

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2015

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, the day of December 1st, I am not recorded on seven votes because I was absent due to illness.

If I had been present, I would have voted: yes, on rollcall 646; yes, on rollcall 647; yes, on rollcall 648; yes, on rollcall 649; yes, on rollcall 650; yes, on rollcall 651; and yes on rollcall 652.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE POMPEO

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Speaker, I commend Chairman NUNES, Ranking Member SCHIFF, and the entire Intelligence Committee for crafting the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016. This is a strong and bipartisan piece of legislation that will ensure the safety of every American.

For the people of the Fourth District of Kansas, whom I represent, and for many other Americans, this bill represents more than just the three letter agencies it oversees, this bill is about ensuring the U.S. has a robust national security posture to keep Americans safe. When we empower the men and women in the Intelligence Community with the resources, tools, and capabilities they need, they are able to do their jobs and protect our nation.

It is in the finest traditions of Congress that there has been such close cooperation between the House and Senate in undertaking our oversight responsibilities, and also productive collaboration with the Intelligence Community. As always, in the Committee's work of providing guidance to the Intelligence Community, we continue to recommend fiscal responsibility through increased efficiency and the elimination of unnecessary programs. All of this is done with a close eye to protecting every American's Constitutional rights.

I do not need to remind anyone that the threats facing the United States are real and dangerous. I applaud the decision to empower our intelligence agencies with potent tools, all the while focused on protecting privacy, to ensure that our interests and our way of life are protected in these uncertain times.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR JEFFREY D. SHULMAN, USAF

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, for the past year, Major Jeff Shulman has served as an Air Force Congressional Fellow in my personal office, and today marks his graduation from that program. Major Shulman has been selected for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel as he will be accepting a new assignment abroad serving our country in the coming year.

Major Shulman's Air Force career began when he was first commissioned as a Distinguished Graduate from Saint Louis University in 2003. He has served with distinction as an F-16 Instructor Pilot, Mission Commander, and a Flight Examiner in the AT-38C. Additionally he has served as an Aide-de-Camp to two Four-Star General officers as well as a fellow at RAND Corporation. Major Shulman has flown the F-16 operationally during Operation NOBLE EAGLE and Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and has 170 combat hours in the F-16 and over 1,500 hours in fighter aircraft.

Major Shulman quickly became a valued and respected member of my staff, and was responsible for making invaluable contributions to several major legislative projects, including preserving and protecting military test and training ranges in the Western United States against various types of encroachments and undue restrictions.

Major Shulman is truly representative of some of the finest of his generation serving in the United States military, and I believe that his actions and conduct so far in his career have demonstrated a commitment to the Air Force's core values of integrity, service before self, and excellence in all he does.

Our nation is well-served to have individuals of Major Shulman's caliber and integrity serving to defend our freedoms. As he leaves his Capitol Hill fellowship, we can all join in saying to him, job well done.

As he and his loving and dedicated family move on to the next assignment, we send with them our best wishes for a happy and successful future.

RECOGNIZING THE SOCIETY OF INNOVATORS OF NORTHWEST INDIANA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2015

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and enthusiasm that I congratulate Ivy Tech Community College and its regional partners who recently celebrated their 11th Annual Northwest Indiana Innovation Induction Ceremony. At the ceremony, which re-

flects the "Spirit of Innovation" in Indiana, eleven individuals and fifteen teams were inducted as members of the 2015-2016 Class of The Society of Innovators of Northwest Indiana. Of these individuals, several members were inducted as Society Fellows for their exceptional efforts in innovation. These individuals are Erin Argyilan, Ph.D., Marilyn Brunk, Tom Clark, Joseph Coar, Joseph Ferrandino, Ph.D., and Donald Galbreath. Also honored were two Chanute Prize recipients, the Green Abilities Team at The Arc Northwest Indiana, and Indiana University Health La Porte Hospital. In addition, the "Accelerating Greatness" award was presented to Edgewater Behavioral Health Services and Methodist Hospital, Northlake Campus, for its level III "in the process" trauma center. For their truly remarkable contributions to the community of Northwest Indiana and their continuous efforts to cultivate a culture of innovation, these honorees were inducted at the Horseshoe Casino in Hammond, Indiana, on Thursday, October 22, 2015.

The Society of Innovators of Northwest Indiana was created by Ivy Tech Northwest with the goal of highlighting and encouraging innovative individuals and groups within the not-for-profit, public, and private sectors, as well as building a "culture of innovation" in Northwest Indiana. The importance of innovation in Northwest Indiana, as well as globally, is crucial in today's ever-changing economy.

The fellows selected by the Society of Innovators were chosen for their extraordinary innovative leadership and the impact of their accomplishments throughout Northwest Indiana and beyond. Erin Argyilan, Ph.D., is a geologist at Indiana University Northwest. Dr. Argyilan established a new model of a previously unknown geological hazard in sand dunes. Her discovery is called a "dune decomposition chimney or tunnel," and her extensive research helped to explain why six-year-old Nathan Woessner was trapped in a hole on Mount Baldy in 2013. Marilyn Brunk is a teacher at Griffith High School. Marilyn launched a computer science and programming class involving video games, which is the first of its kind in Northwest Indiana and possibly the entire state. Griffith students are excited about this innovative class and enrollment continues to grow each year. Tom Clark is a teacher at Lake Central High School. Tom started the Gold Star Honor Roll Project thirty years ago, and it is among the longest running experimental learning projects in the state and one of the largest in the nation. The project, which is celebrated by students and faculty, involves learning through the gathering of historic memorabilia, validating records, and visiting families of American soldiers killed in combat. Joseph Coar, of Tonn and Blank Construction, spearheaded a carpenter's apprenticeship program that put Indiana in the forefront of innovative curricula for high school students. In addition, his support led to the implementation of the program at A.K. Smith Career Center in La Porte, the first career center in Indiana to offer this program. Joseph

● 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.

Ferrandino, Ph.D., associate professor of criminal justice at Indiana University Northwest, founded the Northwest Indiana Public Safety Data Consortium, which transforms how public safety communicates throughout the region. This truly innovative project connects data and imaging among nearly thirty participating agencies and across four counties. Donald Galbreath has been an innovator in the waste handling industry for the past sixty years. He is best known for inventing “the most user friendly roll-off hoist in his industry.” The majority of roll-off hoists used in the waste, scrap, and construction hauling industries were influenced by his inventions.

The recipients of the Chanute Prize for Team Innovation should be commended for their contributions. The Green Abilities Team at The Arc Northwest Indiana received this honor for its truly innovative and successful on-site training program in which special needs individuals are taught how to recycle granite remnants into landscaping pavers, tile veneers, and other repurposed products. Indiana University Health La Porte Hospital also received this honor for implementing initiatives that promote a “fair and just culture” in which employees are encouraged to report problems. In addition, the hospital launched Rapid Improvement Events in which skilled teams, including physicians, spend a full week focusing on a single opportunity for improvement. These solutions are tested and then implemented within a timeframe goal of thirty days.

The Accelerating Greatness Award for Team Innovation included two recipients. Edgewater Behavioral Health Services is the first in the state to develop a program that helps to provide immediate attention to people in psychiatric crisis. The Rapid Access Center allows adults experiencing these types of problems to get help in a short amount of time regardless of their ability to pay for services. Methodist Hospital, Northlake Campus, was also honored with this award for opening the first level III “in the process” trauma center in Northwest Indiana, which is the sixteenth in the state. This has been a goal for Methodist Hospitals for more than a decade.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these outstanding innovators. The contributions they have made to society here in Northwest Indiana and worldwide are immeasurable and lifelong. For their truly brilliant innovative ideas, projects, and leadership, each recipient is worthy of the highest commendation.

VETERANS DAY AND AN
AMERICAN POW OF JAPAN

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2015

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the veterans of my district. In particular, I want to call attention to my constituent from Carlsbad, California, Dr. Lester Tenney, 95, a proud member of the 192nd Tank Battalion of the U.S. Army that fought in the defense of Bataan, the Philippines against Imperial Japan in the first battles of World War II.

Surrendered by his commanders on April 9, 1942, he survived the infamous 65-mile Ba-

taan Death March, a Hellship to Japan, and nearly three years of brutal, slave labor in a Mitsui coal in southern Japan that is today an UNESCO World Industrial Heritage site.

On this 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, it is important to call attention to Dr. Tenney's most important achievement. This has been to forgive his capturers and to forge meaningful friendships with Japanese citizens.

In 2008, Dr. Tenney sat down with Japan's ambassador to the United States Ichiro Fujisaki with two simple requests: 1) an official apology to the Allied POWs for the prohibited abuse and slave labor they experienced in the care of Imperial Japan; and 2) a visitation program to Japan to initiate healing and reconciliation. In 2009, the apology was delivered and in 2010 the annual trips began.

The result of efforts and experiences by men like Dr. Tenney is that for 70 years Japan has enjoyed a prosperous peace and the United States and Japan have become unshakeable allies. Dr. Tenney reflects upon this and his POW experiences in his occasional articles for *The Wall Street Journal*.

For this year's anniversary of surrender on the USS *Missouri*, Dr. Tenney wrote what that time meant to him and the other POWs who had been liberated. He rightly points out that the war and the peace is composed of the deeds and sacrifices of many: foot soldier to general; sailor to fisherman; mother to widow. None should be forgotten.

With profound respect, I submit Dr. Tenney's essay in which he eloquently reminds us to honor our veterans and implores us to pass on and teach future generations of the legacy of World War II in the Pacific.

[From the *Wall Street Journal*, Sept. 1, 2015]

JAPAN'S WAR LEGACY

THE POSTWAR GENERATION MAY NOW BE THE MAJORITY IN JAPAN, BUT THEY TOO MUST KNOW THE ATROCITIES OF WAR

(By Lester Tenney)

Imperial Japan became history on Sept. 2, 1945. Gen. Douglas MacArthur accepted Japan's unconditional surrender on the deck of the USS *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay, ending World War II. For me, nearly 600 miles south in a prisoner of war camp outside Nagasaki, unaware of these historic events, I simply remember the pure joy of liberation.

What was V-J Day like for POWs? For those of us in Fukuoka No. 17-B POW Camp, the war ended on Aug. 15, when our Mitsui company overseers, without explanation, stopped sending us down into their coal mine. We were returned to camp for an unusual midday meal of limitless rice and recognizable vegetables. We received our first full Red Cross boxes. And the camp guards said “hello” in English instead of striking us with their rifle butts for not bowing.

After lunch, the camp commander, flanked by trucks mounted with machine guns, gathered us on the camp's parade ground. He curtly announced, “America and Japan now friends. War is over.”

There is no accurate way to describe how it feels to be a slave one moment—starved and abused, forced to work long hours in a treacherous mine, beaten daily for not working fast enough or not bowing low enough—and a free man the next.

After more than two years underground in the dark, narrow seams of a coal mine, it was glorious to be in the sun. American planes soon appeared overhead and with them came parachutes carrying 55-gallon

drums of food, clothing, medicines and magazines. One parachute failed to open, its cargo of fruit salad spilling out onto the camp yard. We happily and immediately dined on the scattered remains.

Baron Mitsui, a 1915 Dartmouth graduate who owned our coal mine and many others, hosted a series of dinners for senior Allied commanding officers of our POW camp. The baron had often visited his captive village and was aware of the grim conditions. Over the meals, he reportedly asked the officers for their tolerance and thanked them for their efforts. Photos from the dinner series show a wary indulgence in the eyes of the American, Australian, British and Dutch guests.

Fast forward to last month, when Prime Minister Shinzo Abe used the same word—tolerance—in his statement on the 70th anniversary of the war's end. “How much emotional struggle must have existed and what great efforts must have been necessary . . . for the former POWs who experienced unbearable sufferings caused by the Japanese military in order for them to be so tolerant nevertheless?” Mr. Abe marveled.

While I welcome any step, however modest, the Japanese make in addressing war crimes committed against POWs, this word stops me short. It makes a war crime a matter of inconvenience. I can tolerate someone cutting me off in traffic. But being a POW was not a matter of tolerance. It was a matter of life or death—mostly death.

The denial of water and food on the Bataan Death March didn't simply inconvenience us; it killed thousands of soldiers. My fellow prisoners and I didn't tolerate nor have we forgotten the beatings and torture, the starvation and broken bones, or the filth and stench of dying men. What tolerance did I have watching my buddy tortured so viciously that he had to have both legs amputated?

And what of today? Our wait for Japan's apology, offered officially in February 2009, wasn't tolerance. It was patience. Patience for justice.

Still, Mr. Abe's awkward statement on Aug. 15 suggests that our patience may not be in vain. His mention of POWs is the only reference in the statement that clearly matches a noun of wrongdoing to a verb of responsibility. He correctly points out that “unbearable suffering” was “caused” by Imperial Japan's military. Acknowledging the perpetrator of a crime and the crime itself is the first step toward reconciliation.

For me, the war is hard to forget. But as Mr. Abe points out, the postwar generations are now the majority in Japan. Japanese today aren't responsible for what happened more than 70 years ago. But they also cannot forget or distort the past.

Japan owes me, the descendants of its victims and its own citizens the truth. As Mr. Abe said, “We Japanese, across generations, must squarely face the history of the past. We have the responsibility to inherit the past, in all humbleness, and pass it on to the future.”

Imperial Japan tormented, enslaved and defiled many people. This is a grave legacy to pass on and to teach future generations. But it is vital to keep memories like mine alive. It's one thing to remember great deeds done by great men, like Gen. MacArthur in Tokyo Bay. But World War II's history is composed of the suffering of many individuals in different circumstances. This, too, should not be forgotten, or else the lessons of the war will be incomplete.

A FATHER'S LOVE: IN HONOR OF
BRETT FAVRE "4" AT THE RE-
TIRING OF HIS NUMBER AT
LAMBEAU FIELD

HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2015

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Brett Favre, who was inducted into the Hall of Fame this past summer, and the halftime ceremony which took place on Thanksgiving retiring his number "4" at Lambeau Field. I submit this poem penned in his honor by Albert Carey Caswell.

A FATHER'S LOVE

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

The heart of a champion,
and from where does it all so come
And how is one so born into this among
And where does such a splendid gift originate
from
And how may we pass on these gifts of love,
to our sons
For its only through our love and time,
and life lessons find, what we have won
For our days on this earth,
are the shortest of all ones
So cherish each moment with your sons
For its all about what we leave behind,
when all is said and done
So who will we touch before our last suns
To raise a son and instill in him all his of
hopes and dreams,
and values to come
To bestow upon him all your gifts of love,
to help him rise above
One of our Lord's most precious gifts,
is to raise a child of love
No greater blessing on the wings of a dove
Because a child is the brightest of all lights.
Passing onto him all our wisdom and love.
Watching him grow up into a fine man,
is the culmination of all our dreams begun
There was once a little boy sitting on his fa-
ther's knee,
as his dad spoke to him about his future
dreams,
and what he could be.
"listen my son, you are the one, believe"
"And little man, you will go Favre
and football is in your blood and she'll give
you all you need!"
And from that first day as was completed,
such a warm bond in hearts to succeed it
A catch with dad, a fine Father and Son,
as such a love story grew on fields of green
Like Father like Son into this winning team
As a father and a coach passed onto him his
creed
Showing him what he would need
And what it was to be a man,
hitting pay dirt in The Game of Life . . . TD
A pat on the back, extending a warm hand,
and respect to demand,
to lead his heart towards his future dreams
And throughout the years,
those bumps and bruises here
Nights at home with broken bones,
and contusions as a love story grew so dear.
Pop Warner, High School ball,
and then a College comes to call,
and soon the big leagues Brett's name would
fear
To be a Pro, at the Top, To Be The Best,
as Brett's leadership they could not contest
As the cream of the crop,
is an almost impossible quest,
to be in The Hall of Fame one day as one of
The Very Best
In football,

the very heart of any team is but The Quar-
terback

The point from which,
all leadership on fields of green attacks
Where the toughest of the tough react
With only micro seconds to counteract,
on coming mammoths of size and speed
As all around you 300lb men come crashing
in,

trying to make you bleed
And throughout the years,
many great names have here played on fields
of green

Like Johnny Its U, The Young Man too, The
Montana Man,
In the Namath of Football whose legend
grew, that Shaw of Football
Terry too, and Peyton's Place, Marino, Cap-
tain Comeback Stauback,
a Cool Brees, Brady, Rocket Rogers a list of
greats he, and Bart a Star of
the who's who

And now its Brave Brett,
that gunslinger with the quad threat history
pursued

And when we close the
door on number "4"
in The Hall of Fame him we will view
A "4" threat man who can beat you with his
feet,

his arm, his head, and his heart too.
Because on fields of green,
Brett is one of greatest warriors seen
SMASHING ALL KNOWN RECORDS AS HE
DEEMED

A gunslinger who could hit any target,
dislocating receivers fingers on his team
And it did not happen by luck or by cir-
cumstance,

but because of a Father's Love which gave
him the chance

Who helped him shape his future dreams,
as reflections of him in Brett are seen
Because of this great love which convened.
Which helped him weather the storms of life,
when days turned mean.

As he grew up strong and tall,
to compete on those fields of green
For Football is such a splendid game,
where her life lessons with us remain
Where a Father and Son's reflections,
into future generation can be seen
The year was 2003,

as across our country a great love story was
about to convene

As the power of a Father and Son's love,
our Nation was about to glean
As Brett went deep on the TV screen
Just like the Gipper of old,

a new love story was about to unfold
As a Nation for his son so grieved
To win one for DAD on fields of green
With tears in eyes, Brett showed us all why,
in life what the most so really means
As we saw what his Dad had given him,
so deep down inside that which gleams
Solid Gold,

molding one of the greatest of all time so.
Bringing tears to eyes
In life, no greater victory can be achieved.
Then the love of a parent and child believe
From end to end,

no greater drive could be conceived
Sadly though, some children will never know
such a friend so very deep

To arm a child,
with their love all the while to compete.
To realize his dreams to seek

Up in heaven this day
Brett your Dad is working out a long term
contract with Vince and our Lord for when
you come up to play

Where, you can walk with your Best Friend
and talk football and go fishing once again.
For Heaven my friends,

is the real Super Bowl for all us to contend.
And there can be no greater gift,

then all of this in a child's heart to help him
rise above

And that's why In The Game of Life,
Brett always went deep armed with his Fa-
ther's Love.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 22,
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION RE-
AUTHORIZATION AND REFORM
ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Conference Report on H.R. 22, The Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act. This agreement is long overdue, as communities across the country have been clamoring for a long-term funding bill that provides certainty to infrastructure projects across the country, rather than trying to pay for these projects with flat-line funding and short-term extensions.

This legislative measure provides \$281 billion in guaranteed funding for highway, transit, and transportation safety programs for five years. This funding will keep these programs solvent for the entire five-year period. In addition, the agreement provides \$24 billion from the General Fund, including \$11.5 billion to be used for transit New Starts projects and \$10.4 billion for Amtrak and intercity passenger rail grants. Thanks to this measure, California will receive \$19.4 billion in highway funding and \$6.8 billion in transit funding over the five-year period.

I am also proud to support the four-year reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank included in this conference report. This bank supports millions of dollars in exports by 40th District businesses, and helps level the playing field for American businesses to better compete in today's ever-growing, interconnected economy. I applaud the bipartisan effort which was so critical to including the bank's reauthorization in this agreement, and I look forward to witnessing the bank's further success and its continued support for American businesses.

However, this package is not perfect. The reality is our country needs an even more robust investment in infrastructure than what is provided through this measure. I also have concerns about the funding provisions in this bill. For example, it indexes Customs User Fees to inflation and uses them to offset the cost of the bill at a time when these fees are needed for expenses related to staffing at our borders.

Nevertheless, I hope that the funding stability this agreement provides will allow us to look ahead to the long-term solvency of the highway and transit programs. Congress should utilize the five-year authorization period to develop a reliable and reasonable funding mechanism to pay for future reauthorizations that eliminates the need for multiple short-term extensions. I believe this bipartisan legislation is a step in the right direction, and I urge all members to support this agreement.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 22,
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION RE-
AUTHORIZATION AND REFORM
ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN C. CARNEY, JR.

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I submit this statement regarding House passage of Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. With many reservations and a sense of frustration, I will vote for this bill. I believe in the bill's core goals—investing in our infrastructure and providing stability to our transportation system. The legislation raises funding levels to meet the needs of our crumbling roads and bridges and avoids the short-term patches that have plagued the bill for years. I'm also glad it's the result of a bipartisan effort, and supports infrastructure projects and programs like the High Density Transit Program and the Export-Import Bank.

That said, once again, Congress missed an opportunity. We had the chance to responsibly and sustainably fund our transportation system with real revenue sources. Instead, we cobbled together one-time funding sources that will put us right back where we are today when the bill expires: in the midst of a funding shortfall and a crisis. I had long advocated for funding our transportation bill by collecting taxes on corporate profits trapped overseas. This would be a step towards fixing our broken tax system and would discourage American companies from moving overseas. Doing so also would have provided a significant source of funding for the bill, and created the momentum to reform our international tax code. Instead, our tax code is still broken, and we no longer have the leverage of a must-pass transportation bill to fix it.

Passage of this bill means we're better off than we were before. States and local transportation agencies have the certainty they need to map out the infrastructure improvement projects our nation sorely needs. And our public transit system will be strengthened. I remain committed to finding a more responsible way to fund these programs and to fixing our tax system.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 22,
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION RE-
AUTHORIZATION AND REFORM
ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the passage of H.R. 22, Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, is a significant accomplishment. It ends the embarrassing string of 37 short-term extensions. It provides five years of certainty with modest, but important, increased spending levels. There are provisions that deal with safety, innovation, and integrating passenger rail into overall surface transportation, among many other notable items.

I am pleased that a number of provisions that I have authored and championed have

found their way into the final version of this legislation. One of the unheralded provisions potentially has the most significant, far-reaching consequences—the expansion of work on an alternative user-fee to replace the gas tax. This reflects legislation I have introduced that builds upon the Oregon pilot project on road user charges. There is also a specific title dealing with innovation. The next five years will see unparalleled changes in transportation practices and technology that can have a transformational effect on our way of life, and this bill embraces this.

Unfortunately, Congress continues to refuse to address a Highway Trust Fund that is inadequate and losing purchasing power by the month. Refusing to increase the gas tax for 22 years or to have any other source of revenue has complicated passage of a long-term bill. Instead, the collection of budget gimmicks paying for the legislation are, in many cases, questionable. For example, using private bill collectors to hound low-income taxpayers who run into financial difficulty is a money loser, as well as ineffective and unpopular. This is one of many ways the bill is paid for, basically to disguise the use of the Treasury's general fund instead of the traditional user fee model.

I am hopeful that we can use the next five years to build upon the positive framework of the legislation and for Congress to accept the overwhelming consensus of the people who build, maintain, and use our surface transportation system. They want to increase user fees to adequately fund transportation, and so should we as well.

I will vote for this bill because the positive policy features are compelling and because it gives us an opportunity to use this five-year period of stability to get it right. I will spare no effort to do so, and I hope I'm joined by my colleagues so that the next reauthorization truly enables us to rebuild and renew America, put millions of Americans to work at family wage jobs, and strengthen communities from coast to coast.

CEDAR CLIFF UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2015

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the achievements of an outstanding faith community, the Cedar Cliff United Methodist Church (UMC), which celebrated their ministry's 125th Anniversary of successful service to the community of Haledon on Sunday, December 6, 2015.

Since December 7, 1890, when it first opened its doors, the church has stood in its current location, serving as a house of worship in the town of Haledon, on 18 Zabriskie Street. The church has its own unique piece of history, through their bell which was donated by U.S. Vice President Barret A. Hobart. Many members of the church have also served in the military since World War I.

Cedar Cliff UMC is located in a neighborhood that is ethnically diverse and constantly changing. It has one traditional Sunday morning worship service. Current ministries within the church include the prayer shawl ministry, Bible study, Monday night yoga classes, a

food pantry and joint fellowship events with a partner church that shares its facilities. The church has also been home to many Boys & Girls Scout troops throughout the years.

The church has been a place where many babies have been baptized, a place where couples get married, and also a place where family members have laid their loved ones to rest in their sanctuary. But most importantly, many lives have been changed by the people that have called Cedar Cliff UMC home since 1890. The ministry has been a major part of the Haledon community and continues to serve all. The Church members and organizers have worked passionately to build many bridges between different groups within the faith community.

The Cedar Cliff UMC has had many leaders throughout its years. Today, it is led by Reverend Pamela Grant James, who has inspired many to follow the path of faith and kindness. Reverend James has helped shape our society and is deserving of every bit of recognition for her selfless actions.

It gives me pride to recognize the excellence of the Cedar Cliff UMC and I thank them for servicing the residents of Haledon. I am grateful to represent the Church and its congregation within the 9th Congressional District of New Jersey.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the achievements of faith communities such as the Cedar Cliff UMC.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, and the Cedar Cliff UMC in celebrating their 125th Anniversary and recognizing their leadership, dedication and loyalty to serving the community.

RECOGNIZING PETER H. CRESSY,
EDD.

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and commend Dr. Peter H. Cressy, Ed.D., the President and CEO of the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States on his remarkable career and wish him well as he is set to retire from this position in January.

Dr. Cressy has led an impressive career that includes 28 years of service to our nation in the United States Navy which concluded with his retirement as a Rear Admiral. His leadership roles continued with some of the nation's most prestigious academic institutions, and in government service roles where he held senior positions at the State Department, on Capitol Hill, and the Pentagon.

Dr. Cressy's most recent leadership role at the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States has led to a stronger, more responsible, and transparent industry. Under his leadership the distilled spirits industry has grown both domestically and internationally all while placing an emphasis on and commitment to responsible and transparent practices. This commitment is evident in the industry's advertising and marketing Code of Responsible Practices which has been referenced as a model of responsible industry self-regulation as well as the Council's efforts to work with retailers and wholesalers, universities, and

health professionals to support programs to prevent alcohol abuse. Dr. Cressy's leadership has demonstrated the value of transparent and responsible ethics and has resulted in tangible successes across all facets of the industry.

Dr. Cressy's passion for responsible business practices and the expansion of business are tremendous but he also takes great pride in preserving the storied history and heritage of the U.S. distilled spirits industry. One of his most notable successes with respect to historical preservation was his leadership in undertaking the \$1.6 million dollar reconstruction of George Washington's Distillery at Historic Mount Vernon. Since the project's completion the Council and the industry have maintained an ongoing relationship with the estate which now carries out a historic preservation and educational mission. In fact it is where they hold their annual industry Spirit of Mount Vernon dinner gala which has raised over \$4 million to advance the educational mission at Mount Vernon.

Dr. Cressy's leadership will be sorely missed at the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States and by those who have come to know him through his work, but I know the entire distilled spirits industry and many others join me in recognizing his career full of achievements and wishing him the best as he moves into a new chapter of his life. Again congratulations to Dr. Cressy on his retirement and a job well done.

CONGRATULATING THE ROMEO
BULLDOGS FOOTBALL TEAM ON
WINNING THE DIVISION 1 MICHIGAN
STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2015

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct privilege to recognize a special achievement recently accomplished by the Romeo Bulldogs High School Football Team. Romeo capped off a remarkable and extremely memorable 2015 season by taking home to Macomb County the school's first ever Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) Division 1 State Championship. After a hard fought, one loss regular season the Bulldogs charged into the playoffs facing great adversity, challenging weather conditions and tough competition before upsetting the number four ranked Detroit Cass Tech Technicians at Ford Field.

In 2002, Romeo was in need of a football coach. Assistant coaches Curt Rienas and Jason Couch both applied for the job and were named co-coaches. Coaches Rienas and Couch had Romeo Bulldogs football in their veins, first meeting each other as teammates on the field and the friendship grew. The two had made it to the semifinals together, but never further until this team. Coach Curt Rienas and Coach Jason Couch became the first co-coaches in playoff history to win a state championship. The Bulldogs played strong hard-nosed football focusing on the basic fundamentals and taking each play one at a time. This meant each player executing his designated assignment and beating the man in front of him. This also included playing

sound defense with solid tackling and implementing an offensive scheme that would make an NFL playbook look elementary. The Bulldogs kept constant pressure on their opponents by blocking a punt, recovering an onside kick and making big plays on offense.

Before making it to the State Championship game, the Romeo Bulldogs played what will probably be remembered as the second most memorable game of the season. The Romeo Bulldogs faced off against Grand Ledge in Brighton, Michigan for a game of the ages. Over a half foot of snow fell during the game and the Bulldogs ended Grand Ledge's historic undefeated season with a 48–21 victory.

With victories against current state champion Clarkston, Lapeer, Detroit Catholic Central and finally Grand Ledge, the Bulldogs were ready for their final challenge against the Detroit Cass Tech Technicians. The team brushed aside any potential distractions and purely focused on winning the game. Despite the best efforts of Detroit Cass Tech, the Romeo Bulldogs would not be denied because this was their day alone.

After an exciting first quarter and a 13–7 Bulldogs lead, the game remained close at the half with the Bulldogs holding on to a 19–14 lead. Romeo started the second half off by recovering the opening onside kick. The Bulldogs would use the favorable field position to drive 48 yards to the end zone putting the Bulldogs ahead 26–14. On Cass Tech's next possession, the Technicians went three-and-out which forced a punting situation. Romeo blocked the punt, again giving the Bulldogs excellent field position. The following play was a 20-yard run for a touchdown to put the Bulldogs in the lead by a score of 33–14. Nearing the end of the third quarter, Cass Tech would put six points on the board and follow it up with a touchdown halfway through the fourth quarter cutting the Bulldogs lead to 33–27. The Romeo Bulldogs would continue to pressure and push the play, resulting in a touchdown with 1:29 left in the game to seal the victory and make school history.

The Bulldogs throughout the year exhibited the intangible ingredients which make up a winning football team: heart, discipline and a positive attitude. As legendary Hall of Fame Green Bay Packers Coach Vince Lombardi once said, "A man can be as great as he wants to be. If you believe in yourself and have the courage, the determination, the dedication, the competitive drive and if you are willing to sacrifice the little things in life and pay the price for the things that are worthwhile, it can be done."

I applaud these young men for remaining both mentally and physically ready to compete. In addition, I want to commend the Bulldogs for staying energized and focused each time they stepped on to the gridiron. I understand this can be an extremely difficult task considering the numerous pressures and distractions high school student-athletes can encounter.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the hard work and sportsmanship displayed by all the members of this football team. I also want to congratulate administrators, teachers, cheerleaders, parents, students and fans alike for their assistance and for making this an unforgettable season. The Bulldogs proved they had the talent, fortitude and resilience to rise to the challenge and accomplish their ultimate goal—a State Championship. Teamwork, per-

severance and friendship all contributed to this title as well. I know the community takes great pride in what these young men were able to achieve.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I share that same pride. I want to offer my personal congratulations and best wishes. All the accolades, awards and trophies are rightfully deserved. Way to go Bulldogs.

HONORING BELINDA ESPINOSA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor Belinda Espinosa, the City Manager of Pinole, California. After more than thirty years, Ms. Espinosa is retiring from public service.

Ms. Espinosa's city management career has spanned over four cities and two states. Beginning in the cities of San Antonio and Grand Prairie, Texas, Ms. Espinosa worked on budget and financial issues, managed infrastructure projects, and oversaw hundreds of millions of dollars in bond funds. In 1994, Ms. Espinosa moved to California to become City Manager for the City of Soledad, where she supervised critical water and wastewater projects, the construction of new affordable housing, and the completion of the Soledad Community Library.

In 2000, Ms. Espinosa moved to the City of Pinole, California. Initially hired as the Assistant City Manager, she was promoted four years later to City Manager and Chief Executive Officer, overseeing the police and fire departments, public works planning, wastewater services, recreation and redevelopment. Ms. Espinosa spearheaded several efforts to revitalize Pinole, including the construction of the Pinole Shores Industrial Business Park, the Pinole Valley Shopping Center and the Kaiser Permanente Medical Office. Under her leadership, Pinole voters approved two half-cent sales tax measures, which generate \$3.6 million for public safety and other supplemental services. Ms. Espinosa also successfully negotiated Pinole's first Project Labor Agreement, for the \$48 million Pinole-Hercules Wastewater Treatment Plant project.

Ms. Espinosa has received numerous accolades for her years of public service, including the 1996 Monterey County Public Administrator Award, the 2007 Contra Costa College Woman of the Year Award, and the 2009 Distinguished Project Award. Ms. Espinosa has also served as President of the Pinole Rotary Club and the International Hispanic Network, and was the first female President of the Grand Prairie Kiwanis Club. Ms. Espinosa has long worked under a philosophy of approaching problems with collaboration, honesty and understanding. She is well-known for being forthright in her dealings, and has always maintained the highest integrity in serving her constituencies.

Mr. Speaker, Belinda Espinosa has had a long and remarkable career in public service. It is fitting and proper that we honor her here today, and wish her the best in retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHERYL
JENNINGS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2015

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor one of the most recognizable, watched and listened-to women in the Bay Area: Cheryl Jennings has been in the 5 o'clock news anchor chair at ABC7 KGO-TV for 27 years and worked at the station for 36 years. It is safe to say that she is one of the most trusted and admired reporters/anchors in our area and I am one of her staunchest fans. Cheryl is ostensibly slowing down, but not quite. She will continue to host her weekend show *Beyond the Headlines* and report more long-format stories like the series she recently did in Afghanistan.

Over the decades Cheryl has reported on just about every topic, but all of her stories have one thing in common: she always finds an angle to help people. Cheryl is one of the most giving, empathetic and genuine people I know. The word "no" doesn't exist in her vocabulary.

I have had the distinct honor to work with Cheryl on countless occasions. For years, she has been the masterful emcee at Professional Businesswomen of California and other programs. She has been the keynote speaker at my Congressional events for middleschoolers and seniors. As a journalist, she is warm and inviting, but always professional and insistent on the truth. I took on the issue of rape and sexual assault in the military about five years ago. Many stories have been written and produced about this horrendous epidemic, but it was Cheryl Jennings who produced, wrote and reported the most comprehensive and powerful piece on the subject that I have seen.

Cheryl learned the value of hard work, perseverance and public service early on. She was one of seven children born to a father who served in the U.S. Army and a mother who raised her and her siblings. As the oldest, Cheryl had lots of opportunity to change diapers, feed and take care of babies. The military sent Cheryl's family all over the world. By the time she started high school, she had changed schools more than a dozen times. She says that part was tough, but prepared her well for life in TV.

Her original plans to become a teacher changed when she started college at City College of San Francisco. Her advisor told her to look for another career path because there were too many teachers. Cheryl interviewed two very rare women for a story in the college newspaper. They both worked in television, on air—almost unheard of in that era. The rest is history.

Reporting was not an easy path. While she was earning her Bachelor's degree from San Francisco State University, she was rejected for volunteer-entry-level positions at TV stations 19 out of 20 times. Finally, a woman at the local NBC station hired her to work 50 hours a week while she continued to go to school. Her pay? Nothing. But her hard work and perseverance eventually paid off. The NBC station hired her as a paid receptionist, she worked her way into the newsroom, and in 1979, KGO TV hired her as a night reporter.

The entire Bay Area became her classroom and she has taught her lessons exceptionally well.

Cheryl has travelled the world to tell stories—Mexico, Kosovo, Afghanistan, South Africa, Korea, Israel and the West Bank. Here at home, one of the most memorable stories she covered was the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. She was the first local reporter on the air thanks to the station's quick power generator. KGO's coverage earned the team two of the most prestigious broadcast awards, a George Foster Peabody Award and the Radio Television News Directors Association Edward R. Murrow Award. Cheryl says this was the moment she understood just how vital television is in providing public service.

Doing good is what drives Cheryl. In 2003, she co-founded the Roots for Peace Children's Penny Campaign, a non-profit that removes landmines in war-torn countries and builds and repairs schools. She works with the Taylor Family Foundation and the Okizu Foundation to help children with life-threatening illnesses. She lends her voice and passion to many non-profit events that raise awareness and funds. All of this amazing work has earned Cheryl many awards, including six Gracie Awards, but what matters most to her are the children and families whose lives she has touched.

Cheryl has been married to the love of her life Richard Pettibone for 29 years. They enjoy sharing adventures together, whether it's a safari in Africa or a hike on a local beach.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Cheryl Jennings, a first-rate journalist and extraordinary woman whom I am honored to call a dear friend. I know that she will continue her outstanding work on the air and off the air. Cheryl is a true treasure to her family, our local community and the world.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2015

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, December 2, 2015, I inadvertently voted No instead of Aye on roll call vote 661, the Tonko Amendment Number 22 to H.R. 8, the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015. I would like to change my vote to reflect my intended Aye vote.

HONORING THE LEGACY AND IMPORTANCE OF HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (HBCUs)

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to recognize the importance of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

As a graduate of the Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University (FAMU), I know all too well the importance HBCUs play in the fabric

of our country. They prepare students for careers that span all disciplines, teach students the value of self-worth, the importance of culture, history, and legacy.

Growing up during a time when colleges were not readily available for African-Americans, HBCUs played a vital role in educating African American youth. They continue to play an important role in educating students from all walks of life. They offer students, regardless of race, an opportunity to develop their skills and talents to serve both domestically and internationally. According to the United Negro College Fund, HBCUs are responsible for producing approximately 70% of all black doctors and dentists, 50% of black engineers and public school teachers, and 35% of black lawyers.

I am extremely proud of all the HBCU Caucus is doing to recognize the importance of HBCUs and proud to be a member of the caucus. As a member of the caucus and an HBCU alumnus, I am committed to continue funding these critical institutions and ensuring our nation's youth have access to quality affordable education.

Mr. Speaker, I once again want to stress the importance of HBCUs and urge my colleagues to continue to support them. They are the bedrock of our nation and symbolic of how our nation came together to ensure all students have access to quality affordable education.

CELEBRATING SIXTY YEARS OF
U.S.-LAO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2015

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, on December 4th I had the pleasure of attending at the invitation of Ambassador Mai Sayavongs a celebration of both the sixtieth anniversary of diplomatic relations between Laos and the United States and the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The event was well attended by ASEAN ambassadors and key U.S. officials including Mr. Ben Rhodes from the White House and Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Daniel Russel.

Over the course of these six decades there have been many difficult passages in the bilateral relationship. Today, I look forward and it is my belief that the relationship between the United States and the Lao PDR will improve, strengthen and grow in importance. For me, U.S.-Laos relations has a direct impact on the thousands of Hmong and Lao Americans I represent in St. Paul and the surrounding East metro suburbs. It has been forty years since the first refugees from Southeast Asia arrived in Minnesota, but the family, cultural, and economic ties to Laos continue to be very important. As Laos becomes more engaged in the global economy, respects the rule of law, and embraces human rights for all its citizens my constituents feel more comfortable and more excited about returning to their ancestral homeland.

In the coming year Laos will become chair ASEAN and it is expected that President Obama will be the first U.S. president to visit Laos. It is critical that the U.S. encourage the Lao government to make the necessary reforms that will allow its people to escape poverty and contribute to the long-term success of

their country. The lethal legacy of U.S. dropped unexploded ordinance from the era of the Vietnam War continues to plague the Lao people. UXO are a constant reminder of the obligation we have as a government to clean up a mess that continues to kill innocent Lao citizens and impedes economic development on lands all across Laos.

It is my feeling that dialogue, cooperation, and common interests will allow the U.S.-Lao bilateral relations to improve significantly in 2016. Both the Obama Administration and Ambassador Sayavongs have my full support in this goal.

The following are remarks I delivered at the December 4th celebration of U.S.-Lao Relations.

Good evening. Ambassador Sayavongs and Madam Sayavongs, I am honored to be with you tonight to celebrate sixty years of diplomatic relations between our countries, as well as the fortieth anniversary of the Lao PDR.

My relationship with the people of Laos is very special and I strongly support strengthening our bilateral relations.

My home is Minnesota. In my congressional district, I represent tens of thousands of Hmong and Lao-Americans who call Laos their ancestral home. They have family in Laos. Their traditions come from Laos. And, they care deeply about the future of Laos.

More than anyone, I would like to acknowledge Mr. Chao Lee who has been on my congressional staff since 2001, for guiding me and advising me. He is with us tonight and I would like to thank him for his work on behalf of U.S.-Lao relations.

Over my fifteen years serving in Congress I have taken many steps to strengthen this relationship. I was a supporter of normalized trade relations with Laos at a time when many people were fighting about the past rather than working to build a new future. I have always supported increased U.S. funding for UXO clean—a terrible legacy of war that harms the Lao people. And, in 2006, I had the pleasure of celebrating a very special Christmas in Vientiane during a visit to your beautiful country.

Ambassador, I am committed to working with you to strengthen our future together. We will work as partners to address issues important to both our countries—economic development, increased trade, and access GSP, as well as improving human rights and human development to ensure that all Lao people, including women and girls, are free to live full, productive lives.

Ambassador, I wish your government much success as Laos chairs ASEAN next year. I know the Obama Administration will work as a partner to ensure next year's ASEAN Summit is a success and they will have my full support.

Again, congratulations Mr. Ambassador on your country's 40 years.

Thank you.

HONORING GEORGE BURKE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to re-member and honor a dear friend and colleague, George Burke. Full of passion and energy, he dedicated his life to fighting for our progressive Democratic values. A trusted, wise and gifted political mind, George's vision

and leadership helped build and grow our Democratic Party of Virginia.

A man of many talents, he was an accomplished journalist, photographer, congressional staffer, senior labor leader with the International Association of Fire Fighters, the Chair of the 11th Congressional District Democratic Committee, and my trusted confidant and Communications Director.

A constituent and friend of both George and mine, Mike Burke Kirby, recently endeavored to interview many of those who knew George and capture what George meant to so many. I submit Mr. Kirby's eloquent tribute to George.

For more than 30 years I have been fortunate to call George my close friend. We will all miss his stories, his unwavering optimistic approach to life, and his love for his friends and family. His loss will leave a great void in all our lives and I will miss him dearly. I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering George Burke.

GEORGE BURKE [1951-2015]

(By Mike Burke Kirby, Former Chair Fairfax County Democratic Committee)

With all of his spirit, I thought George Burke was going to keep beating cancer for another ten years. He certainly had ten more years of wisdom and advice, laughter and courage for all of us.

After centuries of subjugation on their own island, many Irish Americans were conditioned to thrive in politics in this huge nation of democracy. Fighting for their own freedom here, and for the rights of other minorities and women. Those include Gerry Connolly and Jim Moran. George has been a hero in many of those fights.

George was a "Connector," like Paul Revere. Many people rode from Boston to tell people that the British were sending troops west from the city. For weeks, panicky calls were made. Finally, they only listened to Paul Revere because everyone knew and trusted him. George knew 50 times as many people as you and I. They all thought George was one of the best people they ever met.

George never seemed to parse the issue differences among Democrats. He simply thought that any Democrat was more of a democrat than any Republican. He fought to make sure the nominating processes were fair. With a nominee, he put his shoulder to the wheel.

The print and broadcast media industries declined early in the 21st Century. When George got young people, journalists, press staff and politicians, into the "Burke Zone," he mentored them into the integrity and responsibility, the professionalism and punctuality from that loss. George's effect on Hill staffers was evident the week after his death—with a hundred young faces gathered outside of Rayburn Building for a memorial.

For those who lived through the 1960s, the memory of Civil Rights, the Viet Nam War, the draft, the Kennedy and King Assassinations, the demonstrations, the politics and music can all come through with just a few words, which mean little to later generations. Many of us shared that with George, especially Gerry Connolly who was with him daily for many years.

George often bragged about his independent ways, including his own travel routes. In the Snowmagedon, George left the office well after Gerry and James. Six hours after they left DC, the two were only at Bailey's Crossroads, and on a radio station by phone. George called to say "hi." He had been home already, far beyond Bailey's, had a coffee from Starbucks and was on his way back to Sears to buy a washing machine on

sale. Gerry asked where he was; actually George could see them from his inbound car across the street.

After a broken neck George's hearing suffered enough that he couldn't pick up the vibrator on his phone. So, he never turned off the sound. In a medium sized event with President Obama, George's phone went off. With everybody looking, he answered it. It was Rachel.

An "8 X 10 Glossy" Penny called him, with vast brain power, a pure political analyst and tactician. A total friend who always remained common, who persevered with a lot more than grace through four bouts with cancer. He attended all of her weekly campaign staff meetings until he went into the hospital for the last time.

George held court at the Mason District Crab Feast. The next day, he showed up again to help dismantle the "God awful tent." Even with the broken neck he still came to sit under the porch and spin tales.

Rachel pestered him early to write the Mason Precinct Letter. George waited until the issues were ripe. Letters almost always perfect.

Mark Levine got George into Public Access TV, where he covered local politics. The stage may have been small; but George covered it like Dan Rather. He was proud of a large new set, and was completely unfazed when the lighting panel dropped and other parts of the set disintegrated.

George's last student, Jake, was grateful for the little time he was able to spend with George. No conversation, no detail, and definitely no person was too big for George—it all mattered to him. Over their 20 to 30 to 90 to 180 minute phone conversations, everything mattered. Every question deserves a well thought out response, every roadblock mandates a thoroughly strategized plan to go around it. George's main lesson, looking back on it, was to "pay attention" and not to let any opportunity, no matter how small, be wasted.

George hosted the debate among the seven Democratic candidates for the 8th Congressional District nomination in 2014. On the race, he gave political advice to all of them.

George spent 16 years as head of Communications at the International Association of Fire Fighters, a job he loved and talked about all the time. Even after he left the IAFF, at every big political dinner, no matter what other hat he was wearing, he always sat at the Fire Fighters table. He served with the Fire Fighters through September 11.

In Fairfax County, the Fire Fighters called George a mastermind. After years of failing to get a federal grant for the Safety for an Adequate Fire Emergency Response, George and Gerry Connolly stepped in. They now have a grant for millions of dollars that gives the County 49 additional staff on ladder trucks.

George took care of any issue, knew how the legislatures work and could always find a way to fix any problem. John Niemiec, said as a friend, George even helped people get recommendations.

Dan Duncan was Communications Director for the Seafarers Union, while George was president of the International Labor Communications Association. George worked hard to get labor press respected both within the union movement and among the general media. They were all propagandists of one kind or another because, if they didn't promote their members, they certainly could not expect any one else to do so. George understood that and worked hard to transition labor media from membership newspapers and magazines to the emerging world of what would become social media.

Dan Duncan knew George when he was on the 11th District Democratic Committee,

which George chaired. When Dan presided at the NoVA Labor Federation, George knew the numbers and he knew the people. He worked hard for consensus, but allowed those with opposing views about candidates and/or issues to get their points across without folks becoming alarmed or challenged.

Long discussions with Cathy Hoffman, a boss at Liberty Mountain Resort in near Gettysburg, of the triumphs and challenges of their teenage kids. Many stories of George, the very patient instructor of the most timid skiers. Many ski instructors are prima donnas, but not George. George's name is still on the instructor schedule at Liberty for this winter. They can't seem to take it off.

Kelly Kurtyka also instructed at Liberty. She tried her son, Spenser, at skiing at the age of three. His response of "It's really cold, Mommy" devastated her. The next year, Cathy put Spencer with George Burke. "Mr. George" worked on his own time and waved his magic wands, and Spencer joined his family as a great skier. George brought him stuff from skiing in Switzerland, and Spenser drew pictures of him in school.

After George travelled across the U.S., he met Sharon the Nurse, who, "took him into the woods." Great couple for hiking, kayaking, camping in New England. Not many spouses are blessed with a partner who loves the outdoors so. That worked really well for Sharon and George for 45 years.

With different knee and ankle strengths, Sharon lost her downhill ability, but cross country skied a lot. George was better at downhill and loved it, and taught it. Still, he often cross country skied with Sharon.

None of us can quite remember what George was like before he had two cell phones, on in any environment. With the blue tooth in his ear in New England, a little kid walking down the beach noticed that his arm was raised: George's hand with the phone in it, way up to get better reception. An hour later the kid came back and noticed that George's arm was still in the air.

George and Sharon were a team, and you could see that whenever and wherever they were together, more often at Labor events than political ones.

While folks in local politics never knew where he got the time, George was a five star dad. He changed the diapers. Mom nursed on the weekends and dad was full time. Skiing of course, but also an indulgence in swimming, crew, marching band at Jeb Stuart. The Burke kids loved the outdoors with their parents.

None of George's kids got the political inflection. But they did get his love of music: the Allman Brothers, Eric Clapton, B.B. King. They still mostly do the music. The youngest however follows more rap and ski boarding.

Family holidays were always a very big event with them. Sharon will especially miss the big holiday related events.

In the spring, Sharon will take Georges' ashes on a two hour hike to his favorite ravine in New England.

When you get the vocation for public service, it can be joyful and rewarding. But you will miss a lot, mostly your wife and kids; and they'll miss you. This is a great country for public service: on the Hill, for the union, and in state and local politics. For almost 250 years, this nation has followed the path to ever more democracy. Rarely as good as spending all your time with your family, and certainly better than leaving your family a fortune, you can leave them a better country to live in. George Burke very much did that.

After he last got out of the hospital, George wanted a party, sort of an early Irish Wake. Some said he wanted his kids to know what he did; some that he wanted to critique

whatever we all said. His editing eyes are very much on my shoulder. We will still have George's party, maybe in January. Lots more of the best we know of him and very little of grief. Do you know many people who had such a good run?

Whenever I needed advice or had a question for 30+ years, every voice mail or e-mail got an immediate answer. Nobody else ever does that.

In writing this, I spoke to more than 30 people. Not all were included specifically here; but they brought a flood of great adjectives. Everyone said "true friend."

The list of candidates and campaigners who got great advice from George would take many pages. If you are reading this, you are probably one of them.

Whatever you think about after death, the memory of George is softly etched in all of our hearts. He will continue to live in each of us as we remember him almost every day.

Susie Warner with photo of smiling, skiing George on mountain in the west: "I love to remember George like this."

HONORING MR. JOSE HURTADO

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jose Hurtado, a faculty member at Napa Valley College, who is retiring this month after 38 years of service.

Mr. Hurtado's family immigrated to the United States in 1958. I had the pleasure of growing up with Jose, who went on to earn degrees from Napa Valley College, UC Davis, and Sacramento State College. He was the first in his family to earn college degrees, and his younger siblings quickly followed his lead.

In 1977, Mr. Hurtado began work as a counseling assistant at Napa Valley College. In 1980, he became the first Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) Counselor hired to a tenure-track position. Nine years later, in 1989, Mr. Hurtado moved to the Counseling Department. He subsequently served as Division Chair of Napa Valley College's Counseling Department, before working temporarily as the school's Coordinator of the non-Credit Matriculation Program. In 2003, Mr. Hurtado moved back to General Counseling on the Napa campus, and began working with the school's student-athletes in 2010. In 2013, Mr. Hurtado became Coordinator of the combined Career and Transfer Programs at Napa Valley College.

Over the course of his 38-year career, Mr. Hurtado earned numerous awards and accolades. He was elected to the Napa Valley Unified School District Governing Board in 2004, and in 2011, he joined Community Action Napa Valley, an organization of which he is currently Chairman. Last year, Mr. Hurtado was appointed by California Governor Jerry Brown to the Napa Valley Expo Board of Directors, and in 2015, he became a member of the Napa County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Looking back, Mr. Hurtado is especially proud of his children and grandchildren, his U.S. citizenship, and his election to the school board. His children's weddings remain among Mr. Hurtado's happiest moments. He remains lovingly quirky to the community, reading four newspapers every Sunday and cheerfully

interacting with Napa Valley students on a daily basis. Next year, Mr. Hurtado plans to complete a 500-mile trek on Spain's ancient Camino de Santiago trail.

Mr. Speaker, Jose Hurtado has devoted nearly 40 years to his community and to the education of our young people. He has demonstrated exceptional character, confidence, and compassion, and his community has benefited enormously from his efforts. For these reasons and others, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the victims who were killed during the devastating attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy. Seventy-four years ago today, more than 2,000 American citizens lost their lives and more than 1,000 others were injured in a surprise attack by the Imperial Japanese Navy.

The attack on Pearl Harbor shook our nation to its core. Up until this point, the United States had largely remained neutral during the Second World War. However, as a testament to our strength and our resolve, the United States declared war against the Japanese and entered World War II just one day following the attack. Contrary to what the Japanese had intended, the attack had only emboldened our nation to forge our own path to victory.

Tragedies such as the attack on Pearl Harbor serve as a stark reminder of the great personal sacrifices that our men and women in uniform must make in the service of protecting our nation. While many soldiers are fortunate enough to return from service, plenty of others have given up their lives in the act of duty. We are forever indebted to these men and women who have given their lives to protect our freedoms and way of life.

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day is also about paying tribute to those who served—and survived—during the attack. Petty Officer Doris "Dorie" Miller was one such American who fought bravely during the conflict. Petty Officer Miller displayed remarkable courage when his ship, the USS *West Virginia*, came under attack. As the fighting occurred, Miller dragged his ship's commander, who was mortally wounded by shrapnel, out of the line of fire to safety. He then manned a 50-caliber Browning anti-aircraft machine gun and shot down at least three of the 29 Japanese planes that went down that day until he was ordered to abandon ship. While Petty Officer Miller survived the attack on Pearl Harbor, he sadly lost his life during a second attack during the Battle of Makin Island when a Japanese submarine and aircraft attack sunk his ship.

Mr. Speaker, the attack on Pearl Harbor was a defining moment in United States history. Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day helps to remind us of the importance of defending our freedoms and the heavy cost of doing so. We are reminded on this day of those who lost their lives, but also the countless other veterans—such as Dorie Miller—who have made

invaluable contributions to our success during the Second World War.

CONGRATULATING AND HONORING
ALAN NAKANISHI

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2015

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor Mr. Alan Nakanishi for receiving the Lodi Distinguished Citizen Award from the Greater Yosemite Council, and the Boy Scouts of America. I would also like to personally thank him for his years of service working to better the city of Lodi and the state of California.

Raised in California's state capitol, Sacramento, Alan attended Lincoln School and Jr. High School. In 8th grade, he joined the Boy Scouts of America where he learned many valuable life lessons including always being prepared. Alan successfully reached the rank of First Class and desired to become an Eagle Scout; however, he chose to be involved in sports instead. With much respect for the Boy Scouts of America program, Alan still actively participates by being a speaker for several clubs.

After receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree from Pacific Union College in 1961, Alan continued to study at the Loma Linda University graduating in 1965 with his Medical Degree. He completed both his medical internship and Ophthalmology Residency from the University of Southern California Medical Center. He later received his Masters of Health Administration from the Virginia Commonwealth University and the Medical College of Virginia in 1990 and 1991.

During Alan's early life, he served as a Captain in the United States Army where he was stationed in Texas. After earning his medical degree he served another two years as Major and led the surgical department as Chief of Ophthalmology for the McDonald Army Hospital in Fort Eustis, Virginia.

Alan Nakanishi had many extensive roles during his medical career including Chief of Ophthalmology, Retinal Fellowship at the Pacific Medical Center, Chief of Staff at Dameron Hospital, President of Dameron Hospital, co-founder of Delta Eye Medical Group and a significant member of the American Board of Ophthalmology.

Alan's political career in California has been substantial. In 2001, he was elected to the Lodi City Council and was selected Mayor of Lodi by his fellow Council members. In 2002, Alan was elected to the California State Assembly and was a member of several committees. He served as the vice-chair of Health, Labor and Employment. Alan was also a member of Appropriation, Higher Education, Rural Caucus, and the Legislative Sporting Caucus. His time in Assembly ended in 2008, and in 2010, Alan was elected to rejoin the Lodi City Council. Only two short years later he was selected again to serve as the Mayor of Lodi.

While Alan's accomplishments are outstanding in the work force, it's his community involvement that is tremendous. He served as a Rotarian, church school board member, church officer, member of the country Ground

Basin Authority, alternate member of the Delta Protection Commission, and a member of the Delta Coalition Committee.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and recognizing Alan for his unwavering leadership and many accomplishments and contributions. He has a great dedication for the people and community he has worked so hard to help.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2015

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 \$18,787,992,446,946.88. We've added \$8,161,115,398,033.80 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

BECAUSE WE ALL NEED MORE
HUMAN CONNECTION: HONORING
THE WORK OF LILLIAN ROYBAL
ROSE

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2015

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my sister, Lillian Roybal Rose, who made a career of leading nationally acclaimed cross-cultural leadership awareness seminars and workshops which fostered greater understanding between people of diverse backgrounds, and helped lay a foundation for a more peaceful multicultural future.

For over 35 years, Lillian taught her workshops to academic, corporate, civic, and community groups. Her ultimate goal was to increase participants' self-awareness and help them establish mutual understanding and respect for others. She did this by creating a safe and supportive environment for participants to learn how internalized oppression affects thinking and attitudes, and how the resulting patterns of behavior affect communication between individuals, within groups, and between groups.

When Lillian developed this workshop in the late 1970s, it turned the then-current diversity training model of "blame and shame" on its head. Her workshops relied on practical theoretical models based on psychology and ethics, and on interactive and experiential activities that allowed participants not merely to engage their minds but to open their hearts.

This workshop approach, coupled with Lillian's ability to see and bring out the best in people, helped participants build powerful frameworks for effective long-term cooperation and communication, and enabled them to reclaim pride in their roots through the exploration of shared experiences.

Lillian understood that the key to appreciating others is developing a better understanding of ourselves. When we can define

and recognize forms of oppression that affect all of us, we can begin to relate to each other as individuals and build alliances.

Over and over again, I have met individuals from across the country who have expressed their gratitude for my sister's work. Those who have participated in her workshops have told me countless times, "She has changed my life and made me a better person."

While my sister is retired and no longer presents her workshops, she has been convinced by many of those same participants to give a farewell presentation. On December 12th and December 13th on the campus of the University of California at Santa Barbara, Lillian will present an encore workshop. People from different parts of the country will again be there to experience Lillian's brilliance, compassion, authenticity, and humility as she takes this final opportunity to share her life's work.

Lillian has said of the people who participated in her workshops, "We gave, and continue to give each other support and hope that we can reach a fair and just society, where all can be treated with dignity and respect, have equal opportunity, and where we can love and celebrate our differences. My love and thank you to all."

Mr. Speaker, I have been blessed to have Lillian as my sister, and I am proud to join Lillian's colleagues and friends for her encore workshop and in honoring her life's work.

HONORING GEORGE H. RYDER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor George H. Ryder, of the Lake County Board of Education, who is retiring after 39 years of dedicated public service.

In 1974, Mr. Ryder joined the Konocti Unified School Board of Trustees, a post he held until 1979. Subsequently, on December 10, 1981, he assumed office as a member of the Lake County Board of Education. In his 34 years on the Board, Mr. Ryder served numerous times as both President and Vice-President, and consistently provided the board with tremendous leadership, unshakable poise and thoughtful recommendations.

In total, Mr. Ryder has dedicated 39 years of service to the children of Lake County and the surrounding areas. He has demonstrated an unmatched commitment to education, children, and community service, and has touched the lives of countless young people. Mr. Ryder's community has benefitted enormously from his efforts.

Mr. Speaker, George H. Ryder has had a long and uncommonly distinguished career in public service. December 9, 2015 marks his final day as a member of the Lake County Board of Education, and it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today. We wish him the best in retirement.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all

meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, December 8, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 9

Time to be announced

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Business meeting to consider the nomination of Darryl L. DePriest, of Illinois, to be Chief Counsel for Advocacy, Small Business Administration.

S-216

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the United States strategy to counter the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and United States policy toward Iraq and Syria.

SD-106

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine United Nations peacekeeping and opportunities for reform.

SD-419

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 2171, to reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, S. 2127, to provide appropriate protections to probationary Federal employees, to provide the Special Counsel with adequate access to information, to provide greater awareness of Federal whistleblower protections, S. 1915, to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to make anthrax vaccines and antimicrobials available to emergency response providers, S. 1492, to direct the Administrator of General Services, on behalf of the Archivist of the United States, to convey certain Federal property located in the State of Alaska to the Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska, H.R. 1557, to amend the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 to strengthen Federal antidiscrimination laws enforced by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and expand accountability within the Federal government, an original bill entitled, "Federal Asset Sale and Transfer Act", an original bill entitled, "Federal Real Property Management Reform Act of 2015", and an original bill entitled, "Administrative Leave Act of 2015".

SD-342

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider S. 571, to amend the Pilot's Bill of Rights to fa-

cilitate appeals and to apply to other certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, to require the revision of the third class medical certification regulations issued by the Federal Aviation Administration, S. 2276, to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide enhanced safety in pipeline transportation, H.R. 2843, to require certain improvements in the Transportation Security Administration's PreCheck expedited screening program, S. 1886, to reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009, S. 1935, to require the Secretary of Commerce to undertake certain activities to support waterfront community revitalization and resiliency, S. 2058, to require the Secretary of Commerce to maintain and operate at least one Doppler weather radar site within 55 miles of each city in the United States that has a population of more than 700,000 individuals, S. 2319, to amend the Communications Act of 1934, an original bill entitled, "Airport Security Enhancement and Oversight Act", the nomination of Jessica Rosenworcel, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of five years from July 1, 2015 (Reappointment), and routine lists in the Coast Guard.

SR-253

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine moving to a stronger economy with a regulatory budget.

SD-608

2 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Marcel John Lettre, II, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, Gabriel Camarillo, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, John E. Sparks, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces for the term of fifteen years to expire on the date prescribed by law, and the following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601: Vice Adm. Kurt W. Tidd, to be Admiral, all of the Department of Defense.

SD-106

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Susan Paradise Baxter, Robert John Colville, and Marilyn Jean Horan, each to be a United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, Mary S. McElroy, to be United States District Judge for the District of Rhode Island, and John Milton Younge, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy

To hold hearings to examine the political and security crisis in Burundi.

SD-419

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Business meeting to mark up S. 290, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the accountability of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and S. 425, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a five-year extension to the homeless veterans reintegration programs and to provide clarification regarding eligibility for services under such programs.

SR-418

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine sudden price spikes in off-patent drugs, focusing on perspectives from the front lines.

SD-G50

DECEMBER 10

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine increasing effectiveness of military operations.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold an oversight hearing to examine terrorism and global oil markets.

SD-366

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine independent South Sudan, focusing on a failure of leadership.

SD-419

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management

To hold hearings to examine the importance of following through on GAO and OIG recommendations.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 247, to amend section 349 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to deem specified activities in support of terrorism as renunciation of United States nationality, S. 1318, to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for protection of maritime navigation and prevention of nuclear terrorism, H.R. 1428, to extend Privacy Act remedies to citizens of certified states, S. 483, to improve enforcement efforts related to prescription drug diversion and abuse, S. 1890, to amend chapter 90 of title 18, United States Code, to provide Federal jurisdiction for the theft of trade secrets, and the nominations of Dana J. Boente, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia for the term of four years, Robert Lloyd Capers, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York for the term of four years, John P. Fishwick, Jr., to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Virginia for the term of four years, and Emily Gray Rice, to be United States Attorney for the District of New Hampshire for the term of four years, all of the Department of Justice.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

DECEMBER 11

JANUARY 20

2 p.m.

Commission on Security and Cooperation
in Europe

To receive a briefing on human rights
violations in Russian-occupied Crimea.

RHOB-B318

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Readiness and Manage-
ment Support

To hold an oversight hearing to examine
Task Force for Business and Stability
Operations projects in Afghanistan.

SR-232A