

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

HON. PAUL D. RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank our legislative counsel for all their help over the past few weeks, starting with Sandra Strokoff and Ed Grossman.

I also want to thank all the senior and assistant counsels for their hard work: Tom Cassidy, Ryan Greenlaw, and Justin Gross on appropriations; Henry Christrup, Wade Ballou, and Scott Probst on taxes; Paul Callen, Marshall Barksdale, and Veena Srinivasa on housing and financial services; Hallet Brazelton, Megan Chasnoff, and Susan Fleishman on the 9/11 VCF and immigration; Jessica Shapiro, Warren Burke, Ed Grossman, Jesse Cross, and Michelle Vanek on the WTC health program; Bob Weinhagen on budget; Lucy Goss on social security; Hank Savage on oceans and coastal security; and Tony Sciascia and Hadley Ross on intelligence.

Then there are the drafters who worked nights and weekends to produce all the other major legislation: Curt Haensel, Rosemary Gallagher, Tom Dillon, Karen Anderson, Tim Brown, Sally Walker, Brady Young, and Chris Osborne on the highway bill; Sherry Chriss, Greg Kostka, Hadley Ross, Tony Sciascia, and Mark Synnes on the defense bill; Susan Fleishman, Anna Shpak, and Brendan Gallagher on the education bill; and Sandy Strokoff, Mark Synnes, and Mat Eckstein on trade and customs bills.

Finally I want to thank all the office's support staff: Nancy McNeillie, Debby Birch, Kelly Meryweather, Elonda Rich, Tomas Contreras, Miekl Joyner, Ashley Anderson, Joe Birch, Angelina Patton, Craig Sterkx, Tom Meryweather, and Matthew Loggie.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF JOHN L. MARTIN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary leadership of John Martin and wish him every blessing in retirement as he steps down in 2016 from a distinguished career.

John Martin has served as the leader of our nation's seventh busiest airport, San Francisco International (SFO) for two decades. It has been my pleasure and good fortune to have worked cooperatively with him throughout his career at SFO and I consider it a privilege to know him and call him my friend.

John Martin served for 15 years as Deputy Airport Director for Business and Finance at SFO and was appointed Airport Director in

1995 by Mayor Frank Jordan, and served as CEO under three subsequent mayors. Under his wise leadership, John Martin has added immensely to the economic vitality of our region, completing the \$3.5 billion International Terminal, raising the wages of service and security workers at SFO, and reducing the Airport's greenhouse gas emissions by 34 percent from 1990 levels. He worked to extend BART to SFO, built new parking garages and the Air Train people mover. During his tenure the airport added 25 new international carriers and currently serves nearly 50 million passengers a year. He opened the first LEED Gold airport terminal in the world, and has maintained SFO's leadership in safety and security practices. He created a culture of health and wellness among employees and provided unique guest services, making SFO the top concession revenue producer per passenger in the U.S.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring John L. Martin for his extraordinary leadership of San Francisco International Airport, for the superb contributions he has made and the challenges he met over two decades. Today's SFO is a masterpiece of vision for the 21st century and I think John Martin is a national treasure.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOHN "HOT ROD" WILLIAMS

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of John "Hot Rod" Williams, a prolific professional basketball player and Louisiana native. Mr. Williams passed away on December 11, 2015, at the age of 53.

Mr. Williams was born on August 9, 1962 in Sorrento, Louisiana. His family gave him the nickname Hot Rod for the engine-like sounds he made when he moved about as a baby. As a rising athlete, he played basketball at St. Amant High School before signing with Tulane University.

While playing at Tulane, Mr. Williams was a three-time All-Metro Conference selection, averaging 16 points and seven rebounds. As a junior in 1984, Mr. Williams was the Metro Conference Player of the Year. Mr. Williams remains fourth in Tulane's career scoring with 1,841 points and second in 20-point games with 36.

In 1986, Mr. Williams joined the Cleveland Cavaliers where he was named to the All-Rookie team for the 1986–87 season. He would spend his first nine NBA seasons with the Cavaliers, averaging 11 points and 6.8 rebounds for his career. Mr. Williams was a central figure for the 1988–89 Cavaliers team, which went 57–25 during the regular season, where Michael Jordan's famous last-second jump shot in Game 5 eliminated them in the first-round series. Mr. Williams concluded his

13-year professional career playing with the Phoenix Suns and Dallas Mavericks.

An active member of the National Basketball Retired Players Association, Mr. Williams loved the game of basketball and always tried to give back. Described as a kid from a small town in Louisiana who never changed, the Cavaliers team remembers the basketball star as a "talented, unselfish, and versatile player and person that earned the respect of everyone around him." The Suns described Mr. Williams as a "humble and gracious man, willing to share his time and fun-loving nature with anyone."

Mr. Williams may have lost his fight to cancer but his spirit will remain a part of the Sorrento community. Stories like his will show generations of Americans the impact of genuine personality and hard work.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Mr. Williams, a beloved father and example to aspiring athletes everywhere.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I was disappointed to see there was no language in the Omnibus to delay the implementation of the Department of Labor's fiduciary proposal and allow the bipartisan proposal in the House to codify a workable fiduciary that would truly protect savers.

The Department of Labor's (DOL) proposed fiduciary standard is a well-intentioned but poorly conceived proposal. I've expressed concern with a number of issues in the proposal in the past but I'd like to focus on the Department of Labor's legal authority over IRAs in my comments today.

Congress explicitly designated employer-sponsored plans to the fiduciary standard under ERISA. Congress also explicitly designated IRAs to be governed by the Internal Revenue Code's prohibited transaction rules.

DOL is simply not legally permitted to exert jurisdiction over IRA rollovers and to apply a fiduciary standard to IRAs without Congressional approval. Congress has amended ERISA and the tax code multiple times and has chosen repeatedly not to make this change. It is not legally permissible for an unelected bureaucrat from DOL to make that decision for the Congress, and the people we've been elected to represent back home.

There are already a number of federal agencies that do have the authority to regulate financial transactions over individual IRAs, namely the SEC and FINRA. SEC and FINRA have a demonstrated record of education and enforcement to minimize any conflicts and

• 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.

punish advisors who violate those standards. When advisors act against their clients' interests, they should and will be punished. It is unreasonable to place a prohibitive regime across an entire industry of professionals working in their client's best interest, rather than punish those who violate it.

Former head of the Employee Benefits Security Administration ("EBSA") Brad Campbell, the Department agency promulgating this regulation, testified at a recent hearing, "This is a significant departure from the Department's traditional view of its authority regarding the application of the prohibited transaction rules to IRAs, in that it is attempting to leverage this authority to establish a fiduciary standard of care the statute does not provide.

"Testimony identifying a large number of significant technical problems with the Proposal, are a direct result of the Department's unfamiliarity with the IRA marketplace and with the role of other regulators in governing financial advice provided to IRAs. The Department is trying to force a square peg into a round hole by asserting that the ERISA fiduciary standards can and should apply to IRAs in addition to the existing regulatory regimes already in place."

I am a strong supporter of a best interest standard to protect our constituents when they receive advice on IRAs, but this proposal is based on doubtful legal authority and is unworkable in practice. It will lead to our nation's most vulnerable savers receiving no financial advice at all, at a time when they need it most.

Again, I appreciate the DOL's intentions in promulgating these regulations but I believe they are out of their area of expertise and it is reflected in the quality of the proposal. I hope the DOL plans to work with Congress as we progress on our bipartisan best interest standard that will be codified into law, rather than continue to attempt to overstretch the authority given to them by the Congress. Congress will continue to protect our constituents' best interests and assert our authority over the issue.

ANGELO CANDELORI: A LIFETIME
OF OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude and deep appreciation for the leadership and commitment of one of New Jersey's most dedicated public servants, Colonel Angelo Candelori.

For over 30 years, Colonel Candelori has volunteered countless hours and offered exceptional guidance and insights as a member of the Fourth Congressional District's Service Academy Nominations Board—a task he has taken most seriously and accomplished with great success. Year after year, Colonel Candelori has "sweat the details," tenaciously poring over the applications of prospective Service Academy nominees. With great scrutiny and wisdom he has interviewed every young man and woman, recommending only those whom he and his two colleagues on the

board felt were most deserving of my congressional nomination.

I have benefitted greatly from Colonel Candelori's expertise, discernment, dedication, and desire that our armed services receive only the best, bravest and brightest officer applicants. And so, too, has the United States military.

Having served for 32 years in the United States Marine Corps and the reserves—a tenure that overlapped with his time on our Service Academy Board—Colonel Candelori relied on his knowledge and judgement, as well as years of military training, to help identify young applicants best suited to become America's next generation of military leaders. With honor, integrity, courage and dedication, Colonel Candelori easily embodies the Marine Corps motto "Semper Paratus"—proving to be "always faithful" to the United States of America, his fellow Marines, and all members of our armed forces.

If you knew Colonel Candelori personally, you would know that his dedication to his community and his commitment to public service is evident beyond his military career. For many years Colonel Candelori was a member of the Hamilton Township Planning Board and the Hamilton Township Development Review Advisory Board. His positive impact in many local and state volunteer and/or civic organizations resulted in his designation as a Point of Light by President George H. W. Bush. Colonel Candelori was also named a recipient of the U.S. Secretary of Energy's Community Service Award and the Enrico Fermi Federation Achievement Award.

Colonel Candelori's leadership is recognized internationally as he was knighted with the title of Cavaliere in the Order of Solidarity by the government of Italy. He served as president of the Societa Cavaliere d'Italia and is a past trustee of the Italian-American National Hall of Fame and a past president of the Enrico Fermi Federation.

Mr. Speaker, to say that Colonel Angelo Candelori is a patriot and a gentleman would be an understatement. He is a community leader who has advanced the common good, and a remarkable, dedicated husband and father. Colonel Candelori and his wife, Elaine, have been married for over 55 years. The Candelori's first started dating when Elaine was in 8th grade and the Colonel was a freshman. Fast-forward to today and now they are the proud parents of four—David, Eric, Aliza and Matthew; the grandparents of eleven; and the great-grandparents of two. What an enduring legacy of love and devotion and goodness.

This year, as he steps down from his more than three decades of assisting in the vetting and selection of military academy nominees, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Colonel Angelo Candelori for his dedicated service to the citizens of New Jersey and to our country.

HONORING OTTO MERIDA AND VICTORIA NAPOLES-EARL ON MANY YEARS LEADING THE LATIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. CRESENT HARDY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor Otto Merida, President, CEO and

Founder of the Latin Chamber of Commerce and Victoria Napoles-Earl, Senior Executive Vice President of the Latin Chamber of Commerce for over thirty years of service to the Hispanic business community and Nevada's Hispanic youth. For decades, the Latin Chamber of Commerce has helped hundreds of Nevadans and their families achieve the American Dream thanks to Otto and Victoria's leadership and mentorship. Otto and Victoria have spearheaded incredible programs that promote leadership, entrepreneurship and education. They have also encouraged Latino youth to pursue college and developed a strong scholarship program that continues to help our students complete their studies. I join all Nevadans in saying thank you for your hard work and dedication towards helping small businesses grow and assisting our students with achieving their higher education goals. Mr. Speaker, I commend Otto and Victoria on their outstanding service to Nevada and wish them the best of luck on their future endeavors. I hope the Latin Chamber of Commerce will continue to benefit our communities for many years to come.

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA RUNNING BACK DERRICK HENRY FOR WINNING THE 2015 HEISMAN TROPHY

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate University of Alabama Running Back Derrick Henry for winning the 2015 Heisman Trophy and to honor his hard work on and off the football field.

Derrick Henry was born and raised in Yulee, Florida, located in the Fourth Congressional District of Florida. This small Nassau County town of about 11,500 people is named after Senator David Levy Yulee, the first Jewish Member in the United States Senate. Accepting the award in our country's most populous city—New York—Derrick Henry suddenly became Yulee's most notable person.

Back home in Yulee, however, it was just another day in the life of Derrick Henry. He has always been extraordinary. Born to teenage parents, Derrick Henry, Sr., and Stacy Veal, Derrick was raised in a large family headed by his grandmother Gladys Henry, who gave him his nickname Shocka. Derrick's family instilled in him a strong work ethic and inspired him to run for his dream of playing football and one day winning the Heisman Trophy.

Today, at 6 foot 3, 242 pounds, Derrick is a force to be reckoned with on the gridiron. He has handled his new-found fame with humility and humility and with the same strong faith in God that was taught to him by his grandmother and his family. At Yulee High School, they have a program that pairs special needs students with classmates. It is called Hornet Buddies, and Jake Martin, who was born with Down syndrome, was Derrick's buddy. Derrick taught Jake how to play football and in the final game of the Hornets' season, Jake lined up at running back. He made two carries—both for negative yardage—but he was in the game. Derrick's football career

will be much longer than Jake's, but on that day the game highlight showed what a winner Derrick Henry already was.

Before America met Derrick at Alabama, he set a Florida high school record for rushing yards in a single game on September 21, 2012, rushing for 502 yards and six touchdowns on 48 carries. In his final high-school game, on November 16, 2012, Derrick Henry rushed for an incredible 52 yard touchdown run. With this touchdown run, Derrick Henry broke the legendary Ken Hall's career rushing high school record for most career rushing yards, a title Hall had held for 59 years.

Coached by Bobby Ramsay at Yulee High School, Derrick finished his high school career with 12,124 rushing yards. He was awarded the Florida Times Union Offensive and Super 24 Player of the Year, Florida's Mr. Football, and Parade Magazine's All-American Player of the Year.

None of these awards and accolades were shocking to Coach Ramsay, Derrick's middle school coach and longtime mentor J.T. Medley, or the entire Yulee community. They have always known Derrick as a quiet, polite, hard-working young man both in the classroom and on the field. It does not come as a surprise to his teachers that Derrick will complete his degree at Alabama and graduate this spring. Finishing what he starts is what Derrick Henry does.

Leading up to winning the Heisman Trophy, Derrick Henry gained ground on the competition in each game Alabama played this past year. Along the way Derrick won the 2015 SEC Offensive Player of the Year Award, and his 1,986 yards rushing broke Herschel Walker's 1982 single-season SEC rushing record by four yards. He also won the Maxwell Award as college's most valuable player and the Doak Walker Award as the top running back.

At Alabama, Derrick holds the school's record for most consecutive games with a touchdown and tied former Heisman Trophy recipient University of Florida's Quarterback Tim Tebow's SEC mark of 14 straight games with a touchdown score in the November 2015 game against Mississippi State. Tim Tebow is also from Florida's Fourth Congressional District.

A role model not only to football fans everywhere but especially to his supportive community in Yulee, Florida, Derrick Henry is a respected leader on the football field and in life. He has always put team before self and his generous spirit and infectious smile make Derrick Henry a local hero. I send my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Derrick and his family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and Members of Congress to join me in congratulating Derrick Henry on winning college football's most coveted and prestigious award, the Heisman Trophy. In addition, I must note to all college and high school football players, if you want the best chance of winning the Heisman Trophy . . . move to the Fourth Congressional District of Florida . . . home of two Heisman Trophy winners in the last ten years.

IN RECOGNITION OF JULIA MARIE DONOVAN

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Julia Marie Donovan on the occasion of her ninetieth birthday this month.

Mrs. Donovan, or June, as she is referred to by her many friends, was born on December 30, 1925, the oldest child of the O'Brien family of North Cambridge. The daughter of Irish immigrants, June recounts that as children she, her two younger siblings, Cornelius and Rita, and her parents were a very close knit family. After losing her father at the age of thirteen, at the height of the Great Depression, June became even more involved with helping her mother. However, her mother insisted that she still finish her studies and just as the United States was entering the Second World War, June graduated from St. Mary's in Cambridge.

Upon her graduation, June entered the workforce. She began working in Boston for the New Haven Railroad. As so many other young women were doing at the time, she took over the desk of a young man who had gone to war. She remained there for the duration of the war, knowing all the while that she would be expected to leave upon the return of the American servicemen. After three years, the soldier whose desk she had occupied finally did return. Upon their meeting, he immediately asked if he could call her. His name was William Donovan, and they were married for over sixty years.

Bill and June raised their sons Francis, William, James, Dennis, and Kevin in Hingham, Massachusetts, and their happy home was always open to the many friends who dropped by constantly. After moving to Cape Cod, they still had visitors often—including their ten grandchildren and many nieces and nephews who have continued to enjoy their many beach days at Nana and Poppy's. It is surrounded by this large, loving family that June will celebrate her birthday at the end of this month.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Julia Marie Donovan on this joyous occasion. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing her many more years of happiness.

OPENING OF THE MUSLIM EDUCATION TRUST CENTER, TIGARD, OREGON

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the grand opening of the Muslim Educational Trust Community Center in my district.

I recently had the honor of attending the ceremony and thanking Wajdi Said and the Muslim Educational Trust Center's Board of Directors for their leadership and hard work to establish this important Community Center.

Now more than ever, our country needs organizations like the Muslim Educational Trust, whose work for the betterment of society—through education, cooperation, tolerance, and

public awareness—transcends faith and bridges differences. The MET is educating the next generation of Muslim leaders and in the process, enhancing relations between Muslim and non-Muslim Oregonians.

Like most, I condemn the hateful, closed-minded, anti-Muslim rhetoric that has infiltrated our public discourse. Equally disturbing are the reports of violence against Muslim Americans and their places of worship. Hate speech has always characterized darker periods of our history and these episodes will be similarly judged.

Just recently, on the 150th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution's 13th Amendment abolishing slavery, President Obama gave a poignant speech in which he described the long struggle that ended slavery, and the battle for civil rights and basic freedoms that followed.

The victories won by previous generations of enlightened Americans have had far-reaching effects. However, discrimination remains prevalent and has manifested itself in an attack on religious freedom.

During his speech, President Obama remarked, "We betray the efforts of the past if we fail to push back against bigotry in all its forms." And he's right—we have an obligation to our nation, itself a protest against oppression, to speak up for the freedoms and safety of our friends and neighbors.

President Obama also said, "Our freedom is bound up with the freedom of others—regardless of what they look like or where they come from or what their last name is or what faith they practice." In the United States, this notion is fundamental and an important part of what distinguishes us from many other countries.

The Muslim Educational Trust Community Center will continue to open its doors to all of its neighbors, enlightening minds and building bridges of friendship among Muslim and non-Muslim Oregonians. I am pleased to extend my congratulations and pledge support against bigotry in all its forms.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the Omnibus Appropriations bill. After a thoughtful and thorough review, I have decided to vote in favor of the Omnibus Appropriations bill. I have reservations about several provisions in the bill, but ultimately I believe that the good contained in this bill outweighs the bad. My vote was cast in favor of keeping the government operating and to continue to make critical investments agency programs that benefit all Americans. I also firmly believe that we cannot afford another shutdown and this bill provides the Federal Government with funding through September 30, 2016.

The omnibus provides much needed increases for a broad range of education programs including Head Start, Title I grants, aid to HBCUs, the TRIO and GEAR UP programs,

and rural education. Providing the resources low-income families need to increase their academic success is one of my highest priorities, and this legislation is a first step in the right direction.

Furthermore, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), and other minority serving institutions are set to receive an additional \$40 million in funding. HBCUs have created and fostered a generation of African-American professionals, and still play a vital role in educating our youth. My district is home to some of the most prominent HBCUs in the Country, and as a Vice Chair of the Bipartisan Congressional HBCU Caucus, securing adequate funding for these institutions is critically important to me.

I am also pleased that this bill provides funding through the Department of the Interior that will be used to preserve historic civil sites. The struggle for civil and voting rights is an integral part of American history. Our district is known as the civil rights district, and we have the potential to benefit from this competitive grant process. I fought to secure two amendments that made this funding possible in order to preserve important civil rights sites for future generations.

The bill includes many increases in programs that are critical to improving access to quality health care and innovative medical research. I am particularly pleased to see a much needed increase in funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF). These investments in research are essential to providing long-term stability for our research communities in Birmingham and across the state. The package recognizes that HIV and Hepatitis should be a priority by reinvesting in the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). As the mental health crisis becomes more urgent, the deal's increased funding for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Agency (SAMHSA) is a welcome sign of progress for the mental health community.

There is an urgent need to address racial health disparities in Alabama's 7th Congressional District, and I am pleased this bill recognizes that need. By funding Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH), Congress has made an investment to help eliminate health disparities across a range of diseases, including heart disease, diabetes, and obesity.

This is not a perfect bill, but I am proud that both sides of the aisle were able to work out a compromise that benefits our nation, and helps us continue to grow.

RECOGNIZING STAN SOLOWAY ON HIS TENURE AS PRESIDENT/CEO OF THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES COUNCIL

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my friend, Mr. Stan Soloway, as he prepares to step down from his 15 year tenure as president and CEO of the Professional Services Council (PSC.)

PSC was founded in 1972 by a group of industry leaders who recognized the emergence and growing vitality of the professional services sector. Prior to 1972, this sector was virtually unaccounted for as a part of the U.S. economy even though it was thriving and growing at twice the rate of the rest of the economy. PSC organized the various businesses and service providers so that they could become more effective in supporting the growth of the businesses while delivering better and more cost-effective services to the federal government.

In January, 2001, Stan assumed the presidency of PSC. His knowledge and expertise in public policy, public affairs, and acquisition reform have been instrumental in shaping PSC into an essential partner with the federal government. Following the merger of PSC and the Contract Services Association of America, PSC became a single, unified voice representing the range and diversity of the government services sector. PSC currently has nearly 400 member companies that provide federal agencies with services in a multitude of areas including information technology, engineering, logistics, facilities management, operations and maintenance, consulting, international development, scientific, social, environmental services, and others. Together, the trade association's members employ hundreds of thousands of Americans in all 50 states.

Before joining PSC, Stan served as the deputy undersecretary of Defense, and concurrently as the director of Secretary of Defense William Cohen's Defense Reform Initiative. In recognition of his expertise and leadership, he was awarded the Secretary of Defense Medals for Outstanding and Distinguished Public Service. In addition, Stan was confirmed by the United States Senate in 2007 to serve a 5 year term on the board of directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service, the federal agency that oversees national service programs including Americorps and VISTA. Stan is a principal of the Partnership for Public Service, and a member of the Executive Advisory Board of the National Contract Management Association, where he is also a fellow.

A nationally recognized expert, Stan writes regular columns for Washington Technology magazine and the Washington Business Journal. In addition, he has been a contributing author for books published by Harvard Law School, the University of Pennsylvania, Cambridge University, and the IMB Center for the Business of Government. Stan was also a producer of the critically acclaimed PBS series "Great Confrontations at the Oxford Union."

Stan has received numerous awards and accolades in recognition of his talents and accomplishments. These honors include the 2013 Herbert Roback Award, being named the 2013 Industry Executive of the Year by Government Computer News and 1105 Media. In addition, the Washington Business Journal named Stan to its Power 100 as one of the most influential business leaders in Washington in 2012 and 2013, and he was named one of the most influential leaders in U.S. defense by Defense News and Gannett Media. He is also a two time winner of the Federal 100 award.

Northern Virginia is a vibrant region where so many are genuinely experts in technology, government services, and public policy. Among this group of esteemed professionals,

Stan Soloway stands out. He has been a pioneering force in changing and modernizing the way that the federal government does business, and we have all benefited from his exceptional abilities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Stan on his remarkable tenure as president and CEO of PSC. We wish him well in the next chapter of his life and thank him for his tireless efforts on behalf of the federal government and the professional services industry.

HONORING FORT OSAGE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the Fort Osage High School football team. This is a group of very special young men who have exemplified the finest qualities of teamwork, devotion and sportsmanship by taking an active part in the classroom and on the field. These Indians relentlessly pursued their goal and were rewarded with their first state football title in school history.

The Fort Osage Indians defeated Chaminade 63–28 in the Missouri Class 5 Championship. Senior Skylar Thompson managed to score an astounding seven times. This capped an outstanding season for Thompson, who was awarded the Thomas A. Simone Award as the best high school football player in the Kansas City area. The work and effort these young men have persevered through over the years has not only earned them numerous honors on and off the field, but also the respect of their families, classmates, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the Fort Osage High School football team for their accomplishments on the field and for their efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Missouri Class Five state champions.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this tax bill, which is unpaid for and adds more than \$600 billion to the deficit, primarily to benefit corporations at the expense of working families. In the future, to address the revenue loss in this bill will require reduced funding for education, health care, and job training programs essential to improving the lives of hardworking Americans. This is completely unacceptable.

While there are some positive elements in this bill, including making the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit permanent, the bill does not allow the Child Tax Credit to

keep pace with inflation, which means the tax credit will be worth less and less as the years go by.

Mr. Speaker, the tax provisions in this bill don't do enough to help families make ends meet, and will force us to underfund programs that Americans need to educate their children, keep their families healthy, and provide for their families' future and well-being. I will vote against this bill because it is a bad deal for American families.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RE-
LATED AGENCIES APPROPRIA-
TIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the underlying bill, H.R. 2029, the "Omnibus Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2014."

I want to thank Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member LOWEY for their constructive work in fashioning this bipartisan and bicameral legislation to fund the government for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2016.

The bill before us is not perfect—far from it—but it is a modest and positive step toward preventing Republicans from shutting down the government again and manufacturing crises that only harm our economy, destroy jobs, and weaken our middle class.

As with any compromise there are some things in the agreement that I support and some things that I do not.

The bill provides a total of \$1.067 trillion for the operation of the federal government, a substantial and necessary increase of \$80 billion in sequestration relief.

The bill contains all 12 regular appropriations bills for fiscal year 2016, with no area of the government functioning under a Continuing Resolution, thus allowing every program to be considered on its own merits and prioritized, rather than be subject to arbitrary across the board cuts.

Mr. Speaker, let me say at the outset that I am very pleased that Section 208 of the Omnibus (Division N) incorporates the Jackson Lee Amendment to Cybersecurity Act of 2015, which creates a voluntary cybersecurity information sharing process that will encourage public and private sector entities to share cyber threat information, without legal barriers and the threat of unfounded litigation—while protecting private information.

The Jackson Lee Amendment incorporated in the Cybersecurity Act and included in the Omnibus also includes provisions to improve federal network and information system security, provide assessments on the federal cybersecurity workforce, and provide reporting and strategies on cybersecurity industry-related and criminal-related matters.

I also strongly support the James Zadroga 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund Reauthorization contained in Title IV of Division O, which reauthorizes the 9/11 Victims Compensation Fund for an additional five years, provides an additional \$4.6 billion to fully fund the VCF; and makes technical adjustments to VCF pay-

ment schedules to ensure the provided funding is sufficient to pay all claims.

In addition, Title IV creates a fund, modeled along the lines of the "Victim of the Terror Fund" I proposed in H. Res. 528, to compensate U.S. victims of terrorism who either hold a final judgment issued against a state sponsor of terrorism under the terrorism exception to the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act, or were taken hostage (or are a spouse or child of someone who was taken hostage) from the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, Iran in 1979.

This program is funded with an initial allocation of \$1.025 billion and will be augmented in future years through criminal and civil penalties levied against state sponsors of terrorism and their co-conspirators.

Mr. Speaker, the Omnibus provides increases in funding for several programs that I have strongly supported and fought for throughout my tenure in Congress.

Let me list just a few of the more important ones.

AGRICULTURE AND RELATED AGENCIES

\$6.350 billion for Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), an amount sufficient to meet expected need in Fiscal Year 2016.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES

\$19.3 billion for NASA, which is \$1.27 billion more than the 2015 enacted level.

\$347 million for Byrne-JAG grants, which is \$14.7 million above the 2015 enacted level and \$2 million more than the House bill.

\$212 million for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program. Within this funding, \$187 million is for the hiring of law enforcement, which is \$7 million above the FY 2015 level and \$187 million above the House bill which eliminated this funding.

\$480 million for Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution Programs, which is \$50 million more than the 2015 enacted level.

\$270.2 million for Juvenile Justice, which is \$18.7 million more than the FY 2015 level and \$83.7 million above the House bill.

\$385 million for the Legal Services Corporation, which is \$10 million more than FY 2015 level and \$85 million above the House bill.

\$7.46 billion for the National Science Foundation (NSF), which is \$119.3 million more than FY 2015 and \$69.3 million above the House bill.

\$2.57 billion overall for total State and Local Law Enforcement Activities, which is \$246.2 million above the FY 2015 level and \$405.7 million more than the House bill; and

\$1.37 billion for the Census Bureau, which is \$378.3 million more than the House bill, including funding to help ensure an efficient 2020 Census utilizing innovative and cost-effective enumeration practices.

The bill rejects House proposals to prohibit the Department of Justice from using funds to challenge state immigration laws or awarding grants to "sanctuary" cities; or to defend the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy in the pending court case.

DEFENSE

\$288.3 million for sexual assault prevention and response programs, \$5 million more than the House bill and \$25 million more than the request.

\$125 million for Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Psychological Health research.

\$282 million for cancer research, roughly the same as the House bill, \$407 million more

than the request, and \$1.5 million more than FY2015.

1.3% pay raise for military personnel as proposed in the budget request and included in the FY2016 National Defense Authorization Act.

\$26.7 million for the Defense Suicide Prevention Office, the same as the House bill, \$20 million more than requested.

\$25 million for STARBASE, a STEM education program for fifth graders, the same as the House bill, \$25 million more than the request, and the same as FY2015.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

\$2.1 billion for Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy, which is \$404 million more than the 2015 enacted level.

\$6.0 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers, which is \$350 million more than the 2015 enacted level.

\$1.3 billion for water resources projects within the Department of Interior, which is \$135 million more than the 2015 enacted level.

\$206 million for activities to modernize the electricity grid, which is \$19 million more than the House bill and \$59 million than the FY2015 enacted level.

\$6.2 billion for environmental cleanup activities, which is \$309 million more than the House bill and \$337 million more than the FY2015 enacted level.

The Omnibus eliminates the majority of riders proposed in the House bill, including those related to Waters of the United States, guns on Corps lands, Clean Water Act agriculture exemptions and ceiling fan standards.

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

\$871 million for the Small Business Administration (SBA), which is \$16.6 million less than the 2015 enacted level (as a result of reduced loan subsidy costs) and \$18.5 million higher than the House-passed level.

\$729.8 million for the District of Columbia, which is \$50.3 million more than the 2015 enacted level and \$51.8 million more than the House-passed level.

\$6.8 billion for the Judiciary, which is \$80 million more than the 2015 enacted level.

The Omnibus eliminates the majority of riders proposed in the House including those prohibiting funds: to subsidize abortion services in connection with a multi-state plan offered under the Affordable Care Act exchanges negotiated by OPM; to implement the Affordable Care Act (ACA) individual mandate and prohibiting HHS transfers to IRS for ACA implementation; implement the net neutrality order until the current court cases are resolved; and to travel to Cuba for educational exchanges not involving academic study pursuant to a degree program.

HOMELAND SECURITY

\$13.03 billion for U.S. Customs and Border Protection, which is \$451 million more than the FY2015 enacted level and \$59 million less than the House level.

\$4.93 billion for the Transportation Security Administration, which is \$225.8 million less than the 2013 enacted level.

\$7.44 billion for the Transportation Security Administration, which is \$211.3 million more than the FY2015 enacted level and \$207.5 million more than the House level.

\$923.8 million for Cybersecurity and Communications, an increase of \$27.5 million above the 2013 enacted level.

\$4.62 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, \$268.9 million above the 2015 enacted level.

\$2.54 billion for State and Local Grants, an increase of \$10 million above the 2015 enacted level and \$308.6 million more than the request.

\$1.93 billion for the U.S. Secret Service, which is \$267.8 million more than the FY2015 enacted level.

\$10.92 billion for the U.S. Coast Guard, which is \$880 million more than the FY2015 enacted level and \$805.9 million more than the House level.

\$100 million for Pre-Disaster Mitigation, which is \$75 million more than the FY2015 enacted level and the House level.

\$190 million for Flood Mapping, which is \$90 million more than the FY2015 enacted level and the House level.

\$50 million in new funding to help state and local communities counter violent extremism and to help state and local law enforcement prepare for and respond to complex, coordinated terrorist attacks.

\$100 million in new funding for DHS to address cybersecurity vulnerabilities of DHS IT systems.

Controversial House riders related to abortion services and immigration enforcement are not included in the bill.

Among the contentious riders not included were provisions:

1. related to the expanded Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program and the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans program;

2. to eliminate ICE's discretion to release certain categories of detainees from custody, except for removal;

3. intended to prohibit Americans from bringing back merchandise from Cuba; and

4. prohibiting the award of terrorism preparedness grants to states or political subdivisions of states that do not permit law enforcement officers to assist or cooperate with the enforcement of federal immigration law.

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

\$4.203 billion for Wildland fires, which represent the 10-year average of costs.

\$4.8 billion for the Indian Health Service, which is \$165 million more than the 2015 enacted level.

\$450 million is provided for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, an increase of \$144 million above the 2015 enacted level.

\$2.851 billion for the National Park Service, which is \$237 million more than the 2015 enacted level.

\$147.9 million each for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities, which is \$1.9 million more than the 2015 enacted level and \$1.9 million more than the House bill.

\$2.796 billion for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which is \$195 million more than the 2015 enacted level and \$30 million more than the House bill.

\$2.455 billion for the U.S. Forest Service (non-fire), which is \$35 million more than the 2015 enacted level and \$99 million more than the House bill.

LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

\$9.26 billion for Head Start, which is \$570 million more than the 2015 enacted level, and \$14 million more than the House bill.

\$2.7 billion for job training through WIA Training and Employment Formula Grant pro-

gram, which is \$86 million more than the 2015 enacted level.

\$835 million for Seniors' Nutrition programs, which is \$20 million more than the 2015 enacted level and \$14 million more than the House bill.

\$2.36 billion for Child Care & Development Block Grants, which is \$36 million more than the 2015 enacted level.

\$244.7 million for Historically Black Colleges, \$63.3 million for Historically Black Graduate Institutions, and \$9.9 million for Predominantly Black Institutions, a total of more than \$319 million, which represents an increase of about \$23 million over the 2015 enacted level.

\$56,758,601 for the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) Research Centers in Minority Institutions equal to the enacted 2015 level.

\$22.5 billion for Pell Grants, the same as the 2015 enacted level but \$370 million more than the House bill, and which, when combined with mandatory funding, will enable the maximum grant to increase to an estimated \$5,915, an increase of \$140 in the 2016–2017 school year.

\$3.4 billion for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which is the same as the 2015 enacted level and \$25 million more than the House bill.

\$11.9 billion for Special Education state grants (IDEA), which is \$415 million more than the 2015 enacted level and \$87 million less than the House bill.

\$1.6 billion for worker protection agencies at the Department of Labor, which is \$3 million more than the 2015 enacted level and \$39 million more than the House bill.

\$445 million as an advance appropriation for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), which is the same as the 2015 enacted level and the House bill. An increase of \$40 million is provided for Television Interconnection in 2016, which is \$40 million more than the House bill.

\$948 million for Unaccompanied Minor Children, which is the same as the 2015 enacted level and \$130 million more than the House bill.

\$1.1 billion for the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), which is \$40 million more than the 2015 enacted level and \$407 million more than the House bill.

The Omnibus abandons the futile but wasteful effort by House Republicans to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

\$71.414 billion in discretionary funding for Veterans Affairs, which is \$6.4 billion more than the 2015 enacted level.

\$630.7 million for prosthetic research, which is \$41.8 million above the 2015 enacted level.

An additional \$2.369 billion for the Medical Services account and \$105 million for Medical Facilities for fiscal year 2016.

Of the additional funds included for fiscal year 2016, \$1.5 billion is dedicated for the treatment of Hepatitis C within the VA system, an additional \$50 million is included for the Caregiver Program, and an additional \$15 million is included for mobile Vet Centers.

The Omnibus provides new tools and resources to address the backlog of veterans' disability claims by increasing personnel, enhancing training and quality oversight, and strengthening accountability.

STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED AGENCIES

I would have preferred that the bill provide more than \$2.22 billion for Embassy Security,

Construction and Maintenance, an amount that is \$102 million less than the 2015 enacted level. Our diplomats who risk their lives serving in dangerous outposts around the world deserve all the resources required to keep them safe.

\$2.78 billion for Development Assistance (DA), which is \$274 million more than the FY 2015 level but \$218 million.

\$4.32 billion for Economic Support Fund (ESF), which is \$428 million less than the FY 2015 level.

\$1.28 billion for USAID Operating Expenses (OE), which is \$66.6 million more than the FY 2015 level.

\$5.9 billion in total funding for humanitarian assistance accounts, which is \$899 million more than the FY 2015 level.

And the FY 2016 Committee mark and \$1.66 billion more than the

\$410 million for Peace Corps, which is \$30.5 million more than the 2015 Committee mark and the FY 2015 level and equal to the Administration's request.

\$8.5 billion for Global Health (GHP), which is \$49.5 million more than the FY 2016 Committee mark and FY 2015 level and \$322 million more than the Administration's request.

\$575 million for bilateral family planning, which is equal to the 2015 enacted level.

The final agreement does not include a policy rider codifying the "Global Gag Rule," which prohibits non-governmental organizations (NGOs) receiving federal funds from providing women information about certain health services.

TRANSPORTATION, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

\$16.3 billion for Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), which is \$563 million more than the 2015 enacted level.

\$500 million for National Infrastructure Investments (TIGER), which is equal to the 2015 enacted level and \$400 million more than the House bill.

\$2.2 billion for Capital Investment Grants, which is \$57 million more than the 2015 enacted level and \$256 million more than the House bill.

\$50 million for Railroad Safety Grants, \$25 million for rail infrastructure improvements and \$25 million for positive train control grants.

\$17.7 billion for Section 8 Tenant Based Rental Assistance renewals, which is \$195 million more than the 2015 enacted level.

\$60 million for HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH), which is \$15 million below the 2015 enacted level but \$60 million more than the House bill, and \$60 million more than the President's budget request.

\$10.4 billion for Section 8 Project Based Rental Assistance renewals, which is \$885 million more than the 2015 enacted level, and is sufficient to meet expected need based on updated estimates.

\$4.5 billion for Public Housing Operating Fund, which is \$60 million more than the 2015 enacted level and \$60 million more than the House bill.

\$1.9 billion for Public Housing Capital Fund, which is \$25 million more than the 2015 enacted level and \$219 million more than the House bill, and \$50 million below the President's budget request.

\$3 billion for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), which is equal to the 2015 enacted level.

\$110 million for Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control, which is the same as the

2015 enacted level and \$35 million more than the House bill.

\$300 million for flooding disasters that occurred in calendar year 2015.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that Title III of Division O of the Omnibus keeps faith with the first responders who risked their lives and sacrificed their health in aid of the fellow human beings who were trapped or perished in the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

Specifically, Title III of Division O includes the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act which reauthorizes the World Trade Center Health Program through 2090, establishing annual caps for funding for the first 10 years, then increasing the caps to account for inflation in future years and allowing the funding to carry over if necessary.

Mr. Speaker, as I stated, this bill is not perfect, but on balance it is a significant improvement over the spending bills considered in the House last year.

SPANKY'S RIVER STREET KICKS
OFF 40TH YEAR IN BUSINESS

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to join my friend, Ansley Williams, in celebrating the 40th year of business at Spanky's River Street in Savannah, Georgia.

Spanky's River Street, home of the original chicken finger, began 40 years ago with a dream hatched by brothers Dusty and Alben Yarbrough and Ansley Williams, all natives of Thomaston, Georgia. They opened the original Spanky's restaurant in December 1976 with the idea of selling half-pound burgers and pizza.

Culinary history was made when Alben insisted on having a chicken sandwich on the menu. The only problem was the bird was bigger than the bun. To get it to fit, the edges had to be trimmed off. Alben took the trimmings, tossed them in a special seasoned breading, and fried it up to a golden delicious treat. Right then and there, the original chicken finger was born.

Spanky's River Street kicked off its 40th year in business with a celebration on December 16th to acknowledge and honor employees and patrons, past and present. With a staff as friendly as the happy hour and a history wider than the Savannah River, Spanky's has been a favorite dining spot for locals and visitors alike.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to recognize Ansley and the Spanky's family for all their hard work and dedication to Savannah's restaurant community. Congratulations on your 40th year of business.

RECOGNIZING THE EL PASO COUNTY VETERANS ASSISTANCE OFFICE

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today in recognition of the El Paso County Veterans Assistance Office for their efforts in supporting veterans and their dependents and survivors in my district of El Paso, Texas. The Veterans Assistance Office works with veterans and their families to overcome obstacles that may be preventing them from getting the benefits they need and have earned.

The El Paso County Veterans Assistance Office is certified through the Texas Veterans Commission and provides information to our Veterans regarding their eligibility for state and federal benefits. The office assists the veteran and their family through every step of the paperwork process—from researching eligibility requirements to verifying that the claims are filed correctly. The knowledgeable staff led by Mr. Michael Flores works diligently to stay informed on the latest legislation and newest policy in order to best advise veterans and their families.

The Veterans Assistance Office is involved with many local veteran service organizations and is a recognized voice in our area, regularly seen advocating for veterans and raising awareness for veteran issues at different meetings and events in El Paso.

The El Paso County Veterans Assistance Office is deserving of recognition for their continuous support of our veterans. The office takes the time to explain and walk veterans through the process from start to finish, ensuring that they are not forgotten. I am proud of the work that the El Paso County Veterans Assistance Office does to help veterans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes from Tuesday, December 15, 2015 through Thursday, December 17, 2015, because I was sitting shiva with my family in accordance with Jewish law following the death of my mother Jean Deutch on Friday, December 11, 2015. Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

On Roll Call 694, I would have voted yea. (H. Res. 536)

On Roll Call 695, I would have voted yea. (H.R. 2820)

On Roll Call 696, I would have voted yea. (H.R. 4246)

On Roll Call 697, I would have voted yea. (S. 1090)

On Roll Call 698, I would have voted yea. (H.R. 2297)

On Roll Call 699, I would have voted yea. (H.R. 3750)

On Roll Call 700, I would have voted yea. (H.R. 4239)

On Roll Call 701, I would have voted no. (H. Res. 566, On ordering the previous question)

On Roll Call 702, I would have voted no. (H. Res. 566)

On Roll Call 703, I would have voted yea. (H.R. 2029, amendment 3b)

On Roll Call 704, I would have voted yea. (On approving the Journal)

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, on December 16, 2015, I missed two recorded votes due to a previously scheduled meeting. I would like to reflect how I would have voted if I were present:

On Roll Call Number 700, I would have voted YEA in support of H.R. 4239, the Tracking Foreign Fighters in Terrorist Safe Havens Act.

On Roll Call Number 699, I would have voted YEA in support of H.R. 3750, the First Responders Passport Act of 2015.

These two pieces of legislation will strengthen our national security and deservedly recognize first responders who aid a foreign country following a natural disaster.

TRIBUTE TO ALVIN BERNARD STEWART

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mourn the loss of my dear friend, Al Stewart. Al was a giant of a man with a heart of pure gold. He was the person everyone in his community came to when they needed a helping hand. He never turned anyone away in their hour of need. He was a friend to everyone and a true pillar of our community.

Al Stewart was deeply committed to the safety and security of his fellow citizens. He bravely served his country in our Army during the Korean Conflict. He also served in the Philadelphia Police Department for 25 years, including 5 years in the Gang Control Division.

His commitment to our citizens did not end when he left the Police Department. He moved to the Board of Revision of Taxes where he was dedicated to ensuring that our seniors and citizens of modest means were not unfairly taxed.

Mr. Speaker, Al Stewart honorably served the people of Northwest Philadelphia as a community leader and as their City Councilman. But, his greatest service was as a husband and a father. He deeply loved his late wife Ojetta and was devoted to his children Alinda, Shellyn, and Dwayne.

Al leaves a great legacy behind as he goes on to his reward. Those of us who knew him are better off for that privilege. So, I ask all of my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring him today.

RECOGNIZING NOVANT HEALTH
FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO
NORTHERN VIRGINIA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Novant Health for their commitment to the health and well-being of Northern Virginia residents.

Novant Health is an integrated network of hospitals, outpatient centers, and physician practices spanning four states and servicing more than 4 million patients annually including many in Northern Virginia. The Metropolitan area houses two of Novant Health's fourteen health care centers: Novant Health Prince William Medical Center located in Manassas and Novant Health Haymarket Medical Center. Other regional facilities include Novant Health Cancer Center, two surgery centers, Novant Wound Care & Hyperbaric Medicine, and Novant Health Breast Center.

In 2013, Novant Health provided more than \$21 million in charity care and services in Northern Virginia. Novant Health is one of the top 25 integrated health systems in the United States and was named a top 50 "Best Places for Diverse & Women Managers to Work" by Diversity MBA Magazine.

Showcasing its commitment to active community engagement, Novant Health reaches beyond the walls of its many health facilities. Novant Health actively seeks out community health outreach efforts as part of the patient-oriented delivery model.

One time-tested initiative is as the Hylton Presents Season Sponsor since the inaugural 2010–2011 season, as well as the namesake of the Novant Health Rehearsal Room. In addition to philanthropic support, Novant Health regularly hosts community and physicians events at the Hylton Center as a continued supporter of the center and Northern Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Novant Health as the 5th Hylton Center for Performing Arts Anniversary Gala honoree for its commitment to improving the health of Northern Virginia, one person at a time.

IN TRIBUTE TO SHARON ADAMS

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sharon Adams, a mentor, community leader, and administrator. She is the Founder and Director of Programs for Walnut Way Conservation Corp and after 15 years of service transitions from her position on December 21, 2015.

Sharon Adams moved back to Milwaukee in 1997 from New York and found the once-vibrant Lindsay Heights neighborhood where she grew up lined with boarded-up houses, trash-filled lots, gangs, prostitution and drugs. This spurred her and her neighbors to organize Walnut Way, a grassroots association whose motto is to "Reclaim, Restore, and Repurpose". The organization's headquarters is

a former drug den and 100 year old structure that has been restored and transformed into the community's nerve center.

Ms. Adams and Walnut Way pushed for the revitalization of North Avenue and the Lindsay Heights Community. The blight is now gone, replaced by restored and newly built houses, rain and vegetable gardens and fruit orchards, youth trained in urban agriculture, a bee aviary to harvest and sell honey, a tree nursery to expand the canopy, and work with police to improve safety. They run an award winning business called Blue Skies that employs youth and others from the community for their landscaping operation.

Sharon has capped off her remarkable urban renewal effort with the completion of The Innovations and Wellness Commons. The Commons will serve nearly 8000 residents living in and surrounding the Lindsay Heights neighborhood. Funds for this venture include significant dollars from federal, state and local governments, the Zilber Family Foundation, and many others. Nearly 30 jobs were created for low income workers by this project. The Commons include Outpost Natural Foods Coop that operates four large organic grocery stores in the Milwaukee area, the Juice Kitchen, a business operated by experienced entrepreneurs specializing in vegetarian meals all sited in a setting that allows for holistic approaches to healthy living such as healing circles, fitness classes and meditation. This economically distressed area is no longer a food desert but a haven providing an environment for healthy living and jobs.

This is Sharon Adams' second retirement, she left the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee in 2008 as Director of Service Learning to head Walnut Way. She helped create other neighborhood organizations, including the Lindsay Heights Neighborhood Health Alliance to reduce health disparities and the Lindsay Heights Neighborhood Quality of Life Plan, part of the Zilber Neighborhood Initiative, a \$50 million program to revive low-income Milwaukee neighborhoods in 10 years.

Sharon Adams is also the Wisconsin 2010 Social Innovation Prize Award Winner, an award given to an individual over age 50 who addresses critical social problems. The prize includes \$5,000, as well as, another \$5000 to be designated by the winner to an organization.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Ms. Sharon Adams who leaves a legacy of advocacy and compassion. She is a true trailblazer who has labored to attract investment and lead the Lindsay Heights Neighborhood to prosperity and good health. The citizens of the Fourth Congressional District, the State of Wisconsin and the nation have benefited tremendously from her dedicated service. I am honored for these reasons to pay tribute to Ms. Sharon Adams.

THE RETIREMENT OF DR.
WILLIAM "BRIT" KIRWAN

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and to congratulate Dr. William "Brit" Kirwan on his well-deserved retirement. Dr.

Kirwan served for 12 years as the chancellor of the University System of Maryland, and I know that his principled character and educational capability will be sorely missed.

It has been my pleasure to work with him over the years in his capacity as chancellor of the University System, but long before becoming chancellor, Dr. Kirwan first taught mathematics over at the University's College Park campus. After turns as department chair and provost at College Park, as president he had a direct hand in designing the framework for the University System of Maryland itself.

Dr. Kirwan's expertise on higher education helped the University System grow to be one of the largest and most respected educational institutions in the country. Students and educators have thrived under his leadership and the surrounding Maryland community has benefited from having such a capable and qualified university in its midst.

In fact, Dr. Kirwan's expertise is recognized by so many that, in the fall of 2013, he was asked to serve as co-chair of the Senate's Task Force on Federal Regulation of Higher Education. The resulting report provided clear suggestions aimed at helping colleges and universities to prioritize improving the quality of education and readying their students for the demands of the 21st century.

I want to thank Dr. Kirwan for his committed and passionate service to the University System—his legacy will live on in the accomplished faculty and students whom he served so well. Thank you Brit, and we wish you the best in your retirement.

A DAY IN HONOR OF BENJAMIN
EARL KING

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life, legacy, and work of Benjamin Earl King; who was a Singer, Record Producer and Composer of some of America's greatest soul music and hit songs such as "Stand By Me" & "Spanish Harlem." He is a legendary and well known musician. He has had many accomplishments throughout his entire life. Mr. King was also extremely active in his charitable foundation, the Stand By Me Foundation, which helps to provide education to deserving youths. On Thursday, December 10th, 2015, at Harlem's historic Interchurch Center at The Riverside Church; The Office of Congressman CHARLES B. RANGEL, Voza Rivers/New Heritage Theatre Group, The Interchurch Center & Harlem Music Fest In Partnership With Community Works presents "Celebrating the Music of Ben E. King," to memorialize Ben E. King's contributions to the Harlem community and beyond.

The celebration featured musical guest performances by Rhythm & Blues Legends Chuck Jackson, Maxine Brown, Beverly Crosby, Wild Women featuring (Maxine Brown, Beverly Crosby & Sherryl Marshall) and Soul Vocalist Joe Coleman. The evening culminated in a very special musical performance by Al Orlo, who served as Ben E. King's Lead Guitarist for 25 years and his Musical Director from 1996–2015.

From the groundbreaking orchestrated productions of the Drifters to his own solo hits,

Ben E. King was the definition of R&B elegance. King's plaintive baritone had all the passion of gospel; however the settings in which it was displayed with his honey smooth phrasing and crisp enunciation, proved, for perhaps the first time, that R&B could be sophisticated and accessible to pop audiences. King's approach influenced countless smooth soul singers in his wake, and his records were key forerunners of the Motown sound.

On September 28, 1938, King was born under the given name of Benjamin Earl Nelson in Henderson, North Carolina, where he sang with his church choir before the family moved to Harlem in 1947. In junior high, he began performing with a street corner doo wop group called the Four B's, which won second place in an Apollo Theater talent contest. While attending high school, he was offered a chance to join the Moonglows, but was simply too young and inexperienced to stick. He subsequently worked at his father's restaurant as a singing waiter, which led to an invitation to become the baritone singer in a doo wop outfit called the Five Crowns in 1958.

The Five Crowns performed several gigs at the Apollo Theater along with the Drifters, whose career had begun to flounder in the years since original lead singer Clyde McPhatter departed. Drifters manager George Treadwell, dissatisfied with the group members' unreliability and lack of success, fired them all in the summer of 1958 and hired the Five Crowns to assume the name of the Drifters.

The new Drifters toured for about a year, playing to hostile audiences who knew they were a completely different group. In early 1959, they went into the studio with producers Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller to cut their first records. A song Nelson (still performing under his given name) co-wrote called "There Goes My Baby" became his first lead vocal, and the lush backing arrangement made highly unorthodox (in fact, virtually unheard of) use of a string section. "There Goes My Baby" became a massive hit, laying the groundwork for virtually every smooth/uptown soul production that followed. Over the next two years, Nelson sang lead on several other Drifters classics, including "Dance with Me," "This Magic Moment," "Save the Last Dance for Me," and "I Count the Tears."

In 1960, Nelson approached Treadwell about a salary increase and a fairer share of the group's royalties. Treadwell rebuffed him and Nelson quit the group, at this point assuming the more memorable stage name Ben E. King in preparation for a solo career. Remaining on Atlantic, King scored his first solo hit with the stylish, Latin-tinged ballad "Spanish Harlem," a Jerry Leiber/Phil Spector composition that hit the Top Ten in early 1961. The follow-up, "Stand by Me," a heartfelt ode to friendship and devotion co-written by King, became his signature song and an enduring R&B classic; it was also his biggest hit, topping the R&B charts and reaching the pop Top Five.

King scored a few more chart singles through 1963, including velvety smooth pop-soul productions like "Amor," "Don't Play That Song (You Lied)," and the Italian tune "I (Who Have Nothing)." In the post-British Invasion years, King had a rough go of it on the pop charts but continued to score R&B hits. 1967's Southern-fried "What Is Soul?" was one of his last singles for Atco before departing the label in 1969.

In 1975, Atlantic president Ahmet Ertegun caught King's act in a Miami lounge and invited him to re-sign with the label. King scored an unlikely comeback smash with the disco track "Supernatural Thing, Pt. I," which returned him to the top of the R&B charts in 1975 and also reached the pop Top Five. While he was unable to duplicate that single's success, King recorded several more albums for Atlantic up through 1981, and also collaborated with the Average White Band in 1977 on the album *Benny & Us*. After leaving Atlantic a second time, King toured in a version of the Drifters beginning in 1982.

In 1986, "Stand by Me" was prominently featured in the Rob Reiner film of the same name; re-released as a single, it climbed into the Top Ten all over again. In its wake, King returned to solo recording, issuing albums every few years. He also guested on recordings by Heaven 17 and Mark Knopfler, among others. King's 1999 album *Shades of Blue* (on Half Note Records) found him branching out into jazz territory, performing with a big band and guests like Milt Jackson and David "Fathead" Newman.

On March 27, 2012, the Songwriters Hall of Fame announced that "Stand By Me" would receive its 2012 Towering Song Award and that King would be honored with the 2012 Towering Performance Award for his recording of the song. King toured the United Kingdom in 2013 and played concerts in the United States as late as 2014, despite reported health problems. Ben E. King died on April 30, 2015, after a brief illness. King has been covered by acts from several genres and artist including Shirley Bassey, Tom Jones in 1970 and Sylvester. "Till I Can't Get It Anymore" was revisited by peer Ray Charles in 1970 and "Spanish Harlem" was sung by Aretha Franklin in 1971. "Stand by Me" was covered by Otis Redding, John Lennon and Mickey Gilley. King also inspired several rock bands: Siouxsie and the Banshees recorded "Supernatural Thing" in 1981 and Led Zeppelin did a cover version of "Groovin'", more known under the title of "We're Gonna Groove."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing Benjamin E. King, and honoring his truly pioneer work, dedication, and great accomplishments; worthy of our Nation's highest artistic and charitable esteem. He is an example of someone who used his raw talent to become a legendary figure, and set the groundwork for many others that followed.

**MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RE-
LATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATION
ACT, 2016**

SPEECH OF

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, the Church Plan Clarification Act addresses several unintended consequences resulting from the application of general tax and pension regulations to the unique structures of church pension plans. Churches and synagogues established some of the first pension plans in the country, several dating back to the 18th century, and they

are designed to ensure that our clergy and laystaff have adequate resources during their retirement years.

Church plans are often structured to reflect the ecclesiastical teachings of their denomination. The resulting diversity of plan structures, coupled with the complexity of the legal and regulatory framework that applies to church plans, has led to the need for this legislation. The bill would correct several technical issues that are critical to the functioning and operation of church plans and the retirement benefits they provide.

While the corrections contained in PATH Act would be of tremendous help to church plans, I want to make clear that the bill does not affect the definition of "church plan" under the Internal Revenue Code or Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, ERISA. In particular, no inference is intended by this legislation regarding the statutory requirements a pension plan must meet to be considered or treated as a "church plan" under IRC section 414(e) of the Internal Revenue Code and section 3(33) of ERISA, and the bill has no bearing on the interpretation of those sections. Rather, the Church Plan Clarification Act is simply about fixing the rules that govern how church plans operate and serve their participants.

**OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT**

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 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 \$18,788,138,221,346.49. We've added \$8,161,261,172,243.41 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.

**RECOGNIZING GARY BRACKETT ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT**

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Gary Brackett, longtime Business and Political Manager for the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce, on his retirement after nearly four decades of service to the Tacoma-Pierce County community.

The Puget Sound region is home to a large number of military personnel, retirees, and their families. Over the course of Gary's 36 years at the Chamber, his top priority has been to advocate for this community in Pierce County and beyond. When Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM)—and other military installations—faced drastic cuts to its workforce in recent years due to federal budget cuts in defense spending, Gary led local efforts to retain

as many troops as possible by providing the U.S. Army with a quantitative analysis of JBLM's vital role to the region and to U.S. national security. His diligence and successful coalition-building helped to minimize the negative impacts that a reduction in military personnel would have entailed, including a projected \$1 billion loss in economic activity in the region that could have resulted.

Throughout his career at the Chamber, Gary made it a priority to not only interact with local and state leaders, but to have a presence in Washington, D.C. as well. He was instrumental in helping to secure federal funding for the construction of much-needed elementary schools at JBLM, local water and sewage projects, and other transportation infrastructure improvements on base. In recognition of his leadership, Gary was asked by Governor Inslee to serve on the Washington Military Alliance (WMA) where he worked to ensure the continued liveliness of Washington's military and defense sector community.

Gary's success at building coalitions includes his significant role in the development of an ongoing positive relationship between JBLM and its surrounding communities. Through his work to create the Chamber's Military Affairs Forum, base commanders and personnel have the opportunity to interact with local business and political leaders on a monthly basis. The Forum has served as an open platform to discuss controversial issues including joint land use and clear zone funding. Due to its success over the years, the Military Affairs Forum has served as a model for similar military communities across the country.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Gary Brackett on his retirement and accomplishments. His leadership has been critical to fostering a thriving economy and maintaining the quality of life of Pierce County businesses and military personnel and their families in Washington State.

CONGRATULATING RON HAYNES
ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE
CITY OF HURST, TEXAS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ron Haynes on his well-earned retirement from the City of Hurst, Texas.

Ron Haynes is a hardworking, respected employee of Hurst, and has been since he began in March of 1985. He has displayed strong leadership and instilled positive change throughout his tenure. His quick ascension demonstrates his dedication, efficiency, and success as a worker for the people of Hurst. Ron began as an engineer in 1985, became Director of Public Works just two years later, and has held that post since.

Born a Texan, Ron graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington in 1970 and married his wife, Dixie, in 1971. He then attended North Texas State University where he would graduate with a Master in Public Administration in 1982 while working for Dallas Water Utilities. They went on to have three beautiful children, Brian, Keri and Amy.

Outside of work, Ron is very active in the community. He has been involved in several organizations and groups over the years. Ron was a member of Rotary in the Mid-Cities for nearly a decade, as well as the City of Fort Worth's Wholesale Water and Wastewater Customers' Committee for 28 years. Other organizations he participated in over the years include the American Water Works Association, American Society of Civil Engineers, and the American Public Works Association. He also received a Distinguished Service Award from the Texas Municipal Utilities Association in 2009.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the exhaustive efforts Ron has contributed to the City of Hurst. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing Ron Haynes and his many years of service.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RE-
LATED AGENCIES APPROPRIA-
TIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Omnibus Appropriations bill. While this is far from a perfect bill, I believe it represents the best way forward to keep the government open and advance many important priorities that help Maryland get ahead. I thank Ranking Members MIKULSKI and LOWEY and the Democratic negotiators for their work to protect critical priorities.

I was pleased to help lead efforts to lift sequester caps, which has allowed us to make needed investment to support jobs and the economy. The Purple Line, WMATA, and efforts to ensure a clean Chesapeake Bay are all supported. The National Institutes of Health will see its most significant funding boost in many years. Education programs like Head Start, Title I, and special education get added resources, and the maximum Pell grant will be increased. And I am pleased that funding for full consolidation of the FBI headquarters was included in the bill—Team Maryland will keep fighting for it to be relocated to Prince George's County.

Important tax provisions were included in the Omnibus. I strongly support extension of the renewable energy tax incentives that will create jobs and aid our transition to a clean energy economy. I am also pleased with the delay in the so-called Cadillac tax, which would otherwise erode health benefits for workers. The Omnibus also reauthorizes the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, finally fulfilling our promise to first responders.

Democrats were also able to reject countless corrosive policy riders, including those that would defund Planned Parenthood, block refugees from Syria, pollute our air and water, and erode worker protections.

However, some damaging riders remain. I strongly oppose lifting the oil export ban, a Christmas gift to Big Oil. If we are to reduce global carbon emissions, as world leaders pledged to do just last weekend, we must reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and keep

more of them in the ground. Lifting the export ban would do the opposite. Moreover, there is no evidence that American consumers would see any benefit from this policy.

The Omnibus also contains a rider to delay action at the IRS to clarify rules surrounding political activities by nonprofits. It delays efforts at the SEC to require corporate disclosure of political spending, a critical step to address the dark money that is influencing our elections.

The bill continues the prohibition on gun violence research—known as the Dickey Amendment—that our nation's public health experts strongly oppose. We should be acting with urgency to confront this plague of violence in our nation, and that includes research into preventing injuries and death. Even former Congressman Jay Dickey, who authored the amendment, now opposes it, writing in the Washington Post that "The same evidence-based approach that is saving millions of lives from motor-vehicle crashes, as well as from smoking, cancer and HIV/AIDS, can help reduce the toll of deaths and injuries from gun violence."

I am troubled by provisions of a cybersecurity authorization that were packaged into this bill and believe they deserve a fuller hearing than the few days we have had to review this measure. While cyber attacks are a clear threat that must be confronted, we must be vigilant to ensure the protection of civil liberties.

While I support the short-term extension of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, I am disappointed that a permanent extension was blocked. LWCF funds are a critical tool for local conservation and the program should not be allowed to lapse, as it did in October for the first time in 51 years.

I remain concerned that we are underfunding important investments in the middle class and those working to join the middle class, particularly in light of the enormous, unpaid-for tax package that was just passed by this House. If we can afford tax giveaways to special interests, we can afford a stronger investment in middle class families and those seeking to join the middle class. More must be done to bring families out of poverty, rebuild our infrastructure, and provide opportunity to all.

Ultimately, no bill of this size is perfect, and all sides have made concessions to move our country forward. I will continue to fight for the investments we need to make our nation safer, stronger, and more prosperous for all.

RECOGNIZING DEAN WILLIAM
REEDER OF GEORGE MASON UNI-
VERSITY FOR HIS COMMITMENT
TO THE ARTS AND EDUCATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dean William (Bill) Reeder of George Mason University on his career in education, management, philanthropic administration, and most notably, the arts.

Over the span of his 40-year career, Dean Reeder has raised over \$250 million in private funds for the arts and education. Reeder is the

founding and current Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts where he oversees eight academic divisions: The School of Music, School of Art, School of Dance, School of Theater, Arts Management Master's Program, Film and Video Studies Program, Computer Game Design Program and the Potomac Arts Academy.

Dean Reeder manages two regional art centers: the Center for the Arts in Fairfax as well as the Hylton Performing Arts Center. He also serves as the Co-Director of George Mason's Confucius Institute, a partnership between Mason and the Beijing Language and Cultural University.

In the midst of his demanding schedule, Reeder finds the time to teach an Arts Management course, hold the distinguished honor of the Eminent Scholar's Heritage Chairman in Arts and Cultural Criticism, and serve on two boards: United Way of the National Capital Region and CEO Forum of Prince William.

Reeder spent eight years as the leading operatic tenor engaged by the Zurich, Switzerland Opera Company. From 1993 to 1997, Reeder was President of the Saint Louis Conservatory of Music, followed by six years as the Education Director of the Levine School of Music located in Washington, D.C.

Prior to joining George Mason, Reeder served as Vice President and General Manager of the Washington Performing Arts Society and two years with the Sallie Mae Corporation as the Founding Director of the Sallie Mae Trust for Education.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Dean Bill Reeder as a prominent figure in Greater Prince William and tireless champion of arts education.

HONORING BLUE SPRINGS SOUTH
HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the Blue Springs South High School football team. This is a group of very special young men who have exemplified the finest qualities of teamwork, devotion and sportsmanship by taking an active part in the classroom and on the field. These Jaguars relentlessly pursued their goal and were rewarded with their third state football title, as well as having a perfect 14–0 season.

The Blue Springs South Jaguars defeated the defending champions, Christian Brothers College, 37–28 in the Missouri Class Six state championship. Senior Adam Cofield managed to score an astounding four times. The work and effort these young men have persevered through over the years has not only earned them numerous honors on and off the field, but also the respect of their families, classmates, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the undefeated Blue Springs South High School football team for their accomplishments on the field and for their efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Missouri Class Six state champions.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RE-
LATED AGENCIES APPROPRIA-
TIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the PATH Act. While this is not a perfect bill, I join with the President in supporting this legislation as it represents clear progress for the American people. This legislation will permanently continue critical tax breaks to aid children and working families. It will permanently extend key provisions like the R&D tax credit and Section 179 expensing that will help our small businesses and manufacturers grow jobs and strengthen the economy. This bipartisan bill moves us forward as a nation both in terms of the benefits it provides and the signal it sends that it is possible for Congress to break the gridlock that has unfortunately engulfed Washington for too long.

I am particularly proud that the permanent extension of the R&D tax credit that I sponsored along with Chairman KEVIN BRADY was included in this legislation. The R&D tax credit is a driver of innovation and economic growth, and making it permanent will provide the certainty American companies need to make the long-term investments in our nation and in our workers for technologies that will keep our global economic edge. The R&D credit, along with a permanent extension of the Section 179 expensing credit, will give businesses in Connecticut and across the country the stability they need in the tax code to move our economy forward.

For children and working families, this legislation also offers a permanent extension of critical tax credits. The permanent extension of the Recovery Act enhancements of the EITC and CTC credits as well as the AOTC will ensure millions of working families across the country will continue to receive well-deserved tax breaks. Without this extension, by 2018, over 50 million individuals would have lost part or all of their credits. In Connecticut, 141,000 children in 42,000 families would lose access to part or all of their EITC or CTC credits. These provisions are absolutely critical and without them, I would not have been able to support this agreement. I wholeheartedly agree with my colleagues who have argued that the CTC should be indexed for inflation and while it is unfortunate that indexing is not included in this agreement, I will continue to fight for its inclusion on bills moving forward.

In addition, this bill includes other important provisions, including a permanent extension of a deduction for teachers who purchase supplies for their classrooms as well as critical charitable provisions such as a credit for the donation of food inventory and a provision that allows for tax-free distributions from IRAs for charitable purposes. It also incorporates other bills that will help with economic development, like the New Markets Tax credit, the low income housing tax credit, and legislation ensuring tax relief for another year for homeowners who have had part of their mortgage debt forgiven.

Finally, I want to thank the negotiators for including a bill that I co-authored with Rep.

SAM JOHNSON—the Wrongful Convictions Tax Relief Act, which ensures that compensation awards received by those who were wrongfully accused are not subjected to federal taxes on their awards. I first introduced the bill with Mr. JOHNSON in 2007 following the exoneration of James Tillman in Connecticut. I was proud to co-author this bill with Mr. JOHNSON, a true American hero, which rights a tremendous wrong in the tax code. Individuals who have been wrongfully accused have already suffered enough, so the notion that they would be taxed on the awards they receive as a result of their wrongful imprisonment is unconscionable. Once again, I thank the negotiators for including this common-sense bill in this package.

On the whole, this bill will provide tremendous benefits for children, working families, and economic growth in our country. I support this bill and look forward to its passage.

LONG BEACH LOSES LEGEND,
MARILYN GREEN

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, it is with considerable sadness and a profound sense of loss that I report that the Long Beach community lost a dear friend and a dedicated public servant on the passing of Marilyn Green on October 29, 2015. Marilyn—with long-time professional partner Dick Cantrell—founded the law firm of Cantrell Green—now Cantrell Green Pekich Cruz & McCort—in 1971.

Marilyn was also the heart and soul of the progressive movement in Long Beach. She was an advocate, mentor, and friend to several generations of progressive leaders in Long Beach. I count myself lucky to have had her friendship and counsel over the years.

A native of Newark, New Jersey, Marilyn eventually made her way to Stanford Law School. While attending as one of only two female students in her class, she met and married journalist Terence Green.

Determined to finish what she started, she sat for the California Bar exam in 1951 and was admitted to practice law in January, 1952, just one month before her first son, Alan, was born. She used to recall how odd it felt walking to take her oath while almost 9 months pregnant.

Terry's job brought them to Playa del Rey and, eventually, to the Long Beach area that would become their home for well over 50 years.

Like many women of her generation, Marilyn found herself unwelcome in many law firms due to her gender and was limited to family law practice. Knowing it was a matter of time before she found the right job, she settled into family law. She used to joke that, as a young lawyer, she had no idea how to create a safe exit strategy while interviewing a less-than-savory character. During one such interview, she decided "the case was much too complicated" and referred the person to the FBI. She later told us "From then on, I decided to keep the FBI's number in my top drawer, but think I certainly wore out my welcome."

Marilyn joined the prestigious Levy & Van Bourg firm as an applicant's attorney in Workers' Compensation in the late 1960s early 1970s.

When she and Richard Cantrell first opened Cantrell and Green in 1971, their first office was a public phone booth on the corner of Broadway and Pine Avenue in downtown Long Beach. Later, good friend and union official, Tony Rodriguez from the United Rubber Workers Union, would offer them a small office at his Local.

Marilyn and Richard would go on to build Cantrell and Green into one of the most well-known and respected workers' compensation firms in Southern California. Their practice also included social security, labor law, and personal injury claims.

Not only did Marilyn Green talk the talk, she walked the walk. When asked why she would settle in a practice not as lucrative as other areas of practice, Marilyn said "If I wanted to make money, I would never have chosen a workers' compensation practice. However, I love and believe in what I do and that is why I became a lawyer."

Over the years, Marilyn was honored by many organizations, including being named as Long Beach Bar Association Lawyer of the Year.

She was a true professional in her work, a good friend to many, and a powerful force for good in our community who will be sorely missed.

RECOGNIZING THE TREZEVANT HIGH SCHOOL MIGHTY PURPLE BEARS ON WINNING THE TSSAA BLUECROSS BOWL DIVISION 1 CLASS 2A FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Mighty Purple Bears of Trezevant High School and Coach Teli White and his coaching staff on winning the TSSAA BlueCross Bowl Division 1 Class 2A Football State Championship game against Marion County High School on Saturday, December 5, 2015 in Cookeville, TN.

The Mighty Purple Bears were led by Jr. standout Running Back and Strong Safety Cordarrion Richardson, who carried the ball 41 times for 342 yards scoring 3 touchdowns and throwing for 1 touchdown. Cordarrion's play set a new state record by surpassing Omar Williams of St. George's 322 yards record set in 2011.

Under Coach White's leadership, Trezevant advanced to the championship game by defeating Oakhaven High School (Memphis, TN) 54-0, Douglass High School (Memphis, TN) 54-0, Manassas High School (Memphis, TN) 22-0, Trinity Christian Academy (Jackson, TN) 52-14, and Marion County High School (Jasper, TN) 40-35. The Mighty Purple Bears finished their season 12-3.

This is Trezevant's first state title. I am extremely proud of their academic and athletic success. I know the mighty Purple Bears will keep riding the waves of success and represent their community and the city of Memphis with pride. Go Purple Bears.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the H-2B riders included in the FY2016 Appropriations Omnibus. These provisions, which were included without debate or advanced warning, would more than triple the number of H-2B foreign worker visas available for the coming year, negatively impacting working families in districts like my own in Houston and Harris County, Texas.

The H-2B Program was created by Congress to provide temporary, nonagricultural workers for American companies when there were no qualified American workers available to fill a position. The Program, unfortunately, is not working as intended. Instead, it is being used by some employers to hire cheaper, foreign workers, leaving too many highly-skilled American workers out of a job.

Mr. Speaker, this is simply wrong and a terrible holiday surprise for the thousands of working families in our country who will be left out of a job next year by the expansion of the H-2B Program. These anti-worker provisions in this legislation will degrade wages and conditions for workers in hazardous industries and gut standards that ensure that U.S. workers can fairly compete for jobs.

I call on my colleagues to join me to protect American workers from unfair foreign worker competition and eliminate the expansion of the H-2B Program.

THE FAST ACT (H.R. 22)

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, after years of unnecessary delays and short term patches, I am pleased that Congress has finally passed a long term surface transportation bill that addresses the needs of our nation's crumbling infrastructure.

The FAST Act (H.R. 22) provides \$281 billion for highway, transit, and highway safety programs. This is \$26.8 billion above fiscal year 2015 levels and \$12.8 billion above what would have been allocated in the earlier House-passed version of the bill. For Minnesotans, this means a 5% increase in federal highway funding and an 8% increase for transit support.

H.R. 22 establishes two new initiatives that will provide dedicated federal funding specifically targeted at reducing freight bottlenecks around the country. This legislation promotes safety by boosting funding for railway-highway grade crossings, motor carrier safety grants, and includes \$200 million to help commuter railroads implement Positive Train Control. The FAST Act also reauthorizes the Ex-Im Bank, which aids small to medium-sized businesses in attracting new customers and provide critical resources necessary to export goods and services around the globe.

While I am disappointed that some of the funding levels in the conference agreement are not as robust as I would like, I recognize the importance of giving federal, state and local planners and contractors the long-term stability and resources necessary to repair our highways and bridges, prioritize rail, and pipeline safety, and grow our transit infrastructure as a whole. This is a significant accomplishment, and shows that it is possible for this Congress to work together in a bipartisan manner.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation and continuing to invest in American infrastructure.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, as the ranking member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security, I can attest that Division F of the bill before us today, which provides funds for the Department of Homeland Security, is the result of careful consideration, intense scrutiny, and bipartisan collaboration. I want to thank Chairman CARTER for his leadership and his partnership in crafting our portion of the bill.

The bill provides significant resources for critical priorities, including funding: to recapitalize the Coast Guard air and marine fleets; to fully fund FEMA's disaster relief activities, including wildfire management assistance grants, and to significantly enhance support for flood mapping and pre-disaster mitigation; to maintain funding for FEMA terrorism preparedness grants, including \$50 million in new funding to help communities counter violent extremism and prepare for complex, coordinated terrorist attacks; to allow the Secret Service to continue implementing the recommendations of the Protective Mission Panel; and to enhance cybersecurity across the federal government, along with significant additional funds to help protect DHS's own cyber systems.

I am pleased that the bill does not include the harmful immigration policy riders that were adopted during committee consideration of the House bill.

I am also pleased that the omnibus incorporates a number of amendments and priorities I fought for during the Appropriations Committee markups. These include my amendment with Congresswoman LEE which creates and funds a comprehensive, non-partisan child poverty study, and my amendment to defund the licensing or relicensing of Class B animal dealers who sell "random source" dogs and cats for use in research. It is also important to note that my colleagues and I were successful in preserving funding for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).

This funding bill is not entirely what I had hoped for. Many of my colleagues feel the same way, and I share many of their concerns.

I was extremely disappointed that provisions to help our U.S. Citizen Puerto Rican brothers and sisters manage the fiscal crisis in Puerto Rico were not included in the bill. The residents of Puerto Rico are suffering, and we have a responsibility to provide them with the tools they need to rebuild their economy.

I was also disappointed that on the heels of a historic climate change agreement, the bill includes a giveaway to Big Oil by ending the 40-year prohibition on the exportation of crude oil. This prohibition was set in place to help our country achieve energy independence and to protect national security and economic interests. Lifting this ban will only hinder our goals and harm American refinery jobs, all for the sake of a handout to Big Oil.

However, without this omnibus bill, my home state of California and communities across the country would be faced with the uncertain funding level of a continuing resolution, or, in the worst case, the effects of a government shutdown.

We cannot risk another government shutdown or another year of flat funding for the critical programs our communities need. On balance, I believe this bill should move forward. For that reason, I ask for an aye vote.

**MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RE-
LATED AGENCIES APPROPRIA-
TIONS ACT, 2016**

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, the cybersecurity measures in the legislation before us today results from a bill passed unanimously by the House Homeland Security Committee and the House Select Committee on Intelligence, who both worked closely with the Judiciary Committee to craft the liability provisions included in the House-passed bill, and in the bill before us today. I rise to discuss its liability provisions in particular.

It is increasingly clear that government at all levels must rely on the private sector to help counter more and varied threats to its citizens by those who would do them harm. Those threats can come in the form of terrorist mass shootings, suicide bombers, and cyber-attacks that steal people's personal identification, money, and credit. At the same time, abusive lawsuits have made the private sector less and less willing to take action to reduce public risks because of the fear of frivolous lawsuits.

To date, Congress has enacted two federal statutes, the SAFETY Act and the PREP Act, to provide private entities that are on the front lines in the war with terrorists with protection from debilitating litigation that would otherwise deter them from acting at all. The legislation before us today is a logical extension of those vital efforts.

Soon after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the federal government appealed directly to the private sector for help in combating terrorism. Shortly thereafter, a team of the nation's leading scientists called for a comprehensive rethinking of our anti-terrorism infrastructure, underscoring the need to encourage private activity so existing tech-

nologies could be quickly brought into use. According to their report, conducted under the auspices of the National Academies, "Research performed but not exploited, and technologies invented but not manufactured and deployed, do not help the nation protect itself."

As part of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, Congress enacted liability protections that the Department of Homeland Security could extend to providers of effective anti-terrorism technologies. The SAFETY Act has resulted in the deployment of tens of thousands of anti-terrorism technologies to protect innocent Americans that would not have been deployed absent the Act's lawsuit protections.

The SAFETY Act was initially opposed by the trial lawyers and their allies. But it soon came to enjoy broad bipartisan support. So much so that in January, 2007, just after the Democrats took control the House, a bill directing the Secretary of Homeland Security to streamline the SAFETY Act and anti-terrorism technology procurement processes passed by a vote of 427 to zero. During the debate on that legislation, the Democratic Chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, BENNIE THOMPSON, said during debate on the bill: "Today I rise to support a bill that reaffirms our commitment to ensuring that safe and effective antiterrorism technologies are being deployed . . . In order to generate revolutionary breakthroughs in antiterrorism technologies, the Department must actively promote awareness of SAFETY Act protections not only among private sector, but across government procurement agencies . . . We must enable the private sector to deliver the revolutionary, breakthrough technologies that will help win the Nation's fight against terrorism."

In 2005, Congress enacted the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act, the "PREP Act." Under the PREP Act, covered entities are protected from lawsuits when they engage in federally approved efforts to create vaccines and other means of stopping the spread of pandemics and other biological threats, including biological attacks by terrorists. Again, the PREP Act was initially opposed by the trial lawyers and their allies. But after it became law, President Obama, along with his predecessor, applied the PREP Act's protections many times, including to cover those making and administering influenza vaccines. Just last December, President Obama's Secretary of Health and Human Services applied the PREP Act's lawsuit protections to those manufacturing and distributing vaccines to help prevent the spread of the Ebola virus. In a press release announcing the application of the liability protections to those companies, the Secretary of Health and Human Services stated, and I quote, "The PREP Act was designed to facilitate the development of medical countermeasures to respond to urgent public health needs, including the development of critical vaccines like those to prevent the spread of Ebola . . . My strong hope . . . is that other nations will also enact appropriate liability protection . . ." Indeed, one of the vaccines the President protected from excessive liability under the PREP Act was able to quickly advance through its testing phases such that, by this August, it was declared "highly effective."

Today, I am proud to continue the bipartisan tradition of protecting the private sector from lawsuits when it's necessary to help the federal government do its job in protecting our nation's citizens from attack.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF SER-
GEANT KEVIN GALE STAUFFER

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Sergeant Kevin Gale Stauffer of Tupelo, Mississippi who joined his Heavenly Father on December 23, 2013.

Sergeant Stauffer made the ultimate sacrifice when he gave his life while keeping the citizens of the city of Tupelo safe during a tragic encounter following a reported bank robbery. The lives of others were saved because of Sergeant Stauffer's actions.

Known to his family and friends as Gale, as a young man he earned the honor of being awarded the Eagle Scout badge. After graduating high school, he went on to attend Itawamba Community College where he was a member of the Indians football team. With a passion for learning, he continued his education at the University of Mississippi where he earned a degree in criminal justice.

A true patriot, Gale felt called to serve his country. He enlisted in the Louisiana Army National Guard, 1088th Engineer Battalion and bravely served his tour of duty in Iraq as a Sergeant in 2004 and 2005.

Prior to his tour of duty in Iraq, Sergeant Stauffer worked for the Lee County Sheriff's Department. Upon his return from deployment, he joined the ranks of the Tupelo Police Department. He was a true public servant and loved his job as a police officer. He was a thorough investigator who always showed sincere compassion for every victim.

Outside of work, Gale was known for his love of the outdoors, his Cajun cooking, and his passion for LSU football. He was also a member of First United Methodist Church in Tupelo.

Above all, those who knew Sergeant Stauffer knew him as an adoring and devoted husband to his wife Beth and a kind loving father to his two children, Dixie and Skip.

He is survived by his wife, Beth; daughter, Dixie Breckenridge Stauffer; and son, Kevin Gale (Skip) Stauffer, III of Tupelo. He is also survived by his father, Kevin Gale Stauffer, Sr. and stepmother, Kay Stauffer of Baton Rouge, LA; mother, Deborah Brangenberg and stepfather, Carl J. Brangenberg of Tupelo; sister, Caroline Turney (Brandon) of Tupelo; two stepbrothers, Scott Cooper of Baton Rouge, LA and Chris Brangenberg of Breaux Bridge, LA; stepsister, Carla Brangenberg of Memphis, TN; grandmother, Dr. Dorothy Twiss Sinopoli of Gulf Breeze, FL; grandparents, Dr. Roy and Mrs. Lorene McAlilly of Tupelo.

My thoughts and prayers continue to be with Sergeant Stauffer's family and friends.

**SUPPORTING DEBT RELIEF FOR
PUERTO RICO**

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to stand with our fellow Americans, the 3.5 million American citizens of

Puerto Rico, in urging Republican leadership to make good on the promise that action will be taken by March 31st to allow the U.S. territory to restructure its debt. This agreement made last night is welcome news as we cannot continue to ignore the urgency of the mounting fiscal and economic crisis facing Puerto Rico.

On behalf of all Puerto Ricans, including the more than 12,000 who reside in my home state of Alabama, I remain disappointed that a deal to enable the territory to restructure its debt and keep its schools, hospitals, and roads open and functioning past January 1 was not included in the Omnibus. The sovereignty of the Puerto Rican people is our responsibility.

I represent parts of Jefferson County, Alabama, a political subdivision which became the biggest U.S. municipal bankruptcy in 2011. While we all can agree bankruptcy isn't a cure-all and it definitely has its limits, it is often necessary to begin the process of dealing with an unimaginable debt load. Puerto Rico should have the same power to avail themselves of the federal remedies and negotiate directly with their bond holders as every U.S. state has.

Puerto Rico is the third-largest issuer of municipal bonds in the U.S. and now has a debt totaling \$72 billion, amounting to \$20,000 for every man, woman, and child on the island. As over 50 percent of Puerto Rico's citizens live in poverty, default will potentially lead to a humanitarian crisis.

At no cost to us, we can allow the U.S. territory to restructure its debt and declare bankruptcy, ultimately keeping the basic functions of government open and avoiding real social and economic harm to the American citizens living on the island.

But we can't stop there. We all must remain committed to assisting Puerto Rico in a long-term solution to the economic and social challenges the island has been facing for far too long.

The island territory of Puerto Rico has already suffered a decade of economic stagnation, high unemployment, and cuts in every program from higher education to health care. The government of Puerto Rico has closed 160 schools in the past two years and is spending \$2,000 less per student than the average spent in the states. It has laid off 21 percent of its employees since 2008 with further cuts projected in 2016. The Puerto Rican people can ill-afford more cuts. We in Congress must do our part.

We should prevent further crisis by giving our U.S. territory of Puerto Rico the ability to restructure its debt and deal with the root causes of the crisis just as all U.S. states have the ability to do.

I want to commend the leadership of LUIS GUTIÉRREZ, NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ, Leader PELOSI, JOSÉ SERRANO, and PEDRO PIERLUISI for their tireless commitment to the people of Puerto Rico and all Hispanic Americans. It is because of their efforts that Republican leadership has agreed to take action by March 31st. We all need to follow their lead in standing up for the American people who live, work, and raise their families in our territories.

Today I stand with the Puerto Rican people in urging this body to work together on a bipartisan, commonsense restructuring bill that provides economic hope to the people of Puerto Rico.

HONORING THE 2015 STARS OVER DULLES AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce for its ongoing dedication to local businesses and our community and to congratulate the 2015 "Stars Over Dulles" Award recipients.

This year, at the 20th Annual Stars Over Dulles Awards Luncheon, the Chamber will honor those extraordinary businesses, non-profit organizations and citizens who have dedicated their talents and activities to enhancing our economy and our community.

As the former Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and now as a Member of Congress representing this community, I have been proud to partner with the Chamber on promoting the region's pro-business climate and celebrating the service that so many individuals and businesses provide to our community.

I am pleased to submit the following recipients of the 2015 Stars Over Dulles Awards:

Public Service Star: Presented to Delegate Thomas Rust (86th District) for more than 30 years of public service, including as Chairman of the House of Delegates Transportation Committee and as Mayor of Herndon.

Veterans Star: Presented to Col. Paul Patton, USAF (Retired) of CACI, whose life of service has extended far beyond his time in the Air Force and serves as an example for others to follow.

Community Stars: Presented to Doug and Annie Downer and Laura and George Price for their organization of the beverage shifts during the World Police and Fire Games, during which they found the personnel for 391 volunteer shifts.

Innovation Stars: Presented to Bruce Blechl, Jerome Williams, Bill Knight, and Barry Biggar for their presentation to Fairfax County of the idea to host the 2015 World Police and Fire Games.

STEM Star: Presented to The Childrens Science Center for their opening of a new laboratory in Fair Oaks this summer. The lab is a major addition to our region's ability to encourage a new generation of STEM learners.

Housing Star: Presented posthumously to Bill Lauer, founder of Tetra Partners, for his tireless work to end homelessness in Fairfax County. Bill was a driver of Fairfax County's efforts to preserve affordable housing and the Initiative to End Homelessness, built homes himself, and was about to become president of Cornerstones before his untimely death.

Deal of the Year: Presented to The Town of Herndon for its managing of the sale of the Ashwell property, which will allow the town to consolidate its plans to redevelop the downtown area.

Technology Star: Presented to Peter Jobse of the Center for Innovative Technology, who is retiring this year after leading the Center for almost 40 years.

Global Business Star: Presented to Trade Center Management Associates, home to the International Trade Center, for providing a dynamic forum for trade promotion in the heart of the nation's capital.

New Business Star: Presented to Stone Springs Hospital Center, which opened a brand new facility earlier this year to provide needed care to thousands of individuals with the help of their dedicated staff and resources.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2015 Stars Over Dulles Award recipients and in thanking these businesses and individuals for their many contributions to our region's economic success and quality of life. These contributions are among the many reasons why Fairfax County is one of the best places in the country in which to live, work, and raise a family. I commend them on their awards and wish them great success in all future endeavors.

REFLECTING ON THE NEED FOR THE WORLD'S RECOMMITMENT TO RECOVERING THE CHIBOK GIRLS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for one minute and to revise and extend my remarks.

Today is the last day that the House will be in session this year and it is imperative that we pause for a moment before we depart to our various homes to reflect on the fact that 612 days have passed since the Chibok girls were kidnapped from their dormitories in the middle of night.

To keep these girls on our minds, all of us here in Congress have worn red every Wednesday to signal the urgency of rescuing, recovering and reintegrating these young women back into the arms of their parents.

I have met with the Nigerian President and was part of a delegation to Nigeria to engage local leaders, activists, businesses and families of the kidnapped girls on strategies for recovering and reintegrating the Chibok girls and many others who have been kidnapped.

These girls are not throwaways and the world cannot and should not forget them.

We must continue to press on in our concerted efforts to assure these daughters of the world that we still care, that we are committed to bringing them back home and will work to reintegrate them back into our community with open arms.

As founder and Co-Chair of the Caucus on Nigeria and Co-Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, the rescue, return and reintegration of the kidnapped Chibok girls continue to be my top priority.

I believe that with our commitment, just as the Aboke girls were recovered after being kidnapped in Northern Uganda by the Lord's Resistance Army, the Chibok girls will be rescued, returned home and reintegrated back into the human family.

This is why I have introduced H. Res. 528, legislation that enjoyed bipartisan support of my colleagues including Representatives CHU of California, LEE of California, DOLD of Illinois, HAHN of California, KELLY of Illinois, FUDGE of Ohio, WATSON-COLEMAN of New Jersey, SEWELL of Alabama, BROWN of Florida, THOMPSON of Mississippi and my good friend Ms. WILSON of Florida.

My resolution seeks to create a Victims of Terror Protection Fund for the protection of the Chibok girls when they return home as well as provision of much needed support for them and other displaced refugees, migrants and victims of Boko Haram's terror in the region.

The Chibok girls have the fundamental human right to freedom of movement, to education and to the full realization of their human potential.

Last week, in our celebrations of the United Nations Human Rights Day, the global community rededicated itself to the key International Covenants on Human Rights: the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Covenants that serve as the bedrock of the International Bill of Rights: protecting the rights of all human beings.

Indeed, we must continue to always fight for the freedoms of the least among us whether those for whom we fight are out of sight such as the kidnapped teenage girls from a boarding school in Chibok or educated medical doctors fleeing violent extremism in Syria.

The bottom line is that our obligations in the human family must revolve around and be grounded in our conviction and commitment to the rights to freedom of movement, freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and the freedom from fear or terrorism, among others.

We must remain steadfast in guaranteeing these fundamental freedoms and protect the human rights of all to achieve peace and prosperity in our world.

When they were kidnapped, the Chibok girls were 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 year olds who are now turning 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18—living out the formative years of their lives in captivity in the claws of thugs.

Our silence is a waste of time and this is why we must keep speaking, keep tweeting, keep seeking to recover our daughters.

This cannot be the fate or the end of the story of their lives.

We must not and cannot forget Blessing Abana, Deborah Abari, Rebecca Mallum, Naomi Luka, Esther Markus, Zara Ishaku, Ruth Joshua, Grace Paul, Rebecca Luka and the others.

Chibok girls, daughters of the world, this holiday season, you remain in our thoughts and prayers.

Notwithstanding your captivity, let me assure you that your spirits, souls and bodies are sacred to us, no matter what attacks the enemies of peace may have perpetrated upon you.

Like your sister from Pakistan, Malala, who was shot in the head for seeking her education and who continues to fight for your recovery, your best days are ahead because we know that when you girls thrive our world thrives.

This is why we are counting on you to keep holding on and be assured that help is on the way.

RECOGNIZING CAREPAYMENT AND BEACON HEALTH SYSTEM

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Beacon Health System in my district for their collaboration with CarePayment.

Beacon Health System continues to look for new, innovative ways to care for their patients.

They have partnered with CarePayment to provide a financing service that allows patients to spread out the payment of medical bills.

Oftentimes, patients face sticker shock when they discover what their out-of-pocket medical expenses will ultimately cost.

Some plans with high-deductibles force patients to pay \$6,000 for an individual plan, or \$12,000 for a family plan before their health insurance kicks in to cover medical bills.

In order to provide more financial relief to patients in my district, Beacon Health and CarePayment are now providing a patient-friendly, financing program.

Everyone is eligible, regardless of income or employment status, and participating in this program has no impact on the patient's credit score.

The constituents I serve are concerned with rising medical costs.

In fact, many of them face difficult decisions when it comes to prioritizing their healthcare.

I am grateful for partnerships like the one between Beacon Health and CarePayment for providing patient driven solutions to Hoosiers.

I will keep working on bipartisan reforms to move in this direction.

PHYSICIAN OF THE YEAR

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Ed Uthman for being named OakBend Medical Center's 2015 Physician of the Year.

Dr. Uthman has a long and distinguished career with OakBend Medical Center, serving as its Laboratory Medical Director since 1990. During his 25 years with the hospital, he's helped countless patients and continues to lead his colleagues with distinction. Dr. Uthman was also named to OakBend Medical Center's board of directors. Thank you for taking such great care of our community.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Dr. Ed Uthman for being named OakBend Medical Center's 2015 Physician of the Year.

IN HONOR OF DAN COX'S SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, citizens in Montgomery County are blessed with

school districts that provide a world-class education and community organizations with a mission to serve.

Without individuals like Dan Cox, neither would be as successful. Throughout his time in Montgomery County and the Greater Houston Area, Dan has used his talents to serve others.

Dan, who earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and a master's degree in business administration from The University of Texas in Austin, spent the first six years of his career as an accountant and consultant.

He entered private industry in 1979 and co-founded a cardiovascular medical device company in 1984.

Dan's professional endeavors took a back seat to his increasing community involvement which began with his service on the board of directors for the Houston division of the American Heart Association in the 1980s.

Dan then served as co-chair for both the Conroe ISD Strategic Planning Task Force and two Conroe ISD Facilities Planning Committees for the 1994 and 1998 bond referendums.

Following his service on the board of directors of the Arthritis Foundation and the sale of his company in 1999, Dan held several executive and consulting positions in addition to serving as chairman of The Woodlands United Methodist Church Building Committee.

In 2003, Dan was named Chief Financial Officer of Conroe ISD. During his time with the school district, Dan contributed to three successful bond referendums as well as the acquisition of numerous financial accolades for the district including the Platinum Leadership Circle Awards for financial transparency and five-star FAST ratings for high academic standards and efficient spending in public education issued by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

Dan is a current member and past president of the Rotary Club of The Woodlands as well as Paul Harris Fellow.

Dan Cox's dedication to his community and service to others stand as an example and inspiration to all. While he will be missed at Conroe ISD, I can't imagine Dan will ever stop looking for a way to serve.

HONORING NAAKH VYSOKY

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize one of the most distinguished constituents in my district, Naakh Vysoky, who will turn ninety-five on January 3, 2016. Quite simply Mr. Vysoky is a man who overcame some of life's greatest obstacles to become a champion within the field of medicine and a respected leader amongst the Russian Jewish Community.

Naakh Vysoky was born in 1921, in Kishinev, Moldavia, when it was still a part of Romania. In 1940, during an invasion by the U.S.S.R., the Soviets considered his family "rich" and took almost everything they owned. Hardship and tragedy again struck Naakh's family in 1941 when Nazi Germany invaded Romania. Naakh witnessed the death of his

mother, sister, brother-in-law and a young nephew. To compound matters further, he also lost all contact with his father.

Forced to make an almost impossible choice, Naakh escaped Nazi persecution by fleeing to the Soviet Union. He was immediately sent to a Siberian concentration camp. After several years in this camp—and having witnessed countless deaths of his friends almost on a daily basis—he was given an option to stay there or join the Soviet Army to fight the Nazis. He chose to fight and was wounded shortly after. While in the hospital during his recovery, Naakh was recruited and trained to become a medical professional. He spent the rest of the war working at that hospital and helping countless wounded soldiers and civilians.

After the war, Naakh embarked upon an extensive search for his father and found him in 1948 in the City of Chernowetz. Although the city had been part of Romania, it was then part of the western Ukraine inside the Soviet Union. When the U.S.S.R. closed their borders, Naakh's hopes of emigrating were dashed. However, he was able to find a good hospital job and a place to live in Storoshinetz, one of Chernowetz's suburbs. While there, Naakh was recognized as a talented medical professional who championed efforts to provide the best quality of care for countless people. In 1952, he married his wife Klara, who was a school teacher. Two years later, his daughter Faina was born. His wife Klara became one of the most respected teachers in the region due to her strong advocacy for education and her devotion to her students.

During his time in Storoshinetz, Naakh became increasingly alarmed and appalled at the rampant anti-Semitism that existed under the oppressive Soviet regime. In 1972, due to the international movement against Soviet anti-Semitism, the possibility of immigration became real. However, that same year, Faina was accepted into medical school in Chernowetz. Naakh decided to stay so Faina could attain her medical degree. Once that was achieved, Naakh and his family applied for permission to leave the Soviet Union within a month of Faina's graduation and wedding, and, in October of 1979, left the Soviet Union for New York in the United States.

Upon their arrival in New York, Naakh's grandson Gregory was born. Naakh and Klara dedicated their lives to taking care of Gregory and making sure Faina had every opportunity to study and become a physician in America. It was a very special day for the family when Faina passed her qualifying exam for a foreign medical graduate degree in September 1980, less than a year after their arrival. With great pride, Naakh and Klara watched their daughter, now Faina Shtern, become the first Russian-born physician to be appointed by the Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School in 1984, and then recognized as a leader in the field of Radiology, when she became Chief of the Diagnostic Imaging Research Branch of the National Cancer Institute in 1990.

A year later, in 1985, Naakh and Klara followed Faina to Boston, where they had helped countless members of the Russian Jewish Community (RJC) in Brighton and Allston and championed their causes. Several years later, Naakh was elected a leader of the RJC grass roots movement. He has been serving in that capacity ever since and has received wide

recognition for his leadership and accomplishments. A number of elected officials, including former Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick and the current Governor Charlie Baker; members of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation, members of the Massachusetts State Legislature, former Boston mayor Thomas Menino, and the current mayor of Boston, the Honorable Marty Walsh; and the Boston City Council, have all risen to acknowledge Naakh for his service to the Commonwealth and the Russian Jewish Community.

With all this in mind, I want to acknowledge and sincerely thank Naakh Vysoky for his many contributions and wish him a very happy birthday and pray that he has many more to come.

IN HONOR OF FATHER PAUL
WYNANTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my respect and admiration for Father Paul Wynants. Father Wynants has been a true spiritual leader, providing guidance and comfort to thousands since first being ordained 64 years ago.

Father Paul G. Wynants was born on August 2, 1925, in Heverlee, Belgium. He entered the Missionhurst Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in 1944 and was ordained on July 29, 1951. He departed for his mission assignments in the United States in 1953.

Father Wynants served as assistant pastor at Christ the King Church in Norfolk from 1954–55; professor at Maryhill Seminary in Pinesville, LA., from 1955–58; assistant pastor at St. Dominic Parish in Columbus, Ohio, from 1958–59; and assistant pastor at St. Patrick Church in Detroit, Mich., from 1959–62. In 1964, Father Wynants was appointed spiritual director and rector for the Missionhurst Seminary in Washington, DC.

In 1975, he was assigned as director of vocations for the U.S. Province. Residing at Missionhurst in Arlington, he also served as rector there until 1981. Under his guidance, Missionhurst evolved into the Missionhurst Mission Center, where he served as coordinator until 1982.

Father Wynants served as the Catholic chaplain at Fairfax Hospital from 1982–2005, and priest at St. Ambrose Church in Annandale, VA. During those years, Father Wynants was always available to provide for the spiritual needs of the ill and their families. Regardless of the time of day, or the treacherous weather, he would unfailingly travel to the hospital and provide comfort and support to those in grief.

On September 12, 1991, Father Wynants proudly served as Chaplain for a day in the United States Senate. Senator Max Baucus sponsored him for this honor, and he was introduced by Senator Robert Byrd. Father Wynants never forgot this honor. Sometime later, a staff member in Senator Baucus' office became seriously ill and was recuperating at Fairfax Hospital when Father Wynants walked into her room announcing that the DCCC had sent him to check in on her. This brightened

her day and she would talk about his act of kindness for long afterwards.

In 1992, Father Wynants took up residence at Mount Tabor Community in Vienna, a house of prayer and a Christian community established in 1975 by Missionhurst Father Arthur Verstraete. With the help of Father Wynants, Mount Tabor has continued to grow with an ever-increasing number of members, retreatants, and activities.

Sadly, Father Wynants is gravely ill. Family members have travelled to the United States from Belgium to be with him during this time.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in a prayer for Father Wynants and his family, and in celebration of his life of dedication to his Church, his faith, his family, and our community.

HONORING KEARNEY HIGH SCHOOL
FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the Kearney High School football team. This is a group of very special young men who have exemplified the finest qualities of teamwork, devotion and sportsmanship by taking an active part in the classroom and on the field. These Bulldogs relentlessly pursued their goal and were rewarded with their fourth state football title in school history.

The Kearney Bulldogs defeated Webb City 17–14 in the Missouri Class Four Championship. Junior Ethan Luft managed to recover a last second fumble on the goal line to secure the victory. The work and effort these young men have persevered through over the years has not only earned them numerous honors on and off the field, but also the respect of their families, classmates, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the Kearney High School football team for their accomplishments on the field and for their efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Missouri Class Four state champions.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF LINDA STONE

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Linda Stone—a longtime anti-hunger advocate in Seattle—on her retirement.

For the last 30 years, Linda has been a prominent leader in the fight to end hunger. She is known throughout the region for her tenure as the Food Policy Director for the Children's Alliance, a public-policy organization that advocates for the needs of children. Her history also includes service as the Director of the Governor's Task Force on Hunger and as the founder of the Washington Food Policy Action Center.

Linda served as the driving force behind a strategic plan to end childhood hunger in

Washington State and to create a summer meals program for children who experience food insecurity when not in school. She also showed transformative leadership through her involvement with the Western Regional Anti-Hunger Consortium, a coalition of 10 western states that collaborate on anti-hunger initiatives. She led the coalition's efforts to secure over \$6 billion in funding for the national Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). She also helped to create a system that assisted local farmers at community farmers markets to sell affordable fresh fruits and vegetables in areas that previously lacked affordable access.

Linda has been recognized for her extraordinary efforts numerous times, including being named National Child Advocate of the Year in 1997 by Voices for America's Children. She is acknowledged by her colleagues as having been an unwavering and powerful champion for families that experience food insecurity.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I congratulate Linda Stone on her retirement and recognize her tremendous impact in the fight to end hunger, the work she has done in Washington State and beyond.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR ADRIAN
FOSTER

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Major Adrian Foster of the United States Army for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to our Nation. Major Foster will soon transition from his current assignment as an Army Congressional Liaison in the House of Representatives to the 759th Military Police Battalion at Fort Carson, Colorado.

Adrian enlisted in the United States Army in 1997 and received his commission through Arizona State University ROTC in 2003. Throughout his Army career, Adrian has served in numerous tactical, leadership, and staff assignments as a Military Police Officer. Adrian served as a Platoon Leader in the 978th Military Police Company, commanded both the 16th and 72nd Military Police Detachments, and served as the Provost Marshal Operations Officer at Fort Bliss, Texas, where he was responsible for daily law enforcement, military working dog operations, inter-agency collaboration and installation security. Adrian's other previous assignments include Battalion Police Transition Team Chief, Battalion Assistant Operations Officer, and Battalion Operations Officer. In support of contingency operations, Adrian has deployed twice to Iraq for a cumulative total of 24 months.

In 2012, Adrian was selected for the highly competitive Army Congressional Fellowship Program. As part of this program, Adrian was first assigned as an Army Congressional Fellow in the office of former Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Chairman MIKE ROGERS (R-MI). As if that task wasn't daunting enough, Adrian also earned a Masters in Legislative Affairs from the George Washington University that year.

Adrian was then assigned to serve in the House Army Congressional Liaison office for the remainder of his Fellowship Program.

Army Congressional Liaison Officers provide Members and staff insight and understanding of Army policies, actions, operations, and requirements. Their first-hand knowledge of military needs, culture, and tradition is a tremendous benefit to Congressional offices. His service in the House of Representatives has proven invaluable to both the Department of Defense and Congress. Adrian utilized this experience and knowledge to assist Members, staff, and notably, the Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa—which I currently chair—where I had the privilege and honor to interact with him on numerous occasions.

During Major Foster's distinguished service to this Nation, he has earned awards and decorations including: the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Air Assault Badge, Combat Action Badge, and the Army Staff Identification Badge. In addition to his civilian education, Adrian is a graduate of the Military Police Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, and the Command and General Staff College.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a pleasure to work closely with Major Foster over the last few years of his decorated career. He is truly a testament to the seven core values of the Army: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage. On behalf of a grateful Nation, it is my honor to recognize the selfless service and sacrifice of Major Adrian Foster, his wife Tamara, and their daughters, Brenna Simone and Sienna Marie. I wish them the very best as they continue to dedicate their lives in the service of our Nation as they move on to the next chapter of their lives together. We will miss them.

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, Section 310(b) of H.R. 4188, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015, requires the Coast Guard to prepare a Port Access Route Study for Nantucket Sound. The study would include the area subject to a lease for the Cape Wind Project. That lease is the subject of pending litigation that challenges, among other claims, the Coast Guard's terms and conditions under section 414 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 for failing to protect navigational safety. It is important that we do not interfere in this litigation, and section 310(b) does not make any presuppositions about the validity of the Coast Guard's actions under section 414. In addition, section 310(b) does not make any presuppositions about the validity of the lease for that Project. It is for the court to decide whether the Coast Guard properly set the terms and conditions for that project in accordance with section 414, and the Department of the Interior imposed proper conditions on the lease.

Section 310(b) is needed because, when the Atlantic Coast PARS began, Nantucket Sound had been excluded. The PARS must review how any project in Nantucket Sound would impact the navigational safety of current marine transportation and vessel activities. The Coast Guard is also directed to review existing regulations to improve navigation safety. The goal of the report is to identify the impact to the current and future navigational activities and how to avoid unsafe operating requirements on vessels, and revise existing regulations to improve navigational safety in Nantucket Sound.

SUPPORT FUNDING FOR THE
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC EN-
ERGY AGENCY

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, on December 7, 2015, I, along with 60 of my colleagues, sent a letter to the House Appropriations Committee urging robust funding for the accounts that support the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), an international organization tasked with verifying that states comply with their commitments under the Non-Proliferation Treaty and other non-proliferation agreements.

Whether or not Members of Congress supported the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, we have a foremost responsibility to the continued security of the United States and our allies. Funding the organization that is tasked with monitoring and verifying Iran's nuclear activities is essential to that security. As such, I submit the following letter from the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation.

DECEMBER 17, 2015.

Withholding Funding from the IAEA is Ill-Advised and Dangerous.

DEAR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS: As individuals who have dedicated our professional lives to national security and nuclear non-proliferation, we strongly urge that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) receive full funding to monitor Iran's compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

The United States, its international negotiating partners, and Iran continue to move towards full implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which will restrict and monitor Iran's nuclear activity in exchange for relief from economic sanctions related to its nuclear program. The nuclear watchdog organization, the IAEA, is responsible for verifying that Iran is in compliance with the agreement through an unprecedented system of intrusive inspections and safeguards.

IAEA monitoring is essential for deterring and detecting illicit nuclear behavior by Iran; without adequate funding, the international community cannot responsibly verify that Iran's nuclear program remains peaceful and in-line with its commitments. According to Director General Yukiya Amano, the IAEA requires an additional \$10.6 million per year to undertake this task. This additional funding will pay for new inspectors, the installation and maintenance of safeguard and verification technology, and other monitoring activities that exceed the surveillance normally conducted by the IAEA.

Unfortunately, some key members of Congress advocate blocking any U.S. contribution to these additional funds. On December 3, Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT) introduced House Resolution 553, supported by several House committee chairs, urging that additional funding be blocked unless the IAEA releases confidential documents between it and Iran.

Release of these documents would violate the confidentiality of the IAEA, which has been universally regarded as necessary to ensure the cooperation of countries with inspection and verification agreements. Though the resolution is not legally binding, it sets a dangerous precedent for future legislation.

It is difficult to understand why Members of Congress would block verification of Iran's nuclear activities. Such a self-defeating move would only increase the potential for Iran to hide violations of the agreement by reducing the likelihood of detection.

We strongly urge Congress to ensure that the IAEA receives full funding to effectively monitor Iran's implementation of and compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. Doing so will make the United States, its allies, and the world safer.

Sincerely,

Hans Blix, Director General Emeritus, IAEA; Maj. General Roger R. Blunt, USA (Ret.); Amb. Kenneth C. Brill (ret), Former ambassador to the IAEA, Founding Director of the U.S. National Counterproliferation Center; Matthew Bunn, Professor, Managing the Atom Project, Belfer Center, Harvard University; Brig. Gen. Stephen A. Cheney, USMC (Ret.); Charles D. Ferguson, Ph.D., President, Federation of American Scientists, Former Naval Nuclear Officer; Trevor Findlay, Associate, Managing the Atom Project, Belfer Center, Harvard University; Brig. Gen. Evelyn "Pat" Foote, USA (Ret.); Lt. Gen. Robert Gard, USA (Ret.), Chairman Emeritus, Center for Arms Control & Non-Proliferation; Richard L. Garwin, Contributor to design and test of nuclear weapons, IBM Fellow Emeritus; Amb. Thomas Graham Jr. (ret.), Chairman, Lightbridge Corp.; Lt. Gen. Arlen D. Jameson, USAF (Ret.); Brig. Gen. John H. Johns, USA (Ret.), Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, National Defense University.

David Kay, Former IAEA Chief Weapons Inspector in Iraq (after first Gulf War); Lt. Gen. Claudia J. Kennedy, USA (Ret.); Daryl G. Kimball, Executive Director, Arms Control Association; Maj. Gen. Frederick H. Lawson, USA (Ret.); Edward P. Levine, Ph.D., Retired senior professional staff member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee; Jeffrey Lewis, Director of the East Asia Nonproliferation Program, Center for Nonproliferation Studies; Martin Mallin, Executive Director, Managing the Atom Project, Belfer Center, Harvard University; Laura Rockwood, Executive Director, Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, Former Section Head, IAEA; Joan Rohlfing, President and COO, Nuclear Threat Initiative; Andrew K. Semmel, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Policy; Lt. Gen. James M. Thompson, USA (Ret.), Vice Chair, Boise, ID Committee on Foreign Relations; Jim Walsh, Ph.D., Security Studies Program, MIT; Honorable Andy Weber, Former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Defense Programs.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, House Democrats did not include the excise tax when we approved the House version of ACA—it was added later by the Senate. I expressed concern about the impact of this provision from day one, and have worked to raise awareness of the problem. I am pleased with the provision in the budget calling for a two-year delay and voted for the Omnibus bill with this provision.

When it comes to reigning in health care cost growth, Democrats don't take a back seat to anybody. Indeed, that is one of the main aims of the healthcare law—one that has already had significant success.

But this excise tax will shift costs to employers, who, in turn, will shift more costs to employees, who will not make up for these costs with increased wages.

We need to use this two year delay to address this excise tax completely. In our continued efforts to control health costs, we must not harm consumers in the process and must continue to support working families.

A DAY IN HONOR OF JANET LANGHART COHEN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Emmy nominated journalist, author and playwright Janet Langhart Cohen's one-act play, "Anne & Emmett." On October 23, 2015, at the MIST Harlem Cultural Center, I joined with the New Heritage Theatre Group, the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce and MIST Harlem to welcome playwright Janet Langhart Cohen to the Village of Harlem, where she presented the one-act play "Anne & Emmett," directed by Thomas W. Jones II. The play, "Anne and Emmett," focuses on an imaginary conversation between Anne Frank and Emmett Till, who were victims of religious intolerance and racial hatred. That evening, "Anne and Emmett" was filmed by The New Heritage Group under the supervision of celebrated director/producer and former Chair of Columbia University's Graduate Film Program, Professor Jamal Joseph.

The presentation of "Anne and Emmett" was made possible by RARIA (Race and Reconciliation in America), a not for profit organization co-founded by Janet Langhart Cohen, New York City Police Commissioner William J. Bratton and the New York City Police Academy. First premiered in 2009 at the United States Holocaust Museum, "Anne & Emmett," was conceived by Janet Langhart Cohen. The plays two main characters were Emmett Till, a 14-year-old boy whose brutal murder in Mississippi sixty years ago which sparked the modern civil rights movement; and the young

Holocaust victim Anne Frank, a Jewish girl who had to go into hiding during World War Two to avoid the Nazis and after almost two years in hiding she was discovered and deported to Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp where she died. The play has received rave reviews during performances in Washington, DC, Indianapolis and Chicago.

Mrs. Cohen is passionate about ensuring Emmett Till's story is never forgotten; which she does daringly throughout the play. It has been presented to dignitaries, students, Supreme Court justices, and now, the NYPD and its recent classes of recruits. Her commitment and understanding of how vital Emmett Till's story is to our nation was heralded by the Till family last spring when they honored Mrs. Cohen with the "Women of Courage" award established to honor the memory of Emmett's mother, Mamie Till Mobley. Additionally, in 2014 Mrs. Cohen led the way to have a tree planted in memory of Emmett Till, at the United States Capitol.

To understand why she produced the play, one needs to learn where she came from. Janet Langhart Cohen grew up in segregated housing in Indianapolis, where the Indiana Ku Klux Klan rose to prominence in the early 1920s. Janet went on to attend Crispus Attucks High School and later moved to New York City, where she began her career in television. Her television career included stints at NBC, America Alive with Bruce Jenner, AM New York on ABC, WPIX-TV Channel 11, 9 Broadcast Plaza on WOR-TV and Entertainment Tonight. Mrs. Cohen has had the privilege of interviewing such luminaries as President Jimmy Carter, Margaret Thatcher, Rosa Parks, Mel Gibson, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Denzel Washington, Dan Rather, Oprah Winfrey, Whoopi Goldberg, Barbara Walters and Larry King, as well as David Duke former head of the Ku Klux Klan.

Janet married William S. Cohen, who at the time served as Secretary of Defense, under President William Jefferson Clinton, and became known as "First Lady of the Pentagon" due to her active and visible public role at the Defense Department. Mrs. Cohen spurred several initiatives aimed at morale and well-being of military and civilian employees at the Pentagon; which included the Military Family Forum, the Pentagon Pops concert series, the Secretary of Defense Annual Holiday Tour, and her own series of interviews on Pentagon TV, Special Assignment. She was given a volunteer position as "First Lady of the USO" and helped recruit celebrities and civilians to work with the United Service Organizations. Her many awards and honors include Hadasah Woman of the Year and The Zachary and Elizabeth Award for Distinguished Civilian Humanitarian Service for her work on behalf of members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families. In President Bill Clinton's last State of the Union Address, he praised Mrs. Cohen for her enormous contribution to the welfare and morale of our men and women in uniform and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I joined with the New Heritage Theatre Group, the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce, MIST Harlem and the Village of Harlem to dedicate Friday, October 23, 2015 in honor of Janet Langhart Cohen for her lifelong commitment to ending racial and religious intolerance and hatred in our Nation. I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognition of this great unheralded American, Janet Langhart Cohen.

THE STATE OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS
IN AMERICA

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, we face a real problem in America as it relates to the rights of women and how this will one day impact our young girls.

We live in a great country founded on principles of liberty, justice and equality.

Throughout history, we have grown and developed into a nation where women hold some of the most prestigious and powerful positions in our country and throughout the world, as scientists, astronauts, businesswomen, educators, government officials, Supreme Court justices, and hopefully one day soon, the President of our United States.

However, as a global champion and advocate of international human rights and the rule of law, the United States still has a long ways to go guaranteeing equal access to legal rights and protections for all women in America.

The United Nations Working Group on Discrimination against Women in the Law and Practice (U.N. Working Group) recently issued a sobering statement and assessment, with a full report to follow in June 2016, delineating an infringement on the rights of women in America.

Upon visiting several states throughout the country, including my home state of Texas, the U.N. Working Group concluded that women in the United States inexplicably lag behind international human rights standards.

Pointing to data and research on public and political representation, economic and social rights, and health and safety protections, experts in the U.N. Working Group boldly acknowledged that there is a myth that women in the United States already enjoy all of the expected standards of rights and protections because they live in America.

A woman's fundamental reproductive right is tied to their economic independence, empowerment and wellbeing of her family.

The reality is, women in the United States are experiencing continued discrimination and daunting disparities that curtail their ability to fully participate as equal members of society.

The primary areas and statistics noted, include the following:

Women have risen to some of the highest levels of legislative and executive representation over the years, yet with only 4 of 15 cabinet members, 19.4% of Congressional Members and an average of 24.9% of state legislatures, the U.S. ranks at only 72 in the global market of women represented in public and political positions.

While the number of women justices has significantly increased, women litigants' access to justice is severely limited.

Although women vote in higher percentages than men, women's access to voting is under attack in states like Alabama where increased voter ID requirements pose unprecedented barriers.

Women constitute nearly half of the US labor force, at a participation rate of 57%. Yet, equal economic opportunity is severely lacking given deficient or nonexistent mandatory standards for workplace accommodations for

pregnant women, post-natal mothers and persons with care responsibilities.

What also remains a shameful truth in America, is the gender wage gap which has remained at or near 21% over the past decade. Shockingly, women with higher levels of education experience the largest earning gaps, as do minority women regardless of educational attainment.

The percentage of women in poverty has increased over the past decade, from 12.1% to 14.5%, with a higher rate of poverty than men. As such, women are exposed to higher rates of homelessness and violence without adequate protections in place in shelters and housing support options.

Women in detention facilities throughout the country are also experiencing increasingly high rates of over-incarceration, sexual violence, shackling while pregnant, solitary confinement, lack of alternative custodial sentencing for women with dependent children, and inadequate access to health care and re-entry programs.

Migrant women traveling to the U.S., many victims of trafficking and violence, including sexual violence, are kept in detention centers with children for prolonged periods of time.

Notably, the criminalization of women in prostitution places them in unjust, vulnerable and stigmatized situations that are contrary to international human rights law.

The U.N. has also pointed out that women, particularly black and LGBTQ women, in the U.S. experience deplorable police brutality and increased incidents of homicide by police.

Even though women own over 1/3 of firms in the U.S., primarily in small and medium sized businesses, these businesses face greater barriers in obtaining low cost capital from sources such as the Small Business Administration—which awards less than 5% of federal contracts to women-owned business.

Lastly, one of the most alarming deficiencies for women in America is the lack of access to basic health care and the imposition of devastating barriers to reproductive health and rights.

Too many women are suffering dire and deadly consequences.

Between 1990 and 2013, the maternal mortality rate for women in the U.S. has increased by 136%.

Black women are nearly 4 times more likely to die in childbirth, and states with high poverty rates have a 77% higher maternal mortality rate.

Our global experts and allies acknowledge that even though women's reproductive rights in America are constitutionally protected, access to reproductive health services are severely abridged by states' imposition of sweeping barriers and restrictions.

For instance, in many states, women must undergo unjustified and invasive medical procedures; endure groundless waiting periods; be subjected to harassment, violence or other threatening conditions that remain constant throughout all reproductive health care clinics; and forced to forgo treatment or engage in lengthy and costly travel due to closure of clinics faced with burdensome licensing conditions.

These restrictions disproportionately discriminate against poor women.

The United States can and should do better.

It is unacceptable that women in America are facing a reproductive health care crisis so

dire that the global community is denouncing it as a human rights violation.

Sadly, the direction States are taking will only further dismantle women's access to affordable and trustworthy reproductive healthcare.

Clinics are shutting down at alarming rates throughout the country as a result of devastating restrictions and barriers imposed throughout Texas.

A Texas statute known as HB2 (House Bill 2), was enacted several years ago claiming to promote women's health, when in fact it only set in motion dangerous restrictions on women's access to reproductive health care.

In addition to constant attacks on funding for reproductive health care clinics, abortion providers in Texas were forced to undergo impossible million dollar renovations and upgrades.

Denying hundreds of thousands of women health care services in Texas, nearly half of all reproductive health care clinics were forced to shut down, and now only 10 remain in the second largest state in the country.

Another moment will occur when the Supreme Court decides *Whole Woman's Health v. Cole*, which will decide the fate of the remaining clinics in Texas and throughout the nation.

No woman in America should be denied the dignity of being able to make choices about her body and healthcare.

Access to safe, legal and unhindered healthcare must be realized by all women.

A woman's right to choose to have an abortion is a constitutionally protected fundamental right.

More than 40 years ago in the landmark decision in *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113, (1973), the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 7-2 that the right to privacy under the Due Process Clause of the 14th Amendment extends to a woman's decision to have an abortion.

More recently, in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, 505 U.S. 833 (1992), the Supreme Court upheld *Roe v. Wade* and further explained that states could not enact medically unnecessary regulations meant to create substantial obstacles for women seeking abortion services.

Yet, fairness and access to exercise constitutionally protected fundamental rights is trampled on and denied to millions of women.

We cannot ignore the unfairness of imbalanced protection and access to fundamentally protected rights for women in America when it is easier to purchase and lawfully possess a firearm—even for a person on the terrorist watchlist—than it is for a woman to exercise her constitutional right to terminate a pregnancy.

Mr. Speaker, this is neither fair nor right and it should not be rewarded.

As our nation continues to push back against horrific acts of violence at the hands of dangerous and irresponsible gun owners and gun dealers, and our nation's number one provider of women's healthcare continues to experience violent and deadly attacks on its personnel and facilities, it is time we find common ground.

A woman's right to choose to have an abortion and an individual's right to possess a firearm are both constitutionally protected fundamental rights.

I will be working with my colleagues to find ways to address the unfair and unjust disparity by reviewing and responding to unwarranted

restrictions that result in disparate access to these constitutionally protected rights.

Certainly, if the state has a legitimate interest in requiring a woman to wait several days, undergo a physical examination, receive counseling and education about alternative options before making the decision to terminate a pregnancy, then it has an equally compelling interest in requiring a person seeking to obtain a firearm to demonstrate the mental, physical, and emotional fitness to possess an instrument that is used to kill more than 30,000 Americans annually.

I hope that one day soon in America it will not be harder for a woman to exercise her fundamental right to choose than it is for a person on the terrorist watchlist to lawfully purchase and possess firearms.

At a minimum, I urge the Congress to rededicate itself to the critically important but unfinished task of ensuring equality of opportunity and protection of law for women.

CONGRATULATING JOE RITCHEY
AND PROSPECTIVE, INC.

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Joe Ritchey and his company, Prospective, Inc. on being named one of the 2015 BCA 10: Best Businesses Partnering with the Arts in America honorees. Presented every year by Americans for the Arts' Business Committee for the Arts (BCA), the BCA 10 awards honor U.S. companies for their exceptional commitment to the arts.

Joe Ritchey and his firm actively support a vibrant local arts scene in Reston and throughout Fairfax County. Mr. Ritchey helped form the Initiative for Public Art—Reston (IPAR), where he still serves as President and Chair. IPAR consists of a group of civic leaders who represent Reston's key community organizations and seek to inspire and expand the community's commitment to public art. In 2008, IPAR launched a process that led to the adoption of the Public Art Master Plan for Reston which strives to incorporate art into public spaces. Anyone strolling through the many parks and public squares in Reston can readily see the impact of the Master Plan.

Mr. Ritchey's contributions and influence extend far beyond Reston and have benefited our larger Fairfax County community. A passionate lover of the arts, he has served on the boards of the Arts Council of Fairfax County (Board Chairman in 2013 and 2014), Children's Museum of Northern Virginia, Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts Associates, and the Greater Reston Arts Center.

A successful businessman, Mr. Ritchey also shares his knowledge and expertise with numerous other organizations. He serves or has served on the boards or in other leadership roles of the Reston Hospital Center of HCA Virginia Health System (Board Chairman in 2011 and 2012), the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance, the Dulles Corridor Rail Association, the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, and he is an active supporter of Reston Interfaith, Nature House, and the George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis.

Mr. Ritchey has received numerous awards and accolades in recognition of his service to our community. These awards include the NAOIP 1995 Award of Excellence for Economic Development, 2003 "Best of Reston" designation, the 2004 Fairfax County Federation of Citizen Associations Citizen of the Year, the 2006 Times Community Newspapers Reston Citizen of the Year, the 2009 inaugural Robert E. Simon Community Service Award, the 2011 Jinx Hazel Arts Citizen of the Year, and in 2013 he was the Grand Marshal of the Reston Holiday Parade.

Northern Virginia is a vibrant region where countless people donate their time, energy, and financial support for the betterment of our neighbors and our community as a whole.

In this region where so many do so much, Mr. Ritchey stands out and is an example of what one person can do. He has created a legacy that will live on for future generations to enjoy and has truly been a force in Reston and Northern Virginia being considered among the best places in the country in which to live, work, play, and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Joe Ritchey and Prospective, Inc. on being honored as a BCA 10 recipient, and in thanking him for his unwavering and tireless efforts on behalf of our community.

SUPPORT FOR OMNIBUS AND TAX
EXTENDERS LEGISLATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I voted for both the omnibus and tax extender bills that came before the House this week. They represented hard work and compromises by many on both sides of the aisle and across the advocacy community. I commend so many of my colleagues for reminding us of what we can accomplish when we work together on behalf of the American people.

These bills don't just do the bare minimum to keep the government open and continue the policy status quo as we have done many times in recent years. Instead, they actually invest in important programs, many that I have supported for years and that are priorities for Oregonians.

I am pleased to see the extenders legislation support research and development, and provide important tools—such as an extension of the New Markets program—to invest in our communities. The tax package increases the benefit for transit riders to the same level as the parking tax benefit, providing much-needed tax fairness, strengthening options for commuters, and eliminating an incentive to drive to work. This provision will ease congestion and road wear and make our transportation system more sustainable.

The omnibus also contains robust funding for public broadcasting, animal welfare enforcement, and health and scientific research. It includes the highest-ever levels of funding for the implementation of the Water for the Poor and Water for the World Acts, for which I have fought for years. I am pleased that the bill contains many provisions that I helped champion, including language to ensure the

Department of Justice stay out of the way of state medical marijuana laws, language that supports industrial hemp research programs, and increased funding for brain research.

There are also many positive provisions for the environment in these bills. I am delighted that the Land and Water Conservation Fund has been reauthorized and funded at a significant increase of \$144 million. This program is one of the most important tools we have to protect land and habitat, construct parks and purchase other outdoor spaces that are cherished in communities.

Both bills take important steps to help us transition away from fossil fuels and allow us to meaningfully contribute in the global fight against climate change. In particular, the long-term extension of tax credits for wind and solar energy development will significantly expand the development of clean renewable energy across the country at a critical time in our struggle to reduce carbon emissions. With this support, the solar industry estimates that by 2020, it will deploy more than 20 GW of solar electricity annually.

The provisions supporting wind energy will free that industry from a repeated boom-and-bust cycle caused by inaction in Congress, and will strengthen the build out of low-cost, emission-free renewable energy from coast to coast.

The elimination of many of the damaging environmental riders that were proposed during the appropriations process was a major victory, measures that would have defunded the Clean Power Plan, or reduced protections for endangered species among many others.

There are certainly provisions in both of these bills that I do not support. It is troubling that we are drifting away from discipline in terms of dealing with the deficit. There were many missed opportunities to reduce wasteful spending and redirect those resources to where it is more needed. We will continue to spend billions of dollars every year on a nuclear arsenal we can't afford and will not use. Through tax breaks and direct subsidies, we will also continue to directly support wildly profitable industries that do not need this support—such as agribusiness and the petroleum industry.

The bills also fail to address the need for new and different revenues, such as a carbon tax and a gas tax increase to rebuild crumbling infrastructure, to protect our environment and to properly invest in social safety net programs over the long run.

Both bills include provisions that on their own, I would not support. I remain unpersuaded that we need to lift the crude oil export ban. I have voted against such legislation in the past since it will not help us transition to a cleaner energy future. The inclusion of the Cybersecurity Information and Sharing Act is troubling because it fails to strike the right balance between privacy and security, or between the responsibility of the private sector and the government. The omnibus also continues an irresponsible policy rider that interferes with the District of Columbia's ability to manage the sale of marijuana to ensure safety and appropriate regulations. Finally, the extenders legislation imposes new rules and responsibilities on the overburdened staff at the Internal Revenue Service. We currently have the most efficient tax collection system in the world among developed nations, but we have been systematically destroying its ability to serve taxpayers by doing its job.

I also am disappointed that the omnibus did not include a number of key spending priorities that should command support from everyone. The bill does not include an important change to wildfire spending. We should treat wildfires like other major disasters and eliminate the practice of “fire borrowing,” which drains agency non-fire budgets to pay for fire-fighting. The bill also fails to reauthorize the Historic Preservation Fund, the main source of federal support for preservation projects that celebrate the heritage and history of communities across America. Finally, the omnibus continues a decades long ban on federal research on the causes and factors behind gun violence. Everyone should allow researchers to study and share information about gun violence in order to promote evidence-based policies to reduce horrific incidents.

Despite these shortcomings, however, I support the overall package. On the whole, it's balanced and includes meaningful provisions that will support priorities important to Oregonians and across the country. I'm hopeful this is an indication that going forward, Congress can work across the aisle and compromise, so that we can do our jobs for the American people.

HONORING SHREWSBURY BOY
SCOUT TROOP 114

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Shrewsbury Boy Scout Troop 114.

January 2016 will mark the 100th anniversary of Shrewsbury Boy Scout Troop 114. The troop, which has been chartered by the First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury since 1916, is one of the oldest troops in Mohegan Council as well as one of the oldest troops within the Boy Scouts of America.

For the last hundred years, Shrewsbury Boy Scout Troop 114 has been a vibrant part of our community and helped to teach our young boys the skills that prepare them to lead and the values that strengthen our families in Shrewsbury and the surrounding communities.

Troop 114, which is comprised of 70 Scouts who range in age from 10 to 17, is led by Scoutmaster Rick Spurr as well as 28 registered adult leaders. All of them work to build character and train the Scouts in the responsibilities of participating citizenship and developing personal fitness.

Troop 114 helps our boys stay active and physically fit with 10 campouts per year and a week of summer camp. Since 1916, Troop 114 has spent over 2,500 nights camping throughout New England and members of Troop 114 have represented Shrewsbury proudly at every National Boy Scout Jamboree that has ever been held.

Through the years, 124 members of Troop 114 have attained the rank of Eagle Scout. For the last decade, crews of Scouts have attended national High Adventure camps across the country, including Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, Seabase in Florida and the Bahamas, and Maine High Adventure in northern Maine.

Over the past 100 years Scouting, Troop 114 has kept up with the changing world by

offering many new merit badges that focus on cutting-edge technologies and industries that did not exist years ago. And while much has changed, the core values of the Scouting program have remained constant since Troop 114 was founded in 1916.

I am pleased to congratulate Shrewsbury Boy Scout Troop 114 as they celebrate their centennial and a proud history of helping all of our boys reach their full potential. Here's to another great hundred years.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
MR. CHARLIE HALL

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the honorable service of Charlie Hall as he retires as CEO of AM General after five years of remarkable leadership of this world-renowned company, the manufacturer of the Humvee. Few exemplify the American spirit more than Mr. Hall and his contributions are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

For more than 35 years, Hall has worked in domestic and international business. He began his career as a summer intern at Chrysler Defense where he returned full time upon completing his business degree from Western Michigan University.

A driven and natural born leader, Hall then became an employee of General Dynamics in 1984, where he worked at nearly every level of the organization including plant manager, vice president, and president of General Dynamics Land Systems. While serving in the Combat Systems Group at General Dynamics, Hall oversaw nearly 20,000 employees.

Hall joined AM General as CEO in January 2011, and set out to fortify the HMMWV brand, grow international sales, and diversify the commercial vehicle business. Hall will retire from the company accomplishing these goals and much more. He restructured the business from top to bottom, launched critical partnerships with the National Guard and Reserves, secured unprecedented foreign military sales, and diversified the company's commercial portfolio, just to name a few of his most notable achievements.

Best known for his collaborative, deliberative, no-nonsense leadership style, Hall has never lost track of his top priority: delivering the best light tactical vehicles on the planet for our men and women in uniform. Under his leadership, AM General has truly been transformed and stands poised for a very bright future.

I want to take this opportunity to once again thank Charlie Hall for having such an extraordinary impact on this company and for serving as a role model for the next generation of leaders in our community. On behalf of myself and my fellow Hoosiers, I thank him for his commitment to service and exceptional leadership.

CELEBRATING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOMESTEAD RESORT

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, the Homestead Resort is a piece of American history nestled in the Allegheny Mountains of Virginia—surrounded by the natural beauty of the landscape, permeated by healing mineral waters, and displaying the quintessential Southern charm for which it has become so well known. For 250 years, The Homestead Resort has served as a respite for weary travelers. From presidents and celebrities to families and visitors from around the globe, The Homestead has been a place where generations have come to rest, relax, and rejuvenate—all while enjoying the hospitality of our region.

Located in Virginia's Sixth Congressional District in the village of Hot Springs, the history of The Homestead begins more than a decade before the founding of our nation. A young George Washington visited the area, and later granted the land on which The Homestead was built to Captain Thomas Bullitt. In 1766, The Homestead saw its start as an 18-room lodge. In 1818, former President Thomas Jefferson spent three weeks soaking in the mineral pools. To date, 23 U.S. presidents have visited the resort, including former President George W. Bush in 2015.

Under the ownership of the Ingalls family for roughly 100 years until 1993, The Homestead saw many additions and improvements to shape the property as we know it today. Now known as The Omni Homestead Resort, over the past 200-plus years it has grown to encompass 2,300 acres with 483 guest rooms, numerous dining outlets, and more than 30 recreational activities. Today, this iconic resort continues to play a critical role in the economy of Bath County as a leading employer. Annually, the resort employs upwards of 1,000 workers, and is a significant source of tourism for surrounding communities and attractions.

The success of The Homestead is a testament to its hardworking and dedicated employees, like Woody Pettus, the long-time maitre d' in the main dining room. Woody is an institution at The Homestead and is one of five generations of his family who have worked there over the years. For many guests, the staff at The Homestead has become an extended family.

If you have not been to The Homestead, you are truly missing out on a little slice of heaven. From the columns flanking the main entrance and the welcoming expanse of the Great Hall to the beautifully designed gardens and miles of trails, a visit to The Homestead is certainly a unique experience. Over the years, this resort has become a special place for my family and many others. The people of Bath County are proud to call this landmark their own, and it is an honor to represent them and America's First Resort in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Throughout 2016, The Homestead will honor the past, present and future of America's First Resort. I congratulate The Homestead on this 250th anniversary, and wish them many more milestone anniversaries to come.

IN MEMORY OF KISHIN "KAY"
BHAVNANI-RAMA

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, even with the joys of the holidays all around us, this week has been a sad one for The Woodlands. A 'bigger than life' bright light has left us after a long illness.

I was honored to be one of Kishin "Kay" Bhavnani's first friends when he moved to The Woodlands in 1987. Kay made any day brighter.

When he passed away on December 16, 2015 after a lengthy illness, I lost a dear friend, but Veena (Shalani), Nick and Amit lost so much more.

Kay was kindness in human form. He never met a stranger. Friends were family and anyone who needed an open shoulder found one in his presence.

Having Kay's support from my days at the Chamber to today was a blessing I can never repay. There were many nights that midnight had long passed, but Kay and I kept talking, laughing, and simply enjoying what friendship is all about.

Kay will be remembered for his bottomless hospitality. When you left his presence, you were on top of the world, because you knew you mattered.

Whether it was a great meal or engaging conversation, Papa Rama, as he was known to his many "honorary kids", was the confidant's confidant. His advice, comfort, laughter, and sometimes even a well-deserved kick in the pants to the many young friends of his sons were golden and will be sorely missed.

I will always remember his deep love of all things Elvis Presley. He was born in Hong Kong in 1938 to Sita Bai Bhavnani (nee Advani) and Ramchand Bhavnani, but he embraced America with everything he had.

He not only spent his life making everyone around him feel good, he made them look good. His tailoring talents were second to none.

Our prayers are with his soul mate of 45 years, Veena, their children, beloved grandsons, Zachary and Julian, nieces, nephews and extended family who miss Papa Rama greatly.

I am grateful for his friendship and I grieve along with the entire Rama family.

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Katy Firefighter Lt. Simon VanDyk for receiving this year's Fire Chief Gary Tilton Firefighter of the Year Award.

Lt. VanDyk's efforts to create and build a program to inform the citizens of Katy about fire and life safety practices has been a long time passion. VanDyk took it upon himself to create a program that would expand outreach and safety education in the community. Rallying other battalion chiefs, the Katy area now

has in place an educational safety program for its residents and firefighters alike. Lt. VanDyk has shown what it means to go above and beyond the call of duty and truly has improved the safety of the Katy community. Keep up the hard work and thank you for all that you do.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second District of Texas, congratulations again to Lt. Simon VanDyk for winning this year's Firefighter of the Year Award.

A TRUE AMERICAN HERO PASSES

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply saddened by the passing of Tibor (Ted) Rubin. Our community and our nation have lost a true hero.

Ted was born in Hungary in 1929. He survived 14 months in a Nazi concentration camp during WWII, before his liberation, and eventual migration to America.

Inspired by the American soldiers who rescued him, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, eventually being deployed as a member of the 1st Cavalry Division during the Korean War. During his service, he faced anti-Semitic discrimination from his sergeant who sent Ted on the most dangerous assignments in South Korea's Pusan Perimeter, where he fought valiantly in several notable engagements.

He was eventually captured by the North Koreans on one of these missions. During his captivity he continued to inspire others, providing moral support and improvised medical techniques to care for his fellow soldiers.

For his gallantry in close contact with the enemy and his unyielding courage and bravery while a prisoner of war Ted was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in 2005.

Last August, I was proud to join Ted at a ceremony in Garden Grove to celebrate the first United States Postal Service stamp honoring the extraordinary courage of the 145 Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine service members who received the Medal of Honor for action during the Korean War.

I was also proud to see the City of Garden Grove name a library after Ted earlier this year: the Garden Grove Tibor Rubin Library.

Talking about his decision to immigrate, Ted once said that America is, ". . . the best country in the world and I am part of it now. I do not have to worry about the Gestapo knocking on my door tonight. I have shalom—peace—people die for it."

A long-time resident of Garden Grove, Ted was an inspiration to our community in so many ways. We should all honor his perseverance, dedication, and determination to make the world a better place.

HONORING JONI EARL

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Joni Earl, longtime Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Seattle area's re-

gional transit system, Sound Transit, on her retirement. Joni has been an extraordinary and transformative civic leader; forever changing the public transportation system in the Puget Sound region.

Joni's public service has been a lifelong endeavor and began when she was just a teenager, when she served as Assistant Treasurer at the City of Bremerton's City Treasurer office. Upon graduation from Washington State University, Joni would continue her career in 1987 as the City Manager of Mill Creek. Later, she brought her leadership abilities to Snohomish County as the Deputy County Executive until 2000, when she was recruited to join Sound Transit as its Chief Operating Officer (COO).

As COO, Joni was tasked with saving a \$1.9 billion light rail project that was years behind schedule and a billion dollars over budget. Just months after arriving, Joni was unexpectedly appointed to the role of CEO, where she discovered the true extent of Sound Transit's difficulties with several projects behind schedule, over budget, and in danger of losing federal and public support.

With the agency's future very much in doubt, Joni spearheaded Sound Transit's remarkable turnaround in the early 2000s. She immersed herself in the subject material, gaining a realistic perspective from agency staff and realigning expectations for the then-troubled light rail line. Her skillful navigation of the relationship with the Sound Transit board, which includes local elected officials from throughout the region, won her the trust of Democrats and Republicans alike. To those who had worked with Joni in the past, the transformation of Sound Transit came as no surprise: her career is filled with stories of successful turnarounds.

Thanks to Joni's careful stewardship, the Puget Sound region's transit system is today on stable footing with Sound Transit rolling out new light rail and bus service. The initial portion of an extensive light rail system—the first of its kind in the region—was up and running by 2009; in 2016, a new light rail extension to the University of Washington is set to open months ahead of schedule and \$150 million under budget. Moving forward, Sound Transit is expected to expand its light rail throughout the region, providing new transportation opportunities for citizens and transforming the economic vitality of the region in the process.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Joni Earl on her retirement from Sound Transit and for her lifetime of service to the Puget Sound region. It is without a doubt that her leadership and commitment to a better future of public transit will continue to impact the region for generations to come.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RUCKER PRO LEGENDS & HOLCOMBE RUCKER PARK

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Holcombe Rucker Park; and the legacy, and work of The Rucker Pro Legends of Basketball fame, a dynamic organization and an excellent community service provider. On Friday, August 14th

through Sunday, August 16th, 2015, at the nationally and internationally known Holcombe Rucker Park located in the Village of Harlem, New York City; The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce, HARLEM WEEK, The National Association of Each One Teach One, The Harlem Professionals and The New York Knicks had gathered to celebrate The Rucker Pro Legends of Basketball's successes, years of influence, as well as their current and old talents.

The three-day themed celebration was set to highlight all the great work of athletes and their years of influence. The Rucker Park 50 kicked-off on Friday, August 14th with "A Great Day For the Rucker" Cocktail Party reception at The Harlem Hospital Center's Mural Pavilion featuring a historic group photo shoot that was taken on the Mural Pavilion Great Steps with the Rucker Pro Legends of Basketball and Each One Teach One Alumnus who played the game. On Saturday, August 15th, the theme featured "50 Years of Influence"—The Rucker Legends Honored National Basketball Association (NBA) Legends at Holcombe Rucker Park, located at 155th Street & 8th Avenue to 156th Street & Harlem River Drive. The National Basketball Retired Players Association (NBRPA), NBA Cares and the Police Athletic League (PAL) conducted basketball clinics for over 100 children with the Rucker Pro Legends; which featured Each One Teach One Tournament Playoff Games throughout the day with celebrity guests and entertainers connected to Rucker Park over the years in attendance.

On Harlem Day—Sunday, August 16th, the theme features "50 Years of Teaching"—Each One Teach One & New York Knicks Clinic Day at Holcombe Rucker Park. The New York Knicks and the National Association of Each One Teach One conducted clinics throughout the day. One of the clinics included the Each One Teach One Basketball Tournament Championship Games sponsored in part by State Farm Insurance Company. During this event the "50 Greatest Rucker Pro Legends of All-time" were announced. Some of the legends that attended the 3-day celebrations were Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Julius "Dr. J" Erving, Nate "Tiny" Archibald, Tom "Satch" Sanders, Nevil Shed, Nancy Lieberman, World B. Free, Richard "Pee Wee" Kirkland, Joe "The Destroyer" Hammond, Dave Cowans, Bob Love, Emmette Bryant, Connie Hawkins, Ed Pinckey, Mark Jackson, Chris Mullins and many other legends of basketball and surprise guests.

The Rucker Professional Tournament is a Harlem Summer Professional Basketball Tournament that was founded by College and NBA Legends Bob McCullough, Sr. and Fred Crawford, Sr. in 1965 to honor the passing of their mentor Holcombe Rucker. Bob's and

Fred's main objectives were to continue Holcombe Rucker's work, teachings and legacy and to inspire youth throughout the greater Harlem community and beyond, which showcased professional basketball players from leagues around country to highlight the sport of basketball talent in the same vein as its creator James Naismith. Those leagues included the former American Basketball Association (ABA), Continental Basketball Association (CBA) and the NBA. The games also featured future talented High School ballers and NCAA College Division players. A basketball landmark, Rucker Park became the site of numerous battles between such NBA stars as Wilt Chamberlain, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Dr. "J" Julius Erving, and Walt Frazier, and such playground Legends as Herman "Helicopter" Knowings, Earl Manigault, Joe "The Destroyer" Hammond, "Pee Wee" Kirkland and Pablo Robertson of The Harlem Globetrotters. Furthermore, this renowned basketball venue has been written in such books as *City Game: Basketball from the Garden to the Playground in Harlem*. *Foul—The Connie Hawkins Story*, and *Asphalt Gods: An Oral History of The Rucker Tournament*.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing the 50th anniversary of Holcombe Rucker Park and The Rucker Pro Legends of Basketball fame. The Rucker Pro Legends have positively impacted basketball players and children of all ages. Their dedication to their art form; to showcase and celebrate the talents of their current, past and future peers and colleagues; and to the children is truly admirable. This three day celebration embodied all that The Rucker Pro Legends stand for; for this we should continue to honor the legacy of Holcombe Rucker and the Rucker Park Legends of Basketball.

COMMENDING THE KOREAN COALITION FOR POLITICAL PARTICIPATION FOR ITS SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the Korean Coalition for Political Participation (KCPP) for their contributions to our community.

The 11th District of Virginia is blessed by its diversity. Approximately 1 in 4 residents is foreign-born and nearly 40 percent are minorities. More than 100 languages are spoken in our schools, and we are home to more minority-owned technology firms than anywhere else in the nation.

Northern Virginia is fortunate to have one of the most vibrant Korean American communities in the United States; approximately 32,000 Korean Americans live in the 11th District. Nearly one-half of our foreign-born population emigrated from Asia, primarily from Korea.

The mission of KCPP is to educate the community on issues of great importance and to encourage participation in the democratic process. This is particularly critical for our newer citizens. KCPP addresses this by hosting various forums and presentations to provide the tools and knowledge that will allow full participation in our American society.

In Congress, just as I did during my tenure on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I have sought out new opportunities to collaborate with the Korean-American community. As co-chair of the Congressional Korea Caucus, we have worked together to ensure that the U.S.-Korean alliance remains strong.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Korean Coalition for Political Participation on its success and commending my friend, Michael Kwon, for his leadership as President of this organization.

HONORING STANBERRY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the Stanberry High School football team. This is a group of very special young men who have exemplified the finest qualities of teamwork, devotion and sportsmanship by taking an active part in the classroom and on the field. These Bulldogs relentlessly pursued their goal and were rewarded with the Missouri 8-man high school football championship.

The Stanberry Bulldogs defeated North Andrew 46–42 in the Missouri 8-man championship. The work and effort these young men have persevered through over the years has not only earned them numerous honors on and off the field, but also the respect of their families, classmates, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the Stanberry High School football team for their accomplishments on the field and for their efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Missouri 8-man football state champions.