

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO THE HUNTINGTOWN HURRICANES

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate a remarkable team of young women from Maryland's fifth congressional district. The Huntingtown Hurricanes won the 3A Maryland state track and field finals on May 28, becoming the first high school team in Calvert County history to bring home a state championship title. This momentous victory was made all the more significant given the caliber of their competition.

Following an arduous, three day meet at Morgan State University's Hughes Stadium, the Hurricanes edged out John F. Kennedy High School and Catonsville High School, who tied with 47 points, by just one-and-a-half points.

This victory demonstrates that with hard work, determination, and discipline, we can reach our goals. For the past three years, the Huntingtown Hurricanes have placed second in the 3A South Region—a significant achievement—but this year, the team broke through and won the 3A South Region meet on May 21.

Fourteen student-athletes qualified for the state meet, and they remained focused and determined to achieve their dream of victory at the statewide competition.

I want to applaud Head Coach Valerie Harrington and her coaching staff—Mike Henshaw, Jim Hall, Raffaele Simpson and Deb Fillippi—for their dedication and commitment to training these superb student-athletes. And I send my hardest congratulations to the members of the championship team—Cassidy Aley, Linsey Aley, Maia Burke, Diarra Butler, Shania Collins, Erin Dix, Taylor Fallin, Ellie Frazier, Zanae Freeland, Mercedes Jackson, Payton Muse, Leea Parker, Shelby Taylor, and Hanna Weis—on their victory. I'm very proud of these young women, and I congratulate all those involved in bringing home the championship title.

Let me close by echoing Coach Harrington's sentiments after the meet. She proudly stated that this was a banner year and one that will go down in the history of Huntingtown's girls' track and field program. I know that many other women's teams will win the title in the future, but this year's Hurricanes can always hold their heads high and recall that they were the first team to win for Calvert County.

I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding this significant accomplishment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I regret missing floor votes on Wednesday, June 1, 2011. Had I registered my vote, I would have voted:

Nay on rollcall 380, On Consideration of the Resolution for H.R. 2017—Providing for consideration of H.R. 2017, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes.

KENNEDY CENTER JUNE 21, 2011
PERFORMANCE SONGS OF LIFE
CELEBRATES THE LARGEST RES-
CUE OF JEWS DURING THE HOL-
OCAUST WITH THE WORLD-PRE-
MIERE OF THE ORATORIO "A
MELANCHOLY BEAUTY"

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to announce that on June 21st, the oratorio, A Melancholy Beauty, will premier at 8 p.m. at the Kennedy Center in Washington (Concert Hall). The oratorio is a choral-orchestral work for mixed choir, children's choir, symphony orchestra, soloists, narrator, folk vocal ensemble, and indigenous folk instruments. It is dedicated to the Rescue of Bulgaria's 49,000 Jews by ordinary citizens during the Holocaust of World War II. The oratorio traces this event chronologically through the language of music in seven movements.

Songs of Life is an international music festival that reenacts the heroic deeds of little-known events by composing and performing choral-orchestral works for those who have not yet had a voice to sing their song. On the 65th anniversary of the rescue of Bulgaria's Jews, the 1st edition of Songs of Life debuted in four cities of Israel and Bulgaria featuring "Sacred Service" by Ernest Bloch with the participation of the Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra, The Raanana Symphonette Orchestra, choirs from Israel, Bulgaria, Canada, and America.

A Melancholy Beauty "echoes a thank you, paying tribute to the brave Bulgarian people and offering a source of inspiration, hope and change for people everywhere today," said Kalin Tchonev, who together with his wife, Sharon, founded Songs of Life in 2008. No Bulgarian Jews went to the concentration camps during World War II. "This oratorio could not be timelier, when people and nations are burning bridges instead of building them. It inspires its performers and audience to stand up for justice and acceptance in the face of bigotry and hatred."

The oratorio was composed by the award-winning Bulgarian composer Georgi Andreev, who combines classical choral-orchestral music with traditional rhythms and folk styles rarely encountered today. The motet was composed by internationally renowned cantor and composer, Charles David Osborne, while a team of writers penned the libretto, including lyricist Scott Cairns and contributing author Aryeh Finklestein.

"A Melancholy Beauty is a major choral-orchestral oratorio that brings 300 superb choristers and instrumentalists to the stage in an unparalleled music celebration," Sharon Tchonev said. This moving oratorio will be conducted by internationally acclaimed choral director Maestro Henry H. Leck. The festival includes performances by the Indianapolis Children's Choir; the Tel Aviv Chamber Choir, Israel; the Philip Kutev National Folklore Ensemble, Bulgaria; the Victor Valley College Singers and the Master Arts Chorale, CA. The oratorio will be accompanied by the National Philharmonic in the Washington and New York performances and by the Boston Modern Orchestra Project in Boston. This coming together of musicians from countries impacted by these crucial events "is intended to redefine freedom and harmony through the power of music," Sharon Tchonev said.

Songs of Life invites people to pay tribute to victims and survivors and to speak out against intolerance today by attending one of the following performances of A Melancholy Beauty: The Citi Performing Arts Center, Wang Theatre, Thursday, June 23, 2011, 7:30 PM; Boston, The Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center, Sunday, June 26, 2011, 3 PM; New York City.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 1, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2017) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Chair, I rise to support the Clarke-Higgins-Reichert-Capps Amendment.

This bipartisan effort will ensure funding for the country's urban areas involved in preventing and responding to natural disasters and acts of terrorism.

The Urban Area Security Initiative focuses on enhancing preparedness in urban areas.

It does so by directing federal funds to places deemed to be at the highest risk for man-made or natural disasters.

For example, metropolitan Oxnard—located in my congressional district—has been included several times in recent years due to the strategic assets located in the area.

• 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.

However, the underlying bill would arbitrarily limit eligibility to 10 urban areas total.

This would eliminate the Oxnard's ability to access the funds necessary to prevent and prepare for all types of hazards.

Mr. Chair, the Oxnard metropolitan area has just as much need to protect its citizens from terrorist threats as any other large city in the U.S.

For example, Oxnard is home to Naval Base Ventura County. This strategic military installation supports ongoing military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as important D.O.D. weapons testing programs.

The Port of Hueneme—the only deepwater harbor between Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay area—serves international businesses and ocean carriers from the Pacific Rim and Europe.

The Oxnard coastline is dotted with offshore oil and gas platforms, power plants and chemical facilities.

And Oxnard is located alongside U.S. Highway 101—the only north-south evacuation route on California's Central Coast.

That's why the Department of Homeland Security has granted millions of dollars to the Oxnard UASI over the years.

It's recognized the need to support this community's efforts to: train and equip first responders, improve interoperable communications, establish fusion centers, and protect critical infrastructure.

It knows it must enhance the capacity to respond to all-hazard events, including tsunamis, wildfires, mudslides or earthquakes.

And it understands that investing in local programs, like "Ventura Get Ready," will help ensure the safety and security of our citizens.

Mr. Chair, we all know this is a tough budget environment and that we need to make targeted investments.

But making more than 50 cities ineligible for UASI funds—regardless of threat and vulnerability levels—is shortsighted and wrong.

These communities contain numerous assets, resources and critical infrastructure that are vulnerable to attack and that are tremendously important to the nation.

Now is not the time to eliminate the eligibility of our threatened urban areas from UASI funding.

We cannot lay the entire financial burden of securing our cities on local authorities, first responders, and law enforcement and expect to adequately protect our citizens and make our cities safe.

Let's remove this harmful UASI language from the bill and ensure our cities have the necessary capabilities to safeguard our communities.

Vote "yes" on the bipartisan Clarke-Higgins amendment.

COMMEMORATING AZERBAIJAN'S REPUBLIC DAY AND 20 YEARS OF U.S.-AZERBAIJAN RELATIONS

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, last week we celebrated Azerbaijan's Republic Day, which commemorates the 93rd anniversary of Azerbaijan's independence from the Russian Em-

pire. Later this year, Azerbaijan will also celebrate the 20th anniversary of its freedom from the Soviet Union and the state of diplomatic relations with the United States.

The U.S.-Azerbaijan partnership is based on shared values and common goals. Over the last 20 years, Azerbaijan has become a key strategic ally of the United States and has helped the United States achieve important security and economic objectives in a complex part of the world.

Azerbaijan supports U.S. and NATO operations in Afghanistan, sending troops and civilian personnel to Afghanistan to serve alongside U.S. troops, as well as training civilian and security officers both in Azerbaijan and Afghanistan. Azerbaijan is also a key part of the Northern Distribution Network, which provides ground and naval transit for roughly 25 percent of the Coalition's supplies bound for Afghanistan.

Azerbaijan also plays an important role in strengthening U.S. and European energy independence and is currently expanding its commercial and economic ties with the United States. Azerbaijan, which provides roughly a quarter of Israel's oil, is a secular Muslim country that maintains close friendly ties with Israel.

Please join me in honoring Azerbaijan's 93rd Republic Day and celebrating a healthy U.S.-Azerbaijan relationship.

IN HONOR OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AU PAIR IN AMERICA PROGRAM

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 25th anniversary of the Au Pair in America Program. Based in Stamford, Connecticut, the American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS) and its Au Pair in America Program have been leaders in providing young people with exceptional cultural exchange programs.

The Au Pair in America program began in 1986 with the goal of providing young people with unique cultural exchange opportunities. The first authorized sponsor for au pair programs, Au Pair in America has brought more than 87,000 au pairs from over 60 countries to live with an American family, care for children, and pursue educational interests for a year.

On June 9, 2011, the State Department will be hosting a reception in honor of the program's 25th anniversary. I congratulate AIFS and Au Pair in America on the continued success of this educational and cultural program, and extend my best wishes to all the program participants in their work to foster global exchange.

THE UNIVERSAL RIGHT TO VOTE BY MAIL ACT OF 2011

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Universal Right to Vote

by Mail Act of 2011—a bill to allow any eligible voter to vote by mail in a federal election if he or she chooses to do so.

In my home state of California, voters already have this right. California is one of the twenty-nine states that, along with the District of Columbia, already provide this convenient alternative to voters.

While I love the ritual of going to the polls to vote, I know that getting to the polls on Election Day is often difficult. For some, it's impossible.

That is why I have introduced a bill that builds upon the growing trend of states to bring the polls to the voters. I believe we should try to meet our constituents halfway by increasing access to the electoral process.

What I am proposing is not new or even untested. States ranging from my home state of California, to Wisconsin, to North Carolina, to Maine have already adopted this voter-friendly policy.

With mail voting, citizens can vote from the convenience of their own homes. They will have more time to mull over their choices and make informed decisions, and they will be able to do so on their own terms.

Not surprisingly, studies have shown that some of the biggest supporters of voting by mail are parents, who must schedule time to go to the polls around so many other obligations.

Studies have also indicated that adding the option to vote by mail does not create a partisan advantage for one political party over the other.

Republicans and Democrats both benefit from similar increases in voter turnout when voters are given the choice to mail in their ballots.

In fact, overwhelming support for voting by mail is consistent across nearly every demographic—including age, income level, race, education, employment status and ideology. It is a win-win for all Americans.

After adopting a universal right to vote by mail system in 1978, California saw a thirty percent increase in the use of mail-in ballots.

Other states that have implemented this policy have seen the same degree of support from voters, which is why it is hardly surprising that States offering the option of mail-in ballots often experience greater voter participation.

There is also an extremely low incidence of fraud with voting by mail when compared to other methods of voting.

As the former President of the League of Women Voters of San Diego, I care deeply about the integrity of our electoral system.

Twenty-nine states and the District of Columbia have already proven this option works, and it is safe. It is time to give voters in the remaining states this convenient, secure and affordable alternative.

While I am proud to be from a state where citizens already have this right, I believe democracy works best when all citizens have an equal opportunity to have their voices heard.

Right now, an uneven playing field exists between states that already offer the option of mail-in ballots and states that do not.

When the same election is more accessible to voters in California than it is to voters in other states, the system is unfair.

States that fail to offer this choice stand to compromise their leverage in federal elections by curbing the greatest level of voter participation.

We should follow the lead of over half of our nation's states and ensure a uniformity of rights for all voters.

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this effort to strengthen the democratic process and give American voters the choices they deserve.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 1, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1617) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of this amendment, which restores critical funding for local first responders and public safety officials. Specifically, it ensures adequate funding for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (FIRE) and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant Program (SAFER), which improve the readiness of our nation's heroic firefighters and emergency service providers, and help them protect and serve our local communities.

My home state was recently impacted by the horrific tornados that struck St. Louis and Joplin, Missouri. We saw firsthand the vital role that local first responders play in the wake of horrific disaster—searching for and rescuing survivors, clearing debris, and providing much needed support to a community suffering from heart-wrenching loss and destruction.

FIRE and SAFER Grants help local fire departments equip, train, and maintain their personnel, preparing them to respond to all forms of emergencies, from natural disasters to terrorists attacks. The city of St. Louis recently was awarded a SAFER grant that was instrumental in saving up to 30 firefighter jobs during tough economic times in our city. These programs are vitally important to firefighters serving in large towns, small cities and rural areas across America, as they are able to address the immediate, individualized needs of departments efficiently and effectively.

The underlying bill would dangerously cut funding for the FIRE and SAFER grants by nearly 60 percent compared to FY 2010 and FY 2011, and putting at least 1,600 firefighters' jobs in jeopardy. At a time when local fire departments and other first responders already face significant budgetary challenges, these cuts irresponsibly threaten our economic recovery and the safety of our communities.

Our local firefighters and first responders are the backbone of safe communities across this country, which is why I have consistently advocated for sufficient funding of FIRE and SAFER grants in requests to House appropriators. These brave Americans and their critical work deserve our full support, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE FOURTH FIGHTER WING OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Fourth Fighter Wing of Seymour Johnson Air Force Base located in Goldsboro, North Carolina in my Congressional district. Today, the Fourth will be honored at the United States Air Force Memorial with the Air Force Historical Foundation's James H. "Jimmy" Doolittle Award. The award recognizes the Fourth's significant contributions to the history of the United States Air Force, as well as its bravery, determination, discipline, esprit de corps and superior joint operational management.

For over five decades the Fourth Fighter Wing has earned a distinguished place in both American aviation history and world military history. This distinction began prior to the United States officially entering World War II with pilots who volunteered to fly as part of the Royal Air Force Eagle Squadrons. Upon entering World War II, these pilots formed the Fourth Fighter Group and set records throughout the War, earning the motto, "Fourth but First." The Fourth continued to contribute to its legacy and Air Force history during the Korean conflict by engaging in the first major all-jet fighter battle in history.

The Fourth Fighter Wing proved to be a superior combat force in Southeast Asia during Vietnam with more than 8,000 combat missions. The Fourth further used their skills during the Persian Gulf War by conducting precision nighttime strikes against Iraqi forces. The Fourth Fighter Wing provided life-saving close air support in Afghanistan during Operation Anaconda, and contributed to Operation Iraqi Freedom. Despite risking their lives daily, the Fourth Fighter Wing has always served selflessly, courageously and with great distinction.

The Fourth Fighter Wing has been a source of great pride for eastern North Carolina for the past 50 years while assigned to Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, North Carolina. I am very proud to see the dedication, sacrifices, and historical contributions of the Fourth Fighter Wing recognized with this award. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Fourth Fighter Wing on receiving the James H. "Jimmy" Doolittle award and offer my sincere appreciation for their service to the United States of America.

ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE DEREK M. HODGE, FORMER LT. GOVERNOR OF THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, It is with deep sadness that I rise to pay tribute to a

lifelong friend and political colleague from my district, the U.S. Virgin Islands, our former Lt. Governor and President of the 16th Legislature, the Honorable Derek Michael Hodge who passed away on May 31, 2011 after a lengthy illness.

Mr. Speaker, Derek Michael Hodge is being eulogized as a "man of integrity and enthusiasm, a brilliant attorney and politician," and I can testify that this is true of the man who spent his adult life serving his community in the public and private sector. After higher education at Michigan State University and Georgetown University Law Center, he returned to the Virgin Islands in 1972 and joined his brother's law firm, the legendary Hodge, Sheen and Finch. He entered the world of elective politics in 1974 and became District Chairman of the Democratic Party. He first ran for governor in 1982, and though unsuccessful, it was seen as a win for all of us who worked for him as it gave the Virgin Islands electorate a glimpse of his ideas and his intellect. Never one to give up, he successfully became the top vote getter in the race for the Virgin Islands Legislature in 1984. Although a freshman, his colleagues recognized his political and legal acumen, and elected him President of the 16th Legislature of the Virgin Islands. His skill and his love of the Virgin Islands was recognized by the late Governor Alexander Farrelly and he tapped Derek to be his Lt. Governor, a post that he held for eight years and to which he brought professionalism, innovation, efficiency and accountability. As Lt. Governor, he spearheaded efforts to improve the territory's infrastructure, improving the airport, health care facilities, and hazard mitigation projects. As Lt. Governor, Derek served as the territory's Commissioner of Insurance, Chairman of the Banking Board, Overseer of the Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Tax Assessor's Office and Corporations Division. He has been credited with re-establishing the territory's bond rating in the municipal bond market which bolstered the Virgin Islands capital improvement program. Throughout his lifetime, Derek wore many other hats, to include college professor, center on the Virgin Islands national basketball team, and President of the Virgin Islands Bar. His life was one of commitment to his beloved Virgin Islands.

Mr. Speaker, Derek's passing is a personal loss for me. He was "like a big brother," as we grew up together in St. Croix and were political allies and friends who worked on many issues and campaigns together including each other's campaigns for office. I will miss his friendship, his counsel and most of all his sense of humor which could soothe and tickle as well as sting. I extend my condolences to his wife Monique, his children Marisol and Jonathan and the wider circle of his family and many friends. Derek lived with passion and integrity. His days among us were well spent and while we will sorely miss him, there are many memories that will make us smile, laugh and be glad that we are among the fortunate ones whose lives he touched along the way. May he rest in God's comfort and peace.

COMMEMORATING THE SERVICE
OF SANTA ANA CITY MANAGER
DAVID REAM

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the service of David Ream, city manager for the great city of Santa Ana and wish him the best in his upcoming retirement.

Having a tenure of 32 years with the city of Santa Ana, Dave has served as city manager for the past twelve years and has held several executive positions in departments including the redevelopment agency and community development.

Dave's leadership has been instrumental in the economic growth of Santa Ana and completion of several big projects including the Ronald Reagan Federal Court Building; the Discovery Science Center; a new police headquarters and City Hall expansion; and the redevelopment partnership with the Santa Ana Unified School District leading to the construction of 15 new schools in 15 years.

Dave has been a forward thinker, helping lead Santa Ana through prosperous and challenging times.

I sincerely thank Dave Ream for his 32 years of service and dedication to the city of Santa Ana and its residents. I hope you enjoy your retirement years to the fullest.

Best wishes!

A TRIBUTE TO THE YMCA OF
GLENDALE

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 85th anniversary of the Young Men's Christian Association of Glendale (YMCA).

The YMCA of Glendale, established in 1922, is a not-for-profit organization devoted to community service. It is managed by its vibrant staff and volunteers and overseen by the members, who work tirelessly to ensure that Glendale's changing needs are addressed. Today, the YMCA boasts over 5,000 active members who represent every sector of the community, and ensures everyone from children and teens, to adults and seniors benefit from the opportunities and services provided by the YMCA of Glendale. People of all ages have benefited extraordinarily from programs that facilitate a strong mind, physique, and character. Such programs include aquatics, educational classes, martial arts, and gymnastics.

The success and well-being of children is also a key focal point of the YMCA of Glendale. By promoting character development and establishing the four core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility, children are more likely to overcome the negative temptations of youth such as gangs, drugs and crime.

The YMCA of Glendale is also a strong advocate of healthy living. As a part of its effort

to help people achieve their goals of a healthy lifestyle, the YMCA offers a vast selection of fitness programs such as swimming, strength training, and consultations with fitness experts among other activities. Numerous seniors enjoy a variety of classes and programs, which are designed to protect the joints and improve strength. In addition, hundreds of children have immeasurably benefited from these programs, and have not only developed their physical skills, but have also built self-confidence.

For 85 years, the YMCA of Glendale has proven its selfless dedication to the community by welcoming and supporting people of all ages, religious backgrounds, incomes, and abilities. This incredible organization has embraced the city of Glendale, and to this very day implements its ultimate goal of building strong kids, strong families, and a strong community.

I am proud to recognize the past and present members and supporters of the YMCA of Glendale for their immense contributions to the community, and I ask all Members to join me in congratulating the YMCA of Glendale for 85 years of dedicated service.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
2012

SPEECH OF

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 1, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2017) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2017—the Department of Homeland Security FY12 Appropriations Act.

As we come upon the 10-year anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the House should not be voting to reduce funding in homeland security, mass transit, and port security grants. These grant programs would receive a 50-percent cut in funding if this bill were passed. Investments in these critical areas are needed as we remain vigilant. Terrorist events around the world have shown that mass transit systems, like other modes of transportation, are often targets of attack. New York City has one of the largest subway systems in the world. Millions of people ride the system every day. A plot to attack the New York City subway system was thwarted in September 2009. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority in New York City has worked hard to keep the passengers safe. Our Nation's first responders deserve more.

Finally, this bill proposes an appropriation of \$891.24 million in net discretionary spending for Infrastructure Protection and Information Security, which is a decrease of \$45.25 million below the President's FY 2012 budget request. Increasing funding to the Administration's request will help to prevent attacks against U.S. information networks. Our safety and our way of life depend upon our critical infrastructure as well as the strength of our economy. Our critical infrastructure—such as

the electricity grid, financial sector, and transportation networks that sustain our way of life—have suffered repeated cyber intrusions, and cyber crime has increased dramatically over the last decade. It has become clear that our Nation cannot fully defend against these threats unless certain parts of Cybersecurity efforts are updated. Congress needs to focus on improving cybersecurity for the American people, our Nation's critical infrastructure, and the Federal Government's own networks and computers.

As a New York City Member on the House Homeland Security Committee, I will work to ensure that our Nation is better prepared to prevent terrorist attacks. This appropriations bill is a statement of our values. We need to adequately invest in our response capacities to safeguard our citizens. At a time when our Nation is dealing with the emergency management of natural disasters that ravaged the Midwest and South and is working to prevent potential bio-terrorism attacks, this is not the time to make drastic cuts to our Homeland Security Appropriations.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

THE ALLEN-FAIRVIEW CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE: CELEBRATING 40
YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE
BUSINESS COMMUNITY OF
NORTH TEXAS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to join with the Allen-Fairview Chamber of Commerce in celebrating 40 years of service to the business community of North Texas.

Since the Chamber's founding, its stated purpose has been to "advance the general welfare and prosperity of the city [. . .] so that its citizens and all areas of its business community shall prosper." I would venture to say that this goal has been met, time and again, in impressive fashion.

Allen was officially incorporated as a town in the State of Texas back in 1953. Since that day, it has grown from a small community of 400 to a bustling metropolitan suburb of nearly 90,000 citizens. The business climate of the city has matched the growth, transitioning from mom and pop shops to corporate headquarters and state of the art shopping centers—all while maintaining a strong sense of community.

In fact, Allen has been recognized by Money Magazine as one of the top 20 places in America to live and by Forbes as one of the top 25 places to relocate a business. These impressive designations not only attest to a friendly business environment, but to the great quality of life the city's residents enjoy.

It's leadership from folks in city government, economic development groups, and the organization we honor today—the Allen-Fairview Chamber of Commerce—that has built this city into a shining example of Hometown USA.

To the Allen-Fairview Chamber of Commerce, a business advocate at its best, congratulations on an outstanding 40 years, and best wishes for the years to come.

God bless you. God bless America. God bless Texas. I salute you.

**MARCH FOR MILITARY WOMEN
ACT**

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of The MARCH for Military Women Act (Military Access to Reproductive Care and Health), legislation that will help our servicewomen to gain access to reproductive health services. As our servicewomen risk their lives defending our country, it is deeply unfair that they are denied the rights of the Constitution that they defend.

Currently, the health coverage provided to servicewomen fails to cover abortion, even in the case of rape or incest. Moreover, our servicewomen cannot pay for abortions with their own money on overseas military bases, even when local services are unsafe.

The epidemic of sexual assault in the military highlights the unfairness of these prohibitions. Department of Defense statistics show that 3,158 sexual assaults were reported in the military in fiscal year 2010. While shocking, that statistic only reflects a fraction of the sexual assaults, due to under-reporting in the military. Indeed, the Defense Task Force on Sexual Assault in the Military Services report estimated that as many as 90 percent of sexual assaults go unreported. After a woman is assaulted, she should not have to fight to receive medical services such as an abortion.

Access barriers facing rape victims in the military are just one example of the indignities suffered by servicewomen who need to terminate their pregnancies.

Currently, servicewomen are not allowed to purchase abortion services with their own funds on overseas military bases. They were afforded this right until 1988, when the Department of Defense rescinded it. Preventing servicewomen from accessing abortions on military bases means that they may be forced to rely on unsafe local facilities. Failing that, a servicewoman would need to request permission from her supervisor to leave her combat mission and return to the United States.

The current prohibitions in the military are unfair, unjust, and potentially dangerous.

A recent article in Religion Dispatches tells the story of a young Marine, who after being raped, attempted to self-abort. Her only tools were an herbal abortifacient, a rifle cleaning rod, and a laundry pin. Despite dangerous hemorrhaging, she kept working for five weeks until she realized that she needed to return to the United States for medical treatment.

Our servicewomen deserve the right to determine their own destiny, without risking their health unnecessarily. That is why I have introduced legislation that will:

Lift the statutory ban that denies U.S. servicewomen coverage for abortion care in cases of rape or incest;

Lift the statutory ban that prevents women in the military from using private funds to access abortion services at U.S. military facilities.

Our servicewomen deserve better. I urge you to help servicewomen access their constitutionally-protected rights.

**VFW POST 2995, REDMOND,
WASHINGTON**

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of VFW Post 2995 in Redmond, Washington, and its members' dedicated service to our men and women in uniform.

For more than six years now, members of the Post have collected items to put together "comfort packages" for our troops. Each package is sent to an individual service member on the front lines. After six years of dedicated work on behalf of our troops, the Post is celebrating today because they are packing their 10,000th comfort package! To pay their postage expenses, Mr. Speaker, the Post holds fundraisers and accepts donations from appreciative members of the community.

The most dedicated and tireless volunteer involved with the program is an 85-year-old WWII veteran named John Kenny. Mr. Kenny was awarded the Purple Heart for his service in WWII and he certainly deserves recognition for his service now, too.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this House can somehow conduct our work and our lives as selflessly as Mr. Kenny. Please join me in thanking him, Mr. Speaker, and thanking VFW Post 2995 in Redmond for never wavering in their support for the bravest men and women on the face of this earth. 10,000 packages to our troops is quite an achievement and quite a service, thank you.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 1, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2017) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chair, I rise today to support the Lowey-Crowley-King-Israel-Royal-Allard amendment to restore funding to critical Homeland Security programs. Passage of this amendment is vital to sustaining our efforts to keep every U.S. city, state and landmark vulnerable to a terrorist attack safe and secure.

The Homeland Security bill, which was passed out of committee without a single Democratic vote, slashes support for many of our Nation's most important safety and protection programs, including initiatives recommended by the 9/11 Commission.

In particular, I am deeply concerned about the Republicans' cuts to the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). After the attacks on New York and Washington, DC on September 11, 2001, I spearheaded an effort to create a new program, the High Threat Urban Area Account Program, mostly commonly referred to as UASI.

The establishment of this program was important because at the time, there was not a single Federal program designed to provide support to the areas in this country that are most at risk of a terror attack. The reality is that while terrorists may want to strike the entire United States, their efforts often target major cities like New York where they can inflict damage on the maximum number of people.

We have UASI for a reason—to make sure that the states that are most threatened by terrorism have the tools they need to prevent and deter attacks before they take place. In New York, grant monies are used to train and better equip first responders and provide them with communication systems to assure preparedness, in addition to improving the monitoring of key infrastructure that is more likely to be targeted, including bridges, subways, skyscrapers and tourist sites. Multiple attempts to attack New York underscore the severity of the threat faced by urban areas, and we cannot diminish our commitment to protecting the American people.

In the days following 9/11, I stood here with Democrats and Republicans alike as we pledged to do everything in our power to make sure that an attack like the one on 9/11 never happens again.

Yet, here we are today looking at cuts to the very programs intended to keep us safe.

The threat of terrorism remains very real, making it essential for cities that face the greatest risk to have the resources necessary to prevent attacks. I strongly urge the House to reverse these damaging cuts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on official business and missed rollcall vote Nos. 386, 387 and 388. Had I been present, I would have voted, "no" on rollcall vote Nos. 386, 387, 388.

Bill, Amendment	Roll No.	Vote
H.R. 2017, Royce Amendment	386	No
H.R. 2017, Poe (TX) Amendment	387	No
H.R. 2017, Cuellar Amendment	388	No

**IN RECOGNITION OF MATTEO
RIZZO**

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay tribute to Matteo Rizzo, a lifelong educator who is retiring as Superintendent of the Jefferson Elementary School District, serving the communities of Daly City and Colma, California.

In his tenure as Superintendent, Mr. Rizzo has been known for his personal involvement with all the stakeholders in his district, from teachers, to parents, to administrators and,

most importantly, the students themselves. He served as the District's representative in staff contract negotiations, oversaw budget decisions, coordinated the recruitment, selection and assignment of teachers, principals and other personnel and put his imprint on every aspect of life and learning in the Jefferson Elementary School District.

As is the case in school districts across our country, Superintendent Rizzo was asked to do the impossible—educate a diverse student population in an environment of dwindling financial resources, all the while staying focused on preparing them to achieve to their utmost ability in an increasingly competitive world.

To do this, Matteo relied heavily on the skills he gained as an Assistant Superintendent, Principal, Vice-Principal and teacher—all within the Jefferson Elementary School District. His unsurpassed institutional knowledge and commitment to bettering the lives of young people will be sorely missed and not easily replaced. Fortunately, he leaves his successor with a legacy of excellence and community involvement that can be built upon in future years.

Mr. Speaker, Matteo Rizzo is a living example of the benefits of public education and the fruits of hard work. A product of local schools, he is a graduate of San Francisco State University, where he received a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics, his California Teaching Credential and two Masters of Arts—one in Education and another in Educational Administration. He has been honored at every step of his career, including earning a "California Distinguished School" award for Fernando Rivera Middle School in 2001, while serving as the school's principal.

Mr. Speaker, Superintendent Rizzo has certainly earned his retirement. On behalf of the Congress of the United States of America, I wish to thank him for his exceptional service to our nation and wish him only the best as he now has time to travel with his amazing wife, Clydie, play a lot more golf, do a little more duck hunting and, as rumor has it, learn to play the guitar.

Matteo Rizzo, simply put, is a good man who spent his entire professional career doing good for his community. There's no need to tell that to the thousands of children he educated, or his son, Matthew, and daughter-in-law, Jill, but the rest of America can benefit from knowing that extremely capable and committed professionals like Matteo Rizzo show up at school districts across this country every day with no other goal than to move our country forward, one student at a time.

It is for these reasons and more that I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Superintendent Matteo Rizzo for his service.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FORMER TEXAS GOVERNOR BILL CLEMENTS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to pay tribute to a true Texas trailblazer, Governor William "Bill" Clements.

After the loss of his family farm during the Great Depression, a young Bill Clements went

to work as an oil-field roughneck, no doubt shaping him into the legendary man and governor Texas would come to know and love. Working his way from roughneck to CEO, the invaluable lessons he learned along the way led him to the White House as deputy secretary of defense for Presidents Nixon and Ford.

In 1978, he came home to a Texas politically dominated by the Democrat party to run for governor and, in an upset victory, he became the first Republican elected since Reconstruction. Bringing this experience to the office, Governor Clements changed business as usual in the state by demanding sound budgeting and management policies, taking a tough stance on crime and working toward education improvements. After losing his first re-election bid in 1982, Clements returned to the Governor's Mansion four years later for his second and final term. Governor Clements' hard work and dedication built a firm foundation for Texas's future, and is the reason Texas has remained the successful economic model it is today.

After retiring from public life, Governor Clements made his home in Dallas where he spent his days supporting the Texas treasures he loved so much. He was an avid supporter of the Boy Scouts and contributed generously to the organization. Perhaps one of his most significant contributions was the land he and others worked hard to obtain for the Scouts in Henderson County—known today as "The Clements Scout Ranch." As an Eagle Scout and Representative of Henderson County, I am especially thankful for Governor Clements' dedication to Scouting. I know that, because of his time and effort, generations of Scouts in and around Henderson County will enjoy many summers filled with camping, fishing, hiking and horseback riding.

We will always remember his infectious love for Texas. Bill Clements truly embodied the Lone Star spirit. While he will be missed, his legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of all Texans.

PLUMMERS LOCAL UNION 210 ANNUAL APPRENTICE GRADUATION BANQUET

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sincerity and respect that I offer congratulations to several of Northwest Indiana's most talented, dedicated, and hardworking individuals. On Friday, June 3, 2011, the Plumbers Local Union 210 will honor the graduating class of 2011 at the Annual Apprentice Graduation Banquet, which will be held at Tiebel's Restaurant in Schererville, Indiana.

At this year's banquet, the Plumbers Local Union 210 will recognize and honor the 2011 Apprentice Graduates. The individuals who have completed their apprentice training in 2011 are: Bruce Bigbie, Christopher Dodrill, Jacob Fredericks, Derek Gatlin, Robert Gorka, Travis Hamilton, Mario Hodalj, Joseph Hull, Brian Juris, Robert Piekarczyk, William Schuitema, Eric J. Smith, Jacob Wellsand, and Daniel Wydro, Jr.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty by its

tradesmen. These graduates are outstanding examples of each. They have mastered their trade and have demonstrated their loyalty to both the union and the community through their hard work and selfless dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated and hardworking individuals. Along with the other men and women of Northwest Indiana's unions, these individuals have committed themselves to making a significant contribution to the growth and development of the economy of the First Congressional District, and I am very proud to represent them in Washington, D.C.

TRIBUTE TO MR. SYLVAN SIEGAL

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Sylvan Siegal, a San Antonio native who bravely fought in the front lines of World War II. Last month, I had the honor of presenting the Bronze Star Medal to Mr. Siegal's brother—64 years after Sylvan Siegal should have received it for his combat service as an Army infantryman in World War II.

During World War II, Sylvan Siegal served in Rifle Co. "B" of the 406th Regiment of the 102nd Infantry "Ozark" Division which helped obliterate the Nazi army in central Germany.

After Sylvan died this past September, his brother, Ben Siegal, found his brother's Army documents among his belongings. It showed Mr. Siegal had earned the Combat Infantry Badge and was awarded the EAME Campaign Ribbon with 2 Bronze Stars, the Victory Ribbon, 2 Overseas Service Bars, Army Occupation Ribbon and the Good Conduct Medal.

Mr. Siegal passed away this past September, at the age 84. He is buried next to his beloved parents, Louis and Bluma Kagan Siegal.

Because Mr. Sylvan Siegal was proud of both his Jewish heritage and his service to our country, Ben Siegal chose his synagogue, Rodfei Sholom, for the medal presentation where Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg delivered the following remarks:

When the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and the United States declared war on Japan and Germany, American Jewish men and women responded to their country's call for the armed forces.

During the course of World War II, 550,000 men and women of Jewish faith served in every branch of the armed forces of the United States.

Twenty-two Jews attained senior rank in the Armed Forces—18 were generals, 6 were major generals, 12 were brigadier generals, 1 was vice admiral, 2 were rear admirals, and 1 was a commodore.

The total number of Jewish war casualties was 38,338; 11,000 Jews were killed, 7,000 in combat.

Approximately 26,000 Jewish men and women in uniform received citations for valor and merit. The number of awards totaled 49,315, including 3 Congressional Medals of Honor, 66 Distinguished Service Crosses, 28 Nag Crosses, 41 Distinguished Service Medals, 244 Legions of Merit, 1,434 Silver Stars, 2,047 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 191 Soldier's Medals, 28 Navy and Marine Corps Medals, 4,641 Bronze Star Medals, 13,212 Air Medals, and 14,550 Purple Hearts.

Today, we honor the heroism and patriotism posthumously of Sylvan Siegal, but we also pay tribute to the unsung heroism and patriotism of the American Jewish servicemen of World War II.

Before these men could engage the true enemy, they had to battle anti-Semitism while trying to enlist and later, when confronting the prejudices of their fellow soldiers who believed Jews were cowards, poor soldiers, and poor leaders. These Jewish GIs would go on to prove themselves in battle, but first they would be forced to fight for their comrades' respect as soldiers.

Dietary restrictions presented a challenge to traditional Jews. They were "eating Ham For Uncle Sam". "Uncle Sam" virtually ignored the ancient dietary restrictions of Jews, and many had to eat ham or starve.

Jewish service in World War II transformed Jewish world views. The transformation began during military training where many Jews broke out of their insular ethnic world and discovered the diversity of America.

Serving in World War II made American Jewish soldiers feel both more Jewish and more American. Many anti-Semitic soldiers were also racist. The seeds for the Black-Jewish alliance of the 1960s were sown during World War II.

Jews were fighting not just for their country, but also for the fate of European Jewry. Their Jewishness resonated as they searched for European Jews while on leave and then saw their worst fears confirmed in the emaciated bodies at the concentration camps.

Prior to the War, both Judaism and Catholicism had been outsiders to the American dream. Judaism assumed an American legitimacy unanticipated at the start of the war. Protestantism, Catholicism, and Judaism were deemed to share common values that made them the religions of democracy. Acceptance of the Judeo-Christian tradition in the armed forces would force Protestants to share the Christian label with Catholics and to include Jews as equal partners in America.

For post-war generations, the experience of the war changed the generation that fought it and helped launch the civil rights movement, the Great Society, and America's rise to global predominance.

For the Jewish people, patriotism, sacrifice and justice were the cherished ideals of a people who seek peace, but they were ready and are ready today, to sacrifice and pay a very great price for real peace.

May that peace come speedily in our time.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Sylvan Siegal for his dedication to our country, the military and to his faith.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF NANCY JONES AFTER 36 YEARS OF SERVICE TO CONGRESS

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize and thank Nancy Jones upon her retirement from the Congressional Research Service after 36 years of service to Congress. Ms. Jones has worked with issues regarding the rights of individuals with disabilities since she began her career at CRS in 1975, the same year the Education for all Handicapped Children Act, now the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), was enacted. She has been part

of every reauthorization of IDEA, working on issues relating to attorneys fees, the provision of services to infants and toddlers, and even the change in the name of the statute. In addition to work during reauthorizations, Ms. Jones has worked with congressional staff to provide insight regarding the implications of other statutes on the education of children with disabilities. For example, she analyzed the implications of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds for these students, especially regarding the maintenance of effort provisions in IDEA, and she has been a part of bicameral, bipartisan briefings in preparation for the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) reauthorization.

In addition to education issues, Ms. Jones worked on the enactment of the first major civil rights act for individuals with disabilities, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and in the more recent ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA). Prior to the 1990 enactment of the ADA, she participated in regular meetings with bipartisan staff thinking through how the ADA could be structured to best protect the rights of individuals with disabilities while not unduly burdening private entities. Because of her work, she was thanked in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and was privileged to attend the White House ADA signing ceremony. Following enactment, she continued to inform Congress on the Supreme Court decisions about the ADA, and the regulatory and enforcement issues under the ADA. She wrote numerous reports and memoranda and assisted staff in understanding the Supreme Court decisions which were the impetus for the ADAAA and the implications of proposed legislative language.

After Hurricane Katrina, Ms. Jones worked extensively with staff on the question of emergency protections for individuals with disabilities. During another emergency, the H1N1 influenza pandemic, she analyzed the implications of the pandemic on employment issues for individuals with disabilities as well as issues regarding the provision of scarce medical resources.

Ms. Jones has also worked extensively on issues relating to genetic discrimination which ultimately resulted in the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA). She analyzed whether ADA protections extended to genetic disorders, especially those that have not manifested, and addressed other issues unique to GINA.

This June, Nancy Jones will retire from CRS after 36 years of service. I commend Ms. Jones for her distinguished career and her dedication to ensuring a fully-informed legislative process, especially in matters involving the rights of individuals with disabilities. In any area where she was involved, the development of Federal law and the effectiveness of congressional oversight were well-served.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 1, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 2017) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Chair, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's homeland security grant programs are dangerously underfunded in the legislation we are considering today. I rise in support of the amendment I have joined my friend and colleague from New York in offering which would restore funding to these critical programs.

When we debate and pass bills that fund the functions of the federal government, we have to make real decisions about what we believe are the priorities of our nation. In this bill, we see where funding for critical homeland security programs fall. In this bill, House Republicans have decided to cut more than \$1 billion from current funding from programs that go toward rail security, port security, and the Urban Areas Security Initiative. In this bill, House Republicans cut \$420 million for grants to firefighters and first responders.

Mr. Chair, I agree that we have to make tough decisions when it comes to funding the federal government. But balancing the budget on the backs of our nation's firefighters and first responders and at the expense of the security of our communities is irresponsible.

So, what are the Republicans' priorities? They choose to eviscerate funding for critical homeland security programs in order to fund tax cuts for big oil companies. They tell local fire departments that the federal government just can't afford to support them anymore, but then turn around and make sure that oil companies, who could collectively make more than \$140 billion in profits this year, are protected from paying their fair share.

Mr. Chair, those might be the priorities of the House Republicans, but they are not the priorities of the American people. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important amendment and letting our nation's firefighters and first responders know that we are standing up for them here in Washington while they are standing up to protect our communities back home.

REVEREND PHARIS EVANS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor and congratulate Reverend Pharis D. Evans on his 50th Anniversary as Pastor of Clark Road Missionary Baptist Church in Gary, Indiana. I can truly say that throughout his many years of service, Pastor Evans has been one of the most dedicated, distinguished, and committed citizens of Indiana's First Congressional District. He will be honored at a lifetime achievement celebration hosted by Clark Road Missionary Baptist Church on June 10, 2011.

Reverend Pharis Evans graduated from Haywood High School in Brownsville, Tennessee. His passion and interest in theology grew from the church services he attended as a child, and he knew from a very young age that he was destined to be a preacher. He

studied theology at Chicago Baptist Institute and continued his studies at Calumet College of Saint Joseph in Whiting. The first Sunday in April 1961, Pharis D. Evans became Pastor of Clark Road Missionary Baptist Church. For 50 years, Pastor Evans has administered spiritual guidance to his congregation that today includes more than 800 parishioners. He has positively impacted the lives of countless individuals through his spiritual teaching and generous nature. During his tenure, he has assisted the church and the community in numerous capacities. From 1963 to 2011, Reverend Evans has coordinated and maintained Radio Broadcast Outreach Ministry. From 2009 to 2011, he was appointed and has served as "Spiritual Advisor" for the Baptist Ministers Conference of Gary and Vicinity; and in 2008, Pastor Evans was awarded the prestigious community service Drum Major Award by the Gary Frontiers Organization. Additionally, he has served as President and Vice President of the Progressive National Baptist Convention for the state of Indiana. He also served as chaplain for the Gary Police Department. Because of his passion and remarkable leadership, Pastor Evans is a mentor for many young ministers and a counselor for pastors in search of guidance and direction. For his complete devotion to helping others in need of spiritual guidance, he is to be commended.

Personally, I am humbled to consider Pastor Evans a friend. My life and the lives of all those he has touched have been inestimably enriched by the wisdom of his words, his innumerable selfless acts of kindness, and his absolute devotion to Our Lord.

Equally important is Reverend Evans's beloved family. He has been married to Ann Evans for 60 years this October. They have five wonderful children (one deceased), nine grandchildren (one deceased), and two great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Reverend Pharis Evans for his lifetime of leadership and selfless service to others. Northwest Indiana and Clark Road Ministry Baptist Church have certainly been rewarded by the uncompromising loyalty he has displayed over the past 50 years. Throughout his tenure he has been the truest example of morality and wisdom, and he is worthy of the highest praise.

TRIBUTE TO WARREN SAVAGE

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize someone who has dedicated their entire life to the service of their fellow citizen. This week, Warren H. Savage, Jr. will conclude his term as the Executive Director of the Santee, California Chamber of Commerce; a final chapter in a career that began fifty-five years ago when he first entered public service as a member of the United States Navy.

The Navy only marks the starting point for Warren, whose list of accomplishments is as distinguished as it is long. He served thirty-six years in the Naval Reserve, including four years on active duty, with his final twenty years of service as a commissioned Naval Officer.

Warren also served two states and several localities as a volunteer firefighter and instructor. His leadership roles over the course of his career, whether as a member of the military, a community volunteer or an advocate for the city of Santee, are a testament of selfless devotion.

To know Warren, it's necessary to reflect on his decision to join the Navy. We all know that Americans join the military for one of several reasons. In some cases, the decision is based on the education and benefits that are available. Others choose to serve in the interest of acquiring direction or discipline that might be missing in their lives. Then there are those who serve because they love America and believe in everything it stands for, which is exactly the type of person Warren is—a selfless patriot who understands that quality leadership and personal sacrifice are what defines this great country.

Warren's contribution doesn't end there. In fact, it's just the beginning of what would be many more years of public service in varying forms, including serving residents in both Virginia and California as a volunteer firefighter. He held positions as Assistant Chief and Deputy Chief in Burke, VA; Deputy Chief and Fire Chief in Annandale, VA, and Battalion Chief and Chief Training Officer for Fairfax County, VA.

Warren also trained his fellow volunteers as a National Fire Protective Association (NFPA) Instructor IV for the Commonwealth of Virginia Office of Fire Programs, and served as a curriculum reviewer and writer for Virginia State Fire programs. He was also an adjunct instructor for the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and The Commonwealth of Virginia State Fire Academy.

Warren was instrumental in starting the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) Volunteer Section and was a member of the IAFC Accreditation Development Group and served as a member of the Accreditation alpha site and team leader and member of beta site, as well as a peer assessor and team leader at on-site Accreditation of Fire Agencies. He was a contributing author of the Commission on Fire Accreditation International's (CFAI) "Fire and Emergency Services Self Assessment" manual as well as its "Exceeding Customer Expectation" manual.

Eventually, Warren and his wife Barbara found themselves together in Santee, California, where he would continue his life of dedicated service in both the business and firefighter community.

As Executive Director for the Santee Chamber of Commerce, he has worked diligently to promote good relationships with the City of Santee, the School Department, the Water Authority and businesses in the area. He also serves as a member of California's State Citizen Corps council, a statewide policy board and is the California State Advocate for Fire Corps under Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Warren is also the Chairman of the San Diego County Heartland Paramedic Program County Service Area. He also served on the Community Oriented Policy Committee since January 2008 and the Salary Setting Advisory Committee since January 2009. Warren has been involved with the Santee Collaborative since 1996 and chaired the Santee Redevelopment POC.

Warren's life has been defined by service to his fellow citizen. He might be retiring, but that

just means Warren will have even more time to do what he enjoys most: serving others. Call it a new chapter of that selfless pursuit he's shown for so many years.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Warren continued success in everything he does. And I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to such a great American.

HONORING REAR ADMIRAL J. SCOTT BURHOE ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. COAST GUARD

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rear Admiral J. Scott Burhoe, the 39th Superintendent of the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut. Admiral Burhoe will retire from the Coast Guard after more than three decades of service to our Nation.

He considered his position at the Academy to be his dream job, and served as the first non-Academy graduate to lead the school in at least a hundred years. Admiral Burhoe has a strong passion for higher education. Burhoe stated on several occasions that being Superintendent of the Academy is "the only job he wanted in the Coast Guard". As Superintendent, he was well regarded by both the cadets and staff as being an open, honest, and caring leader with a strong vision for our Nation's "best kept secret" in higher education.

During his tenure he raised the Academy to the number one baccalaureate college in the North as ranked by U.S. News and World Report and the school had five Fulbright and three Truman scholars. He oversaw an increase in minority admissions, growing from 12 percent minority representation at the Academy in 2008 to 24 percent in 2010. As important, he stressed the critical need for the academy to be a part of the greater New London and southeastern Connecticut communities—and under his command, cadets could be found volunteering to help residents with their taxes, cleaning up the Long Island Sound, and mentoring children in local schools.

In discussing his next steps, Burhoe told the New London Day that "education is the key to moving the country forward, and I want to continue to be involved in it." It is fitting, then, that after he is relieved of command, Burhoe will serve as the 10th President of Fork Union Military Academy in Fork Union, Virginia, a college preparatory and military boarding school for young men founded in 1898.

Scott Burhoe was a valuable asset to the Coast Guard, the Coast Guard Academy, the New London community and our Nation. He began his tenure at the Academy at a difficult time in the school's history, but worked tirelessly to instill a culture of character and integrity in the young cadets that will serve as the leaders of our Nation's Coast Guard long into the future. He has left his mark on thousands of cadets and played an integral part in shaping the next generation of Coast Guard officers. His passion for the service and the training of our Nation's future leaders will be missed.

I ask my colleagues to join me in praising Admiral J. Scott Burhoe's commitment to higher education and the accomplishments of this remarkable leader.

IN OPPOSITION TO EXTENSION OF PATRIOT ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this extension of the three provisions of the misnamed PATRIOT Act. It is a travesty that the House and Senate leadership bring this measure to the floor at the 11th hour—just as the provisions are on the verge of sunset—hide it as an amendment to an unrelated Senate bill, and issue all manner of alarmist warnings that if we do not pass it without delay a terrorist attack is imminent. No amendments were allowed, nor were substantive opportunities to engage in a broader debate on the three measures being extended.

Let us be clear about one thing: the PATRIOT Act is unconstitutional. The three measures that were extended today were the most controversial sections of the original bill, which is why the sunset provisions for these were built into the original bill in the first place. The Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is clear on these issues:

"The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

Section 206 and Section 215 of the PATRIOT Act, which the House is renewing today, remove that particularity requirement, allowing massive surveillance of American citizens' most private and personal effects.

These sections, along with the never used "Lone Wolf" provision are unnecessary, they do not protect us against terrorism, and they should be allowed to sunset. There is little evidence the PATRIOT Act has directly led to the conviction of anyone on serious terrorism charges, but there is plenty of evidence that federal agencies have repeatedly used its provisions to unnecessarily spy on American citizens.

I remain most strongly opposed to the PATRIOT Act and any such attack on the civil liberties of American citizens. Such measures may be well-intentioned and put in place under the belief that the sacrifice of liberty is required for our safety, but nothing could be further from the truth.

RECOGNIZING THE EXEMPLARY COMMUNITY SERVICE OF DR. HO S. BAE

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a truly remarkable member of my com-

munity, Dr. Ho S. Bae, the medical director of the Asian Pacific Liver Center at St. Vincent's Medical Center. Dr. Bae has dedicated his career as a physician to improving the lives of people in my district. As we have just completed celebrating Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, it is fitting that we recognize the significant accomplishments of our AAPI community leaders.

In 2007, Dr. Bae founded the Asian Pacific Liver Center after noticing a disproportionately high incidence of Chronic Hepatitis B (CHB) in Asian American communities in Los Angeles. Rather than be a passive witness to this growing public health problem, Dr. Bae took action to educate the public regarding CHB and increase the availability of treatment for this life threatening disease.

Since founding the center, Dr. Bae has been providing comprehensive services ranging from free screening, vaccinations, education and treatment for people afflicted by and at risk of contracting CHB. Dr. Bae has screened over 10,000 individuals and provided free hepatitis and liver cancer education to several thousand others at community venues. He has also been a leader in ensuring that information and strategies on how to protect individuals from the disease are communicated to patients in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner. This has vastly improved the value of his center's work by helping individuals make better lifestyle choices to effectively treat the disease and erase the stigma associated with it.

Dr. Bae's emergence as a leader on this issue provides true inspiration to all who hope to be a positive influence for the next generation of Americans. I am proud to have such a wonderful leader in my district and honored to recognize his service as we celebrate Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and honor that I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting Dr. Ho Bae and the countless Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander descent who are making a difference in their communities and throughout our country.

RECOGNIZING THE FOUNDATION FIGHTING BLINDNESS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, across the nation, more than 10 million Americans are affected by retinal diseases that cause blindness, such as retinitis pigmentosa and age-related macular degeneration. By 2020, that already-staggering number is expected to increase by 50 percent as our nation's population ages. Although these diseases do not attract as much attention as some others, their impact on the lives of our family, friends and constituents is significant.

The Foundation Fighting Blindness is hosting its national VISIONS Conference in Baltimore, MD, bringing together a special community of patients from 35 states and eight countries, world-renowned researchers committed to finding treatments and cures for these diseases, and physicians who provide patient care on the front lines. This gathering

will also commemorate the Foundation's 40th anniversary, celebrating four decades of breakthroughs, progress and hope in the field of retinal disease research. There is much to celebrate, as recent advances in research have given new hope for restoring the vision of those living with retinal diseases. Recently published results from a breakthrough study funded in part by the Foundation Fighting Blindness show that gene therapy restored vision in patients who were previously blind due to a blinding genetic disease called retinitis pigmentosa. A nine year old boy witnessed some of the most striking results of the trial, gaining the ability to play baseball and read the chalkboard in class for the first time.

None of this life-changing work would be possible without the relentless innovation of the Foundation Fighting Blindness, which provides the capital necessary to begin new, previously unfunded research—allowing scientists to investigate uncharted territory. More often than not, this funding is the catalyst that drives research to gain widespread acceptance and thus funding from other sources, such as the National Eye Institute, one of the National Institutes of Health.

Now, in this unprecedented time of promise, partnership between private and public sectors is paramount to eradicating these blinding diseases. I urge you to recognize the efforts of pioneering organizations like the Foundation Fighting Blindness, and the National Eye Institute so that research will continue to flourish and life-changing cures may be realized.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND SACRIFICES OF THE HUI PANALA'AU COLONISTS

HON. COLLEEN W. HANABUSA

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the accomplishments, sacrifices, and contributions of the over 130 young men from Hawai'i, the majority of whom were native Hawaiians, who participated in a seven-year colonization project which resulted in the United States extending its sovereignty into the equatorial Pacific.

May 13, 2011 marked the 75th anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order 7368 proclaiming United States' jurisdiction over the islands of Howland, Baker, and Jarvis—lands which still remain possessions of the United States today. These young Hawaiian men, many of whom were students at Kamehameha Schools, were charged with a colonization plan aimed at placing U.S. citizens as colonists on the three remote islands.

These men spent three to four months at a time on the islands. Their duties were to record weather conditions, cultivate plants, maintain a daily log, record types of fish caught, observe bird life, and collect specimens for the Bishop Museum in Honolulu. During the seven years of colonization, these men made numerous sacrifices, endured hardships, and risked their lives to secure and maintain the islands. Sadly, three young men gave their lives protecting these islands.

The federal government has never fully recognized the accomplishments, contributions,

and sacrifices of the colonists. Today there are less than half a dozen of these colonists still alive and most of them are now in their 90s. In honor of the 75th anniversary of the Executive Order, I once again recognize the accomplishments and sacrifices of the Hui Panala'au colonists and extend appreciation on behalf of Hawai'i and the people of the United States.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I missed a series of votes yesterday because of a family medical issue. If I had been here, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 381; "yea" on rollcall No. 382; "yea" on rollcall No. 383; "yea" on rollcall No. 384; "no" on rollcall No. 385; "yea" on rollcall No. 386; "yea" on rollcall No. 387; and "no" on rollcall No. 388.

RECOGNIZING THE POTENTIAL OF AMERICAN INNOVATION

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw the attention of the House to a recent column published in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* describing the accomplishments of West Philadelphia High School's Hybrid X Team.

This team of students from an urban high school recently shared the winners' circle of the Green Grand Prix with the Chevy Volt. The Hybrid X Team's continued success provides a clear example of what's at stake in our current Appropriations considerations and the future of the economy. Simply put, when we invest in these innovative areas of our economy, the education and research that bring about new discoveries, technologies and processes, we are securing shared prosperity for ourselves and our posterity. If, instead, we shirk our responsibilities to young inventors and shortchange the early research that makes new inventions possible, we are conceding defeat in the global race to innovate.

I encourage my colleagues to review this article and to consider the importance—and the possibilities—of a robust, innovation-minded economic policy.

[From the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, Jun. 1, 2011.]

DRIVER'S SEAT: LOCAL TEAM WINS HONORS FOR FUEL-EFFICIENT VEHICLE

(By Scott Sturgis)

Great moments in engineering don't always come from multinational corporations with multibillion-dollar budgets.

Sometimes the feats come from hard-working young people—and perhaps a mentor or four. That's just how one of the most fuel-efficient vehicles in the world was built right here, in West Philadelphia, and how the West Philly Hybrid X Team won not one but two national awards for two separate automotive projects this spring.

Simon Hauger, electrical engineer turned high school teacher turned consultant, is the

power behind the 15-student team from West Philadelphia High School. He formed the group 13 years ago and has led students through a variety of projects creating fuel-efficient automobiles, usually on a budget that automakers might put into a new hubcap.

Hauger had the chance to visit with the head of Ford's technology division a few years back and, while touring with the students, posed a question.

"I said, 'Why aren't you pursuing this?' type of extreme fuel efficiency?" Hauger said. "His answer: 'We're waiting to see where the market goes.'"

Fortunately, the country has leaders like the West Philly students and teachers—working with Hauger and the students are full-time volunteer Ann Cohen and West Philadelphia High shop teachers Ron Preiss and Jerry DiLossi. And giving them incentive are the Sports Car Club of America and the Conrad Foundation, organizers of competitions such as the Green Grand Prix and the Spirit of Innovation Competition, respectively.

Green Grand Prix: At the end of this competition, the team shared the winners' circle with the Chevrolet Volt at Watkins Glen International Speedway in New York as the most efficient vehicles in their classes. Now in its sixth year, the Green Grand Prix is billed as the only road rally for alternative-fuel vehicles in the United States.

The Factory Five GTM used in the competition had been part of the group's 2010 Automotive X Prize challenge, but didn't win. The team did some reworking of the vehicle, and it's now powered by a Volkswagen TDI engine running on biodiesel coupled with a hybrid system. It averaged more than 100 m.p.g., the highest mileage among non-electric vehicles in the 100-mile test. "That's real fuel economy from a real car from an inner-city high school with no budget," Hauger said. The group does have sponsorship, though not as much now as when it was competing for the X Prize. Now the main sponsors are International Battery in Allentown and Edison2, the company that won the X Prize. Funding also comes through Philadelphia Academies Inc., which as a nonprofit that works with Philadelphia schools can handle small donations and administer their funding.

Hauger said the team had a "moderate budget" for the X Prize competition. Now, he said, "we are back to no-budget, totally shoestring funding. In fact, we all have been blacklisted from the local blood banks." Although the car was up against vehicles with engines sporting three or fewer cylinders, the West Philly team had the advantage on the old-style NASCAR track—its members could fly through the hairpin turns and coast up a small hill. And the six-speed transmission allowed the car to stay barely above idle to run 45 to 50 m.p.h.

"The speed happened to be the absolute ideal speed for us," Hauger said. "The car was driving at its most optimal point."

The event drew 45 competitors—from the Chevy Volt and GM's fuel cell-powered SUV to homemade three-wheelers powered by industrial lawn-mower engines and everything in between. Four teams from the Automotive X Prize showed up, so they were competitors the West Philly teams had seen before.

"It was kind of like a grudge match," Hauger said.

Spirit of Innovation: This contest limited entry to five members of the team, who designed a business plan around the Electric Very Light car, which is still in the production stage.

More than 100 entrants from the United States and Britain entered the competition, and 35 teams were chosen as finalists. Twelve

to 15 teams competed in the Cyber technology energy-efficiency category against West Philly.

Led by new West Philadelphia science teacher Paul Holt as coach, the local team members went to California to give their presentation for 15 minutes and answer questions for another 15.

"It was kind of brutal," Hauger said.

UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCE OF NEW VISA FEES

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to your attention an unintended consequence brought on when we enacted last year's emergency supplemental appropriations bill to fund additional border resources—H.R. 6080, the Emergency Border Security Supplemental Appropriations Act.

This bill was fully paid for by imposing additional fees for new H-1B and L-1 visas on a select group of companies. Specifically, the companies impacted are those with more than 50 employees, and with a US workforce in which more than 50% are on a professional temporary visa—basically the H-1B and L-1 visas. While, I applaud the intent of this provision to incentivize job creation at home, I would like to express my concern about the implementation of the additional visa fees.

These fees were meant to be targeted at companies who utilize H-1B and L-1 visas at very high levels for the purpose of building their employees' proficiencies in IT, so that they can take this knowledge and the work back to their home countries. It turns out however, that some US companies are being impacted by these fee increases because many of their professionals are stuck in green card backlogs and in the meantime remain in temporary visa status.

In his remarks at the time of Senate passage of H.R. 6080, Senator CHARLES SCHUMER commented that, when the H-1B visa program is used as a stepping-stone for skilled immigrants to obtain permanent resident status, it is "a good program for everyone involved. It is good for the company. It is good for the worker. And it is good for the American people who benefit from the products and jobs created by the innovation of the H-1B visa holder."

I agree with Senator SCHUMER's remarks, and encourage my colleagues to work with me on a technical fix that would ensure that the implementation of this bill is consistent with these policy goals. The clearest way to achieve these goals would be to exempt from the so-called "50/50" calculation any H-1B or L-1 worker who has sought to acquire permanent residence by taking steps to file or is the beneficiary of a pending or approved application for alien employment certification with the Department of Labor, or a pending or approved immigrant petition with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Those H-1B and L-1 workers are best defined as 'intending immigrants,' as they relinquish their non-immigrant intent when their employers pursue a Green Card application on their behalf.

We should not punish companies that are doing the right thing by investing considerable

resources to sponsor professionals for permanent resident visas. They are building a highly skilled workforce in the US within technical specialties in which few American workers with applicable skills exist. This is something we need to do if we are going to grow out of our current economic difficulties.

I suggested to the Secretary of Homeland Security that she consider making the technical fix as part of regulatory guidance on this new fee. The Department later informed me that such a fix required congressional action.

I raise this issue Mr. Speaker, because it is my hope that we can work with our colleagues in the Senate to ensure that companies that are trying to do the right thing are not unintentionally hurt by this provision. Since this unintended consequence was caused by a provision in an appropriations bill, I hope that we can make the necessary technical fix on an appropriations bill at the appropriate time.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 1, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1077) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Chair, I rise to support the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan, which would strike language from this legislation that would restrict Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funding to only 10 urban areas across the country.

Last year, as a result of Republican-led cuts, the number of urban areas eligible to receive funding in UASI to assist local law enforcement deal with the threat of terrorist attacks was dropped from 64 to 31. Last week those cuts hit home, when two cities in my district were unjustly removed from the list of areas that received federal funding as part of this grant program. While we in Western New York appreciate the many national security needs across the country, it made me question our security priorities when two cities in an international border were denied funding only to have funding allocated to smaller cities in our nation's interior. I think that if you ask law enforcement officials in Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Albany, they'll tell you that denying this small amount of funding to Upstate does not mean we are less at risk. Rather we've shifted the financial burden of security on them. In turn we may all be less safe.

Should this amendment fail to pass, it will effectively prevent cities like Rochester and Buffalo from competing for UASI grants in the future thanks to the plans of the majority to reduce funding even more in future years. At a time when the threat of terrorist attacks is high, we cannot lay the entire financial burden of securing our cities on local authorities, first responders, law enforcement and agencies and expect to adequately protect our citizens and make our cities safe.

DENNIS RITTENMEYER
RETIREMENT

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Dr. Dennis C. Rittenmeyer and to wish him well upon his upcoming retirement from his position as President of Calumet College of Saint Joseph in Whiting, Indiana. Dr. Rittenmeyer's many years of service in the field of education have had a positive impact on numerous students and educators within the community of Northwest Indiana and across the nation. In honor of Dennis, a retirement reception will be held on Tuesday, June 7, 2011, at The Center for Visual and Performing Arts in Munster, Indiana.

Dr. Dennis Rittenmeyer's true passion for education is reflected in his impressive 40 year career in higher education. Dr. Rittenmeyer received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Western Michigan University. He went on to earn his doctoral degree in Higher Education Administration from Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan. In 1987, Dr. Rittenmeyer became President of Calumet College of Saint Joseph. At the time, the institution was in serious financial crisis. Dennis successfully restored the college's financial stability, utilizing the leadership skills for which he is well-known. Throughout his tenure, his perseverance to see the right thing done sustained his efforts to overcome obstacles in order to establish Calumet College of Saint Joseph as the exceptional resource it is today. Under Dr. Rittenmeyer's direction, the enrollment at Calumet College of Saint Joseph increased from 870 in 1987 to nearly 1,300 in 2010; educational programs were expanded to include not only associate's degree programs but also bachelor's and master's degree programs. Additionally, an athletic program was introduced; currently, more than 270 participate in intercollegiate sports. The physical development of the campus included extensive renovations to the main building and a new Student Activity/Community Center was completed in 2009. My good friend also established an endowment fund for the continuously growing institution. For his truly impressive commitment to Calumet College of Saint Joseph, Dr. Rittenmeyer is to be commended.

Perhaps more remarkable is Dr. Rittenmeyer selflessly giving of his time, intellectual skills, and power of persuasion to move the community of Northwest Indiana ahead. In 2009, he was honored by Governor Mitch Daniels with the Distinguished Hoosier Award for his efforts on behalf of public transportation in Northwest Indiana. Much needs to be done before we have a true regional transit system in our region, but it will occur because of Dennis Rittenmeyer's lone sojourn in the wilderness preaching the human value of developing such a system long before it became a fashionable topic of debate. There would be no debate and no hope of much an improvement for future generations if Dennis had not stepped forth before all others.

Dr. Rittenmeyer's commitment to education and the community of Northwest Indiana is exceeded only by his devotion to his amazing

family. He and his wonderful wife Leslie have five beloved children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Dr. Dennis C. Rittenmeyer for his lifetime of leadership, service, and dedication. He has touched the lives of countless students and educators, as well as every one of us in Northwest Indiana. For his service and uncompromising dedication, Dr. Rittenmeyer is worthy of the highest praise, and I ask that you join me in wishing him well upon his retirement.

SIXTH DISTRICT CHEERS AMERICAN IDOL SCOTTY MCCREERY

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, for years, the sounds and drama of American Idol have captivated the eyes and ears of Americans, gluing them to their TVs to find out who the next great singing star would be. Over the 11 seasons of American Idol mania, the state of North Carolina and the Sixth District have been well represented in the finals of this singing competition. This season's American Idol competition was no different, ending with 17-year-old Scotty McCreery, from Garner, North Carolina, crowned as the latest American Idol.

Scotty has strong connections to the Sixth District, as well. Several members of Scotty's family live in our area. His grandmother and grandfather, Paquita and Bill McCreery, reside in the Moore County town of Aberdeen, while his aunt and uncle, Tina and Billy Creech, live just down the road in Pinehurst.

The members of Scotty's family, however, are just some of a long line of connections to the Sixth District of North Carolina. We have been home to two previous finalists in the American Idol competition, Fantasia Barrino and Chris Daughtry. Fantasia, from High Point, won the American Idol competition during its third season. Daughtry, from McLeansville, though he did not win the competition, has gone on to become a successful recording artist, releasing several multi-platinum albums.

North Carolina is one of only two states that can boast more than three finalists over the competition's history; the other is Alabama. North Carolina has had a total of seven finalists over the years.

Joining Barrino, Daughtry and McCreery as American Idol finalists are four other proud North Carolinians. Clay Aiken of Raleigh, Bucky Covington of Rockingham, Kellie Pickler of Albermarle, and Anoop Desai of Cary, a UNC-Chapel Hill alumnus, all represented North Carolina in the finals of the competition, as well.

Even Scotty McCreery's grandmother, Paquita, got some face time on American Idol. Like any proud grandmother would do, she used her chance at the microphone to tell the world, "That's my Scotty."

On behalf of the residents of the Sixth District, we offer our congratulations to Scotty and his family who live in the Sixth District. And from the state of North Carolina, we say again, congratulations, "That's our Scotty."

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Senior Companion Program as it celebrates its 30th Anniversary.

For the past 30 years, the Senior Companion Program has paired homebound elderly citizens with dedicated Senior Companions, age 55 and older, who enable these citizens to live longer in their own homes. The program serves 606 Maine citizens in 14 of the state's 16 counties. Having logged an astounding 85,000 hours of volunteer time, the program's 130 companions give both independence and support to Maine seniors.

With an aging population, Maine is increasingly in need of support systems for its older citizens. Many seniors do not have relatives close by, leaving them on their own without help for household tasks, errands or basic companionship. The dedicated volunteers from the Senior Companion Program are there to aid seniors in their day-to-day lives so that these seniors are able to remain in their own homes and improve their quality of life.

The Senior Companion Program provides many Maine seniors with the support and friendship all people need and deserve. The care and dedication of the program's volunteers is nothing short of amazing, and the program helps not only with essential tasks, but also offers the opportunity to foster meaningful relationships between seniors and volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Senior Companion Program on this joyous occasion.

RECOGNIZING THE EXEMPLARY COMMUNITY SERVICE OF MS. SHASHI HANUMAN

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a truly outstanding leader of Asian American heritage from my district, Ms. Shashi Hanuman of Glassell Park. As we have just finished celebrating Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, it is important for us to honor the work of AAPI community leaders.

In her roles as a Directing Attorney for Public Counsel, the nation's largest pro bono law firm and a board member for key organizations serving working families, Ms. Hanuman has dedicated herself to advocating for the disenfranchised and the underserved throughout Los Angeles. In my district, she has helped countless families keep their homes in the neighborhoods of South Los Angeles, MacArthur Park, Koreatown, Hollywood and Echo Park.

As Directing Attorney of the Community Development Project for Public Counsel, Ms. Hanuman oversees a team dedicated to build-

ing a strong foundation for healthy, vibrant and economically stable communities. Through her work with this project over 200 affordable homes for seniors and families have been constructed and more than 600 tenants of modest income are now living in safe, decent affordable housing.

Ms. Hanuman has also provided legal counsel to numerous families fighting to keep their homes. Because of her compassion and hard work, there are families in my district today once facing a life on the street who are now secure in their home.

Through her non-profit and small business workshops, Ms. Hanuman has trained the next generation of community leaders Los Angeles County on ways to effectively meet the health care and housing needs of low-income families and youth. This work along with her donation of personal time to serve as board vice president of the Coalition for Responsible Community Development (CRCDD), a community development corporation in South Los Angeles, and as board vice chair of Southern California Association of Non-Profit Housing (SCANPH), have touched and improved the lives of so many people in Los Angeles.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and honor that I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting Ms. Shashi Hanuman and the countless Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander descent who are making a difference in their communities and throughout our country.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF FREDDIE AND ERNEST TAVARES

HON. COLLEEN W. HANABUSA

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous accomplishments of Hawaiian music legends Frederick "Freddie" and Ernest Tavares and congratulate them for receiving the Hawaii Academy of Recording Arts' Lifetime Achievement Award.

The brothers were born and raised on Maui and from early on their passion for music and creativity was evident. Over their distinguished careers these two men helped popularize Hawaiian music throughout the United States and their innovations changed the world of music.

In his career, Freddie performed with some of the biggest stars of the era including Bing Crosby, Elvis Presley and Dean Martin. In the 1950s, Freddie was hired by guitar legend Leo Fender to help design the Fender Stratocaster, a guitar for which Eric Clapton commented, "I would challenge anybody to come up with a better design for a guitar. It's about as close to being perfect as any electric guitar can be." For his contributions to the guitar industry, Freddie was inducted into the Steel Guitar Hall of Fame and the Fender Hall of Fame.

Ernest was Freddie's older brother and was a versatile multi-instrumentalist. Ernest played the steel guitar, ukulele, flute and piano, among many others. He was an accomplished songwriter, conductor and choreographer and his creativity and engineering skills led to development of the pedal device that led to the pedal steel guitar. His career included work with the Harry Owens Royal Hawaiian Orchestra and Paul Page's South Sea Serenade.

The Tavares brothers were true musical renaissance men, and as their careers show they made a marvelous impact on modern music. Freddie and Ernest Tavares are treasures to the state of Hawai'i.

A TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF PASADENA

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Pasadena, California upon its 125th Anniversary.

In 1875, the area now known as the City of Pasadena, was named for a word that means "valley" in the Ojibwe (Chippewa) Native American language.

After Pasadena's incorporation in 1886, paved streets, sewers, and electric street lights were added, and so began the creation of the "Crown City." On January 1, 1890, the Valley Hunt Club initiated a festival—now known as the Tournament of Rose Parade—with a procession of flower-bedecked horses and carriages, which became a tradition that in 1898 was formally sponsored by the Tournament of Roses Association. In 1891, Throop University was founded, later to become the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), and in the early 1900s many grand hotels were built. Some of the most accomplished architects settled in Pasadena, which became known for its fine architecture, particularly the Craftsman style, perfected by Greene and Greene—a significant example of which is the 1908 Gamble House. Continuing to enjoy a reputation as a tourist center and winter resort until the end of the 1920s, many significant institutions were built during this time, including the Rose Bowl Stadium, the Pasadena Playhouse, the Grace Nicholson Gallery—now the Pacific Asia Museum, Pasadena City Junior College District—now Pasadena City College, as well as the Civic Center, consisting of the Central Library, City Hall and the Civic Auditorium. The 1920s also saw the beginning of the Pasadena Civic Orchestra, and the Shakespeare League.

World War II set Pasadena on the path to modern industrial growth, and led by Caltech and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) which became focal points of development and research for the war efforts, the city evolved into a center for industrial research and light manufacture of scientific and electronic precision instruments. In 1930, the Art Center College of Design was built, and in 1940, the Arroyo Seco Parkway, the first freeway in the west, was completed. The 1970s were a period of economic revitalization, along with an awakened respect for the City's architectural treasures, which led to the renovation of historic homes and buildings throughout the city. 1975 marked the opening of the Norton Simon Museum. In the 1980s and 90s, the city's election system changed from citywide runoff to district only elections and the City Board of Directors was changed to the City Council, and between 1970 and 2005, Caltech's faculty and alumni garnered 14 of the institute's 31 Nobel prizes. Today, Pasadena with its beautiful tree-lined streets, historic neighborhoods and thriving business community, is home to 140,000 residents.

I am honored to represent the City of Pasadena, with its rich cultural heritage and world-renowned institutions. I ask all Members to join me in congratulating the residents of Pasadena on its 125th anniversary.

FRIDAY THE 13TH BRINGS GOOD
LUCK FOR GREENSBORO COL-
LEGE GOLF CHAMPIONS

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I am sure that everyone is familiar with the famous Sunday back nine "fireworks" of the Masters at Augusta National Golf Club, almost as familiar as we are with the superstitions surrounding Friday the 13th. Well, the final round back nine fireworks were anything but an unlucky Friday the 13th for the Greensboro College men's golf team. For this particular Friday the 13th, the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina congratulate the Pride's golf team for being crowned the NCAA Division III National Champions.

On Friday, May 13, 2011, the Greensboro College men's golf team took the course for the final round of the NCAA championships, not on the grounds of Augusta, but those of the East Course at Grandover Resort, located in Greensboro, North Carolina, also in our district. The day began with Greensboro College ahead of the second-place team by three strokes. Pride junior Ben Nihart told the Greensboro News & Record that, "We really wanted to get off to a good start because that puts more pressure on the teams that are behind us to try and catch up." Early in the day, however, it seemed as if Friday the 13th would live up to its billing as an unlucky day for the men of Greensboro College.

The team from Illinois Wesleyan, which eventually ended the tournament as runners-up, came off the first tee playing well, chasing hot on the heels of Greensboro College throughout the front nine, a chase that culminated with Illinois Wesleyan grabbing a one-stroke lead after 14 holes.

That is when the Pride kicked it into high gear, combining for nine birdies on the back nine. Spearheaded by Brock Elder of Greensboro, a graduate of Vandalia Christian School, the Pride roared back from one stroke down, running out to a six-stroke lead over the final four holes to claim the National Championship.

Elder fired a 67, coming in five under par for the day, and finishing tied for fifth overall in the individual championship. The Pride also got solid performances from Ben Nihart, who shot a one under par 71, and Kirk Mitchell, who shot a three over par 75, to help Greensboro College claim the title.

Throughout the season, the Pride benefitted from solid performances by all of their team members. The National Championship squad consisted of Brian Critzer, Tres Currie, Clint Dillon, Brock Elder, Joshua Hudgins, Connor Kennedy, Josh Masterson, Kirk Mitchell, Josh Nichols, Ben Nihart, Gregory Pappas, and Nick Peoples. The head coach guiding this group of young men to the National Championship is Dirk Fennie.

The effort and determination put in by the men of the Greensboro College golf team was

clear; they began the tournament with one goal in mind. Ben Nihart told the News & Record, "I told my coach, and I said, I'm playing to win a national championship. I know everyone on our team was. There was no way we were going to let that slip away."

On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District, we honor and commemorate the effort and determination of these young men on a not-so-unlucky Friday the 13th. The back nine fireworks that brought the NCAA Division III National Championship to the golfers of Greensboro College and the Sixth District of North Carolina will be remembered for years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO RUSS HOFFMAN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Russ Hoffman, a native of Greene County, Iowa who is stepping down after more than 28 years as the Chief Deputy of the Greene County Sheriff's office.

With Russ and his family helping him celebrate retirement, they were joined by present and former Greene County employees, local law enforcement, County supervisors, four officers from the Iowa State Patrol, and law enforcement officers from supportive surrounding counties.

We certainly understand the enormous sacrifices that our officers and their families make to keep our citizens safe. I can't thank Russ and his family enough for their service.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in recognizing Russ Hoffman and thanking him for his service to the State of Iowa and Greene County. I consider it an honor to represent Russ in Congress, and I wish him a long, happy, and healthy retirement.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SE-
CURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
2012

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 1, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2017) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chair, I rise today to strongly oppose the Gosar and Scalise amendments to the 2012 Homeland Security Appropriations bill.

Not only do these amendments threaten the stability and well-being of our Nation's construction industry, they would seriously undermine the wages and benefits of hard-working construction workers across the United States.

It's no secret that since November 2010, many conservative leaders have sought to crack down on the rights of public sector workers across America. From Wisconsin to Indi-

ana to Ohio, public sector workers like teachers, police officers, firefighters and other middle-class Americans are seeing their right to participate in labor unions and collectively bargain taken away.

However, what is less known is that many conservatives are simultaneously working, through measures like these two amendments, to drive down the wages and benefits of workers in a major private sector section of our economy: construction. The workers who would be severely hurt by these two amendments are not even employed by the federal government, but by private businesses. This means that federal law would be responsible for reducing the wages of private sector employees at a time when they can least afford it.

The Gosar amendment would eliminate important protections guaranteed by the Davis-Bacon Act, one of our Nation's oldest and most important labor laws, which requires payment of local prevailing wages on federal construction projects. The Scalise amendment would prohibit funds from being used to implement Executive Order 13502, a measure which encourages executive agencies to enter into project labor agreements on large-scale federal construction projects. Project labor agreements, like Davis-Bacon, are a cornerstone of the American construction industry and give cost and wage certainty to all parties involved in a construction project. Davis-Bacon and project labor agreements not only help hard-working construction workers make ends meet, they create a more skilled workforce that results in projects being completed with a high degree of quality and safety.

At a time when we face unprecedented threats from abroad and are working hard to create good American jobs, removing these two mainstays of the American construction industry makes no sense at all. The men and women who build our Nation's roads, bridges and buildings have the right to make a decent living instead of facing deliberate attempts to not only undermine their wages and benefits, but drag the entire construction industry into a race to the bottom.

I urge my colleagues to vote no on these two amendments.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF ABE
BREEHEY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, it was with great sadness that I recently learned of the passing of Abe Breehey. I rise to celebrate and commemorate his life, and to mourn his sudden and tragic death.

I met Abe through his service as a dedicated advocate of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers. He was a tireless presence in support of hardworking Americans, and he undertook his efforts with a passion and commitment that was admirable. At the same time, Abe was a truly genuine person; affable, funny, honest and a general pleasure to be around. He was able to bridge the divides we far too commonly find in politics today, and his intellect and determination will be sorely missed.

I would like to extend my heartfelt condolences to Abe's family, including his wife Sonya and daughter Abigail, his parents, sister and their broader family. I also extend my sympathies to his colleagues in the labor community, most especially those he worked with in the Boilermakers, President Newton Jones, Bridget Martin, among others.

Along with my staff, I worked with Abe to move important issues forward, including strengthening our Buy American laws, protecting the rights of workers, and revitalizing American manufacturing. As I continue to engage in these issues, Abe's memory will remain in my mind. His compassion, commitment, and dedication to these and other causes should motivate us all, and he will not be forgotten.

A TRIBUTE TO KENDALL REED

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Kendall Reed, dean of Des Moines University's college of osteopathic medicine, for receiving the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve's State Chairman Award.

The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve's State Chairman Award is presented to employers who have extraordinarily exceeded legal requirements for providing support to service members in the Guard and Reserve. Dr. Reed received the reward for the outstanding care and support of employee Joe Case, a staff sergeant with the U.S. Army Reserve.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate Dr. Reed and I know that my colleagues join me in commending him for his sincere dedication to our troops' well-being and wish him continued success in the future.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF DALE SMITH, AFTER 20 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE NORWICH POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to recognize Deputy Police Chief Dale Smith of Norwich, NY. Police Chief Smith has recently retired after 20 years of dedicated service in the Norwich City Police Department.

Deputy Police Chief Smith began his career in law enforcement as a Chenango County Sheriff's Correctional Officer as well as a part-time road patrol deputy. He was promoted to the position of Deputy Chief in March of 2006 and has since then taken on a variety of key responsibilities. Deputy Police Chief Smith has not only served and protected his neighbors and his community, but has also been recognized for the wide variety of duties he has supervised, as well as his certification as a fire investigator.

Law enforcement leaders such as Deputy Police Chief Smith must be recognized for the

true bravery and selflessness that they display on the job every day. Deputy Police Chief Smith is yet another example of this, an honorable American, who has dedicated 20 years of his life to the improvement and safety of his community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in honoring Deputy Police Chief Dale Smith for his 20 years of serving the Norwich community and Police Department with honor and professionalism.

CONGRATULATING WALLY MIURA OF HONOLULU, HAWAII ON 50 YEARS IN BUSINESS

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, many of us come to the floor to talk about how important small businesses are to job creation. It's true. In Hawaii, 98 percent of our businesses are considered small businesses; these small businesses provide two out of every three new jobs. The men and women who take the risk of starting a business create jobs for our neighbors while providing the goods and services vital to our quality of life. Today, I want to take a minute to recognize an important anniversary for one of the many unsung heroes of Hawaii's business community.

This month, Wally Miura celebrates 50 years in business. In 1961, he opened a flooring business, Wally's Flooring, in Kalihi. After 37 successful years, Wally decided it was time to retire so he sold his building on Hau Street. He took a one year lease on a warehouse in Mapunapuna to store his inventory. That was in 1998.

Retirement never really took hold. Wally turned his storage space into an office and showroom and is still in business today. He says he's going to retire this year—we'll see. As a former customer, I know he will be missed by the many Hawaii businesses and families that have relied on his excellent service over the years.

Wally is modest, kind, and a very good businessman. In Hawaii, it's not just about who provides the lowest price. You want to work with someone who is proud of his company and stands behind his product and his work. That's Wally. I don't know how many jobs Wally has created over the past 50 years, how many young employees he mentored, or families he helped support with his business, but I am sure that he has had a positive effect on many, many lives.

In addition to being an exemplary businessman, Wally has been a leader in the building industry. He has been involved in many building associations and has served as president of the Honolulu Neighborhood Housing Service. Wally has also served on the advisory board to Ho'opono, Services for the Blind Branch, Hawaii Vocational Rehabilitation Division.

Mahalo nui loa, Wally. You are a great example of the small business owners whose vision, willingness to take a risk, and hard work are so essential to our economy and way of life.

A TRIBUTE TO KAITLIN HARTMAN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievement of Kaitlin Hartman, a student at Ballard High School in Huxley, Iowa. Kaitlin was recently selected by the company Prudential to receive the Prudential Spirit of Community Award.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program was created in 1995 by Prudential and the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP). Its goal is to honor students in middle and high schools across the nations who have dedicated themselves to voluntarily serving others in their community, in their state, and in their nation. Today this awards program is the largest such program in the United States. Since the program's inception, over 280,000 students have participated, with over 90,000 being officially recognized for their work.

Kaitlin has certainly done her part to earn this award. In her years at Ballard High School, she has spent almost 1,000 hours volunteering. Kaitlin has volunteered as a sports manager, peer helper, tutor, mentor, and conflict manager. She has also assisted with the Special Olympics and is active in her church. Kaitlin wishes to continue this service by one day becoming a teacher—dedicating her professional career to serving students and helping them to become all they can be.

Voluntary service to others in our communities, states, and country is an admirable way for all Americans to assist one another. I commend Kaitlin for her endless commitment to that voluntary service. I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in congratulating Kaitlin in being selected to receive this award. It is an honor to serve as her representative, and I wish her luck in her future studies at the University of Northern Iowa.

RECOGNIZING THE ZIMMER RADIO GROUP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize The Zimmer Radio Group for their stunning public service during the devastating tornados in Joplin.

As the tornados began their devastating assault on Joplin, and people began to seek refuge for their lives, employees from the Zimmer Radio Group based in the southwest Missouri city continued their coverage of the powerful storm. After the tornados had subsided, many local citizens were left with destroyed homes, broken memories, or worse, lost loved ones. Many citizens had no way of knowing if their families were safe due to most communication possibilities being destroyed by the tornados.

The staff of Zimmer Radio Group stepped in and immediately began contributing to the efforts of relief. They connected victims over their radio broadcasts by providing an outlet for people to locate their loved ones, and to

provide guidance on where they can seek shelter and food. It is times like these that we all need to rally around our fellow Missourians. The Zimmer Radio Group has led the way by setting a premier example of what disaster relief really means. In the wake of such a tremendous disaster, Zimmer has stepped up to the challenge and continued to help people in need of finding relief.

As fellow citizens we are all called to help one another in times of need. We take for granted the things we have, until we have lost them. Things like food, water, and shelter have become such a routine part of life, that when they are stolen from us, we are at the mercy of our fellow man. I urge all of us to lend a hand and assist those who have been affected by this tragedy.

As a friend, American, and Missourian, my thoughts and prayers go out to the people of Joplin and the state of Missouri who have fallen victim to such powerful forces of nature that have swept across our great state. I encourage those who are able, to assist people who have lost their homes, and I pray that those who have lost loved ones find comfort and relief in the days and weeks to come.

A TRIBUTE TO NATHAN HIDAJAT

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nathan Hidajat. Nathan, a second grader from Ames, Iowa, was recently selected as one of 40 regional finalists out of 107,000 entries submitted to Google's nationwide "Doodle 4 Google" competition.

The competition's theme, "What I'd like to do someday . . .", challenged all 107,000 entries to uniquely describe how they will spend their days in the future. However, Nathan's humbling idea for Google focuses on helping others around the world. Nathan's dream: To raise money for clean water in developing nations.

After viewing a video from a non-profit charity earlier in the year about the lasting effects of contaminated water around the world, Nathan organized a drive to help raise money to assist the efforts. Shortly after, Nathan heard about the "Doodle 4 Google" competition and saw this as a way to further expand his efforts by drawing a picture depicting a story about clean water in the world intertwined with the famous Google logo.

All 40 finalists have now been invited to New York City, where the national winner will be announced. The champion will win a \$15,000 college scholarship and a \$25,000 technology grant for his or her school.

I wish to commend Nathan on his artistic talents and desire to make the world a better place for those who are the most vulnerable. I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in congratulating Nathan in being chosen as a top 40 finalist in this competition. It is an honor to have Nathan in my district, and I wish him the best of luck as the competition moves forward.

INTRODUCING THE "TAX PARITY FOR HEALTH PLAN BENEFICIARIES ACT"

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, one of the fundamental principles of our tax system is that similar taxpayers are taxed the same. Confidence in our tax system depends on the fair and equitable treatment of our citizens and businesses.

Today, I am re-introducing the "Tax Parity for Health Plan Beneficiaries Act"—a bill that will correct a disparity in the tax code that results in unfair taxes on American businesses and their employees.

More than 80 percent of America's most successful companies extend health plan benefits to the domestic partners or non-spouse dependents of their employees. These companies are, in increasing numbers, making the right business decision to make their health plans more inclusive of the diversity in their employees. American businesses understand that by providing their employees with health security on an equitable basis helps them attract and retain the best people, and in doing so, have surpassed the government in the pursuit of equality.

Unfortunately, being ahead comes at a cost. On average, a worker who receives these extended benefits pays \$2,000 more in federal taxes than their married co-workers. Also, businesses must pay additional payroll taxes for deciding to provide their employees with equal benefits.

In the past, the federal government has led America when it comes to equal treatment under the law. On this issue, the federal government has fallen behind. We owe it to the American people to fix the tax code, so that the American people and their businesses can be sure that their government is still committed to ensuring equality for all.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to be introducing this bill with colleagues from both sides of the aisle. This highlights the importance of correcting this wrong in existing tax law.

A TRIBUTE TO JACOB HEATWOLE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jacob Franklyn Heatwole for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance based achievement whose standards have been well-maintained over the years.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Jacob's project was to assist in rebuilding a retaining wall at the Emergency Food Box in his hometown of Marshalltown.

Jacob has proudly represented Troop 310 of Marshalltown for more than five years. To date Jacob has earned nearly 30 Merit Badges as well as attended the 2010 National Scout Jamboree.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Jacob and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues will join me in congratulating him on achieving an Eagle Scout ranking and will wish him continued success in his future education and career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 372, I was absent due to unforeseen circumstances. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall No. 372 was a vote on the Cravaack of Minnesota Amendment No. 152 to H.R. 1540, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012. This amendment will completely eliminate the United States Institute of Peace (USIP). While I believe spending cuts within our defense budget are necessary, I also believe that those cuts must be smart and targeted.

The United States Institute of Peace—created by Congress and signed into law by President Ronald Reagan—is the only independent U.S. government actor that is dedicated solely to conflict prevention and resolution. USIP produces timely expert analysis on issues critical to policymakers and conflict prevention practitioners. In early February 2011, USIP published a "PEACE Report" on the political stalemate in Côte d'Ivoire following the November 28, 2010 election and the broader issue of preventing electoral violence in Africa. The elimination of USIP will have strong, adverse impact on America's security interests. USIP is an important national security actor. The U.S. government must have options for resolving international conflict other than military action.

USIP is the critical bridge between governmental and non-governmental actors to promote peace in volatile conflicts. USIP's Center for Mediation and Conflict Resolution conducts work in a number of critical conflict zones in Africa, Middle East, and across the globe. In the Arab-Israeli conflict, USIP is addressing a series of challenges and opportunities facing the parties. USIP has been focusing on the capacity of the Israeli and Palestinian publics to build consensus and support for a negotiated agreement, and the role of U.S. policymakers in encouraging and supporting these efforts toward a peaceful resolution.

USIP is also dealing with several issues in Nigeria, a country rife with conflicts over petroleum resources and religion. Amidst this situation, USIP is working on peace efforts for the Niger Delta region, including working collaboratively with local governments, oil companies, and Nigerian NGOs.

For nearly two decades, the USIP has been working in Sudan on peace processes. Its knowledge and expertise has helped shape

the environment that has contributed, so far, to a relatively peaceful outcome of the referendum. USIP's work on prevention, power-sharing, constitutional reform and natural resources has made a critical difference in the country's local capacity.

In addition, USIP has been able to contribute to the successful mitigation of violence in Kenya, due to its longstanding relationships with influential and highly skilled civil society activists and its reputation as an independent and unbiased party. USIP has the ability to act fast, responding, for example, to the unforeseen electoral violence crisis in 2007 with targeted assistance to a local group in time to make a difference. USIP is now working toward contributing to a peaceful election in 2012.

USIP is a small, agile center of innovation in support of America's national security interests in supporting peace and democracy in Africa and across the globe. USIP has been a very useful resource to policymakers for decades. Therefore, eliminating this critical institution abolishes a cost-effective alternative to military forces.

A TRIBUTE TO NICHOLAS EDWARD MAHER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Nicholas Edward Maher for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance based achievement whose standards have been well-maintained over the years.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Nicholas and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues will join me in congratulating him on achieving an Eagle Scout ranking and will wish him continued success in his future education and career.

HONORING THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF RECENT GRADUATE PAUL WILLIAM KOHAN FROM THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK COLLEGE AT BROCKPORT

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Paul William Kohan of New Hartford, NY. Paul was diagnosed with dyslexia in the first grade, and has since then proved

what a motivated and intelligent young man he has become despite this obstacle.

While Paul's friends and family feared his future might be impeded because of his disability, he has excelled both academically and beyond, far exceeding expectations for students with dyslexia.

Paul recently graduated from the State University of New York College at Brockport with a Bachelor of Science in sociology degree. Paul's accomplishment is particularly admirable given the fact that a mere 18 percent of persons with dyslexia typically graduate from college. In addition to Paul's impressive graduation, he also plans to pursue a career as a legal disability advocate.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Paul Kohan for his scholastic achievements displayed through his college graduation and inspiring career plans for the future.

A TRIBUTE TO GREGORY GEOFFROY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Gregory Geoffroy, president of Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa.

Born on July 8, 1946 in Honolulu, Hawaii, Gregory earned a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from the University of Louisville in 1968. After a year serving as an officer in the United States Navy, Gregory went on to earn a Ph.D. in chemistry from the California Institute of Technology in 1974. Over the next 30 years, Gregory published over 200 research articles, co-authored a book, and presented more than 200 lectures both in the United States and abroad. Gregory also served in various academic and administrative positions at Penn State University and the University of Maryland during that time.

Gregory was appointed president of Iowa State University in July 2001. His tenure has resulted in a number of accomplishments including the establishment of the Bioeconomy Institute, whose goal is to promote and advance biorenewable technologies. Gregory set a fundraising record with Campaign Iowa State, which recently surpassed its goal of collecting \$800 million. Under his guidance, the university has received a record amount of money in grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements. In the 2009–2010 fiscal year alone, the university received \$388.2 million. Gregory has also succeeded in doubling the number of endowed faculty positions, and he has seen student enrollment grow to record numbers—28,682 in the fall of 2010.

Gregory will certainly be missed on the Iowa State University campus. He will be remembered by students as being easy to relate to, accessible, and visible at university events. He will be remembered by faculty for his communication skills and management style that brought out the best in those around him. Gregory will be remembered by community leaders and business members for his efforts to build and improve direct relationships between the academic world and the business world. More than anything, however, Gregory

will be remembered for making Iowa State an admirable university with a cutting-edge reputation both in Iowa and around the world.

I thank Gregory Geoffroy for his many years of service to the students and employees of Iowa State University. It is an honor to be his representative, and I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in wishing him happiness and good health in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL J. WIEDORFER

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Paul J. Wiedorfer, Maryland's last surviving World War II Medal of Honor recipient. Mr. Wiedorfer passed away on May 25th at the Baltimore VA Medical Center. He was 90 years old.

Paul, the son of a German immigrant, was born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1921. He attended St. Andrew's School and went on to graduate from Baltimore Polytechnic Institute. He worked for Baltimore Gas & Electric Co. as an apprentice power station operator, until he enlisted in the Army in 1943.

Serving in a unit from General George Patton's 3rd Army, he experienced his first day of combat during the Battle of the Bulge on December 25, 1944. On that Christmas Day in an operation near Chaumont, Belgium, his company was ambushed. In the fight that ensued, Mr. Wiedorfer darted across an open field of enemy fire and single-handedly destroyed two German machine gun nests, while taking several prisoners. Amazingly, he was unharmed. That same afternoon he was given a battlefield promotion to sergeant.

On February 10, 1945, while crossing the Saar River in Germany, Mr. Wiedorfer was seriously injured when mortar shrapnel tore into his stomach and broke his left leg and two right fingers. While recuperating at hospital, in England, one of the other patients informed Mr. Wiedorfer that the newspaper Stars and Stripes was reporting he would receive the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions in Belgium. Mr. Wiedorfer later told the Baltimore Sun "To be perfectly honest, I wasn't really sure what the hell [the Medal of Honor] was because all I was, was some dogface guy in the infantry."

Mr. Wiedorfer spent more than three years in the hospital recovering from his wounds. He was discharged from the Army in 1947, having reached the rank of master sergeant. His other decorations included the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. He returned to his life and job in Baltimore and retired in 1981. Paul and his wife, the former Alice Stauffer, had four children: Nancy Mazer, who passed in 2010, Gary Wiedorfer of Cocoa, Florida, and Randee Wiedorfer and Paul J. Wiedorfer Jr., who both currently reside in the Congressional District I represent.

Mr. Wiedorfer led a fulfilled life. I would like to take this moment to thank him for his service to the United States, and to pass along my condolences to his proud family. He was a true American patriot and a Baltimore treasure.

RECOGNIZING SGT SHINYEI
"ROCKY" MATAYOSHI ON EARN-
ING THE DISTINGUISHED SERV-
ICE CROSS FOR EXTRAORDINARY
HEROISM DURING ACTION IN
WORLD WAR II

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, on June 7th, 2011, former Technical Sergeant Shinyei Rocky Matayoshi will go the Hall of Heroes at the Pentagon to be awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism during World War II as a member of the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team of the United States Army. This marks the 29th Distinguished Service Cross awarded to the 100th Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

Rocky was born in 1924 in the sugar plantation town of Koloa on the island of Kauai. He was a senior at Kauai High School when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. Shortly after the attack, Rocky's father was arrested and sent to a detention center for Japanese Americans in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Rocky left school to work for the sugar plantation to help with the war effort and support his family.

When the call for volunteers for the 442nd Regimental Combat Team was announced in February 1942, Rocky was one of three in his community to volunteer. He hoped that by volunteering and demonstrating his loyalty, his father would be allowed to come home to care for his five other children. Unfortunately, that didn't happen.

Rocky was assigned to Company G, 2nd Battalion of the 442nd. He began as a private and through diligence and hard work was promoted to Technical Sergeant of the 3rd Platoon. Following his training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, Rocky went with his unit to Italy in June 1944. He participated in every campaign in Italy and France and reported for roll call every day except for two days when he was confined to the field hospital for illness.

Rocky's combat philosophy was to serve as his own scout—and to take the highest risk assignments for himself. He led by example, displaying courage and leadership, which his men accepted and respected.

I quote from the citation awarding the Distinguished Service Cross to Technical Sergeant Shinyei "Rocky" Matayoshi:

For extraordinary heroism in action:

Technical Sergeant Shinyei Matayoshi distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a Platoon Sergeant in Company G, 2d Battalion, 442d Regimental Combat Team during combat operations against an armed enemy on Mount Belvedere, Italy. On 7 April 1945, Technical Sergeant Matayoshi ordered his Platoon to advance up the steep slopes of Mount Belvedere to seize the heavily fortified forest areas that were under enemy control. As the Platoon approached the elevated ridge line, Technical Sergeant Matayoshi's Platoon was attacked by intense machine gun fire from at least five enemy machine gun nests from frontal, left and right flanks. Technical Sergeant Matayoshi did not waiver despite enduring an overabundance of devastating automatic and small arms fire while attacking the first machine gun nest. While suppressing the

enemy with his Thompson machine gun and throwing hand grenades, he killed four enemy soldiers and took one prisoner. Despite the intensive barrage of enemy firepower, directed against him, Technical Sergeant Matayoshi moved forward leading the direct assault destroying three other machine gun nests, killing or wounding approximately fifteen enemy soldiers, some at as close as a five meter range. Technical Sergeant Matayoshi secured the key terrain, which paved the way for the Battalion's pursuit of the retreating enemy soldiers. Technical Sergeant Matayoshi's selfless leadership, courageous actions, and extraordinary devotion to duty are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, Company G, 2d Battalion, 442d Regimental Combat Team, and the Army of the United States.

When I read this, I am struck by the courage and willingness to sacrifice shown by Sgt. Matayoshi and all the other young Japanese American men under his command. At age 21, with his father held in a detention camp for the crime of being of Japanese ancestry, Rocky willingly offered his life in defense of liberty and, most important, of the United States. These young men were patriots in the true sense of the word.

In addition to the Distinguished Service Cross and the Congressional Gold Medal recently bestowed on all members of the 442nd and 100th Battalion, Rocky received the Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star Medal for Valor, the Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious Service, the Purple Heart Medal, a Presidential Unit Citation, a Meritorious Unit Citation, the American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one Bronze Service Star, the European-African Campaign Medal with 4 Bronze Service Stars and one Arrowhead, the World War II Victory Medal, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Rocky married Elsie Goya of Honolulu, and they have four children. After attending Wilson Community College and the Illinois Institute of Technology, Rocky worked in an auto body shop and part-time at a gas station. His children all earned full scholarships to fund their undergraduate degrees. Two of his children earned doctorates—one in physiology and the other in biophysics—and another earned a masters degree in biology, all on fellowships.

Congratulations, Rocky, on receiving this overdue recognition. You and your brothers in arms taught America a vital lesson that is still valid today. Being an American is not a matter of one's ethnic heritage or race—it is defined by patriotism and a willingness to sacrifice for one's country. Anyone who questions the patriotism of Americans of different ethnic backgrounds must confront the example of the Japanese American heroes of World War II.

Thank you for your selfless service to our nation.

A TRIBUTE TO PRINCIPAL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate The Principal Financial Group, led by CEO Larry Zimbleman, for being recently being named a 2011 Freedom Award Recipient. The Freedom Award is

the highest recognition by the Department of Defense given to employers that display exceptional support of their employees serving in the Guard and Reserve.

Principal employee Major Kerry M. Studer nominated Principal for this award. Major Studer is also a recent recipient of the Bronze Star Medal for his noble service as Commanding Officer of the 443rd Transportation Company in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Major Studer nominated Principal Financial Group for this award because of the "the extraordinary lengths" his company went in order to support him and his family while he was away defending our freedoms. While he was away, his coworkers looked closely after his family and would gladly accompany his wife and children to school and sporting events that he was unable to attend. Principal also "adopted" Major Studer's unit and mailed them hundreds of PT uniforms, t-shirts and countless care packages.

Principal is one of only 15 companies to receive this prestigious award amidst the 4,049 nominations submitted. Principal and the other 2011 honorees will be recognized here in Washington later this year at the 16th annual Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award Ceremony. Principal Financial Group joins an elite class as only 145 employers have attained this honor in the last 15 years.

Mr. Speaker, Major Studer's commitment and courage during his service coupled with his company's unwavering support serves as an important example of American patriotism in the heartland as well as the battlefield. I commend Major Studer, Larry Zimbleman, and all the employees of Principal for their selfless dedication to a cause greater than their own. It is my honor to represent Major Studer, his family and all Iowans in the United States Congress and I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating them for their accomplishment.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 1, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2017) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the Rokita amendment (#2) to H.R. 2017, "Making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes." This amendment only hinders future progress in decreasing TSA's current attrition rates.

As you may already know, this February, John Pistole, TSA's Administrator, who has performed 20 years of distinguished service with the FBI, came to the conclusion that allowing the transportation security workforce to collectively bargain would not result in lessening in the quality of security operations.

As the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Transportation, I am keenly aware that over the years, the Committee on Homeland Security has conducted thorough and extensive oversight into the cause for attrition within the TSA workforce. The attrition rate at TSA was high enough that it caught the attention of our committee.

Consistently, TSA personnel who decided to leave the agency criticized the availability of security training and responsiveness of line supervisors to workplace concerns. We must protect the tens of millions of dollars that American taxpayers have invested in hiring, training, and deploying TSA staff.

I strongly believe that Administrator Pistole's decision was the right one and his decision must be supported. TSA can be strengthened by providing their workers with a personnel system that is fair, credible and transparent, and with a voice in the development of workplace quality standards that will make the traveling public even safer.

There are currently a number of examples, throughout the federal government, where the conferring of collective bargaining rights have helped to secure the Nation. From the Customs and Border Protection to the Federal Protective Service, we see that collective bargaining rights can be made available in furtherance of security.

TSA employees have already begun to assert their right to collective bargaining. This amendment comes at the worst time, when TSOs are currently voting on selecting union representation. With our Nation and our transportation, in particular, facing serious and credible terrorist threats, this is not the time to punish our frontline homeland security personnel. We must give them the tools and resources to effectively perform their duties.

The Pistole decision cleared the way for an election and, in April, the Federal Labor Relations Authority tallied the votes. While neither of the competing unions won the vote outright, the message that the 40,000 Transportation Security Officers sent was unequivocal—they want to be unionized. There is a run-off underway.

This amendment would recklessly bring all the progress to a halt and unnecessarily damage morale within the TSA when the nation is at a state of "heightened alert."

BRENT BESHORE

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a locally coordinated, social media-based fundraiser that was held recently in Columbia, MO, for the Joplin tornado relief effort that raised more than \$1 million.

This story begins on Sunday, May 22, 2011 with Brent Beshore, a Joplin native turned Columbia entrepreneur, who immediately after the tornado struck Joplin began to call, email,

text and Facebook family and friends to ensure they were safe. Wanting more information, but without anywhere to go, Brent created a Facebook page titled "Joplin, MO Tornado Recovery" so others would have a place to get and share information. Brent then began pulling information from a Twitter feed set up to track Joplin and tornado keywords, information and requests and sharing it with the group. The Facebook page grew almost instantaneously from 60 likes, to 600, then to 6000 and continued to grow at an almost exponential pace. The group currently has over 170,000 likes.

Brent reached out to Tim Rich, executive director of the Heart of Missouri United Way and a former staff member for my predecessor, Congressman Kenny Hulshof, to set up a fund for relief efforts. Tim without hesitation set up a special fund that would go one hundred percent of its proceeds to Joplin tornado relief. Within hours of the tornado, Brent and Tim had established the world's first dedicated tornado relief fund for Joplin. They quickly established an ambitious fundraising goal of \$500,000. KOMU-TV, the NBC-affiliated television station for Mid-Missouri also played a key role in getting the word out about the fundraising efforts and even held a telethon to assist Joplin.

Through these efforts donations came in from small towns in Missouri to as far away as Saudi Arabia, Sweden and South Africa. A simple idea had quickly turned into a global operation.

Brent was in contact with politicians, musicians, disaster relief experts, and Fortune 500 charitable foundations. Social media was constantly updated and organized.

The results were nothing short of astonishing. By Thursday May 26, their fundraising efforts surpassed their greatest expectations, taking in over \$1 million. The team had executed a flawless event including an on-air prime time telethon and had collected donations from around the world. The Facebook page was referenced as a go-to resource by most national media outlets. The relief efforts were even re-tweeted by Oprah Winfrey.

The idea of one man, executed with the help of his friends and his community, has benefited so many. I ask my colleagues in joining me and thanking all the volunteers who made this effort a resounding success. I also ask my colleagues to continue to keep all of the people impacted by this disaster in their thoughts and prayers.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
SERGEANT CRAIG BERRY, AFTER
20 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE
TO THE NORWICH POLICE
DEPARTMENT

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sergeant Craig Berry of Norwich,

NY. Sergeant Berry recently retired after 20 years of dedicated service in the Norwich City Police Department.

Sergeant Berry began his career with the Norwich Police Department at the age of 25, on March 17, 1991. Twenty years later, the department honored the retirement of one of its finest officers on April 16, 2011. Berry not only played an important role in the community, but was also especially appreciated for his help with modernizing the department's technology.

Law enforcement officers must be recognized for the true bravery and selflessness that they display on the job every day. Sergeant Berry is yet another example of this, an honorable American, who has dedicated 20 years of his life to the improvement and safety of his community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in honoring Sergeant Craig Berry for his 20 years of exemplary service on behalf of the Norwich community and Police Department.

A TRIBUTE TO LORETTA SIEMAN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievement of Loretta Sieman who was recently named Citizen of the Year by the West Des Moines Chamber of Commerce.

Loretta Sieman has been an active member of the West Des Moines community for numerous years, serving on the school board and the city council. She has also been instrumental in various other organizations, including the Science Center of Iowa board, the Junior Achievement of Central Iowa board, the Winefest board, the Prairie Meadows grants board, and the Metro Advisory Council.

As the former vice president of community relations for the Business Publications Corporation and owner of LJS Consulting, she has earned several prestigious honors and awards over the years. Loretta has been recognized in Who's Who in Secondary School Education, and has earned the Main Street Governor's Office Individual Volunteer of the Year Award, Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute A. Arthur Davis Award, and the 2009 Business Record Woman of Influence Award.

The West Des Moines Chamber of Commerce could not have chosen a better recipient for this award. I commend Loretta for her dedication to community involvement. I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in congratulating Loretta in being selected to receive this award. It is an honor to serve as her representative, and I wish her the best of luck in the future.