

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING FATHER DAN
COUGHLIN

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I submit this statement on behalf of Albert Caswell, in honor of Father Dan Coughlin.

A MAN OF GRACE

A
A man . . .
A man of grace . . .
Our Lord, upon this place . . .
Had so placed . . .
As a true reflection of his face . . .
All in this temple of democracy's faith . . .
This shrine our forefathers had so
embraced . . .
For America was founded on such faith . . .
For no other experiment has since so been
raised . . .
For Father Dan, you were a pioneer . . .
As America's first Catholic Chaplin so
here . . .
To so spread the word, upon each and every
morning heard . . .
To counsel and to inspire . . .
Lifting hearts higher . . .
All for our nation's leaders, you never
tired . . .
As an instrument of our Lord's heart . . .
Oh how your faith, has so done its part . . .
To bring a Congress through such storms and
the dark . . .
All but with, the light of your fine heart . . .
And our Lord's word, casting out the
dark . . .
And Father we will miss your kind warm
face . . .
And your inspiring call to God, on each new
day . . .
And your warm heart, filled with such
grace . . .
Forever, in our hearts you shall hold a
place . . .
For your blessings bestowed upon us all . . .
Answering our Lord's, call to faith . . .
For such people, Heaven so holds a place . . .
For such men of grace . . .
In honor of Father Dan, and all of the
hearts you have touched over the years . . .
Bless you—Albert Carey Caswell.

A TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF BELL
GARDENS ON THE OCCASION OF
THE CITY'S 50TH YEAR ANNIVER-
SARY CELEBRATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Bell Gardens and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating its 42,000 residents on the city's 50th Anniversary. I am proud to represent this

growing city—aptly characterized by its motto "A City that Works"—as part of my 34th Congressional District of California.

While we honor the city's 50 years of official incorporation, its intriguing history dates back to the late 18th century when a Spanish soldier, Antonio Lugo, received a land grant that included the present-day Bell Gardens. Today's residents need only stroll down to 7000 Gage Avenue to admire one of Lugo's homes. Built about 1810, Casa de San Antonio, also known as the Gage Mansion, is California Historical Landmark number 984 and holds claim to being the oldest standing building in Los Angeles County.

The "Gage" Mansion is named after another notable Bell Gardens resident. A lawyer who married one of Lugo's great, great granddaughters, Henry T. Gage served as California's 29th Governor from 1898–1903. After Gage acquired and occupied the mansion, he worked extensively to restore the Los Angeles farmhouse and its magnificent early architectural designs.

Boasting some of the richest agricultural land in the country, Bell Gardens remained a farming community until the 1930s. During the Depression era, when farming became less profitable, the character of the community began to change as developers bought up the land to build affordable housing for struggling families.

During World War I and World War II, area defense plants spurred local growth and economic prosperity throughout the community. Attracted by the defense jobs, families moved to Bell Gardens, leading to the construction of new homes, more schools, and a prosperous business climate.

Today, Bell Gardens continues to be a dynamic and hardworking community. The city prides itself on its beautiful parks, emerald green soccer fields, childcare centers, a sparkling lake stocked with fish and waterfowl, and a community golf course.

The state-of-the-art renovation of John Anson Ford Park to include the Bell Gardens Sports Center is one of the city's crowning achievements. The multi-million-dollar facility is open to the community for soccer, baseball, tennis, golf and other sports. The city also entered into an agreement with the professional soccer organization Chivas Regal USA, which uses the complex as a practice facility.

The city's successful efforts to revitalize Downtown Bell Gardens is also a great source of pride for the community. Families now have many more retail and entertainment options. Completed in April 2004, Los Jardines Shopping Center replaced a blighted, underused commercial block with a vibrant, village-like, attractively landscaped shopping center that provides a pedestrian-friendly environment for the community. In addition, the shopping center houses nationally recognized merchants to serve the city's growing but largely underserved Latino community. Los Jardines is located within the city's bustling Central City Re-

development Project Area, adjacent to the popular Bicycle Casino, one of the most successful card clubs in Los Angeles County, the Marketplace shopping center, and the Village Square Shopping Center.

Affordable housing for the city's residents is also a priority. Housing communities ushered in by the city such as Las Casas de Bell Gardens, Clara Vista Housing Development, and the City of Bell Gardens Senior Housing and Community Center offer families and seniors affordable, comfortable and attractive units to call home. Addressing the need for additional affordable housing for seniors, the city developed Park View Terrace which provides 75 affordable units to seniors. The city is currently undertaking another affordable housing development project, Terra Bella Senior Housing Center, which is planned to start construction in the fall of 2011. It will provide 65 affordable units for seniors. These developments clearly represent the city's strong commitment to providing quality programs and services to the residents of the Bell Gardens community.

Mr. Speaker, as the city commemorates its 50th Anniversary with a free weekend celebration April 22–24 that includes carnival rides, food vendors, business booths, live entertainment and the Miss Bell Gardens Pageant, I ask my colleagues to please join me in commending this "city that works" on its historic milestone, and in extending our best wishes for many more years of progress ahead.

TED SMITH TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ted Smith, of Trinidad Colorado. Mr. Smith recently taught at the Trinidad State Junior College, where he established the now famous aquaculture program. He is moving on to the Native Aquatic Species Restoration Facility in Alamosa, Colorado, and will surely bring the same culture of excellence and success.

During his tenure with the Junior College, Mr. Smith mentored a number of students who have graduated to various wildlife jobs. Indeed, the Colorado Division of Wildlife currently employs many of his former students.

Mr. Smith's new job with the NASRF allows him to expand his oversight of Colorado aquatic life. The Facility houses 14 endangered species and is one of the foremost organizations for aquatic research.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Ted Smith today. There is no doubt his success with Trinidad State Junior College will translate to the NASRF. His past and future contributions to Colorado's environmental research are immeasurable and he will continue his conservation efforts of wildlife across the state.

• 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.

SEVERE WEATHER TRAGEDY IN
TUSHKA, OKLAHOMA**HON. DAN BOREN**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon with a heavy heart.

Last night, powerful storms ripped through my district and the State of Oklahoma killing multiple people and causing millions of dollars in damage.

According to the National Weather Service, yesterday at 8:16 pm Oklahoma time, a tornado touched down near the town of Tushka, Oklahoma in Pushmataha County, killing at least two of my constituents and causing millions of dollars in damage.

This is a terrible tragedy.

Oklahomans are well aware of the threat they face every year from severe weather.

But this tragedy and these types of storms are never easy for anyone to bear.

In fact, the damage caused by yesterday's storm is very personal to me.

During my time representing eastern Oklahoma in the House of Representatives, I have visited the school in Tushka that has been destroyed by this storm.

Tushka is a small rural town in Southeastern Oklahoma.

A town much like many of the small communities each of us represent here in Congress.

The people of Tushka are a group of hardworking and resilient Oklahomans who will undoubtedly get through this tragedy.

But at this difficult moment, I want to pause and let the victims and families who are suffering because of these storms know that my wife Andrea and I are praying for them during this difficult hour.

RECOGNIZING ACCOMPLISHMENTS
OF GINA L. BLEAN AND KELLY
A. HEYSINGER**HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of Dubuque business owners Gina L. Blean and Kelly A. Heysinger for winning the Small Business Administration's (SBA's) Iowa "Small Business Person of the Year" award. Gina and Kelly are co-owners of Unified Therapy Services, Inc. in Dubuque, Iowa.

Small businesses are the driving force behind our economy and I couldn't be prouder of this one. This prestigious award is only bestowed upon the nation's top entrepreneurs—and I'm glad to see the entrepreneurial spirit flourishing in eastern Iowa. We must continue to promote our small businesses and make sure that they can thrive and create new jobs.

In May, the SBA will honor Gina, Kelly, and other winners from across the country in Washington, DC, during National Small Business Week. The SBA will also select the "National Small Business Person of the Year" from the state "Small Business Persons of the Year." I will be rooting for them to win this prestigious national award.

FIRST LEGACY COMMUNITY
CREDIT UNION**HON. MELVIN L. WATT**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a credit union located in my Congressional District, First Legacy Community Credit Union, on 70 years of service to its members. First Legacy, originally named School Workers Federal Credit Union, was founded in Charlotte, North Carolina, on February 14, 1941, by a group of educators in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System. At its beginning, First Legacy offered a simple savings and loan program; today, it offers a broad range of financial services to its members. First Legacy Community Credit Union's continued dedication to serving the community, as well as efforts to increase financial literacy in North Carolina, is worthy of special recognition. I commend the work that First Legacy Community Credit Union continues to do and wish this outstanding community credit union another 70 years of success.

HONORING GOODWILL INDUSTRIES
OF MID-MICHIGAN**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Goodwill Industries of Mid-Michigan as they celebrate their 80th anniversary. A celebration will be held on April 29th in my hometown of Flint, Michigan, to commemorate this milestone.

In 1931 the Oak Park Methodist Church established an agency to assist people with disabilities and Goodwill Industries of Mid-Michigan was born. The agency's heart is centered on serving the needs of persons facing a variety of barriers, including physical and mental disabilities, illiteracy, substance abuse, inadequate education, ex-felons, and welfare dependency. Headquartered in Flint, the agency currently serves clients in ten Mid-Michigan counties. With their ultimate goal of placing individuals in productive employment, Goodwill Industries has several Workforce Development programs, a retail division, and an e-commerce program. As a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) charity, the agency remains focused on their clients' future.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Goodwill Industries of Mid-Michigan for 80 years of successfully serving the community. The ten Mid-Michigan counties served by Goodwill Industries have benefited from the work, dedication and enthusiasm of their clients, staff, volunteers and supporters. I wish them the best and hope they continue their success for many, many years.

REX THORNE TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rex Thorne of Huntington, Indiana. Mr. Thorne was a war hero, an incredibly successful engineer and community leader in a life that touched people all over the United States.

Following high school, Mr. Thorne enlisted in the U.S. Navy where he served on the USS *Heyliger* during World War II. Mr. Thorne's bravery and that of his fellow servicemen contributed to America's victory in the Pacific Theater.

After serving his country abroad, he returned to attend Purdue University. He graduated with a degree in chemical engineering and quickly joined the Union Camp paper company. During his tenure with the company, he advanced from working in the lab to his eventual position as Corporate Director for Environmental Affairs. His work took him across the country and gave others an opportunity to meet and work with him.

Mr. Thorne also lent much of his time to volunteer work for clubs, charities and non-profit organizations. He enjoyed fund raising and organizing events for many groups, most notably the Boy Scouts, the Safe Shelter Board and the Salvation Army. He was an active member of the Rotary Club Savannah West and the Skidaway Island United Methodist Church, where he taught Sunday School for several years.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the life of Rex Thorne. From his service in World War II, his life as a businessman and his volunteer work, he had a profound impact on many people. There is no doubt that his legacy will continue to inspire others.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
STEPHEN PAVELKO ON HIS OFFER
OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND
THE UNITED STATES MILITARY
ACADEMY**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Stephen Pavelko of Perrysburg, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Stephen brings an enormous amount of leadership, service and dedication to the incoming Class of 2015. While attending Perrysburg High School in Perrysburg, Ohio, Stephen earned honors in multiple fields of study, taking a number of advanced placement courses. Stephen was inducted into the National Honor Society, was involved in a number of athletic activities and held various leadership positions.

Throughout high school, Stephen participated in athletic activities, including football,

basketball and baseball. He earned a varsity letter in football. I am confident that Stephen will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to West Point.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Stephen Pavelko on the acceptance of his appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point where he will gain a world-class education and invaluable leadership experiences. I am positive that Stephen will excel during his career at West Point, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the nation.

ADA LAUNCHES JOBS-SOCIAL SECURITY-MINIMUM WAGE CAMPAIGN

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, Americans or Democratic Action has launched a Progressive agenda for jobs, rejuvenating the American economy, saving Social Security, and raising the minimum wage.

JOBS

Workers without jobs can't provide adequately for the basic needs of their families. The unemployment crisis is damaging families and contributing to a multitude of economic and social ills, including:

The highest poverty rate for working-age people between 18 and 64—12.9% in 2009—since 1965. Today, 43.6 million Americans are living in poverty, 19 million of whom are in deep poverty.

Workers who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own often cannot pay mortgages and rent, even when receiving unemployment benefits, which are not equivalent to wages lost. The foreclosure crisis—primarily the outcome of misdeeds of bankers and mortgage brokers—is driving further declines in home values while destroying once-vibrant neighborhoods. Joblessness also contributes to increased homelessness, which is not only tragic for families who lose their homes, but is accompanied by broader social harms and increased budget pressures on already strapped local and state governments.

Unemployed workers—along with many who are still employed—are losing employer-based health insurance coverage. In 2009, 50.7 million people were without health insurance—the highest number of uninsured since the Census started collecting the data in 1987. Joblessness is increasing pressure on public programs such as Medicaid, while increased use of uncovered emergency services by those with no other option for care is driving further increases in healthcare costs for small businesses and those still fortunate enough to have jobs and healthcare coverage.

Workers without jobs can't pay taxes that provide the resources to hire teachers, police and firefighters, build and maintain roads, provide for appropriate national security, ensure product safety, protect the environment, and fill urgent long- and short-term national needs.

We condemn the folly of deficit slashing while 15 million Americans remain unemployed—plus 11 million more who are underemployed or have dropped from the labor

force. Insufficient economic demand and idle productive capacity in the economy, in the short-term, bleeds federal and state budgets, whether or not current economic conditions meet the official definition of “recession.” Reckless spending (except perhaps for ill-conceived and poorly executed wars) is not the cause of our budget woes. This is made obvious as conservatives decry the deficit, but cannot or will not name any specific government program they would slash in order to meet their demands for deficit reduction.

Job creation—and the economic growth that spurs job creation—is the only way to reduce a budget deficit that is primarily the result of high unemployment. Unemployed workers represent idle productive capacity—lost wages and lost economic output. Lost wages reduce demand for goods, services, and investment, and depress tax receipts. Without consumers with money to spend, firms don't invest or hire, leading to more joblessness and still lower output. That leads to declining tax receipts along with growing demand for automatic stabilizers (such as unemployment benefits) and safety net services (such as Medicaid, food stamps, and housing assistance). Government deficits are inevitable in economic downturns with high unemployment.

Since firms will not hire or invest where demand is lacking, and unemployed workers cannot expand consumption and increase demand, only the government can spur growth—through deficit spending and investment. Tax cuts may be helpful, but in the current climate, direct spending and investment will more quickly and more strongly stimulate demand. Investing now in America's current and future prosperity is the remedy for both joblessness and the long-term budget deficit.

Conservatives argue that austerity will spur economic growth. That argument is based on evidence that fiscal austerity reduces interest rates (borrowing costs) for firms, and thus stimulates investment. But the evidence for this model does not mirror current conditions. Interest rates in the U.S. are already at historically low levels, yet firms are not investing or hiring. Moreover, few of the countries that experienced rapid growth while practicing fiscal austerity adopted austerity when the economy was operating far below its potential level of output, and in no case was a country as far below its potential as the U.S. is today.

Furthermore, all of the evidence that austerity fosters growth comes from countries with a much larger percentage of their economy involved in export industries than is the case with the U.S. Trade provides a source of demand for countries with a large export sector. The U.S. currently cannot rely on export-led growth to stimulate sufficient demand to reduce unemployment. For unemployment to be reduced in the short run, domestic demand must be increased. Thus, arguments for slashing government budgets in order to stimulate jobs and economic growth are not credible under current economic conditions.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) may have created or saved up to 3.3 million jobs and averted a second Great Depression, according to the independent Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates. But simple math shows that it was woefully insufficient to offset the loss of \$2.1 trillion in economic activity, \$3.4 trillion in lost home values, and \$7.4 trillion in lost stock values in 2009 and 2010. Not only was \$787 billion in

stimulus insufficient to offset the losses, it was also swamped by an estimated \$570 billion in spending cuts by state and local governments over the 2009–10 period.

Thus, the stimulus provided by ARRA and other measures amounted to only about \$126 billion per year for 2009 and 2010. The total effective stimulus was perhaps only 10% of the output lost.

By 2014, the CBO projects that total lost output will reach \$3.4 trillion—more than \$11,000 per person—assuming unemployment returns to normal levels by then. That figure will be worse if unemployment remains high. Additional and substantial economic stimulus that more realistically accounts for current economic realities is required, both to create jobs and to begin building the foundation for a prosperous future in which budget deficits can be reduced without causing economic contraction during a period of record unemployment.

The way to achieve a balanced federal budget is with a sound banking system and rational monetary policy; government investment (recognizing the difference between spending and investment); and full employment at decent wages and benefits.

We need jobs, and we have much work to do. A great nation can't remain great with crumbling bridges and schools, bursting water mains, leaking untreated sewage, grossly inadequate transportation systems, over-dependence on foreign oil, unaffordable higher education, and broadband preparedness that ranks 15th among OECD countries. ADA calls for restoring America's global competitive position with a restored manufacturing base, and rebuilt and expanded public infrastructure including broadband, throughout the nation.

A great nation consists of livable cities and towns that work for people, with decent affordable housing, quality public schools, well-designed and functioning public transportation systems, and jobs that provide decent wages. Cities cannot be warehouses for vast numbers of homeless and impoverished people who have no prospects and no hope.

A great nation will be at the forefront of addressing global problems that have resulted from past mistakes. Global warming, polluted water, and energy insecurity require investment in high-speed railroads and mass transit systems; emission-free vehicles and the infrastructure to power them; research, development, and construction of renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, and waterpower.

America, with enforced fair labor standards and collective bargaining rights. To begin the process of restoring America's industrial-employment base, ADA calls for fair trade policies that promote economic activity and lift wages in all nations, including our own; reformed tax policies that reward companies for creating jobs here, rather than for shipping them overseas; and national and local purchasing goals that support American manufacturing.

For community restoration and further job growth, ADA calls for doubling funding for programs to employ youth—including high school dropouts, high school graduates, and college graduates. This includes expanding AmeriCorps, the Job Corps, and the Peace Corps, a renewed Civilian Conservation Corps to restore our national parks and forests, a Neighborhood Corps to protect, maintain and

revitalize (or as necessary demolish) distressed housing, and Home Care Corps providing services to the elderly in their own homes.

These ambitious programs, sparked by public investments, will generate millions of jobs that pay middle-class wages, serving urgent national needs and restoring the private economy. These are the necessary underpinning of a strong America.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Social Security is under siege on multiple fronts, most of them familiar.

Social Security is not part of the budget deficit. It's been made a scapegoat by long-time enemies of the program. Social Security payments are, in fact, not government spending at all. Government spending includes the purchases of goods and services by government. Social Security payments are direct transfers from working people with more income to the elderly, disabled, widows and orphans who have less income, and who mostly contributed to the program during their working years. As such, a dollar reallocated from one final consumer to another has no direct effect on GDP whatsoever. Such transfers are fair and effective, increasing security and reducing poverty.

The Commission on Deficit Reduction is co-chaired by millionaire Erskine Bowles and former Senator Alan Simpson, who calls Social Security retirees "Greedy Geezers," as if either man would consider living on the average benefit of \$13,860 per year. The Commission includes only one economist; the rest are career politicians, most of whom have supported cuts to Social Security. And the Commission has accepted support from Peter G. Peterson, who has waged a relentless, decades-long campaign to cut Social Security and Medicare. The composition of the Commission is deeply flawed, including bias and conflicts of interest. Any proposal by the Commission regarding Social Security cuts should be rejected.

For two-thirds of the elderly, Social Security is at least half their income. About a third of the elderly rely on Social Security for most of their income. Social Security isn't in jeopardy, except from the Commission, other privatizers, and unemployment—jobless workers don't pay payroll taxes.

With no changes, Social Security can pay full benefits until 2039, and thereafter about 80% of currently scheduled benefits. Simple changes that don't damage the program, and make contributions more progressive, can be made. Changes in FICA tax policies for higher-income earners would make it possible to reduce contributions by lower income earners, making the system less regressive and helping to address the enormous income gap that has developed in the U.S. over the past 30 years. Policy options include:

Raising the cap on which the payroll tax (FICA) is applied above the current \$106,800; Removing the cap entirely; or

Applying the cap to all taxable income, including interest, dividends, and capital gains.

The payroll tax, currently accumulating a \$2.6 trillion surplus, is invested in U.S. government bonds, about the safest investment in the world.

Proposals to allow workers to contribute a portion of their FICA contributions to individual accounts are a sure way to undermine the entire Social Security system, and must be off the table. It may sound harmless, but siphon-

ing off funds earmarked for Social Security makes it impossible to pay for current benefits. Individual accounts held in investment funds would be subject to the ups and downs of the business cycle. For those fortunate enough to retire in good times, the accounts may be a good deal. For those reaching retirement in a downturn, the effect could be disastrous. They may have little more than a much-reduced Social Security benefit to survive on and face years of poverty in retirement. We should not forget the last two years and the disastrous effect of the recession on 401(k)s.

Baby boomers are retiring; our population is aging. Legislators noticed that in 1987 and took care of it by increasing the payroll tax, and by gradually increasing the retirement age to 67 by 2022. That increase in the normal retirement age cut benefits by 13%. Postponing retirement is tough for people who've had physically demanding jobs (unlike doctors, lawyers, economists, professors, and legislators). Recent data on longer life expectancy, the principal argument for raising the retirement age still further, have shown that longer life spans in the U.S. are principally a luxury for the well-off. Further, the life expectancy numbers are skewed because of declines in infant and young-adult mortality. Ordinary working Americans aren't living appreciably longer lives, and thus longer retirements are largely a myth.

We should also attract more young workers by creating an economically rational immigration policy.

Current undocumented workers should be given a path to citizenship. This will ensure that they are appropriately contributing taxes, while affording them protections they now lack, including protection from workplace discrimination, wage and overtime protections, workplace safety, and collective bargaining rights.

The Dream Act, a bill to provide citizenship to young people who were brought to this country as children, should be made law immediately. This would provide a path to citizenship for those who attend college or serve two years in the U.S. Armed Forces, and would help the U.S. retain the most successful, productive young immigrants.

Large numbers of the brightest students from around the world come to earn degrees from U.S. universities. Many wish to remain in the U.S., but our broken immigration system makes it nearly impossible for them to do so. We should be encouraging these graduates to remain in the U.S. on completion of their studies.

MINIMUM WAGE

The third prong of ADA's program is increasing and indexing the minimum wage. It lags at a shameful \$7.25 per hour, while Republicans call for tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires. At its current level, the minimum wage barely provides an annual income above the individual poverty level, and many minimum wage earners are trying to raise families. It is unconscionable that anyone working full time in America should be mired in poverty, unable to meet basic needs of shelter, food, heat, and clothing.

The minimum wage should be increased, and should in future be indexed to the Consumer Price Index, to ensure that it keeps pace with the rising cost of living.

Opponents of raising the minimum wage will say that it increases unemployment. The evi-

dence for this is extremely spotty. In some states that have increased their minimum wage, unemployment has declined relative to neighboring states that have maintained minimum wage at the federal level. In others, very small increases in unemployment were seen for the lowest-wage workers, and even those increases were temporary. Most of the economic research indicates that modest increases to the minimum wage have a negligible effect on employment, which is much more affected by other economic factors. The benefit of an increase to those workers at the minimum wage level outweighs the negligible effect on employment levels, and ADA strongly supports action on legislation to adjust the current minimum. ADA forged the coalition that led to the last increase in the minimum wage, and we can do so again.

All three prongs of ADA's program—JOBS, SOCIAL SECURITY, and MINIMUM WAGE—are of a piece, and are essential to restoring the American middle class. The Republicans are raring to enact slashing cuts that mirror those of the Tories of the UK, a formula for a double-dip recession or worse. We know better. Americans need jobs. Our country needs refurbishing. Workers need jobs that pay for housing, food, education, and a decent standard of living. Workers pay Social Security taxes, so the elderly, disabled, widows, and orphans can survive above poverty. And minimum wage workers must not be left behind. ADA stands ready to build the Liberal movement to carry out this agenda.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H. Con. Res. 34) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2012 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2013 through 2021:

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Chair, my Republican colleagues have introduced a bill to end Medicare as we know it in order to pay for tax giveaways to millionaires and profitable companies.

Listening to the President's speech yesterday, and to my colleagues on the floor today, I'm convinced that this debate is about no less than the values we hold as Americans. As the President said, the Republican budget is less about reducing the deficit than it is about changing the basic social compact in America.

Do we want to live in an America where opportunity is snatched away from young people who want an education, or one where any student who works hard enough can find a way to succeed?

Do we want to live in an America where our seniors can retire with dignity after a lifetime of hard work, or one where the elderly must ask their children for the spare room they might not even have to give?

Much of what the President has proposed has yet to be fleshed out in detail, and I hope

we can come together to develop a serious budget plan.

But for now, let us debate the values underpinning this discussion—the fundamental choice between a vision that offers extreme ideology, out-of-touch with the everyday struggles and hopes of American families, versus one that offers a path to future competitiveness in the global economy, and a renewed opportunity to achieve the American Dream.

I know which one I'll choose.

JESSICA JERKE TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, it is an unmatched honor for me to stand and pay tribute to the short, yet remarkable, life of Jessica Jerke of La Salle, Colorado. She was a young woman who accomplished more in her 21 years than most people can achieve in a lifetime. Jessica truly devoted herself to a life of selflessness and compassion to everyone she interacted with.

Ms. Jessica Jerke was born in Greeley, Colorado, and was an inspiration to her friends and family throughout her life. She was a member of the Greeley Children's Chorale, as well as a member of the Continental Singers. Jessica had even written and recorded some of her own music. Jessica graduated from University High School in 2008 where she was a member of the choir, the dance team, and the tennis team. She was also a devout Christian who possessed a deep faith, and had a strong relationship with God. Jessica was so committed to her faith that she went on two mission trips to Costa Rica and India to try to help those that were less fortunate than her.

Jessica attended Colorado Christian University where she studied music education, and in her 2nd semester of college she began to show symptoms of the unknown disease that she would fiercely battle for the next two years. Physicians from around the nation could not diagnose what was wrong with her. As her conditioned worsened, Jessica continued to flash her beautiful smile, never losing her winning attitude, and grew closer to her Lord. Jessica wanted no gifts as she celebrated her 21st birthday from a wheel chair, but asked that people make donations to the Christian mission in India instead. Jessica was a true embodiment of the Christian ideals that she held so closely.

Jessica Jerke demonstrated true grace in the face of misfortune, and our nation has lost a great citizen of the world. Mr. Speaker it has been a privilege to stand before you and pay tribute to the life of this extraordinary young lady.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

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

consideration the bill (H. Con. Res. 34) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2012 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2013 through 2021:

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chair, I would like to draw your attention to a letter from Secretary Sebelius on the impact of H. Con. Res. 34.

THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES,
Washington, DC, April 14, 2011.

Hon. HENRY A. WAXMAN,
Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce
Committee, Washington, DC.

DEAR RANKING MEMBER WAXMAN: We received your letter today requesting our assessment of the impact of the enactment of House Concurrent Resolution 35 (H. Con. Res. 35) on Medicare, Medicaid, and the other affected health programs at the Department of Health and Human Services. We have not yet had an opportunity to fully evaluate the extensive impact that the language of the resolution would have, but offer a few initial observations.

As you know, the Affordable Care Act modifies and improves almost every Medicare payment system—including the inpatient hospital prospective payment system, the outpatient hospital prospective payment system, the physician fee schedule, Medicare Advantage plan payments, and prescription drug plan payments. If this resolution were enacted, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) would not be able to use any funds to carry out these payment provisions based on any rate calculated on the basis of provisions of the Affordable Care Act—which is to say virtually all rates.

In a system in which millions of claims are paid each week, millions of claims would accumulate, which CMS and its contractors would be prohibited from paying. As a result, providers and suppliers of services to Medicare beneficiaries—many of which are small businesses—would experience significant disruption.

H. Con. Res. 35 would adversely affect health care in rural areas as well. As an example, as a means to encourage physicians to provide services in rural areas, the Affordable Care Act established a new 10 percent bonus payment for primary care services furnished by primary care practitioners and for major surgical procedures furnished by general surgeons in shortage areas. Without available funding, CMS would no longer be able to provide the bonus to primary care and general surgery physicians for eligible services.

The Affordable Care Act also gives CMS new tools to fight fraud and helps us move from a pay-and-chase system to a comprehensive prevention-focused strategy. By precluding the use of funds for such efforts, H. Con. Res. 35 would substantially impede CMS's proven and successful efforts to reduce fraud and waste in the health care system resulting in increased erroneous payments. H. Con. Res. 35 would effectively require CMS to cease enforcing new screening and enrollment standards, diminish CMS's ability to suspend payments when credible allegations of fraud are uncovered, and reduce resources that have been made available for investments in anti-fraud work.

The Affordable Care Act also includes numerous other policies to make health care more affordable, accessible, and accountable for seniors, individuals with disabilities, children, and all other Americans, as well as businesses large and small. Its improvements are already woven into the fabric of our health care system. A broad prohibition on the use of funds would halt, among other things, the operation of the Early Retiree Reinsurance Program, the Pre-existing Con-

dition Insurance Plan, and the health insurance rate review, consumer assistance, and health insurance Exchange grant programs.

I hope this information is helpful. We would be pleased to answer any additional questions you may have. I have sent an identical letter to Ranking Member Levin.

Sincerely,

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS.

HONORING ARMY STAFF SER-
GEANT JORGE ANTONIO
SCATLIFFE

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Army Staff Sergeant Jorge Antonio Scatliffe, who died in Mosul, Iraq, on April 3, 2011, in support of Operation New Dawn. Staff Sergeant Scatliffe was the 7th soldier from my district, the U.S. Virgin Islands, to die in the Middle East since the outbreak of hostilities in the wake of the tragedy of September 11, 2001.

Staff Sergeant Scatliffe, 32, was assigned to E Company, 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. He grew up on the island of St. Croix and attended the Lew Muckle Elementary School, the Elena Christian Junior High School, St. Croix Central High School and was one of the first graduates of the St. Croix Educational Complex.

Staff Sergeant Scatliffe joined the Army in April of 1998 as a Bradley Fighting Vehicle system maintenance man. His first deployments to Iraq began in April 2003 and ended in 2004. He was redeployed in December 2005 and served until December 2006 and once again from June 2008 to May 2009. Staff Sergeant Scatliffe was on his fourth tour of duty in Iraq, which he began in 2010 and ended tragically on April 3rd of this year, when he gave the ultimate sacrifice for his country, his precious life.

Staff Sergeant Scatliffe received many awards and decorations which includes two Army Commendation Medals, three Army Achievement Medals, four Army Good Conduct Medals, a National Defense Service Medal, an Iraqi Campaign Medal with campaign stars, a Global War on Terrorism Medal, Overseas Service Ribbons, an Army Service Ribbon, a Driver and Mechanic Badge for Mechanics, a Driver and Mechanic Badge for Wheel Vehicle Drivers and a Driver and Mechanic Badge for Tracked Vehicle Drivers.

Mr. Speaker, Staff Sergeant Scatliffe was a man who deeply loved his family, especially his mother, Sarah, with whom he maintained a close relationship. He is also mourned by his brothers, Robert and Raymond, and a circle of family, friends and fellow soldiers who are broken hearted at the loss of an exceptional young man.

I extend my sincere condolences to the family, friends and fellow soldiers of Staff Sergeant Jorge Scatliffe on behalf of the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands, the U.S. Congress and the entire nation. Your service and your sacrifice will not be forgotten.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2012

SPEECH OF

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H. Con. Res. 34) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2012 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2013 through 2021:

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chair, there is no doubt in the mind of anyone in this Chamber that America is the greatest country the world has ever known. America has the most innovative people and continues to be a lure to others seeking greater opportunities and a better and brighter life in the largest and most spectacular economy in the world.

I'm sure many of us know the story of something else that was considered to be the largest and most spectacular thing the world has ever seen. It was considered to be UNSINKABLE. While there has been a lot of talk about America's "Sputnik moment," I think we should be as focused on the possibility of facing America's TITANIC moment, today being the 99th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic.

It may be a coincidence that we are debating America's future on this anniversary. However, we must keep this disaster in mind as we debate America's fiscal future. Mr. Chair, because unsinkable ships do sink! If we do not pass Chairman RYAN's budget then America will continue down a path that will sink the most vibrant economy that has served as a beacon for people looking for a brighter future.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
JAMES KEYGES ON HIS OFFER
OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND
THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that James Keyges of Greenwich, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

James brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2015. He is the recipient of a Falcon Foundation Scholarship and recently graduated from the Northwestern Preparatory School in Santa Barbara, California. James is an active member of Ripley Church and spent many of the past years participating in the church's youth group. He subsequently was employed as a member of the church's staff where he was responsible for audio and technical support.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating James Keyges on the ac-

ceptance of his appointment to the United States Air Force Academy where he will gain a world-class education and invaluable leadership experience. I am positive that James will excel during his career at the Air Force Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the nation.

GAINES WYLIE SHULTS TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gaines Wylie Shults of Mosca, Colorado. Mr. Shults owned and operated a number of small businesses in Texas and Colorado and was one of the founding members of the National Rifle Association.

Mr. Shults was born and raised in Rising Star, Texas, before eventually deciding to join the Texas National Guard. He had a zest for flying and took every opportunity to do so during his service. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor he was transferred to the Navy as a flight instructor, where his efforts contributed to our country's victory in the Pacific Theater.

Mr. Shults' love of flying brought him to Colorado, where he eventually ran the Alamosa Airport. On his way he founded Silver State Aviation, a crop dusting and charter business. It was a natural outlet for his skills in aviation and knowledge of agriculture.

His career pursuits were not limited to aviation, however. Mr. Shults had a talent for ranching and operated Broken Heart Land and Cattle Company for several years. He loved the outdoors and spent as much free time as possible hunting, fishing and flying.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Gaines Shults today. He was a veteran, entrepreneur and leader. There is no doubt his legacy will continue to impact rural Colorado.

A TRIBUTE TO RAMON C.
CORTINES, SUPERINTENDENT OF
LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL
DISTRICT

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ramon C. Cortines for his lengthy and distinguished career as an educator. Mr. Cortines will be retiring shortly as the Superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District. His tenure as Superintendent of the LAUSD has capped off a 55-year career in education that has taken Mr. Cortines to schools all across the country and has demonstrated his passion for both education and public service. His dedication to our Nation's children is admirable, and I stand today to commend his service as a teacher, mentor, administrator and advocate.

The breadth of Mr. Cortines' experience in education is impressive. His work both in and out of the classroom has focused on improving education in this country. As an administrator and public servant at the State and Fed-

eral levels, Mr. Cortines used the perspective he gained in the classroom to address the educational challenges this country faces from a big-picture perspective.

While Mr. Cortines has worked for schools all across the country, he spent a considerable portion of his career in California. He started in 1956 as a teacher in Aptos, California and went on to hold numerous positions in schools and districts across the State. This service included time as superintendent in Pasadena, San Jose, San Francisco and finally Los Angeles.

Mr. Cortines has also lent his expertise to many taskforces and governmental agencies. He worked at both the State and Federal levels on education policy, as well as for many non-profit foundations dedicated to improving education. Mr. Cortines has also held numerous positions in academia at Universities across the country, sharing his expansive knowledge with the next generation of educators and policy makers.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring Ramon C. Cortines for his exceptional service to the community.

HONORING NANCY KURK, THE DE-
PARTMENT PRESIDENT OF THE
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nancy Kurk, who is the Department President of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of New York. Department President Kurk is currently serving as the Department President for the 2010-2011 term. Nancy has selflessly served the American Legion Auxiliary and her community for over 30 years.

As Department President, one of her main initiatives is the "Hats Off to Homeless Veterans," which is expected to raise \$50,000. All the money raised during this endeavor will either be designated to a specific shelter by the donor or, if unspecified, will be donated to the Zion House, a shelter for homeless female veterans from all across New York.

Raising funds for homeless veterans is only the latest in a long line of accomplishments for Department President Kurk. For over 30 years she has demonstrated commendable service and dedication towards the American Legion Auxiliary and has devoted her time to numerous hours of volunteer service to helping our Veterans. In fact, during the current term, she has visited all 62 counties in the State of New York in support of American Legion Auxiliary activities.

Department President Kurk is a 34-year member of the Robson-Savage Unit No. 546 and also currently serves Yates County as Legislative and Past President's Parley Chairman. Among her many notable achievements, Department President Kurk has served twice as Field Day Chairman at the Canandaigua VAMC. Additionally, she has also serviced the American Legion Auxiliary Department as VAVS Deputy and Poppy Supervisor at the Canandaigua Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Nancy is also an Independent Living Skills Trainer with Sibley Nursing Personnel, Inc.,

where she helps individuals who have suffered from traumatic brain injury to regain their personal independence both at home and within the community.

So in conclusion, I am proud to recognize and honor one of the finest servants of the 29th District of New York, Nancy Kurk. The years of service she has rendered to the American Legion Auxiliary and to our local communities is invaluable, and I commend her for all of her accomplishments.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND
FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with reluctance that I oppose this legislation. The President and Senator REID worked as hard as they possibly could to blunt the extreme Republican agenda. As everyone knows, these spending cuts are before us today because the Republicans did not hesitate to resort to the most irresponsible tactics to try to enforce their radical agenda.

While there are some program cuts I can support, others harm programs affecting millions of Americans. I am particularly concerned by the cuts to Community Health Centers (\$600 million from last year's spending levels), Health Care Facilities and Activities (\$338 million), Women and Infant Children programs (\$504 million), Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy programs (\$438 million), Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water State Revolving funds (\$997 million), Climate Change programs (\$49 million), HIV AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention (\$730 million), LIHEAP (Low income energy assistance) (\$390 million), U.S. Agency for International Development (\$39 million), International Clean Technology Fund (\$115 million), Highway Construction (\$2.5 billion), and High Speed Rail (\$2.9 billion).

For all the effort made, these cuts in funding do not have any significant impact on the deficit. Because of the Republicans' ideological blinders, taxes and revenues get no consideration here. The deficit cannot be solved without addressing revenues, and the silence on this issue from the Republican Party is deafening.

I also must register my profound objection to the rider attached in this bill that prohibits the District of Columbia Government from funding abortions. By what moral right does the Republican leadership override unilaterally the sovereign decisions taken by the government and people of the District of Columbia? This is shameful and deeply offensive and I hope Congress can find the strength ultimately to reverse it.

Again, I believe President Obama and Senator REID did the very best they could under near-impossible circumstances deliberately engineered by the Republican leadership. Unfortunately, this bill will inflict too big a price on many programs the American people and our country need. I must therefore vote against it.

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA
BEING RECOGNIZED AS "AMERICA'S
WORLD WAR II CITY"

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to the City of Wilmington, North Carolina, for its remarkable contributions to the U.S. war efforts during World War II. Its rich World War II legacy reminds us not only of its unique and pivotal role in the war, but also of the honorable dedication of all North Carolinians during our nation's time of need. As a reflection of its unique and pivotal role, and its deep and unmatched sacrifice, I stand to proclaim that Wilmington, North Carolina, should be recognized as "America's World War II City." In fact, both the New Hanover County Commissioners and City Council have proclaimed it so!

During World War II, Wilmington was the country's unique wartime boomtown, aptly and officially named "The Defense Capital of the State." The once-quiet seaside city, geographically isolated for decades, suddenly found itself an exploding center for military life and defense production.

Wilmington's wartime efforts were extensive and honorable. Wilmington based and trained all five military services—the Air Force at the Wilmington Airport, the Army at Camp Davis and Fort Fisher, the Navy at Fort Caswell, the Coast Guard at Wrightsville Beach, and the Marine Corps at Camp Lejeune. The North Carolina Shipbuilding Company of Wilmington, the state's largest employer at that time, constructed 243 cargo vessels with which to provide goods and equipment to our soldiers. Additionally, Wilmington provided the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad headquarters, three housing camps for German prisoners of war, a major training base for P-47 fighters, defense industries producing goods and equipment, a British patrol base, and a shipping point for Lend Lease supplies to the Allies.

Wilmington's most important contribution by far, though, was its dispatch of thousands of its sons and daughters to fight the enemy. These New Hanover County men and women served in uniform, fighting on land, sea, and air as Navy frogmen, P-51 fighter aces, Tuskegee airmen, submarine skippers, bomber pilots, Marine riflemen, Army artillerymen, physicians and nurses, and volunteers of all sorts. Tragically, 248 Wilmington men bravely lost their lives as a result of their courageous efforts to defend America. Two New Hanover High School graduates received the Congressional Medal of Honor and numerous others received high decorations for valor, including Navy Crosses, Distinguished Service Crosses, and Distinguished Flying Crosses.

Furthermore, Wilmington's strategic position made it vulnerable to enemy attack by German U-boats, which marauded shipping off our beaches. In July 1943 a U-boat fired at the Ethel-Dow chemical plant in Wilmington, perhaps the only German attack on America. Wilmington endured this attack, as well as constant civilian defense restrictions and air raid drills, including black-outs and dim-outs. The city's population more than doubled with the influx of military personnel, forcing locals to cope with strain on housing and schools,

transportation, medical and social services, law enforcement, and food supply.

Mr. Speaker, Wilmingtonians sacrificed in every imaginable way when our nation needed them during World War II. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognition and appreciation of Wilmington's contributions to the U.S. war effort during World War II. Now, in the spirit of that appreciation, let it be known that Wilmington, North Carolina, should be recognized as "America's World War II City."

HONORING REVEREND JAMES C.
HARRIS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend James C. Harris, a great man of God, for his 60 years of service as the pastor of Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia.

James Calvin Harris was born in Lee County, Georgia, on April 7, 1925, to the late Elijah and Viola Harris. He was the seventh of eight children and first became a member of St. Matthew Baptist Church of Lee County, Georgia under the late Rev. Allen A. Green. Rev. Green licensed James Harris into the Christian ministry on July 9, 1939, and later ordained him on August 10, 1949.

Rev. Harris served our country in the United States Navy during World War II, and married Miss Maggie Jefferson in 1944. He later attended Albany State College (now Albany State University), and finished his seminary work at the American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, Tennessee.

He first became a pastor at New Point Baptist Church in Arlington, Georgia, and preached at six other churches before finding his home at Mt. Pilgrim in 1951. Throughout his tenure, Mt. Pilgrim has become more involved in the community because of Rev. Harris' belief that the church and its congregation have a responsibility to be there for those in the community who are less fortunate or downtrodden.

In 1985, he received the Best Congress Award for excellence in execution of the Program of Christian Education Department from the National Baptist Convention's Sunday School Publishing Board—the highest award in the field of Christian Education. In 1991, he received the Sergeant Major Award for spiritual personnel at Fort Benning, GA, and in 2004, the National Baptist Convention again recognized him with the Service Award for his 50 years of service as a pastor to the same church.

There is a reason Reverend Harris is known as the "sharing minister." Because of his dedication to serving the community, Mt. Pilgrim is known as the caring and sharing church. He has always been available to mentor young ministers trying to find their way, providing guidance and direction whenever needed.

Under Rev. Harris' leadership, the outreach ministries he created have helped establish a Baptist Church in Camp Long, Korea, a jail-house ministry at the Muscogee County Jail in Columbus, and several Christian education programs. By reaching out to those in need and comforting those who are suffering, the

church has become a source of spiritual support for people all across the world.

Rev. Harris has been a friend, advisor, counselor and supporter from the time I first met him in 1972. My wife and I truly cherish his friendship and support.

On the occasion of his 60th anniversary as pastor of Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church, it is a privilege to recognize Reverend Harris for his decades of service to the Columbus community and to God. His unwavering commitment to the ministry and the Columbus community should be celebrated, and I hope that he continues to sing "He's a Battle Ax" and spread the word of God for years to come. To God Be The Glory!

ERNEST AND LOUISE ANITA
EVANS ROMERO TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ernest and Louise Anita Evans Romero, of Pueblo Colorado. Mrs. Romero, a very successful nurse for many years, passed away in 1994 but is remembered by the immensely successful scholarship fund created by Mr. Romero in her honor.

The Romero Nurse Scholarship Fund awards grants to St. Mary-Corwin nurses so that they might study more advanced nursing techniques. The Fund has given 17 scholarships to St. Mary-Corwin nurses since it was created. It is an appropriate honor for those who display the same talent and dedication to nursing as Louise Romero did for so many years.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Romero for their longtime service to the community. Through the Fund created by Ernest Romero, deserving nurses will be able to pursue the same excellence Louise Romero strived towards during her life. There is no doubt their impact will be felt in Colorado for many years.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF ASHLEY MOHR ON HER OFFERS OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY, THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY, AND THE UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young woman from Ohio's fifth congressional district. I am happy to announce that Ashley Mohr of Van Wert, Ohio has been offered appointments to attend the United States Military Academy, the United States Naval Academy, and the United States Merchant Marine Academy. Ashley has accepted the offer to attend the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Ashley brings an enormous amount of leadership, service and dedication to the incoming

Class of 2015. While attending Van Wert High School in Van Wert, Ohio, Ashley attained a 4.0 GPA, was a member and vice president of Student Council, Senior Class president, member of BETA Club, French Club, Varsity V-Club and participated in choir and journalism. She received numerous academic awards.

Throughout high school, Ashley was a team member of the track, basketball and soccer teams, where she received varsity letters. Ashley demonstrated her dedication and service to her community and peers by being active in Junior Rotarians as a Cougar Mentor Team member, as a member of First Presbyterian Church and volunteer referee for the Upward Soccer Program. I am confident that Ashley will carry the lessons of her student leadership to West Point.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ashley Mohr on the acceptance of her appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point where she will gain a world-class education and invaluable leadership experience. I am positive that Ashley will excel during her career at West Point, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to her as she begins her service to the nation.

REMEMBERING BRAVE PATRIOTS
OF BRIGADE 2506

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember the brave patriots of Brigade 2506, and their American co-fighters, on the fiftieth anniversary of the Bay of Pigs Invasion.

On April 17, 1961, 1,400 brave Cuban men landed along the beaches of the Bay of Pigs. Although the Brigade was outnumbered and out-supplied, it managed to inflict massive damages on Castro's military. Those brave fighters were a cross-section of Cuban society. They were doctors, students, and farmers. Some were only teenagers. They were supported by four brave Alabama pilots who ignored their superiors' orders to abandon the brigade and their mission. When the smoke cleared and the fighting ended, the survivors endured nearly two years of torture by some of the most sadistic, expertly trained torturers the world has ever known—on the direct orders of Cuba's cruel dictator.

Today, that dictatorship is failing. When that oppressive regime finally dies, the Cuban people will be rid of the shackles that have burdened them for decades. The heroes of the Bay of Pigs invasion were early warriors in the struggle for the freedom of the Cuban people. History will remember them not only for their heroism on the beaches of Playa Girón, but also for their role in the ultimate liberation of the homeland of José Martí.

The U.S. Congress is an especially fitting venue to commemorate a day of such importance to both Cuban and American history. It is appropriate that on this day, and in this place, we remember the Cuban people's call for a true democratic transition, the recognition of basic human rights, the adherence to the rule of law, those heroic freedom fighters of Brigade 2506 and the four brave Alabama pi-

lots who refused to abandon their Cuban brothers. We free Americans must continue to stand with the long-suffering Cuban people at this critical time in their history.

I humbly and with gratitude salute the brave patriots who attempted to liberate the Cuban people from tyranny fifty years ago. Their sacrifice, and their valor, will never be forgotten.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NISEI FARMERS LEAGUE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Mr. CARDOZA to congratulate the Nisei Farmers League on the occasion of its 40th anniversary celebration. The Nisei Farmers League has made a significant impact on the San Joaquin Valley and throughout California by representing the interest of growers, packers, processors and their employees. Over its 40 years of service, the Nisei Farmers League has helped to create a strong support network that helps western agricultural interests meet the many challenges faced in today's international marketplace.

The Nisei Farmers League was founded in 1971 by a small group of Japanese-American growers who met to discuss the increasing challenges facing California agriculture. Within months of the original meeting more growers joined the group and the decision was made to take the name of "Nisei," the term for second-generation Americans of Japanese ancestry. Under the direction of founder Mr. Harry Kubo, who served as leader of the league for 25 years, the organization worked to confront the challenges faced by small growers during farm union activities in the 1970s. Acting as a mutual protection society, the Nisei Farmers League has proven to be extremely effective in advocating on behalf of its members.

Evolving over the years, the league is now a sophisticated voice for more than a thousand members representing the broad diversity of California and the western United States' farmers and ranchers, and advocates on an array of issues at the local, State and Federal levels.

Today, led by Mr. Manuel Cunha, the Nisei Farmers League serves more than 1,100 growers, packers, and processors who grow and pack a diverse range of crops throughout California and the western United States. From the bountiful fields of California to the halls of the United States Congress, the Nisei Farmers League is respected and should be honored for its tireless efforts on behalf of western agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and Mr. CARDOZA in recognizing the hard work and dedication that the Nisei Farmers League has put forth throughout its many years of service to growers throughout California. I congratulate the Nisei Farmers League on its many years of dedicated and successful work in California, and wish the group many successful years to come.

CONGRESSIONAL VICTIMS' RIGHTS
CAUCUS AWARDS**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, during National Crime Victims' Rights Week, to congratulate the winner of the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus Awards.

Congressman JIM COSTA of California and I are the co-founders and co-chairs of the Victims' Rights Caucus, a bi-partisan group of 60 members who work to be a voice for victims' rights in Congress and before the administration.

Last week, we honored six incredible individuals who have made a real difference in the lives of victims and have greatly influenced the victims' rights movement.

Some of the award recipients, including my nominee, Jess Smochek, were victims themselves and are now fighting for other victims' rights and changes in the system.

Jess was terribly beaten, raped, and left for dead while volunteering for the Peace Corps in Bangladesh.

The Peace Corps basically ignored Jess and did nothing to aid her in a time of great need.

Jess found out that other volunteers in the Peace Corps, who were victimized during their service, were treated the same way.

Instead of letting this go on, Jess took her awful experience and decided to advocate for a change in the Peace Corps policy toward victims.

Because of her bravery in speaking out about this tough issue, the national media and Congress are aware of this unacceptable matter and are working with her to push for changes in the Peace Corps.

We honored her with the Suzanne McDaniel Public Awareness Award because of her hard work to ensure no other selfless volunteer in the Peace Corps has to endure this treatment.

Helga Luest is another award recipient who chose to seek change in the system after having a traumatic experience as a crime victim.

After a brutal attack that almost cost her and her mother's lives, Helga began an organization called Witness Justice that works to help victims seek justice and experience healing.

She is able to help countless victims with her first-hand knowledge of trauma and its direct impact on the well being of the individual.

Helga received the Eva Murillo Unsung Hero Award because it truly takes a hero to rise up and use lessons from a terrible situation to help others.

We also recognized heroes in the victims' rights community that directly aid crime victims through their work at shelters and with programs that assist victims and facilitate healing.

Pam Kallsen, nominated by Victims' Rights Caucus Co-Chair Congressman JIM COSTA, is the Executive Director of the Marjaree Mason Center in California's Central Valley.

Through her leadership, the Center goes above and beyond traditional services providing legal representation, hotline services, and counseling sessions all of which are critical in responding to and preventing domestic and sexual abuse.

Another exceptional leader in the field is Mary Ellen Stone, the Executive Director of

the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (KCSARC) in Washington State, a position in which she has served since 1979.

Mary Ellen has not only helped KCSARC grow to be the largest sexual assault victims' service organization in the state but has also been involved in transforming the legal and political landscape of sexual assault violence in Washington and throughout the nation.

Without these exemplary individuals, many victims would have nowhere to turn when facing a difficult situation and that is why these two wonderful women received the Ed Stout Memorial Award for Outstanding Victim Advocacy.

A leader on the public policy front, receiving the the Lois Haight Award for Excellence and Innovation is Susan Smith Howley, Director of Public Policy for the National Center for Victims of Crime.

She has devoted the past 20 years to the development and implementation of major crime victim related public policy initiatives at the local, state and national levels.

Not long ago crime victims had few to no rights, and we are still working hard to ensure victims receive all the care and compensation they deserve.

People like Susan, who work to ensure that the government protects innocent victims through creating and promoting innovative policies, are invaluable to victims throughout the country.

Our last award, the Allied Professional Award was presented to Nilda Valmores who has dedicated her life to helping victims of domestic violence.

The shelter where she serves as Executive Director, My Sister's House, focuses on the needs of immigrant Asian/Pacific Islander women and children.

Through Nilda's collaborations with organizations throughout her community, My Sister's House and the larger issue of domestic violence facing immigrant women has received much needed attention.

Congratulations to these amazing people, who are the reason why the victims' rights movement has made so much progress.

And that's just the way it is.

A TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH
REDENBAUGH**HON. MIKE McINTYRE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Elizabeth Redenbaugh, of Wilmington, North Carolina, who has been named an honoree of the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award. On May 23, 2011, Mrs. Redenbaugh will be recognized for standing up to racial and socioeconomic segregation perceived in the New Hanover County school system.

The John F. Kennedy Library Foundation will be presenting the award. Caroline Kennedy, the President of the Foundation, has said of Mrs. Redenbaugh: "She boldly challenged the citizens of her community to preserve quality public education for all of New Hanover County's children regardless of race." In light of these acts, the foundation's committee saw fit to bestow upon Elizabeth

Redenbaugh what is generally seen as the highest honor available to United States public servants.

As well as serving on the New Hanover County School Board, Mrs. Redenbaugh practices as an attorney with Redenbaugh & Risser, PLLC. So committed is she to public service that she serves as a member of Parsley Elementary School's Site Based Management Team and PTA Board of Directors and also as a member of the New Hanover County Council of PTAs' Executive Board. Her tenacious efforts in Southeastern North Carolina are those of a true leader utterly dedicated to the betterment of local education, and her community as a whole.

Mrs. Redenbaugh's personal courage and political courage are to be congratulated. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in recognizing a local heroine, whose principled efforts in the face of robust opposition might serve as an example to us all. Let us celebrate a noble public servant, soon to be the recipient of an award intent on decorating those who choose principle over partisanship, a quality we should all strive to emulate for the good of the United States.

DR. DAVID SVALDI TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. David Svaldi of Alamosa, Colorado. Dr. Svaldi was recently appointed to El Pomar Foundation's San Luis Valley Regional Council. As one of southern Colorado's most esteemed residents he will undoubtedly thrive in that position.

Dr. Svaldi is president of Adams State College, a job he balances with his other volunteer work. He sits on the boards of the area's Boys and Girls Club, Health Education Council and the Southern Colorado Education Consortium.

The education and health industries in southern Colorado are growing quickly. It is important that people like Dr. Svaldi, who have a history of involvement and success in those areas, lend their expertise to the growing infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, it is a honor to recognize Dr. David Svaldi today. He will continue to be a leader in his community and work to better the lives of his neighbors.

MEDICAL COMMUNITY UNDER
ATTACK IN BAHRAIN**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my deep concern regarding a serious human rights crisis that is currently unfolding in Bahrain, a strategic ally of the United States in the Middle East.

As Physicians for Human Rights has reported, the medical community in that country has come under attack by Bahrani authorities during the currently ongoing unrest, and doctors, nurses and emergency medical technicians have been arrested, detained, harassed

and prevented from fulfilling their ethical obligations of providing medical care.

In doing so, the government of Bahrain is violating well-established laws of medical neutrality.

Just this Monday, April 11, at least six physicians were arrested by the government of Bahrain in its sweeping campaign against medical professionals over the past several weeks. Those arrested on that day include Dr. Abdulshaheed Fadhel, Dr. Jawad Khamees, Dr. Zahra Alsamak, Dr. Arif Rajab, Dr. Nabeel Hameed, and Dr. Nabeel Tammam.

I call on the State Department to do everything in its power to facilitate the release of these individuals and to bring an end to similar attacks on the medical profession in Bahrain.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN HEALTH INITIATIVE ACT

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of The Violence Against Women Health Initiative Act, legislation that will bring the resources and expertise of the health sector to bear on the persistent problem of domestic and sexual violence.

I invite you to join me today in the fight to preserve the fundamental dignity and safety of women across this great nation—a right to safety and security that should never be abrogated, and yet is under threat every day.

Every nine seconds, a woman is abused in the United States. And every year, women are subjected to 4.8 million assaults and rapes by their intimate partners. According to 2009 statistics from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, of the 1,928 women murdered, 609 were wives murdered by their husbands; and 472 were girlfriends murdered by their significant other.

While no sector of society is left untouched by violence against women, the health care system is particularly impacted by violence and abuse.

Recent studies show that abuse victims use health care services between 2 and 2.5 times that of those who are not victims of abuse. More than 20 years of research connects child and adult exposure to domestic and sexual violence to asthma, stroke, heart disease, cancer, and depression. Intimate partner rape, physical assault, and stalking costs the health care system over \$8.3 billion annually.

In this period of elevated unemployment rates, there is particular cause for concern. The rate of violence in a relationship nearly doubles when a man is unemployed at least once. The rate of violence almost triples when a man experiences multiple periods of unemployment. In this economic recession, we have to be even more vigilant to prevent violence against women.

The health care system is uniquely positioned to take a leading role in fighting and responding to the prevalence of violence.

Victims know and trust their health care providers. Almost three-quarters of survivors say that they would like their health care providers to ask them about violence and abuse.

Multiple clinical studies have shown that short interventions in the medical environment

protect the health and safety of women. These interventions are short—between two and ten minutes—and effective. In repeated clinical trials, violence decreased and health status improved following simple assessment and referral protocols. Integrating these effective protocols into our health care system will save lives.

Indeed, routine assessment for intimate partner violence has been recommended for health care settings by the American Medical Association, American Psychological Association, American Nurses Association, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Health Care Organizations.

Efforts by the health care system to prevent and respond to violence and abuse against women are built upon the success of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), first passed in 1994.

Since its passage, the Violence Against Women Act has transformed our criminal justice and social service system. Between 1993 and 2008, the rate of intimate partner violence dropped 53%. Clearly, we are on the right track.

Yet we need to do more.

Despite the commitment of the health field to help victims of violence and abuse, a critical gap remains in the delivery of health care to victims. Health care providers often only address current injuries, without tackling the underlying cause of those injuries. This highlights the need to ensure that health care providers have the necessary training and support in order to assess, refer, and support victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Today, I introduced the “Violence Against Women Health Initiative Act” as the first step in reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act, helping the health care system to become a major player in the fight against violence against women. This bill would reauthorize three health programs; changes in the legislation will prioritize evaluation and accountability, as well as to expand the types of medical stakeholders engaged in this important effort.

There should be no safe harbor for those who perpetrate domestic violence and sexual assault in the twenty-first century.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today, as we conclude legislative business for the month of April in Washington, D.C., it is appropriate that we mark an important milestone in Ukraine: On April 26th, 2011, we recognize the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

On this date in 1986, Reactor Four at the Soviet-designed Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in northern Ukraine exploded, releasing more than 100 tons of lethally radioactive material into the environment. The human cost of this disaster is staggering. It is unlikely we will ever know how many deaths can be directly

attributed to the Chernobyl disaster, but the loss of life of even one life is truly a tragedy.

Twenty-five years later, the consequences of the world's worst nuclear accident continue to plague Eastern Europe. Ukraine has been especially impacted. The World Health Organization estimates that over 6,000 people have been diagnosed with thyroid cancer from the radioactive materials in the atmosphere. The concrete and steel sarcophagus that encases the ruined Nuclear Reactor Four is deteriorating and in need of replacement. In addition, the loss of Chernobyl's generating capacity exacerbates an already difficult energy shortage in Ukraine, which depends heavily on energy imports, especially during harsh winters.

We must be mindful that Chernobyl's legacy remains a heavy burden for the people of Ukraine. The fatally flawed nuclear technology that built Chernobyl resulted in lasting harm to Ukraine's people and the environment. The sole consolation is that we can yet hope to redress the damage.

We must continue to support U.S. and international efforts to address the lingering health, social, and economic consequences from the disaster, including the permanent encasement of the damaged nuclear Reactor Four in Chernobyl. I call on every Member of the House to join with me in remembering the victims of this tragedy and to support these efforts. Let us resolve to do our part to help Ukraine build a better future.

CONGRESSMAN FRANK EVANS TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Congressman Frank Evans of Pueblo, Colorado. Mr. Evans represented Colorado's third district for 14 years and was considered one of the most professional and courteous members of the House of Representatives. In fitting tribute, Pueblo's Government Printing Office will be renamed after the Congressman next month.

Mr. Evans was responsible for bringing the distribution center to his hometown and was proud of the recognition it gave to what was, at the time, a very small town. It is a testament to his hard work while in office. He fought diligently for residents of the district and never forgot those who elected him to Congress. He enjoyed great success in office, never lost an election, and took great care to avoid making enemies on either side of the aisle.

Mr. Evans grew up in Colorado and went to Pomona College before enlisting in the Navy at the outbreak of World War II. During the War he became a pilot and flew seaplanes in the Pacific theater. After his service, he returned to Colorado and graduated from the University of Denver with a law degree. He specialized in labor law and workers' rights was one of his lifelong concerns. It prompted him, in fact, to move back to Pueblo, so that he might better understand factory life at the district's mills and plants.

In Pueblo he met his wife Eleanor Trefz, whom he loved dearly. Together they raised four children and nine grandchildren. Mr.

Evans was proud of his family and their accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman Frank Evans left a sizable mark on Colorado and there is no doubt his legacy will continue to impact the state. Renaming the Government Printing Office after the Congressman is an appropriate tribute to a man who was central to its construction.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF NATHAN KRUSE ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Nathan Kruse, of Ottawa, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Nathan brings an enormous amount of leadership, service and dedication to the incoming class of Air Force cadets. While a gifted athlete, having earned varsity and junior varsity letters in football and track, Nathan has also maintained the highest standards of excellence in his academics. He attained a 4.0 GPA at Ottawa-Glandorf High School and is a member of and president of the National Honor Society. Nathan also participated in the German Club, Academic Quiz Bowl and Science Olympiad.

Outside the classroom, Nathan is an Eagle Scout, Junior Optimist Club member and has volunteered for numerous tutoring opportunities. Nathan's dedication and service to his community and his peers has proven his ability to excel among the leaders at the Air Force Academy. I have no doubt that Nathan will take the lessons of his student leadership with him to Colorado Springs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Nathan Kruse on his acceptance of appointment to the United States Air Force Academy where he will gain a world-class education and receive invaluable leadership experience. I am positive that Nathan will excel during his career at the Air Force Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the nation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PERSONALIZE YOUR CARE ACT OF 2011

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Personalize Your Care Act of 2011.

Advances in healthcare have led to increasingly complex health care decisions and more treatment options than we have ever before had the benefit—or the burden—of choosing between. Both Democrats and Republicans

agree that individuals should be fully involved in decisions related to their own health care and should be able to make informed decisions about that care reflecting their values and their needs. We also agree that when people have expressed their wishes, particularly in a formal and legally binding manner, those wishes should be known and respected.

While there is widespread agreement regarding these principles, too often this is not the reality. Most adults have not completed an advance directive; if documents are completed, they are not regularly revisited and can be difficult to locate. Because these issues are difficult to discuss, surrogates often feel ill-prepared to interpret their loved ones' written wishes.

These shortcomings can leave families and healthcare proxies faced with the burden of determining their loved ones' wishes in the midst of crisis, sometimes with little or no information about how best to direct care. This adds not only stress and anxiety to an already difficult situation, but studies show that lack of advance care planning actually prolongs the grieving process after losing a loved one.

One of the greatest misconceptions about advance care planning is that it is a one-time event. Attempting to plan for all possibilities in a single document or within a single conversation is overwhelming and, quite likely, impossible. Where possible, this should be an ongoing conversation. Careful, early advance care planning is important because a person's ability to make decisions may diminish over time and he or she may suddenly lose the capability to participate in his or her health care decisions.

Successful advance care planning is less about legal documentation and more about facilitating ongoing communication about future care wishes among individuals, their health care providers, and surrogates. This approach recognizes that advance care documents like advance directives are not the "ends," but the "means"—they are the tools for documenting care preferences based on informed decisions that incorporate an individual's values, personal goals, and current circumstances.

This process not only provides higher quality care, but personalized care.

The Personalize Your Care Act aims to support advance care planning by providing Medicare and Medicaid coverage for voluntary consultations about advance care planning every 5 years or in the event of a change in health status. This periodic revisiting of advance care documents and goals of care recognizes that an individual's preferences can change over time. It also recognizes that the advance care plan should be updated if an individual develops a serious or chronic illness, if additional curative and palliative treatment options become available, and to consistently reflect the individual's current circumstances and preferences.

Honoring the expressed wishes of individuals must also be a priority. For this to occur, advance care planning documents must be accessible wherever care is provided. The legislation ensures that an individual's electronic health record is able to display his or her current advance directive and/or physician orders for life sustaining treatment (POLST), so that his or her wishes are easily accessible and respected. Furthermore, under the legislation, advance directives would be portable, ensuring that advance directives completed in one

state are honored in another state, in the event care needed to be provided there.

The legislation also provides grants to states to establish or expand physician orders for life sustaining treatment programs. These programs have a track record of promoting patient autonomy through documenting and coordinating a person's treatment preferences, clarifying treatment intentions and minimizing confusion, reducing repetitive activities in complying with the Patient Self Determination Act, and facilitating appropriate treatment by emergency personnel.

These investments in advance care planning will reinforce patient-centered care—engaging individuals in planning and decision-making about their future care and ensuring that those preferences are documented, accessible, and can be honored in any state and in any care setting.

I am proud to introduce the Personalize Your Care Act with the support of patient advocates, physicians, nurses, and the faith community who see every day how advance care planning improves individuals' and families' peace of mind and the quality of their care.

TERRORIST ATTACKS ON ISRAELIS MARK NEW ESCALATION

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, the recent bombing in Jerusalem and sharp rise in unprovoked rocket attacks from Gaza have marked an escalation in violence by the Palestinian terrorists backed by Hamas and Iran. These attacks are a stark reminder of the constant threat Israel faces from those who want to destroy the Israeli state. It is also a reminder that the friendship and partnership the United States has with Israel is one that must always be protected and enhanced. Israel must be able to count on the continued support of the United States and the American people as they endeavor to live in a democracy free from the threat of attack.

In just the first 3 months of 2011, terrorists have fired more than 150 mortars and rockets into Israel and murdered five members of an Israeli family in their West Bank home. More frightening, Israeli forces intercepted 50 tons of Iranian arms, including advanced anti-ship missiles and radar, 2,500 mortar rounds, and 67,000 AK-47 rounds destined for Hamas in Gaza. The acquisition of these kinds of weapons makes it clear that Palestinian terrorists do not intend to back down from their campaign of terror.

This violence against the Israeli people is aided by the tacit compliance of the Palestinian Authority, which thus far has not stepped up its anti-terrorism efforts to root out Hamas and other terrorist elements associated with the Fatah Party. Instead, the Palestinians are generally accepting of this continued violence, martyring those who kill innocent civilians. Recently, the terrorist Dalal Mughrabi, who killed 35 Israelis after hijacking a bus, had a town square named in his honor. This behavior—and general popular acceptance of terror—only encourages further violence.

We cannot allow this escalated level of violence to be dismissed as just more back and

forth in a protracted conflict between Israel and Palestine. There is never justification for attacks on innocent civilians, and we must demand that the anti-Israel sentiment that pervades Palestine be addressed.

The Israelis remain committed to the peace process, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has done his part in making concessions that pave the way for substantive talks. This has been met by a refusal by the Palestinians to even recognize Israel's right to exist.

Every sovereign nation has a duty and right to defend its citizens. As a result, the United States must continue to support Israel's right to self-defense. Congress must ensure that the administration does not call on Israel to make concessions that endanger its security without demanding similar changes from the Palestinians. Congress must make clear its support for Israel's right to defend its citizens and demand the United Nations enforce a ban on Iranian exports of sophisticated weapons to Hamas and other terrorist groups.

SIDNEY HARMAN

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, this week, Sidney Harman—a good friend to me and to so many—died at the age of 92. Sidney was the husband of my friend, Congresswoman Jane Harman; he lived a full, rich life, and he will be deeply missed. Sidney was a pioneering entrepreneur in the field of hi-fi stereo systems—but after his business success, he went on to make outstanding contributions to our country's civic life for decades. He was a strong advocate of civil rights who pitched in as a public school teacher; he was Under Secretary of Commerce under President Carter; he was a dynamic philanthropist who made his mark as a patron of education, the arts, and journalism. His many accomplishments, and the admiration of so many who knew him, are certain to long outlive him. But in the wake of his loss, my sincere condolences are with his wife, Congresswoman Harman, his children; and all those who mourn his passing.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2012

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H. Con. Res. 34) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2012 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2013 through 2021:

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chair, as we debate the House budget resolution today, I ask my colleagues: are you here to make a point, or are you here to make a difference?

We have reached a tipping point in our country's financial future. Our nation is pushed

to the edge of a fiscal cliff. We are over \$14 trillion in debt. CBO projects that the President's budget request will cause net interest payments to skyrocket over the next 10 years—from \$260 billion in 2012 to \$931 billion in 2021. If we continue on our current path, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and interest payments to service the debt will consume all government revenues within 14 years. We're borrowing 41 cents on every dollar. And we're borrowing from nations such as China and Saudi Arabia that do not share our values or national priorities. Moody's has warned that our coveted AAA bond rating could be at risk in as little as a year. We've seen what a downgrade can do to foreign economies, and we must not let that happen here.

Seeing the signs about our nation's financial future, I introduced legislation almost five years ago—during the last Republican House majority—to create an independent bipartisan commission to address unsustainable federal spending, putting everything on the table for discussion—entitlements, all other spending programs and tax policy—and like the Department of Defense's Base Realignment and Closure Commission process, Congress would be required to vote up or down on the commission's recommendations. An iteration of this legislation became the blueprint for President's National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, or the Bowles-Simpson Commission.

The President appointed the Bowles-Simpson Commission. He established their working parameters in a manner that, quite frankly, I believed was designed to doom it to failure. Despite this, the report released last December by the commission was supported by a bipartisan majority of the commission's 18 members. It makes clear that addressing the debt and the deficit isn't just a simple exercise in rooting out waste, fraud and abuse, eliminating earmarks, and reining in discretionary spending. Those, to be sure, are important reforms, but alone don't come close to solving the debt and the deficit crisis. Reform must begin with entitlements and other mandatory spending and must also include all other sacred cows, including tax reform and defense spending.

Until two days ago, the President barely acknowledged the work of his commission. He didn't help them assemble the necessary 14 votes to send their recommendations to Congress. Then, he walked away from his commission's recommendations, first by not expressing any views on their report, then silence during the State of the Union, and again silence in his FY 2012 budget request. On Wednesday, the President finally started to recognize the seriousness of this problem. His leadership is needed. But I was disappointed that he failed to offer specific solutions, and seemed more interested in staking out political positions than finding common ground. I hope his call for negotiations across the aisle to develop a legislative framework are successful, but this seems like yet another instance where the President is sidestepping the recommendations of his own fiscal commission.

I believe that the Bowles-Simpson proposal offers the way forward for the most comprehensive and realistic solution to our nation's fiscal problems. I have repeatedly said that, while there are some changes I would make in the plan, if a version of the Bowles-

Simpson plan were given a vote on the House floor, I would vote for it. But we don't have that choice in the House.

My friend JIM COOPER, whom I have partnered with over the past four years to offer a bipartisan way forward to address the nation's financial crisis, initially planned to offer the principals of the Bowles-Simpson proposal as a substitute amendment to be considered today. Recognizing that the President's recent speech has inflamed partisan passions, he withdrew the amendment so as not to undercut efforts underway in the Senate by the so-called Gang of Six. Had the Cooper substitute been offered, I would have voted for it, even though I did not agree with every part of it, such as the reconciliation instructions Mr. COOPER had for the committee of jurisdiction over the federal workforce. I would have voted yes to indicate my continued support for the principals of the Bowles-Simpson commission. Mr. COOPER has engaged in the kind of bipartisan cooperation that we must have, the kind of forthright, realistic conversation about our nation's fiscal future in which we must engage across the aisle, across the Capitol and down Pennsylvania Avenue if we are to have any hope of coming up with a credible plan to protect the future of our children and grandchildren.

I see the Ryan proposal as an honest attempt to provide a blueprint to continue the conversation on our country's financial future and move forward so that a conference with the Senate can produce a budget plan that ensures our national security and protects the programs on which so many Americans rely. The Ryan bill may not pass the Senate, but I commend the chairman of the House Budget Committee for his courage in putting forth a bold proposal to address our nation's skyrocketing and unfunded financial obligations. While his focus is not the "everything on the table" approach I prefer, I believe Mr. RYAN could provide an opening to force both chambers and the President to deal with entitlement spending that is consuming the federal budget. He deserves credit for taking on an issue so many in Congress would rather continue to kick down the road.

It's easy to stand in the well of the House and criticize any legislation. As I look at Chairman RYAN's measure, I don't agree with every provision. I believe there are some critical issues that are missing and things that must be changed, and there are several things that I do not support and will not support if authorizing legislation is offered to implement his budget blueprint.

As I have stated, I believe everything must be on the table for discussion, starting with all entitlement spending, discretionary program spending, and tax policy. But we have reached the moment of truth for the kind of country we will leave to our children and grandchildren. Therefore, I will vote for the Ryan budget so that we can continue to move this process forward and continue the discussion.

This proposal would put our nation on course to reduce all of the publicly held debt by 2060, a feat not reached since Andrew Jackson's presidency. Relative to the President's proposal, it cuts \$6.2 trillion. Under this plan, within four years, we would reach primary balance on our debt, which the President's proposal never attains.

Reaching primary balance, which is when revenue is greater than spending less interest

payments, is an important milestone that reduces a grave national security threat. This budget blueprint calls for significant reductions in discretionary spending, for reduced tax rates, and for repeal of the health care reform law. Significantly, Mr. RYAN's plan says we can no longer ignore the trillions of dollars in unfunded liabilities that consume our budget. There may be disagreement on the significant changes in Medicare and Medicaid entitlement programs that he proposes, and while his plan is silent on changes needed to reform Social Security entitlements, it does recognize that need. Mr. RYAN has pulled the curtain back on the mandatory spending elephant in the room that we can no longer ignore.

As I have stated, I will vote for the Ryan budget so that we can move forward to fulfill our responsibility to come up with a budget for this fiscal year. We must avoid the recent fiasco we endured which brought us to the brink of a government shutdown because of the failure by the majority in the last Congress to produce a budget.

That being said, I believe the Ryan budget comes up short in a number of areas. I will mention just a few.

First, it misses an opportunity by not fully addressing the Social Security program's growing deficit. For the first time this year, with the Baby Boom generation starting to retire, more is being paid out in benefits than is coming in. I always ask students whether or not they expect to receive Social Security benefits upon retirement. Three years ago, one or two students would answer in the affirmative. Now, no one does. In calling for Social Security to be on the table, my sole motivation is to protect all those in or near retirement and to ensure that the Social Security program remains strong for future generations. The Ryan budget is lacking here.

Second, the Ryan plan, I believe, unfairly targets the federal workforce. I believe that federal employees know that spending must be reduced to ensure that our country's financial future remains strong, and I believe that public servants would be the first in line to make the sacrifices needed. But the massive budget situation we face, I believe, calls for shared sacrifice that does not single out any one area of the federal budget.

I regret that the Ryan proposal seeks to make government service an unattractive career choice by freezing pay levels, which the President has already frozen for two years, for an additional three years; by imposing drastic hiring restrictions, and by changing retirement plans. Unlike their counterparts in state government, federal employees pay Social Security taxes and contribute to their pensions. The Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund is not facing insolvency.

Federal employees are on the front lines working to ensure that our government is running as efficiently and effectively as possible to provide the services taxpayers expect. We must be careful in budget plans that we first do no harm in our vital efforts to attract, recruit and retain the best and brightest for public service. Day in and day out, federal employees make our nation a safer and better place.

The FBI agent working to find a kidnapped child, the DEA agent keeping drugs out of schools, the DOJ attorney prosecuting a child molester, other law enforcement and intelligence agents risking their lives every day on the front lines side by side with our armed

forces in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other fronts in the Global War on Terror—all are federal employees. The first American killed in Afghanistan, Mike Spann, was a CIA agent and a constituent from my congressional district. Imagine how a CIA employee or an FBI agent working side by side in Afghanistan with the U.S. military would feel knowing that his or her pay would be frozen for five years. A year ago January, I attended funerals for some of the seven CIA agents who were killed by a Taliban suicide bomber at Forward Operative Base Chapman near the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. The Washington Post has reported on "the post 9/11 brain drain at the CIA."

The Border Patrol agent shot and killed in Arizona this past December who was working to stop the flow of illegal immigrants across our southern border, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent who was killed and the two who were shot this past February outside of Mexico City, doctors who tend to our veterans and wounded warriors in veterans hospitals and who are developing new prosthetic devices to help them recover, medical researchers at NIH working to develop cures for cancer, diabetes, Alzheimer's, and autism—all are dedicated federal employees who I'm sure could find more lucrative jobs in the private sector, but who are committed to public service. Dr. Francis Collins, the physician who mapped the human genome and serves as director of the National Institutes of Health, is a federal employee. The National Weather Service meteorologist who tracks hurricanes, the SBA staffer who helps a new business start up, the FDA inspector working to stop a salmonella outbreak—all are federal employees. As we consider ways to find budget savings, it is important to remember the jobs federal employees perform.

The third area in which I believe the Ryan budget could be improved is providing for the needs of the most vulnerable in our society. As the Congress deals with the budget, we must always do it in a way that does not neglect the needs of the poor. Scripture (Proverbs 19:17) tells us, "He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord." And in the New Testament Jesus talks a lot about the poor. In Matthew 25 he says that if we ignore the poor and hungry it is the same as ignoring him.

Are we giving false hope to the neediest of our society by refusing to acknowledge that society's safety nets have such gaping holes in their finances that they will collapse within 20 years? We must carefully consider proposals that impact the most vulnerable. The budget before us assumes that program cuts can be absorbed by projecting that unemployment levels will drop to an unheard of 2.8 percent in 10 years. This would be the lowest levels since 1953. I believe this is unrealistic when considering the unemployment rate has historically been 5 percent.

The fourth area of concern with the Ryan budget is its lack of a reform plan to make the tax code fairer and simpler. This budget takes some steps forward, but it could be improved by forcefully calling for a closer examination of tax expenditures, as was detailed by the Bowles-Simpson Commission.

Our colleagues across the Capitol may have the comprehensive Bowles-Simpson plan as a budget choice, and I applaud the efforts of six senators who are working across the aisle to translate this proposal into legislative text. I wholeheartedly support the work of SAXBY

CHAMBLISS, Republican of Georgia; MARK WARNER, Democrat of Virginia; MIKE CRAPO, Republican of Idaho; RICHARD DURBIN, Democrat of Illinois; TOM COBURN, Republican of Oklahoma, and KENT CONRAD, Democrat of North Dakota.

It is disappointing that some have attacked these senators for daring to engage in a discussion putting everything on the table. Regrettably, this seems to be a tried and true technique whenever an attempt to reform the tax code is made.

Senator TOM COBURN is an honest, ethical, decent, member of Congress with whom I served when he was in the House. One of our nation's leading conservative budget hawks, who may have as good, if not a better record than most members of the House and Senate on tax policy, he is currently leading an effort to eliminate one of the more recognizable tax expenditures, the credit given to the producers of ethanol. This is a tax credit that many, such as the editorial board of the Wall Street Journal, think should be eliminated. Ethanol, through tax credits, tariffs, and friendly regulations, is one of the most subsidized industries in the United States. The government has created a perverse policy in which farmers are incentivized to grow corn to produce a "dirty fuel." Food prices rise because this domestic crop does not enter our food supply.

Yet Americans for Tax Reform, led by Grover Norquist, has been engaging in bullying tactics designed to stop Senator COBURN's effort and exert undue influence on this process. This is the same Grover Norquist who, according to Senate Report 109-325, "Gimmie Five—An Investigation of Tribal Lobbying Matters, allowed disgraced and convicted lobbyist Jack Abramoff to use ATR as a conduit to finance grassroots lobbying campaigns. When this occurred, ATR kept a cut for itself. Watch the documentary Casino Jack It's all there.

We will never be able to reform the tax code if any attempt to eliminate a tax expenditure—spending through the tax code—is equated to a tax increase. Senator COBURN has called out ATR and Mr. Norquist, pointing out that by this logic, "reducing provisions in the code such as the Earned Income Tax Credit would constitute a violation of your pledge [to oppose tax increases] unless it was 'offset' by another so-called 'tax cut,' such as an expansion of the ethanol subsidy. That is hardly sound conservative economics."

On March 24, the New York Times reported that General Electric, which posted a profit of \$14.2 billion, of which \$5.1 billion came from operations within the United States, did not pay any taxes to the federal government. Not only did they owe nothing to the federal government, they claimed a tax benefit of \$3.2 billion. Many provisions used by their accountants were initially designed as short-term tax breaks to spur economic growth. But as frequently happens, such as with the ethanol subsidy, once a tax cut is enacted, it is nearly impossible to eliminate. If this is not an example of the need to fully reexamine our tax code, I don't know what is. That's why everything in our budget discussion must be on the table.

There is never a convenient time to make hard decisions, but the longer we put off fixing the problem, the worse the medicine will be and greater the number of Americans will be hurt.

America is living on borrowed dollars and borrowed time. As a nation we are moving

closer and closer to the edge of the financial cliff. A few steps forward and we will start a free fall into a canyon of debt which could be the economic death of America as we know it. Is that what we want for our children and grandchildren?

Have we lost the national will to make tough decisions that may require sacrifice?

Have we lost the political courage to reject the partisan and special interest demands and do what is right for our country?

This is an American issue; not a Republican issue or a Democrat issue. I will continue to work to try to achieve balance in our budget plan. Our goal must be a bipartisan document that can pass the House and the Senate. Is the Ryan plan perfect? No. But it at least recognizes the road that we must take. How we get there is the conversation we must continue to have because the financial future for our children and grandchildren is at stake.

I urge my colleagues to heed the wisdom of the father of our country at his farewell address in 1796. President George Washington admonished his fellow countrymen: "We should avoid ungenerously throwing upon posterity the burden of which we ourselves ought to bear."

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF JENNIFER GUZOWSKI ON HER OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young woman from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Jennifer Guzowski of Tiffin, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Jennifer brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2015. While attending Tiffin Columbian High School in Tiffin, Ohio, Jennifer earned academic letters and attained a grade point average that placed her in the top fifteen percent of her graduating class. Jennifer was also inducted into the National Honor Society, was a student representative on the school board and held various leadership positions in the school band.

Throughout high school, Jennifer was a member of the junior varsity and varsity soccer teams, displaying her leadership skills as captain of the junior varsity soccer team. She was also awarded a varsity letter for soccer during her senior year and was the recipient of two Golden Shoe Awards. I am confident that Jennifer will carry the lessons of her student and athletic leadership to West Point.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jennifer Guzowski on the acceptance of her appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point where she will gain a world-class education and invaluable leadership experience. I am positive that Jennifer will excel during her career in West Point, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to her as she begins her service to the nation.

HONORING COLONEL JACK POTTER

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a loyal friend, a brave hero, and a caring individual who recently turned 92 years young. Retired Colonel Jack Potter of San Rafael California, was born March 20, 1919, served in the Army from World War II through 1974, and has consistently worked for the benefit of veterans since his retirement.

It has been my privilege to work closely with Col. Potter for 18 years. His friendship and assistance have been invaluable to me over those years. Through Jack, I learned about veterans' issues, from the importance of national legislation to ensure they get the benefits they deserve to some of the challenges faced by local vets in Marin County. On Memorial Day, 2008, we authored a column together in the local newspaper calling for better benefits and health treatment for our veterans.

Jack was drafted into the Army in 1941. He was commissioned as an Infantry 2nd Lt. after Pearl Harbor and commanded an Infantry Rifle company seeing combat in the South Pacific. He remained in the Army after the war, serving in Europe, Korea, and South America, as well as in many positions stateside. He also attended The Industrial College of the Armed Forces and earned an MBA at George Washington University.

During the Vietnam conflict, Jack was assigned as the Commander of the Vietnam Region Exchange which operated more than 150 exchange activities with a total of more than 10,000 personnel. He continued his service stateside, in California, where his assignment as Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics for the Sixth U.S. Army brought him to the Presidio in the Bay Area. He retired on August 1, 1974, after serving 33 years, 4 months, and 15 days on active duty. On the date of his retirement ceremonies, Jack was testifying in Nebraska in the federal trial of the American Indian Movement. At 12:01 a.m. on August 2, the U.S. Attorney General purchased Jack's first drink as a civilian.

After 31 changes of station, Jack and his wife now live in Marin County, California where Jack became active in veteran's affairs. Serving in various positions in the Military Officers Association of America, and the Marin County United Veterans Council, Jack has been a whirlwind for veterans' causes—he advocated personally for a number of vets who needed help, organized Veterans and Memorial Day events and a Tricare information session with me, and still found time to regularly bring doughnuts to my office staff.

One of Jack's most prominent roles was that of Master of Ceremonies at Marin County's Memorial Day celebrations. He last served that function in 2009, before retiring for health reasons. At that emotional event, 500 people honored Army Spc. Jake Vellozo who had recently been killed in Iraq. Jake's name was added to a veteran's monument that had been built at Jack's urging. And Jack was thrilled to learn that recently the House of Representatives passed my bill to name the local post office in Inverness after Jake Vellozo.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a privilege to work with and work for Col. Jack Potter. His quiet

determination on behalf of all veterans is a reminder of the daily heroism and sacrifice of all our troops. Thank you, Jack, for all your efforts.

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS WEEK

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

And the month of April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

These two occasions remind us of the importance of educating our fellow citizens about how we can help victims of this terrible crime and how we can stop sexual assault before it happens.

According to the National Institute for Justice and the CDC, every two minutes someone in the United States is sexually assaulted.

And one out of every six women has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime.

As both a prosecutor and a judge back in Texas, I dealt with rape cases for 30 years.

I learned firsthand the devastation sexual assault victims experience.

Sexual Assault does not just physically harm the victim but is an assault on their entire being.

We need to promote justice for sexual assault victims here in Congress and throughout this great nation because justice is what we do in America.

JUSTICE FOR SERGEI MAGNITSKY ACT

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on November 16, 2009—almost a year and a half ago now—Sergei Magnitsky died in a Russian detention center. While deaths in detention centers do occur all over the world, and the United States is no exception, what sets Mr. Magnitsky's case apart from many of the others are two remarkable facts.

The first remarkable fact is that Mr. Magnitsky was imprisoned not because he had committed a crime, but because he reported one—he just reported it to the wrong people, the very Russian government officials who had orchestrated a massive tax fraud scheme, and continued to report them increasingly louder the more he was threatened by Russian officials to keep quiet.

The second remarkable fact is that with all the necessary medical intervention, his death most likely could have been prevented—but this medical intervention was purposely withheld as punishment. These two facts make Sergei Magnitsky an emblematic victim of much larger human rights problems in the Russian Federation, the utter corruption and the complete lack of the rule of law in that country. This is what makes the Justice for Sergei Magnitsky Act not just an urgent intervention and attempt to establish accountability

in an individual case, but it makes this Act a true Russian Human Rights Act. And I could not be prouder to name the act after this great man, Sergei Magnitsky.

After becoming aware of a massive financial crime, Mr. Magnitsky testified before the official authorities about the largest tax fraud scheme in Russian history. He demonstrated how 230 million dollars were stolen from the Russian Treasury and he implicated a number of public officials who allegedly participated in this scheme. What would be a welcomed treasure of information to any tax fraud investigator in most countries around the world, not so in Russia, where other rules apply. Flying in the face of international legal standards and practices, it was Mr. Magnitsky who found himself arrested and charged with the crimes he helped expose. He was kept in pre-trial detention for almost one year, as the prosecutor's office appeared to have trouble finding any evidence to support their case.

Even more troubling questions relate to Mr. Magnitsky's death. Why did he die, what happened to him? Was he sick? And even then, was he so terribly sick that physicians could not have saved his life? In the absence of a formal and independent investigation into his death, the exact circumstances leading to his death remain shrouded under a veil of government secrecy. What we do know is that when Mr. Magnitsky was sent to prison, he was in general good health and showed no signs of medical problems.

We also know that Mr. Magnitsky—who diligently kept a record of his treatment in prison—was denied urgent medical care when he requested it from his captors, who were aware of his medical needs and deteriorating health.

Many of those unanswered questions deserve an answer—Mr. Magnitsky's family deserves an answer, as do the Russian people. Many of my colleagues and friends in Congress, on both sides of the aisle, and in both chambers, would like to see these questions answered. European Members of Parliament would like to see these questions answered. Russian human rights defenders would like to see these questions answered.

Up until now, no serious investigation into these matters has been undertaken, and most worrisome, no one has been held accountable. Not for the fraud, not for the abuse, not for the death.

Mr. Speaker, Sergei Magnitsky was a remarkable person, although he would certainly have disputed this claim. He was a husband, and a father of two children; he was a hard-working attorney; he was trying to provide for his family, a friendly and caring man, like many ordinary citizens in Russia.

What was special about Sergei was that in the face of threats, he had the courage to stand up for what is right. Sergei Magnitsky was special, because he was undeterred in the face of an enormous state apparatus that only served the interests of those people whom he had implicated. Consequently, the state arrested him and detained him for almost one year without bringing any charges. The prosecutor used his imprisonment to soften him up; to make him change or retract his testimony—and when he refused, he paid the ultimate price.

For his contributions to the fight against corruption in Russia, Mr. Magnitsky posthumously received the Transparency International Integrity reward 2009–2010. I quote the chair of the

awards committee who said “He [Mr. Magnitsky] believed in the rule of law and integrity, and died for his belief. Sergei, his heroic fight, and the ideals he stood for must never be forgotten.”

Mr. Speaker, all too often have the deaths of critics or whistleblowers of the Russian regime been swept under the carpet in Russia—Anna Politkovskaya and Natalia Estemirova are just two such famous examples of brave Russians who have died in search of truth. Now, Sergei Magnitsky's name will be added to this illustrious list of brave individuals.

Mr. Speaker, Russia has ratified numerous international human rights treaties. These include the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention against Torture and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Russian Federation is also a contracting party to the European Convention on Human Rights and has subjected itself to the jurisdiction of the European Court on Human Rights, where it is all too frequently a defendant.

These internationally incurred obligations are binding. When Russia signed those treaties it made a public pledge—with the world as its witness—to uphold the inalienable rights enshrined in those very documents. But Russia not only signed a contract with the global community; but first and foremost, Russia signed a contract with its own people, these international commitments are a public expression of the Federation's desire to protect the individual rights of the Russian people.

If we do not want these human rights treaties to become hollow documents, if we want to maintain an international legal order in which these documents have any meaning at all, we need to speak up and demand that they be observed. What is the use of these treaties, when states can choose to ignore them at will; when they get in the way; when they find them inconvenient? Are we to allow that the signing of human rights treaties becomes a purely cosmetic action? No. I do not think so. I will not stand for that.

But Mr. Speaker, let me be clear. It is not only the formality of observing the treaty that matters. My primary concern is with the content of these documents, for what they represent. They say no to torture and abuse. They say no to arbitrary detention. They say no to murder, either actively or through utter medical neglect. They demand that people are protected from the abuse of the state. They promise that people are treated with dignity.

We need to be candid and frank with our friends and allies. We need to be able to look each other in the eyes and tell the truth. We need to question one another, and call each other out. That is what you do when you are a member of a larger society. For when we fail to do so, we have truly lost touch; we resign to our faith and show we care no longer. Russia, as a most important member of the family of nations, can do better and should do better than that.

I am not alone in this criticism. Senator CARDIN has voiced his concern about Sergei's abuse and death. And most recently during a visit to Moscow on March 10, 2011, Vice President BIDEN also criticized Russia: “a country in which—a company which can be seized, or an owner imprisoned on a politician's whim; in which a lawyer like Sergei Magnitsky [...] can be arrested after accusing the police of fraud and then die in deten-

tion before being tried”. He went on to say “We will continue to object when we think human rights are violated or democracy and the rule of law are undermined.”

I could not agree more with this statement, Mr. Speaker. And it is to reinforce this message, a message that asks Russia to stop these human rights abuses, to reform their justice system, to address their prison conditions, and to root out corruption and the abuse of power, that I have introduced legislation. I am deeply grateful to Mr. ALCEE HASTINGS, FRANK WOLF, JOSEPH PITTS, SUE MYRICK, STEVE COHEN and CHRIS SMITH, for their strong support and input.

The bill I introduced today imposes travel bans and financial sanctions on those involved in the fraud scheme and Mr. Magnitsky's abuse and death in prison. The bill further will fully restore if possible what is rightfully the property of the Russian people. By targeting the Russian Treasury, this fraud was committed against all Russian people; they are the true owners of the stolen 5.4 billion rubles.

ALAMOSA COOLSUNSHINE WRESTLING TEAM TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the participants of the 2011 Rocky Mountain Nationals Youth Wrestling Tournament in Denver, Colorado. As in the Colorado State High School Tournament, the San Luis Valley was well represented and enjoyed immense success.

Known for its high degree of difficulty, the Tournament can be one of the most challenging in the area. That reputation underscores the accomplishments of the wrestlers from the San Luis Valley. Three members of the Alamosa Coolsunshine Team placed in the top five for their respective weight divisions, most notably Isaiah DeLaCerde who grabbed second place in the 82 pound 12 & Under Bracket. Dozens of other wrestlers from southern Colorado also placed, including Dante Martinez, Michael Valdez and Austin Vance of Monte Vista.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the success grapplers from around Colorado enjoyed in the Rocky Mountain Nationals Youth Wrestling Tournament. There is no doubt they will continue to represent their community admirably for many years.

HONORING WESLEY HENRY SCHERLER McDOWELL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Wesley Henry Scherler McDowell. Wesley is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 175, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Wesley has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Wesley has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Wesley has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Wesley scraped, painted and replaced the floor molding in the front entryway and men's bathroom for St. Rita's school at St. Munchin in Cameron, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Wesley Henry Scherler McDowell for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS. PAT
STELLA

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Pat Stella, a recipient of the 2011 Volunteers of America Pennsylvania's Spirit of Youth award.

The Spirit of Youth award is given to those who instill hope and belief in the advancement of all. Their support of the community and of Volunteers of America ranges from helping children to helping those who are young at heart. Pat has dedicated herself to doing just that through her business and volunteer efforts.

Pat Stella is the owner and operator of 11 McDonald's restaurants throughout Luzerne, Carbon, Lackawanna, and Wayne counties in Pennsylvania. Growing up in Chicago, Pat's mother started working as a secretary in the McDonald's corporate office. Her family moved to Pennsylvania after selling everything they had to buy a McDonald's franchise. Pat, a former elementary school teacher, began working for McDonald's when her family opened a second restaurant more than 30 years ago. She became the owner-operator of the enterprise in 1980.

Pat's work ethic and service has been recognized in many ways. In 2003, Pat received the McDonald's Street Fighter Award for her superior marketing and business sales. She has also received the Women Operators' Network 2003 Shining Star Award. Most notably, Pat earned the highest award a McDonald's owner can receive, the Golden Arch Award.

Pat not only dedicates herself to her work, but she also dedicates herself to her husband and three children, and to her community. In addition to working with Volunteers of America, Pat serves on the boards of the Pittston Chamber of Commerce and Scranton's Ronald McDonald House. She is a past member of McDonald's National Operators Advisory Board and its Steering Committee, and she has served as the co-chair of the Philadelphia McDonald's Owner/Operator Association.

Mr. Speaker, Pat Stella's work ethic is not the only trait to make her stand out in our community. Pat's service to our area has touched many lives. Mr. Speaker, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mrs. Pat Stella, a recipient of this year's Vol-

unteers of America Pennsylvania's Spirit of Youth award.

GOD'S CHILD PROJECT 20TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. RICK BERG

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. BERG. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize the 20th anniversary of the God's Child Project, a North Dakota-based program to combat international human trafficking.

Human trafficking is among the largest criminal industries in the world, second only to the illegal drug trade.

It is also the fastest growing, with an estimated 12 million people enslaved worldwide—including many in the United States.

God's Child Project has been providing education, medical care, and other critical aid to children and families around the world since 1991.

For the past 10 years, this non-profit has worked with an affiliate in Guatemala to combat international human trafficking and exploitation.

This month, as the program celebrates its 20th anniversary, I want to commend the good and selfless work being done through God's Child Project.

I am proud that this program has given so much to help the victims of human trafficking, and I'm happy that the program is able to call North Dakota home.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF MATTHEW SLOCUM ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Matthew Slocum of Perrysburg, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York.

Matthew brings an enormous amount of leadership, service and dedication to the incoming Class of 2015. While attending Perrysburg High School in Perrysburg, Ohio, Matthew consistently achieved honor roll. Matthew involved himself in a number of athletic activities, including football and baseball, in which he earned varsity letters. He also served as a volunteer at youth football and baseball camps.

On top of this, he excelled academically and served his church on its Youth Leadership Committee.

I am confident that Matthew will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Matthew Slocum on the ac-

ceptance of his appointment to the United States Merchant Marine Academy where he will gain a world-class education and invaluable leadership experience. I am positive that Matthew will excel during his career at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the nation.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF AMERICAS HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL TEAM

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of the Americas High School Mock Trial team from my congressional district in El Paso, Texas. On March 5, 2011, at the Texas High School Mock Trial Competition, the Americas High School Mock Trial team became the first team from El Paso in the competition's 32-year history to win the Texas state title. This is a remarkable achievement that I am proud to recognize.

Mock Trial offers students across the nation the opportunity to develop critical thinking and public speaking skills, as well as knowledge of legal practices and procedures, in a real courtroom setting. Teams devote long hours to work on case theories and examinations to prepare for competition.

Undeclared in the regional competition for three years in a row, the Americas High School Mock Trial team's dedication secured their victory as they defeated the defending state champions. The team members include Enrique Esparza, Edwin Felix, Zach Fields, Joshua Monarez, Nayell Palomino, Jacob Parson, Texas Quezada, Chris Ramos, Savannah Rappe, and Anabella Tarango. In addition to the team victory, Zach Fields was awarded the Outstanding Advocate Award at the competition in a unanimous decision by the judges.

The Americas High School Mock Trial team is coached by Mr. Robert Almonte II, Assistant City Attorney for the City of El Paso, and Mr. Jaime Esparza, the District Attorney for the 34th Judicial District of Texas. The team's teacher sponsor, Teresa Candelaria, has served as their sponsor for seven seasons since 2004. I commend these three outstanding professionals for their dedication to the educational development of El Paso students.

Americas High School, located in east El Paso, is one of seven high schools in the Socorro Independent School District. The school opened in September 1996, serving a predominantly Hispanic student population.

In early May, the Americas High School Mock Trial team will travel to Phoenix, Arizona, to represent the State of Texas at the National High School Mock Trial Championship. I am pleased to honor this team for their impressive accomplishments, and wish all team members the very best in their future endeavors.

REFLECTS ON THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRIANGLE FIRE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, from Wisconsin to Washington, we are at a crossroads right now about the kind of America we want to be. At this important moment, it would do us well to reflect on our shared past, when our nation reached a similar crossroads—after the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire, one of the worst industrial accidents in American history, which occurred a century ago last month.

I say “accident,” but really there was more at work here. If you do not know the story, the Triangle Fire resulted in the death of 146 garment workers—17 men and 129 women—most of them young immigrant women under the age of 25. In the months before the fire—until they successfully struck for shorter hours and better pay—they had been working 13-hour days, and getting paid 13 cents an hour.

The fire happened in a garment factory that took up the eighth, ninth, and tenth floors of a New York City building, one with poor ventilation and no real safety measures in place. When the fire started, likely due to a cigarette or match, the owners of the Triangle Company were notified by phone and escaped.

But nobody told the workers. And so, when the fire began to rage, these women could not get out. Fire blocked many of the exits, and one of the main stairways had been locked shut by the Triangle Company—the foreman with the key had also left. And so many women tried to escape by jumping to their deaths. Those who did not leap burned.

The Triangle Fire was a nightmare that unfolded before the entire nation. Because of this tragedy, church leaders called for a renewed commitment to the principles of social justice, known as the Social Gospel. And a generation of progressives was moved to reform. Within three years, 36 new state laws passed to regulate fire safety and workplace safety, and New York became a model for the nation.

Because of the Triangle Fire, all of America saw firsthand what happens when women and workers are left without basic protections. And we as a people realized that government has an important role to play in ensuring the life, health, and dignity of workers.

That is why I am concerned about the many attempts by the majority to cut basic protections, or to see the assaults on employees' rights taking place in states like Wisconsin and Ohio. We know where all of this leads—Our nation has lived it, a century ago.

Before us are two different visions of America. I know which I want to live in, and which I want to strive for.

HONORING THE LIFE OF VIRGINIA BRAUN

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to Virginia Bradley Braun—

a philanthropist, a civic leader, a proud Californian, and a patriot. She was very active in politics and a long-time friend and supporter of Governor and President Ronald Reagan. It was a privilege to call her a friend as well.

Ginie, as she was known to all, contributed enormously to her adopted home in the greater Los Angeles area. Like me, Ginie grew up a Midwesterner, then came to California at a young age, and quickly called it home.

She and her husband Henry gave generously to the community, supporting a vast array of worthy causes, from education to the arts to children's health. But Ginie was most generous with her time. She spent a lifetime volunteering for civic organizations, political causes, and charities that helped to improve the lives of those who shared her community.

One of her most dedicated endeavors was her support for Pepperdine University, a tremendous institution that has served Southern California since 1937. Ginie joined the Pepperdine University Board in 1983 and was named to the University's Board of Regents in 1995. Her legacy lives on in the Henry A. and Virginia B. Braun Center for Public Policy, which was dedicated in 2003. The Braun Center will continue to advance the academic excellence to which Ginie was so devoted.

But Ginie's greatest generosity to the university was reserved for institutions and programs that did not bear her name. From athletics to arts, Ginie was a very proud supporter of Pepperdine, its facilities, its faculty and its students.

As University President Andrew Benton said, “Ginie radiated life.” Her energy and charisma were irrepressible. She brought them to every one of her life's endeavors, and inspired those around her with her love of life and generosity of spirit. I know that I am joined by countless others in celebrating the tremendous life of Ginie Braun.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. AND MRS. JOHN AND TINA DOWD

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Mr. and Mrs. John and Tina Dowd, recipients of the 2011 Volunteers of America Pennsylvania's Spirit of Youth award.

The Spirit of Youth award is given to those who instill hope and belief in the advancement of all. Their support of the community and of Volunteers of America ranges from helping children to helping those who are young at heart. John and Tina Dowd exemplify these traits, and have used their own lives to help others.

John Dowd grew up in Sunbury, Pennsylvania. He attended Shikellamy High School before studying engineering at the Pennsylvania State University. John is the president of Sundance Vacations, which he grew from one small office in Pocono Lake, Pennsylvania, into a national company that was named one of the Inc 500 fastest-growing companies two years in a row. As he grew his business, he also dedicated himself to giving back to his community. In addition to his work with Volunteers of America, John donates to the Luzerne

Foundation and the Wyoming Valley Children's Association. His company sponsors local Little League and booster club sports teams, and he participates in many other local and national charitable causes.

Tina Dowd co-founded Sundance Vacations with her husband, John. Tina is a graduate of Kutztown University of Pennsylvania. She has been an integral part of growing the business. In November 2010, Tina accepted the Employer of the Year Award at the seventh annual Stevie Awards for Women in Business. In addition to managing and training employees, Tina oversees all of the firm's communications. John and Tina spend a lot of time with their three daughters, but like her husband, Tina volunteers for many organizations. Tina serves as vice president of an organization serving homeless children and their families in Carbon County—an organization she helped found. She is a member of the Lehigh Area School District Board of Directors, the Community Action Council of Palmerton Area Churches, and the Luzerne Foundation Millennium Circle. She is a past board member of the Northeast Pennsylvania Better Business Bureau.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. and Mrs. Dowd have not only grown a business that employs more than 700 people, but they have used their talents to give back to the community they love so much. Their philanthropic efforts and volunteerism have helped so many of our neighbors. John and Tina are extraordinary both as a couple and as individuals. Mr. Speaker, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating John and Tina Dowd, recipients of this year's Volunteers of America Pennsylvania's Spirit of Youth award.

RETIREMENT OF LAUSD SUPERINTENDENT RAMON CORTINES

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished 55-year career of Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Superintendent Ramon Cortines.

Superintendent Cortines began his career as an educator in 1956, teaching a class of 44 sixth graders, in Aptos, California. He taught at the elementary, middle and high school levels before becoming a school administrator and ultimately serving as Superintendent of Schools in Pasadena, San Jose, San Francisco, New York City and Los Angeles.

Superintendent Cortines is one of our nation's most experienced educators. He has advised every President or his Education Secretary since the Carter Administration, and in 1992 he chaired the Department of Education transition team for President Clinton. Cortines served as Superintendent of LAUSD briefly in 2000 and returned to the position in 2008, during which time he steered the district through unprecedented fiscal challenges while improving pupil attendance, school safety and student achievement.

Upon his retirement today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished career of this dedicated public servant.

HONORING STUDENT VETERAN
AND COMMUNITY LEADER MATT
RANDLE

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize former United States Army Combat Medic and current University of Arizona student Matt Randle.

Over the course of his career in the Army, Matt received two Army Commendation Medals, three Army Achievement Medals and two Good Conduct Medals for his service.

Following his distinguished service to our country Matt returned to his hometown of Tucson, Arizona and enrolled at the University of Arizona. Once on the UA campus, Matt began working with UA President Robert Shelton and his staff to develop and implement a program to support returning veterans attending the University. I am proud to say that today the University of Arizona, located in my Congressional district, has one of the most progressive and impressive veteran education and service models in the country including a student run veteran's office.

Matt's leadership has also played an integral role in the prosperity of the UA Veterans club. This club received numerous awards on the University of Arizona's campus including the Club of the Year and Philanthropic Group of the Year for the 2009–2010 academic school year. The Student Veterans of America also recognized the club nationally, awarding it the "Club of the Year Award."

This year Matt will receive the UA's 2011 Robie Award. The award is issued to students who show personal integrity, initiative, cooperativeness, enthusiasm, humility, patriotism, well-rounded interests, active participation in student affairs and a commitment to service. Matt Randle is a model candidate for this award.

Matt Randle's ambition and leadership both at the UA and nationally will certainly be of great benefit to our returning veterans. Every day more veterans return home from the Middle East conflicts. The programs that Matt built on the University of Arizona campus support these men and women as they transition back to civilian life.

Upon graduation Matt will be attending the University Of Arizona Rogers College of Law in the fall of 2011.

I am pleased to acknowledge my constituent and friend, Matt Randle. I thank him for his leadership, service and outstanding contributions to the University and our community.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND
FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this Continuing Resolution. We must pass this bill today to begin to get this Nation on a path of fiscal stability. I want to make a

few brief remarks about the State-Foreign Operations title of the bill. State-Foreign Operations is reduced by 8.4 billion dollars from the fiscal year 2011 request. While some of my colleagues might say these funding levels mean that diplomacy and development take a large reduction, we need to keep in mind that the State-Foreign Operations bill grew by more than 33% from FY08 to FY10. We simply cannot allow these programs to continue to grow at this rate. The reductions taken in this bill are targeted, so that we can remain focused on our highest national security priorities. The bill provides critical funds for the frontline States of Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. It supports security assistance to some of our strongest allies—like Israel, Jordan, Mexico, and Colombia. It also addresses unexpected humanitarian crises around the world. I want to thank my colleague, Ranking Member Lowey, for working with me to address these high priority needs. I know we will continue to work together to address problems of bipartisan concern.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF ASHTON GENZMAN ON HER OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young woman from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Ashton Genzman of Perrysburg, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Ashton brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2015. She has served in several leadership roles: student government, Junior Induction Committee, Culinary Club and in a variety of other groups and extracurricular activities. While attending Notre Dame Academy in Toledo, Ohio, Ashton consistently achieved high honors, with an exceptional grade point average.

Throughout high school, Ashton participated in a number of athletic activities, including tennis, in which she received a varsity letter. She has also been involved in crew and track and field. I am confident that Ashton will carry the lessons of her student and athletic leadership to the United States Naval Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ashton Genzman on the acceptance of her appointment to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, where she will gain a world-class education and invaluable leadership experience. I am positive that Ashton will excel during her career at the United States Naval Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to her as she begins her service to the nation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "VETERANS HOME LOAN IMPROVEMENT ACT"

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the bipartisan "Veterans Home Loan Improvement Act of 2011" along with Reps. TAMMY BALDWIN, BRIAN BILBRAY, SUSAN DAVIS, PETER DEFAZIO, BOB FILNER, JOHN GARAMENDI, AL GREEN, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, KURT SCHRADER, GREG WALDEN, DAVID WU, and DON YOUNG. Together we represent each of the states that would benefit from an expansion of the Qualified Veterans Mortgage Bond program.

This program was originally created after World War II to promote homeownership among our returning troops. Together, our states offer veterans mortgage loans at more favorable interest rates as a reward for their service to our Nation. As part of a comprehensive review of veterans' services in the state of Oregon, the Oregon Governor's Veterans Task Force recommended a further expansion of this highly effective program.

This Act is based on one particularly timely recommendation to expand eligibility for our state programs and bring affordable mortgages to an additional 264,000 veterans. I look forward to continuing to work on behalf of Oregon and the nation's veterans to ensure that we provide the best possible quality of care and service, and so that we can make this a true lifetime benefit for all qualified veterans.

96TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the record these remarks I gave at a Capitol Hill ceremony commemorating the 96th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

Tonight we commemorate a truly unjust and tragic chapter in human history—and just as importantly, we acknowledge that chapter as an historic fact. From 1915 to 1923, officials of the Ottoman Empire carried out a systematic campaign of massacres and forced deportations of Armenians from their historic homeland. In the end, this genocide cost the lives of one and a half million murdered men, women, and children. Another half million lost their homes.

In a July 24, 1915 cable, American Consul Leslie Davis said of the genocide, "I do not believe there has ever been a massacre in the history of the world so general and thorough as that which is now being perpetrated in this region or that a more fiendish, diabolical scheme has ever been conceived by the mind of man."

We commemorate the 20th century's first genocide not only to honor the lives of the dead, but because its effects are still very much with us. The Armenian Genocide has been a terrifying inspiration for mass murderers from Cambodia to Rwanda to the

former Yugoslavia to Darfur. As early as 1897, a French Jew named Bernard Lazare reflected on the massacres of Armenians that had already taken place and speculated that the Jew-haters of Europe might one day turn to an "Armenian solution" of their own. Four decades later—the Holocaust.

At the same time, the Armenian Genocide reminds us of our collective responsibility in the face of such crimes. In fact, it was in a statement from the Allied Powers denouncing the massacres that the phrase "crime against humanity" first appeared. The Armenian Genocide helped set a precedent that a murderous crime against a minority is a crime against us all—that there is a collective responsibility to prevent genocide.

That precedent and that responsibility came too late to save 1.5 million Armenians—along with all those killed in genocides that stopped too late. We have lived up to the responsibility first formulated in the wake of the Armenian Genocide all too imperfectly. But may this commemoration remind us of that responsibility—as the United Nations Genocide Convention tells us, a responsibility not only to address genocide after the fact, but to prevent it. We have a responsibility for action, not apathy: action to end crimes against humanity and punish the perpetrators.

We share the same goal: seeing the truth of the Armenian Genocide recognized by Congress. I hope to see a bill recognizing the genocide pass, and I wish that had happened in December. Unfortunately, by our count, the votes were not there—and in our opinion, a loss would have been a set-back cheered by genocide deniers. But I applaud the work you to do preserve the memory and the lessons of this historic truth. And I believe the day will come when Congress recognizes that truth, as well. You can count on my vote.

The evil of the first recognized crime against humanity can never be undone, and the dead cannot be restored to their families and their homeland. But may the memory of their lives inspire us to speak out and take action against crimes against humanity in our own time, and to pursue the justice that was denied to those 1.5 million.

REMEMBERING ROBERT W.
WELLER

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great sadness to honor the passing of a dear friend, Bob Weller.

Bob was a retired certified public accountant who was a managing partner of the George S. Olive & Company's Richmond office in my district. Bob began his distinguished career with George S. Olive, now BKD LLC CPAs and Advisors, in Indianapolis in 1950, and he later moved to Richmond with his wife, Margie, and their young family to open a new office. He went on to serve as the managing partner there for thirty years.

But Bob was more than just a working man; he was a community man. He gave freely of his time and resources to benefit those around him. Bob served as President of the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce, President of

the Boys Club, and President of Green Acres (now Achieva). During his time at the Chamber, he was instrumental in leading efforts to rebuild Richmond, Indiana, following a devastating double explosion in 1968.

Some of Bob's other involvements included the Forest Hills Country Club, Kiwanis International, Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church, Central United Methodist Church, and the Indiana University Alumni Association. Like many Hoosiers, Bob was an avid Indiana University basketball and football fan, and he greatly enjoyed fishing, hunting, traveling, and spending time with his family.

I give my sincere condolences to Bob's loving wife of 62 years, Margie Walraven Weller; his sister Laverne; his three children Marcia Enslin, Robert Weller Jr., Mark Weller and their spouses; and his seven grandchildren. May I offer the Lord's comfort that we find in the Good Book that "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail."

HONORING MR. ABRAHAM
BREEHEY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of my friend Abraham Breehey, who passed away yesterday at the young age of 35.

Abe was a champion for working men and women throughout his career. As Legislative Director for the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Abe was a leader among his colleagues representing the building and construction trades. He fought for labor and economic policies that would promote a fairer economy, and was an early leader in making the case that an energy policy to combat climate change would also be economically beneficial to those who, like boilermakers, are engaged in energy production.

I got to know Abe before coming to Congress. We served together in Albany, where I was a Member of the New York State Assembly and Abe was a legislative aide to my Western New York colleague Sam Hoyt. We bonded over our shared love of music, and Abe gave me my first lessons on the guitar, a fact he never grew tired of reminding me about.

Abe's life was tragically cut short, a victim of brain cancer. He leaves behind a wife and daughter. He had much more left to give the people he fought for, but he had already given so much. His advocacy will be missed by the labor movement, and his warm heart will be missed by his friends.

For my part, I will honor Abe by drawing inspiration from his work on behalf of those working in the building trades, and by redoubling my commitment to support cancer research.

Abe was a gentleman, a professional, an optimist and a good, kind friend. He is missed.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CREATING
REAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR
PROSPERITY (CROP) ACT

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an issue that greatly affects agricultural employment in my district and across the country. Against the backdrop of a beleaguered economy still recovering from the recession many small community banks have been unable to extend loans to farmers. Credit is needed to hire new employees, purchase seed, fertilizer, and fuel, all of which creates economic opportunity and subsequently produces jobs. The Farm Service Administration in the United States Department of Agriculture makes direct loans and loan guarantees to farmers who cannot qualify for regular credit. These loans allow farmers to continue growing rural economies and producing a safe and secure food supply.

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 1992 provided banking institutions to extend credit to farmers for a 15 year period. During the 111th Congress, the extension of term limits was allowed to expire on December 31, 2010, leaving family farmers without the ability to receive much needed operating loans to run the farm and hire employees. That is a why I am proud to introduce the Creating Real Opportunities for Prosperity Act, otherwise known as the CROP Act, which suspends the term limits and extends the period for guaranteed credit to December 13, 2013. This will provide much needed access to loans for farmers.

Farm operating loan term limits will be addressed by the next Farm Bill and this suspension of term limits will allow the members of the House Committee on Agriculture to determine what solution or changes need to be made while providing the security for community banks and farmers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House (and Senate) to support me in passing the CROP Act and bring stability to rural economies.

THE PROPOSED ELIMINATION OF
LEARN AND SERVE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the proposed elimination of Learn and Serve America, the only Federal program dedicated to investing in service-learning in local schools and communities, in this budget. This decision is reckless and short-sighted, and I do not believe it reflects our values as a nation.

We live in a world full of challenges that require the collective attention and action of citizens of all ages. Through service-learning, young people across the country learn to apply knowledge and skills they pick up in the classroom to address these challenges in their community. Thanks to Learn and Serve, students have conducted energy audits in their

schools and homes, preserved the histories of their towns, tested the quality of water in local streams, refurbished homes of the elderly, confronted bullying and teen violence, promoted financial literacy, and helped communities prepare for disasters.

By getting involved in the community in this manner, students not only learn valuable citizenship skills, they learn to succeed. Research has shown that service-learning increased academic engagement and civic engagement. It prepares young men and women for the transition to adulthood and gives them the skills they need to succeed in the careers of their choosing.

Service, citizenship, community, opportunity—these are all values we treasure as a Nation, and values our budget should work to promote. That is one of the many reasons why I have been a longtime supporter of the Summer of Service, which works to increase the number of intensive summer service-learning programs for middle school youth. And yet, this budget resolution eliminates support for service-learning, and abolishes a clear pathway for youth under age 16 to engage as participants in national service.

As a result of this short-sighted cut, nearly 1 million students will lose the opportunity to take part in service-learning. At a time when State and local budgets are shrinking, nearly 600 individual schools, 450 school districts, 985 community colleges, and 240 colleges and universities—as well as 35,000 of our nation's most innovative K–12 teachers and higher education faculty—will lose desperately needed funding. Almost 16,000 community-based organizations will lose more than 14 million volunteer service hours provided by students engaged in service-learning, diminishing their capacity to deliver urgently needed health and human services to those most in need. And towns and cities across the country will lose access to student volunteers, who contribute services valued at up to \$310 million.

In short, this cut is penny-wise and pound-foolish. I urge the administration to encourage the Corporation for National and Community Service to identify cost savings and provide a competitive innovation fund for high impact service-learning programs. Our students cannot afford to lose these opportunities. Our schools cannot afford to ignore their civic mission. Our local communities cannot afford to lose the critical support. And our future as a nation cannot afford to lose these values of citizenship.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WAYNE GRISHAM

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, Wayne Grisham was a business leader and a public servant who spent a lifetime enriching the communities of the San Gabriel Valley and the Gateway Cities. As a La Mirada city councilman, a California assemblyman and a U.S. Congressman, he brought civility and good humor to his public service. As a small businessman, he contributed to the entrepreneurial spirit that forms the backbone of the Southern California

economy. He is greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him and serving with him.

In the 1982 Congressional election, Wayne and I had the misfortune of finding our districts drawn together. No elected representative hopes to face one of his own colleagues in a primary election, but I will never forget the civility with which Wayne conducted himself when we found ourselves in those unexpected circumstances. While we engaged in a very rigorous campaign, Wayne was always a true gentleman. That election exemplified the strength of character for which Wayne has always been known.

Before Wayne served his community as an elected representative, he served his country in World War II with honor and distinction. As a fighter pilot his plane was shot down over Germany, where he became a prisoner of war. When he returned home, he was recognized with a Purple Heart.

Wayne continued to serve his country not only through elected office, but as director of the Peace Corps in Kenya. He was appointed by President Reagan to this post in 1983.

I was very saddened by the news of his passing, but I count it a privilege to have served with him and I join his family and friends to honor the life of Wayne Grisham.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER DURING SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Women's Resource Center at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) for highlighting Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

It is reported that worldwide, one out of every three women will be physically abused during her lifetime. In the United States, nearly two million women are assaulted each year, and more than half of all women will be physically assaulted during their lifetime. Last year in Texas, there were over 15,000 pending cases involving sexual assault or indecency with a child. In El Paso alone, there were over 850 pending cases reported.

These numbers indicate the severity of a widespread problem that can have devastating social and health-related consequences. To highlight the problem of violence against women and to support the survivors of sexual violence, the Women's Resource Center at UTEP, in collaboration with the Take Back the Night Foundation, will be one of ten partners throughout the nation that will participate in the second annual 10 Points of Light to Take Back the Night initiative on April 28th. This national initiative has assembled community organizers, campus advocates, and student leaders to illuminate the darkness of abuse, domestic violence, and sexual assault.

Take Back the Night is a powerful movement that started in the 1970s to combat sexual violence and abuse on campuses and in communities around the world. The UTEP Women's Resource Center provides supportive services for students, faculty, staff, and administrators at the university.

Today, I am proud to recognize the Women's Resource Center at UTEP, the Take Back the Night Foundation, and everyone who is helping with this important initiative. As a husband, father, and grandfather, I am proud to lend my voice to this effort. I encourage all Americans to raise awareness of sexual assault in our nation and help empower individuals to "end the silence and stop the violence."

COMMEMORATING NISEI FARMERS LEAGUE'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself and my colleagues the Majority Whip (Mr. MCCARTHY) and the Gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM), to extend my congratulations to Nisei Farmers League as they celebrate their 40th anniversary on April 16, 2011.

Farming in the San Joaquin Valley witnessed dramatic changes in the 1960s and 1970s. A small group of Japanese-American growers met near Fresno to discuss the need to unify growers and establish a robust network to protect their rights and property. As more growers joined the group, the Nisei Farmers League was established, taking its name "Nisei" from the term for second-generation Japanese-Americans.

Today, the Nisei Farmers League works to keep its members informed on important issues and is a strong voice for valley growers. Together with my colleagues, I recognize the commitment the Nisei Farmers League has provided to its members for 40 years.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION WELCOMING THE NEW STATE OF SOUTHERN SUDAN, ENCOURAGING SUDAN AND SOUTHERN SUDAN TO RESOLVE SEPARATION ISSUES AND THE FUTURE OF THE ABYEI REGION, AND URGING THE GOVERNMENTS OF SUDAN AND SOUTHERN SUDAN TO ABIDE BY THE PRINCIPLES OF PEACE, DEMOCRACY, AND HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution welcoming the new state of Southern Sudan, encouraging Sudan and Southern Sudan to resolve separation issues and the future of the Abyei region, and urging the Governments of Sudan and Southern Sudan to abide by the principles of peace, democracy, and human rights.

Sudan is geographically the largest country in Africa and one of the least developed regions of the world. Sudan has been ravaged by civil war intermittently for four decades and ethnic, religious, and economic conflicts have ensued between the Muslim north and Christian-animist south. These past twenty years,

an estimated two million people have died and four million people have been displaced. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), signed in January 2005, put an end to the long-lasting conflict between the north and the south by establishing a semi-autonomous government for Southern Sudan for a duration of six years, after which Southern Sudan would vote for secession or unity.

From January 9 to 15, 2011, Sudan held a referendum to decide if Southern Sudan would become a sovereign and independent country, or remain part of Sudan. Approximately 3.8 million Southern Sudanese exercised their right to self determination, and on February 7, 2011, the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC) announced the final results, with almost 99 percent voting for independence from the north.

On February 7, 2011, Sudan's President Omar Al-Bashir officially accepted the final results of the referendum, and the United States announced on the same day its intention to formally recognize Southern Sudan. On July 9, 2011, Southern Sudan will become the sovereign and independent Republic of Southern Sudan.

While I applaud these recent accomplishments, several issues pertaining to the separation of the two states remain and must be resolved prior to the conclusion of the transition period. These include and are not limited to: the legal status of populations in the north and south, wealth sharing, resource management—especially oil revenues, division of assets and debt, currency, security arrangements, and infrastructure and institutions building. The future status of the oil rich region of Abyei—full integration with Sudan or Southern Sudan, or partition of the region in two—also needs to be determined.

My resolution congratulates the people of Southern Sudan for exercising their right to self determination and welcomes the new nation of Southern Sudan. In addition, it calls on both parties to resolve separation issues prior to the conclusion of the transition period, including the status of Abyei. It also urges Sudan to put an end to repression and violence, and Southern Sudan to create democratic institutions and plan elections. Lastly, the resolution pledges that the United States will work with both governments to ensure a peaceful transition to independence and encourages other nations to do so.

Mr. Speaker, the United States has played a major role in bringing this devastating conflict to an end. I will continue to monitor the issue and advocate for a peaceful and non-violent separation. Not only do the people of northern and southern Sudan deserve it, but it is in the interest of our nation and the world to establish peace and stability in the region. Therefore, I encourage other nations to welcome the new state of Southern Sudan and assist with their transition process.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
RYAN PIERSON ON HIS OFFER
OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND
THE UNITED STATES MERCHANT
MARINE ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Ryan Pierson of Perrysburg, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York.

Ryan brings an enormous amount of leadership, service and dedication to the incoming Class of 2015. While attending Perrysburg High School in Perrysburg, Ohio, Ryan consistently achieved high honors. He was also an active member of his high school band.

Throughout high school, Matthew played and received his varsity letter playing football. Ryan also recently became an Eagle Scout, following years of participation as a member of Boy Scouts of America. He also served in a number of leadership capacities throughout his years as a Boy Scout. I am confident that Ryan will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ryan Pierson on the acceptance of his appointment to the United States Merchant Marine Academy where he will gain a world-class education and invaluable leadership experience. I am positive that Ryan will excel during his career at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the nation.

HONORING COLONEL MARGUERITE
C. GARRISON

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Colonel Marguerite C. (McDonald) Garrison who will be retiring from the U.S. Army after more than thirty years of service.

Col. Garrison was born and raised in South Buffalo, NY. Upon graduating from St. Bonaventure University in 1981 with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology/Biology, she was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Military Police Corps through the ROTC.

After completing the Military Police Officer Basic Course, Col. Garrison spent nearly six years stationed in Germany, where she served as the Commander of Headquarter and Headquarters Detachment in Kornwestheim, Platoon Leader of the 194th Military Police Company in Neu Ulm, Assistant S3/Training Officer in the 385th Military Police Battalion, and finally as Commander of the 630th Military Police Company in Bamberg.

In 1987 Col. Garrison returned to the United States for the Military Police Officer Advanced

Course and was assigned to Fort McPherson, GA. From 1987 to 1991 she served as the Force Structure Officer in the Forces Command Provost Marshal Office, Assistant Secretary to the Joint, Forces Command, and the Executive Officer in the Forces Command Provost Marshal Office.

In 1992 she attended the 170th session of the FBI National Academy, one of only twelve army personnel selected annually, and after graduating from the eleven week program became the Deputy Program Director of the World University Games held in Buffalo, New York. In this position, Col. Garrison coordinated joint security planning between the military, state, and local police.

Col. Garrison went on to attend the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and was assigned as Executive Officer of the 705th Military Police Battalion. She earned a Master of Science in Administration from Central Michigan University in 1995, and in recognition of her expertise in public safety was selected as a Security Liaison for the 1996 Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta, GA.

Col. Garrison next assigned as the Inspector General of the United States Total Army Personnel Command in Alexandria, VA. From 2000 to 2002 she commanded the 5th Military Police Battalion, Criminal Investigation Command, in Kaiserslautern, Germany, and went on to serve as the Inspector General for the Army Criminal Investigation Command. Following her graduation from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Col. Garrison was assigned to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense as the Deputy Director for Antiterrorism Policy.

In her next position, Col. Garrison served as Garrison Commander at Fort McPherson and Fort Gillem, GA. Following her time in GA, she was deployed to Iraq and served in the Multi-National Force-Iraq CJ3 as the Director for Protections, Chief of Staff and Deputy Director, of Current Operations. Upon her redeployment in 2009, Col. Garrison was assigned to her current position as the Army's Chief, Initiatives Group, Vice Chief of Staff.

During her career, Col. Garrison graduated the United States Army Command and General Staff College, the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, and, at the time of her induction, was the youngest member of the St. Bonaventure University ROTC Hall of Fame. She is married to LTC (Ret.) Kevin Garrison, and is the proud mother of her twin sons, Sean and Kieran, and her daughter, Kelsea.

Her awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (Oak Leaf Cluster), Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (with 5 Oak Leaf Clusters), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal (with Bronze Star), Iraqi Campaign Medal (with two stars), the Global War on Terrorism Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon (Numeral 3), and the NATO Medal (Kosovo). Col. Garrison was also authorized to wear the Secretary of Defense and Army Staff Identification Badges and the Order of the Marechaussee in Silver.

Mr. Speaker, Col. Marguerite Garrison is a proud soldier, patriot, and Western New Yorker. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring

Col. Garrison and thanking her for her years of dedicated service in the defense of our country.

HONORING HRANT ZEITOUNZIAN

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, last month, one of my constituents, Hrant Zeitounzian, passed away at the age of 101. Mr. Zeitounzian was one of the last remaining survivors of the Armenian Genocide. While Mr. Zeitounzian spent most of his life in Europe, he moved with his wife Osana to the United States in 1986 and was living in Sierra Madre, California. I wanted to take this opportunity to commemorate Mr. Zeitounzian's amazing life and to express my condolences to his family and friends. Below is a 2010 press release from the Armenian National Committee—Pasadena celebrating Mr. Zeitounzian's 100th birthday.

PASADENA, CA.—With strength and purpose, Hrant Zeitounzian, a survivor of the Armenian Genocide, celebrated his 100th birthday with family and friends on January 15, 2010. Zeitounzian marked his centennial as his family reflected on a remarkable life that began in 1910 in Gurin, a city in the Sepastia region of Western Armenia. Along with his mother, brother and sister, Hrant, at the age of five, was exiled from his homeland and sent on a death march. The Pasadena Armenian National Committee participated in the celebration of Hrant Zeitounzian's life and praised him and his family for being staunch supporters of the Armenian Cause.

For much of his life Hrant Zeitounzian has been involved in efforts to advance the Armenian Cause. As a youth in Lebanon he was very active in the Armenian Youth Federation and has long been a staunch supporter of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation. Over the past several years he has regularly attended the Armenian National Committee—Western Region's banquet. Several years ago he received singular praise from U.S. Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ), who cited Zeitounzian as an enduring symbol of the Armenian Cause.

Following his exile from Gurin in 1915, Zeitounzian managed to settle in Beirut, Lebanon after Turkish soldiers started hunting down innocent Armenians in and around Aintab, where his mother had found temporary shelter for her family. After graduating from elementary school, Hrant was reunited with his mother in Aleppo, Syria, where he would later become enrolled in and graduate with high honors from Aleppo College. He would go on to have a successful career at the Iraq Petroleum Company and later at the American Tapline Company in Lebanon. Following his "formal" retirement, the ever-industrious genocide survivor would successfully open a store in Beirut that specialized in selling Kodak cameras, film and supplies.

After enduring Lebanon's civil war, Hrant Zeitounzian moved to the United States in 1986 with his wife of over sixty years, Osana. Here in the United States he was reunited with his four children, his sons Vahe, Vartan and Kevork and his daughter Haiganoush (Anoush).

A TRIBUTE IN RECOGNITION OF THE LOS ANGELES CONSERVATION CORPS' 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF PROVIDING SKILLS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO AT-RISK YOUNG ADULTS

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, a non-profit organization based in the Greater Los Angeles area that is dedicated to providing at-risk young adults with opportunities through job skills training, education and work experience emphasizing conservation and service projects that benefit the community.

The organization was founded by former United States Secretary of Commerce and Trade Ambassador, Mickey Kantor in 1986. He charged a team of conservation professionals—including Bruce Saito, a founding staff member—with bringing the successful model of the California Conservation Corps (CCC) of the 1970s to an impoverished, crime-blighted South Central Los Angeles neighborhood. This team recruited 27 high-school dropouts who, before the Corps, had few career options besides gang life and drug dealing. Equipping these new "corps members" with the tools of conservation, the Corps gave them opportunities to recognize and focus their assets on building up their communities. In alignment with the CCC model, on alternating weeks, these young men and women attended school at the Corps.

Today, this tradition continues through the Young Adult Corps (YAC) program, which seeks to transform young adult high school dropouts with negative or nonexistent employment into responsible, skilled employees. Corps members work in teams led by crew supervisors who are adept at training young adults. They engage them in conservation work that is challenging, skill-building and prepares them for entry-level positions in fields such as green construction, renewable energy generation, energy efficiency, environmental remediation, forestry and firefighting.

Since its inception, the Corps' focus has been on improving job skills and education. More than 1,000 Corps members without a diploma have been assigned to the Young Adult Corps High School to complete the necessary credits for an accredited high school diploma. Supporting them throughout the process is a team of case managers and transition staff who assist them in focusing on their goals while helping to eliminate previous barriers to their success. Upon graduation, the Corps' Russell Kantor Memorial Fund continues to support these young adults by providing more than \$1.3 million in scholarships for college or advanced training.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of their 25th Anniversary, I ask my congressional colleagues to please join me and the residents of the 34th Congressional District in congratulating the Los Angeles Conservation Corps for providing an invaluable service to the City of Los Angeles and our young people. I congratulate Corps Executive Director, Bruce Saito, the members of the Corps' Board of Directors and all of the many supporters who make the

Corps the treasure that it is today. I wish them and everyone involved in its growth and mission many more years of continued success.

IN HONOR OF ABRAHAM BREEHEY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Abraham Breehey, who recently passed away at the age of 35. I am honored that I have this opportunity to recognize this bright, caring and loving man.

Through his role as the Director of Legislative Affairs for the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Abe proved to be a strong force within the labor movement. He was able to transcend political differences and generate consensus for many noble causes.

Not only was Abe committed to improving the lives of all Americans, but he was also an outstanding leader in the fight against global warming and involved many unions in that effort. Abe's dedication to the labor movement and the promotion of environmental stewardship has been an inspiration. Abe's sense of civic duty even led him to testify several times before Congress, and was especially supportive of the Clear Skies Act before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

He is survived by his loving wife, Sonya and his daughter, Abigail.

Mr. Speaker, Abraham Breehey touched many lives in his community and around our nation. Abe was a champion for progressive causes who loved the Grateful Dead and Phish and it is a privilege to recognize his life. He will be missed and I know I speak for the whole House in honoring the life of this dedicated and loving man.

A TRIBUTE TO NITIN DOSHI

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the achievements of Nitin Doshi.

Nitin Doshi's international roots, professional training and zest for life have all contributed towards his well deserved reputation as an entrepreneur, a philanthropist and a leader. Although born in Africa, Dr. Doshi is of Indian descent and was schooled in India as a foreign student. After graduating from Dental School in Bombay, he came to the United States in 1973 and enrolled in the NYU School of Dentistry, becoming licensed to practice in New York in 1975. He was a pioneer among Indian dentists helping many of them start and expand their practices. He was a very successful dentist and an entrepreneur who established many dental practices of his own. In 1992, due to the growing radiology practice of his wife of 40 years, Dr. Leena Doshi, he sold his dental practices and joined her in expanding the radiology practice.

Today the family is involved in a number of varied investment ventures under the umbrella of Doshi Capital Partners, including a real estate private equity fund formed in 2005, an Indian hedge fund consisting of a long/short equity fund founded in 2008, and a partnership

begun in 2008 with a private equity firm concentrating in investments in chemicals, specialty materials and healthcare.

They believe in a well balanced life and making time for everything in life. They are proud parents of Neely and her husband Todd and Nishat and his wife Fran, but the true joys of their lives are now their grandchildren, Nile, Denali and Escher, and a new granddaughter on the way. They are also part of very tight-knit group of over 30 Indian couples that all immigrated to the United States in the seventies and eighties and have supported each other and embraced the American spirit and contributed to their adopted country with enthusiasm and gratitude.

They are active and athletic and love all sorts of sports, as spectators as well as participants, with tennis and golf being their personal passion. Both have run many half marathons and Leena has also run the Long Island and New York City Marathon.

They are strong believers of social causes and support many charities. Examples of Indian organizations that the Doshi Family Foundation has partnered with include Pratham, which fulfills a mission to ensure the "Every Child in School and Learning Well" program; American Indian Foundation, committed to accelerate India's social and economic growth; and Veerayatan, which helps to rehabilitate earthquake victims, especially children, by immediately providing the basic necessities of life. The Foundation has also established two colleges in Kutch, India, one for computer science, the other for business administration, with classes having begun in June 2008.

The Doshi Family Foundation founded and funded since 1998 a New York based high school program called The Doshi Difference geared towards immigrant children's success in math and science. The program guides hand selected children through high school and has been such a success that its curriculum has recently been offered to all students at every high school in New York.

The Doshis believe in a concentric circle of giving starting from family, to employees, to communities and believe strongly that each one of us has the ability to spread goodwill to those around us and to make a difference if we only have the desire to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the work of Nitin Doshi.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF ANDREA WYANT ON HER OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young woman from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Andrea Wyant of Fostoria, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Andrea brings an enormous amount of leadership, service and dedication to the incoming Class of 2015. While attending Fostoria High

School in Fostoria, Ohio, Andrea attained a grade point average that placed her in the top ten percent of her graduating class. Andrea was inducted into the National Honor Society, was a member of the Quiz Bowl team, served as president of the Fostoria High School band and served on student council for three years. Throughout high school, Andrea was also a member of the varsity swim team, which she was captain of her senior year, and the varsity tennis team. I am confident that Andrea will carry the lessons of her student leadership to the Air Force Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Andrea Wyant on the acceptance of her appointment to the United States Air Force Academy where she will gain a world-class education and invaluable leadership experience. I am positive that Andrea will excel during her career at the United States Air Force Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to her as she begins her service to the nation.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALABAMA CO-OPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE ON HOME ECONOMICS

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of my home state's success stories. I wish to congratulate Alabama's Cooperative Extension Service on Home Economics as it celebrates 100 years of serving the people with valuable economic and nutrition education.

The Alabama Extension Service has its origins in Walker and Pike counties in 1911 when two part-time home agents with a budget of \$300 enrolled 240 girls in popular Girl's Tomato Clubs where they were taught to grow tomatoes and can them.

In 1914, the program was made a part of the land grant college system, giving instructions and demonstrations to persons not enrolled in colleges or universities.

Through the years, many of the Alabama Extension Home Economics programs have been innovative and successful, capturing the attention of other states which have replicated them. These include Master Money Manager, expanded food and nutrition education, Parents Encouraging Parents and Project HELP.

During World Wars I and II, the Alabama Extension Home Economics programs provided valuable instruction in substituting rationed food items, supervised canning centers, salvaging scrap metal and rubber, and selling war bonds.

Today, such home economics programs range from family life, nutrition and health, clothing, housing and family resource management, and are constantly updated to meet new challenges, serve expanding and new audiences, and responding to local problems and opportunities.

The Alabama Extension Home Economics programs have paralleled the history of our country and state for the last 100 years. Through boom times and bust, the program has met the needs of Alabama homemakers and families.

I join with my fellow Alabamians in thanking the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service on Home Economics for its many valuable contributions to our state and I congratulate the program on its 100th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF DR. OLYN KELLY MATTHEWS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the life of Dr. Olyn Kelly Matthews.

Dr. Matthews was an integral part of the Northwest Florida community. For 45 years, Dr. Matthews practiced veterinary medicine in Escambia, Santa Rosa and Okaloosa counties. He began practicing in Northwest Florida in 1944, when he took a job as an assistant state veterinarian. Dr. Matthews was born on a farm, and he dedicated his veterinary practice to helping farmers keep their livestock healthy and productive. Dr. Matthews was the veterinarian for 26 dairies and multiple farms throughout the area.

Dr. Matthews was a true family man. In 1947 he married Elizabeth Campbell. Dr. and Mrs. Campbell immersed themselves in the lives of their children and their local community through church activities and sports.

The impact Dr. Matthews had on the Northwest Florida community extended far beyond his veterinary practice. A pivotal leader in the local community, Dr. Matthews was elected to the Santa Rosa County School Board in 1966. He also served as president of the Milton Kiwanis Club, Milton Quarterback Club and the Northwest Florida Veterinary Medical Association, and he was campaign chairman of the United Way of Santa Rosa County for two years. In 1990, he was selected as "Man of the Year" by the Santa Rosa County Chamber of Commerce.

To some Dr. Olyn Matthews will be remembered as a community leader and to others as a dedicated doctor of veterinary medicine. To his family, he will forever be remembered as a loving husband, father and grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize the life of Dr. Olyn Matthews of Milton, Florida. My wife Vicki and I offer our prayers for his entire family. He will be truly missed by all of us.

IN RECOGNITION OF EARTHFEST 2011

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Earth Day Coalition of Cleveland, as they celebrate EarthFest 2011 on April 17, 2011—a date that also commemorates the 22nd annual celebration of EarthFest in Cleveland, Ohio.

Cleveland's Earth Day Coalition was formed in 1990 to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of Earth Day in Ohio. EarthFest is now Ohio's

largest environmental educational event and the longest running Earth Day celebration in the nation. I stand in recognition of the staff and volunteers of the Earth Day Coalition for all their effort and dedication in creating such an innovative, exciting and educational event for the Greater Cleveland community to enjoy. This year, EarthFest's theme is "Climate Change Solutions." Over 175 environmental exhibits are expected from environmental and community organizations, government entities and businesses. EarthFest is just one of Earth Day Coalition's many nationally-recognized programs and promises once again to be a significant aspect of the world celebration of Earth Day.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of the staff, volunteers, and members of the Earth Day Coalition as we celebrate EarthFest 2011 on April 17, 2011. EarthFest 2011 promises to educate, inspire and motivate all of us to join together as a community and work toward a more healthy Earth for future generations.

HONORING DR. JOSÉ RIZAL

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of Dr. José Rizal in celebration of the 150th anniversary of his birth on June 19, 1861. His writings and dedication to his country continue to inspire Filipinos, who widely regard him as the national hero of the Philippines. His allegiance to his homeland resonates with Filipino-Americans, and stirs a renewed patriotism in the hearts of all Americans.

A doctor, philosopher, historian, and artist, Dr. Rizal is best known for his influential writings during the Philippine struggle for independence. Born in the Philippine province of Laguna in 1861, he traveled throughout the world for his studies and medical practice, earning degrees from universities in the Philippines and Europe. While studying in Spain in 1887, he wrote two novels, *Noli Me Tangere* and its sequel *El Filibusterismo*, depicting the Filipinos' devotion to their country and yearning for freedom from colonial rule. These works inspired the struggle for independence in the Philippines but also placed Rizal's life in danger of persecution by the ruling government.

Eager to be of service to his country's cause, Dr. Rizal returned to the Philippines in 1892. Upon his return, he was exiled to the South of the Philippines. Despite great struggles, he sought to improve the lives of those around him by building a medical clinic, conducting religious classes, and teaching agricultural practices. Four years later, as the Philippine Revolution began to strengthen, he was convicted of inciting the rebellion with his writings and was sentenced to death. On the eve of his execution, Dr. Rizal wrote *Mi Último adiós*, a poem bidding farewell to his beloved country, attesting to his dedication to seeking a free and independent country.

Dr. Rizal's legacy lives on in his writings, and Filipinos throughout the world remember him as the idealistic force behind their struggle for independence. He fought for his country

not with the sword, but with the peaceful power of his ideas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. José Rizal. We remember his legacy in honor of the Filipino-Americans in our communities. May his legacy continue to instill in all of us a renewed dedication to serving our country.

TRIBUTE TO TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE
SENFRONIA THOMPSON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a friend of mine, a maverick, a community visionary, a leader, and a true Texan and recognize the achievements and outstanding service of a very special person, Senfronia Thompson.

Senfronia will be "roasted" by the Texas Southern University and Governor Rick Perry, Speaker Joe Straus, Senators Rodney Ellis and John Whitmire, Representative Sylvester Turner, former Representative Debra Danburg, former Representative Mark Stiles and others to raise funds for a wonderful cause, the Texas Legislative Internship Program (TLIP) administered by The Mickey Leland Center at the University. The event will be held at the Mickey Leland Center at Texas Southern University on April 11, 2011, at the University of Texas Alumni Center.

The TLIP is a premier internship program that introduces the best and brightest of our Texas youth to the innerworkings of government and the true value of public service. The program, developed in 1990, is sponsored by Senator Rodney Ellis. Since its inception, more than 400 students accepted into the TLIP program have interned with members of the Texas Legislature, the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. This year, 63 interns are working in and around the Texas State Capitol during the current legislative session.

In 1973, Senfronia Thompson was elected to the Texas State House of Representatives from Houston. She has continued to serve her constituents in honor ever since. She now ranks as the longest-serving woman and the longest-serving African-American in Texas State legislative history.

Representative Thompson authored and passed Texas' first alimony law, the James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Act, laws prohibiting racial profiling, the state minimum wage, the Durable Powers of Attorney Act, the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act, the Sexual Assault Program Fund, the Model School Records Flagging Act, the Uniform Child Custody and Jurisdiction Enforcement Act, contraceptive parity, prohibiting small print in cell phone ads, and scores of other reforms benefiting women, children and the elderly.

The former chair of one of the Legislature's most active committees, Judicial Affairs, Representative Thompson pushed through major reforms in child support enforcement, simplified probate proceedings, and complete overhauls of statutes dealing with statutory courts and municipal courts. Representative

Thompson continues to be among the most successful House members in passing bills into laws.

Representative Thompson has been in the forefront of every major campaign against discrimination in the last three decades. Ms. Thompson has among the highest ranks of any legislator for her voting record on issues of concern to women, minorities, labor, consumers, reform advocates, domestic violence victims, the elderly, teachers and civil libertarians. Among many other honors, she was named "Woman of the Year" by bipartisan Texas Women's Political Caucus in 1995.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call Senfronia Thompson my friend and my colleague in public service. I had the pleasure of serving beside Senfronia Thompson, a champion of civic participation, when we were both freshman legislators together in 1973. It was an honor to serve with her then and it is an honor for me to be able to recognize her today. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and thanking Representative Thompson for her extraordinary service to Texas and our country.

HONORING UNIVERSITY OF PACIFIC
McGEORGE SCHOOL OF LAW TEAM

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to again acknowledge and honor a University of Pacific McGeorge School of Law team that participated at the American Bar Association National Appellate Advocacy 34th annual competition held April 7-9, 2011, at the U.S. District Courthouse for the Northern District of Illinois in Chicago.

The team of Caitlin Urie Christian, '11, Jill Larrabee, '12, and Leo Moniz, '12, advanced to the round of 16 and took ninth place. They also won the Best Brief Award; an outstanding accomplishment in its own right, considering over two hundred teams participated in the competition.

The competition involved two issues this year: whether a pre-enforcement challenge under the First Amendment is ripe for judicial review and whether a state statute, passed as a means to tackle a crystal methamphetamine epidemic, is constitutional under the Supreme Court's commercial speech jurisprudence.

They were coached by Professors Ed Telfeyan, '75, and Erich Shiners, '06, and assisted by Andrea Dupray, '11, a member of the 2009-2010 Moot Court Honors Board.

Previously the winners of a similar award in the San Francisco regional, this time the writing of Christian, Larrabee and Moniz faced an entire new battery of graders who read all 24 briefs for the finals in Chicago. To put the award in perspective, their work was judged the best out of 217 teams competing nationally.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the students and coaches from McGeorge School of Law on their outstanding performance at the 2011 regional competition in San Francisco and at the national finals in Chicago. I'm pleased to honor their hard work and dedication to the study of the law.

IN HONOR OF THE ASSOCIATION
OF INDIAN PHYSICIANS OF
NORTHERN OHIO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Association of Indian Physicians of Northern Ohio.

The Association of Indian Physicians of Northern Ohio (AIPNO) is a non-profit organization that was founded in 1983, with the mission of using its united resources and knowledge for the welfare and healthier living of the community that they serve. The organization hosts bi-annual Health-Fairs where member physicians volunteer their time and skills to those of the community free of charge. Their continued service to both the nation and the state of Ohio exemplify responsibility and civic virtue.

In addition to their health fairs, the Association of Indian Physicians of Northern Ohio is a supporter of medical camps in India, such as the Medical and Surgical Camp of Bidada Sarvodaya Trust in Kachchh. These camps provide medical and surgical treatment to over 1200 villages and impoverished areas.

The Association of Indian Physicians of Northern Ohio runs various continuing education and learning programs for its members and students. The organization also has its own medical journal, AIPNO Pulse, and provides medical advice to residents of Northern Ohio through their contributions to Lotus, a community publication.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor of the Association of Indian Physicians of Northern Ohio, which works to unite Indian physicians in order to achieve their mission of providing their combined skills and knowledge for the betterment of Ohio and service to the community.

TRIBUTE TO TELACU FOR ITS
COMMITMENT TO THE ADVANCE-
MENT AND EMPOWERMENT OF
LATINOS

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today and ask Congress to recognize May 20th as TELACU Scholars Day.

The TELACU Education Foundation was established in 1983 to respond to crisis-level dropout rates for Latino Students and has since grown into the largest community and economic development corporation in the United States. TELACU is a pioneering institution committed to service, empowerment, advancement and the creation of self-sufficiency within the Latino community.

To address the distinct struggles many Latino youth face, TELACU established the LINC TELACU Education Foundation (LTEF). For upwards of two decades, the Education Foundation has been working towards removing the formidable barriers that could prevent Latino youth from achieving academic success

and providing them with professional and academic role models. I am proud of the way the LINC TELACU Education Foundation has contributed to the development of our future Latino leaders.

The TELACU Education Foundation realized that there is no more vital asset in any community than its human capital and began their efforts to reverse these trends. For instance, The LINC TELACU Scholarship Program is an exemplary program that helps students realize their dream of a college education by providing scholarships and supplemental support.

Although TELACU understands that financial assistance is a vital component for college students to achieve academic success, they also recognize the underlying challenges many young adults face including socioeconomic factors, family responsibilities, cultural identity, and financial solvency. Students who are the first member of their families to pursue a college degree often must make their own academic support system in order to achieve their dreams. TELACU understands these challenges.

The LINC TELACU Scholarship Program provides its youth not only with monetary assistance, but with the counseling, leadership training, and time management training necessary to help students achieve their dreams.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor TELACU, the LINC TELACU Education Foundation and for Scholarship programs like this one, for believing in the dream of higher education for all of America's next generation of leaders. I extend my congratulations to the TELACU scholars and the people who make their dreams a reality as they celebrate the 28th Annual TELACU Education Foundation Scholarship Awards Dinner, Building the Dream, on Friday May 20th, 2011.

ARMENIA REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, on April 24, 2011, the world will commemorate Armenian Remembrance Day and remember the one-and-a-half million Armenians that endured unspeakable suffering and loss at the hand of the Ottoman Empire during World War I.

In addition to the loss of so many Armenian lives, the twentieth century also bore witness to the loss of six-million Jews and four-hundred thousand other persons deemed "non-desirable" by the Nazis, the loss of millions of lives in Russia and in China by communist tyrannies, and modern day horrors in Cambodia, Rwanda, and Darfur. All too often, we have not learned from past genocides. As the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment" and that "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

Though nothing changes the fact that mass killings and unspeakable acts of brutality occurred, today I wish to learn from the past to better bring about hope for a brighter, more peaceful future and reconciliation of the people of Armenia and Turkey.

Only with a thorough examination of history and open acknowledgement of the past will

the plight of the Armenians be fully understood.

As we continue confronting atrocities taking place today, and seek to prevent them from occurring in the future, we must also be resolute in acknowledging genocides of the past.

A TRIBUTE TO SARAH SAVAGE
RAYMOND

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sarah Savage Raymond.

Sarah Savage Raymond has been a resident of Brooklyn since 1927, when, at the age of 22, she moved from her home in Baltimore. During her more than 80 years in Brooklyn and the Tenth Congressional district, Mrs. Raymond has been a positive example for all and a valued member of her community.

Mrs. Sarah Savage Raymond has been involved with the First AME Zion Church, originally the Fleet Street Church, since she first moved to New York and remains an active participant. The First AME Zion Church is where Sarah met and married her husband, Mr. Robert Raymond and where she became involved in her adopted community, becoming a member in the lodge and on the committee visiting the sick.

Through more than a century of life, Mrs. Raymond has kept her indomitable spirit and remains alert and energetic. Although Mrs. Raymond has no biological children, she has three very close relatives that are extremely supportive of her who live in the Bronx, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. She also has five nieces and nephews that reside in Maryland that also keep in touch with her. Mrs. Sarah Savage Raymond has seen and heard what most of us could only read in history books and she is always willing to share her experiences with those who are interested in listening.

Mrs. Raymond says that she is "thankful" to be one hundred six years of age because she did not expect to live this long. She adds, "I appreciate every year and did the best that I could." It is precisely this humble and exemplary attitude that has preserved Mrs. Raymond in health and happiness for so long.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mrs. Raymond for her extraordinary accomplishments and her spirit which reflect the best our nation has to offer.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FIRST FLIGHT OF
THE SPACE SHUTTLE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Chairman RALPH HALL joins me as I rise today to recognize this week's 30th anniversary of the first flight of the Space Shuttle. On April 12, 1981, Space Shuttle *Columbia* was successfully launched from the Kennedy Space Center's Launch Pad 39A at

7 a.m. Under the capable control of Commander John W. Young and pilot Robert L. Crippen, the STS-1 mission showed that a safe launch into orbit and safe return of the orbiter and crew was possible. In performing the test flight, Space Shuttle *Columbia* traveled over 1 million miles at an orbital altitude of 166 nautical miles. This was the first of over 130 shuttle missions over a period of 30 years during which astronauts recovered and repaired satellites including the Hubble Space Telescope, conducted cutting-edge research, and built and supported the largest structure in space, the International Space Station.

Mr. Speaker, on this 30th anniversary of the first flight of the Space Shuttle, we are also on the verge of retiring the Space Shuttle fleet. It is appropriate to honor the brave individuals who have paid the ultimate price so that the Nation could pursue its goals, vision, and leadership in human spaceflight and exploration and to recognize the bravery and heroism of all astronauts who have flown on the Space Shuttle. It is also appropriate to acknowledge the tireless and dedicated work of the men and women of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration ("NASA"), its field centers, and its contractors without whom these achievements would not have been possible.

The Space Shuttle has been a source of pride and inspiration for the American people. It sparked interest in many fields of engineering and science which benefitted the United States economy, inspired successive generations, and contributed to our leadership in science and technology. We must continue to provide our children and grandchildren with a similar source of inspiration. As the chapter on the Space Shuttle closes later this year, a new chapter in the book of human exploration begins.

Today, unlike 30 years ago, our leadership in space is being contested by many other nations. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in reaffirming our support for NASA and in committing to a robust national program of human space flight and exploration. That will be the best way to mark this historic anniversary.

HONORING SHRINERS HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN—CHICAGO

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, on the 85th anniversary of its founding, I rise today to honor and recognize the outstanding impact that the Shriners Hospital for Children has had on the lives of children in Chicago. It is their mission to provide the highest quality health care to all children with orthopedic and neuromusculoskeletal conditions.

The Shriners founded their first children's hospital in Shreveport, Louisiana in 1922, and since then, their network has grown to include 21 more hospitals. The Chicago facility was founded on March 20, 1926 in the historic Oak Park District. Here, children are treated for a host of orthopedic and neuromusculoskeletal conditions, spinal cord injuries, as well as cleft lip and palate. Not only do they provide for the needs of the children, the hospital takes into

account the needs of the whole family throughout all phases of the child's injury and recuperation, including free transportation to and from the hospital if necessary. Once children are accepted for treatment, they become part of the Shriners Hospital System and are provided treatment for all facets of their condition.

All care is provided by an interdisciplinary team which works together to integrate the expertise of all appropriate healthcare disciplines in one center. In addition to providing treatment for these conditions, all Shriners Hospitals for Children are dedicated to continuing research in their specific fields and discovering new knowledge to better improve the quality of the lives of their patients and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Shriners Hospital for Children in Chicago for its dedication to providing healthcare to suffering children without regard to religion, race, nationality, disability, or ability of the family to pay. This organization provides an invaluable service to the city and has improved the lives of countless Chicago children. I thank them once again for their 85 years of exceptional services to children in need and their families.

PROCLAMATION FOR DR. JOHN LOGAN CASHIN, JR.

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a great American, Dr. John Logan Cashin, Jr., a visionary civil rights leader and extraordinary Alabamian.

Dr. Cashin was born in Huntsville, AL on April 16, 1928 to John Logan Sr., a dentist, and the former Grace Brandon, a school principal. His parents were active in social justice and civil rights work. His paternal grandfather, Herschel V. Cashin, served in the Alabama Legislature during Reconstruction. Dr. Cashin received his B.A. degree from Fisk University and D.D.S. degree from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee and joined his father in dental practice. He was a devoted member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Dr. John L. Cashin, Jr. was drafted into the U.S. Army, where he was made a first lieutenant and Chief of dental services for soldiers stationed near Fountainebleau, France. Dr. Cashin Jr.'s wife of 39 years, Joan Carpenter Cashin, died in 1997. They are survived by their children, Sheryll Cashin Esq., Professor of Law at Georgetown University, John M. Cashin of Lagos, Nigeria and Carroll L. Cashin of Huntsville, Alabama. Dr. Cashin has five grand-children: Winton, Etalvia, Jasmine, Langston and Logan. He is also survived by his wife, the former Dr. Louise R. White of Washington, D.C. whom he married in 1968.

As a visionary leader in the struggle for social justice and equal rights for African Americans, Dr. John L. Cashin, Jr. founded the National Democratic Party of Alabama in 1968 and served as its Chairman until it disbanded in 1976.

Under the leadership of Dr. John L. Cashin, Jr., the National Democratic Party of Alabama changed the face of local political leaders in office throughout the state. In November of 1968, seventeen of the party's candidates won

local offices in Alabama's Black Belt region, comprising seventeen counties in the central and western part of the state.

In 1970, Dr. John L. Cashin Jr., ran for Governor of the State of Alabama as the first African American candidate since Reconstruction. His courage paved the way for numerous African American candidates to win and hold elected offices. Dr. John L. Cashin, Jr. passed away on March 21, 2011 at the age of 82 in Washington, D.C.

Therefore I, Terri A. Sewell, Representative to the United States Congress from the 7th District of Alabama, do hereby recognize Dr. John Logan Cashin, Jr. for his numerous contributions to the region, state, and nation. I do hereby extend deepest sympathy to the family of Dr. John L. Cashin, Jr., a visionary leader for the Civil Rights movement who never forgot his roots, and who fought for equalities for all mankind. I stand on the shoulders of Dr. John L. Cashin, Jr. and for that I am eternally grateful.

STATEMENT ON H.R. 658, THE FAA REAUTHORIZATION AND REFORM ACT OF 2011

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the amendment offered by my colleagues Messrs. Garret, Engel, Andrews, and Himes.

Since the publication of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) "preferred alternative" for the New York/New Jersey/Philadelphia Metropolitan Airspace Redesign project, I have sponsored and cosponsored several similar amendments that have sought to rectify this deeply flawed project that will increase aircraft noise over Northern New Jersey.

Throughout my tenure in Congress and the New Jersey legislature, I have been a staunch advocate for reducing aircraft noise. I have attended dozens of public hearings, had meetings with officials from the FAA, and responded to thousands of calls from constituents whose lives have been affected by existing air traffic patterns and related noise.

While the safety of passengers is paramount, and the vitality of the air transport system is important, people on the ground have a right to a quality of life with a minimum exposure to aircraft noise overhead.

I understand the need for improving the efficiency of our Nation's aviation infrastructure to better accommodate the high demand for flights.

However, the FAA has continually turned a "deaf ear" to the issue of aircraft noise, which affects all citizens on the ground, regardless of whether they travel by plane or not.

Again, I have long fought against such noise increases. In particular, I strongly opposed the FAA's original redesign proposal in 2005, which would have had substantial noise increases throughout the New Jersey and New York metropolitan areas.

The FAA's amended plan included some noise reductions from their original proposal, but did not go far enough.

Now, despite strong opposition from Members of Congress and citizens throughout the

region, the FAA is plowing ahead with its redesign plan, despite its flaws with respect to increased aircraft noise exposure. The FAA must cease this flawed redesign plan and come back to the drawing board to develop a proposal that strikes the proper balance between airspace efficiency and preventing noise increases, as well as any other environmental impacts.

I urge the FAA to carefully consider alternatives that accomplish this goal. We must not forget about the "silent majority" of constituents on the ground!

I urge support for this amendment and any effort to reduce the impact of aircraft noise above New Jersey.

RECOGNIZING THE DC 41

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the 41 District of Columbia elected officials and residents who stood up for the self-governing rights of the American citizens who reside in the nation's capital by sitting down in a peaceful act of civil disobedience on Constitution Avenue in front of the Dirksen Senate Office Building on Monday, April 15, 2011. The rally, organized by DC Vote, protested the final 2011 continuing resolution (CR) which contains two anti-home-rule riders. The CR prohibits the District from spending its local taxpayer-raised funds on abortions for low-income women, even though many state and local jurisdictions have done so for decades. Without consultation with any District of Columbia elected official, the CR also mandates a D.C.-only private school voucher program, while the House Republican majority refuses to bring a bill to the floor that would allow districts that desire this alternative to select it on a home-rule basis. The District of Columbia is almost alone in the nation in establishing a robust alternative to our local public schools, our public charter schools, which educate almost 40 percent of the city's children and have long waiting lists. The House voted to approve these riders while denying voting representation in this body to District of Columbia residents.

The D.C. elected officials who engaged in civil disobedience were D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray, Council Chair Kwame Brown, At-Large Council members Sekou Biddle and Michael Brown, Council members Yvette Alexander, Muriel Bowser, and Thomas Wells, and House Shadow Representative Michael Panetta. The District residents were Ann Aldrich, Lafayette Barnes, Peter Bishop, Robert Brannum, Jason Cross, Billie Day, Jack Evans, Marc Ferrara, Corryn Freeman, Mary Gosselink, Lawrence Hams, Karen Hixson, Anise Jenkins, Eugene Kinlow, John Klenert, Rachel Madelham, Adam Maier, George Marion, Jr., Nicholas McCoy, Martin Moulton, Brian Pate, Joseph Perta, Jeffrey Richardson, Deangelo Scott, Deborah Shore, Carly Skidmore, Daniel Solomon, Bruce Spiva, Jay Tamboli, Maceo Thomas, Ryan Velasco, Patricia Vrandenburg, and Ilir Zherka.

The city has long advocated its rights through the usual channels and official re-

sponses. However, from the day the 112th Congress convened, the House Republican majority has repeatedly introduced bills to violate the rights of our citizens, beginning with the approval of new rules that summarily stripped the District of the only vote on the House floor it has achieved, the House Committee of the Whole vote, approved by the federal courts.

The DC 41, as they are called, recognized that the House Republican majority intends to return with more anti-home-rule riders. An additional anti-home-rule rider was included in the original Republican spending bill, H.R. 1, but failed this time to become a part of the final agreement. The message of the DC 41 was that DC elected officials and residents will not walk away from the infringement of their rights to govern themselves and to spend their taxpayer-raised local funds as they choose.

I ask the House to join me in saluting the DC 41, who acted in the long American tradition of incurring arrests during peaceful civil disobedience to protect and to further their right to full equality with the residents of the 50 states.

RECOGNIZING RONALD MCNAMARA'S 25 YEARS OF SERVICE ON THE COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to pay tribute to Ron McNamara, and to thank him for 25 years of faithful and dedicated service to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Helsinki Commission. Ron joined the staff of the Helsinki Commission on April 14, 1986, at a time when many OSCE countries suffered under Soviet repression and widespread violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Ron's relationship with the Helsinki Commission actually precedes 1986, having served as the liaison to the Commission for the former Senator from New York, Alfonse D'Amato. Perhaps as a result of this experience, Ron got up to speed quickly. He was soon negotiating human rights and humanitarian issues at the Vienna Follow-Up Meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which is today the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, or OSCE. From late 1986 to 1989 he was stationed in Vienna and participated in this multilateral negotiation—progress in the respect of human rights in the Soviet Union and its East European allies had suddenly become possible. As part of the team that translated that potentiality into reality, Ron stayed on top of ever-changing developments, networked with our European allies on strategy, and pressed the one-party communist governments to adopt a new set of human rights commitments. When the Berlin Wall fell and multi-party elections were scheduled, Ron's diplomatic skills helped produce landmark documents which solidified democracy as the chosen form of government and clarified the understanding that a government's treatment of its citizens is not an inter-

nal matter but rather a legitimate concern to all. Ron was especially instrumental in negotiating new commitments in the area of cross-border human contacts, which led to greater freedom of movement for those previously denied permission to emigrate to reunite with their families or travel to visit family members.

Throughout the years, he has been deeply involved with preparations for the annual sessions of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. He has served as a member of numerous U.S. delegations to various OSCE conferences and as an OSCE election observer in Georgia, Belarus, Ukraine, Russia and Azerbaijan. Ron also participated in Commission efforts to respond to the genocidal and other atrocities in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He was particularly active in legislative efforts to lift the arms embargo on that country, which had denied it the capacity to exercise its rights of self-defense in the face of Bosnian Serb aggression. Ron's portfolio has also included work with Turkey, Greece and Cyprus, religious liberty issues and combating anti-Semitism. A notable result of Ron's work was the willingness of the Turkish government to allow a more open dialogue on human rights and civil society in return for agreement on holding the 1999 OSCE Summit in Istanbul. In addition to his ongoing human rights work, Ron at times has had the Commission staff portfolio for security issues and for economic cooperation.

During 2001–2002, Ron served with distinction as Chief of Staff under the Chairmanship of Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell, and in both 1999–2000 and 2003–2004 served as Deputy Chief of Staff under my Chairmanship. I have often benefited from Ron's counsel and have always been impressed by his deep integrity. Since Senator Campbell's retirement, he has served in a variety of capacities, including International Policy Advisor. His knowledge and insight into the workings of the U.S. government and various OSCE institutions has proved invaluable to the work of the Commission. He is a man of great prudence and justice.

Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I am very pleased to commend and thank Ron McNamara for his faithful, dedicated and tireless service to the Helsinki Commission and to the cause of human dignity and freedom.

CELEBRATING THIRTY YEARS OF BEAUTILLION COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ms. Donna LaVerne Daniels Rice, a community activist, businesswoman, councilmember, and founder of the Columbia, Maryland chapter of Jack and Jill of America's Beautillion Ball. For the past 30 years, outstanding high school juniors and seniors from Columbia, Maryland; Baltimore, Maryland; and Washington, D.C. have been selected, honored and praised for their accomplishments as they move from one stage of their lives to the next.

Through stimulating educational workshops, mentoring, culturally enriching experiences,

and positive self-concept development, the Beattillion philosophy helps to prepare young men so that they can prosper as contributing members of society. In order to be selected as a "beau," these young men must have at least a "C" average and excel in one of four areas: academics, the arts, community service, and sports. Of course, most of the young men honored excel in more than one area.

The tireless dedication and devotion of my friend, Donna Rice, ensures that wonderful events that transform young people's lives happen each and every year. For that, I thank her. As a fellow Fisk University graduate, and member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Ms. Rice has a long list of other achievements, honors, and awards. None are more valuable, however, than the experience and honor we both share of mentoring young black boys and teenagers. We share the same concern for the plight of young African American boys, and from this concern, Ms. Rice began her community leadership and scholarship project. Her once meager project has now been duplicated in 53 other cities throughout the United States and the Bahamas.

Tonight, as ten young men are honored as the leaders of tomorrow, let us also honor a leader of today—Ms. Donna LaVerne Daniels Rice, devoted wife to Dr. William Rice and the mother of three adult children. I thank my friend for her devotion to saving our young black boys.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, as you know I had been granted medical leave to recover from hip replacement surgery for the legislative weeks of March 28 and April 4. While I was unable to place recorded votes on legislation considered by the House, I would like to state what my votes would have been.

On Tuesday, March 29, the House considered H.R. 839, the HAMP Termination Act of 2011, introduced by Representative MCHENRY of North Carolina. On rollcall vote No. 194, H. Amdt. 199 offered by Representative HANNA of New York, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 195, H. Amdt. 204 offered by Representative JACKSON LEE of Texas, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 196, H. Amdt. 206 offered by Representative MALONEY of New York, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 197, the Motion to Recommit with Instructions offered by Representative LARSEN of Washington, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 198, on Passage, I would have voted "yes."

On Wednesday, March 30, the House considered H. Res. 186, introduced by Representative BISHOP of Utah, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 471) to reauthorize the DC opportunity scholarship program, and for other purposes. On rollcall vote No. 199, on ordering the Previous Question, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 200, on Agreeing to the Resolution, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 201, on Approving the Journal, I would have voted "yes."

Also on March 30, the House considered H.R. 471, the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, introduced by Speaker BOEHNER. On rollcall vote No. 202, H. Amdt. 209 offered by Delegate NORTON of the District of Columbia, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 203, the Motion to Recommit with Instructions offered by Representative CUMMINGS of Maryland, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 204, on Passage, I would have voted "yes."

On Thursday, March 31, the House considered H. Res. 189, introduced by Representative WEBSTER of Florida, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 658) to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2011 through 2014, to streamline programs, create efficiencies, reduce waste, and improve aviation safety and capacity, to provide stable funding for the national aviation system, and for other purposes. On rollcall vote 205, on Agreeing to the Resolution, I would have voted "yes."

Also on March 31, the House considered H.R. 872, the Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2011, introduced by Representative GIBBS (OH), under a suspension of the Rules. On rollcall vote 206, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, I would have voted "yes."

Further on March 31, the House began consideration of H.R. 658, the FAA Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2011, introduced by Representative MICA of Florida. On rollcall vote 207, H. Amdt. 210 offered by Representative MICA of Florida, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 208, H. Amdt. 216 offered by Representative GARRETT of New Jersey, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 209, H. Amdt. 217 offered by Representative DEFazio of Oregon, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 210, H. Amdt. 218 offered by Representative HIRONO of Hawaii, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 211, H. Amdt. 225 offered by Representative CAPUANO of Massachusetts, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 212, H. Amdt. 226 offered by Representative GINGREY of Georgia, I would have voted "yes."

On Friday, April 1, the House considered H. Res. 194, offered by Representative WOODALL of Georgia, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1255) to prevent a shutdown of the government of the United States, and for other purposes. On rollcall vote 213, On Consideration of the Resolution, I would have voted "yes."

Also, the House continued consideration of H.R. 658. On rollcall vote No. 214, H. Amdt. 235 offered by Representative PEARCE of New Mexico, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 215, H. Amdt. 236 offered by Representative SCHIFF of California, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 216, H. Amdt. 228 offered by Representative SESSIONS of Texas, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 217, H. Amdt. 229 offered by Representative LATOURETTE of Ohio, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 218, H. Amdt. 232 offered by Representative SHUSTER of Pennsylvania, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 219, the Motion to Recommit with Instructions offered by Representative SANCHEZ of California, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 220, on Passage, I would have voted "yes."

The House then resumed consideration of H. Res. 194. On rollcall vote No. 221, on Ordering the Previous Question, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 222, on Agreeing to the Resolution, I would have voted "yes."

The House then considered H.R. 1255, the Government Shutdown Prevention Act of 2011, introduced by Representative STEVE WOMACK of Arkansas. On rollcall vote No. 223, On Motion to Recommit with Instructions, offered by Representative WALZ of Minnesota, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 224, on Passage, I would have voted "yes."

On Monday, April 4, the House considered H.R. 1246, to reduce the amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Defense for printing and reproduction, introduced by Representative ALLEN WEST, under a Suspension of the Rules. On rollcall vote 225, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, I would have voted "yes."

On Tuesday, April 5, the House considered H. Res. 200, introduced by Representative WOODALL (GA), providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 37) disapproving the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission with respect to regulating the Internet and broadband industry practices. On rollcall vote No. 226, on Ordering the Previous Question, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 227, on Agreeing to the Resolution, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 228, on Approving the Journal, I would have voted "yes."

On Wednesday, April 6, the House voted on a Motion to Adjourn by Representative JACKSON of Illinois. On this rollcall vote No. 229, I would have voted "no."

The House then considered H. Res. 203, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 910) to amend the Clean Air Act to prohibit the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from promulgating any regulation concerning, taking action relating to, or taking into consideration the emission of a greenhouse gas to address climate change, and for other purposes, introduced by Representative SESSIONS of Texas. On rollcall vote No. 230, On Ordering the Previous Question, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 231, on Agreeing to the Resolution, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 232, on Approving the Journal, I would have voted "yes."

Also on Wednesday, the House began consideration of H.R. 910, the Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2011, introduced by Representative UPTON of Michigan. On rollcall vote No. 233, H. Amdt. 240 offered by Representative JACKSON LEE of Texas, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 234, H. Amdt. 241 offered by Representative JACKSON LEE of Texas, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 235, H. Amdt. 244 offered by Representative MURPHY of Connecticut, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 236, H. Amdt. 245 offered by Representative WAXMAN of California, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 237, H. Amdt. 247 offered by Representative POLIS of Colorado, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 238, H. Amdt. 248 offered by Representative MARKEY of Massachusetts, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 239, H. Amdt. 249 offered by Representative RUSH of Illinois, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 240, H. Amdt. 250 offered by Representative DOYLE of Pennsylvania, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 241, H. Amdt. 251 offered by Representative KIND of Wisconsin, I would have voted "no."

On Thursday, April 7, the House considered H. Res. 206, offered by Representative FOXX of Virginia, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1363) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes; and waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules. On rollcall vote No. 242, on Ordering the Previous Question, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 243, on Agreeing to the Resolution, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 244, on Approving the Journal, I would have voted "yes."

Also on April 7, the House considered H.R. 1363, the Department of Defense and Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011, introduced by Representative ROGERS of Kentucky. On rollcall vote No. 245, Table Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 246, on Motion to Recommit with Instructions offered by Representative OWENS of New York, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 247, on Passage, I would have voted "yes."

Then the House completed consideration of H.R. 910. On rollcall vote No. 248, on Motion to Recommit with Instructions offered by Representative MCNERNY of California, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 249, on Passage, I would have voted "yes."

On Friday, April 8, the House considered H.J. Res. 37, Disapproving the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission with respect to regulating the Internet and broadband industry practices, introduced by Representative WALDEN of Oregon. On rollcall vote No. 250, On Consideration of the Joint Resolution, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 251, Table Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 252, on Passage, I would have voted "yes."

On Saturday, April 9, the House considered H.R. 1363, Making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes, introduced by Representative ROGERS of Kentucky. On rollcall vote No. 253, on Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment, I would have voted "yes."

REMEMBERING THE TRAGIC GULF OIL SPILL AND WORKING TO PREVENT FUTURE SPILLS

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a tragic event. One year ago, next Wednesday, an oil rig explosion in the Gulf of Mexico resulted in eleven families losing their loved ones. The explosion started what soon became the largest oil spill in United States history. It took far too long to stop this spill and the environmental and economic impacts will be felt for years to come. Twelve months later, Congress has not enacted any legislation to address the policy and management issues that contributed to the severity of last year's spill. This is unacceptable. We owe it to those who perished in the explosion, as well as those whose lives and businesses were impacted in the months that followed, to address the deficiencies in current federal policy.

That is why I am reintroducing the SAFEGUARDS Act, legislation I drafted last year to prevent and respond to future oil spills. I was not surprised that a report by the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling (Oil Spill Commission) highlighted the need for the changes I recommend, as the measure was developed following a series of meetings and regular phone calls with the on-the-ground incident commanders, local research teams and community emergency response personnel. It is my hope that the solutions put forth in this measure will be included in a wider legislative response to ensure that we impose rigorous safety standards on any off-shore platforms, while also establishing a fully thought out plan to respond to future disasters.

As I said last Congress, an uncontrolled discharge of oil is truly a worst-case scenario that oil companies and the federal government should be required to have an established plan for. While the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) has established specific safeguards to take into account the effects that drilling has on our environment, BP was permitted categorical exclusions from these requirements. No oil company should be exempt from addressing the environmental impact that their drilling activities impose. The SAFEGUARDS Act will ensure that NEPA requirements are not ignored again by, first, prohibiting categorical exclusions from NEPA, and second, extending the time period regulatory agencies have to review oil explorations proposals. Regulatory agencies currently have only a 30-day period to review extensive and intricate drilling proposals, however this bill will give regulatory agencies up to 150 days to ensure exploration plans are properly reviewed.

Not only was BP granted exemptions from environmental standards, they were also allowed to move forward without a prepared response plan for the failure of the blowout preventer. As recommended by the Oil Spill Commission "oil spill response plans should be required to include detailed plans for source control [which] demonstrate that an operator's containment technology is immediately deployable and effective." The SAFEGUARDS Act would require all oil spill response plans to

account for a true worst possible scenario, including the uncontrolled discharge of oil resulting from the failure of a blowout preventer or other containment devices.

The oil disaster in the Gulf has also brought much attention to the leadership and organization of the response and containment efforts currently in place. While the Coast Guard is ultimately responsible for leading the government's response to an oil spill in America's coastal waters, they are not required to approve oil spill response plans submitted by oil rigs. Instead, each rig was only required to submit their spill response plans to the now disbanded Minerals Management Service, an agency with many well-documented problems administering rig safety standards. The Oil Spill Commission notes that "oil spill response plans, including source-control measures, should be subject to interagency review and approval by the Coast Guard." The SAFEGUARDS Act will make this a requirement for all current and future oil rigs, as well as establish the Commandant of the Coast Guard as the National Incident Commander to oversee the federal government's response to large oil spills in coastal waters.

Finally, the SAFEGUARDS Act will address some of the inadequacies in federal response efforts highlighted by last year's spill. The framework of the National Contingency Plan, which is the federal government response plan for all oil spills, has not been updated since 1994. The SAFEGUARDS Act will require the response plan to be updated at least every five years and to have unique plans for responding to oil spills in our coastal waters. Further, this bill will require the EPA to begin monitoring water quality within forty-eight hours after an oil spill is discovered. It is important for the public to have accurate information about how our water, our wildlife and our beaches are being affected as quickly as possible.

After finally stopping the flow of oil we now need to address the systematic breakdowns that led to the BP Deepwater Horizon catastrophe. The SAFEGUARDS Act presents commonsense solutions to help prevent a disaster of this magnitude from ever happening again, and improves the federal response in the event it ever does. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this measure. The Congress must get to work on oil spill response legislation; we owe it to the American people and the entire Gulf Coast.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAPTAIN RAY MARTINI

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ray Martini, a World War II veteran and distinguished resident of Half Moon Bay, California.

Mr. Martini entered the European theater of war at age 23. In his five months of deployment, this young plumber accomplished extraordinary achievements. He arrived as a lieutenant in the Air Force and left as a Captain. He won an Air Medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross and eleven Oak Leaf Clusters.

He flew over 50 bombing and strafing missions as a one-man crew of a Thunderbolt

Fighter. One of the challenges of these missions was the weather, as Captain Martini described in his letters from France: "It's the worst weather to fly in. We've lost four boys in bad weather flying . . . The weather man said the ceiling was 700 ft. but I believe he meant 70 ft. because as soon as we got air borne we lost sight of the ground. Well, we climbed up through the stuff and got above it a 5,000 ft. and proceeded to the target. Once over the target area it was clear. We bombed a rail bridge and knocked it out. Then started home. Well, over the base it was raining and we were flying right on the tree tops and could hardly see the ground. Lucky we found a field on the way home and we landed . . . That's the kind of weather we run into and lose good men in it. Sometimes we climbed from ground to 20,000 ft. in solid clouds before we break out of it. Boy, that's hard on your nerves."

In 1998 France allowed one of its highest honors to be awarded to Veterans from Allied Countries fighting in defense of France. Today, Mr. Martini receives the Medal of Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor by Deputy Consul General Mrs. Corinne Pereira.

After his military career, Mr. Martini returned to his trade as a plumber. For many years he ran "Reliable Plumbing" and he has trained just about every plumber on the coast.

Mr. Martini is the loving husband of Cathy Martini and proud father of his son, Mark Martini.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to rise with me to honor Captain Martini for his service to our country and our Allies on the day he receives the Medal of Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor, April 1, 2011.

INTRODUCING THE CHESAPEAKE BAY GATEWAYS NETWORK

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce several pieces of legislation to help restore the Chesapeake Bay. Marylanders have a strong tradition of environmental advocacy rooted in a passion for the Chesapeake Bay. The Chesapeake Bay is our Nation's largest estuary and, in many ways, the soul of my home state. It is a national environmental treasure and an economic catalyst for Maryland's tourism and seafood industries.

Unfortunately, the Bay's health has been negatively impacted by multiple factors, most notably nutrient runoff from our neighborhoods, farms and roadways. The legislation I am introducing today will help restore the Bay by enhancing outdoor recreation, improving access to the Bay, expanding environmental education, rehabilitating vital wetlands and providing incentives for citizens to make their homes more "Bay friendly."

The first bill would reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network (CBGN), a program that connects those who live in the Bay watershed to the natural, cultural and historic resources of the Bay and thereby encourages individual stewardship of these resources. This legislation is identical to the bill that passed the House of Representatives by an overwhelming and bipartisan vote during the 110th and 111th Congresses. Since 2000, Gateways

has grown to include more than 150 sites and over 1500 miles of established and developing water trails in six states and the District of Columbia. Through grants to parks, volunteer groups, wildlife refuges, historic sites, museums, and water trails, the Network ties these sites together to provide meaningful experiences and foster citizen stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay. For a very modest investment, the Gateways program helps promote citizen stewardship that will be necessary to advance Bay cleanup and maintain the gains we hope to make in the coming years.

I am also introducing the Chesapeake Bay Science, Education and Ecosystem Enhancement Act of 2011, which reauthorizes the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Chesapeake Bay Office that provides much of the scientific expertise to support Bay restoration. This legislation also authorizes NOAA's Chesapeake Bay Watershed Education and Training (BWET) program which provides environmental education grants in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Finally, the bill enhances the Chesapeake Bay Interpretative Buoy System (CBIBS), which provides vital scientific and historical information to boaters, scientists and teachers about conditions in the Chesapeake Bay. The Chesapeake Bay Science, Education and Ecosystem Enhancement Act also passed the House of Representatives during the 111th Congress by a bipartisan vote.

The third bill would strengthen and expand the Army Corps of Engineers' role in Chesapeake Bay restoration—a mission they first began in 1996. It would provide the Corps with continuing authority to engage in this work; expand the Corps' work to all six states in the Bay watershed and the District of Columbia; and provide flexibility for the Corps to work with other federal agencies, state and local governments, and not-for-profit groups engaged in Bay cleanup. The Chesapeake Bay Environmental Restoration and Protection Program, which was established in section 510 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) in 1996, authorizes the Army Corps of Engineers to provide design and construction assistance to state and local authorities in the environmental restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. These projects range from shoreline buffers to oyster reef construction.

The final piece of legislation is the Save the Bay Homeowner Act of 2011. This legislation would allow the 17 million citizens of the Chesapeake Bay watershed to become citizen stewards of the Bay and give them an active role in restoring it. The bill directs the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop a "Save the Chesapeake Bay Home" designation program that identifies various steps homeowners could voluntarily take around their property to reduce nutrient and sediment runoff and improve water quality in local streams and rivers that feed into the Bay. If a participating home meets certain standards, such as installing rain barrels or reducing fertilizer on their lawns, that home could be designated a "Save the Chesapeake Bay Home." The legislation further directs the EPA to give credit to states and local jurisdictions for nutrient and sediment level reduction based upon the number of homeowners that achieve the "Save the Chesapeake Bay Home" designation.

To truly save the Chesapeake Bay, we need the 17 million people who live in the Bay's wa-

tershed to become citizen stewards of the streams and rivers in their community. If each individual within the watershed were to contribute to clean-up efforts, even in small ways, the aggregate would yield significant results in moving Bay restoration forward.

Mr. Speaker, these four pieces of legislation will help improve the federal government's role in restoring the Chesapeake Bay. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting each of these pieces of legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE RIO GRANDE SAFE COMMUNITIES COALITION

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of the Rio Grande Safe Communities Coalition. The Coalition serves the Paso del Norte region which includes the City of El Paso, Texas, Southern New Mexico and Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico to build a safe drug-free environment for youth and adults. I want to honor the members of this Coalition for their tireless efforts in making a positive difference in our nation.

By implementing substance abuse preventative strategies within these communities, the Rio Grande Safe Communities Coalition helps individuals to avoid the negative consequences of drug and alcohol abuse. In order to do this effectively, the Coalition proactively identifies unsafe conditions in the community that contribute to the problem of substance abuse, and implements programs that aim to stop the behaviors creating these conditions. One such example is the Communities Against Reckless Endangerment or CARE initiative.

The CARE initiative was established in 2002 by the Coalition in response to troubling data from University Medical Center of El Paso and the El Paso Police Department regarding alcohol-related incidents among youth ages 12–17. The Coalition's response to this problem was to build a program that engages high school students to become part of the solution through peer-to-peer learning and educational awareness campaigns that warn of the dangers of substance abuse. Through this initiative, which was funded through the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Program and monitored by the Office of National Drug Control Policy, high school students created public service announcements and billboards aimed at preventing alcohol and drug abuse.

Since the establishment of the Rio Grande Safe Communities Coalition in 1999, there have been a number of initiatives to prevent and combat substance abuse. Initiatives include Operation B.R.I.D.G.E., which helped curb the problem of underage drinking by local teens who would cross into Mexico to consume alcohol, and the "DARE 2 CARE," campaign that placed warnings at convenience store windows and on alcohol packages throughout El Paso regarding unsafe and illegal consumption of alcohol.

The efforts of the Rio Grande Safe Communities Coalition have helped save the lives and improve the health of countless individuals in the community. Today, I am proud to recognize their efforts in improving the quality of life

for youth and adults living in the Paso del Norte region, and congratulate the Coalition for recently marking 10 years of community collaboration.

CENTER FOR MEDICARE
ADVOCACY'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Center for Medicare Advocacy's 25th anniversary and recognize their staff that has worked tirelessly on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries in Connecticut and around the country.

In 1986, the Center for Medicare Advocacy was founded in Mansfield, Connecticut by Judy Stein who has been a fierce advocate and leader for quality health care for Medicare beneficiaries. Over the past 25 years, Judy has transformed the Center into an unparalleled, national education and advocacy organization that supports Medicare beneficiaries. Today, the Center serves as an invaluable resource for our constituents and provides us with much needed, quality information on Medicare policies.

With a team of attorneys, nurses, legal assistants, and information management specialists, the Center for Medicare Advocacy works to provide assistance to seniors by simplifying Medicare policies and challenging the Medicare system to provide affordable quality health care with due process and rights of appeal. The Center offers consultations, training, and education to individuals and organizations in order to promote an affordable and fair Medicare system.

My colleagues and I owe Judy and the Center much gratitude for their vigilance of Medicare and the millions of beneficiaries it serves. It is my distinct pleasure to recognize their fine work and celebrate 25 years of service and many more to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF ABRAHAM
BREEHEY, 1976–2011

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform my colleagues that Abraham Breehey, Director of Legislative Affairs and Special Assistant to the International President of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, passed away yesterday, Thursday, April 14, 2011 at INOVA Fairfax Hospital, in Falls Church, Virginia, from complications related to a brain tumor and subsequent stroke.

Abe, only 34 years old, was born in 1976 in Binghamton, New York. He is survived by his wife, Sonya and beloved young daughter, Abigail, his father Ray, his mother Carol, his sister Rachel, 3 nieces, a nephew and, of course, his dog Kesey.

His death is a tragedy for his family and a loss for the working men and women of America on whose behalf he was so deeply committed.

Abe received his Bachelor's Degree from Siena College in Loudonville, NY and Master's Degree in Public Policy from the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy at the University of Albany. Prior to joining the Boilermakers in 2004, he served as Legislative Assistant for Representative LLOYD DOGGETT (TX–25).

Abe was a leading voice in the labor movement, representing the Boilermakers on issues related to energy policy and climate change, and their impact on workers. He was widely respected for his passion, intellect, and ability to build consensus across ideological and political lines.

Abe has testified in front of multiple U.S. Senate Committees and represented the Boilermakers in international negotiations regarding the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Abe also advised the AFL–CIO Building and Construction Trades Department as Chairman of the Department's Legislative Task Force.

And Abe is a graduate of the Trade Union Program at Harvard Law School.

A staunch advocate on behalf of every Boilermaker member, Abe was a colleague and a friend to each of us.

My thoughts and prayers are with the entire Breehey family. I hope they receive a small degree of comfort in knowing that Abe was so well liked and so well respected in his professional world.

HONORING CERRITOS
COUNCILMEMBER LAURA LEE

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Laura Lee for her 8 years of public service to the people of Cerritos, California.

Laura and her husband Charles have called Cerritos home since 1979 and raised their two talented children in the city. Prior to her election to the Cerritos City Council in 2003, Laura had been an active member of the community and served as a city planning commissioner from 1999 to 2001. As a testament to her leadership, the residents of Cerritos elected Laura to serve the maximum amount of terms, fulfilling the duties of Mayor once and Mayor Pro Tempore twice.

Throughout her tenure on the Cerritos City Council, Laura worked tirelessly with her fellow councilmembers to launch the city to new heights. During Laura's tenure on the city council, Cerritos experienced unmatched growth, including the addition of a fitness center at the city's Senior Center, the erection of a beautiful sculpture garden, and the construction of the Fountain Walk senior housing community.

Under 2008, with Laura's leadership, the City of Cerritos received the prestigious All-America City Award. Laura also worked to ensure Cerritos remains a place where small businesses thrive, helping the City to earn "Most Business-Friendly City in Los Angeles County" recognition by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation.

Laura's passion for serving others extended well beyond her Council duties. She has

served as director of the American Red Cross Long Beach Chapter Board, advisor of the Su Casa Domestic Abuse Network, director general of the Southern California Chinese Women's League, and a steadfast volunteer at the Cerritos Senior Center. A real estate broker by trade, Laura has also led the Rancho Southeast Association of Realtors as president and served as chairwoman of the Equal Opportunity and Cultural Diversity Committee of the California Association of Realtors.

Perhaps Laura's most profound contribution to Cerritos is her immeasurable kindness and compassion. Her heart has always made certain her decisions at the City Council dais were generous as well as pragmatic. Her smile is ever present and exemplifies the city's vibrancy. It is with great pleasure that I commend Laura for her dedication to public service and leadership by example.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
CHILDREN'S BUDGET ACT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Forest Witcraft is reported to have said, "A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove, but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child." Children make up one-quarter of our population, and they form the foundation of our nation's future. Every parent hopes that their children will fare better than they did—achieve more, experience greater success, and realize the American Dream more fully. As policymakers, we have the ability and responsibility to provide a strong foundation for our youngest citizens to grow into the achievers and leaders of tomorrow.

Today, I introduce the Children's Budget Act. It is a bill that is simple in concept—require the President to provide a detailed account of all the Federal funding for children and children's programs. What funding do we actually spend on children? Are we properly addressing the national needs and problems confronting children? Accounting for Federal dollars in this way will help us understand how well we are making the health and well-being of our children a national priority.

Currently, even experienced policy analysts have a difficult time determining how much the government invests in children, and therefore how the needs of our children might better be addressed. A few independent groups—such as First Focus, the Brookings Institution, and the Urban Institute—have worked to understand the Federal investment in our children. It is only through their efforts that we have been able to comprehend how recent Federal funding choices have affected children. For example, the children's advocacy group First Focus recently commissioned a report by the Urban Institute to detail how Federal spending on children has changed over the past 45 years. The results of the Kids Share report were startling. In 1960, the children's share of Federal domestic spending—tax policies included—was 20.1 percent. In 2009, that share had declined to 14 percent—a 30.3 percent overall decline. Together, the Democratically-

controlled 111th Congress and the President substantially increased funding for children by \$25 billion. The President's FY11 Budget proposed important increases of \$6.2 billion in children's spending. In contrast, the Republican FY12 Budget proposal would eliminate all gains from the last several years. To illustrate, the Ryan Budget would create a \$150 billion funding gap in the Children's Health insurance program between 2014 and 2021, resulting in an 80 percent hole in the CHIP program and a loss of coverage for approximately 7 million children. Similarly, children bore 22 percent of the cuts in the second Continuing Resolution this year.

If children are a national priority, we need to measure our Federal spending so that we can understand if our choices disproportionately harm or protect our children. Without this analysis, policymakers and the public are limited in our ability to know how children fare in funding proposals. I strongly believe the Federal Government should embrace examining our Federal budget by our investment in children. Already, there are several State and local governments who produce a children's budget annually, including Louisiana, Ohio, the District of Columbia, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Oregon, and the Cities of Philadelphia and San Francisco. These budgets provide invaluable sources of information that help us understand whether we are meeting our goals for children. Precedent already exists for examining the Federal budget based on key areas of interest, including spending on programs related to homeland security, meteorology, climate, and drug control. By creating a children's budget at the Federal level, we can bring a renewed attention to children's issues and programs and guarantee a fair look at our national investment priorities.

A Children's Budget is critical now more than ever, with so many of our children and youth bearing the brunt of our Nation's economic hardship. In 2009, 20.7 percent of children and 23.8 percent of children under age 6 lived below the poverty line in our Nation. My Congressional District—the Seventh District of Illinois—had a staggering 35.5 percent poverty rate among children in 2009. These statistics reflect the need for a children's budget so that policymakers and voters understand whether our investments match the needs of our Nation's youngest citizens.

As our Nation continues to face difficult economic times, we should be able to answer the fundamental question "Is it good for the children?" The Children's Budget Act would ensure that children are given due consideration whenever the budget is discussed and would provide policymakers, program administrators, and parents with a clear picture of the overall Federal investment in our children. Careful analysis of our spending today helps us improve our efforts for tomorrow. The well-being of our children should be at the top of our national agenda. I hope my colleagues will join me in sponsoring this important legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL P. MURPHY

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the retirement of Mike Murphy, the San Mateo County Counsel.

I had the great privilege to work with Mike when I was a member of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. He is an exceptional public servant, legal expert, human being and a dear friend.

Mike was born in Yokohama, Japan on November 17, 1948 as the son of a military family. He went to Pacific Grove High School from where he graduated in 1966. He then attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and graduated in 1970. He later served on the Military Academy Advisory Committee.

Mike laid the ground work for his legal career at Boalt Hall School of Law at UC Berkeley. He graduated in May of 1978 and just six months later was admitted to the California Bar.

In May of 1982, Mike started serving in the office of the San Mateo County District Attorney. In 1987, the civil division of the office became the San Mateo County Counsel where Mike continued to serve. He was appointed one of two Chief Deputies in 1998 and Assistant County Counsel in 2006. In 2007, he became Counsel until his retirement on March 18, 2011.

Mike served as the principal land use attorney for 22 years, a pressure cooker of a job that he made appear effortless. Among his highest achievements were the defense of the County's Local Coastal Program and Measure A, a coastal protection initiative and the defense of Measure T, authorizing the Devil's Slide tunnel bypass. During his entire career, Mike worked as a legal advisor on the San Bruno Mountain Habitat Conservation Plan, a landmark environmental document that he demonstrated his legal skill in drafting.

In 1988, Mike and San Mateo County celebrated a true David vs. Goliath victory. The Port of Oakland was about to dump 7 million tons of dredged spoils into the ocean off the San Mateo coast. The Half Moon Bay Fishermen's Marketing Association filed a lawsuit to stop the dumping but lost in federal court. Mike and his colleague Stephen Toben studied the case and filed a suit for injunctive and declaratory relief. It was their legal expertise and perseverance that resulted in a victory in front of the California State Court of Appeals.

While I was in the California Senate in 2003, Mike defended my financial privacy legislation and faced strong opposition from multinational conglomerates. Again, his outstanding legal acumen succeeded in protecting the rights of San Mateo County residents.

Mike has also been serving on the Military Academy Advisory Committee for the 12th Congressional District for many years, helping select the next generation of America's officers.

Mike is the loving husband of Gayle Murphy, his wife of 28 years, and the proud parent of their two daughters Erin and Shannon.

In his well deserved retirement, Mike will undoubtedly enjoy the additional time he will have to read and attend San Francisco Giants games.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to rise with me to honor an extraordinary man, Mike Murphy, for his dedication to public service and justice in San Mateo County.

CELEBRATION OF ANTIQUE TRACTOR PRESERVATION DAY

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the celebration of Antique Tractor Preservation Day in West Plains, Missouri. West Plains, Missouri represents a growing community that is creating a new tradition for tractor enthusiasts across the country.

Antique tractors and farm machinery serve as a reminder of a key part of our nation's agricultural heritage. Antique Tractor Preservation Day provides an opportunity to display these tractors in a venue where enthusiasts can share their stories with one another. Enthusiasts who share this common interest can share their passions for buying and restoring Antique Tractors.

Antique Tractor Preservation Day also provides others, who might not be enthusiasts, an opportunity to learn more about agricultural history and to better understand and appreciate the significant advancements American agriculture has made over the last century. It is important to carry on this legacy by preserving our antique tractors for generations into the future.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Michael Hinton and the West Plains community for their work in creating an opportunity for enthusiasts to come together and to celebrate this proud heritage and rich history.

TRASH REDUCTION ACT OF 2011

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, our 308 million American citizens throw away nearly 496 billion pounds of trash each year, a staggering amount by any analysis. And a sizable contribution is from disposable items, including plastic and paper bags. That's why today I am introducing the "Trash Reduction Act of 2011" along with my co-sponsor, Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON. We're asking for your support in moving this bill favorably through the House.

Just how bad is the problem? According to the U.S. EPA, the average American throws away about 4.4 pounds of trash each day or 1,600 pounds per year. That's nearly 248 million tons of American garbage each year. To put that in perspective, it's enough trash to fill a football-field-sized hole over 93 miles deep. Or create a similar-sized stack of garbage that reaches low earth orbit. This amount of trash could cover the state of Texas two and half times or fill enough trash trucks to form a line to the moon.

We consume an estimated 12 million barrels of oil and copious amounts of natural gas annually to make plastic bags that are used once

or twice, then tossed into the garbage. The U.S. International Trade Commission reported in 2009 that 102 billion plastic bags were used in the U.S. Much of the oil and natural gas used in those bags comes from foreign countries and it's all non-renewable. Once it's used for plastic bags and thrown away, that energy is gone forever.

Disposable paper bags are no better. In 1999, 14 million trees were cut to produce the 10 billion paper grocery bags used by Americans that year alone. Paper and paperboard products made up 20.7% of the municipal waste discarded in 2008—more than any other type of refuse measured by tonnage. According to the Environmental Paper Network, the pulp and paper industry is the fourth largest emitter of greenhouse gases among manufacturing industries, contributing 9% of total manufacturing-related carbon dioxide emissions. Most of energy use comes from powering paper mills.

There is no doubt that disposable retail plastic and paper bags are bad for the environment. Both paper and plastic bags consume valuable natural resources, generate profuse waste, and pollute the environment. They keep us dependent on nonrenewable resources like foreign oil and impose burdens that Americans bear in the form of higher garbage costs, visual blight, and the destruction of wildlife. Millions of animals are entangled in or ingest plastic waste. That same waste leaches toxins into the ground and our drinking water.

While recycling efforts should be applauded, recycling rates are dismally low. Only between one and three percent of all plastic bags are recycled, with a slightly higher ten to 15 percent paper-bag-recycling rate. Plus, the recycling process uses energy, water, and generates additional greenhouse gasses.

But we can do something about this gargantuan garbage nightmare. We can reduce the number of bags we use with market-based incentives. Requiring shoppers to internalize the costs of disposable bags has been shown to dramatically reduce their use and substantially increase reusable bag utilization. For example, after placing a fee on plastic bags, Ireland reportedly reduced consumption by 90%. China, after banning the use of ultra-thin plastic bags, is estimated to have eliminated 40 billion bags in the first year.

Critics have called this a regressive tax that falls on poor communities. This is simply untrue. Wealthy Americans consume substantially more resources and disposable shopping bags than the poor. Additionally, Americans of all incomes can purchase or be given a reusable bag and avoid this fee altogether. Plus, this fee is good for business. Business will be able to recoup their investment of time and effort through a tax credit and profits from reusable bag sales.

One need look no further than the District of Columbia to measure success. In 2009 the District imposed a five-cent tax on plastic bags that led to spectacular reductions in disposable bag use. The number of plastic bags dropped from the 2009 monthly average of 22.5 million to just 3 million per month by the end of 2010. River cleanup volunteers reported over a 60% decrease in the volume of plastic bags they collected during cleanup activities—and this was only three months after the fee took effect.

DC businesses approve of the fee as well. 78% of businesses interviewed report either a

positive or neutral impact on their business. People keep shopping and keep buying. 58% of DC business owners say the law has not affected their sales. And it's those dire predictions of falling sales that were used to scare business owners into opposing the fee. It's one of the many false predictions of bag-fee opponents.

While we can be proud of our environmental achievements and landmark laws, we need to do more to reduce our mountains of trash madness. Nothing is more fitting for this year's Earth Day celebration than helping reduce garbage.

This small disposable bag charge helps people understand that paper and plastic bags are not without cost. They impact the environment, support foreign dictators, and make Everests of trash. Our bill begins to shift America away from its current disposable culture back to a simpler time when Americans understood the value of reusing what they bought.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2012

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H. Con. Res. 34) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2012 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2013 through 2021:

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Chair, Congressman PAUL RYAN's budget goes beyond what is necessary to restore fiscal solvency. It unfairly targets our nation's low income communities and senior citizens, while protecting the interests of the wealthiest Americans.

My colleague's budget, which has been embraced by his party returns to the "trickle down" economics that contributed to the recent recession by cutting the tax rate for the wealthiest individuals and corporations from 35 to 25%.

This ten percent decrease represents \$800 billion dollars in new tax cuts for the wealthiest among us at a time when so many are struggling. The \$800 billion in tax cuts represents \$115 billion dollars cut from healthcare, \$119 billion from income security, \$223 billion from education, job training and social services, and \$276 billion dollars in cuts to transportation initiatives that provide jobs.

There is absolutely no justification for these huge tax cuts. The wealthiest tax brackets should not profit at the expense of programs keeping struggling families from poverty.

The Economic Policy Institute states that "A study just released by the Heritage Center for Data Analysis projects that The Path to Prosperity [Republican Budget Plan] will help create nearly one million new private-sector jobs next year, bring the unemployment rate down to 4% by 2015, and result in 2.5 million additional private-sector jobs in the last year of the decade." This is an overwhelmingly presumptuous estimation.

Unemployment fell to 4% for only one relatively brief episode in recent memory, and

that was after nearly a decade of strong economic growth. So the Heritage Center's claim is very bold.

The Congressional Budget Office predicts that the unemployment rate will be 5.9% in 2015. The Heritage Center's forecasts for the Ryan plan are even bolder in the out years: It predicts unemployment will fall to an unprecedented 2.8% by 2021. Simply put, this is incredible and wholly unrealistic.

The Economic Policy Institute calls "the Ryan budget a job killer," and goes on to say, "The chances that this plan would drive the U.S. economy to 2.8% unemployment are near zero, but the chances of it repeating the mistakes of the Bush tax cuts and driving the economy into a ditch are very real."

The Republican's 2012 budget cuts \$2 trillion dollars more than President Obama's Debt Commission advised, and those cuts come from vital social services and safety nets for low income families, children and seniors.

Since 1965, Americans have relied on the Federal government to provide healthcare security. The changes and cuts to Medicare proposed in this budget deeply threaten the security of our senior citizens. The proposed repeal of guaranteed eligibility means that Americans who are 54 years old today will not be guaranteed to receive Medicare when they turn 65.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that these changes to Medicare will triple the cost for new beneficiaries by 2030 and increase costs for current recipients, including the 2.9 million people in Texas who received Medicare in 2010.

The Republican proposal will enact damaging changes to Medicaid, threatening healthcare resources for the 60 million people, half of them children that rely on this program to stay healthy. A block grant for funding or a cap on federal Medicaid spending would increase the cost for states and the low income families who benefit from the program.

Harris County has one of the highest Medicaid enrollment records in Texas. Limits and cuts to Medicaid funds would significantly hurt the citizens of Texas's 18th District. Harris County averages between 500,000 and 600,000 Medicaid recipients monthly, thousands of people who may not have access to healthcare under this budget.

Changes to Medicaid advocated by Republicans would be devastating to senior citizens who rely on the Medicaid safety net for long term care and nursing home costs not covered by Medicare. The AARP estimates cutting this safety net would put 54,000 Texas nursing home residents in jeopardy.

The Majority party's budget cuts do not just impact those who rely on Medicaid and Medicare; they also prevent 32 million Americans from obtaining health insurance under the Affordable Care Act. By inserting a repeal of this historic legislation into a budget, Republicans threaten millions seeking insurance, including the 6.2 million Texans who do not have health care coverage.

Underserved and low income Americans will see deep cuts to the programs that keep them safe and healthy, like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which provides food assistance to 44.3 million people, would be transferred to a block grant under the Republican plan. Shifting the cost to the states would force them to cut benefits to current recipients or create a waiting list of families that can't afford food on their own. This

would certainly harm the 554,000 people in Harris County receiving SNAP benefits in December of 2010.

This legislation would cut Federal housing aid, and impose unfair work or job training requirements that give no consideration to job market diversity or extenuating circumstances. It will also deeply reduce the LIHEAP contingency fund will affect the 500,000 low income households in Houston that were receiving heating and energy discounts last year.

Republicans may be willing to pass a budget that reduces Pell Grants by 60%. They may be comfortable eliminating \$75 million dollars to provide housing and other services to homeless veterans, but I cannot support a budget that leaves so many Americans behind.

In order to move America forward, we must give all citizens equal opportunity for success. We must invest in future generations by funding education and job training programs, not cutting this funding by \$250 billion dollars. We need to invest in clean energy, and environmentally sound technology that will foster job growth, and continue to improve our infrastructure.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my concern regarding the partisan direction our budget debate has taken this week. Although there is near unanimous agreement that we must reduce our deficit, there has been no productive discussion in this chamber as to how we can work together to accomplish that goal. We all have our own ideas about our nation's fiscal priorities, but what is missing in today's discussion is a bipartisan, centrist approach to addressing our nation's fiscal health, such as the recommendations in the report by the Simpson-Bowles National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform.

It is unfortunate that the House will not consider the Cooper amendment, mirroring the Simpson-Bowles suggestions, as an alternative to the extreme partisan proposals that have been put forth. Responsibly reducing our nation's deficit will require shared sacrifice and bipartisan consensus, and will not be accomplished if the two parties are unable to work together.

In March, I joined with my colleagues in the Blue Dog Coalition to offer a comprehensive and aggressive set of benchmarks for fiscal reform that include the largest deficit cuts in history by 2014, entitlement and tax reform, and a reduction in the overall size of government. This proposal put everything on the table, cutting the deficit by \$4 trillion dollars over the next 10 years, returning to 2008 spending levels by 2013, and addressing entitlement programs.

No one party has all the answers, and no one party can do this alone. It's time to put our economy back on the path to fiscal sustainability, and this House should consider the Simpson-Bowles recommendations that aim to accomplish that goal.

HONORING MRS. NORA LEE ADAMS

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, One hundred years ago a virtuous woman of God was born in Houston County, Georgia on April 15, 1911; and

Whereas, Mrs. Nora Lee Adams moved to Dooly County, Georgia, where she married Mr. Henry Adams and through their union was blessed with 12 children, 27 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren and 31 great-great grandchildren; and

Whereas, this phenomenal Proverbs 31 woman has shared her time and talents as a wife, mother and motivator, giving the citizens of Georgia a person of great worth, a fearless leader and a servant to all who want to advance the lives of others; and

Whereas, Mrs. Adams has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God and credits it all to the Will of God; and

Whereas, Mrs. Adams, along with her family and friends, is celebrating this day a remarkable milestone, her 100th birthday, we pause to acknowledge a woman who is a cornerstone in our community in DeKalb County, Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Adams on her birthday and to wish her well and recognize her for an exemplary life which is an inspiration to all;

Now Therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim April 15th, 2011 as Mrs. Nora Lee Adams Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 15th day of April, 2011.

IN RECOGNITION OF RACHEL
ANDRES

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Rachel Andres, the 2011 San Mateo County Teacher of the Year.

At a time when our country lags behind other nations in math and science achievement instruction, Rachel Andres has established a teaching approach in high school that is slashing the math gap. In her own words: "I respect my students and listen to the voice of each one, but then I set high standards, challenge each one to excel, provide the necessary support and require that they take responsibility for learning and be accountable for demonstrating master." She is clearly a task master with compassion.

Rachel earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a double major in Mathematics and Secondary Education from Lake Forest College in Illinois. After teaching four years at Winthrop High School in Massachusetts, she accepted her current position at Menlo-Atherton High School in 2005. She teaches Geometry and other math classes.

She is the coordinator of her school's effort to prepare students for college. In fact, she speaks at middle-schools for the purpose of attracting incoming freshmen to what is called the Advancement Via Individual Determination

program. She meets with parents and nurtures partnerships with local Boys and Girls Clubs and recruits tutors all in the name of nurturing a college-going culture in the community. Most significantly, a high percentage of students in the program are successful in becoming the first in their family to attend college.

Further, Rachel has expanded learning boundaries for her students through creative curriculum development. For example, she has designed strategies to enable students to use writing as a means to solve math problems. While her teaching has been recognized with local awards, she is quick to say that the most important recognition comes from students who thank her for helping them succeed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to rise with me to honor a teacher who has raised the bar of excellence in the classroom. Our country simply needs more math teachers like Rachel Andres.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR FLIGHT OF
OREGON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 27 World War II veterans of Oregon who will visit their memorial here in Washington, DC, later this month. On behalf of a grateful state and country, we welcome the Honor Flight of Oregon.

The following are the distinguished veterans who will be representing the Honor Flight of Oregon: Elbert Bales, Donald Cameron, Kenneth Deacon, Henry Dorig, Robert Eddings, Noel Eng, William Grisso, Paul Potts, Eugene Sheffler and Harold Weigand, U.S. Navy; Ruth Waldruff, U.S. Marine Corps; Calvin Clayton, Stephen Graves, Warren Lancaster, John Lortz, John Mast, Laurel McClelland, Hans Running, Donald Smith and Don West, U.S. Army; John Couch, Calvin Hanscom, Jerry Johnson and James Johnson, U.S. Army Air Corps; Barbara Euler and Baldwin Thurman, U.S. Women's Army Corps; Shirley Marcy, U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps.

Mr. Speaker, these 27 veterans from Oregon are joining a camaraderie of over 63,000 veterans from across the country who, since 2005, have been transported from their home states to our nation's capital at absolutely no cost to them or their families, to visit and reflect at memorials built here in their honor.

The fact that these soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines would uproot themselves from their homes and families and put themselves in harm's way for our country is very humbling. The debt of gratitude we owe them can never be repaid, for without their honor, courage, commitment, and—above all—sacrifice we would not be able to enjoy the freedoms we have today.

Please join me in thanking these Oregon veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Oregon for their dedication, commitment, and service to this great nation.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2012

SPEECH OF

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H. Con. Res. 34) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2012 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2013 through 2021, with Mr. Terry in the chair.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to the Republican budget plan.

The federal budget should reflect the priorities and values of our nation, but the Republican plan instead looks out for the likes of big corporations who would get enormous tax breaks. What's more, the Republicans are asking America's seniors to pay for it. In fact, the Republican budget would end Medicare as we know it. And it would devastate Medicaid. Moreover, the Republican budget hurts our economy and in particular investments in innovation.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican budget proposal will severely unravel our nation's gains in the clean energy economy. At the same time, it proposes significant tax subsidies for Big Oil. There is something not right with that picture. In fact, I believe the Republican budget is severely short-sighted. It offers our competitors, China and Germany, a free-pass to dominate an ever-growing clean energy manufacturing economy and job creation.

The Sacramento area has over 220 clean energy companies, and I can tell you that many of those small business CEOs are seeking continued investment and support from this Congress.

Mr. Chair, we should be promoting policies like the Make It in America agenda to boost America's manufacturing industry and make products here this country. In order for America to remain competitive, innovative, and a global leader, we must make responsible choices.

Unfortunately, the Ryan budget does not. I urge my colleagues to vote against this misguided Republican budget plan.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I missed rollcall vote No. 270 for H. Con. Res. 35. If I were here, I would have voted "yea."

INTRODUCTION OF THE
SUPERFUND REINVESTMENT ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce the "Superfund Rein-

vestment Act" along with my colleagues Rep. FRANK PALLONE and TIMOTHY BISHOP. This legislation will provide resources to communities across the country to clean up hazardous waste sites and at the same time will save taxpayers more than \$20 billion over 10 years.

The Superfund program was enacted in 1980 to provide money to clean up toxic waste sites where the responsible party was out of business or could not be identified. Before they expired in 1995, the money for Superfund cleanup came from taxes on the polluters themselves. However, Congress has never reauthorized the tax, making the burden of funding cleanups of toxic waste sites fall on the shoulders of taxpaying Americans. It is time to make public health, not protection for polluters, a priority.

This legislation will simply reinstate the Superfund taxes to their previous levels. This includes excise taxes of 9.7 cents per barrel on crude oil or refined oil products, excise taxes of \$0.22 to \$4.87 per ton on certain chemicals, and a corporate income tax of 0.12 percent on the amount of a corporation's modified alternative minimum taxable income that exceeds \$2 million. The President's FY 2012 budget, which calls for reauthorization of these taxes, estimates that these fees would raise about \$2 billion per year and \$20.8 billion over 10 years.

Superfund sites are some of the most contaminated in the nation. 70 million Americans—including 10 million children, live within four miles of a Superfund site. They are exposed to toxic waste such as arsenic, benzene, PCBs, mercury and a range of solvents, leading to health problems such as infertility, low birth weight, birth defects, leukemia and respiratory difficulties. Communities home to these sites can face restrictions on water use and recreational activities as well as economic losses as property values decline due to contaminated land.

My community of Portland, Oregon, has been struggling to clean up one of the nation's most complex Superfund sites, the Portland Harbor site on the Willamette River. I hope that this bill to reinvest in the Superfund program will provide additional resources to the Environmental Protection Agency to keep the cleanup on track.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2012

SPEECH OF

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H. Con. Res. 34) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2012 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2013 through 2021:

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H. Con. Res. 34, the FY 2012 Budget Resolution. Instead of having the wealthiest pay their fair share, this budget just helps the "haves" at the expense of everyone else.

The Republican majority has brought this bill to the floor for a vote today, claiming that this budget will resolve our fiscal crisis and lead our country back on the "path to prosperity." Sadly, this path to prosperity only applies to those who already have a lot and don't need more. Millionaires and billionaires will like the tax breaks that they'll get from this budget. The wealthiest Americans will get the Bush tax cuts permanently extended to the tune of \$1 trillion. Big Oil companies will get tens of billions of dollars in subsidies. Special interests that send jobs overseas will also like this budget's tax giveaways.

What should scare us most about this FY2012 budget is that it pays for all of these tax breaks—over \$4 trillion in tax cuts—on the backs of working and middle-class people. It asks those who are struggling the most to sacrifice even more.

The recession has increased the child poverty rate in Hawaii to its highest level in years. This reverse Robin Hood budget would drastically cut food programs for poor children, Head Start, and child care for working families. Today, my staff and I are fasting in solidarity with the 50 million people in America who don't know where their next meal is coming from. HungerFast.org is coordinating this effort with over 30,000 people, including Members of Congress, Ambassador Tony Hall, faith leaders, MoveOn and SEIU members, Moby, and others.

H. Con. Res. 34 ends Medicare as we know it. All of you under the age of 55 will not be able to enroll in the original Medicare program. In Hawaii, the under-55 population is slightly less than a million. When you are age 67—yes, that's right, Republicans are raising the Medicare enrollment age by two more years—you will receive a voucher that you will use to buy insurance from a private company. We don't know what the amount of the voucher will be or whether it will keep up with the rising costs of health care. This scheme privatizes Medicare.

You're 67 years old. Is trying to buy health insurance with your voucher what you want to be doing? Every year? And who knows if the doctor you like is even going to participate in your private insurance plan. One thing is for certain—privatizing Medicare will mean more business for the insurance companies.

The Republican plan doesn't take on the 48 million Americans already on Medicare or those that will enter the program in 10 years because the Republicans know that this voucher plan would make these seniors mad as hell. Many of you have parents on Medicare. My mom is on Medicare. Without Medicare, we would be worried sick about how our parents will pay for health care.

Before Medicare became law in 1965, half of all seniors had no health insurance. The Republican budget is not only out of step with the priorities of the nation, but it is also a step backwards when it comes to health care for those who need it the most.

This budget also takes away important health care reform benefits for seniors who are already on Medicare. It repeals the gradual elimination of the Medicare "donut hole" in prescription drug coverage. It also repeals free access to key preventive services and annual checkups. Over 48 million seniors with Medicare, including 208,500 in Hawaii, would have to pay more if they want to stay healthy by getting regular check-ups.

Another group most in need of medical care in our country—the poor—would see cuts of about \$771 billion from Medicaid over 10 years. Medicaid would be converted into a block grant program, which won't reflect the actual need for Medicaid services. Converting Medicaid into a fixed funding stream would raise the cost of nursing home care for millions of families, potentially reducing the quality of care. It would also impact seniors and disabled individuals who want home- or community-based support as opposed to expensive institutional care.

Seventeen governors, including our former colleague and now Governor of Hawaii Neil Abercrombie, have written to the Speaker in opposition to the Republican plan to block grant Medicaid. They know that this would place an unfair burden on the cost of health care on the states. Under the Republican plan, Hawaii alone would lose \$2.8 billion in federal Medicaid dollars over 10 years. This means that 29,600 seniors could lose their Medicaid coverage or see reduced benefits due to the proposed Republican cut, resulting in 161,500 children losing their Medicaid coverage.

In addition to the problematic changes that this budget makes to Medicare and Medicaid, this short-sighted budget prevents us from investing in our workforce and growing our economy. The Republican budget cuts education and job training by more than 25 percent below current levels. Pell grants, funding for low-income elementary and secondary schools, and workforce training programs would be targeted for steep cuts. The bill also makes drastic cuts to local law enforcement and first responder programs at a time when many states, including Hawaii, are dealing with severe budget deficits.

This short-sighted budget also fails to invest in infrastructure or create jobs in the transportation sector. While I'm working with my colleagues in the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to approve a new multi-year highway and transit program, this Republican budget withdraws about \$318 billion in resources from highway, transit, and other transportation initiatives over the next 10 years. In the meantime, commuters are paying higher gas prices at the pump, seeking alternative modes of transportation, and dealing with congestion on our nation's roads, which along with our public transportation, were given a grade of "D" by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

The resolution offered by the Republicans further fails to make critical investments in research and development (R&D) in science, health, and renewable energy, undermining our global competitiveness in R&D. Hawaii's families pay higher energy costs than anyone else in the country. Under this bill, oil companies can continue to get subsidies while making record profits. Funding for development of renewable energy sources is slashed by 60 percent, ensuring that we will remain dependent on imported fossil fuels and sending a signal to the markets that clean energy jobs are not a priority.

Instead of supporting the draconian cuts proposed by this Republican plan, I will vote for the fairer and more balanced plans proposed as alternatives to H. Con. Res. 34. These alternatives address our deficit in a more responsible way by assisting our most vulnerable during a time of fragile economic recovery. I will support investments that will

create jobs and ensure that our country remains the leader in innovation and the engine driving the global economy.

I urge my colleagues to vote against H. Con. Res. 34.

HONORING REVEREND OBBIE L. BURNS

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, Reverend Obbie L. Burns today begins a new chapter in his life and the life of New Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Lithonia, Georgia; and

Whereas, Reverend Obbie L. Burns under the guidance and favor of God, will this day be installed as Pastor of the New Macedonia Baptist Church and under his leadership he will be charged to pioneer and sustain New Macedonia Baptist Church, as an instrument in our community that uplifts the spiritual, physical and mental welfare of our citizens; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man of God has given hope to the hopeless, fed the hungry and is a beacon of light to those in need; and

Whereas, Reverend Burns is a spiritual warrior, a man of compassion, a fearless leader and a servant to all, but most of all a visionary who has shared not only with his Church, but with our District and the world his passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Reverend Obbie L. Burns on his installation as Pastor;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim April 17, 2011 as Reverend Obbie L. Burns Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 17th day of April, 2011.

HONORING MS. ISABEL AFANADOR

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable woman, Ms. Isabel Afanador. Isabel Afanador was born in Bogota, Colombia. Quite accomplished, she has two Bachelor's degrees in Social Work, from the University Externado de Colombia and Florida International University. Additionally, she earned her Masters of Social Work from Florida International University.

Upon graduation in Colombia, she was hired as the Director of Social Services of Laminas del Caribe S.A.

In 1978, Isabel Afanador made South Florida her home. One year later she began to work for the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services as a caseworker in mental health. She was later promoted to the Program Manager position, which she held from 1988 to 1994.

From 1995 to 1998 she was the Department of Children and Families District Licensing Coordinator, whose responsibility it was to en-

sure quality licensure of all residential providers and day care facilities.

In 1998, Isabel left the child welfare arena to work for the Department of Juvenile Justice, where for two years she managed an operational division responsible for intake, assessment, detention screening, and case management of the Miami-Dade district.

In August 2000, she was promoted to Chief Probation Officer for the Miami-Dade Juvenile Justice Program, and held the position of South Regional Director from 2008–2011.

Ms. Isabel Afanador has used her many talents and skills for the benefit of the community. This includes freely sharing her time serving with the Children's Trust Board, Neat Staff board, Abriendo Puertas board, Youth Task Force board, Criminal Justice Council and a member of St. Brendan's Parrish.

Mr. Speaker, I ask those present today to join me in honoring Ms. Isabel Afanador and commending her many achievements and service on behalf of the state of Florida.

HONORING STUDENT VETERAN AND COMMUNITY LEADER MATT RANDLE

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize former United States Army Combat Medic and current University of Arizona student Matt Randle.

Over the course of his career in the Army, Matt received two Army Commendation Medals, three Army Achievement Medals and two Good Conduct Medals for his service.

Following his distinguished service to our country Matt returned to his hometown of Tucson, Arizona and enrolled at the University of Arizona. Once on the UA campus, Matt began working with UA President Robert Shelton and his staff to develop and implement an initiative for returning veterans. I am proud to say that today the University of Arizona, located in my congressional district, has one of the most progressive and impressive veteran education and service models in the country including a student run veteran's office.

Matt's leadership has also played an integral role in the prosperity of the UA Veterans club. This club has received numerous awards including the "club" and "Philanthropic Group" of the year awards for the 2009–2010 academic school year on the UA campus and the Student Veterans of America "club of the year award."

Additionally, Matt will receive the UA's 2011 Robie Award which is issued to students who show personal integrity, initiative, cooperativeness, enthusiasm, humility, well-rounded interests, active participation in student affairs, service to the university and willingness to give more than required, and show a love of God and country. Thankfully, upon graduation Matt will not be leaving Tucson; he will be attending the University of Arizona Rogers College Of Law in the fall of 2011.

Each day more veterans return home from the Middle East conflicts. Matt Randle's ambition and leadership both at the UA and nationally will certainly be of great benefit to our returning veterans.

I am pleased to acknowledge and thank my constituent and friend, Matt Randle of the University of Arizona for his leadership, service and outstanding contributions to our community.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2012

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H. Con. Res. 34) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2012 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2013 through 2021:

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to the Ryan budget. There are many reasons to oppose this budget.

Among them is the unconscionable provision that ends the Medicare guarantee of health care for our nation's seniors.

Since many of my colleagues have already spoken about the serious negative impact the Ryan Budget will have on Medicare, I will focus my comments on another egregious provision that unravels the Medicaid safety net.

The Republican budget before this House cuts support for seniors in nursing homes, disabled individuals and low-income children who depend on Medicaid.

This proposal to starve Medicaid of funds is nothing more than a heartless assault on America's poorest and most vulnerable—our children, seniors, the disabled and minority communities who rely on Medicaid for their health care.

Last year alone, 60 million Americans were served by Medicaid. Thirty million of those were children.

According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, if the Republican budget were to become law, states which are already buried in debt would face significant challenges in achieving enough cost savings to mitigate the loss of Federal funding.

As a result: states would likely begin to limit eligibility; Medicaid enrollees would have limited access to care and higher out-of-pocket costs and health care providers would lose money due to more uncompensated care and lost coverage.

In my district, where more than 250,000 residents are uninsured and tens of thousands more rely on Medicaid for their health care, this extreme Republican budget will be disastrous.

There are better and fairer ways to address our country's deficit that will protect the Medicaid safety net, create jobs, protect our seniors and invest in our children and the future of our country.

It is a mystery to me why Republicans are willing to fight to protect the tax cuts for big oil and the super wealthy and sacrifice millions of the poorest and most vulnerable Americans who will lose their medical and long-term care.

Democrats will fight to ensure this proposal is never enacted, and I encourage all my colleagues to oppose this cruel and shortsighted budget.

HONORING MRS. MARY KELLOGG BELL FOR HER DEDICATION TO HER FELLOW NORTH CAROLINIANS

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Mary Kellogg Bell for a life dedicated to helping others in North Carolina.

Mary Bell was born on May 4, 1916. After graduating from the University of Georgia in 1937 with a degree in physical education, she worked as Head Counselor for Merrywood Camp for girls and in 1939, married her husband, Joseph Oscar Bell, Jr.

In 1951, Mrs. Bell founded the Glen Arden Camp for girls, which has enriched the lives of children around the country by exposing them to the natural beauty of Western North Carolina. In 1955, Mrs. Bell went on to become the first woman to serve on the Henderson County School Board. Mrs. Bell continues to volunteer as the Chair of the Welcoming Committee at her retirement home and helps organize transportation for retirees to get to the dialysis clinic.

It is an honor to represent selfless, hard-working citizens like Mrs. Mary Kellogg Bell. Her devotion is a great source of pride to me and to Western North Carolina. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Mrs. Mary Kellogg Bell for her lasting impact on society.

REMEMBERING AND HONORING
THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM BREEHEY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of Abraham Breehey, Director of Legislative Affairs and Special Assistant to the International President of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers. A loving father, husband, and friend, Abe passed away, at just 35, on Thursday, April 14, 2011, at INOVA Fairfax Hospital in Virginia from brain tumor complications.

Abe was born in 1976 in Binghamton, New York to Ray and Carol Breehey. He received his Bachelor's Degree from Sienna College in Loudonville, NY, his Master's Degree in Public Policy from the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy at the University of Albany, and graduated from the Trade Union Program at Harvard Law School. Prior to joining the Boilermakers in 2004, Abe served as Legislative Assistant for Representative LLOYD DOGGETT (TX-25).

Throughout his life, Abe championed fundamental labor rights. He represented the Boilermakers on issues regarding the effects of energy policy and climate change on workers. Abe also testified in front of multiple U.S. Senate Committees and represented the Boilermakers in international negotiations regarding the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In addition, Abe advised the AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Department as Chairman of the Department's Legislative Task Force.

Abe was a leading voice in the labor movement and was widely respected by his friends and colleagues. He was known for his passion, his warm personality, and his negotiating skill to merge both ideological and political goals into a practical solution.

Abe is survived by his wife, Sonya, his beloved daughter, Abigail, his father, Ray, his mother, Carol, and his sister, Rachel. My thoughts and prayers go out to the Breehey family. Abe was a good man who will be dearly missed by his family, friends, and the labor movement which he represented.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM
BREEHEY, 1976-2011

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I was saddened to learn that Abraham Breehey passed away yesterday from a brain tumor and stroke. Abe was the Director of Legislative Affairs and Special Assistant to the International President of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers. Abe also served as Chairman of the AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Department's Legislative Task Force.

Abe was only 34 years old.

His death is a tragedy for his family and a loss for the working men and women of America on whose behalf he was so deeply committed.

I share in sadness and reflection with Hawaii's members of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers, Locals 90 and 627.

It is always sad when we lose a labor leader, especially one so young and with such promise. I have been told that Abe was a passionate advocate for working people around the world. He was well-respected in the labor community for using his sharp intellect to build consensus across party lines.

Abe has testified in front of several U.S. Senate Committees, and he represented the Boilermakers in international negotiations on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

My thoughts and prayers are with the entire Breehey family and the U.S. labor movement.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL BILL WILLIAMS AND GEORGIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM

HON. ROB WOODALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Bill Williams and the Georgia Army National Guard Agricultural Development Team. Colonel Williams will be leading the Guard's Agricultural Development Team on a year-long deployment to Afghanistan at the end of April 2011. These brave citizen-soldiers are not only going into the theater to assist our men and women on the ground as they engage insurgents and terrorists but also

improve the lives of Afghani citizens. They will work to build an agricultural and irrigation system where local Afghani farmers can grow fruit and vegetables, raise livestock, and better manage limited water resources. Their efforts will create a stable, vital agricultural base and water resources system that can support the Afghani people and serve as a springboard for further economic growth in rural Afghan villages.

I cannot emphasize enough the importance of this kind of development and reconstruction. A stable, productive Afghani agricultural sector will be a counter-balance to the Taliban and the illicit production of opium, both of which are prevalent in rural parts of that nation and a threat to the security of the Afghan people and our military mission there. We have a chance to counteract these activities by collaborating with the Afghani people to find the tools and the seeds to grow their own democracy. In partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Georgia Army National Guard will also deliver clean water to more and more Afghani communities. By simply treating and transporting clean water to these communities, we will dramatically improve the health of the overall population, helping to win the hearts and minds of the Afghani people.

We have a real chance to turn the tide, and the Georgia Army National Guard Agricultural Development Team will continue that fight. I am so proud to see our Georgia military men and women meeting this challenge and leading the effort in the coming year to further transform Afghani society. It is my hope that through the work of the Agricultural Development Team and their Afghani partners, Afghanistan will develop an agrarian foundation that will not only bear food, but also the fruits of liberty, prosperity, and security in the coming years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Georgia Army National Guard Agricultural Development Team for their outstanding service to our country and for their commitment to growing the seeds of democracy. May God bless them on their mission in Afghanistan and return them safely home.

TAIWAN F-16 SALES

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, as a long-time friend of Taiwan and as a Member of Congress who has frequent interaction with Taiwanese American constituents, I rise today to bring a timely issue to your attention.

My support for Taiwan, and especially for arms sales to Taiwan, is well-known and well-documented. As a matter of fact, I inserted a statement into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD last spring calling for the expedient sale of F-16s to Taiwan.

Recently, I read an article in the Taipei Times that left me rattled.

On February 20, 2011, the director of the American Enterprise Institute's Program on Advanced Strategic Studies, Mr. Gary Schmitt, wrote in the Taipei Times, "When your girlfriend refuses to set a date for a wedding, and does so over several years, it's probably a good idea to start looking around for another

fiancé. So it is today with Taiwan's efforts to procure more than five dozen F-16s from the U.S. This is a courtship from Taipei's end that has been going on since 2006. After nearly five years, it's time to consider moving on."

I believe it is critical that we do not drive Taiwan to the point where they have to start looking for fighters elsewhere. This situation is especially concerning because it will cost the U.S. jobs at a time when the domestic economy—particularly my home state of Texas—could use all the help it can get.

Mr. Speaker, let's not forget that today's Taiwan continues to be under an ominous shadow cast by the over 1,600 short- and medium-range ballistic missiles that the People's Republic of China (PRC) has aimed at it. The PRC continues to refuse to renounce the use of force against Taiwan, continues to claim Taiwan as a renegade province, and, to add insult to injury, passed an "Anti-Secession Law" on March 14, 2005, mandating military action if Taiwan moves toward formal de jure independence. We strongly condemned passage of this "Anti-Secession Law" when we passed House Concurrent Resolution 98 on March 16, 2005.

Section 3(a) and (b) of the 1979 Taiwan Relations Act, which is the cornerstone of United States-Taiwan relations and the law of the land, stipulates that both the President and the Congress shall determine the nature and quantity of defense articles and services that we are legally bound to provide to Taiwan, based solely upon their judgment of the needs of Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude my remarks by urging my esteemed colleagues to join me in requesting the President move ahead with the sale of F-16s to Taiwan at this time.

TAXPAYER RECEIPT ACT OF 2011

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, in the recent months, taxes and spending have become a central topic in our national debate. How much federal income tax people pay and what those taxes pay for is not well understood by many Americans.

Very little information about how tax revenues are spent is ever made available to the American people. This results in significant misinformation. For example, a Washington Post and Kaiser Foundation poll found that by a margin of two to one, Americans believe that the federal government spends more on foreign aid than on either Social Security or Medicare. This is why I am reintroducing the Taxpayer Receipt Act of 2011. This bill requires the Secretary of the Treasury to provide each taxpayer with a simple annual statement explaining how his or her federal income tax dollars were spent.

In the previous session I introduced this bill to bring transparency to government spending. Today, in tandem with the President's launch of the official federal taxpayer receipt, I will reintroduce this legislation to require by law that this critical information be provided to the American people for years to come.

The taxpayer receipt act provides an unbiased objective receipt that details federal

spending based on the same budget functions used in the appropriations process and rarely changed. This ensures accuracy and consistency from year to year, to ensure that the tax receipt is used to inform the American people objectively and not be used as a political document.

Thomas Jefferson once said, "Information is the currency of democracy." To that end, providing Americans with information and transparency on government spending is essential to maintaining the strength and health of our democracy.

THE INDEMNIFICATION PROVISIONS OF THE DODD-FRANK WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, swap data repositories have the ability to provide regulators and markets with information on aggregate data positions that can assist them in evaluating and managing risk. However, that ability can be substantially diminished if important information is excluded from them. One risk of fragmentation or exclusion of data is if a country's laws in practice provide disincentives, or even prohibitions, to the sharing of such data to a repository located in another jurisdiction.

Sections 728 and 763 of the Dodd-Frank Act require that repositories obtain indemnifications from foreign regulators before sharing information with them. There was no legislative history behind this provision, which was incorporated late in the legislative process, without having been considered in the hearing process. As a result, it was not subject to extensive discussion and consideration prior to the enactment of the Dodd-Frank Act, and its negative consequences must not have been clear to the conferees or the relevant regulatory bodies. I believe that the indemnification provision will significantly impede global regulatory cooperation.

Foreign regulators are not likely to grant Derivative Clearing Organizations, DCO's, or Swap Data Repositories, SDRs, indemnification in exchange for access to information. Accordingly, regulators may be less willing to access the aggregated market data, resulting in a reduction of information consumption, domestically and internationally, which jeopardizes market stability.

Further, the provision could have an immediate negative impact on the ability of U.S. regulators to obtain information from repositories located in foreign countries should reciprocal indemnification provisions be enacted in foreign laws. U.S. regulators, like foreign regulators, might be legally or practically precluded from signing such agreements.

This is not a theoretical concern. Just a few days ago in March, Jean-Paul Gauzes, a French Member of Parliament from the Conservative Party included in a package of 950 amendments put forth by the European Parliament to the European Commission language that would mirror the indemnification clauses in Dodd-Frank Act. The amendment was a deliberate response to the extraterritoriality provisions of "indemnity" contained in Dodd-Frank, and adoption of the package is anticipated in May of this year.

The proposed European language would require the United States government to indemnify EU trade repositories for any expenses arising from litigation relating to the information provided by the trade repository. The provision, which could well be adopted, has the potential to create numerous problems for the United States. For starters, it is not clear that U.S. regulators have the legal authority to enter into such an indemnification. Were they to do so, the indemnification becomes an invitation to such litigation by third-parties, domestic or foreign.

These problems mirror precisely the problems for EU governments created by the indemnification clauses in Dodd-Frank. In practice, while governments worked to address the issues raised by such requirements, the default position for any SDR would have to refuse to provide such information absent the indemnification, creating fragmentation and information gaps that could meaningfully harm global safety and soundness.

Preventing the exchange of information between regulators will frustrate efforts to mitigate international financial risk and fragment regulatory oversight on a jurisdiction-by-jurisdiction basis.

The goal is to ensure that in situations where foreign regulators are carrying out their regulatory responsibilities in a manner consistent with international agreements, which includes maintaining the confidentiality of data, can be appropriately exchanged without Sections 728 and 763 becoming an impediment to the goals of transparency and sound policy.

In light of the EU calendar on indemnification, swift action to prevent the unintended consequences of this inadequately considered provision of Dodd-Frank is needed.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, today's legislation is the eighth—and I hope final—Continuing Resolution the Congress as a whole will be considering this fiscal year.

Throughout this debate, I have rejected the false choice between deep cuts that harm our fragile economic recovery or shutting down the government. Rather, as Ranking Member of the Budget Committee, I have argued for a middle ground of graduated and predictable fiscal reform that both supports our recovery and reflects our values and priorities as a nation. In that regard, I am pleased that today's agreement reduces non-emergency outlays by only \$352 million for the rest of FY 2011—and then spreads the next \$20 billion in cuts over the next five years.

I have also made clear that our nation's fiscal imbalance cannot be addressed solely through reductions in the 12 percent of the budget representing non-security discretionary spending. Like the Bipartisan Fiscal Commission, I believe the final solution must include savings from our defense budget, adjustments to mandatory spending, and increased revenue. In my judgment, that revenue can and

should come from comprehensive tax reform that eliminates tax loopholes and reinstates the Clinton era marginal rates for upper income earners.

Mr. Speaker, to govern is to choose, and today's legislation contains choices I would not have made. For example, because I believe the United States should be second to none when it comes to medical and scientific research, I do not think it makes sense to cut \$260 million from the National Institutes of Health. Additionally, because our economy needs more clean energy, reducing energy efficiency and renewable energy research, development and deployment by \$407 million is a visible step in the wrong direction. Finally, because our nation deserves a 21st century infrastructure and the jobs that go with it, slashing nearly \$1 billion from the Clean Water and Drinking Water Revolving Funds is clearly misguided. In my view, medical research, clean energy and infrastructure are all examples of investments we can and should be willing to make in order to build a healthier, cleaner and stronger America.

While I am acutely aware of this bill's shortcomings, I also believe today's agreement contains some important victories. In a very challenging fiscal environment, we have been able to fund critical educational priorities. The Head Start program serving our youngest Americans will get a \$340 million increase, and the maximum Pell Grant award will be maintained at \$5500 so deserving low-income students can go to college. Additionally, with our unemployment rate at 8.8%, we have largely protected vital job training funds at a level of \$2.8 billion. Finally, while I do not believe the Republican party has any right to impose its ideological agenda on the District of Columbia, this bill eliminates the vast majority of extreme policy riders in HR 1 ranging from women's health to public broadcasting to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Law to the EPA's efforts to combat climate change.

Mr. Speaker, this has been a far from perfect process, and not surprisingly, today's legislation is a far from perfect measure. But it is apparently the best we can do in this sharply divided Congress—and in the final analysis, I believe it is preferable to shutting down the government.

STATEMENT OF REP. EDWARD J. MARKEY ON THE NINETY-SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, today, we remember and honor the victims of the Armenian Genocide, and we call, once again, for passage of a resolution affirming the Armenian Genocide in the U.S. Congress.

Between 1915 and 1923, a campaign conceived and executed by the Ottoman Empire forcibly deported nearly 2 million Armenians from their homes, resulting in the deaths of 1.5 million innocent children, women and men. The history surrounding this issue is abundantly clear—genocide did occur.

While the target of this campaign of extermination was the Armenian people, it was in-

deed a crime against all people—and we must not forget lest we let it happen again. On this day every year, communities across our nation and across the world come together to remember this great tragedy. On this day, we are all Armenians.

The term “genocide” had not yet been coined in 1915, when the first Armenians were driven from their homes. The definition of this most profound crime against humanity came in 1944 from Raphael Lemkin, a Polish Jew who survived the Holocaust by fleeing to America after the fall of Warsaw to the Nazis. In the wake of World War Two, Lemkin led the international community to establish the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide. Lemkin's definitive example of genocide was the crimes against the Armenians.

And as we commemorate the Armenian Genocide, we must redouble our efforts to stop similar crimes being committed today. The scorched towns of Darfur, in western Sudan, continue to suffer mass murder, displacement, rape, and torture at the hands of the government and its militia allies. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, armed forces continue to target ethnic populations with abductions and violence, leading to more than 5.4 million civilian deaths in the past 15 years. And just weeks ago, the humanitarian group Doctors Without Borders was forced to suspend clinics in eastern Congo due to attacks from armed Congolese soldiers. These ongoing genocides must be stopped. Immediately.

In order to eliminate these genocides in the future, we must keep alive the memories of genocides past.

The U.S. House of Representatives has had before it, for many years now, a resolution which clearly affirms the United States record on the Armenian Genocide. I have been a strong supporter and vocal cosponsor of this resolution in every Congress, and I remain so today.

Last year, when the Foreign Affairs Committee voted in support of the resolution, Turkey recalled its Ambassador to the United States. Turkey's leaders continue to say that properly recognizing the Armenian Genocide will harm U.S.-Turkey relations—that it is not the right time to pass this resolution. But it is always “the right time” for the truth.

Already, 43 states and 20 nations have officially recognized the Armenian Genocide, and it is time for the United States to do the same. After all, how can we have the moral authority to call out and condemn the genocides in Darfur or Rwanda when we are unable to acknowledge the tragedy of Armenia? I look forward to the day that this truth can be spoken aloud, in one voice, by our government, and by governments around the world. Because it is the truth.

In 2009, the governments of Turkey and Armenia announced a roadmap for normalizing relations between the two countries. In a process brokered by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the two countries signed protocols to resume diplomacy and end the Turkish blockade of Armenia. However, before the ink had dried on those accords, the Turkish government backtracked on its commitment by adding additional preconditions.

The people of Armenia continue to face the devastating hardships wrought by the dual blockades of Turkey and Azerbaijan. These

blockades severely impede Armenia's ability to export goods, restricting the country's GDP by almost 40 percent of what it could be. In the face of these ongoing blockades, the United States must fully restore its economic aid to Armenia while working to reestablish the Turkish government's commitment to normalized relations.

Armenia has come a long way to free itself from terror and tyranny—free from the Ottoman Empire, free from the Soviet Union, and free from the horrors of the genocide that we remember every April 24th. This journey continues today, with our shared responsibility to ensure that the Armenian people are able to build their own, independent and prosperous future. If Armenians want to stay in Armenia and make a life there, they should be able to do so in peace and prosperity, and we should support them. And so, I look forward to continuing to work with the Armenian-American community and Members of the Congressional Caucus on Armenia to address the issues facing this longtime friend and important ally of the United States, so that together we can build something positive, something hopeful, something good for the future—an Armenia that is respected and honored by its allies and neighbors. And this cannot come without universal acknowledgement of the great humanitarian horror that was the Armenian Genocide.

Elie Wiesel once wrote, "A destruction, an annihilation that only man can provoke, only man can prevent." Nearly one century later, that is our responsibility—to remember the Armenian Genocide so that we can prevent such atrocities from happening again, and to continue standing together with the Armenian people in building a better future.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2012

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H. Con. Res. 34) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2012 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2013 through 2021:

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise today to speak in opposition to the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Resolution that is before the House today, H. Con. Res. 34. As a senior member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and as a Texan that cares deeply about adequately providing for our Nation's Transportation system, I cannot support the Republican Budget proposal that has been brought before us today.

I share my colleague's concern regarding our national debt but this irresponsible bill makes drastic cuts to our Nation's infrastructure that will harm the American economy in the long run. This bill cuts nationwide funding for highway, safety, and public transportation investments over the next six years from \$331 billion to \$219 billion.

This drastic cut of more than \$100 billion over six years of Highway funding means that the State of Texas alone will lose over \$1.9 billion in Highway funding at a time when revenue from the Highway Trust Fund is stretched thinner than ever.

Additionally, assuming the widely accepted 2007 Federal Highway Administration model that every \$1 billion of federal highway-aid in-

vestment creates or sustains 34,779 jobs over a seven-year period, this bill would destroy more than 490,000 jobs at a time when Congress should be helping grow and strengthen our economy, not stifling it as this Republican budget does.

I am proud to support the Congressional Black Caucus Alternative Budget for 2012 that does honor our country's commitment to support and invest not only in transportation and infrastructure but also in education, job training, and research and development for Science and Technology.

I must emphasize that our future economic growth, and therefore our ability to reduce our debt in the future, is tied very strongly to the investments we make in science and innovation today.

Although the cuts to our Nation's Science programs are much less severe in the FY 2011 Continuing Resolution than H.R. 1, they still are damaging to our Science agencies, especially considering that current fiscal year is already half over.

Across the world, growth in jobs in Science and Technology are increasing at a high rate and America should be supplying an adequate education and training for talented people to enter these industries.

We are jeopardizing our country's future by threatening funding for programs which are helping American students develop the right combination of skills for these jobs.

Mr. Chair, we cannot afford to shut the doors on America's ability to compete in these growing industries and we cannot afford to stifle maintaining and growing our transportation system by neglecting much needed investment in these sectors. I urge my colleagues to support the Democratic alternative budget that is before us and reject the Republican budget that destroys jobs and is no plan for the future.