GEORGE MILLER.

I had the pleasure of serving on the Education and Workforce Committee with GEORGE. During his time in Congress, Congressman MILLER has been an outspoken leader on issues related to health care, workers' rights, and quality education. His leadership, knowledge, and mentorship will be sorely missed in Congress.

Congressman MILLER's legacy spans many issues facing Americans including raising the minimum wage, improving conditions for workers, fighting for equal pay for women, protecting the environment and bettering our education system. His 40 years of tireless service have undoubtedly positively improved the lives of countless Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the service of Congressman GEORGE MILLER.

RECOGNIZING THE WEBB CITY CARDINALS

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Webb City football team for winning their fifth straight state football championship.

The Webb City Cardinals clenched their fifth consecutive state title by defeating the Cape Central Tigers 48–21. Through their hard work and excellence on and off the field, the Cardinals have developed into a truly great championship team.

I also want to commend Head Coach John Roderique for a job well-done on developing such a strong football program. In his 18 years of coaching the Cardinals, his teams have won ten of the school's 13 state titles.

The Webb City community is rightly proud of this astonishing group of young and talented student-athletes. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Webb City Cardinals as they celebrate their fifth consecutive State Championship.

FAREWELL REMARKS

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, what a blessing it has been to serve in the United States Congress! Indeed, it has been a dream come true—an opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of the people back home and the communities in which we live, work, worship, retire, and play.

Over the course of 18 years in Congress, we have been blessed to have accomplished a great deal together with the citizens of the Seventh Congressional District.

This job could not have been done without the people, purpose, and partnerships that have been integral to our work.

Indeed, none of this would have been possible without the strong support of my family—my wonderfully amazing, astute and astounding wife Dee, without whose wisdom, counsel, inspiration, analysis, steadfast partnership, and love I would have never been able to run—much less survived—in public service; and my two sons, Joshua and Stephen, whose imagination, intelligence, and insight, as well as their proclivity for the pragmatic, practical, and positive aspects of politics and public service (not to mention patience with having to eat a lot of barbecue and chicken bog!) always kept our serious perspective for

the future balanced with laughter and common sense.

And I would like to extend a personal token of my appreciation to my wonderful staff throughout these years. These individuals have graciously given their very best in the service of their country and our district, and I am grateful for their work and their friendship. Indeed, through teamwork and loyalty, they have demonstrated what it truly means to answer the high calling of public service.

I owe a special thanks to my colleagues here in Congress who have worked diligently with us, reaching across the aisle to find real solutions to our nation's greatest challenges and to help our great state to prosper.

It has been a blessing to serve alongside these men and women who have devoted their lives to public service.

Thank you especially to my friends in the Congressional Prayer Caucus and in the Congressional Prayer Breakfast for the friendships that have transcended party labels and focused on answering the call that the good Lord has laid upon our hearts to help the people back home and across the nation.

Second, it has been the purpose which has guided our actions:

My favorite Old Testament verse is from the Book of Proverbs (29:18 a): "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

During my 18 years here, we have sought to pursue a vision that offers hope to others and a bright future for our next generation.

It was in June of 1973, as rising high school senior, that I attended a student leadership seminar, the Washington Workshops Congressional Seminar.

I had just visited my then-freshman Congressman, Charlie Rose, and I meandered over to the Senate side to find the senior Senator for North Carolina, a white-haired gentleman who quoted Scripture as an old country lawyer, Sam Ervin, Jr.

He was conducting something called the "Watergate hearings."

All three national TV networks were there. I waited in line and stood in the back of the hearing room on the day that John Dean began his testimony, which was the beginning of the end of the Nixon White House—a day I'll never forget.

I went home for my senior year of high school and came back to DC the next summer, 1974, as an intern for my Congressman. That was the summer that Nixon resigned.

I decided to major in political science as I headed off to the University of North Carolina that August, thinking that, "maybe someday I'll get to come back to this place."

And 22 years later, that dream came true. "How could you be interested in politics?" everyone asked. "It's so dirty, so corrupt," they said.

I gave them the same answer then that I gave people when I first ran 18 years ago, that I still give today: "If all the people with the right motives stay out of politics, then who's left to run our government?"

"If we who are serious about our faith and our vision don't become involved, then by definition, there is going to be a void."

We should remember that so many times the world says, "you must be successful," but the key to success is first being faithful.

We must be faithful to our calling—answering the call that God has laid upon our hearts.

"He who is faithful in little will be faithful in much."

If we are faithful in the opportunities we have, then God will grant success in His timing; after all, isn't that what really counts—how we are using our time during the time we have on this earth?

Third, it has been the partnerships:

In eastern North Carolina, we have demonstrated that public service is a partnership between constituents and the representative they entrust to speak on their behalf.

For us, this steadfast partnership has been forged by putting policy over politics, issues over ideology, dialogue over dollars, and cooperation over campaigning.

This partnership has transcended politics and allowed us to accomplish monumental tasks, such as quadrupling the number of veterans' clinics in our area, passing the tobacco buyout, expanding our military bases, establishing an economic commission to promote jobs and fight poverty—and ensuring that the North Carolina coast will continue to be an economic engine and environmental treasure.

We also have built new fire and police stations, town halls, and workforce development centers; opened new farmers' markets and senior centers; improved airports and the Wilmington Port; and expanded educational and recreational opportunities for our children and youth.

We have helped thousands of constituents from all walks of life in ways that have significantly impacted their lives. None of this could have been accomplished without the strong commitment of my family, the hard work of my staff, and—especially—the willingness of people throughout our region to put partisanship aside and work together to get things done for the betterment of eastern North Carolina.

Indeed, I am grateful to all of the Democrats, Republicans, and Independents with whom we have successfully worked through nine general elections over 18 years.

People, purpose, partnerships: if we all remember these three ingredients and remain faithful to our calling, then we will have the recipe for success.

I close with the words of Adlai Stevenson, former UN Ambassador and Presidential candidate whom I quoted on the night of my first election in 1996, and which are a reminder of what has been a solemn and exciting duty:

"Trust the people, trust their good sense, their decency . . . their faith. Trust them with the facts. Trust them with the great decisions. And fix as our guiding star the passion to create a society . . . where no American is held down by race or color, by worldly condition or social status, from gaining what his character earns him as an American citizen, as a human being and as a child of God."

May God grant us the wisdom and the will to find the way to be moving always to an even better and brighter day. And by His grace, we will!

TRIBUTE TO EDWIN J. SIMCOX

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute a remarkable Hoosier, Mr. Edwin (Ed) J. Simcox, for his retirement as CEO of the Indiana Energy Association. I

wish to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for his leadership and service to our community, state, and country.

Ed was born in LaPorte, Indiana and holds an A.B. degree in Government and Economics from Indiana University and a J.D. degree from the Indiana University School of Law. Ed served as President of the Indiana Electric Association and helped guide a merger with the Indiana Gas Association in 2004 to form the Indiana Energy Association, where he served as CEO from 2010 to 2014. He currently serves as the President Emeritus of the Indiana Energy Association.

Ed has served Hoosiers in numerous capacities at the state level, including as Secretary of the State Highway Commission, Secretary of the Indiana Public Service Commission, and legal deputy of the office of the Reporter of the Indiana Supreme Court.

Hoosiers might look at my early public service career and rightfully assume it is comparable to Ed's. We were both on staff before serving as Indiana Secretary of State for two terms. We were both among the youngest elected secretaries of state at the time we took office. We also earned our J.D. from Indiana University School of Law. As someone who followed a similar career path as me, I frequently sought his counsel, and continue to do so as a Member of Congress.

Ed has also served on many other boards and commissions over the years for both public and private entities. He has dedicated his professional life to serving Hoosiers and improving the quality of life in Indiana. On behalf of all Hoosiers, thank you Ed, for all you have done and continue to do for the people of Indiana. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement.

HONORING CLEOETHA SADDLER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable hero, Cleoetha Saddler.

Cleoetha Saddler was born on February 1, 1945 in Illinois to Garfield Allen and Viola Orr. She grew up in a home with six other relatives until her father decided he would raise her in Memphis, TN. Cleoetha attended Mississippi Valley State University where she earned multiple degrees in elementary education. She later married Frank Saddler, Jr., settled in Marks, MS, and gave birth to nine children.

Today, Cleoetha, also known as "Cleo" or "Lou", is the rock of her family. She continues to care for her children, and take care of her grandchildren. Over the course of her life, she has contributed to her community tremendously. Her name has become one so common for helping others that the desire from others to want to help even her grandchildren has increased. She is most known in her efforts for raising money for those in need.

In 2005, she stood at the main intersection in Marks, MS tirelessly to gather donations from townspeople to send to Louisiana for Hurricane Katrina victims. In addition to that, she is never been reluctant to gather donations in that same way for families who cannot afford to pay for the funerals and burials of their loved ones. She comforts those families,

not just with funds but with endless visits and "check-in" calls. She also helps organizations to decorate and/or cook for different events in the community. She is one that is very supportive of the school system, in reference to achieving adequate education. Cleoetha is never hesitant to help anyone in any way that she possibly can.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Cleoetha Saddler for she is definitely the epitome of an unsung hero.

FAREWELL STATEMENT

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, as my time as a Member of Congress is coming to an end, I want to thank the people of Maine's Second District for allowing me the privilege of representing them here in the People's House.

From Fort Kent to Lewiston and Franklin County to Washington County, Mainers have shared with me their lives, their hopes and their concerns. We have worked together to improve our transportation infrastructure—which is pretty important when you represent the largest geographic district east of the Mississippi. We've worked together to stop bad trade deals from taking away good jobs; and to attract new businesses to Maine's increasingly diverse and innovative economy. I've been down on the clam flats, hiked our new and growing recreational trails and walked the floors of our mills. I couldn't have asked for better "bosses" than the men and women of the Second District.

I'm proud of everything we have accomplished together. We've helped support innovative small businesses across Maine through the Northern Border Regional Commission. We've protected and created new jobs in places like DFAS at Limestone. We've expanded access to affordable quality healthcare. We've taken steps to strengthen manufacturing in Maine by ensuring that our service members wear American-made footwear.

I'm particularly honored by the work I've been able to do with our veterans. During my time in Congress and with the support of our local veterans' organizations, we expanded access to care—making it easier for veterans in the County to get care at Cary Medical Center, so they don't have to take time off from their jobs and travel hundreds of miles, round-trip, to Togus. Working together, we ensured that aging veterans could always access affordable and quality healthcare at state veterans homes. We secured additional resources to confront the very serious problem of veterans' homelessness. We strengthened the GI Bill, making it easier for veterans to access important education and training opportunities.

I'd like to thank my fellow delegation members—Representative CHELLIE PINGREE, and Senators ANGUS KING and SUSAN COLLINS. It's been a pleasure partnering with them over the years on a number of issues critical to Mainers. I'd also like to thank my staff, who have helped me always meet the needs of my constituents. They include Peter Chandler, John Graham, Diane Smith, Jane Calderwood,

Gene Allen, Dan Rafter, Daniel Walls, Ben Goodman, Mac Routh, Andrea Quaid, Chris Winstead, Matt Dubois, Barbara Hayslett, Susan Cerini, Brandon Smith, Rachel Smith, Cassie Doyle, Rosemary Winslow, Brian Zimmerman, Nora Todd, Ed Gilman, Kim Glas, Monica Castellanos, Nancy Dolan, and the staff on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. I'd also like to thank all of those who have been on my staff in the past, and who worked so hard for the residents of the Second District.

Despite the partisan gridlock we see all too often here in Washington, Mainers are known for our tenacity and our willingness to roll up our sleeves and get things done. We have a proud history of well-respected lawmakers who have done just that, from Margaret Chase Smith to George Mitchell to Olympia Snowe. I am confident that if Maine's representatives continue to be guided by a commitment to partnership over partisanship, we can continue to achieve great things.

I return home honored by the time I spent serving the Second District in Congress, grateful for the people I met and the experiences I had, and optimistic for our future. Working together, we've made Maine a better place.

HONORING CONGRESSWOMAN
CAROLYN MCCARTHY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the career of my good friend, Congresswoman CAROLYN MCCARTHY.

I had the privilege of serving alongside CAROLYN on the Committee on Education and the Workforce, where we began developing a close, personal friendship.

Congresswoman MCCARTHY's courage and leadership on the issue of gun violence has been a hallmark of her time in the House. Arising from tragic circumstances, CAROLYN's passionate commitment to preventing gun violence has inspired others and made a real difference. The power of her voice on this critical issue will be greatly missed in the next Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I honor the distinguished career of my dear friend, CAROLYN MCCARTHY.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN HENRY
WAXMAN AND CONGRESSMAN
GEORGE MILLER ON THEIR RE-
TIREMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it's an honor today to rise and celebrate the accomplishments of two of my friends, and two of the most distinguished leaders to have ever served in the House of Representatives: HENRY WAXMAN and GEORGE MILLER. Their names have become synonymous with statesmanship and a deep commitment to public service.

These two giants leave behind legislative records that are unmatched in scope and length. When HENRY WAXMAN served as Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee—I had the good fortune of working closely with him on so many of the issues we care about. Whether it was expanding access to affordable healthcare, or ensuring that our environment is protected, HENRY was at the forefront of so much important progress. His leadership on the Affordable Care Act and his championing of Medicare and Medicaid improvements will be remembered as some of his greatest accomplishments in this body. While he has certainly been a friend to us, he has also been a friend to so many who he has never met: the elderly, the infirmed, and those most vulnerable to whom he has dedicated his career.

Few people in this country have done more for America's children than GEORGE MILLER. With a special focus on children from underserved and low-income communities, GEORGE fought tirelessly to fight economic inequalities and to expand opportunities for young people who otherwise would not have had them. From fighting for a stronger K-12 education law to ensuring that people can live on a meaningful minimum wage, GEORGE MILLER has dedicated his career to giving voice to the American worker.

Both of these leaders are proud sons of California, and throughout their careers they have truly lived up to the term "Representative." I look forward to seeing how they will continue to use their talents, knowledge and passions to better serve our nation in the years ahead. Thank you for all of your leadership; it has been an honor to serve with you.

LEGISLATIVE RECORD OF STEVE
STOCKMAN IN 113TH CONGRESS

HON. STEVE STOCKMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. STOCKMAN. Mr. Speaker, as the 113th Congress comes to a close, it is my pleasure to note all of the legislative actions that I have taken in my tenure in this Congress.

In the 113th Congress, I introduced the following legislation:

H.R. 4587—Fifth Amendment Restoration Act. This bill sought to stop the Federal Government from stealing people's property by abolishing the use of civil asset forfeiture.

H.R. 5777—Cryptocurrency Protocol Protection and Moratorium Act. This bill sought to protect cryptocurrencies by imposing a five year moratorium on new cryptocurrency regulations.

H.R. 5755—Safer American Streets Act. This bill sought to withhold certain highway funds from a State that uses an automated traffic enforcement system on a Federal-aid highway.

H.R. 5756—Heller Public Firearms Range Act of 2014. This bill sought to restore a public firearms range to the District of Columbia.

H.R. 5757—Honoring Workers' Rights Act. This bill sought to rename the headquarters of the Department of Labor in honor of right to work activist Reed Larson.

H.R. 5734—Right of Return Act. This bill sought to establish a lasting peace in the Mid-

dle East by defunding UNRWA, defunding the Palestinian Authority, and directing the Secretary of State to call for Israel to extend sovereignty of Judea, Samaria, and Gaza with the Arab population residing in those territories to be given a right of return to the countries who controlled those territories from 1949 to 1967.

H.R. 5726—Freedom From Foreign Influence Act. This bill sought to direct the Secretary of the Interior to issue promptly permits allowing energy resources exploration and extraction in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

H.R. 5718—Stockman Effect Act. This bill sought to direct the National Science Foundation to commission a study on the potential impact of a polar magnetic shift on the weather.

H.R. 5717—Report the Costs Act. This bill sought to require annual reports from agencies detailing the cost of multilingual services, to end speculation about the cost of multilingual services provided by the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5473—James Boulet National Language Act of 2014. This bill sought to make English the official language of the United States, require that official U.S. government functions be conducted in English, and require the U.S. government to preserve and enhance the role of English as the official language of the United States.

H.R. 5472—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service currently located at 16281 U.S. Highway 59 in Moscow, Texas, as the "Anna Stepanovna Politkovskaya Memorial Post Office". This bill sought to name the post office in Moscow, Texas in honor of Anna Stepanovna Politkovskaya, an American journalist who was assassinated in Moscow, Russia as a result of her coverage of the human rights abuses committed by the regime of Vladimir Putin.

H.R. 5433—Stop Funding Terrorism Act. This bill sought to prohibit any direct U.S. assistance, loan guarantee, or debt relief to the Palestinian Authority.

H.R. 5316—Safely Exacting Cautious Useful Rules for Immigration This Year (SECURITY) Act. This bill sought to secure the border between the United States and Mexico.

H.R. 5202—Personal Information Notification Act. This bill sought to require notification when personally identifying information is disclosed by a Government agency.

H. Amdt. 1033. This amendment to H.R. 4923, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015, sought to prohibit funds made available by this Act from being used for the Department of Energy's Loan Program Office.

H. Res. 664—Providing for the arrest of Lois G. Lerner to answer the charge of contempt of Congress.

H. Res. 649, 648, 647, 646, and 645. This series of resolutions sought to direct various federal agencies to disclose emails transmitted by Lois Lerner.

H. Amdt. 941. This amendment to H.R. 4870, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2015, sought to prohibit the use of funds for any activity that would grant de jure or de facto support of territorial, maritime, or airspace claims made by the People's Republic of China on the international waters or territories of other sovereign nations in the South China, East China, and Yellow Seas.

H. Amdt. 940. This amendment to H.R. 4870, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2015, sought to prohibit the use of

funds for the procurement of weapons systems that contain rare earth materials, metals, magnets, parts, or components that are produced in Cuba, North Korea, the People's Republic of China, or Venezuela.

H. Amdt. 939. This amendment to H.R. 4870, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2015, sought to prohibit the use of funds to destroy Department of Defense equipment or ammunition in Afghanistan without such equipment or ammunition first being offered to independent states of the former Soviet Union and major non-NATO allies that are willing to pay for transportation of such equipment or ammunition to such states or allies.

H. Res. 635—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) must allow taxpayers the same lame excuses for missing documentation that the IRS itself is currently proffering.

H.R. 4883—National Rare-Earth Cooperative Act of 2014. This bill sought to provide for the establishment of a National Rare-Earth Refinery Cooperative.

H. Res. 612—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Government of Mexico should forthwith repatriate Sgt. Andrew Paul Tahmooressi from Mexican prison(s) and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the President of the United States should take actions to impose sanctions on Mexico until such time as Sgt. Tahmooressi is released.

H.R. 4774—Veterans' Health Accountability Act. This bill sought to improve the quality of care offered by the Veterans Health Administration.

H. Res. 602—Recognizing the 96th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan.

H.R. 4651—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 601 West Baker Road in Baytown, Texas as the "Specialist Keith Erin Grace Jr. Memorial Post Office". This bill sought to name a post office in Baytown, Texas in honor of Keith Erin Grace Jr.

H.R. 4650—European Union Religious Freedom Act. This bill sought to recognize the prohibition of homeschooling, religious methods of meat production, circumcision, or wearing of religious garb as being infringements on religious freedom.

H.R. 4602—Virtual Currency Tax Reform Act. This bill sought to change the status of virtual currencies from property to foreign currency.

H.R. 4581—Prohibiting Discrimination Against Israel Act. This bill sought to prohibit federal funds from going towards international projects that discriminate against Judea and Samaria.

H.R. 4520—Aircraft Positioning Modernization Act. This bill sought to require passenger aircraft to transmit GPS location data.

H.R. 4518—Parental Protection Act. This bill sought to protect the constitutional rights of parents and children.

H.R. 4380—Gun Confiscation and Registration Prevention Act. This bill sought to prohibit gun confiscation and registration.

H.R. 4381—Biometric Information Privacy Act. This bill sought to prohibit firms from selling personal biometric information to third parties.

H.R. 4343—Write the Laws Act. This bill sought to end the unconstitutional delegation

of legislative power which was exclusively vested in the Senate and House of Representatives by article I, section 1 of the United States Constitution, and to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to issue a report to Congress detailing the extent of the problem of unconstitutional delegation to the end that such delegations can be phased out, thereby restoring the constitutional principle of separation of powers set forth in the first sections of the United States Constitution.

H.R. 3199—Safe Military Bases Act. This bill sought to safeguard military and civilian personnel on military bases by repealing bans on military personnel carrying firearms, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3156—Responsible Implementation of Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2013. This bill sought to reform the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 to responsibly protect homeownership.

H. Res. 333—Expressing the firm conviction of the House of Representatives that any continuing resolution or debt ceiling increase it may approve for the duration of the 113th Congress shall affirmatively include a provision specifically prohibiting the expenditure of any federal funds in support of or in implementation or effectuation or enforcement of any provision of the Affordable Care Act ("ObamaCare").

H. Amdt. 397. This amendment to H.R. 2397, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2014, sought to prohibit funds appropriated or made available in this Act from being used for United States military exercises which include any participation by the People's Republic of China.

H.R. 2764—Sanctity of Life Act of 2013. This bill sought to declare that human life shall be deemed to exist from conception.

H. Res. 306—Providing for the consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 36) establishing a select committee to investigate and report on the attack on the United States consulate in Benghazi, Libya.

H.R. 2625—Student Protection Act. This bill sought to prohibit the use of appropriated funds for any educational institution which punishes a child for brandishing food which is partially consumed in such a way that the remnant resembles a gun; possessing a toy gun two inches or less in length or made of plastic snap together building blocks; using a finger or hand to simulate a gun; vocalizing imaginary firearms or munitions; wearing a T-shirt that supports Second Amendment rights; drawing a picture of, or possessing an image of, a firearm; or using a writing utensil to simulate a firearm.

H.R. 2606—Stabilization and Reconstruction Integration Act of 2013. This bill sought to establish the United States Office for Contingency Operations.

H.R. 1815—Union Coercion Prevention Act. This bill sought to protect workers from the corrupt and coercive "Card Check" system of organizing labor unions.

H.R. 1144—Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas Equal and Fair Opportunity Settlement Act. This bill sought to restore an opportunity for tribal economic development on terms that are equal and fair.

H.R. 1143—Federal Correctional Workers Safety Act of 2013. This bill sought to amend the federal criminal code to require the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to ensure that each prison facility provides a secure firearms

storage area for use by all employees who are authorized to carry a firearm, or allow such employees to store their firearm in a Bureau-approved vehicle lockbox.

H.R. 577—Veterans Second Amendment Protection Act. This bill sought to prohibit, in any case arising out of the administration of laws and benefits by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, considering any person who is mentally incapacitated, deemed mentally incompetent, or experiencing an extended loss of consciousness from being considered adjudicated as a mental defective for purposes of the right to receive or transport firearms without the order or finding of a judicial authority of competent jurisdiction that such person is a danger to himself or herself or others.

H.R. 576—Save Endangered Species Act of 2013. This bill sought to require the Secretary of the Interior to allow for the taking, export or reimport, delivery, receipt, carrying, and transport, shipment, or sale in interstate or foreign commerce, in the course of a commercial activity, of U.S. captive-bred live scimitar-horned oryx, addax, or dama gazelle, including embryos, gametes, and sport-hunted trophies, as long as certain criteria are met, including that the purpose of such activity is associated with the management or transfer of live wildlife or sport hunting in a manner that contributes to increasing or sustaining captive numbers or to potential reintroduction to range countries.

H.R. 575—Second Amendment Protection Act of 2013. This bill sought to prohibit the United States from providing any funding to the United Nations (U.N.) for a fiscal year unless the President certifies to Congress that the U.N. has not taken action to infringe on the rights of individuals in the United States to possess a firearm or ammunition, or abridge any of the other constitutionally protected rights of U.S. citizens.

H.R. 410—Restore the Constitution Act of 2013. This bill sought to provide that any executive action infringing on the Second Amendment has no force or effect, and to prohibit the use of funds for certain purposes.

H.R. 35—Safe Schools Act of 2013. This bill sought to amend the federal criminal code to repeal provisions making it unlawful to possess or discharge a firearm in a school zone.

H.R. 33—Audit The Fed Act of 2013. This bill sought to repeal the authority of the Comptroller General (GAO) to carry out an onsite examination of an open insured bank or bank holding company only if the appropriate federal regulatory agency has consented in writing.

RICHARD "DICK" KNOEBEL, 2014
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF AMUSEMENT PARKS AND AT-
TRACTIONS (IAAPA) HALL OF
FAME INDUCTEE

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Richard "Dick" Knoebel for his induction into the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) Hall of Fame, which honors legends and pioneers for their significant contributions to the

growth and development of the attractions industry.

Mr. Knoebel's parents founded Knoebel's Amusement Park in Elysburg, Pennsylvania in 1926, and as a result, he grew up surrounded by the attractions industry. As an adult, Mr. Knoebel pursued his passion for amusement parks, becoming president of the Pennsylvania Amusement Parks Association in 1971. In 1984, he was a key player in the development and adoption of the Pennsylvania Ride Inspection Act.

Since 1988, Mr. Knoebel has served as the president of the family business. In this role, he has shown a strong dedication to preserving and restoring vintage rides including "The Phoenix" roller coaster from Texas and "The Twister" from Colorado, both of which currently operate at Knoebel's. He has also constructed first-of-their-kind attractions such as a flume ride with wood supports and the "Flying Turns," the only wooden bobsled-style roller coaster in existence which was modeled after a ride from the 1930s. Mr. Knoebel has been an active IAAPA volunteer and has made many significant contributions to the organization, including serving as a member of the Board of Directions from 1999 to 2002.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of Dick Knoebel's induction into the IAAPA Hall of Fame, I commend him and thank him for all of his hard work and lasting contributions to the attractions industry, and I wish him well in his future endeavors.

SUPPORTING SECTION 206 OF H.R.
647, THE ABLE ACT

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to advocate for and support the recently passed H.R. 647, the ABLE Act, for the important benefits it offers to the disabled, and because of the additional clarity and equity it will provide for employers dealing with the IRS.

Section 206 addresses an issue under current law and the interpretation of the IRS for employers that use the services of professional employer organizations (PEOs). For example, any PEO that qualifies as a statutory employer under the Internal Revenue Code is eligible to claim the Tip Tax Credit, instead of the restaurant for which the wait staff who directly perform the services and therefore earned the qualification for it.

Under this system, some PEOs claim the credit themselves as the statutory employer, others administer the credit for the restaurants which they serve, and some restaurants claim the credit directly—only to be challenged in IRS audits.

This provision of the ABLE Act provides important tax clarity for small businesses working with PEOs. I am pleased to have been able to help secure the passage of this legislation in the House of Representatives, and I urge its prompt consideration in the Senate.

HONORING UNDER SHERIFF
DERRICK CUBIT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable enforcement officer and community servant, Under Sheriff Derrick Cubit.

Derrick Cubit was born on a warm, sunny day of September 1, 1970 in Jackson, MS. As a youngster, he lived in Hazlehurst, Mississippi with his mother, Bobbie, his brother, Travis, and his late grandmother, Sarah.

Derrick Cubit started school when he was six-years-old. He went to kindergarten through fifth grades at Hazlehurst Elementary, attended Hazlehurst Middle School, and graduated from Hazlehurst High School in 1988. He continued his education by attending Hinds Community College and Jackson State University where he majored in Criminal Justice.

"Life has been a means of friends and family who you can trust and who trusts you," says Mr. Cubit. He is pretty happy with what life brings and is accustomed to being around primarily adults, those who he received wisdom from. He met lots of people who invested and took time with him, and helped him to excel at most of his many and various hobbies. He did well in school because of this and fortunately, self-awareness was something that was learned later on in his years.

Under Sheriff Cubit is a member of the Phi Beta Fraternity and of the Golden Square Lodge #88. There was always an interest in being a public servant, and he finally got an opportunity to work for the Copiah County Sheriff Department in October of 1997. He gives all thanks to the late Chief Deputy Joe L. Young, who gave him the opportunity to become a Deputy Sheriff with the Copiah County Sheriff Department. The trend was set by just meeting his potential, and taking on new challenges when someone brought it to his attention that he'd be perfect for the opportunity to work through the ranks at the Sheriff Department. He started out being a Deputy Sheriff, later was promoted to Juvenile Officer, after that he was promoted to Captain of Patrol, and now he serves as the Under Sheriff for the Copiah County Sheriff Department.

Under Sheriff Cubit always assumed he'd never get married because he was a hard worker and thought that if he was tied down by the constraints of a wife and kids his work might hinder family growth. But then, he met the beautiful Ms. Semekia Jones in 1994 and they agreed to marry in 2001. He had one son before this union and now his new family role suits him as being a father and husband. He's driven to spur his son on to even greater accomplishments.

Despite a lifetime of challenges and accomplishments Under Sheriff Cubit has held on to a quote by James Baldwin: "The world is before you, and you need not take it or leave it as it was when you came in." His goal is to achieve what James Baldwin speaks about. Although he would question, "How?" he believes that the moment his son entered this world, he then knew that he had achieved it.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Under Sheriff Derrick Cubit for his dedication to serving our great Country and his community.

DAVE CONNER TRIBUTE

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Assistant U.S. Attorney Dave Conner, who recently passed away after a long fight with cancer. Dave is survived by his wife Teri, son Gavin, and daughter Ashton.

Dave Conner dedicated his life to public service, serving for over thirty-two years in the state and Federal courts. And throughout that time, he served our state and country with both honor and integrity.

Dave's career as a public servant dates back to 1982, when he graduated law school and began working as a Deputy District Attorney in Denver. After six years, he became an Assistant U.S. Attorney. In 1996, he took a position as a public defender, and after four years in that capacity, he returned to the U.S. Attorney's office.

I have had the honor of meeting Dave and discussing possible ways we could curb the trend of mass shooting incidents that our nation, and Colorado, in particular, has experienced in recent years. Dave was dedicated to public safety and I found his insight and advice on gun violence to be very helpful as we discussed this extremely important issue.

An active member of the Smoky Hill United Methodist Church, Dave Connor was dedicated to his family and community and his life should serve as an example of the positive effect that dedicated public servants can have on those around them. My heartfelt prayers go out to his family, friends, and loved ones as they grieve the loss of a dedicated public servant and a great man.

ABD AL-BASET AZZOUZ

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to commend the recent intelligence partnership between the United States and the country of Turkey that led to the apprehension and eventual transfer into U.S. custody of a senior Al Qaeda operative, Abd al-Baset Azzouz.

The State Department of the United States listed Azzouz as a "Specially Designated Global Terrorist" pursuant to Executive Order 13224 on September 24, 2014. Additionally, the State Department states that Azzouz "has had a presence in Afghanistan, the United Kingdom, and Libya. He was sent to Libya in 2011 by al-Qa'ida leader Ayman al-Zawahiri to build a fighting force there, and mobilized approximately 200 fighters. He is considered a key operative capable of training al-Qa'ida recruits in a variety of skills, such as IED construction."

I am encouraged by this positive development between Turkey and the United States and hope that this event indicates a growing partnership between our countries that will result in a common military strategy against hostile elements in Iraq and Syria. While no international relationship is perfect, there is already

a large amount of cooperation that exists between the U.S. and allies like Turkey and it is critical that we continue to grow our existing partnerships in this important region as well as forge new ones.

It is important that we recognize and commend this very positive incident of counterterrorism cooperation between the U.S. and Turkey, as well as do all that we can to encourage these efforts to continue.

Finally, I submit the recent articles from the Washington Post and International Business Times.

[From the Washington Post, Dec. 5, 2014]

SUSPECTED AL-QAEDA MEMBER HELD IN JORDAN AS U.S. INVESTIGATES POSSIBLE BENGHAZI LINK

(By Adam Goldman and Karen DeYoung)

A suspected member of al-Qaeda who had recently been designated a global terrorist by the United States has been detained in Jordan. The United States is also investigating whether he played a role in the September 2012 attacks on U.S. facilities in Benghazi. U.S. officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing investigation, identified the man as Abd al-Baset Azzouz, a Libyan national. Details about his capture and what charges he could face in the United States remain unclear. Turkish news media reported that Azzouz was captured Nov. 13 in an operation in Yalova, which is about 100 miles south of Istanbul, and that he was later deported to Jordan.

Turkey's Daily Sabah newspaper said the CIA provided the tip that led to his arrest. The CIA declined to comment.

In recent years, the Obama administration has brought a number of alleged terrorists to this country after capture by the U.S. or through extradition. Azzouz has not been named in any public statements or reports about those sought in connection with the Benghazi attacks. Although the State Department designated Azzouz as a terrorist, it is not known if there are any criminal charges against him that would facilitate his extradition to the United States.

A likely venue for any criminal proceedings would be federal court in New York. FBI spokesman Peter Donald in New York declined to comment. One official stressed that U.S. intelligence was still examining whether Azzouz had a role in the Benghazi attacks that killed U.S. Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and three other Americans.

In September, the State Department designated Azzouz a global terrorist. The State Department said he has also lived in Afghanistan and Britain.

As part of the designation, the United States said Azzouz was sent home by al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri in 2011 to build a fighting force in Libya, mobilizing about 200 fighters.

"He is considered a key operative capable of training al-Qaeda recruits in a variety of skills, such as IED [improvised explosive device] construction," according to the State Department.

Seth Jones, an analyst at the Rand Corp., said Azzouz probably has minimal information about where Zawahiri is hiding but could provide a clearer picture of the terrorist groups operating in Libya.

"He's got a lot of information that could be useful on how al-Qaeda is structured, its broader strategy and operations," he said.

Azzouz isn't the first known al-Qaeda operative suspected of going to Libya in recent years.

Officials said there was intelligence that Thirwat Shihata, an Egyptian who was

Zawahiri's deputy at one point, traveled to Libya after he was allowed to leave Iran, where he had been since 2003.

Azzouz lived in Britain and was known to police but left the country in 2009 for Pakistan and Afghanistan. Authorities in Britain had briefly detained Azzouz before letting him go, according to news reports.

[From International Business Times, Dec. 4, 2014]

AL QAEDA LEADER ABD AL-BASET AZZOUZ, ACCUSED OF PARTICIPATION IN BENGHAZI ATTACK, REPORTEDLY AWAITING TRIAL IN US

(By Alessandria Masi)

A senior al Qaeda leader accused of participating in the attack on the U.S. embassy in Benghazi, Libya, was arrested in Turkey last month. The Libya-based terrorist leader was transferred to Jordan and subsequently to the U.S., where he is now awaiting trial, according to the Turkish Hurriyet Daily News.

A joint CIA and Turkish intelligence operation led to Abd al-Baset Azzouz's capture when he attempted to enter Turkey with a fake passport, according to a report from Turkish daily Milliyet. Azzouz is a senior member of al Qaeda's branch in Libya and allegedly had a role in the bombing that killed U.S. Ambassador to Libya Christopher Stevens and U.S. Foreign Service Information Management Officer Sean Smith on Sept. 11, 2012.

The CIA declined to comment on its alleged involvement in the operation and the Department of Defense did not immediately confirm Azzouz's continued presence in the U.S.

A man by that name was put on the U.S. State Department's Designated Terrorist List in September and described as a "key operative capable of training al Qaeda recruits in a variety of skills, such as IED [improvised explosive device] construction." Azzouz's name was also presented to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs last year on a list of people it did not "make sense to consider anything but 'core' al Qaeda members."

Azzouz was detained for nearly 10 months in the U.K. in 2006. Upon his release, he moved to Libya at the request of al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri, according to Hurriyet. Al-Zawahiri reportedly sent him to Libya to open a training camp and recruit fighters, a move that "indicates that senior al Qaeda leaders trust him to carry out the strategic task of establishing an al Qaeda network in Libya," according to a 2012 report from the Federal Research Division of the Library of Congress.

Libyan jihadist group Ansar al-Sharia has been widely held accountable for the deadly Benghazi attack, but the group said in a statement that it "didn't participate as a sole entity." Ansar al-Sharia has a strong presence in Benghazi and is "ideologically aligned" with al Qaeda, according to the State Department. The group also has a branch in the Libyan port city of Derna, where Azzouz allegedly set up his training camp.

Derna has long been a jihadist battleground and is home to several groups, including the Islamic Youth Shura Council, which recently pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
MAYOR BRENDA LAWRENCE TO
THE CITY OF SOUTHFIELD

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Brenda Lawrence, Mayor of the City of Southfield, who will be leaving office at the end of this year to represent Michigan's 14th Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives.

Mayor Brenda L. Lawrence is a long-time resident of the City of Southfield. A product of Michigan's public school system, Mayor Lawrence is an alumna of Pershing High School and received her BA in Public Administration from Central Michigan University.

Ms. Lawrence was elected Mayor of the City of Southfield in November of 2001. She is the first African American and first woman Mayor of Southfield, a city with a population of over 78,000 residents, a budget of \$143 million, and 833 employees. Mayor Lawrence is committed to diversity, fiscal responsibility, education, and keeping a clean and safe city.

Mayor Lawrence has been a community advocate for many years, both as an elected official and a private citizen. She has served on the Southfield City Council, where she was elected president in 1999. As a Councilwoman, Ms. Lawrence gained experience in managing a multi-million dollar budget and demonstrated fiscal responsibility. Ms. Lawrence has also served on the Southfield Public School Board of Education as President, Vice-President, and Secretary. Her love for community involvement has been evident through her previous service as a volunteer in various capacities on the Parent Youth Guidance Commission, Oakland County United Way Advisory Committee, and Oakland County AIDS Council.

Since becoming Mayor, Ms. Lawrence has initiated the following community programs: The Mayor's Walk community health program; Mayor's Roundtable—a citizen driven forum where residents can discuss one-on-one topics of concern; Southfield Reads!—a program designed to promote reading literacy in the City of Southfield; Annual Flower Day; City-wide Blood Drive; and Today's Woman—a cable show featuring respected women in and around Southfield. As a result of her initiative to create a more environmentally friendly community, Mayor Lawrence joined over 600 other Mayors in signing the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, and with Council support has created the Southfield Green Committee.

Mayor Lawrence has received many honors for her leadership skills. She was recognized in October 2007 as one of Crain's "2007 Most Influential Women." She is the recipient of the "2004 Wand Award" for breaking new frontiers for women and minorities, the Jewish War Veterans-State of Michigan "Brotherhood Award," the Leadership Detroit "Challenging the Process" award, the ABWA Millennium Chapter "Woman of the Year Award," the Detroit Historical Society's "Enterprising Women" award, Leadership Oakland's 2004 Distinguished Leadership & Future Leaders Award for Exemplary Leadership, and the "Black Women Achiever Award." Mayor Lawrence

has also been named to the Women's Informal Network "List of the Most Influential African American Women in Metropolitan Detroit" and CORP Magazine's "95 Most Influential Women in Michigan."

Mayor Lawrence is a member of the Oakland County Chapter of the NAACP, a member of the Michigan Association of Mayor's Advisory Board, the U.S. Conference of Mayors Advisory Board, the American Heart Association's "Go Red For Women," the Michigan Suburbs Alliance Executive Board, Women Officials Network Board of Directors, Birmingham YMCA Advisory Board, the Pepsi Community Advisory Board, MBN TV, Radio Advisory Board and the Board of Governors of the Renaissance/Skyline Club.

Mr. Speaker, as a former city councilman, I know first-hand how communities benefit from dedicated elected leaders. Brenda's years of dedicated service to the residents of Southfield is a testament to her character and I know that her experience will serve her well as a member of this legislative body. As I close, I can say with confidence that our community is a better place thanks to the ongoing, selfless service of people like Mayor and now Congresswoman-Elect Brenda Lawrence.

SUPPORTING AMERICA'S CHARITIES ACT

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I voted against suspending the rules and adopting the "Supporting America's Charities Act." I think there are strong arguments in favor of this legislation and arguments of roughly equal weight that we should not at this time make these tax incentives permanent when they are not paid for.

As I have stated in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on many occasions, I believe that controversial matters should come up under regular order, allowing adequate debate time and preferably allowing for amendments from the floor. This legislation is controversial enough to warrant that attention.

Under these circumstances I could not vote to suspend the rules. I might well vote for this legislation if it came to the floor of the House through regular order, particularly if members were allowed to offer amendments.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JIM MATHESON

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the career of Congressman JIM MATHESON. JIM and I were both elected to the House in 2000. It has been a privilege to work with him over the course of the past fourteen years.

JIM has been a tireless advocate for the people of his district and his voice in Congress will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the service of Congressman JIM MATHESON in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING SERGEANT MILTON MOORE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable veteran and community servant, Sergeant Milton Moore. Sergeant Moore has shown what can be done through hard work, setting goals, and aiming high.

Sergeant Moore attended the Southern Regional Public Safety Institute in Long Beach, MS where he graduated with honors in 2000. He has completed training in: Clandestine Lab Investigations, Interview and Interrogation, Psychological Response to Active Shooter, and numerous other training courses, including, FEMA Incident Command System ICS200, ICS300, ICS400, and ICS500.

Sergeant Milton Moore was hired with the City of Vicksburg in September 1999, as a firefighter. Deciding to follow the footsteps of his father, he became an employee of the Vicksburg Police Department in March 2000. Since that time, he has served as a Patrol Officer and Field Training Officer.

Sergeant Moore was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in February 2010, scoring the highest of all candidates. Sergeant Moore is presently serving as a shift commander, where he currently has 9 officers under his command.

Sergeant Moore was only 6 years old when his father joined the Vicksburg Police Department in 1975. Being around law enforcement all of his life, Sergeant Moore gained interest and respect for the duties of law enforcement. He knew that one day he would be able to wear the uniform and follow his father's footsteps and become an officer at the Vicksburg Police Department. Most of the traits and values that Sergeant Moore's father instilled in him he still practices daily. These attributes have helped Sergeant Moore become a model officer.

February 19, 2014, Sergeant Milton Moore was honored as Officer of the Year by the Vicksburg Homecoming Benevolence Club. Being a recipient of this award, was a very humbling experience for Sergeant Moore. The award is named the "Artel Moore Award" after Sergeant Moore's deceased father.

Sergeant Moore is a member of the Mississippi Homeland Security Task Force. Sergeant Moore is a veteran of the United States Armed Forces, serving in the U.S. Navy during the first Iraq war, Desert Storm, in 1991.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sergeant Milton Moore for his dedication to serving our great Country and his community.

THE HONORABLE JOHN D. DRIGGS

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the Honorable John D. Driggs, former Mayor of Phoenix and a member of one of the early

pioneering families of Arizona. Mayor Driggs passed away on December 11, 2014, surrounded by his wife Gail and his devoted family. He leaves behind a history of public service to Phoenix that will be remembered for generations to come. His family and everyone who had the opportunity to work with John Driggs will miss him beyond description because he was a man of integrity, with a strong belief in civic responsibility.

In addition to serving as Phoenix Mayor from 1970–1974, John Driggs was a passionate Arizona historic preservationist, and in 2005 was named "Arizona History Maker" by the Arizona Historical Society. In 1969, John Driggs spearheaded the successful Phoenix Growth Committee Bond Elected, which provided funding for the Phoenix Public Library and other cultural venues. He then ran for Mayor of Phoenix and served for two terms. During his time in office, the Phoenix Mountain Preserve was established, which he later described as one of his most important accomplishments.

John Driggs served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, he started the Second Harvest National Food Bank Network, and he was the cornerstone of the 2012 Arizona Centennial Commission. Arizona State Senator Adam Driggs is one of Mayor Driggs' five sons, and I had the honor of serving with Adam in the Arizona Legislature from 2005–2012. The dedication and commitment to service that John Driggs instilled in Adam is apparent in everything that he does as a legislator, and I am proud to call Senator Adam Driggs my friend and colleague. Members, please join me for a moment of silence as we extend our deepest condolences to the Driggs family and as we remember the remarkable life of John Driggs—one of Arizona's great leaders.

HONORING MONROE COLLEGE'S WOMEN'S AND MEN'S SOCCER TEAMS

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate both the women's and men's soccer teams at Monroe College, based on Jerome Avenue in my district in the Bronx.

On November 22nd, the women's soccer team won the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division 1 Championship in Melbourne, Florida, defeating defending champion Iowa Western. That same weekend, the men's team reached the finals of the men's championship, and fought valiantly before losing in overtime to the Tyler (TX) Community College team.

Monroe College first opened in the Bronx in 1933, and over the years has expanded educational opportunities for thousands of Bronxites. Many of the beneficiaries are from my district, although with a campus in New Rochelle, the College has students from all over the New York metropolitan area.

The time, dedication, and effort of these student-athletes to both their academic and athletic pursuits is truly impressive, and I have no doubt that the values they have gained through this experience will serve them well in the future. I congratulate these young men

and women on their achievements. They have made the Bronx proud.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS ON RESOLUTION “COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WORLD WAR I CHRISTMAS TRUCE OF 1914”

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced a resolution commemorating the centennial anniversary of the World War I Christmas Truce of 1914.

One hundred years ago this month, soldiers on the Western Front came together to unofficially pause hostilities and celebrate the Christmas holiday without regard for country lines or battle lines. The truce gave armies on both sides an opportunity to bury their fallen comrades, as well as share some festive cheer while far away from their homes and families.

Reports from soldiers on the front lines were that soldiers engaged in singing carols, sharing food and other provisions, and even light-hearted games. One of the most well-known aspects of the Christmas Truce is the impromptu football game that took place among the men. Many football clubs to this day recognize the Christmas Truce by holding commemorative games, and this year's historic anniversary will feature a number of recognitions in the sporting world.

The Christmas Truce has always inspired me as a reminder that it is possible for opponents to look beyond their differences and see each other as people, but I have a more personal connection as well. My great-grandfather was one of the soldiers present during the Christmas Truce, and his story and his experiences have been passed down as family lore.

I've also been drawn to this year's commemorations by my good friend Don Mullan, an Irish author who has been championing worldwide celebrations of this proud moment in world history. Don has been developing a Christmas Truce and Flanders Peace Field Project in Messines, Belgium in partnership with the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace and UNESCO. This project has gained the support of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and will help ensure that the Christmas Truce, and more importantly, the lessons it has taught us, will always be remembered.

I hope that this holiday season, wherever we are, we can all take a moment to remember the Christmas Truce and to remind ourselves of a time when soldiers laid down their weapons and recognized how essential it is to value humanity. The Christmas Truce is a symbol of the triumph of the human spirit over adversity, and reminds us that even in the darkest times, we should always strive toward peace.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, together with my colleagues—the Honorable BOB GOODLATTE, Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee; the Honorable SPENCER BACHUS, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law; and the Honorable HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, JR., Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust—to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Administrative Conference of the United States.

Every year, federal agencies issue thousands of regulations that concern the food we eat, the air we breathe, and the autos we drive. Although regulations play a role in myriad aspects of our daily lives, there is no independent, nonpartisan entity—other than the Administrative Conference of the United States—that exists specifically so that Congress can call upon it to evaluate ways to improve the regulatory process.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Administrative Conference of the United States, an independent federal agency tasked by Congress to make recommendations intended to improve the administrative process and to provide nonpartisan expert advice. Over the course of its existence, many of these recommendations have been enacted into law or voluntarily implemented by federal agencies and the federal judiciary. As a result of the Conference's excellent work, our Nation's federal administrative procedures are not only looked to as a standard around the world, but constantly in the course of additional improvement.

From its inception in 1964, the Conference has provided invaluable guidance to all three branches of government, including federal agencies, Congress, and the federal judiciary—about how to make the regulatory process more responsive, efficient, and cost-effective. Members of the Conference are drawn from executive and judicial branches of the federal government, academia, as well as from the private sector.

Congress has assigned the Conference important responsibilities in the implementation of the Administrative Dispute Resolution Act, the Negotiated Rulemaking Act, the Equal Access to Justice Act, the Congressional Accountability Act, and the Magnusson-Moss Warranty-Federal Trade Commission Improvement Act. In addition, the Conference has facilitated judicial review of agency decisions and helped eliminate various technical impediments to such review. And, the Conference helps save taxpayer dollars. Just one agency alone—the Social Security Administration—estimated that the Conference's recommendation to change that agency's appeals process would result in approximately \$85 million in savings.

In recognition of its many accomplishments, the Conference has enjoyed broad bipartisan and bicameral support over the years. President Lyndon Baines Johnson signed the initial

legislation creating the Conference into law in 1964, and President George W. Bush reauthorized the Conference in 2008. Similarly, the Conference is supported by the private sector and advocacy groups across the political spectrum.

United States Supreme Court Justices Stephen Breyer and Antonin Scalia have testified before the House Committee on the Judiciary in support of the Conference and its work on not just one, but two highly historic occasions. Justice Breyer, for example, cited the Conference's “unique” role in identifying ways to improve the federal regulatory process. He explained in 2004, prior to the Conference's revival in 2010:

Given the Conference's rather low cost (a small central staff, commissioning academic papers, endless amounts of volunteered private time, and two general meetings a year), it is indeed a pity that by abolishing this Conference, we have weakened our federal government's ability to respond effectively, in this general way, to the problems of its citizens.

I have not found other institutions readily available to perform this same task. Individual agencies, while trying to reform themselves, sometimes lack the ability to make cross-agency comparisons. The American Bar Association's Administrative Law Section, while a fine institution, cannot call upon the time and resources of agency staff members and agency heads as readily as could the Administrative Conference. Congressional staffs cannot as easily conduct the technical research necessary to develop many of the Conference's more technical proposals. The Office of Management and Budget does not normally concern itself with general procedural proposals.

Justice Scalia also described the Conference's “unique” characteristics. Citing its “combination of talents from the academic world, from within the executive branch . . . and, . . . from the private bar, especially lawyers particularly familiar with administrative law,” he observed, “I did not know another organization that so effectively combined the best talent from each of those areas.” In sum, Justice Scalia said that ACUS was “obviously . . . a worthwhile organization” and that it was “an enormous bargain.”

Accordingly, we are pleased to mark the 50th anniversary of the Conference and to express our continued support for its very important work.

FINANCIAL VICTIMIZATION

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, for approximately the past six years, innocent customers of three failed broker-dealers—the securities firms of Bernie Madoff, Allan Stanford, and McGill, Smith, have been unfairly victimized time and time again despite the existence of remedial legislation enacted by Congress for the specific purpose of protecting such customers.

Initially these customers were victimized by the nefarious fraudsters, whose Ponzi schemes caused the failure of several securities firms and resulted in financial devastation for so many. Next, these customers were victimized by the Securities Investor Protection

Corporation (SIPC) and their henchmen, whose antics, behavior, and positions were the antithesis of investor protection—financial self interest and preservation clearly appeared to be their guiding mantra. Finally, when SIPC sought the Court's blessing for its wrongful conduct and breach of trust, the court's bizarre deference to SIPC and their blatant misapplication of the Securities Investor Protection Act (SIPA) resulted in a perverted process and erroneous interpretations of SIPA, which, further victimized these customers by depriving them of the financial protections and benefits mandated by SIPA and exposed them to draconian claw-back lawsuits seeking to strip them of what few remaining assets they might still possess.

Examples abound supporting these conclusions. If someone walked into a securities firm and purchased a stock or a bond, who would believe that such a person would not be considered a "customer" and would be denied basic Congressionally created customer protections? Why would a customer of a failed securities house, one who had no knowledge of a Ponzi scheme operated by the broker-dealer, be subjected to costly litigation to defend the returns their account statements told them they had earned from their investments? Why would a customer of a broker-dealer receive a monthly "account statement", purporting to evidence their financial position at the firm, and later the parties charged with protecting the rights of those customers be allowed to disregard those statements and eliminate all stated returns in the account? And who could have ever anticipated that this same entity would elect to adopt a "valuation" methodology patently designed to provide the lowest values to the customers in order to maximize its own bank accounts and resources? While these results seem fanciful and far fetched, they are the realities that innocent customers of these three broker dealers have had to endure.

While the courts are charged with the responsibility of interpreting statutes, that function properly involves determining Congressional intent. If, as here, the Courts have misinterpreted that intent, it is then the role of Congress to reaffirm what it actually meant and to clarify how Congress meant to achieve the desired results. Thus the Garrett-Maloney bill is not an attempt to rewrite SIPA retroactively. Rather it is intended to reaffirm what Congress meant all along—the protection of innocent customers who have been defrauded by a dishonest broker-dealer.

When Congress reconvenes in January, we will expeditiously address these important issues—victims have been victimized for too long. Victims will receive what they are due. Victims who had no actual knowledge of the frauds will be extricated from the harassing "claw back" lawsuits. Much progress was made on these issues during the past two years—numerous hearings were held and support for the Garrett-Maloney bill is now robust and bipartisan. Addressing these issues, and providing appropriate remedies for the victims, will be a top priority in January, indeed an urgent one.

IN PRAISE OF CONGRESSIONAL
STAFF

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, throughout my tenure in the House of Representatives, I have been continually impressed by the legions of staffers who eagerly sign up to serve in the ranks of Congressional aides.

Having started my own career of public service as a staffer in the U.S. Senate, I know a little about laboring behind the scenes, answering the phones, responding to the mail, enduring the long hours of sometimes mundane, often utterly thankless tasks that keep this place running for the people we were elected to serve. These eager, bright minds come to this place looking to make a difference in the world. They sacrifice higher paying jobs in the private sector, and precious time with their family and friends, in order to work without applause for the betterment of our Nation.

These members of our staffs do their work anonymously and generally do their work exceedingly well, putting their heart and soul into fighting for the people we were elected to serve. Frankly, they put up with a lot and Members of Congress ought to do more to defend these loyal employees. When the slings and arrows of public anger are aimed at this institution, these staffers have demonstrated, time and again, a selfless willingness to stand silently as their jobs and benefits are slashed in some ill-conceived sacrificial exercise. They are not our political shields. It is the lot of a leader—a true leader—to take the hits.

Before retiring this year, I want to acknowledge and express my deep gratitude to the staff members who have been by my side throughout my career. And I take this moment to express my undying thanks to those who stayed with me until the very end—never wavering in their loyalty to me and the constituency we served together. These are outstanding and dedicated individuals who deserve the highest praise for their selfless sacrifice and service in behalf of the people of southern West Virginia.

David McMaster, my Chief of Staff

Kent Keyser, my longtime aide and trusted advisor

Kate Denman, my Deputy Chief of Staff

Diane Luensmann, my Communications Director

Carol Wallace, my Projects Director

Josh Sutherland, my Legislative Correspondent

Megan Price, my Staff Assistant

Andy Mollohan and Rachel Meyer, my Legislative Assistants,

Kelly Dyke, my District Director, and Greg Crist, Kim McMillion, and Larone Alexander, who worked in the Congressional Office in Beckley

Debrina Workman, Teri Booth, and Debbie Stevens—my longtime district aides who staffed the Congressional Offices in Logan, Huntington, and Bluefield

Jim Zoia, Ann Adler, Ward McCarragher, Ed Gilman, Lisa James, and Luke Strimer on my Transportation and Infrastructure Committee staff.

HONORING SHERIFF OLIVER
PARKER, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary community leader, Sheriff Oliver Parker, Jr.

Sheriff Oliver Parker, Jr.'s life began in Duncan, MS. Sheriff Parker's mother, Mrs. Eddie Mae Parker, relocated to Hinchcliff, MS when he was 10 years old. Sheriff Parker has resided in Quitman County for over 50 years. He is a graduate of Quitman County High School, Northwest Junior College, and the Mississippi Law Enforcement Training Academy. Parker completed the Mississippi Fire Investigation Training Academy as a requirement to become an Arson Investigator. He has one daughter, Fatina Parker Elliott; one granddaughter, Ashley-Faith Elliott; and one goddaughter, Detra Foster-Webb.

Sheriff Parker has never been a stranger to hard work. He worked assiduously as a teenager to help his single mother provide for his siblings. He has always had a desire to help others. He knew at an early age that he wanted to make a difference in the lives of the citizens of Quitman County. He pursued his dreams of helping the citizens of Quitman County by beginning a career in law enforcement. He served in the capacity of Deputy Sheriff for the Quitman County Sheriff's Department for 23 years. In 1999 he pursued his life-long dream of becoming the Sheriff of Quitman County. He was elected the first African-American Sheriff of Quitman County in November of 1999 and took the Oath of Office on December 9, 1999. He began his responsibilities as Sheriff of Quitman County on January 1, 2000. He has humbly served as Sheriff of Quitman County for 14 years.

Since the beginning of his career as Sheriff of Quitman County, Sheriff Parker has instituted change in a variety of ways and made major contributions to the Quitman County Sheriff's Department. Jailed youth are offered a variety of programs designed to help them avoid returning to jail, as well as GED tutoring and testing. The elderly are assisted via the TRIAD Program. Sheriff Parker also initiated the employment of a full-time School Resource Officer at Madison Shannon Palmer High School. Under Sheriff Parker's leadership, a full-time detective and additional deputies and dispatchers were hired to assist with protecting and serving the citizens of Quitman County. Sheriff Parker's leadership has proven to be successful, as there were no unsolved murders in Quitman County until February 8, 2013.

Sheriff Parker was present at a major milestone in the history of Quitman County which was the unveiling of the Mule Train sign at the city limits of Marks, Mississippi.

Sheriff Parker possesses sound judgment; he has a great sense of accountability to the citizens of Quitman County; and he has an irreproachable professionalism. Sheriff Parker constantly seeks to establish relationships with the community that ensures continued trust and dependability. He is a God-fearing individual who seeks to serve the citizens of Quitman County with the utmost respect, dignity and honesty.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sheriff Oliver Parker, Jr. for his dedication in being a respected community leader.

MOTOR TRANSPORTATION
COMPANY 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Motor Transportation Company as they celebrate their 100th anniversary.

The Motor Transportation Company, founded in 1914 by Leon Dotter, began with a mail route from Lehighton to Stroudsburg. Leon also hauled coal from the Harwood Mines to bins in the Hazleton Steam Heating Co. and transported coal miners throughout local coal mining villages. Following the economic devastation of the Depression and the decline of the coal industry, Herman Dotter, a veteran who served in the U.S. Marine Corps, shifted the company's focus to school busing while still ensuring residents of the Hazleton area had access to first-class transportation. In 1959, Motor Transportation achieved national recognition by winning Fleet Owner Magazine's color design award, no doubt due in part to the company's signature "orange wheels." In 1978, Herman developed Hazleton Area Transit, providing service from Hazleton to the surrounding areas, and he also promoted tourism into the region's historic coal mining area. Currently, third generation Lee Dotter and Lori Dotter Yanuzzi run the company and maintain the organization's commitment to providing quality service, mainly focusing on tourism.

Mr. Speaker, on the 100th anniversary of its founding, I thank all of the members of the Motor Transportation Company, past and present, for their hard work and continued efforts to provide quality transportation services and tours for the people of Northeast Pennsylvania, and I wish the organization many more years of successful service.

IN RECOGNITION OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE VICKI BARNETT FOR TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF FARMINGTON HILLS AND MICHIGAN

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a valued public servant to the people of Michigan, my dear friend, State Representative Vicki Barnett. After twenty years of service to the residents of the Greater Farmington area at both the local and state level, Vicki is preparing to embark upon new endeavors.

Prior to her embarking upon her journey of public service, Vicki worked as a financial planner, helping her clients realize their goals through making sound investments, a profession she has continued during her tenure as an elected official. Vicki is also a licensed accident, life and health insurance agent.

As a person who cares deeply for the well-being and vitality of her community, Vicki sought to make a difference in Farmington Hills, one of Oakland County's most populous and diverse cities, and was elected to the Farmington Hills City Council in 1995. She went on to serve as a Councilwoman for eight years before the voters of Farmington Hills elected her their mayor in 2003. While serving as mayor, Vicki worked to revitalize her community by creating a long-term economic master plan that focused on encouraging mixed-use developments and increasing commercial density—plans which put Farmington Hills at the forefront of these efforts. In recognition of her strong record of service and results, she was named the President of the Michigan Municipal League from 2006 to 2007 and was named one of Detroit's most influential women by Crain's Magazine in 2007.

Following her time in city government, Vicki went on to continue the legacy of another great Farmington Hills Mayor in Lansing and public servant, Aldo Vagnozzi, a man who also served as her mentor. I know it was a great honor for Vicki to be entrusted to succeed Aldo both as Mayor and later as Farmington and Farmington Hills' voice in Michigan's House of Representatives in Lansing. In that role, she has continued her exemplary commitment to public service, working across the aisle as an advocate for strengthening public schools, leveraging Michigan's resources to draw new industries to the state, and protecting communities' abilities to provide essential services to their residents. In recognition of her outstanding leadership, she was named the 2012 Legislator of the Year by the Police Officers Association of Michigan.

I have been so fortunate to have a partner at the state level like Vicki, who has been a strong voice and valuable resource for the people of Michigan. With experience that transcends multiple levels of government, her advice on the issues affecting the state of Michigan has been invaluable.

Mr. Speaker, as a public servant, I know that our local elected officials are dedicated to the communities they serve. Vicki has demonstrated this throughout her tenure of service to the people of the Greater Farmington area and Michigan. I know her passion and reason will be greatly missed by her colleagues in the Michigan Legislature, but as someone who cares deeply for her community, I know Vicki will continue to be involved in endeavors that seek to strengthen the City of Farmington Hills and other municipalities across Michigan. I wish her success in her new endeavors and look forward to continuing to work with her for the people of Michigan.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN RUSH
HOLT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the career of Congressman RUSH HOLT.

During his time in the House, Congressman HOLT has been a leader on protecting the environment and his voice on this important issue will be sorely missed. A research physi-

cist by training, his constituents are known to boast bumper stickers proclaiming "My Congressman IS a Rocket Scientist." I know we have all benefited from RUSH's intelligence and wisdom during his time in office.

I was fortunate to have the opportunity to work with RUSH on protecting our environment. His perspective as a scientist has enriched the debate over conserving our natural resources and seeking clean sources of alternative energy. I wish him the best in his new role as CEO of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a cause that is close to his heart.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the service of Congressman RUSH HOLT in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING CHARLES MCLIMANS
AND LOAVES AND FISHES COMMUNITY SERVICES

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Charles McLimans, the President and CEO of Loaves & Fishes Community Services in Naperville, Illinois.

Loaves & Fishes is a nonprofit community organization that has become an institution for Naperville and DuPage County for both the population it serves and the over 1,500 volunteers that help every year. The Loaves & Fishes Community Pantry provided aid to over 18,000 people in 2012–2013, handling over 3 million pounds of groceries. Additionally, the organization's Pathways to Empowerment program assists people in accessing vital community services and training courses.

Mr. McLimans is stepping down as President and CEO on January 9, 2014 after seven years leading the organization. Under his leadership, Loaves & Fishes has moved to a new home, added additional services such as healthcare counseling and computer classes, and expanded its coverage to serve all of DuPage County.

I would like to thank Charles McLimans for his service to our community and for his tireless efforts in the fight against hunger.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN KNOCHEL

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute a notable Hoosier, Mr. John Knochel, who after years of service to Tippecanoe County, Indiana, will be retiring on December 31, 2014. On behalf of the citizens of Tippecanoe County, I wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for his leadership and service to our community, state, and country.

John is a lifelong Hoosier and Tippecanoe County resident. He served as District 1 Tippecanoe County Commissioner since 1997. During those 17 years, he oversaw the construction of the County Parking Garage and organized the development of the Tippecanoe

County Community Corrections Center. Previously, he served the people of Tippecanoe County as a member of the County Council for two terms. During his time on the council, he oversaw the remodel and renovation of the Tippecanoe County Office Building and the unique and historic County Courthouse. His past service on the Tipmont REMC Board of Directors helped keep energy affordable to Hoosier families. He also shared his love of literature with younger generations while a member of the Tippecanoe Library Board.

I have known John and his family since the very beginning of my public service career. He has always been willing to share advice on a variety of good government measures. He is a role model for his friends, family, leaders in the community, and the citizens of Tippecanoe County.

I am honored to congratulate him on his retirement and thank him on behalf of the people of Tippecanoe County for his years of service to his community, his goodwill, and dedication in helping make Indiana a better place to live. John, thank you for sharing your talents and generosity in service to the Greater Lafayette area.

A TRIBUTE TO THE PEOPLE OF
THE THIRTY-SIXTH DISTRICT OF
TEXAS

HON. STEVE STOCKMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. STOCKMAN. Mr. Speaker, as I deliver my last speech as a Congressman for the 36th District of Texas, I want to begin by once again thanking the people of Southeast Texas for giving me the honor of representing them.

Our oil produces everything from the gas you put in your car to the PVC in an antifracking bumper sticker. We build the spacecraft that explore the stars and the freighters that serve every port in the world. The 36th District's powerful economic reach goes around the world and even into space.

But we in Southeast Texas aren't just known for giving birth to NASA and the world's oil industry. We are also known for fighting for what we believe in no matter the odds.

I first came to Congress in 1995. The man I defeated was a 42-year incumbent, the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee and the most senior Democrat in Congress in one of the most heavily Democrat districts in America. The district had never in 100 years elected a Republican, and he remains the most senior member of Congress to have been defeated in a general election.

I overcame similar odds to return here in 2012. We defeated the President of the Texas Senate in a district he had drawn for himself and was supposed to win without a runoff. We forced a runoff, without him in it, where I defeated a millionaire who outspent me 15 to 1.

My election to this Congress had the lowest dollar-per-vote of any winning federal campaign in America, despite having to face three elections, two of which I was not favored to win.

Those two victories over improbable odds prove anything is possible, if you know how to fight for it.

I bring this up because this Congress faces a monumental fight. The very survival of our constitutional republic is in question.

Will this Congress allow Barack Obama to centralize authority in the White House under an imperial Presidency, or will we take back our Constitutional Republic?

Too many in this chamber are perfectly happy to let Obama render them irrelevant.

I am not one of them. I didn't come here to settle in. I came here to upset things.

I introduced several measures that would restore our congressional oversight and our constitutional republic.

When Barack Obama used Executive Orders to violate the Second Amendment, I fought back. Working with Senator RAND PAUL, I introduced the Restore the Constitution Act, which would nullify any executive action and prohibit funding of any action that oversteps the President's constitutional authority.

I also introduced the Second Amendment Protection Act of 2013 to prohibit all UN funding as long as they continue to target peaceful gun owners, as well as the Safe Military Bases Act to allow our soldiers to carry firearms to stop terrorists.

I introduced the first-ever Sanctity of Life Act in 1995, and brought it back to this Congress, to declare that life begins at conception and to end the tragedy of abortion.

I introduced H. Res. 306, which would have forced a vote on establishing a Select Committee to investigate President Obama's bungled response to the terrorist attacks on our consulate in Benghazi, Libya. The public pressure created by that eventually led to a House investigation of the terrorist act.

I introduced the Virtual Currency Tax Reform Act and the Cryptocurrency Protocol Protection and Moratorium Act to protect the emerging technologies of alternative currencies, which will eventually lead to greater prosperity and economic opportunity for all.

And I introduced the Audit the Fed Act, to require transparency and accountability in the Federal Reserve System.

I helped lead the battle against amnesty for illegal aliens in every possible way. I was able to block the 2013 Senate amnesty bill—which was on a fast track to passage—with the 'blue slip' procedure, resulting in the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee declaring the bill in violation of the Constitution.

This year I inspected and reported my findings about our porous border and the inhumane facilities which were used to house illegal alien children. In addition, my SECURITY Act would build the 2,000 mile border fence and eliminate many of the so-called magnet benefits, which would dramatically reduce if not halt illegal immigration.

I also filed five resolutions seeking to force the President, Attorney General, Treasury Secretary, FEC Chairman and Defense Secretary to turn over all emails in their or in the NSA's possession which were sent to or from former IRS official Lois Lerner. Since then, the supposedly lost emails have been uncovered.

The IRS' actions amount to a crime, and one that the highest official should be accountable for.

These acts and resolutions are needed now more than ever, because these next two years will be among the most perilous in American history.

As we saw in the ongoing IRS scandal, the left in America seems intent to use the government to target citizens who speak out.

They did it to Ted Stevens. They did it to Tom DeLay. They're doing it to Rick Perry. And they will do it to you.

This Congress and the next must rein in those activists who weaponize the government to target opponents.

From the IRS to the EPA to the FEC, politicians are perverting the mission of federal agencies. Instead of administering laws passed by Congress, federal agencies are now used to target those whose ideas differ from those in power.

This perversion of power extends to the targeting of law-abiding gun owners by political activists in the Justice Department, the targeting of landowners by political activists in the Interior Department and EPA, and the targeting of people of faith by virtually all federal agencies.

Liberals are building an America where government is used to settle scores and stifle opposing ideas.

Congress must fight back.

We must protect, and restore the Second Amendment by repealing anti-gun laws and reining in a rogue Justice Department.

We must protect the right to life by passing a Human Life Amendment to the Constitution and repealing Obamacare.

We must protect a free economy by passing a REINS Act to take away the power of bureaucrats to make up and enforce their own laws, and by repealing all laws and government agencies not explicitly spelled out in Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

And this Congress and the next must restore a Constitutional Presidency by taking back powers usurped by the White House and repealing all Executive Orders that defy the Constitution.

Just because I won't be here in the well doesn't mean I won't continue to fight.

And we must fight more ferociously than ever if we are to save this constitutional republic.

It has been an honor to serve with you all. Thank you for this opportunity to speak, and I pray that the members of the 114th Congress will fight with fire in their bellies for the life of our Republic.

HONORING LAMBS OF GOD, INC.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a landmark establishment within the Clinton community that provides one of the most critical and essential services for all working parents: Lambs of God, Inc.

Lambs of God, Inc., formerly known as Agape' Childcare, was established on August 1987 by Jessie and Shirley Burns of Bolton, Mississippi. Over the past two decades, the establishment has changed ownership and name twice, but the quality of childcare and nurturing has continued to grow for over 20 years. In 1998, Victor and Cantrell Keyes, also of Bolton, Mississippi, became the new owners and changed the name to Agape Christian Academy. In June 2005, Kenneth and Vickie Lewis of Clinton, Mississippi became the establishment's present day owners and renamed the business Lambs of God, Inc.

Over 1000 children have been served and ministered to through Lambs of God, Inc.

Founded in reference to John 21:15. The business is currently licensed to serve 57 children and is dedicated to developing and nurturing the physical, cognitive, emotional, and social growth in a safe Christian learning environment.

In addition to providing childcare, the establishment also offers summer camp, preschool, afterschool, before school drop-off, A'Beka tutorial and two well-balanced meals and two afternoon snacks. The overall mission of Lambs of God, Inc. is to interactively engage a child's educational needs while promoting professionalism in the field of childcare.

The vision and inspiration for Lambs of God, Inc. manifested via the encouragement given by Mrs. Daisy Johnson, owner of Kids Are Kids Learning Center in Brandon, Mississippi. Her insight in the field of childcare gave Mr. and Mrs. Lewis the inspiration and the tools needed to encourage and redirect families and single parents. Childcare became the perfect opportunity to lay a strong spiritual/educational foundation, build character and exemplify love, all while strengthening the community and establishing lifelong relationships.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Lambs of God, Inc. for its' past and present dedication to providing impeccable, dependable childcare services in an effort to help families of all backgrounds within the Clinton community.

LEGISLATIVE RECORD OF STEVE STOCKMAN IN 104TH CONGRESS

HON. STEVE STOCKMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. STOCKMAN. Mr. Speaker, as the 113th Congress comes to a close, it is my pleasure to note all of the legislative actions that I have taken in my tenure in my first term in Congress. In the 104th Congress, I introduced the following legislation:

H.R. 4222—Educational Freedom Act of 1996: This bill sought to amend the Internal Revenue Code to allow a tax credit of up to \$3,000 per student per year for tuition and related expenses at nonpublic elementary and secondary schools. Subjects such credit to adjusted gross income limits.

H.R. 4221—Stephen E. LeNoir Malpractice Accountability Act of 1996: This bill sought to amend the Federal Tort Claims Act to make the United States liable in an action brought by a member of a uniformed service for personal injury caused by the provision of health care by a health care professional in a uniformed service, except where such injuries were sustained during a declared state of war.

H. Con. Res. 179—To express the sense of the Congress that Buddhist monks and civilians and Roman Catholic monks and priest unlawfully detained by the government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam should be released: This bill called for the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to release all Buddhist monks and civilians and all Roman Catholic monks and priests currently being unlawfully detained.

H.R. 3446—Regulatory Relief and Job Preservation Act of 1996: This bill amends the Clean Air Act to repeal the authority of the Administrator of the Environmental Protection

Agency (EPA) to require enhanced monitoring and submission of compliance certifications.

H. Con. Res. 161—Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Washington for Jesus 1996 prayer rally: This bill sought to permit One Nation Under God, Inc., to sponsor a free public event on the Capitol Grounds on April 29 and 30, 1996.

H.R. 2749—Child Protection and Ethics I Education Act of 1995: This bill sought to direct the Comptroller General to conduct a study to determine whether programs, lectures, texts, or other pedagogical materials involving sexuality used by agencies, universities, or elementary and secondary schools (institutions) that receive Federal funds for educational purposes significantly or particularly rely on the scholarship of, directly or indirectly consisting of, or based on the studies entitled "Sexual Behavior in the Human Male" and "Sexual Behavior in the Human Female" authored by Alfred Kinsey and his team of researchers, published in 1948 and 1953 (Kinsey reports).

H.R. 2470—Second Amendment Reaffirmation Act of 1995: This bill sought to repeal the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act and the Assault Weapon Manufacturing Strict Liability Act of 1990.

H.R. 2469—Wanda Boughton Social Security Original Intent Act of 1995: This bill sought to amend title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) (OASDI) of the Social Security Act to permit an individual entitled to both OASDI and to widow's and widower's insurance benefits to receive both without reduction in the amount of the widow's or widower's insurance benefit by the amount of the OASDI benefit.

H.J. Res. 107—Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States regarding congressional pay and pensions: This bill sought to require Members of Congress to receive compensation for their services or to be reimbursed for expenses incurred with respect to such services only from the treasury of the State which they represent in Congress in an amount to be determined by an act of the State's legislature.

H.R. 2328—Jeremy's Act: This bill sought to direct the Secretary of Transportation to withhold specified percentages of Federal-aid highway funds apportioned to States that permit the sale of alcoholic beverages to persons who are less than 21 years old.

H.R. 2250—Community Development Act of 1995: This bill sought to amend Federal customs law to require the Secretary of the Treasury to promulgate regulations providing for the return of one percent of customs duties assessed on a commodity to the port or airport of entry that is a public corporation in which the commodity was located at the time of assessment.

H. Res. 210—Providing for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 464) to repeal the prohibitions relating to semiautomatic assault weapons and large capacity ammunition feeding devices: This bill sought to repeal prohibitions on semiautomatic assault weapons and large capacity feeding devices.

H. Res. 199—Amending clause 2 of rule XXII of the Rules of the House to prohibit the introduction or consideration of legislation designating a building or any other structure in honor of a person who is serving or has served as a Member of Congress, a Federal judge, or an officer of the executive branch

before the date that is 5 years after the person has retired from that office: This bill sought to amend rule XXII of the Rules of the House of Representatives to prohibit the introduction or consideration of legislation designating a building in honor of a person who has served as a Member of Congress, a Federal judge, or an officer in the executive branch until at least five years after the person's retirement from that office.

H.R. 2087—Sanctity of Life Act of 1995: This bill sought to amend the Federal criminal code to declare that the Supreme Court and district courts shall not have jurisdiction over any case arising out of any statute, ordinance, rule, regulation, or practice on the grounds that the statute, ordinance, rule, regulation, or practice protects the rights of human persons between conception and birth or prohibits, limits, or regulates the performance of abortions or the provision of public funds, facilities, personnel, or other assistance for the performance of abortions.

H.R. 1849—Chinese Human Rights Act of 1995: This bill sought to amend the Trading with the Enemy Act to define China as an enemy for purposes of the export of military products to such country until the Congress determines that China does not engage in any significant violation of human rights and poses no significant threat to the United States. Amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that a person who has been forced to abort a pregnancy or to undergo involuntary sterilization, or who has been persecuted for failure or refusal to undergo such a procedure, shall be deemed to have been persecuted on account of political opinion and entitled to political refugee status under such Act.

H.J. Res. 87—Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States regarding citizenship in the United States: This bill sought to grant U.S. citizenship to only those persons: (1) born to a parent who is a U.S. citizen; (2) born within the United States to a parent lawfully in and subject to the jurisdiction of the United States at the time of that parents' entry into the United States; and (3) naturalized according to U.S. law. Sets forth provisions relating to: (1) restrictions on services or payments to non-U.S. citizens; (2) English language requirement for naturalization; and (3) apportionment of Representatives based on number of citizens of each State.

H.R. 807—Taxpayer Protection Act of 1995: This bill sought to prohibit funds appropriated or made available under any law from being used for the purpose of any swap, loan, loan guarantee, or grant to Mexico until the Congress has affirmatively approved such assistance.

HONORING MURIEL ELLIS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Muriel Ellis, who has been blazing through Mississippi's legal system.

Mrs. Ellis, 54, became the first African American clerk of Mississippi's Supreme Court and Court of Appeals on July 1 this year, after being the first African American Supreme Court deputy clerk and chief deputy clerk.

Mrs. Ellis worked her way through the clerk's office for 23 years after beginning as a legal clerk in 1991. The Callaway High School alumna, who graduated in 1977, became chief deputy clerk in 2009 after being named a team leader in 2000 and deputy clerk in 2007.

The Jackson native said she is blessed and honored to accept her new position. "I am just going to lead the clerk's office forward," she said. Mrs. Ellis took courses at Phillips Business College and worked as a ward secretary for St. Dominic Hospital from 1979–1987.

Mrs. Ellis has seen many changes since working in the clerk's office. Along with Ms. Kathy Gillis, former Mississippi Supreme Court Clerk of 33 years, Mrs. Ellis supervised the office's transition to electronic filing. Since the office's mandatory e-filing for briefs and motions began on Jan. 1, 2014, she continues to work on the electronic transition through implementing emailed orders and clerk's notices, as well as e-filing transcripts and records from other trial courts.

The clerk became interested in a career in the legal system when she was serving as an alternate juror in the Hinds County Circuit Court. While working in the billing edits department at the City of Jackson Water Department, she said she drove past the Supreme Court building all the time on her way to the Water Department office, which is also located on High Street. "I never knew what this building was, but I used to say: 'That is a pretty building. I would love to work there someday,'" Mrs. Ellis said.

Mrs. Ellis has three children: Karen Ellis Evans, Kimberly Ellis and Leonard Ellis; three grandchildren: Madison Evans, Leonard Ellis, III and Bryson Williams—and is married to Mr. Leonard Ellis, Sr.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Muriel Ellis.

COMMENDING JOYCE LEONARD
FOR HER DEDICATION TO HOME-
OWNERSHIP IN AMERICA

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to give special recognition to Joyce Leonard for her 35 years as a real estate issue advocate for private property rights and the preservation of the American Dream of homeownership.

In addition to a successful career as a Realtor, Joyce has dedicated her time and talents to serving her fellow Realtors at the local, state, and the national levels. Joyce was the President of the Tri-Counties Association of Realtors in 1999. Currently a Pacific West Association of Realtors member and director, she has served various Committees at the state and local level. She has been a California Association of Realtors Director for over 20 years. On the national level, Joyce has been a National Association of Realtors Director for four years and served as a member of the Conventional Lending and Finance Committee.

Joyce is passionate about homeownership, and she is committed to ensuring that elected officials understand the impact of policies under consideration on the ability of Ameri-

cans to own, buy, and sell real property. Joyce has been a Federal Political Coordinator (FPC) for the National Association of Realtors since 1996. During my time in Congress, Joyce served as my FPC, and she did a tremendous job of always ensuring that I was apprised of the issues of concern to the National Association of Realtors.

Joyce cares about her local community, and her service extends to serving on various boards and commissions. Joyce worked with the MAC Council to help Diamond Bar become a City. She was instrumental in developing the Diamond Bar General Plan. She served on the Traffic and Transportation Commission and Chaired the School of Safety Studies & Offsite Parking Task Force for the City of Diamond Bar.

For these important contributions to her community and for her dedication to the American Dream of homeownership, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Joyce Leonard for her service. Joyce, we know that you will continue to positively impact our community and country for many years to come.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 2901 "SEN.
PAUL SIMON WATER FOR THE
WORLD ACT"

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2901, the Paul Simon Water for the World Act of 2014, which makes the provision of safe water and sanitation a stated goal of U.S. foreign assistance policy and requires the President, through the State Department, to develop and implement a strategy to further such efforts in developing countries.

Safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene are among the most basic needs a person can have, yet 748 million people in the world do not have access to safe water; roughly 1/10 of the world's population.

In countries such as Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Niger and Papua New Guinea, less than 50% of the population has access to safe water.

More than 2.5 billion people in the world lack access to adequate sanitation, which is approximately 35 percent of the global population.

The lack of clean water and basic sanitation facilities leaves millions trapped in a cycle of poverty and disease, costing the lives of around 500,000 children per year—dying from diarrhea caused by unsafe water and poor sanitation.

The Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act will make better use of existing WASH ("Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene") funds, strengthen accountability for WASH programs already underway, and ensure the greatest impact on communities worldwide without spending new money or creating new bureaucracy.

For every \$1 invested in WASH, \$4 is returned in increased economic productivity, making WASH one of the most effective and efficient choices we can make for global child health, nutrition, resource conservation, women's empowerment and education.

Specifically, H.R. 2901, the Water for the World Act, will:

1. Institutionalize existing capacity in the U.S. government to ensure WASH remains a political priority and expertise is available at USAID and State Department headquarters to guide strategic implementation of effective and sustainable WASH programs

2. Enhance criteria for choosing high-priority countries to ensure that limited funds are directed to the countries and communities most in need

3. Advance best practices of effective aid, such as improved monitoring and evaluation and a focus on leveraging non-Federal partnerships and funds

4. Improve the strategic approach to international safe water, sanitation, hygiene, and water resources management by providing smart guidance that builds off USAID's own strategy

The bill before us today also provides for a Global Water Coordinator to be designated to oversee water, sanitation, and hygiene assistance, and to develop a complementary strategy to further the U.S. foreign assistance objective to provide affordable and equitable drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene in developing countries.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2901 will provide effective, long-term, sustainable impacts by improving coordination and oversight of safe water, sanitation, and hygiene projects and activities.

By voting in support of this act, we have the power to improve the well-being, education, economic opportunity, safety and dignity of the 2.5 billion people in the world who live without a basic latrine every day.

I strongly encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting the passage of the Water for the World Act to save lives, reduce poverty, and help drive economic growth by bringing safe drinking water and improved sanitation and hygiene to those most in need.

Mr. Speaker, access to clean, potable water will be one of the world's most pressing problems over the next century and further contribute to instability within and between nations as is the case in the Darfur conflict.

In the developing world, water-related diseases kill 5,000 children every day.

Sick children miss nearly 300 million school days a year from water-related causes, and an estimated 320 million productive work days are lost to illness—with much of the burden carried by girls and women.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with Senator RICHARD DURBIN of Illinois, Senator Paul Simon's successor and the lead Democratic sponsor of the Senate companion to H.R. 2901, that:

Water access is no longer simply a global health and development issue; it is a mortal and long-term threat that is increasingly becoming a national security issue. The United States needs to do much more to ensure that global water access is protected and expanded.

Passing H.R. 2901 is an essential first step in ensuring that global water access is protected and expanded.

I urge all members to join me in supporting this important legislation and fitting memorial to the late great Senator from Illinois, Senator Paul Simon.

PREVENTING EXECUTIVE OVERREACH ON IMMIGRATION ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2014

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to urge my colleagues to affirm the best of our traditions as a nation, rather than our worst partisan inclinations and oppose H.R. 5759, the Preventing Executive Overreach on Immigration Act of 2014. After several years of delay and obstruction on the matter of comprehensive immigration reform, President Obama acted to protect American immigrant families from the threat of forcible separation under immigration laws that are inadequate in the Twenty-First Century, by permitting parents living in the United States whose children are citizens or legal permanent residents to avoid deportation and receive authorization to work.

This legislation, H.R. 5759, exists only to allow the Republican-controlled House of Representatives to perpetuate the status quo that has done greater harm to immigrants who have been a part of our communities and criticize President Obama and the families and children he is seeking to protect. The enactment of this legislation would repudiate our commitment to the value of families.

H.R. 5759 would nullify and block implementation of the President's executive actions. If indeed the House majority were to act on the bipartisan Senate immigration reform bill. There would have been no need for the President to Act through his Executive Authority. We, in Congress, must legislate actually solutions. Congress has an obligation to pass commonsense immigration reform that offers meaningful solutions to the broken system.

It is also important to note that every president during the past 50 years has taken executive action on immigration and granted temporary immigration relief. Like his predecessors, this president has the legal authority to take these actions under the Constitution and the Immigration and Nationality Act. Unfortunately, the partisan divide in our nation's capital has created this legislation of discord.

The constituents of my district and across the United States understand that families are the foundation of our civil society. They want reform of our immigration laws that protects the interests of American immigrant families and supports the development of our nation and its people.

President Obama's executive action would provide protection to millions of immigrants, keep families together and expand our economy. I urge the rejection of this legislation. H.R. 5759 fails to uphold the ideals on which this nation was established. I urge the defeat of this bill.

CONGRATULATING RICK VIOLETT FOR RECEIVING THE 2014 CALIFORNIA DISTINGUISHED REALTOR AWARD

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Rick Violett, who has received the 2014 California Distinguished Realtor Award from the California Association of Realtors.

A licensed Realtor for the past 40 years, Rick Violett began his real estate career at Horvath Realty in Fullerton, California. He later started his own company, Investment Brokers of Orange County, in 1977. But Rick was not selected for this distinguished award because of his company's success. The 2014 California Distinguished Realtor Award is awarded to an individual who has been a California Realtor for 20 years and has demonstrated outstanding service to the California Association of Realtors for no less than 15 of the 20 years of service. The honoree also must have achieved the California Association of Realtors' designation of Director-for-Life.

Aside from growing his own business, Rick has devoted his time and skills to serving as an active participant in the Pacific West Association of Realtors, the California Association of Realtors, and the National Association of Realtors. Rick has contributed countless hours and hard work to preserving the American Dream of homeownership for future generations, not only in California but across the nation. Rick served as President of the Greater North Orange County Association of Realtors and as merger chairman for the formation of the Pacific West Association of Realtors. He has been a California Association of Realtors Director since 1993, chaired numerous committees, and has served as a member of the California Association of Realtors' Executive Committee. At the national level, Rick has served the National Association of Realtors' most prestigious committees and he has also chaired various workgroups and task forces. Rick always kept me apprised of how the issues that were being considered in Congress impacted my district's housing market.

A true public servant, Rick is active in his community. He has served as a board member of the Placentia Rotary Club, a member of Placentia-Yorba Linda School Demographic Advisory Council, and the President of Southern California Leadership Education Foundation for 6th Grade Outdoor Camps.

I am so pleased that Rick has been recognized for his many years of dedicated service to the Realtors. Please join me in congratulating Rick Violett for being awarded the highest recognition that the California Association of Realtors can bestow on a member. Rick, we thank you for your commitment to strengthening the ability of Americans to own, buy, and sell real property.

NEW YORK DELEGATION
FAREWELL

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Gentleman, Mr. RANGEL, our dean of the House New York State delegation for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and bid farewell to four colleagues who have served this institution, this country, their constituents, and the Great State of New York admirably and well.

From a nurse to a captain in the United States Navy, my four colleagues, Representatives OWENS, MAFFEI, MCCARTHY, and BISHOP, have brought diverse backgrounds to our chamber, enriched us with their insight, and stood by us through our Nation's most pressing debates.

Mr. Speaker, today, the New York delegation is losing four pillars, four leaders, four friends. I have worked late into the night with each one of them on issues vital to the health of our Nation, such as stemming the tide of gun violence, ensuring an affordable college education, updating our Nation's crumbling infrastructure, and providing health care through the Affordable Care Act.

While they will no longer be serving their constituents in this body, I am confident that whichever way their paths lead them, they will continue their legacies of service to their communities any way that they can.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in the New York Delegation and the House as a whole in wishing BILL, DAN, CAROLYN, and TIM the best of everything in the next chapter of their lives and careers.

HONORING CHERIE SLAYTON ON
HER RETIREMENT

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedicated service of my Chief of Staff, Cherie Slayton. After more than 30 years of government service, Cherie will be retiring at the end of this Congress.

Cherie started her career as an elevator operator. She went on to work for former Senator Frank Church and Congressmen Norm Dicks and Larry LaRocco before joining my staff in 1995.

Cherie began as an Executive Assistant in my office and, in 2011, was named Chief of Staff. Throughout this time, Cherie has been a calm and steady voice in a sometimes-chaotic environment, offering good judgment and trustworthy service. Quite frankly, I don't know if I would have made it through some days without her.

But more important than the day to day work here in Washington, Cherie has served the people of Minnesota's Seventh Congressional District. Over the years she has developed numerous personal relationships—listening to the concerns of our constituents—and it is these friendships that have made Cherie an

invaluable member of my team as well as a staunch advocate for Minnesotans. It is also part of the reason it is so difficult to see her go.

After so many years of dedicated public service I know that she is looking forward to spending more time with her husband Tom, children Tom and Kate, and her granddaughter Ellie.

So again, Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Cherie's service to the House of Representatives and her dedication to Minnesota's Seventh District. I wish her all the best in her retirement.

CYBERSECURITY ENHANCEMENT
ACT OF 2014

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1353, the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2014.

I want to commend several Members on both sides of the aisle and both chambers who have worked on this bill for many years. I want to thank Representatives LIPINSKI and McCAUL and Senators ROCKEFELLER and THUNE for their longstanding, bipartisan leadership on this critical topic of cybersecurity research and development.

This bipartisan bill is overall a very good bill that contributes in essential ways to any comprehensive effort to keep our nation, our businesses, and our citizens safe from malicious cyber attacks.

S. 1353 incorporates a number of pieces from H.R. 756, the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2013 that moved on a bipartisan basis through the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, and then was passed overwhelmingly on the House floor last April.

While S. 1353 is a good bill and I will be supporting it, I want to talk about what is not in this bill but was in H.R. 756. I hope that as we continue to discuss actions our government can take to better secure our cyberspace, we keep these topics on the table.

The first of these topics is human factors. The fact is that people, not software or hardware, remain the weakest link in our cybersecurity. Whether it's weak passwords, or falling victim to phishing, or using corrupted thumb drives, people unwittingly compromise their own security and that of large networks and companies every day. To truly secure our cyberspace, it is vital that we understand how and why people make the decisions they do, and how we might develop better policies and technologies to reduce risky behaviors. Unfortunately, a section contained in H.R. 756 to direct just this type of research was not incorporated into S. 1353. I hope we continue to make human factors a priority going forward.

The second topic is workforce. The federal government and private sector alike is suffering from a lack of adequately trained cybersecurity professionals. Unfortunately, women and underrepresented minorities are still significantly underrepresented in computer and information sciences. We can't expect to fix the shortage of skilled cybersecurity professionals with much less than half of our brain power. I wish S. 1353 included more language

on how our agencies can help address this shortage. As I see it, our only option is to continue to make this a priority.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to address a concern that NIST had about some of the language in this bill. In one of the opening paragraphs of the bill, paragraph (e)(1), NIST is directed to prevent duplication of regulatory processes and prevent conflict of regulatory requirements. I just want to clarify two things. First, by definition, NIST's processes are non-regulatory. Second, NIST cannot be held responsible for regulatory actions or processes at other agencies.

The language is ambiguous on this second point so I just wanted to make sure we are clear in our expectations for NIST. To address a second concern that NIST raised, I hope that limitation clause in paragraph (e)(2) does not prevent regulatory agencies from using information gained through the processes in this bill to fix duplicative or outdated regulations.

With that Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING OUTGOING CONGRES-
SIONAL BLACK CAUCUS CHAIR-
WOMAN, CONGRESSWOMAN
MARCIA FUDGE

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand with my colleagues today to honor the Chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, my sorority sister and friend as she nears the completion of her term as the 23rd Chair of the CBC. Congresswoman FUDGE is only the seventh woman to serve as the Chair of our Caucus and she has led the way in our fight to tackle difficult issues during her two-year term as Chairwoman.

She is an attorney, a businesswoman, former president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., a former mayor and has been an outstanding leader of the conscience of the Congress.

Chairwoman FUDGE has an exceptional record of achievements as the Chairwoman of the CBC. Under her leadership, the CBC has continued to be the voice of people of color and the underrepresented throughout our great nation and the world. Whether it was civil rights, voting rights, job creation, comprehensive immigration reform, health care, fighting poverty, or education, Chairwoman FUDGE reached across the aisle to build coalitions to work on behalf of all people.

I want to personally thank MARCIA FUDGE for being not only a friend but also my mentor. She has been an invaluable resource to me and I truly appreciate her.

I agree with our former colleague, the great Shirley Chisholm who once said, "You don't make progress by standing on the sidelines, whimpering and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas." Chairwoman FUDGE embodies this sentiment as the leader of the CBC.

I look forward to working with Congresswoman FUDGE in the future and the rest of my Colleagues in the CBC during the 114th Congress as we continue to be the conscience of the Congress.

THANK YOU FOR THE HONOR OF
SERVING 18 YEARS IN CONGRESS

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, since 1997, I have had the privilege to serve New York's 4th congressional district in the U.S. House of Representatives. Earlier this year, I announced that I would not be seeking reelection; in January of 2015, I will step down from the post that has brought me so much professional and personal happiness and enabled me to serve the District to the best of my ability.

Who can say that life follows the script we imagine for ourselves when we are young? I was a nurse from Mineola living the life I wanted. But fate intervened: I went to Washington as an advocate against the scourge of gun violence, and I fought for legislation including the 2007 National Instant Background Check System Improvements Act (NICS). I worked tirelessly during this chapter of my life, but I remained in so many ways, a nurse from Mineola. I never forgot where I came from or the people I grew up with. I have treasured those relationships. I became a Representative to better their lives through legislation. As I look back now, I know that together we have done this and laid the groundwork for a brighter future.

Through my work with gun violence legislation, I acquired a reputation as a "one-issue" candidate. But, as I like to say, what woman has just one issue? I've authored three pieces of legislation written into law: The Civil Rights History Project Act of 2009, which helped preserve historical artifacts from the Civil Rights era; the Serve America Act of 2009, which greatly expanded vital service programs such as AmeriCorps; and the aforementioned NICS act. In addition, I've worked on various legislative efforts, including acts that bolstered our science and math education. Working on the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, I championed the creation of an entity within the Consumer Financial Bureau that focused on financial empowerment by giving consumers the tools to be financially literate. While I went to Washington as a crusader against gun violence, I grew over the years into a candidate for all issues.

Most elected officials accomplish what they do thanks to the people who supported them along the journey. I am no different, and I am forever grateful. My staff and I worked to provide programs and enact legislation that benefited Long Island. We led the Small Business Relief Forum in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, held numerous job fairs to help Long Islanders manage the difficult economy, and ran blood drives and Medicare prescription drug seminars. We've closed over 30,000 constituent cases—ranging from social security and IRS issues, to veterans affairs and USCIS concerns. In these initiatives, the chief goal was always the same: better the lives of the 4th Congressional District.

No one reaches this point in life without accumulating a long list of people to thank. I am indebted to the entire 4th District for allowing me to represent them in Congress, and to my

staff, volunteers and supporters who have been by my side on this journey. I owe a thank you to my colleagues in the House of Representatives; their compassion for the job has continuously inspired me. And, of course, I am forever grateful for the support of my family, particularly my son Kevin, whose attitude and toughness is a towering display of bravery.

As I enter my last few weeks in office, I feel confident that all we've accomplished has prepared us for what is ahead. However, while my role as a U.S. Representative is ending, my job is not yet done. Although I no longer have a voice in Congress, I will always have a voice for the community. To everyone who has supported me, I'd like to say thank you. But I am not saying goodbye. I remain, as a wonderful chapter of my life comes to an end, very excited to see where we will go together next.

THE CYBERSECURITY
ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2014

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives MCCAUL and LIPINSKI for introducing the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act in the House last year. I am pleased to be an original cosponsor.

In April 2013, the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act was favorably reported out of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee and later passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 402–16.

The bipartisan, bicameral agreement on the legislation before us today is based on the House-passed bill.

Throughout the 113th Congress, the Science Committee has remained committed to advancing the basic research necessary to strengthen our Nation's cyber infrastructure.

Cyber attacks against the U.S. government and private sector networks are on the rise. Scarcely a day passes without a report of a new cyber attack on critical parts of our nation's cyber infrastructure, government agency, or business.

As our reliance on information technology expands, so do our vulnerabilities. New technological advances bring new avenues from which foreign countries can attack our networks.

Protecting America's cyber systems is critical to our economic and national security.

The Cybersecurity Enhancement Act is the work of a bicameral bipartisan compromise. S.1353 promotes much-needed research and development to help create new technologies and standards that better protect America's information technology systems.

The legislation before us today will coordinate research and development activities to better address evolving cyber threats.

Keeping our cyber infrastructure secure is a responsibility shared by several Federal agencies, including the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the National Science Foundation (NSF).

To improve America's cybersecurity abilities, this bill strengthens:

Strategic planning for cybersecurity research and development needs across the federal government;

NSF scholarships to improve the quality of the cybersecurity workforce; and

Research, development and public outreach organized by NIST related to cybersecurity.

S. 1353 maintains language from the House passed Cybersecurity Enhancement Act. This language will strengthen NIST's role in cybersecurity automation and checklist creation for government systems, strategic planning for cloud computing, and identity management research and development.

The bill also includes language from the legislation introduced last year by Senators ROCKEFELLER and THUNE. These provisions will encourage competitions and challenges that focus on the security of information technology and support public-private collaboration on cybersecurity.

The threat of cyber-attacks is immediate. To address our vulnerabilities as quickly as possible, America needs a solution that invokes the cooperation of many public and private sector entities. We must develop a rigorous scientific foundation for cybersecurity. This legislation helps foster such an effort.

I again thank my Science Committee colleague, Representative MCCAUL, for his initiative on this issue. He has led the charge on this legislation over the last several Congresses. I look forward to this bill becoming law.

NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY
PROTECTION ACT, S. 2519

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the National Cybersecurity Protection Act and the Senate Amendment to the Cybersecurity Workforce Assessment Act. I applaud my friend and fellow co-Chair of the Congressional Cybersecurity Caucus, MIKE MCCAUL, as well as Chairman CARPER in the Senate and Ranking Member THOMPSON here in the House, for their efforts to bring this legislation to this point.

I believe that cybersecurity is one of the defining national security challenges of our time. No other issue affects our national defense, our economic well-being, and our individual lives as cybersecurity does. With each day's news rife with stories of cyberattacks and data breaches that target our agencies, companies, citizens and allies, we as policymakers have a responsibility to act.

I have made no secret of the frustration I have felt for the past several years as Congress has failed to act to shore up our cybersecurity. This week, with these bills and others, we are making a down payment on what must be a sustained level of attention and effort. The challenge we face demands no less.

But so very much more needs to be done—and soon. I am extremely disappointed that the Senate has failed to pass information sharing legislation that was approved by the House, legislation that the private sector and government agencies agree is long overdue. And while the bills before us and others that Congress has passed in recent days are important, even these measures are limited in scope. In particular, they do not address any organizational changes within the executive

branch that I firmly believe are necessary, such as the creation of a National Office for Cyberspace within the Executive Office of the President, with budgetary oversight powers, able to coordinate and oversee the security of agency information systems and infrastructure across government.

Still and all, these pieces of legislation move the ball forward in key areas, and above all ends the inaction on cybersecurity issues that has gripped this Congress for far too long. I applaud my House and Senate colleagues for their efforts, and urge support of these measures.

A LIFE OF SERVICE AND SHARING

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of the Fifth Congressional District of Florida, I rise now to offer my heartfelt condolences and pay tribute to the life of Rev. Thomas A. Wright, a leader, humanitarian, activist and friend.

I am moved and encouraged when recalling the life achievements of this giant in the field of religion and social activism. As a champion for the marginalized and disenfranchised, we remember Rev. Wright for his many achievements, which among them include; creating a scholarship for disadvantaged youth, helping his church acquire an affordable apartment complex for low-income residents and promoting economic development for east Gainesville.

As a man who served his country, Rev. Wright distinguished himself on the field of battle in World War II.

As a community activist, he gave of himself and his talents to benefit both the individuals and the many organizations he served. From being President of the Alachua County NAACP for 17 years to pastoring Mount Carmel church for over 45 years.

These and many other civic activities were distinctive and the accolades received for all his good works.

The life of Rev. Thomas A. Wright was one of accomplishment, service and sharing. And now in his passing we pay tribute to the man and his life of service to all of us. My prayer is that the life he lived serves as an example to each of us.

Rev. Wright is survived by his children, son Philoron Wright of Gainesville; daughters Dr. LaVon Wright Bracy (Rev. Dr. Randolph Bracy) of Orlando and Patricia Wright Murray of West Palm Beach; 16 grandchildren; 41 great-grandchildren; and nine great-great-grandchildren.

HONORING HOWARD WELINSKY

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Howard Welinsky on the occasion of his 65th birthday on December 14, 2014. Through his involvement in various public service organizations,

Mr. Welinsky has proved to be a tireless advocate for his state and community.

As a fellow UCLA Bruin, Mr. Welinsky is active within the UCLA Alumni Association and serves on the Board of Governors for the UCLA Foundation. His involvement with the University is representative of his advocacy on behalf of higher education in California.

He served on the California Postsecondary Education Commission for over a decade and later went on to co-found the California Coalition for Public Higher Education, an organization dedicated to prioritizing higher education in the state by fighting rising tuition costs, larger class sizes, and budget cuts.

Earlier this month, he was recognized by the California League of Conservation Voters for his support of environmental policies and pro-environment candidates in Los Angeles and California.

Mr. Welinsky is also involved with the Jewish community on a local, state, and national level. He has served as Chair of Democrats for Israel, Los Angeles since 1992 and used his position to advocate for Israel within the Democratic Party. His advocacy has led him to be a key participant in other organizations like the Los Angeles Jewish Federation and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

He finds time to be civically involved, despite his demanding job as Senior Vice President for Warner Brothers. For his commitment to public service and giving back to causes near and dear to him, I congratulate Mr. Howard Welinsky on his 65th birthday. We look forward to many more years of his tireless advocacy.

RECOGNIZING NANCY GILMORE
FOR HER SERVICE TO THE PACIFIC
WEST ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS
AND WISHING HER WELL IN HER
RETIREMENT

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor, commend, and congratulate Nancy Gilmore, who after 35 illustrious years of serving the real estate industry, is transitioning from her role as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Pacific West Association of Realtors (PWR).

Nancy has been the CEO of PWR since its establishment in 1997, through the merger of several Southern California Realtor associations. Nancy previously served as Association Executive for the Azusa-Glendora Board, Whittier Board and Greater Long Beach Association of Realtors and is one of the most respected Association Executives in the state and the nation.

During Nancy's tenure, PWR has grown to become the largest local real estate association in California and one of the largest and most respected in the United States.

Nancy's commitment to Realtors and their business success has been the driving force in her career.

At the recent California Association of Realtors Expo, Nancy was recognized and celebrated for her service and commitment to the industry and the members of the Pacific West Association of Realtors.

I am sure that many of my colleagues will join me today in extending our heartfelt gratitude for Nancy Gilmore's contributions throughout her remarkable career. We wish Nancy much success and happiness in her future endeavors. She will be missed.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOHN
DINGELL

SPEECH OF

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I stand with my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, to commend the Honorable JOHN D. DINGELL, JR., Dean of the House of Representatives, on his lifetime of service to the American people.

The people of his district in Michigan believed in him have sent him to Capitol Hill in a record twenty-nine consecutive elections, which is 59 years in this august body.

On issue after issue, Congressman DINGELL was a leader in the effort to secure civil rights for all Americans, to protect the quality of our air and water, to allow children and older Americans to afford health care, to protect the rights of our workers to bargain collectively for fair wages and benefits, to support the auto industry and the Great Lakes and to build the manufacturing sector of our economy. He has impacted virtually every piece of legislation to be signed into law during the last half century, including the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Affordable Care Act.

A veteran of the Second World War, who was awarded nation's highest civilian honor—the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Obama in 2014, Congressman DINGELL remained committed to supporting the men and women of our armed forces, both on the field of battle and on their return home to the United States.

History will record his dedication to the belief that every American should have the ability to access comprehensive health care at an affordable cost. Continuing a tradition started by his father, Congressman John D. Dingell, Sr., every session of Congress he introduced a bill to provide for universal health care. With the Affordable Care Act, of which Congressman DINGELL was a proud co-sponsor, he achieved that high purpose to which he dedicated himself.

Congressman DINGELL's contribution to this institution will remain forever an example of public service in the public interest. When we honor him, we honor our shared faith in the promise of the American Dream and our commitment to extend the blessing of freedom to the generations who will follow us.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COMMANDER
ERIC H. BROMLEY,
UNITED STATES NAVY

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize those men and women who have

served this great Nation with honor, men such as Lieutenant Commander Eric H. Bromley, United States Navy. For the past year, Lieutenant Commander Bromley, a proud naval aviator and graduate of the United States Naval Academy Class of 2000, served on my staff as a Congressional Defense Fellow. Eric is the type of aviator that I hold near and dear to my heart, for it is his responsibility to not only provide logistics and cargo to the aircraft carrier as a C-2A Greyhound pilot, but it is his job to safely transfer passengers to and from the carrier . . . to include Congressional Delegations filled with members of Congress. It is quite a ride, one that I have had the pleasure of taking many times when I have had the opportunity to visit our Sailors and Marines in action at sea. This is a mission that Eric has executed safely numerous times and we are forever thankful to him and his shipmates for their professionalism and service.

During his assignment, he served as a senior member of my staff responsible for defense, veterans, foreign affairs and intelligence matters. Lieutenant Commander Bromley executed his work as a liaison to the constituents of the First District and the numerous defense installations in the First District with distinction. Furthermore, he provided exceptional support to me as my staff liaison to the House Armed Services Committee, in my role as a Subcommittee Chairman and as the Co-Chair of the Congressional Shipbuilding Caucus.

Lieutenant Commander Bromley directly contributed to my goal of providing excellent constituent service to the people of the First District during the 113th Congress. He was responsible for bringing numerous constituent inquiries to a successful conclusion and he was able to leverage his personal and operational experience to respond to the most challenging inquiries.

In addition to his efforts on behalf of the First District, Lieutenant Commander Bromley took on projects with regional, state and national implications, demonstrating his ability to view a challenge from many angles and develop innovative solutions often requiring collaboration across many levels of government. Lieutenant Commander Bromley's work ethic, duty to mission, and commitment to servant leadership is without equal. I believe that his personal drive to achieve excellence in his work has and will set a very high standard for his peers.

I would also like to thank Lieutenant Commander Bromley for the service and sacrifice he has made, and continues to make, for our nation and our great Navy. His keen sense of honor, impeccable integrity, quick wit, intelligence, boundless work ethic, and loyal devotion to duty earned him the respect and admiration of my staff and the First District of Virginia. After spending the last 14 years as a COD pilot in California and Virginia and completing numerous deployments, which included flying support missions throughout the Middle East, Lieutenant Commander Bromley and his family are headed to Colorado Springs, Colorado where he will work at United States Northern Command. It is my sincere hope that Lieutenant Commander Bromley, who has been selected for the rank of Commander, is given the opportunity to return to the fleet to help lead and train our Sailors and continue to "Fly Navy". I have no doubt that Lieutenant Commander Bromley will continue to serve the United States Navy honorably and with distinction.

I wish him, his wife Jenny . . . a former naval aviator, and his children Charlie and Louise the best of luck as they continue their journey together as a Navy family. It was an honor and a pleasure having him serve on my staff. We all can sleep soundly at night knowing that men and women like Lieutenant Commander Eric Bromley are members of our all-volunteer force and they stand ready to defend our country and take the fight to our enemies; far away from their families and the comforts of the United States of America. I wish you the best of luck to you and may God bless you, your family, and all the Sailors you are charged with leading. Eric, you will be missed, thank you for a job well done! Fair winds and following seas!

RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC
SERVICE OF DAVID SCHNITTGER

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 12, 2014

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant, David M. Schnittger of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

David will be leaving the Office of the Speaker shortly after two decades of distinguished service to the people's House. He has performed his duties with unparalleled skill and devotion. I am honored to have this opportunity to record his service for posterity.

Like me, David was born and raised in Southwest Ohio and graduated from Archbishop Moeller High School. He volunteered on my first campaign for Congress in 1990 while he was attending the University of Dayton, where he graduated with a degree in economics and political science.

Since officially becoming a member of my staff in 1994, David has served as both press secretary and chief of staff for my office serving Ohio's Eighth District. In addition, he served as communications director for the House Committee on Education and the Workforce during my tenure as chairman.

Since 2006, he has served as deputy chief of staff in the Office of the Majority Leader, Office of the Minority Leader, and Office of the Speaker. As one of my most trusted advisers, he has overseen communications, speechwriting, outreach, and special events operations.

This biography, while impressive, does not do justice to the sheer breadth of David's contributions. It is not enough to say he enjoys the respect and admiration of his colleagues. He has inspired generations of staff who will always cherish his wisdom and strive to emulate his example of loyalty and integrity to the last. He has served as the beating heart of this operation he helped build. These are irreplaceable things.

On behalf of the people's House—and on behalf of Boehnerland, from West Chester to Springfield to Troy to Washington, DC—I thank David for his service. I send our love to his wife Stephanie, and their five beautiful children: Ella, Kayla, Julia, Andrew, and Cecilia.

This House, especially this Speaker, owes an immeasurable debt of gratitude to the Schnittger family.

INSULAR AREAS AND FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID W. JOLLY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this important appropriations measure to keep our government funded and open, but I also rise to encourage my colleagues on our side of the aisle and address many of the concerns I have heard.

In July of this year, this House, our side of the aisle, passed a border security bill focused on protecting our borders from illegal entries, building facilities at the border to hold illegal entrants at the point of crossing, increasing the amount of immigration law judges and tele-courtrooms that allow undocumented individuals to be adjudicated close to the border instead of being provided travel to courts around the nation, and authorizing our National Guard to respond to the spike in illegal border crossings.

This House passed that measure. The Senate refused to consider it. The President would not sign it.

Last week, this House, our side of the aisle, passed legislation declaring null and void the President's recent Executive Order granting temporary amnesty to millions who have broken our laws. I was proud to be a cosponsor of that legislation.

This House passed that measure. The Senate refused to consider it. The President would not sign it.

After the President's Executive Order, dozens of us, including myself, sent a letter asking the leadership of the House Appropriations Committee to attach a provision to this bill declaring that none of the funds provided to the Administration may be used to implement the President's amnesty order. But the Senate refuses to consider it. The President will not sign it.

The numbers today are simply not on our side. And our only remaining recourse is to shut down the government—a tactic that I cannot support, that I said I would not support when I was elected, and I intend to keep my word. This is a tactic that I believe is terribly wrong for our country, for our economy and for private sector jobs throughout the country.

And so today we should say to the American people, "The President, the Senate, they must own their legacy. And this House must own ours."

So what is our legacy today on this side of this aisle? It is a legacy of fighting for Constitutional principles, adherence to the rule of law and separation of powers ordained by our founders, and it is a legacy that today includes a good appropriations bill that is right for the country, and frankly, right for conservatives.

The bill we pass today:

1. Prohibits any funding for the president's Race to the Top Education program, better known throughout the country as Common Core;

2. Slashes the budget of the Internal Revenue Service and prohibits the agency from targeting non-profit groups based on political or ideological affiliations;

3. Reins in the Environmental Protection Agency's plans to reach further into our local

communities with regulations opposed by mayors, homeowners, businesses, and agriculture interests;

4. Maintains critical pro-life protections preventing tax dollars from being used for abortion related services;

5. Cuts Obamacare's Independent Payment Advisory Board which uses price controls to impact available care to patients;

6. Prohibits the transfer of Guantanamo Bay prisoners to prisons here in the United States; and,

7. It prohibits Department of Justice programs like Fast & Furious.

And most importantly, this bill represents a continued dramatic rollback of our federal budget. This bill spends approximately \$1.1 trillion on federal activities, down from approximately \$1.4 trillion just five years ago. This budget is lower than we have seen in years and represents a historic downturn in spending—all at the hands of Republicans in Congress. Recall that the President submitted his budget proposal at the beginning of this year and it was resoundingly rejected by both the House and the Senate, including rejection by many members of his own party. This is our budget now, and it is a budget we should support.

This budget prioritizes the right programs for federal spending. It funds our men and women in uniform with the tools and technology they need to safely combat threats around the globe. It provides increased funding to the Veterans Affairs Administration to decrease wait times for benefit applicants. It wisely invests in targeted medical research to address Alzheimer's, cancer, and pediatric specialties.

Finally, and let's be very clear here, this legislation allows us to combat the President's Executive Order on amnesty from a much stronger position in a matter of weeks.

We don't have the votes today in the Senate to overturn the President's amnesty order. That is the reality. There is no means to get a measure even to the President's desk for him to veto. We simply don't have the votes in the Democrat-controlled chamber on the other side of this Capitol. It would be shortsighted for us to convince ourselves otherwise and proceed listlessly down a path to what would only lead to a government shutdown—a shutdown that would break the faith of the American people who have entrusted us with the responsibility to govern.

But we will, beginning January 6. In mere weeks, we will have a Senate controlled by conservatives who can join with this body, this side of the aisle, and continue our legacy of fighting for Constitutional convictions over Constitutional compromise.

Let us today embrace these critically important incremental conservative successes in this appropriations bill—successes that reflect our view of government—and let us then return to this body in only a few weeks with our new Senate colleagues to continue the fight on behalf of the American people. We can then lay on the President's desk legislation that challenges his Executive Order and asks him to defend what we all believe is an intellectually dishonest interpretation of his authority under Article II of the Constitution.

Colleagues, I urge your support.

CLAY HUNT SUICIDE PREVENTION
FOR AMERICAN VETERANS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, as our nation continues to welcome home a new generation of veterans from the battlefield, it is vital that we address the challenges faced by these men and women. The effects of combat are not always left behind for our soldiers, and the transition into civilian life all too often is not an easy one.

Right now, our nation is struggling to combat the impact of PTSD on veterans, and statistics from the VA show that each day 22 American veterans take their own life. This epidemic must be dealt with—the lives of those who protected our freedoms are on the line.

This week, the House passed legislation named after Clay Hunt, a Marine veteran who, after working as an activist drawing attention to the struggles of returning veterans, took his life at the age of just 28.

The Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act will take meaningful steps to ensure veterans like Clay have the resources and treatment they need when they return home. That means increasing access to, boosting accountability for and removing the stigma of potentially-life saving mental health care.

I stand in support of this legislation with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. I also stand with veterans' advocacy organizations across America—including the Travis Manion Foundation, based in my district—who work daily to engage and empower veterans and their families throughout their individual journeys.

This week, the Travis Manion Foundation will recognize veteran Jake Wood with the group's annual 'If Not Me, The Who Award' for his work to support military veterans upon their return home. This is not the first time the Travis Manion Foundation has recognized Jake—back in 2010, the group gave a fellowship to 'Mission Continues' and 'Team Rubicon', organizations Jake was involved with alongside Clay Hunt. Together, Jake and Clay performed over 500 service hours in humanitarian support with other veterans.

It is fitting that we recognize Jake at this time as we honor Clay with the passing of this bill. The time is now for Senate and president must act on the 'Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act'.

Twenty-two lives lost a day are too many. One is too many. Let's work together—Congress, advocacy groups, and veterans—to put an end to the epidemic of veteran suicide.

INSULAR AREAS AND FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it's inexcusable that the least productive Congress in

history has waited until the final hour to produce an appropriations package this flawed. The bill fails to take advantage of opportunities to save money, ranging from defense to agricultural reforms, and has instead chosen to make indefensible reductions across critical programs.

In most areas, from health reform to education, the resources committed are insufficient to keep up with inflation let alone tackle the problems that confront America's families.

I have deep concerns regarding a policy rider snuck into the bill that would allow wealthy campaign donors to contribute ten times as much money as the current individual caps allow, further flooding our political system with dark money. Campaign finance provisions are completely non-germane to this bill, and the last thing America needs is to make it easier to spend more money on campaigns.

Instead of making difficult choices about how to fund the Department of Defense, and our sprawling nuclear arsenal, we've chosen an "all of the above" approach, providing the Pentagon with everything it wants, and then some. Managed to at once give it too much for wrong things and refuse to begin reforms the DOD knows it needs and wants to carry out.

The bill commits the U.S. to rebuilding our nuclear triad of ground-based missiles, bombers, and submarines, an effort that could cost over \$1 trillion dollars over the next 30 years and ensure nuclear weapons remain a foundation of U.S. defense planning.

Nothing epitomizes this self-destructive urge than the dramatic cuts to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The \$10.9 billion in funding for the IRS represents a cut of \$350 million from last year. Since fiscal year 2010, Congress has cut IRS funding by almost \$1.2 billion—10 percent—forcing the agency to slash its full-time, permanent workforce by 13,000 employees. This occurred even as the country added approximately 7 million new taxpayers. As a result, the IRS's current staffing level is 26 percent below the number of employees it had 18 years ago.

Among these cuts, the IRS has lost 5,000 enforcement personnel, such as revenue agents and criminal investigators. This leaves billions of dollars in tax revenue uncollected. Every dollar that we invest in the IRS generates \$7 in return. Compliance with our tax code is largely voluntary and these cuts make it much harder for taxpayers to navigate the system. The IRS was already predicting that only 53 percent of taxpayers who call for help would get through to an IRS agent during the 2015 tax season. Even then, the caller would have an average wait of 34 minutes—while the other half would be left to fend for themselves. This is no way to run a government.

I've met with IRS employees reduced to tears by their frustration being unable to help taxpayers in a timely manner. If someone can get through, they then get a taxpayer who is frustrated, probably angry, as well as confused.

The Homeland Security appropriations bill was one of the most bipartisan this year. Holding up full-year funding for this agency, and in turn national security, in an effort to undermine the Administration's executive order on immigration reform is a reckless, maybe even dangerous game.

The bill includes a number of problematic environmental provisions.

Moving away from the scientific consensus, it continues to bar the Department of Energy from enforcing important standards for light bulb efficiency. It prohibits the EPA from regulating lead ammunition. It prohibits the Fish and Wildlife Service from issuing any Endangered Species Act listing rules for sage grouse species. It cuts important farm bill conservation programs. It also maintains ever lower funding for the EPA, while environmental challenges mount. Since 2010, that agency's budget has been cut by more than \$2 billion dollars, or 21 percent.

The bill also includes a very problematic rider that interferes with the direct will of the voters in the District of Columbia. The language is ambiguous, and I share the sentiments of Representatives NORTON and SERRANO that this amendment should not be interpreted as halting the DC measure entirely. Regardless of the interpretation, it is very troubling that Congress interferes with the DC Council's ability to govern to make the city safer and reflect the wishes of its citizens.

America cannot afford to roll the dice on financial reform. This bill rolls back Section 716 of Dodd-Frank, which attempts to deal with the dangerous liability stemming from derivatives trading in taxpayer-insured banks. America cannot afford to risk another taxpayer bailout for Wall Street, while we are still recovering from the last meltdown.

These and many other provisions are deeply concerning and more bad provisions will emerge as people finally have time to read the bill. Nonetheless, in more than 1,000 pages and over a trillion dollars of spending, there are some bright spots.

For more than a decade, I've worked to increase access to clean drinking water and sanitation for the world's poorest populations. The cornerstone of this effort has been through the implementation of my legislation, the Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005. This is funded in this bill at its highest level ever. This demonstrates a significant commitment from the U.S. to prioritize this type of development assistance and is an example of what is possible with bipartisan cooperation.

I am pleased the bill makes it clear that Congress believes the Department of Transportation should develop separate performance measures for non-motorized traffic injuries and fatalities. It's past time to put bicyclists and pedestrians on equal footing with motorists when it comes to distributing safety money.

This bill also includes two amendments that I cosponsored and worked closely on to create a more rational drug policy. One amendment, led by Mr. ROHRBACHER, would stop DOJ and DEA from interfering with state medical marijuana laws. This represents a historic shift by the federal government in marijuana policy. This suggests that Congress may finally catch up with how most Americans think and behave.

Another amendment, led by Mr. MASSIE, would ensure that the DEA cannot intervene in legal hemp research by universities and state departments of agriculture. This is the final step in a process that we began almost two years ago, by first passing an amendment to the farm bill allowing the research. This additional language should finally protect those programs.

As the Co-Chair of the Congressional Animal Protection Caucus, I am pleased to see a

few key provisions in this legislation that set the stage for future productive efforts, such as animal welfare enforcement funding and language restricting funding for horse slaughter.

These and other positive provisions, however, in no way offset the harm caused by the many destructive elements and the horrible precedent set for future action. A Republican House majority that campaigned on promises to reform and respect the process has instead abused it. A massive bill released too late to read, let alone understand, makes a mockery of their promises and I refuse to support it.

INSULAR AREAS AND FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 83, Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015, and to set forth my views on certain matters concerning or relating to the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary. While the bill does fund many agencies and programs within the Judiciary Committee's jurisdiction at the 2014 enacted level or higher through September 2015, H.R. 83 funds the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) only through February 27, 2015 because of the Republican Leadership's opposition to the President's actions on immigration. By restricting funding to DHS to a highly limited duration, this measure is not only short-sighted and irresponsible, but potentially harmful to all Americans.

H.R. 83, by providing short-term funding to DHS, makes it nearly impossible for the agency to pursue long-term strategies to ensure the safety and security of our Nation. The bill jeopardizes many critical functions of DHS, including developing technologies to prevent future terrorism attacks and securing the Internet to fight various cyber crimes such as identity theft and financial fraud. It also undermines the agency's Disaster Relief Fund that FEMA uses to fund response and recovery efforts associated with major disasters. Other affected DHS components include the Secret Service, which protects the President and the White House from attack, and the U.S. Coast Guard, which provides essential operations, training, and equipment to those who guard our Nation's waters.

Essentially, the Majority has bundled with must-pass year-end appropriations legislation a short-sighted measure intended to lash back at the President's humanitarian efforts to deal with a major immigration crisis. As a result, H.R. 83 now puts at risk the ability of the DHS and its thousands of dedicated employees to protect all Americans from terrorism, disaster, and crime.

With respect to other agencies and programs that fall within the Judiciary Committee's authorization jurisdiction, H.R. 83 appropriates funding in most instances above 2014 enacted levels. Nevertheless, I am disappointed that the bill reduces funding for the COPS Program—a very effective initiative to reduce crime by putting more police on the streets and promoting community policing—by \$6 million.

The bill also extends the Internet Tax Freedom Act till October 1, 2015, which is a moratorium on state and local taxation of Internet access and on multiple or discriminatory taxes on electronic commerce, and which includes grandfather protections.

In addition, the bill includes various riders, some of which are harmful. Fortunately, the final version of H.R. 83 does not include numerous House-proposed riders that would have impeded the Environmental Protection Agency's regulatory authority to ensure the safety of our Nation's air and water.

Further, H.R. 83 attempts to prevent the implementation of an initiative legalizing recreational use of marijuana in the District of Columbia by prohibiting the use of any funds to "enact any law, rule, or regulation" for such purpose. It is my understanding, however, that as this initiative has already been enacted, no further funds are needed for it to go into effect. Thus, the bill's restriction has no legal effect on the initiative.

The following summarizes the bill's principal provisions pertaining to the Judiciary Committee's jurisdiction:

JUDICIARY

Funding: \$6.7 billion for the Judiciary, which is \$182 million more than the 2014 enacted level; the \$182 million increase is \$1 million less than the Judiciary's request.

Riders: 10 temporary district judgeships were extended for 1 year; no funding for new courthouse construction until the General Services Administration completes a feasibility study.

U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Funding: \$3.5 billion for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), which is equal to CBO's projection of USPTO's FY 2015 fee revenue collections, and \$434 million above the 2014 enacted level.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Funding:

—\$8.44 billion for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which is \$93.3 million more than the 2014 enacted level.

—\$2.03 billion for the Drug Enforcement Agency, which is \$15.3 million more than the 2014 enacted level.

—\$1.2 billion for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, which is \$22 million more than the 2014 enacted level.

—\$6.82 billion for the Bureau of Prisons, Salaries and Expenses account, which is \$46 million more than the 2014 enacted level.

—\$376 million for Byrne-JAG grants, which is the same as the 2014 enacted level.

—\$208 million for the COPS program, which is \$6 million less than the 2014 enacted level.

—\$430 million for Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution Programs, which is \$13 million above the 2014 enacted level.

—\$125 million for the ongoing DNA Initiative program which funds the testing of sexual assault kits, which is the same as the FY 2014 enacted level and \$25 million above the request. In addition, \$41 million is included for the new Community Sexual Assault Kit Backlog Reduction program.

—\$73 million for the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), which is \$14.5 million more than the 2014 enacted level and \$18 million more than the request.

Riders:

—The agreement rejects House policy riders to: 1) block reporting requirements on multiple sales of rifles/shotguns to the same person, and 2) make permanent two annual riders related to firearms.

—The agreement rejects a House rider to defund grants to state or local law enforcement on the basis of local immigration policy.

—The agreement rejects a House rider prohibiting the Department of Justice from enforcing certain parts of the Fair Housing Act.

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

Funding: \$375 million, which is \$10 million above the enacted 2014 level.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Funding: \$293 million, which is \$5 million below the 2014 enacted level but reflects one-time moving expenses for 2014.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES

Funding: \$3.1 million, which is \$.1 million above the 2014 enacted level.

OTHER MATTERS

Abortion

—The agreement does not include a House rider prohibiting funds to subsidize abortion services in connection with a multi-state plan offered under the Affordable Care Act exchanges negotiated by OPM.

SURVEILLANCE

—The agreement does not include significant House-passed reforms on government surveillance activities conducted by the National Security Agency, but instead retains current law.

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATORY CONCERNS

—The agreement does not include a House policy rider prohibiting EPA's Clean Power Plan Proposed Rule.

—The agreement does not include a House policy rider prohibiting EPA's rule clarifying which waters are protected by the Clean Water Act.

—The agreement does not include a House policy rider prohibiting EPA from changing the way discharge of fill material is regulated.

—The agreement includes a House policy rider prohibiting regulation of lead in ammunition.

—The agreement includes a House policy rider prohibiting the issuance of final and proposed rules related to Sage Grouse under the Endangered Species Act.

—The agreement does not include a House policy rider prohibiting EPA from ensuring mining companies are financially capable of cleaning up pollution rather than taxpayers, but includes report language on the matter.

—The agreement does not include a House policy rider prohibiting EPA from enforcing a rule on safe removal and renovation of lead paint, but includes report language on the matter.

—The agreement does not include a House policy rider prohibiting funding for the development or revisions of regulations regarding imported ivory.

THE FALSE ECONOMICS OF THE CROMNIBUS BILL

HON. STEVE STOCKMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 12, 2014

Mr. STOCKMAN. Mr. Speaker, in the 11th Century, King Canute proved his humility by ordering the tides from not coming in, yet the tides came in without respect to his royal majesty. Last night I thought we were experiencing another King Canute moment. The

House passed a bill that was to rationalize economics what King Canute's order was to the rising tides.

Perpetuating the overspending and compounding the debt burden on future generations is not only immoral, it is plain dumb policy.

One would have thought that a lesson was learned when in August of 2011, the United States' credit rating was downgraded. But massive deficits have continued and the bill adopted last night will continue those deficits. Today's projections say that in the future the annual deficit will continue to rise—topping the trillion dollar mark in under ten years.

Now we know that these deficits are ultimately unsustainable and a crunch will come. One scenario is that much of the federal debt will be wiped away by inflating the dollar. Meaning that a dollar of debt today could be paid off with a penny of real money. This would have some rather serious side effects such as the destruction of much of the wealth of the U.S. and every other nation. It would mean economic collapse and the destruction of world trade.

Other side effects that the Congress risks by passing legislation like the bill we considered last night are the collapse of the social safety net on which our elderly and disabled population depends. I have a one-hundred trillion dollar bill—and it can't buy a loaf of bread. It is a Zimbabwe bill and that nation's economic policies are what we seem to be trying to emulate.

But my listing of the effects of fiscal (and monetary) incontinence is not the first in this Chamber. And that is the great tragedy. It is like the captain of the *Titanic* knew about the iceberg the previous day and continued his course which he knew would end in catastrophe.

I hope and pray that the members of the next Congress will change course. I have done my work to change that course, and I will continue to work to change U.S. economic policy from outside these walls. God bless America, and God help us.

RECOGNIZING THE LAO AND
HMONG-AMERICAN COMMUNITY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 12, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and express my appreciation to the Lao and Hmong-American community in California's 16th Congressional District and across the country, especially the veterans and their families. It is important to note their historic and positive contributions to California's San Joaquin Valley and their critical sacrifices in support of the United States during the Vietnam War.

This year, my Congressional office was pleased to once again attend the memorial ceremonies held this past May in Arlington National Cemetery to honor those who served during the Vietnam War as well as their refugee families who were resettled in America following the end of the conflict.

Each year, since May 1997, constituents from my district in the San Joaquin Valley travel a very long distance to Washington,

D.C., to help organize and host this memorial service. Colonel Wangyee Vang, President of the Lao Veterans of America Institute, of Fresno, and Philip Smith, Washington Director of the Lao Veterans of America, worked closely with members of the U.S. Congress, Arlington National Cemetery, the U.S. Army and Department of Defense, and others, to coordinate the memorial service at the "Laos Memorial" in Arlington. A joint U.S. Armed Services Color Guard, the "Old Guard," and a U.S. Marine Corps Honor Guard provide additional support for the events, which are attended each year by a delegation of Lao Hmong veterans from the Central Valley. A U.S. Army wreath-bearer and bugler contribute additional meaning to this moving ceremony. These important events, which my office has attended over the years, seek to honor the Lao and Hmong veterans and their U.S. Special Forces and CIA clandestine advisers.

As always, I am grateful and proud of the historic and ongoing contributions of the Laotian- and Hmong-American community in the San Joaquin Valley and across the United States. We must not forget how Hmong veterans have sacrificed and struggled to help the United States during and after the war. These brave individuals have truly made the San Joaquin Valley a better place.

Many of my colleagues in the U.S. House and Senate have been supportive of my steadfast efforts to introduce and advance the Hmong Veterans' Service Recognition Act (H.R. 3369), which continues to gain strong bipartisan support in Congress. I wish to thank the many Senators and Members of Congress for standing alongside me in this worthy effort. I must also thank the Hmong veterans and Hmong-American community, who seek to honor their veterans and historic legacy. It is my hope that this legislation will continue to progress as more of my colleagues in the Congress and the public become aware of the unique and important contribution that the Hmong people have made, and continue to make, to our nation.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE FAHEY

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 12, 2014

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my very good friend, Mike Fahey, for his many years as a leading Oregon business executive and advocate of forest health. Mike is retiring this month as CEO of Columbia Helicopters, where he has loyally served in numerous executive roles for nearly 40 years. As his career at Columbia Helicopters winds down, I'd like to take a moment to pay tribute to his significant contributions to Oregon and the aerospace industry.

A native Oregonian, Mike was born in Oregon City and attended local public schools. He graduated from Portland State University in 1966 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Accounting, with Honors. His studies emphasized economics and finance, subjects that would prove to be crucial later in life when he took the helm of a company with global operations.

In 1966, Mike began working for the accounting firm of Arthur Young & Company, and in 1968 he began a three-year project,

auditing the books of a rapidly growing, young company called Columbia Helicopters. That audit introduced him to the company's founder, Wes Lematta, a pioneer in the helicopter operations industry. In 1975, Mike joined Columbia Helicopters full time as the company's first Director of Finance. He later was named Vice President of Finance, and became Executive Vice President in 1997.

For the majority of his employment with Columbia Helicopters, Mike has been involved with contract negotiations for both foreign and domestic operations, as well as assisting with the purchase of aircraft to expand the company's fleet of heavy-lift helicopters. One of Mike's happiest memories was when the company purchased two Chinook helicopters from tycoon businessman Donald Trump in 1993. Mike always felt the company got the best end of the bargain because he'd read Trump's book "The Art of the Deal" and anticipated a negotiating tactic that Trump attempted to use. Mike won that deal, Donald.

In the late 1990s and throughout the 2000s, Mike took an active role in promoting legislation that would improve forest health. Like most of us from the West, Mike believes that proper forest management is key to maintaining good forest health. The company's "selective harvesting" system uses Columbia's helicopters to remove only a portion of the timber, creating natural forest spacing and improving the overall health of the forest.

In 1999, Mike was named President of Columbia Helicopters, a position he held until 2013 when he was named CEO. Perhaps his greatest achievement during that period was the acquisition of the Type Certificates for the Boeing 234 commercial Chinook helicopter, and for the Boeing Vertol 107-II helicopter. This is the equivalent of Chevrolet selling the engineering and manufacturing rights to the Corvette to a small business. Today these heavy-lift helicopters are identified as the Columbia Model 234 Chinook and the Columbia 107-II, and Columbia Helicopters is the world leader in commercial heavy-lift helicopter operations. The company currently has aircraft working around the world: supporting military operations in Afghanistan, moving petroleum exploration equipment in Peru and Papua New Guinea, logging and construction projects in Canada and domestic operations in the western United States.

Throughout the years, Mike has always been a dedicated supporter of numerous charities and organizations, whether local, national or global in scale. He has supported Lines for Life, a non-profit organization dedicated to preventing substance abuse and suicide in youths and the military; Medical Teams International, a global health organization working to provide care to people affected by disaster, conflict and poverty; the Providence Medical Foundation and Providence Child Care; and the American Heart Association. He also currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Oregon Forest Industries Council.

More than anything else, Mike is a devoted and loving family man. He married his wife Penny in 1964 in Lake Oswego, Oregon, where they still maintain a home. They have three children, Michael Fahey II, Holly Bellavara and Elizabeth Tobin, and they have six grandchildren. Mike will finally get to spend more time with his family in retirement, but I expect he will still find time to hit the links with

his clubs—he got his first hole in one in August 2013, and he is making a valiant effort at his second.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, please join me in recognizing and thanking my good friend, Mike Fahey, for his many years of exemplary leadership as an Oregon businessman and caring member of his community. I wish Mike and Penny many more years of good health and true happiness.

RECOGNIZING LES MCCABE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 12, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hebert Leslie McCabe, Jr., who honorably served our nation in the United States Navy during World War II and was employed by Merced College for more than 30 years.

Les was born in Upper Lake, California, on April 9, 1927. Twenty years later he married the love of his life, Elizabeth, with whom he raised five children. After serving in the United States Navy during World War II, Les returned to California to attend college. He earned a bachelor's degree from UC Davis in 1950, his master's degree from UC Davis in 1956, and his doctorate from Nova-Southeastern University in 1977.

Les was employed by Merced College for more than 30 years, working as an Agriculture Business instructor, Career Programs coordinator, and Work Experience coordinator. Les also assumed the roles of Director of Financial Aid and Career Placement and Dean of Vocational Education. Les has the honor of being a charter member of the California Agriculture Teachers Association Hall of Fame as well as a member of the Academic Senate and President of the Faculty Association. Les served honorably on the Merced College Board of Trustees for 16 years and the Merced County Farm Bureau Board of Directors for 15 years. He was also appointed by Governor George Deukmejian to serve on the State Council on Vocational Education.

Les and his family have lived in Merced since 1967. He has been active in the community as a member of many organizations, including the American Legion Le Grand Post, Disabled American Veterans Atwater Post, the Masonic Order, and the Scottish Rite. Not one to shy away from leadership, he also served as President of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Merced and President of the Merced County Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the service of Les McCabe. He has earned the respect of his peers and the admiration of all who know him.

HONORING WAYNE McCLAIN

HON. ROBIN L. KELLY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 12, 2014

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following resolution honoring the life and career of University of Illinois Associate Head Basketball Coach Wayne McClain.

Whereas, Over a 37 year career as a teacher, school administrator, and basketball coach at the high school and college level Wayne McClain touched the lives of countless players, students, and families; and

Whereas, Wayne McClain led the Peoria Manual High School Rams to four straight AA State Championships from 1994 to 1997, with his 1997 squad being named National High School Champions; and

Whereas, Wayne McClain was named the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Coach of the Year in 1995, 1996, and 1997, and the National High School Coach of the Year in 1997; and

Whereas, Wayne McClain coached for 11 years at the University of Illinois, first as an assistant coach, and then as associate head coach; and

Whereas, Following a successful collegiate career, Wayne McClain returned to coach High School basketball last season at Champaign Central High School, seeing it as an opportunity to make a more meaningful and direct impact across his entire community; and

Whereas, Wayne McClain passed away this Fall, and is survived by his wife Robin, his son and former player Sergio, a member of the state champion Rams and four year letterman for the Illini, his daughter Brindeshie, his grandson Sergio Jr., and his granddaughter Brindisi;

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives of the United States of America, That the life and career of Wayne McClain be honored and remembered, and that he be recognized for his nearly four decades of service to student athletes across the state of Illinois.

HONORING THE CAREER OF DR.
JOAN L. VORIS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 12, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work and career of UCSF Fresno Associate Dean Dr. Joan L. Voris, and to congratulate her on her retirement from the UCSF Fresno Medical Education Program on January 5, 2015.

Dr. Voris has decided to retire, leaving her most recent post as the associate dean of the UCSF Fresno Medical Education Program, a position she has held since 2002. Prior to her appointment as associate dean, she was a faculty member for 24 years. In her position as associate dean Dr. Voris provided leadership and oversight to residency programs in eight specialties, 17 sub-specialties, undergraduate medical education, the UCSF Fresno Latino Center for Medical Education and Research, the California Area Health Education Center, the UCSF Fresno Alzheimer's and Memory Center, and various pipeline programs within the community.

Dr. Voris has made incredible changes to the UCSF Fresno medical education program as associate dean. During her tenure, the program has seen an increase in the number of core faculty from 77 to 229, and the number of residents and fellows trained on an annual basis increased from 172 to 293, a 70% increase. To add to her long list of accomplish-

ments, all but one of the 14 fellowship programs was established under her leadership.

Prior to working at UCSF Fresno, Dr. Voris attended prestigious Stanford University where she earned both her bachelor's and medical degrees. Afterwards, she completed her pediatrics residency training at UCSF Fresno. During her 36 years working as a pediatrician in Fresno, Dr. Voris has served on a medical team which brings health care to communities in Mexico during the summer, working to provide health care to those who live in areas which have access to little to no medical services.

Due to her amazing contributions to the medical community and her expertise in child abuse issues and childhood obesity, Dr. Voris was named by the Marjaree Mason Center in 2010 as one of their Top 10 Professional Women. Additionally, in 2012, she received the "Physician Community Service Lifetime Achievement Award" from the Fresno-Madera Medical Society.

Her colleagues have nothing but praise for Dr. Voris, expressing their appreciation at her tireless efforts to improve health care in the San Joaquin Valley and to increase awareness of UCSF Fresno.

Mr. Speaker, it is with utmost respect that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the career of Dr. Joan L. Voris. Her outstanding work in pediatrics, her improvements at the UCSF Fresno Medical Education Program, and her extensive contributions to the community have all led to her to be regarded as one of the best doctors in the Central Valley. It is my hope that she continues to have a happy and fulfilling life in retirement.

H.R. 83

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 12, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, last night, I voted "no" on H.R. 83 (The Continuing Resolution/Omnibus bill) despite adequate funding levels in several areas because it contained far too many poison pills. The best way forward would have been to compromise on a bill that did not include policy riders and would have funded the government without jeopardizing our financial security, the environment, our retirees, and our election system. I fully support the provisions in H.R. 83 that provide robust funding for our military, provide a 1% pay raise for military and civilian employees, and would provide additional funding for Tobyhanna Army Depot. However, I ultimately voted "no" because the legislation places the interests of greedy Wall Street investment bankers ahead of regular American working families. The Continuing Resolution/Omnibus bill, which passed by a narrow 219-206, guts important Dodd-Frank safeguards against a repeat of the \$700 billion taxpayer bailout of Wall Street financiers. It also exponentially raises the limits on campaign contribution cash that wealthy individuals (like Wall Street bankers) can donate to federal political parties. In one bill, House Speaker JOHN BOEHNER has managed both to jeopardize the American economy and further weaken the foundations of our American democracy itself. We should have been able to vote on a bill

that focused on funding our government, instead we had to vote on a bill that contained numerous giveaways to private interests and that is why I voted “no.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 12, 2014

Mr. HURT. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote #564, a recorded vote on H.R. 5699. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 12, 2014

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 564 had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

HON. STEVE STOCKMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 12, 2014

Mr. STOCKMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to discuss today a very important and serious issue that is seemingly taking hold within our nation and that is an “assault on our freedom of the press”. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit a recent article in Roll Call entitled “Congress: Support Higher Level of Press Freedoms, End Propaganda”. In particular, the article opines “that administration officials have gone to great lengths to control media messages and the President’s refusal to grant free and easy access for photographers and reporters”. Mr. Speaker, clearly, restricting or controlling media messages is without a doubt—propaganda.

[From Roll Call, Dec. 10, 2014]

CONGRESS: SUPPORT HIGHER LEVEL OF PRESS FREEDOMS, END PROPAGANDA—COMMENTARY
(By Maayan Jaffe)

It seems that recently, U.S. media took a turn for the worse. In 2013, Reporters Without Borders noted a profound erosion of press freedom, which included a year of attacks on whistleblowers and digital journalists, and revelations about mass surveillance. The U.S. plunged 13 spots on the group’s rankings to No. 46.

Simultaneously, reports continue to surface that administration officials have gone to great lengths to control media messages. Associated Press editors have decried the president’s refusal to grant free and easy access for photographers and reporters and equated his actions as tantamount to propaganda.

It’s striking that with what the Obama administration is doing—and is only getting away with it because the media use the handout copy and photographs—that America’s closest allies are regularly maligned. In the last month, for instance, it was reported with sensation and disdain that a top U.S. of-

ficial referred to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as “chicken-” and that U.S. ally Azerbaijan, apparently, is trying to promote its relationship with the U.S., instead of supporting radicals around the world like some others.

All this, while arch enemies—or countries that pose a risk to national security, sponsors of the murderous ISIS to the Mullahs of Iran—are given a free ride . . . even by state-sponsored media. The Washington Free Beacon reported that Congress was calling for an investigation into Voice of America’s Persian language news service as a result of the station’s systemic pro-Iran bias and cozy ties to the anti-American ruling regime, according to a letter sent recently to Secretary of State John Kerry.

The Free Beacon wrote, “Lawmakers and Iranian dissidents have long accused VOA’s Persian News Network (PNN) of producing sympathetic coverage of the Iranian regime and blacklisting prominent Iranian opposition voices . . . The call from Congress for an investigation into these alleged practices comes just a month after the Washington Free Beacon revealed that PNN had banned a prominent Iranian opposition member and placed him on a so-called ‘black list’ after he attacked Iran’s ruling regime for sponsoring terrorism.”

Earlier this year, I penned a piece in Roll Call about the tragedy of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty’s bias against Azerbaijan. I asked Congress why it allows \$750 million of American taxpayers’ money to fund a media outlet that is attacking our allies. That report—which found that in a one-month period RFE/RL had managed to publish 30 articles and videos about Azerbaijan (not one celebrating Azerbaijan’s accomplishments), while it ran nothing of pressure against America’s adversary, Armenia—was met with an explosion of Twitter fury.

Americans don’t want to face up to what the media has become: a propaganda machine, pandering to the special interests, superficial stereotypes, personal agendas and money, and fear of reprisal by extremist regimes.

Azerbaijan and Israel are attacked not only because attacks sell, but because they are two of the few Middle Eastern/Muslim countries with pro-Western, anti-terrorist governments and societies and therefore journalists are less afraid to come out against them. Israel is accused of war crimes for protecting itself from a daily barrage of rocket attacks and trauma, while the world is silent to Egyptian action recently taken against Gaza, a country which clearly understands the difference between Palestinian civilians and the terrorists of Hamas.

Israel and Azerbaijan take this pressure because the alternative is siding with extremism and neither country is willing to compromise their democratic, open ideals. But Congress needs to pay attention to this growing trend because good friends can only take so much bullying.

Israel and Azerbaijan—or any U.S. ally—are not without challenges and growth opportunities. Iran is a rogue regime developing nuclear weapons that could shift the world’s balance, and we are supporting a media outlet that panders to that regime. The media, with the support of Congress, needs to be bold about what is really happening on the ground. A truthful report here and there is not enough. We need to regain a top level of freedom of the press and be confident that if we tell the full truth, then truth will prevail.

Congress has an obligation to retain American freedom of the press. I hope this new Congress will see access to information as a fundamental freedom and strength. If we lose that right, I don’t want to think about what will be next . . .

IN MEMORY OF GERALD “JERRY” HOGAN

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 12, 2014

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the memory of Gerald Hogan, who passed earlier this week at his home in McLean, Virginia. Jerry, as everyone called him, was a longtime outstanding advocate for the telecommunications industry, most recently with AT&T. Jerry is very well known throughout this Chamber and many of us regarded him as a close personal friend.

Jerry was always interested in you as a person and would ask about your family. He genuinely cared and would remember what you told him. If he learned it was your birthday, you could expect a phone call the next year. If you recounted a tale of your child, he would offer tips from a lifetime of parenting his children. Humble, generous, genuine, caring, funny and smart. . . . Jerry was all of these to his broad range of friends.

Jerry will be sorely missed for so many wonderful personal attributes, not least of which was his love for his children and their endeavors. The last few years Jerry and I had a fun gentleman’s bet as his youngest son played against my beloved Oregon Ducks. On a few big occasions my Ducks came out on the losing side of the contest but Jerry, always the funny and classy act, would see me with a twinkle in his eye and deliver some well-deserved ribbing. Our business meetings in the past were never quick as we’d joyfully spend the first portion of our time swapping stories about all of Jerry’s children and family and mine too before we’d get down to the official business matters. I will really miss all of my interactions with Jerry.

I am very privileged to have known Jerry and will always remember him very fondly. On behalf of many of my colleagues and my staff I want to let Jerry’s dear friends and family—especially his wife Donna, his two sons, Brian and Kevin, and his daughter, Kelly—know that all who knew Jerry always felt that he brought high respect and honor to his work. Our prayers are with you during this time of sadness, and may the luck of the Irish be with you always.

Mr. Speaker, a number of my colleagues have asked me to include their following comments.

Congressman FRED UPTON said: “My condolences go out to Jerry’s wife, Donna, and their wonderful children. We will miss Jerry’s bright smile, wit, and warmth. Jerry was one who, virtually every minute of his all too short life, truly lived the words of the poem ‘I shall not pass this way again.’ ‘I shall pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.’ Thanks for all the love and laughs, Jerry. Godspeed.”

Congressman F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, Jr. said: “The world will be a little less full now that Jerry Hogan is no longer a part of it. Jerry was a truly wonderful person and I was blessed to call him a friend. I wish his wife Donna and his children the very best during this difficult time.”

Congressman TOM MARINO said: "I am deeply saddened by the loss of Jerry Hogan. He was a close friend and trusted advisor and we all feel the void of his passing. My condolences go out to his friends and family during this time of sadness."

Congressman PETER KING said: "Jerry put up a terrific fight against his illness over the past four years and exemplified the term Fighting Irish. I admired his dedication and loyalty and will miss my good friend."

Former Congressman Dan Lungren said: "Jerry was a great friend and a special person. Even during his time of need, fighting his own battle, he heard of a challenge that a member of my family was once again taking on and he informed me that he awoke that morning at 4 AM and said the Rosary in her honor. That is how he lived his life thinking of others and giving to others to the very end. God Bless you Jerry and God Bless your wonderful family during this sad time."

HONORING FRAN ROEHM

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 12, 2014

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Frances "Fran" Roehm, a librarian extraordinaire at the Skokie Public Library in my district who is retiring after 18 years of remarkable service to our community.

Fran graduated from the University of Illinois and received a Bachelor's degree in History. As a single mom, she was awarded a scholarship from the then Secretary of State Jim Edgar. This scholarship allowed Fran to return to school and earn her Master's Degree in Library of Sciences, also from the University of Illinois.

Fran Roehm has worked as the Skokie Net Librarian and Community Liaison with distinction and has guided consumers to resources in the community. Fran is a leader in the library community who works hard to bring the best resources to patrons at the Skokie Public Library. She shines a bright light on our community and the rich resources available at the Skokie Library. Her compassion and leadership inspire the people around her to advocate for others.

She was nominated by State Senate President John Cullerton to serve on the "Eliminate the Digital Divide Committee" and has proudly served on that committee, which distributed \$4,000,000 in grants to organizations that serve low-income populations. This important grant program seeks to provide access to computers, telecommunications technologies and related training to disadvantaged communities—a major interest of Fran.

Fran also offered a wonderful form of outreach to my office. She realized that the library would be a perfect location for neighborhood office hours and from there, we began bringing our constituent services to the Skokie Library in the evenings, once a month, for constituents who cannot meet with our staff during the day for help. This service also allows the public to become more civically engaged. In addition, Fran helped make our annual Artistic Discovery high school art event, which we hold every year at the Skokie library, an extremely successful and welcoming event.

Fran is masterful at putting resources and people together. She has been a great advocate and ally to our office.

Fran is the proud mother of son, Christopher, who lives in California and a proud grandmother to 5-year-old Twyla. Fran is a warm, kind, generous person who has touched and enriched countless lives.

I join others in the Skokie area and in Illinois in offering my deep gratitude and appreciation of Fran's decades of work and lifelong commitment to providing equal access to community resources. Although she is leaving the Skokie Library, she will remain a leader in our community advocating for the underserved. I wish her well and ask this body to do the same.

ANTI-SEMITISM AND ETHNIC CLEANSING IN

HON. STEVE STOCKMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 12, 2014

Mr. STOCKMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to discuss today an issue that continues to haunt ethnic and religious minorities throughout our world and in particular, a rise in anti-Semitism and ethnic cleansing in Armenia. Mr. Speaker, in other words, Armenia, throughout its history continues to practice anti-Semitism and ethnic cleansing of the Azerbaijani minority. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit an article written by Arye Gut, a board member of the Israeli-Azerbaijani International Organization entitled "Anti-Semitism in Armenia: A Clear and Present Danger". Mr. Gut clearly articulates the issues of anti-Semitism and ethnic cleansing in Armenia.

ANTI-SEMITISM IN ARMENIA: A CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER

(By Arye Gut/JNS.org)

The conflict in Syria has forced millions to leave their homes, among them many of the country's Armenian minority. Many have fled and returned to Armenia, a safe haven for ethnic Armenians—much as Israel is for Jews around the world. So it is ironic, given this shared need for a homeland free of religious intolerance, that Armenia's own Jewish community has been pressured and intimidated since the country attained independence.

Anti-Semitism in Armenia is an unfortunate and little-acknowledged fact. Since the fall of the Soviet Union, the country's Jewish minority and Jewish heritage—the products of a more tolerant time—have shrunk dramatically. The end of Soviet rule removed constraint, and anti-Semitic attacks rose dramatically. That, and Armenia's ongoing economic collapse, drive the Jews of Armenia to flee the country. In just 20 years, Armenian Jewish population has shrunk from more than 5,000 to just a few hundred.

And the cultural violence has continued. Anti-Semitic books are published and TV programs aired, and the Holocaust memorial in the capital of Yerevan has been repeatedly defaced. Of course, many countries have suffered such unfortunate incidents, the product of an ignorant populace. But in Armenia such views have been espoused even by mainstream politicians and media personalities. In 2004, a pro-government radio presenter expressed anti-Semitic views for months on end. A nationalist politician was also allowed to freely make lurid slurs against Jews before public pressure forced the government to arrest him.

The dwindling Jewish community in Armenia has complained about these attacks—the head of the Jewish community expressed her concern that "this [anti-Semitism] has the backing of people in power." But appeals have fallen on deaf ears, which is hardly a surprise when such attitudes are shared by much of Armenian society. The Anti-Defamation League's latest survey in June 2014 showed that the rate of anti-Semitism in Armenia (at 58 percent) was the third-highest in all of Europe, and the highest in all of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Thus, around 1.3 million out of 2.2 million adults in Armenia expressed anti-Semitic attitudes. Armenia's closest comparisons were with virulently hostile countries in the Middle East.

Sixty-three percent of Armenians surveyed believe that Jews are hated "because of the way Jews behave;" 60 percent claimed that "Jews don't care what happens to anyone but their own kind;" 45 percent think that "Jews still talk too much about what happened to them in the Holocaust;" and 38 percent consider that "Jews are responsible for most of the world's wars."

Also disturbing, and of concern to Jews around the world, is that in 1988 some 49,928 families (250,000 Azerbaijanis) were forced to flee their places of origin in 172 Azerbaijani inhabited villages, 89 villages with mixed ethnic population, and six cities from Armenia. During the deportation, 226 Azerbaijanis were killed by Armenians and scores horrifically injured. Their houses and properties were burned as well.

The Khojaly massacre, committed by current Armenian leadership with incredible brutality, was one of the worst tragedies of the 20th century. It is a historical fact that the Armenian armed forces and gunmen spared none of the Khojaly residents, who had not managed to leave the city and its surroundings. As a result of the atrocities of the Armenian armed forces, 613 people were killed, 487 people were crippled, and 1,275 people—the elderly, children, and women who were captured—were subjected to unprecedented torture, abuse, and humiliation.

In addition, Armenia, the aggressor, illegally occupied 20 percent of Azerbaijan, including Nagorno-Karabakh and seven adjacent districts. This caused a refugee crisis numbering nearly 1 million innocent Azerbaijanis, as they attempted to ethnically cleanse the region. Today, this remains a threat to peace and security in the South Caucasus region. Encouraged by intense Armenian lobbying efforts in the U.S. and other key nations, as well as by strong and ongoing Russian military, economic, and political aid, Armenia has ignored four United Nations Security Council resolutions associated with the occupation of Azerbaijani lands and treatment of civilians.

Perhaps this is not so surprising considering that one of Armenia's closest allies is theocratic Iran, which has always opposed Israel's right to existence. This strange relationship has been very beneficial for Iran, which has used Armenia as a conduit for smuggling and other illicit activities, often with serious consequences for U.S. national security.

The last point also has unnerving overtones for Armenia's Jewish community, which has never forgotten the participation of the brutal 20,000-strong Armenian Legion as part of Wehrmacht in the Second World War. The Legion, led by the nationalist warlord known as General Dro, was tasked with rounding up Jews and other "undesirables" behind the German army as it swept across Russia, and organized their death marches to the concentration camps.

In such an environment, it is hardly surprising that most of Armenia's Jewish population has either fled or intermarried to

avoid attracting attention. Regrettably, the government of Armenia does almost nothing to curb the growing anti-Semitism in the country. Until Armenia realizes that narrow-minded nationalism and blaming the country's economic and political problems on outsiders will never solve anything, the Jews of Armenia will continue to suffer.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 12, 2014

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, on December 9, 2014, on Roll Call #552 on the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 5781, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On December 9, 2014, on Roll Call #553 on Passage of H.R. 5781—California Emergency Drought Relief Act 2014, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On December 10, 2014, on Roll Call #554 on H. Res. 775 Providing for consideration of S. 2244, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2014; and for

other purposes, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On December 10, 2014, on Roll Call #555 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass S. 1000—Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act of 2014, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On December 10, 2014, on Roll Call #557 on Passage of S. 2244—Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On December 10, 2014, on Roll Call #558 on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 4681, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On December 10, 2014, on Roll Call #559 on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 2719, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On December 10, 2014, on Roll Call #560 on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 1204, I am not recorded because I was absent for med-

ical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On December 11, 2014, on Roll Call #561 on H. Res. 776, Providing for Consideration of the Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment with an Amendment to H.R. 83—Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On December 11, 2014, on Roll Call #562 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 5806—Supporting America's Charities Act, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On December 11, 2014, on Roll Call #563 on the Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment with an Amendment to H.R. 83—Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On December 11, 2014, on Roll Call #564 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 5699—John Muir National Historic Site Expansion Act, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.