

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about an irresponsible Republican bill that will soon come to this Floor. This measure is an attack on those who are unemployed at when they need the most assistance. I am not alone in my outrage, I am joined by Members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, to call attention to this repeated attack on workers in this country who find themselves without a job at this time.

When the Great Depression was upon us Congress did not put forth education requirements in order for unemployed men and women to get potential future jobs, Congress along with the President worked together to create jobs. It is my hope that this Congress will work together with the President to put Americans back to work.

This bill proposed by my Republican colleagues is the latest chapter in the Republican scheme to sabotage our recovery. It is a known fact that when Americans have more money in their pockets, they spend it which enhances our economy. When Americans have more money in their pockets then small businesses can hire more workers which creates more American jobs. Unemployment Insurance pays for itself.

Last December, Republicans threatened to terminate the last bit of income received by over one million unemployed Americans by refusing to extend unemployment benefits. Now that our economy is on the road to recovery, Washington Republicans, once again, aim to take money out of the pockets of working Americans. Slashing unemployment benefits would cut off a lifeline that more than 1 million Americans depend on to put food on their tables.

This latest Republican scheme would hit hardest states with the most Americans looking for work. They intend to cut the length of unemployment benefits from 73 weeks to 33 weeks in 22 states.

Under the Republican plan more than 194,000 Texans would lose their Unemployment benefits. Even with the recent good news on job creation, long-term unemployment remains at near record levels.

This is primarily because our economy still has 5.5 million fewer jobs than before the recession, which makes returning to work particularly difficult right now. Rather than acknowledge these facts, Republicans in Congress seem intent on blaming the unemployed for their unemployment.

The Republican proposal on unemployment insurance would result in 40 fewer weeks being provided to many long-term unemployed workers, reducing benefits to nearly 3 million workers compared to an extension of current law.

The draconian cut in the Republican bill is squarely focused on the States with the high-

est rates on unemployment—the same places where finding a new job is the hardest. Consider this fact: under the GOP bill, a worker in the State with the highest level of unemployment would lose nearly three times as many weeks of benefits as a worker in the State with the lowest unemployment.

In addition to drastically cutting Federal unemployment benefits, the House bill proposes a series of new barriers to unemployment benefits that would reduce access to UI for years to come. Many of these provisions are changes to permanent law, not to the temporary federal programs that were established in response to the worst recession since the great depression.

STATE WAIVER OPTION

Creating new barriers to unemployment insurance is not reform. Instead, it amounts to breaking the promise made nearly 80 years ago to help Americans struggling to find a new job. The House Republican bill would allow States to divert UI funds for other purposes if they get a waiver. This waiver authority could lead to jobless Americans being denied unemployment benefits, or to new roadblocks that hinder access to benefits.

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA REQUIREMENT

Another very disturbing feature of the House Republican bill is a provision that would require Unemployment Insurance (UI) recipients to have a high school degree or to be working toward one to be eligible for benefits. This means a fifty year old worker who has worked his or her entire life would have to go back to high school to get unemployment benefits. And you might ask who will pay for hundreds of thousands of people to get their GED. The Republican bill has no answer, even when we already have an estimated 160,000 people on waiting lists for adult education classes.

DRUG TESTING REQUIREMENT

A third objectionable provision in the Republican bill would allow States to subject all applicants for UI to drug tests. This provision seems part of a larger agenda to stigmatize unemployment insurance by suggesting that Americans are jobless because of their own failings, rather than because our economy still has over five million fewer jobs than when the recession started.

States already deny benefits to any individual who has been fired from their job because of a substance abuse problem, and States can disqualify a UI recipient if he or she is unwilling to take a drug test if required by a prospective employer.

We don't need to further target unemployment insurance recipients with drug tests. Congress should avoid policies like these that seek to blame the unemployed for unemployment, and instead work on commonsense policies that promote reemployment.

COMMENDATION OF DARRON MCKINNEY

HON. HANSEN CLARKE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Darron McKinney as a law enforcement officer and role model in Detroit, Michigan.

Officer McKinney caught the nation's attention when he gave a riveting performance of his original song, "A Call to Courage," at the National Law Enforcement Officers memorial candlelight vigil on May 13, 2001 in Washington D.C. The song pays tribute to slain police officers and their families.

After the attacks of September 11, 2001, the song became a symbol of American bravery and unity, and is now considered a tribute to the first responders who served in the 9/11 recovery efforts. Many local and national TV stations broadcast the footage of Officer McKinney's performance, and the performance is regularly televised on the Pentagon Network.

Ten years after the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, Officer McKinney's song reminds us of the love and appreciation we have for our first responders and members of our military. When disaster strikes, first responders like Officer McKinney help keep our families, neighborhoods, and communities safe.

"A Call to Courage" is a fitting tribute to our men and women in uniform. It is with great honor that I recognize Officer McKinney's contributions.

A CALL TO COURAGE

Officer Darron McKinney

Life, the chance to live, the chance to learn, the chance to teach, the chance to give, test you made a choice, you took a stand, you took the oath, you found your voice.

You made the sacrifice, then you took God's advice, you heard your call to courage.

Shield the public trust, protecting lives, respect and pride to serve and honor. Faith, your trust in God, that special path, you must be brave to guard our freedom.

When your life's on the line, in your heart and your mind you have a call to courage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICK MULVANEY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 40, I was unavoidably detained questioning witnesses at the Joint Economic Committee hearing entitled "Bolstering the Economy: Helping American Families by Reauthorizing the Payroll Tax Cut and UI Benefits." Had I been present, I would have voted, "no."

• 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.

HONORING THE 36TH DOUBLE CHAI ANNIVERSARY OF TEMPLE BETH KODESH

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Temple Beth Kodesh of Boynton Beach, Florida, on the occasion of their 36th Double Chai Anniversary. Temple Beth Kodesh has become an integral part of our vibrant, diverse community in South Florida, and it is truly an honor to represent its congregants here in Washington.

Temple Beth Kodesh comes from humble beginnings. In 1976, a small group of Jewish residents in Boynton Beach began holding services in each other's apartments in Village Royale on the Green. Less than a decade later in 1983, with the help of generous donations from members of the community, construction of Congregation Beth Kodesh was completed.

The story of Temple Beth Kodesh is also one of perseverance in the face of hardship. In 2004, Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne destroyed the temple and much of the surrounding area. Although devastated by the loss, congregants worked tirelessly to restore and reopen the synagogue in time for the 2005 high holidays.

Temple Beth Kodesh has thrived due to the dedication and hard work of its living past Presidents Leo Birdie, George Brindis, Fred Brown, Mike Friedland, Roy Haas, Irwin Hochman and Bob Rosenthal. I am proud to represent constituents who have dedicated the last 36 years to bringing Jewish Americans together to worship. I commend their efforts, and it is my hope that Temple Beth Kodesh continues to serve the South Florida community for years to come.

IN COMMEMORATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, this February we recognize and celebrate the 36th commemoration of Black History Month. This month we celebrate the contributions of African Americans to the history of our great Nation, and pay tribute to trailblazers, pioneers, heroes, and leaders like Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, U.S. Senator Blanche Kelso Bruce, U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, Astronauts Dr. Guion Stewart Bluford Jr. and Mae C. Jemison, Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, James Baldwin, Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Gwendolyn Brooks just to name a few of the countless number of well-known and unsung heroes whose contributions have helped our Nation become a more perfect union. The history of the United States has been marked by the great contributions of African American activists, leaders, writers, and artists.

As a member of Congress, I know that I stand on the shoulders of giants whose strug-

gles and triumphs made it possible for me to stand here today and continue the fight for equality, justice, and progress for all, regardless of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation.

Mr. Speaker, I particularly wish to acknowledge the contributions of African American women in shaping our Nation's history. As such, this Black History Month we honor groundbreaking "Black Women in American Culture and History" like U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Jordan; activists Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks; astronaut Mae C. Jemison; authors Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Gwendolyn Brooks; all of whom have each in their own way, whether through courageous activism, cultural contributions, or artistic creativity, forged social and political change, and forever changed our great Nation for the better.

As we celebrate Black History Month, let us pay tribute to those who have come before us, and pay forward to future generations by addressing what is the number one issue for African American families, and all American families today: preserving the American promise of economic opportunity for all. Our immediate focus must be job creation, and enacting legislation that will foster and lay the foundation for today's and tomorrow's generation of groundbreaking activists, leaders, scientists, writers and artists to continue contributing to the greatness of America. We must work to get Americans back to work. We must continue to preserve the American Dream for all.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here in celebration of the heroic and historic acts of African Americans and their indispensable contributions to this great Nation. It is through our work in creating possibilities for today and future generations that we best honor the accomplishments and legacy of our predecessors.

RECOGNIZING MR. JASON PIERRE-PAUL AS A SUPER BOWL CHAMPION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Mr. Jason Pierre-Paul, a defensive end for the New York Giants. Known by his family, friends, and fans as JPP, Jason played a pivotal role in the 2011 season for the Giants and helped lead his team to victory over the New England Patriots at this year's Super Bowl.

JPP was born in Deerfield Beach, Florida and attended Deerfield Beach High School, which is located in Florida's 23rd congressional district. Originally a basketball star, after suffering a serious leg injury, he transitioned to football during his junior year of high school. Despite being new to the sport, he went on to play college football at the University of South Florida. After an impressive college career, he was drafted by the Giants in the first round of the 2010 National Football League (NFL) Draft.

Without JPP leading the team with 16.5 sacks this season and being the steadiest defense player throughout the year, the Giants would not have been crowned Super Bowl

champions. One of the lasting images of this game will undoubtedly be JPP's celebration with his father. When he was an infant, his father, Mr. Jean Pierre-Paul, lost his vision and therefore has never been able to watch his son play football. Super Bowl XLVI was the first NFL game that Jean had ever attended. Their celebratory embrace on the field after the game was truly an emotional event to see.

It is these kinds of moments that illustrate the strength and courage that our children admire in athletes. JPP's parents emigrated from Haiti in 1983, and overcame many obstacles to ensure that he had every chance to succeed in life. Learning from his father, JPP overcame injuries and a lack of experience to become a Super Bowl champion.

After his win, JPP said, "It was awesome to experience this in just my second year." "Man, it's a blessing. We just got to stay humble as a team and see what the future holds for us."

Mr. Speaker, Jason Pierre-Paul's personal story highlights the promise of our great Nation. People from all backgrounds have the opportunity to achieve tremendous success in life. It is my distinct honor to commend JPP on all of his accomplishments and for his Super Bowl win.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, due to a previously scheduled doctor's appointment, I was absent from votes in the House yesterday afternoon (Tuesday, February 7th) and missed rollcall votes 40–42. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 40 (the Tonko Amendment to H.R. 3581, the Budget and Accounting Transparency Act) and 41 (motion to recommit H.R. 3581), and "no" on rollcall vote 42 (final passage of H.R. 3581).

COMMENDATION OF ALESCIA MARABOUSHONTRELL HOLLOWELL

HON. HANSEN CLARKE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alescia Maraboushontrell Hollowell for her scholastic achievement, community service, and being named Miss Black Michigan USA 2012.

Ms. Hollowell, a native Detroit, served as class vice-president and graduated magna cum laude from Cass Technical High School in 2005. While a student at Michigan State University, Ms. Hollowell was a Ronald McNair Scholar, peer mentor, and Dance Team member. Ms. Hollowell made the Dean's List and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies in Social Science—Health Studies. Currently, Ms. Hollowell is a full-time graduate student at the University of Michigan's School of Public Health.

As Miss Black Michigan USA 2012, Ms. Hollowell works with girls to address issues of body image, self-esteem, and teenage obesity.

Ms. Hollowell's scholastic achievement and belief that education is the key to lifelong growth and empowerment is inspiring to young women in Metro Detroit and throughout our nation.

Ms. Hollowell's passion for public service is evident. It is with great honor that I recognize Ms. Hollowell and wish her the best in her career and at the Miss Black USA 2012 pageant.

IN HONOR OF HOLLY BORG

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Holly Borg of Santa Cruz has just been named one of the top honorees in California by the 2012 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state and the District of Columbia.

Ms. Borg is being recognized for founding her school's Interact Club and serving as the Governor of Interact's District Council. Under Holly's leadership, the district raised more than \$100,000 to support ShelterBox International, an organization that provides long-term shelter for families affected by disaster.

Given the challenges we face today, it is vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contributions that these young citizens have made. Youth volunteers like Ms. Borg are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

The program that brought this young role model to our attention—The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards—was created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their example. Over the past 17 years, the program has become the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, and more than 100,000 young volunteers at the local, state and national level.

Ms. Borg should be extremely proud to have been singled out from the thousands of dedicated volunteers who participated in this year's program. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. Her actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

Mr. Speaker, I heartily applaud Ms. Borg for her initiative in seeking to make her community a better place to live, and for the positive impact she has had on the lives of others.

CELEBRATING THE MURRAY CITY LIBRARY CENTENNIAL

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Murray City Library, which is celebrating its centennial this year. As in many communities throughout the state of Utah, Murray City's library began as an effort of local volunteers wishing to promote the value of reading, literacy, education, and self-improvement to its residents.

For many years prior to 1912, the Murray City Women's Club operated a library and reading room available to the entire community. On May 7, 1912, the Murray City Mayor and Commission voted to accept the Women's Club donation of its book collection and to set aside a library fund to establish, operate, and maintain a free public library. The vision of these citizens and their elected officials created an institution that has served the community with distinction since 1912.

Over the course of the century that followed, the Murray Library continued to grow and promote its core values of providing friendly, responsive, accountable, respectful, and inclusive service to its community. It is now locally governed by a dedicated volunteer Board of Trustees that encourages everyone to celebrate the Library's past, present, and future. The Murray City Women's Club and the citizens' group Friends of the Library continue to support and promote a strong and independent library where the community can gather and share common interests and concerns.

The Murray City Library, like all of Utah's public libraries, plays a critical role in providing our citizens with the information they need to live, learn, and thrive in our society. I would therefore like to celebrate the one hundred years of community service provided by the Murray Library and look forward to another one hundred years of excellence.

COROLLA WILD HORSES PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 306, the Corolla Wild Horses Protection Act. This bill is a responsible and well-studied solution to the on-going debate regarding wild horse populations. Generally, when we discuss wild horse populations we are trying to find answers on how to curb the rapidity of herd growth. Yet today we are here attempting to support the expansion of the dwindling Colonial Spanish Mustangs that roam on the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

These graceful and social wild animals have captured the hearts and minds of Americans for hundreds of years. They are stunning to watch as they roam free on public lands and remain an historical national treasure. It is imperative that we protect and ensure a viable future for the Corolla wild horse population.

Currently, the Corolla wild horses are at risk of being reduced to a herd of 60 horses. According to scientific research led by Texas A&M University's Dr. Gus Cothran, a herd of horses that small is unsustainable because it lacks sufficient genetic diversity. A healthy population for the herd would be in the range of 110 to 130 horses. H.R. 306 takes heed of this warning and ensures that steps to responsibly increase the herd population are taken without affecting the other endangered species and refuge lands in the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge.

In the past, I have advocated for significant changes to current herd management practices to ensure humane and responsible population management on public lands. Such concerns are shared by the public and Members of Congress alike. I support this bill and will continue to work to ensure that wild horse populations are protected.

TRIBUTE TO GARY WILLIAMS

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. BARTLETT. Mr. Speaker, as the representative of the Sixth District of Maryland and a proud graduate of the University of Maryland, I commend your attention to the University of Maryland's recently retired men's basketball coach, Gary Williams.

Gary Williams started for three years and was team captain of the Terps during his senior year at the University of Maryland before he graduated in 1968. As a graduate student in 1969, he began his coaching career at the University of Maryland.

After great success as a coach at other colleges, Gary Williams leaped at the chance to be the Terp's head coach in 1989 though the team was battered by setbacks. Fighting back tears at his first news conference, Gary explained, "I never thought I'd have the opportunity to come back and coach at Maryland because . . . you very rarely get the opportunity to do that."

Only one other coach in history engineered a greater win-loss turnaround during his first year than Gary Williams at UMD. Gary is one of only seven college basketball coaches since 1980 to guide his alma mater to the Final Four and the first since 1974 to lead his alma mater to a national title—which he did in 2002. Gary Williams also led his teams to seven victories over top-ranked opponents—more than any other coach in history. Though retired as a coach, Gary Williams is continuing to work at the University of Maryland.

Gary Williams, thank you. Your loyalty to our beloved University of Maryland, your integrity, and your example of dedication to the pursuit of excellence on and off the basketball court sets an example that all Americans can be proud of and should emulate.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF EUGENE McAVOY CHAMPION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the 80th birthday of Mr. Eugene Champion.

Mr. Champion was born on February 20, 1932, in Crenshaw County, Alabama to Leon and Carol Champion. The son of a farmer and teacher, Eugene finished high school and served in the Air Force during the Korean Conflict. He attended and graduated from the University of Alabama on the GI Bill.

Eugene was married to his high school sweetheart, Bobbie Royal, in 1951. They had five children, Cindy, Mac, Becky, Amy and Bob. In 1976, Bobbie passed away. In 1979, Eugene married Margaret Scott and added her three children, Duane, Emalyn, and Derek to the family.

Mr. Champion received his CPA and worked as an accountant for several businesses as well as the State of Alabama.

After retiring from the State, Mr. Champion opened his own accounting firm. Although now retired, he still helps out friends with their taxes each year.

Eugene and Margaret are very involved in the First Baptist Church of Prattville. He is also an active member of the Lion's Club. Eugene is a proud grandfather and great-grandfather, who enjoys spending time with his family.

On February 19, his friends and family will celebrate his birthday in Prattville, Alabama. Today I would like to wish Eugene Champion a very Happy 80th Birthday.

HONORING THORA JERVEY

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in memory of Thora Jervy, a beloved matriarch of the Radford community in Southwest Virginia. Mrs. Jervy left us on January 31, 2012.

Born in 1929, Thora spent much of her childhood in southern California. She graduated from Whittier College in 1951 and married her husband, Ed, the same year. Thora and Ed moved to Radford, VA, in 1961, where she quickly became an active member of the community. Thora founded "The Lamplighters" and led the campaign for a new library in Radford. Thora was also responsible for founding the Radford Clothing Bank in 1982. It now serves hundreds of needy individuals each year.

She taught at Dublin Elementary School for 26 years, impacting countless students. Thora volunteered throughout the community, including helping to start Radford Elf Shelf, Books for Babies, the Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread program, and a nationally recognized newspaper recycling effort. Thora was also an active member of the Radford Women's Club and Grove United Methodist Church. Despite

being confined to a wheelchair for many years, she never let her disability get in the way. Until the time of her death, Thora continued as a member of the Radford Clothing Bank board and wrote a column for the Radford News Journal.

Thora was an avid bridge player and loved to travel. Along with her husband Ed, Thora visited every continent, including Antarctica. Thora is survived by her husband of 60 years, Ed; three sons, David, Warren, and Tom; daughter-in-law, Jeanne Phillips Jervy; and three grandchildren, Katie, Brett, and Peyton.

Those who knew her well are heard to talk of her generosity, kindness, and determination, which have made the City of Radford a better place to live. I am honored to pay tribute to this great woman's many contributions. Her legacy and influence will be long remembered in the Radford community.

HONORING WISLAWA SZYMBORSKA

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, my esteemed colleagues, please join me in honoring the late Wislawa Szymborska, Nobel Prize winning Polish poet and essayist, who passed away on February 1, 2012. Wislawa Szymborska was described as "the Mozart of poetry . . . with the furor of Beethoven." She received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1996, propelling her to international fame.

Incredibly particular in what she deemed worthy of print, Ms. Szymborska published less than 400 poems over the span of six decades. First gaining notoriety in Poland, her poetry eventually became known worldwide. She was renowned for approaching serious subjects with humor and satire, as well as for deeply examining seemingly trivial everyday occurrences. A true artist, she was very much in tune with human nature, while seemingly transcendent above it all. She was also notoriously private, choosing to remain away from what she called the "fuss."

Wislawa Szymborska's poetry is so profoundly rooted in human reality and yet so far removed from it, that it will surely withstand the test of time for generations to come. Both she and her poetry will be truly missed.

IN HONOR OF MR. WILLIAM H. WILLOUGHBY, JR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. William H. Willoughby, Jr. who is being recognized by the Joint Veterans' Commission of Cuyahoga County as the 2011 Outstanding Veteran of the Year.

Born a true "military brat," Mr. Willoughby grew up around the world in places such as California, Japan and Washington, DC. He enlisted in the U.S. Army and attended the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School before graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He furthered his training at Infan-

try, Airborne, Ranger and Special Forces Qualifications Schools. Mr. Willoughby served his country valiantly during two tours in Vietnam during 1965-1966 and again in 1968. He was an A Team Leader with the 5th Special Forces Group on his first tour and a Battalion Operations Officer (S3) with the 2nd Battalion 2nd Infantry 1st Infantry Division during the second, during which he was wounded in combat. Mr. Willoughby was awarded with the Silver Star, Soldier's Medal, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation, Air Medal and Combat Infantryman's Badge for his brave service to his country. Due to medical reasons, he retired from the Army in 1971.

While recovering from his injury, Mr. Willoughby earned a Masters Degree in Business Administration from Tulane University. He used his education to obtain work in the manufacturing industry. Working his way up in the field, Mr. Willoughby became the president of Pettibone Ohio Corporation. In 1984, with only five employees, he established Cleveland Track Material, Inc. (CTM). CTM quickly became a thriving company and by 2007 employed 260 people. It was named one of the "100 Best Places to Work in North East Ohio" for three consecutive years. It has received the Ohio Governor's Workforce Excellence Award, Blue Chip Enterprise Award and it was named the 1990 Ernest & Young Manufacturing Entrepreneur of the Year.

In addition to his military service and business success, Mr. Willoughby has been an outspoken supporter of the U.S. Military Academy and in 1979 was appointed the West Point Admissions Coordinator for Northeast Ohio. In 2010, he was named the coordinator for the entire state. Over the years William has assisted more than 650 young people from the State of Ohio to gain admission to the prestigious military academy.

Since 1997, he has served as the Master of Ceremonies for my 10th Congressional District's annual Service Academy Day and has provided invaluable assistance with the nomination process to my congressional staff. He has set the standard for a Service Academy representative, and is the recognized leader among West Point representatives. Everyone knows Bill! Always positive and professional, he leads by example, with a life history to illustrate the success of following the path of Duty, Honor and Country.

Mr. Willoughby has also brought four new Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps programs to Cleveland City Schools. Mr. Willoughby has been recognized as the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army Emeritus in 2005, received the U.S. Army Outstanding Civilian Service Medal and was inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame in 2008.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Mr. William Willoughby, Jr., Cuyahoga County's 2011 Outstanding Veteran of the Year.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTINE TAILLON

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Christine Tailon for her 32 years of service at General Electric in Lynn, Massachusetts, and to congratulate her on her recent retirement.

Christine started as a temporary employee in 1979 but soon became a permanent member of the GE staff. While raising two sons, working full time, and completing a bachelor's degree at Salem State College and a master's degree in Management at Lesley College in Cambridge, Christine progressed in various roles throughout the Lynn Aircraft Engine unit and became one of the first women in the company to become a Six Sigma Black Belt—a team leader responsible for measuring, analyzing, improving and controlling key processes that influence customer satisfaction and productivity growth.

Christine completed her General Electric career at the end of 2011 as a Senior Tech Manager for Turbo Shaft & GE38 Marine & Commercial Programs. The GE38 engine is believed to be the most technologically advanced turbo shaft engine in its class, and it is my understanding that the United States Marine Corps has selected it to power the Sikorsky CH53K Super Stallion helicopter.

General Electric has been in Lynn since 1892, and members of Christine's family have proudly worked there for most of that time. Christine's grandfather, Martin G. Higgins, entered the apprentice program at Lynn General Electric in 1904 and worked there for 34 years. Her father, John J. Higgins, worked at GE for 33 years, from 1943 to 1975. Christine's husband, Michael Taillon, also worked for 41 years at Lynn GE. In total, that is 140 years of service to General Electric in Lynn.

I congratulate Christine on her remarkable career and wish her all the best in her retirement.

HONORING JIMI YAMAICHI

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with Representative ZOE LOFGREN to honor Mr. Jimi Yamaichi. On November 3, 2011, Mr. Yamaichi was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays, from the Government of Japan. Mr. Yamaichi is being recognized for his contributions to Japan-U.S. relations arising from decades of community involvement. On February 24, 2012, the Consul General of Japan in San Francisco, Hiroshi Inomata, will present Mr. Yamaichi with this distinguished award.

Mr. Yamaichi grew up on his family owned farm in San Jose, California during the Great Depression era. As a young student, Mr. Yamaichi dreamed of becoming a carpenter. However, racism within the carpenter's union and the outbreak of World War II postponed that dream. With the signing of Executive Order 9066, Mr. Yamaichi and his family were forcibly removed from their home to the Pomona Assembly Center, then to the internment camps at Heart Mountain in Wyoming and at Tule Lake in California. While at Tule Lake, he oversaw building projects as the camp construction manager. After the war ended, Mr. Yamaichi doggedly pursued union membership, which he was finally granted.

With his experience in the internment camps and as a carpenter, Mr. Yamaichi has turned his attention towards memorializing the experi-

ences of Japanese Americans. Over the years, he has served on a variety of boards and committees in San Jose's Japantown. Currently, he leads the effort to restore the Tule Lake Relocation Center in addition to leading biannual pilgrimages to the internment camp. Through the restoration and pilgrimages to Tule Lake, Mr. Yamaichi shares the harsh reality of life in internment. Driven by the desire to tell the story of Japanese Americans, Mr. Yamaichi became a charter member of the Japanese American Museum of San Jose. As the curator of the Japanese American Museum of San Jose, he has managed projects and played a key role in the construction of the new museum. One of the key exhibits is the replica of the camp barracks, complete with artifacts found at Tule Lake.

Mr. Yamaichi's lifelong work to preserve Japanese American history was recognized by the Government of Japan in the 2011 Conferment of Decoration. Mr. Yamaichi is receiving the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays, for his work in Santa Clara County.

Mr. Speaker, we commend Mr. Jimi Yamaichi for his years of dedication and commitment to Santa Clara County and the Japanese American community. His contributions ensure that Japanese Americans' experiences of persecution will never be forgotten.

URGING PASSAGE OF THE STOCK ACT

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of The STOCK Act. This bill will make government more transparent and accountable to its citizens.

It is unacceptable for any Member of Congress, federal official or their staff to use non-public information obtained during their work as a public servant for their own financial gain.

The STOCK Act will give our constituents peace of mind that no one will gain from insider trading. This legislation greatly improves the Senate-passed version by extending these requirements to include the Executive Branch. All public servants must be held to the same standards.

I urge my colleagues to support this responsible legislation.

U.S. COMBAT OPERATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I commend President Obama's administration for the steps it is taking to bring the longest war in our nation's history to a close. Last week, Defense Secretary Panetta expressed the hope that "by mid- to the latter part of 2013 we'll be able to make a transition from a combat role to a training, advice and assist role." I urge the administration to fulfill this aspiration and bring our troops home to their families. They have sacrificed enough.

Afghanistan began as a war of necessity. After the horrific September 11th attacks, we sent troops to eliminate Al Qaeda, killing their leaders and destroying their training camps to prevent a future terrorist attack. Our troops carried out this mission with extraordinary courage and dedication. Osama Bin Laden was driven out of Afghanistan and he is now dead. Furthermore, our intelligence community affirms that Al Qaeda is virtually extinguished from Afghanistan, yet the war continues. End this war now and focus like a laser on terrorists wherever they may be.

Our troops in Afghanistan are no longer fighting terrorists who pose a threat to the United States. They are now fighting domestic Afghan factions and defending a corrupt and inept Afghan government. Our service-members are dying in another country's civil war. This has become a war of choice.

I recently met with Lt. Col. Danny Davis who described to me what that civil war looks like on the ground. He has served two combat deployments in Afghanistan, and has traveled throughout the country talking with US troops stationed all over. A recent evaluation of Col. Davis reads: "His maturity, tenacity and judgment can be counted on in even the hardest of situations, and his devotion to mission accomplishment is unmatched by his peers." This is how Col. Davis describes what he has observed:

What I saw bore no resemblance to rosy official statements by U.S. military leaders about conditions on the ground. Entering this deployment, I was sincerely hoping to learn that the claims were true: that conditions in Afghanistan were improving . . .

Instead, I witnessed the absence of success on virtually every level.

I saw the incredible difficulties any military force would have to pacify even a single area of any of those provinces; I heard many stories of how insurgents controlled virtually every piece of land beyond eyeshot of a U.S. or International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) base. I saw little to no evidence the local governments were able to provide for the basic needs of the people. Some of the Afghan civilians I talked with said the people didn't want to be connected to a predatory or incapable local government. From time to time, I observed Afghan Security forces collude with the insurgency. . .

Col. Davis's candid testimony reinforced my conviction that there is no military solution to the conflict in Afghanistan, only the prospect of continued shedding of American blood in a war that is not ours to fight. Only through a negotiated political settlement amongst the Afghan factions, not through an open-ended U.S. military presence, could Afghanistan become a stable, developing country.

America faces new threats now. The more than a trillion dollars spent on two wars over the course of a decade undermines our financial stability and takes away from much needed funds for American jobs and investments at home. The Obama administration has shown courageous leadership in eliminating Osama Bin Laden and other top Al Qaeda leaders. They have also shown leadership in bringing the war in Iraq to an end and in planning to ensure that the U.S. military commitment in Afghanistan is not an open-ended one. As President Obama clearly stated in his speech on the drawdown plan last year, we need to focus on nation-building at home. I agree, and I strongly support ending U.S. combat operations in Afghanistan and bringing our troops

home by mid-2013, if not sooner. It is the people in this body, the United States Congress, that can choose when this war ends.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. FRANK
W. ANDERSON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and memory of Mr. Frank W. Anderson, a strong proponent of disabled veterans' rights in the state of Ohio, who is being honored by the Joint Veterans' Commission of Cuyahoga County with the Judge Felix T. Matia/Chester J. Koch Memorial Award.

Frank Anderson was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1953 and attended East Tech High School. He attended Bowling Green State University, and then left in 1976 to enroll in the Ohio National Guard's 107th Armored Cavalry Regiment. Mr. Anderson was paralyzed in an accident while participating in an Ohio National Guard convoy in 1981. He was discharged as a sergeant in 1982.

Following this life altering experience, Frank became a strong advocate for disabled veterans' rights. He joined the Paralyzed Veterans' Buckeye Board in Ohio in 1985, and became the Advocacy Director in 1987. Mr. Anderson was also an active member of ADA Ohio Network, Greater Cleveland RTA Citizen's Advisory Board, Governor's Council on People with Disabilities, and was a trustee with the Soldiers and Sailors Monument. Frank was the 1st Vice President of the Joint Veterans Commission of Cuyahoga County and the Vice President of the Memorial Day Association of Greater Cleveland. Because of his tireless work he was awarded the Richard Fuller Outstanding Achievement in Government Relations Award in 2010.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory of Mr. Frank W. Anderson and his tireless work on behalf of Ohio's disabled veterans.

HONORING SPECIAL AGENT
DONALD WARE

HON. JOSEPH J. HECK

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. HECK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and sacrifice of Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agent Donald Cleo Ware, a Nevadan who dedicated his life to protecting the public from the dangers and violence associated with illegal drugs.

Special Agent Ware began his career in law enforcement in 1967 with the Albuquerque Police Department in New Mexico. Soon after, he joined the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, an agency which later merged to become the Drug Enforcement Administration. Special Agent Ware served twenty-five years with the DEA, protecting the American people and bravely fighting to eliminate the scourge of dangerous drugs.

On June 9, 1975, while conducting an investigation of a heroin trafficking organization

in San Luis Rio Colorado, Mexico, Special Agent Ware and Special Agent Wilfred Stevenson were kidnapped on their way to a meeting with the drug traffickers. Both agents were badly beaten and searched for weapons, but the gangsters failed to discover a gun Special Agent Ware had hidden in his waistband.

Knowing their captors intended to kill them, Special Agents Ware and Stevenson made a desperate attempt to escape using the gun the drug traffickers had failed to find. However, both agents were shot during the escape attempt and were left for dead by their attackers. Both agents survived this harrowing ordeal, but Special Agent Ware's injuries were so serious that he remained hospitalized for the next six months.

The shooting that nearly took his life never changed Special Agent Ware's trademark humility and dedication to his job. Though Special Agent Ware qualified for full medical retirement, he instead chose to continue working for the DEA until his retirement in 1995. For his service, Special Agent Ware was awarded the DEA Medal of Valor and the DEA Purple Heart Award.

Don Ware died on October 12, 2004, due to complications during a surgery directly related to his injuries received in the line of duty. To honor his service and sacrifice, Special Agent Ware was memorialized on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial on May 12, 2011, and the DEA Wall of Honor on May 13, 2011.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the life and service of Special Agent Don Ware, a great Nevadan, a devoted husband and father, and a dedicated officer of the law. His legacy stands as an excellent example for the entire law enforcement community, and his service and sacrifice should always be remembered.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300-132, the national debt was \$4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is \$15,343,504,866,785.66. We've added \$10,542,099,691,491.38 to our debt in 16 years. This is \$10 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN HONOR OF MARCIA GAMBRELL
HOVICK

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Marcia Gambrell Hovick, who passed away on January 31, 2012 at the age of 89. Marcia's long life was devoted to the theater. Born in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1922, she began taking ballet lessons at the age of

three, went on stage in children's theater at the age of four, and was playing piano when she was five. Right from the start, all who knew her recognized her talent.

Marcia graduated from Austin High School, in Austin, Texas. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Speech and Drama at Mills College in Oakland, California, and married Jack Hovick, a medical student. Jack became an obstetrician, and in 1956 they settled their growing family in Monterey, California. Together they had four children: Christopher, Nicholas, Kirsten, and Gwyneth, who preceded her in death.

Marcia soon was organizing a children's theater group, The Children's Experimental Theatre. Marcia said, "Children's theatre . . . is a truly awesome, transformational experience. It gives to children a kind of confidence, a location of themselves in the world, an ability to really notice each other, a feeling of mutual dependence and satisfaction."

Marcia wrote most of the plays she used in these productions. Many scripts available for children at the time were what she called "patronizing, simple-minded, phony." "What children are interested in," she said, "is truth. We can't always provide the truth, but at least we can give them a stab at it." She carried this exploration of truth forward in the monologues she wrote and performed herself, giving meaning to those women's lives. She also created the Traveling Troupe that brought theater into schools, and founded Staff Repertory Players.

Mr. Speaker, Marcia Gambrell Hovick was a teacher, director, actor, monologist, and writer. She touched many lives in her community, including my own daughter's, and was devoted to nurturing children and exploring truth through her art. It is a privilege and a high honor on behalf of her beloved community to recognize her life. She will be missed and I know I speak for the whole House in honoring the life of this dedicated and talented woman.

BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING
TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3581) to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to increase transparency in Federal budgeting, and for other purposes:

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Chair, yesterday I voted in support of H.R. 3581, the "Budget and Accounting Transparency Act of 2011," which passed through the House of Representatives by a vote of 245-180 and now awaits further consideration in the Senate. H.R. 3581 is a quality piece of legislation which requires the Federal Government to revise its policy of accounting for direct loans and loan guarantees by scoring these loans utilizing the market-based fair value method.

As further consideration is given to this bill, I urge my fellow colleagues to ensure that programs, such as the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Utility Service loans, are not adversely affected by the legislation.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

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

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 9, 2012 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 14

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Budget

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2013.

SD-608

2:15 p.m.

Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider S. 1023, to authorize the President to provide assistance to the Government of Haiti to end within 5 years the deforestation in Haiti and restore within 30 years the extent of tropical forest cover in existence in Haiti in 1990, S. 414, to protect girls in developing countries through the prevention of child marriage, S. Res. 342, honoring the life and legacy of Laura Pollan, and the nominations of Tara D. Sonenshine, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy, Anne Claire Richard, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary for Population, Refugees, and Migration, and Robert E. Whitehead, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Togolese Republic, all of the Department of State, and Earl W. Gast, of California, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and lists in the Foreign Service.

S-116, Capitol

2:30 p.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine pain in America, focusing on exploring challenges to relief.

SD-430

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

FEBRUARY 15

Time to be announced

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine energy and economic growth for rural America.

Room to be announced

10 a.m.

Budget

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2013 for the Department of Transportation.

SD-608

FEBRUARY 16

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the current and future worldwide threats to the national security of the United States; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SD-G50

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2013 for the Department of Energy.

SD-366

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Employment and Workplace Safety Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine addressing workforce needs at the regional level, focusing on innovative public and private partnerships.

SD-430

2:15 p.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine energy development in Indian country.

SD-628

2:30 p.m.

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

FEBRUARY 28

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Transportation Command in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2013 for the Department of the Interior.

SD-366

2:30 p.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings to examine a legislative presentation from the Disabled American Veterans (DAV).

345, Cannon Building

FEBRUARY 29

Time to be announced

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine strengthening conservation through the 2012 farm bill.

Room to be announced

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2013 for Veterans' Programs.

SR-418

MARCH 1

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine U.S. European Command, U.S. Africa Command, and U.S. Transportation Command in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SH-216

MARCH 6

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SH-216

MARCH 7

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings to examine a legislative presentation from the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

SD-G50

MARCH 8

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the Department of the Army in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-106

MARCH 13

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine U.S. Southern Command and U.S. Northern Command in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SD-G50

MARCH 14

Time to be announced

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine healthy food initiatives, local production, and nutrition.

Room to be announced

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine ending homelessness among veterans, focusing on Veterans' Affairs progress on its five year plan.

SR-418

MARCH 15

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the Department of the Navy in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a

closed session in SVC-217 following the
open session.

SD-G50

MARCH 20

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the Department of the Air Force in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SD-G50

MARCH 21

Time to be announced

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine risk management and commodities in the 2012 farm bill.

Room to be announced

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings to examine the legislative presentations of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), Non Commissioned Officers Association, American Ex-Prisoners of War, Vietnam Veterans of America, Wounded Warrior Project, National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, and The Retired Enlisted Association.

SD-G50

MARCH 22

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings to examine the legislative presentations of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Air Force Sergeants Association, Blinded Veterans Association, American Veterans

(AMVETS), Gold Star Wives, Fleet Reserve Association, Military Officers Association of America, and the Jewish War Veterans.

345, Cannon Building

MARCH 28

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Margaret Bartley, of Maryland, and Coral Wong Pietsch, of Hawaii, both to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

SR-418