ROGG has received a federal grant to fund a Master Plan and Feasibility Study for the proposed pathway from Naples to Miami. Ms. Huff is currently serving on the Project Team and Steering Committees for the study.

I am privileged to know Ms. Huff, and admire her commitment to the community. In her spare time, Ms. Huff is an avid bike rider. Along with her husband Steve, they have bicycled throughout the United States and Europe every year, covering over 25,000 miles since the year 2000. She is also publisher of the "The Mullet Rapper", a bi-weekly newsletter for the Everglades community and the primary source of information for city events.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Ms. Patricia Huff for her continued service to Southwest Florida, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

IN HONOR OF OFFICER ALEX YAZZIE

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I offer my heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Officer Alex Yazzie as they mourn a husband, father, and companion gone too soon. They are joined by the grateful hearts of the community of Shiprock, the Navajo Nation, and the state of New Mexico, as we all honor a tremendous public servant who gave his life in the line of duty.

Alex had dedicated his life to serving his country and his community so that we could rest easy. From basic training at Camp Pendleton with the Marine Corps, to 14 years with the Navajo Division of Public Safety, Alex had time and time again rushed into harm's way so that we could be safer. Last Thursday was no different; Officer Alex Yazzie responded because a family was in danger, because his fellow officers were in danger, because his community needed him.

When Alex didn't come back that day he left behind a legacy of kindness and service. We are wounded by his loss, but comforted by the memories of all that he gave us and the example that he set for all those in his community.

My prayers are with those that Alex has left behind, and I hope that they find peace in this most difficult time.

HOUSE BUDGET PROPOSALS

HON. JOHN K. DELANEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, we are confronted by a set of facts that represent both tremendous opportunity and tremendous concern for our country. First, we are competing in a knowledge-based and technology-driven global economy. Second, our long-term fiscal trajectory is not sound. Third, our nation's infrastructure is increasingly inadequate and is dragging down economic growth. Fourth, millions of working Americans are still struggling to live the American Dream.

Unfortunately, none of the budgets brought to a vote on the House floor this week offer an adequate and appropriate response to these problems and priorities. I am strongly opposed to the Republican budget offered by Chairman PRICE. It fails to prepare our country for the future, hurts the most vulnerable Americans and reflects the wrong priorities, making it harder for many to pursue an education, buy a home or retire with dignity. It hurts seniors, parents and children. On balance, the Democratic alternative budget is a better reflection of our nation's values.

However, turning the budget into a political football is also not the answer. I believe that the only way we can truly address the challenges facing our country, help our workers and businesses compete and restore our fiscal health is to focus on the best ideas. I'm tired of Congress not being able to work together productively to do the people's work.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARY JANE MCSORLEY GARAMENDI

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues in the California Democratic Congressional Delegation, Congressman PETE AGUILAR, Congresswoman KAREN BASS, Congressman XAVIER BECERRA, Congressman AMI BERA, Congresswoman JULIA BROWNLEY, Congresswoman LOIS CAPPS, Congressman TONY CÁRDENAS, Congresswoman JUDY CHU, Congressman JIM COSTA, Congresswoman SUSAN DAVIS, Congressman MARK DESAULNIER, Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO, Congressman SAM FARR, Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI, Congresswoman JANICE HAHN, Congressman MIKE HONDA, Congressman JARED HUFFMAN, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, Congressman TED LIEU, Congressman ALAN LOWENTHAL, Congresswoman DORIS MATSUI, Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY, Congresswoman GRACE NAPOLITANO, Congresswoman NANCY PELOSI, Congressman SCOTT PETERS, Congresswoman LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, Congressman RAUL RUIZ, Congresswoman LINDA SÁNCHEZ, Congresswoman LORETTA SANCHEZ, Congressman ADAM SCHIFF, Congressman BRAD SHERMAN, Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER, Congressman ERIC SWALWELL, Congressman MARK TAKANO, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, Congresswoman NORMA TORRES, Congressman JUAN VARGAS, and Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS, to honor and remember the life of Mary Jane McSorley Garamendi. Mary Jane passed on March 19, 2015, amongst the prayers and support of her loving family and friends. The matriarch of the Garamendi family and a lifelong resident of Calaveras County, California, Mary Jane had a strength of spirit and benevolence of character that built a vigorous family, vibrant community, and lasting legacy.

Mary Jane was born on March 21, 1921, the granddaughter of pioneering Irish-Italian immigrants. When she was only three years old, she and her sister, Anne, lost their mother and a newborn brother, but their devoted father succeeded in raising them to be strong and independent young ladies on the family cattle ranch in Chili Gulch. Mary Jane attended and graduated from Mokelumne Hill Elementary School and then from Calaveras High School in 1938. In 1942, she graduated from the University of Nevada Reno with a teaching credential for elementary and high school.

At college, Mary Jane met Raymond V. Garamendi, a fellow student and the love of her life. Following their graduations, they spent the years of World War II stationed at posts in California, Florida, and Georgia, and then returned to Chili Gulch to build their family home on the cattle ranch and begin their life raising seven children. They grew up part of the "Greatest Generation" and were determined to teach their children the tradition of agriculture, the power of education, and the importance of good governance.

Mary Jane's narrative is one of family, service, and community betterment. Always deeply engaged in civic affairs, she participated in the Mokelumne Hill Elementary School Parents Club, Mokelumne Hill Community Club, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church Altar Society, Calaveras County Historical Society, Calaveras County Democratic Club and Central Committee, Calaveras County American Association of University Women, Mokelumne Hill Community Historical Trust, and the Mokelumne Hill History Society. She volunteered as a Cub Scout leader and Catechism teacher, served as a foreman on the Calaveras Grand Jury, and became a Board Member for the Mark Twain St. Joseph Foundation. She was a devout Catholic and lifelong parishioner of the St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Mokelumne Hill, which afforded other opportunities to engage and enrich the community. Whether she was serving at the Calaveras Women's Shelter, the Mokelumne Hill History Center, or the Calaveras County Museum, she readily and enthusiastically donated her time, heart, and energy to the people and places around her.

A civic leader, Mary Jane was honored by the Phi Beta Phi Fraternity in recognition of 75 years of membership, earning the honor of induction into the Diamond Arrow Society. In 2009, she was named the State of California "Woman of the Year" by her son, JOHN GARAMENDI, who was California Lieutenant Governor at the time. Her contributions to education, agriculture, and government also helped earn an honor for the Garamendi family by the Calaveras County Fair & Jumping Frog Jubilee.

For Mary Jane, life itself was an act of joy and remembering. This shone through her commitment to the preservation of her rich Irish-Italian heritage and her careful studying of the Pitto and McSorley family histories. When Ray passed away in 1991, Mary Jane oversaw the family ranch alongside her son, Robert, allowing the working traditions to continue uninterrupted. The Ranch, which received a California Agriculture Heritage Award in 2005, is now in its 152nd year of operation, spanning six generations and lending a sense of tradition and timelessness to the family's weddings, reunions, and Christmas parties.

Mary Jane was a friend, a global adventurer, and the best sports enthusiast her children and grandchildren could ever hope for. Mary Jane's love and legacy continue on in the spirit, vigor, and joy of her 21 grandchildren and 35 great-grandchildren. She will be remembered for her unconditional love, her interminable commitment to service, and the popsicles she kept stocked in the freezer for

the children to enjoy after summer swims. Reflecting back on her proud gold country heritage, her many years of good health, her large and ever-growing family, she would often say, "I am a very lucky lady." We were lucky to have known her, and are filled with gratitude for the opportunity to honor such a full and profound life.

RECOGNIZING THE WOMEN LEADERS OF GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I would like to take a moment to honor a few women from New York who were trailblazers of the gun violence prevention movement.

Barbara Hohlt, Tina Johnstone, Ellen Freudenheim, and Robyn Ringler are founders of and volunteers with New Yorkers Against Gun Violence who worked tirelessly to pass the original Brady Bill in 1993, which strengthened federal background checks on firearms purchasers. These women, along with my constituent Donna Dees-Thomases, and countless others went on to organize the historic "Million Mom March" which will celebrate its 15 year milestone this year on Mother's Day.

These volunteers and activists are the backbone of the movement for sensible gun laws and safer communities. With the leadership of these courageous women and others like them, New York has taken important steps to improve our gun safety laws, including requiring background checks on all gun sales. It is critical that Congress follow through on sensible reforms to close existing loopholes, prevent accidental handgun deaths, and provide law enforcement with the necessary resources to keep dangerous firearms out of the wrong hands.

In keeping with the theme of this Women's History Month: "Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives," I would like to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the testimony of one mother in particular, Karin Wilson. She was a talented Brooklyn artist who in 2005 delivered these words before the United Nations. If you take the time to read her words, you'll understand the toll of gun violence on our society and the need for bold action in Congress.

NO CHILD'S LIFE SHOULD END WITH A BANG

KARIN WILSON, MILLION MOM MARCH, BROOKLYN

ADDRESS TO THE UNITED NATIONS JULY 2005

I lost my beloved son, my only child Christian on December 3, 1999. Just 28 days after he turned 19, he was a man-child, not quite an adult but past adolescence. The millennium came in a way I could have never imagined. The pain is indescribable; the magnitude of my loss makes me inconsolable. I've been wronged and robbed! I'm from the United States, I live in the state of New York, born and raised in the Borough of Brooklyn, which is just across the river from here. The U.S. is one of the most powerful and technologically advanced countries on this planet. We haven't fought a war in this country since the American Civil War, a war that was fought from 1861–1865.

Yet in my neighborhood and in many others in this country we hear gun shots at night. Parents start doing silent headcounts of their children after hearing the sounds of gun shots. We have neighbors, friends and family members who were killed or maimed with a firearm. Because of my son's death I became part of the largest grassroots anti-gun violence movement in the United States.

Let me tell you how my life has changed. I won't have the comfort of my son looking after me in my old age. I won't have my son around making sure I'm eating well, taking my medications properly, taking care of my bills, making sure that my house is warm in winter, and sidewalks shovelled and de-iced when it snows. I don't have any more graduations to attend, or opportunities to applaud successful career achievements. I no longer hear funny stories or jokes (and I was told my son was one of the funniest guys around, he kept people laughing and feeling good.) But worst of all I can't look or touch him anymore.

When you people leave here, and fly back home to your country, you probably have wives and husbands, children and grandchildren. You know it's through our children we get a little bit of immortality. You know your face, your body type, your values are going to be around long after you're gone . . . because of your children. Children are our legacy.

Well I was robbed. And it looks like I won't have a legacy now. My face, my body type, my values will probably disappear when I die. It doesn't look like any part of me will appear in the future. In the next century it will be as if I never, ever existed. And, that's pretty sad.

I've learned that there is nothing definite, overt action to overcome the inertia of grief. Most of us have someone who needs us. If we haven't, we can find someone! So instead of praying for the strength to survive, I prayed for the strength to give away.

I joined the MILLION MOM MARCH. I went from being a victim of gun violence to a survivor of gun violence. And, now I'm an advocate for survivors. I'm thoroughly committed to saving other children. Though I couldn't save my own child's life, I'm going to do all I can to save yours.

I know it is possible to reduce the number of deaths and injuries caused by gun violence. Our children have the right to grow up in environments free from the threat of gun violence. My son certainly had that right which he didn't get.

Our children want to grow old. All humans have the right to be safe from gun violence in their homes, neighborhoods, schools and places of work and worship.

Gun violence is a public health crisis of global proportions that harms not only the physical, but the spiritual, social and economic health of our families and communities.

The Million Mom March has a slogan, which I subscribe to 100 percent: ''No child's life should end with a bang''.

I am trying to understand why my child had to die by gunshot, but I don't understand. I know that you people listening to me have very powerful positions in your governments, and you'll probably never cross paths with women like me again. So I implore to listen compassionately to what we have said today.

If I had one wish, it would be that all governments would monitor the manufacture and distribution of firearms and bullets with the same degree of care that they use to monitor the removal of nuclear waste from reactors.

We have an opportunity to change laws and create real accountability on these items. We have to stand up now and be counted on to do the right thing!

RECOGNIZING THE KHOJALY MASSACRE

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to all of the victims of the Khojaly Massacre which occurred on February 26, 1992 in the small Azerbaijani town of Khojaly. The Khojaly Massacre claimed six hundred and thirteen innocent civilians and remains one of the most devastating acts of violence in South Caucasus history. To date the fate of one hundred and fifty Khojaly civilians remain unknown.

Due to the rising tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan there are countless casualties and innocent lives taken daily. More so than ever the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict calls for fair, political, and comprehensive settlement in order to encourage multi-national stability and economic prosperity. As co-chair of the Minsk Group, the United States remains devoted to working with both sides to achieve these goals. As we honor the victims of the Khojaly Massacre we must stay committed to working together to protect the human rights of all.

STOP TARGETING FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I voted on Wednesday, March 25, in favor of H. Con. Res. 27, authored by Budget Committee Chairman TOM PRICE, because it is my belief that Congress has a responsibility to address our nation's fiscal crisis.

This proposal is simply a visionary document and a way forward in the budgetary process so we can continue the debate about the financial challenges our country faces and return to funding the government through regular order.

Like last year's proposal, the budget plan for FY 2016 calls for significant reductions in discretionary spending, reduced taxes and the full repeal of the President's costly health care reform law. It proposes a balanced budget in less than 10 years and recognizes that we can no longer ignore the trillions of dollars in mandatory spending on entitlement programs that almost completely consume our nation's budget.

This year's plan also asks Members of Congress to again lead by example by cutting their own pay, benefits and office budgets in the quest to reduce our debt and put this nation on sound financial footing.

Further, the proposal protects our nation's defense and security forces. I have repeatedly said that we must get serious about the national security threats that exist in this world and what is required of our forward presence and response forces.

This budget gives the United States the flexibility and capabilities that are essential to the rebalance of our security posture toward the Asia Pacific, our enduring security commitments in the Middle East, and the need to respond to contingency operations around the globe.