

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DISAPPROVAL RESOLUTION RE- LATING TO DEBT LIMIT IN- CREASE

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.J. Res. 98 because it is an empty gesture designed to waste time and provide a stage for political posturing.

One hundred and seventy four House Republicans voted for the Budget Control Act in August which raised the federal debt limit and allowed the country to make good on the promises it made to the American people.

Under the Budget Control Act, the debt limit increase that the President is requesting is automatically matched, dollar-for-dollar, by drastic spending cuts that target the poorest among us. Those cuts would hurt the people I represent in California's 37th District, and so I voted against it.

Despite strong opposition from both sides, the Budget Control Act was passed, with a number of useless and unfair provisions, including this disapproval resolution, which lets House Republicans who voted for it in August turn around and withdraw their support.

In this way, they can stand here today and make the same irresponsible arguments that they made last summer. Instead of working together to implement the American Jobs Act which would help create jobs and improve economic growth, they have chosen to squabble over the ability of the President of the United States to do his job.

As ridiculous as it sounds, this is the trick that House Republicans are trying to play. It is entirely symbolic, of course, because if this resolution were to become law, it would result in the first default in U.S. history. A vote for this resolution is a vote against the full faith and credit of the United States and a slap in the face to its citizens.

This kind of behavior is the main reason that Congress has lost the trust of the American people. It creates tremendous uncertainty within the business community and impedes economic growth. It also provides a terrible example to the rest of the world that should be able to look to us for guidance in times of turmoil.

I urge my colleagues to reject this empty legislation and focus on creating a responsible, long-term budget that puts people back to work.

BUFFALO SOLDIERS IN THE NATIONAL PARKS STUDY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I stand today in support of H.R. 1022, the Buffalo Soldiers in the National Parks Study Act, which will allow the Department of the Interior to study the role of Buffalo Soldiers and how they defended our first national parks. This is a key step in preserving the legacy of the Army's first African American infantry and cavalry units and the contributions they made to our Nation.

Although history has often overlooked the contributions of the Buffalo Soldiers, all Americans from all walks of life would benefit from learning about this often overlooked chapter in our history. The legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers dates back to post Civil War days. Although African Americans have fought with distinction in all of our country's military engagements, their future in the Army was in doubt after the Civil War. In July 1866, however, Congress passed legislation establishing two cavalry regiments and four regiments of infantrymen, later merging two, whose composition was made up entirely of black soldiers. The troopers of the 9th and 10th Cavalries developed into two of the most distinguished fighting units in the Army and who were stationed at Ft. Sill in Oklahoma in the late 1870s. While they constructed key buildings on the post that still stand today, the Buffalo Soldiers' biggest contribution was to preserve the integrity of the land-runs which are such an integral part of Oklahoma, the Sooner state's, history and identity. Their bravery and fierce fighting techniques on the battlefield inspired Native Americans to call them "Buffalo Soldiers."

The Buffalo Soldiers served the United States in the harshest environments and under the most difficult conditions, and preserving their legacy will ensure that the Buffalo Soldiers' service will be appropriately memorialized. The Buffalo Soldiers' story is ultimately about the triumph not just of African American troops over prejudice and injustice, but about the movement of our nation westward, and toward a more tolerant and courageous society.

As such, I support the effort to evaluate the feasibility of a great National Historic Trail along the Buffalo Soldiers' route from their historic military post at the San Francisco Presidio to Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks. Identifying properties that could be listed in the National Register of Historic Places or designations as National Historic Landmarks will help keep the Buffalo Soldiers' story alive and bring to light, for future generations, their story of courage while serving their country.

We must all continue to work, together and as individuals, each day to make sure that our country truly is a community of all people and recognize those that came before us to make this nation strong, prosperous and free. We

should never forget the challenges our predecessors faced in the creation and preservation of this great nation.

LT. COL. TRACY N. JOHNSON
TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Lt. Col. Tracy N. Johnson (retired). A resident of Montrose Colorado, Lt. Col. Johnson recently celebrated his 90th birthday with a host of family and friends at his side. It is my honor to recognize Lt. Col. Johnson's distinguished Marine Corps career. The sacrifices he has made and the commitment he displayed during his time in uniform and since leaving the active ranks of the Marine Corps are truly deserving of special recognition.

Member of our nation's "greatest generation", Lt. Col. Johnson served his country bravely while flying combat missions in three wars. His action in combat, earned him the Distinguished Flying Crosses and Air Medals, testaments to his courage, patriotism and devotion to duty. Marines serving throughout the world today take great pride in carrying on the illustrious legacy of valor, discipline and steadfast fidelity that he helped forge.

From flying Corsairs in Korea to serving as a Presidential Helicopter pilot for Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, he provided crucial air support throughout his career and set the standard for Marine aviation. He has earned the respect and admiration of all who have had the privilege of serving with him, and he has been an inspiration for generations of his fellow Marines.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize and extend my deepest gratitude to Lt. Col. Tracy N. Johnson. I rise today in recognition of his dedication to his family, community, and this nation.

THE RETIREMENT OF CONGRESS- WOMAN GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in sending a fond aloha to our friend and colleague, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS.

We have all been deeply touched and inspired by GABBY's courage, spirit, and her pure love for Arizona and our Nation. Her admirers and friends in Hawaii and across the country will continue to pray for her ongoing recovery.

I hope that we in Congress will redouble our efforts to come together and work in the spirit

● 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.

of laulima (cooperation) to find common ground with our colleagues across the aisle on the issues that matter most to our country. That's how we can truly honor our GABBY's service and courage.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
MR. ROBERT FITCH

HON. JAMES P. MORAN
OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Robert Fitch on the occasion of his retirement as Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, for BAE Systems, Inc. One of my constituents living in Arlington, Virginia, Mr. Fitch has over 41 years of distinguished service to our nation, serving in key management positions in the military, the legislative branch of government, and the aerospace and defense industry.

Prior to his current position, Mr. Fitch served as Senior Vice President, Government Relations, for BAE Systems, Inc. He had responsibility for all legislative affairs and government relations activities for the company's U.S.-based business. He is also a member of the BAE Systems, Inc. Board of Directors. As a senior leader in the company during a period of significant change and growth, he has been recognized on numerous occasions for his commitment to excellence and visionary leadership.

Robert previously held the position of Vice President, Government Relations with Marconi North America and Tracor, Inc. Prior to Tracor, he was the Vice President, Corporate Strategic Development for GDE Systems, Inc., a subsidiary of Tracor.

During the 1970's, Mr. Fitch served in the U.S. Army. His assignments included the Pentagon as the Army's functional officer for tactical intelligence programs; Germany as the aide to an infantry division commander; the Cryptologic School as a company commander of 300 men and women; and Vietnam as an advisor. His awards include the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star.

From 1984 to 1993, Mr. Fitch was the Senior Professional Staff Member and Director of the Program and Budget Authorization Staff of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. His responsibilities included oversight and coordination of staff reviews of national and tactical intelligence activities. Specific areas of specialty included space and airborne reconnaissance, industrial base, acquisition reform and support to military operations. In December 1992, he served on the Intelligence Transition Team for the new administration.

He holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Rhode Island and an MBA from the Graduate School of Management at the University of Dallas. Most recently, Robert completed the Program for Senior Executives in National and International Security at Harvard University.

Mr. Fitch is a member of the George C. Marshall Foundation's Board of Trustees; Ford's Theatre Board of Governors; and the National Cryptologic Museum Foundation's Board of Directors. He is a member of the Sigma Iota Epsilon Business Honor Society,

and is a Principal for the Council for Excellence in Government. He has served on the USO World Board of Governors; Board of Directors for the National Military Intelligence Association; and on the Technical Committee of the American Institute of Aeronautics & Astronautics.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the efforts and accomplishments of this outstanding industry leader. I congratulate and thank Bob Fitch for his many years of service to this nation and wish him a happy retirement.

CONGRATULATING JIM PARENT

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY
OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jim Parent on his retirement as President of the Connecticut State Council of Machinists.

James M. Parent was born in 1946 in Van Buren, Maine, and now lives with his wife Robertine in Glastonbury where they raised their two children. A former member of the Glastonbury Democratic Town Committee, Jim has also served as Vice Chair of the Democratic State Central Finance Committee.

Jim served his country in Vietnam and returned to continue his public service by joining the labor movement. Jim's knowledge and expertise as an activist for Connecticut's machinists started when he was employed at Pratt & Whitney in 1965 in East Hartford. Since then, Jim has been a fierce advocate for the Machinists' 14,000 members, and has served as the Business Representative for the Machinists Union, Executive Board member of the Connecticut State Council of Machinists and as Hartford Area Vice President from 1986 to 1991, when he was elected President of the Council.

As President, he has been a leading advocate for workers in Connecticut. I witnessed his leadership firsthand when we worked together to fight the closing of the Pratt & Whitney Connecticut Airfoil Repair Operation (CARO) and Cheshire Engine Center.

Jim's advocacy earned him the Connecticut AFL-CIO Leadership Award in 1997. I am proud to call Jim Parent an ally in the fight to keep good jobs in Connecticut, and to stop the crippling trend of outsourcing. We have worked together to bring jobs back to the United States through efforts to strengthen "Buy American" laws. I know that Jim will continue to be a leader and an advocate for Connecticut's working families even after his retirement. I am honored to call Jim Parent my friend, and I wish him well in his retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MAYOR
HIRAM PALEY

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life of Mr. Hiram Paley, former Mayor of Urbana, IL, and Asso-

ciate Professor Emeritus at the University of Illinois in Mathematics. Mr. Paley passed away on Monday, January 9, at the age of 78 at the Carle Foundation hospital in Urbana, IL, after his long fight with cancer.

Hiram Paley was an excellent representation of what living the American dream is all about. He was born the son of Russian immigrants and rose above humble beginnings to obtain his doctorate in mathematics with a specialization in algebra. Mr. Paley became a professor at the University of Illinois in 1959 where he would meet his wife of over 50 years, Jean Paley. Together they had three children. He soon became active in the local community, eventually rising to the Office of Mayor for the town of Urbana, IL. He served a single term as Mayor. Afterward, he remained active in community events throughout the rest of his life. He remained always perceptive to the concerns of everyday citizens with whom he interacted.

It is paramount to emphasize that although Hiram Paley was not of the same political affiliation as I, he was always civil and respectful toward individuals who did not share similar political philosophies. This is an underlying theme that we as leaders should glean most from this man's life. This ideal ought to be at the forefront of our debates today. Civility and discourse in politics may seem like a large river, seemingly impossible to cross, but in actuality, our political reality today is but a modest stream that is only in need of leadership to step across and achieve consensus. And that model is what government is truly about. Thank you, Mr. Paley, for your excellent example and extraordinary life, as well as your service to our Nation; you shall be missed tremendously.

IN CELEBRATION OF DR. MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR., DAY 2012

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day, an appropriate reminder of Dr. King's legacy, the civil rights struggle and the importance of serving one's community to make the country stronger.

Dr. Martin Luther King's legacy is a symbol of the American values of progress, peace, and equality that have come to define American exceptionalism. Although we still have a long way to go to reach Dr. King's promised land, the strides taken toward racial equality since his March on Washington are a testament to the power of his non-violent message.

On this day, we not only celebrate the legacy of Dr. King, but we commit ourselves to giving back to our communities. Dr. King's spirit compels us to use this day to volunteer our time in service of our neighborhoods. This year, millions of Americans across the country demonstrated their commitment to Dr. King's vision of a better world by offering their help to countless service projects and activities nationwide.

Dr. King once said "the moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends toward justice." It is on this day—nearly 44 years after his death—that we remember his words and continue our struggle toward racial, social, and

economic justice. While an assassin may have felled the Dreamer; the dream of Dr. King still lives in the hearts and minds of people of goodwill everywhere in the world.

In these tough economic times, it is important to remember the message Dr. King espoused—non-violence, determination, peace, and justice. These values have seen us through the tumultuous uproar of the 1960s and continue to persevere today.

Dr. King's words not only inspired social movements in the United States, but were a heavy influence in Poland, the nations of eastern and central Europe, and more recently in Egypt and Tunisia.

Dr. King, Jr., recognized that the struggle for civil rights and workers' rights were inextricably linked. Both required that the basic rights of all people are equal and ought to be honored equally, whether by an employer or by the United States government. It is by the light of his example that we should confront the hardships that face this generation of American citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating the gift of hope that Dr. King gave to so many and to remember the dream that he so eloquently articulated. We remember Dr. King's sacrifice and resolve to keep his dream alive through tolerance, altruism and community service.

IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION
CONTINUING AVIATION AND SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the House of Representatives this week passed legislation to continue vital aviation and surface transportation programs while Congress completes a comprehensive, long-term reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Act. Importantly, the temporary extension contains no negative policy provisions, reductions in funding, or political grandstanding. Rather, it is a clean extension until mid-February.

Aviation and surface transportation programs represent critical elements of our economy. The current extension avoids another Republican-led shut down, as occurred last summer—a shutdown that jeopardized the jobs of tens of thousands of workers and resulted in hundreds of millions of dollars in lost revenue. I also am very pleased that the House of Representatives appointed conferees so that Congress can complete the long-term reauthorization of the important programs related to the Federal Aviation Administration. Our nation enjoys one of the best and strongest aviation systems in the world; Congress must do our part to update and strengthen our aviation laws in a permanent way to provide economic and workforce security and safety related to air transportation. A full reauthorization will improve the safety, efficiency and competitiveness of our aviation system.

MATTOON HIGH SCHOOL BAND
STUDENTS SELECTED FOR ALL-STATE

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sarah Bradbury, Brittney Evans, and Megan Schuler for their accomplishments in the Mattoon High School band. They have been selected to the All-State Concert Band and the All-State Orchestra. Bradbury, on French horn, will play with the All-State Concert Band while Evans, oboe, and Schuler, trombone, will play with the All-State orchestra. The three will represent the Mattoon High School Pride of the Green Wave Band Program at the Illinois Music Educators Association All-State Conference in Peoria. Rehearsals and performances will take place from Wednesday to Saturday.

This is the highest honor for a junior or senior musician to accomplish; each participant went through a tough audition back in October. "Of the tens of thousands of musicians throughout the state, 300 winds and percussionists are selected from nine districts to participate in the two All-State Concert Bands and Orchestras."

The Mattoon High School Pride of the Green Wave band is directed by Todd Black and James Stanford. I would like to further congratulate these directors on a job well done; everyone's family, community, and school are extremely proud of the accomplishments of Sarah, Brittney, and Megan.

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL
PRAYER ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today the House considered the World War II Memorial Prayer Act, which I cosponsored and was pleased to vote in favor of. The bill directs the U.S. Department of the Interior to include President Franklin D. Roosevelt's prayer with the nation on D-Day at the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC.

It is not possible to overstate the importance of D-Day in World War II, or the enormity of the battle the 160,000 Allied troops faced. The victory there allowed 100,000 soldiers to start to march across Europe to defeat Hitler and the Nazi forces. The battle came with an enormous cost; 9,000 soldiers were killed or wounded, including thousands of American troops there to help liberate Europe and win the war.

At home, as the battle was being waged on the beaches of Normandy, President Roosevelt led the nation in a prayer over the radio. The moving prayer concluded with these words:

With Thy blessing, we shall prevail over the unholy forces of our enemy. Help us to conquer the apostles of greed and racial arrogances. Lead us to the saving of our country, and with our sister nations into a world

unity that will spell a sure peace—a peace invulnerable to the schemings of unworthy men. And a peace that will let all of men live in freedom, reaping the just rewards of their honest toil. Thy will be done, Almighty God. Amen.

As the author of the original legislation to create the World War II Memorial, I think it is fitting to include President Roosevelt's prayer at the Memorial grounds. The prayer is not only important historically, but it allows us to honor those for whom the country was praying, but also those at home who were comforted by this prayer.

It will be 25 years ago next month that an important question was posed to me at a fish fry in Jerusalem Township, Ohio, by a World War II veteran, Roger Durbin. Mr. Durbin was a veteran of World War II and he wanted to know why there was no memorial for the war in our nation's capital. We set to work together, and 17 years later the nation dedicated the World War II Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, DC. Unfortunately, Roger passed away before the dedication. But I am sure he would be pleased with the passage of this bill here today.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SCHOOL
CHOICE WEEK

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize January 22–28, 2012, as National School Choice Week. Our children are the future of this great Nation, and they should be able to attend the highest-quality schools possible. Improving the quality of education and expanding access to highly effective schools is an important step toward ensuring that all of our children receive the best possible education in America.

This week, more than 400 events will be held in all 50 states to advance and support school choice. Tens of thousands of Americans will be taking part in these events including parents, teachers, and guardians responsible for taking care of our Nation's children. America is blessed to have a multitude of high-quality public schools, public charter schools, and nonpublic schools, as well as many high-quality teaching professionals who are committed to educating our children.

This past year, my home State of Indiana enacted meaningful and comprehensive education reform that provides parents with the freedom to make sure their child gets the best education possible. And last year I was proud to support Speaker BOEHNER's Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act (H.R. 471) when it passed the House of Representatives. The SOAR Act allows for education scholarships to be provided to children in the District of Columbia so that they can receive a high quality education regardless of their race or income status in society. Research demonstrates conclusively and consistently that providing children with multiple schooling options improves academic performance and parental satisfaction.

And so I rise today in strong support of National School Choice Week because I support empowering parents with school choice. Every

child must have the opportunity to pursue the American dream, and I firmly believe parents are in the best position to determine which schools their children should attend. As a parent myself, I am proud to celebrate National School Choice Week, and I look forward to continuing to advocate for local control of education and for further opportunities to provide parents with the ability to give their children the best education possible.

EXAMINING ONGOING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN VIETNAM

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I chaired a hearing to examine the ongoing human rights situation in Vietnam.

The Vietnamese Government continues to be an egregious violator of a broad array of human rights. Our distinguished witnesses who testified before me yesterday provided detailed accounts; I would like to highlight just a few areas of grave concern.

Despite the State Department's decision in 2006 to remove Vietnam from the list of Countries of Particular Concern as designated pursuant to the International Religious Freedom Act, Vietnam, in fact, continues to be among the worst violators of religious freedom in the world. According to the United States Commission for International Religious Freedom's 2011 Annual Report, "[t]he government of Vietnam continues to control religious communities, severely restrict and penalize independent religious practice, and brutally repress individuals and groups viewed as challenging its authority." I agree with USCIRF's conclusion that Vietnam should be designated a CPC country.

The State Department's designation of Vietnam as a Tier 2 Watch List country with respect to the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking also needs to be critically examined. The Department's 2011 Trafficking in Persons Report states not only that Vietnamese women and children are being sexually exploited, but that there are severe labor abuses occurring as well—with the government's complicity. The Report acknowledges that state-affiliated and state-licensed labor export companies engage in numerous trafficking-related violations, including fraud and the charging of illegal commissions for overseas employment. There also are documented cases of recruitment companies ignoring pleas for help from workers in exploitative situations.

As the sponsor of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, I am deeply disturbed that the Tier Rankings are not being better utilized by our State Department to pressure Vietnam to correct the trafficking abuses occurring within its government, not to mention those in the private sector.

We were particularly privileged to have Ms. Phong-Anh Vũ with us to testify about the horrific suffering she endured when she was trafficked from Vietnam to Jordan. It is also troubling to hear about the abuse that she and others have continued to endure at the hands of the Vietnamese Government even after their escape from their traffickers. I greatly ad-

mire her courage and the Subcommittee is most appreciative the testimony she presented yesterday.

I met other courageous individuals during my last trip to Vietnam who were struggling for fundamental human rights in their country. Unfortunately, many of them continue to be persecuted by the government. Father Ly is in prison and is suffering from very poor health, and Attorney Nguyen Van Dai remains under house arrest.

Despite this dismal status for human rights in Vietnam, there are new opportunities for the United States to exert pressure on the government to cease these abuses.

H.R. 1410, the Vietnam Human Rights Act which I introduced last year—and which passed the House previously in 2007—would provide significant motivation to the government of Vietnam to respect its international human rights obligations. It would prohibit any annual increase in the amount of non-humanitarian assistance that the United States provides to Vietnam unless there is an equal or greater increase in the amount of assistance for human rights and democracy promotion programming in Vietnam.

An increase in non-humanitarian assistance would also be prohibited unless Vietnam satisfies certain requirements, including substantial progress toward respect for the freedom of religion and freedom of expression and assembly, respect for ethnic and minority rights, and allowing Vietnamese nationals free and open access to United States refugee programs. The government would also have to end its complicity in severe forms of human trafficking.

In addition, this legislation would reaffirm the United States' commitments: to overcoming the jamming of Radio Free Asia by the Vietnamese Government; to engaging in cultural exchanges in a manner that promotes freedom and democracy in Vietnam; and to offer refugee resettlement to Vietnamese nationals who have been deemed ineligible solely due to administrative errors or for other reasons beyond their control.

I thank all of our witnesses for appearing before the Subcommittee yesterday.

HONORING THOMAS W. KLENDER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Thomas W. Klender. Thomas 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 395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Thomas has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Thomas 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, Thomas has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Thomas W. Klender for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of Amer-

ica and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO MS. CARRIE NOVICK

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to honor Ms. Carrie Novick on the occasion of her retirement. Since 1990, Carrie has served as the airport manager for Roberts Field, Redmond Municipal Airport in Redmond, Oregon. She will leave her position next Tuesday after nearly 22 years of exemplary public service to the citizens of Redmond and central Oregon.

During her tenure as airport manager, Carrie has transformed a sleepy municipal airfield into a first class regional transportation hub. Nearly two years ago, Carrie completed an airport terminal expansion project that more than doubled the size of the existing airport to 136,000 square feet, tripled its operations capacity to 45 flights per day, and allowed for more than 200,000 passengers per year to pass through its gates. For nearly ten years, Carrie worked passionately to make this fantastic project a reality.

Carrie's tenacity and good stewardship of public resources modernized the facility, increased flight availability, and improved passenger safety and services. Carrie fulfilled her vision to transform the Redmond Airport into a regional economic engine powering tourism, trade, and industry, all while improving the quality of life for area residents.

Carrie has always been eager to share her vision and passion for her work. She always made an effort to meet me whenever I was flying to or departing from the airport to brief me on the latest airport developments, offer her counsel on aviation policy, or just share a cup of coffee with me at the gate. I will miss her candor, quick wit, and indomitable spirit. I'm proud to call her my good friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Ms. Carrie Novick for her outstanding contributions to the city of Redmond and the communities of central Oregon, and to wish her well upon her retirement. Carrie has given her time and efforts selflessly to the region and her service is worthy of the highest praise. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING GUNNERY SERGEANT WILLIAM "DENNY" WEISGERBER

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage and unwavering dedication of Staff Sergeant William "Denny" Weisgerber, United States Marine Corps (retired). Weisgerber is a true hero and symbol of pride for the Bay Area.

Denny Weisgerber served on active duty in the United States Marine Corps from February 1949 to May 1953. Serving as the assistant platoon Sergeant, Weisgerber saw combat action in Korea on Bunker Hill, Reno, Vegas, Seattle and Warsaw Outposts, in front of the

main line of resistance known as the "Hook," on the Jamestown Line. It was during an assault on the outpost Seattle, in front of the Jamestown Line, when Weisgerber was severely wounded. He refused medical treatment and courageously moved forward to aid a wounded comrade, fearlessly exposing himself to intense hostile fire. His wounds later resulted in the loss of his leg. In recognition of his bravery and valor, he was awarded the Navy Cross and Purple Heart for his actions that night. During this time, Weisgerber was on track to receive a promotion. Unfortunately, he was medically discharged due to the wounds he received at outpost Seattle, thus making him ineligible for promotion.

Weisgerber returned to the United States to start his family with his high school sweetheart and wife Marianne, eventually settling in the Bay Area. Despite being medically discharged and now age 81, Weisgerber has remained committed to the Marine Corps and continues to serve and exhibit true volunteerism. He helps young Marines adjust to civilian life, find jobs, and obtain military benefits once they leave the service. Weisgerber continues to counsel generations of amputee veterans and other returning veterans at the Palo Alto Veterans Hospital and the Menlo Park Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Center. His own story of perseverance is an inspiration to wounded veterans and to the entire Marine Corps. In my district, the Marines of the 4th Marine Logistic Group, Marine Forces Reserve always speak highly of Weisgerber, often praising him as the epitome of the Marine Corps. He is continuously present, providing a helping hand to the Marines in every possible way.

Weisgerber's commitment extends to the broader community as well. He served three terms as the Mayor of Milpitas and currently sits on numerous boards and commissions in the Bay Area on issues ranging from transportation to veterans' affairs. His accomplishments in the community are noteworthy, and they speak to a lifetime spent dutifully serving others.

William D. Weisgerber has worked tirelessly for the past 58 years as a "retired" Marine and has asked for nothing in return. However, grateful Marines touched by Weisgerber's unwavering service have campaigned on his behalf to see that he is deservedly recognized. On December 5, 2011, Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, in accordance with section 1563 of title 10, U.S. Code, approved the honorary promotion of Staff Sergeant Weisgerber to Gunnery Sergeant due to his selfless dedication to our country.

Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, January 28th 2012, Staff Sergeant William "Denny" Weisgerber will finally receive the promotion that he has deserved for six decades. I proudly commend Gunnery Sergeant William "Denny" Weisgerber for his commitment and noble service to our Marines, veterans, community and country. His daily sacrifice to our community and the Marine Corps is extraordinary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, January 23, 2012, I was unable to be

present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 5 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3117, as amended) and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 6 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1141).

RECOGNIZING COLONEL CHARLES YOUNG

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the important contributions of Colonel Charles Young, a Buffalo Soldier whose historic home is in my community in Southwest Ohio.

As a Member of the House Armed Services Committee and Co-Chair of the House Historic Preservation Caucus, I have the privilege of frequently working with our servicemembers as well as a great appreciation for our nation's historic treasures.

Colonel Young, the third African-American to graduate from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1889, was a distinguished officer in the U.S. Army. He was a pioneer of military intelligence techniques, a commander of troops in combat in the Spanish-American War and the Mexican expedition against Pancho Villa.

His first assignment after graduation was with the Buffalo Soldiers in the 10th Cavalry in Nebraska, and then with the 9th and 10th Cavalries in Utah. With the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, he was reassigned as Second Lieutenant to training duty at Camp Alger, Virginia.

In 1903, then-Captain Young was in command of the 10th Cavalry stationed at the Presidio of San Francisco. That summer, with the Army responsible for its management, Colonel Young was assigned to serve as Acting Superintendent of Sequoia National Park in California.

Colonel Young was then awarded a commission as a Major in the Ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Later, during the Spanish-American War, he commanded a squadron of the 10th Cavalry Buffalo Soldiers in Cuba. Throughout his military career, Colonel Young distinguished himself in service to our nation with the Buffalo Soldiers of the 9th and 10th Cavalries, and the 25th Infantry, as well as serving as Professor of Military Science at Wilberforce University, Ohio.

Today we seek to honor the continuing legacy and leadership of the Buffalo Soldiers. Colonel Charles Young stands out as a shining example of the dedication, service, and commitment of the Buffalo Soldiers throughout United States and world history.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to recognize the important historical contributions of Buffalo Soldiers such as Colonel Young.

HONORING LUCAS J. OBORNY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Lucas J. Oborny.

Lucas 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 395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Lucas has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Lucas 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, Lucas has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

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

CELEBRATING THE CHINESE NEW YEAR

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize and celebrate the beginning of the Chinese New Year. On January 23, 2012, we marked year 4710 of the lunisolar Chinese calendar. In my Congressional District, in the windy city of Chicago, there are well over 68,000 Chicagoans with Chinese heritage. We are very proud that Chicago boasts one of the largest populations of Chinese Americans, with the second largest Chinatown in the nation. Many of these Chicagoans reside or work in the historical neighborhood of Chinatown just south of the loop area. Chicago was one of the first cities that Chinese immigrants called home, with the first immigrants arriving during the 1870s. Since then, the Chinese community in Chicago has flourished and greatly enriched the culture and heritage of our city.

This New Year is the Year of the Dragon, the most powerful of all the animals—an animal whose power and strength are admired. The Chinese New Year is a chance for a new beginning and a chance for all of us to reflect on our blessings, such as family, friends, opportunities and cherished moments. The New Year also provides an opportunity for us to settle our disputes with loved ones and to help people less fortunate than we are. I am blessed with having many close friends within the Chinese-American community. I have shared many important moments with these friends, both in Chinatown and at my house on the West Side. Through these relationships, I have developed a profound appreciation for Chinese culture, including the Chinese New Year celebration.

I recognize the new beginning brought by the spring festival, and I wish the Chinese community in Chicago and in the United States a memorable and prosperous New Year. I look forward to celebrating the Year of the Dragon on January 29 with the annual Chinese New Year parade. Aside from this incredible celebration, there are multiple opportunities throughout the year to experience the history and culture of the Chinese-American community, be it the dragon boat races, the concerts in Ping Tom Park, or the tours of our historic China Town. I wish all a Gong Hei Fat Choy.

HONORING SAMUEL T. NAGORNEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Samuel T. Nagorney. Samuel 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 395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Samuel has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Samuel 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, Samuel has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

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

ROE V. WADE ANNIVERSARY

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark an incredible milestone. Thirty-nine years ago from this past Sunday, the Supreme Court of the United States guaranteed the women of this country our right to privacy. In handing down the landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision, the justices of the Supreme Court affirmed the right for American women to keep medical decisions between women and their doctors.

This right was not easily won, and it has not come without four decades of fighting to protect it. And yet today, some are still trying to strip women of this right.

Many of those who seek to overturn *Roe* claim to be protecting life—but it's no secret that making abortion illegal won't end the problem of unplanned pregnancies in this country.

In fact, legal abortion keeps women more safe. In 1965, almost 20 percent of all maternal deaths were due to illegal abortion—and that's only what was reported.

So in looking ahead for 2012, I invite my anti-choice colleagues to consider this: instead of working against us by voting to defund title X programs for women who need them most, work with us in a shared goal of making abortion safe, legal, and rare. That is what the pro-choice movement stands for.

I was 6 years old when *Roe v. Wade* was handed down, and never in my life have I felt that my rights were threatened like I do now.

Last year alone, 69 laws containing 92 anti-abortion provisions were enacted in 24 states—and my home State of Florida was unfortunately responsible for several of them.

But the problem isn't only at the State level—last year, the Republican majority in the House took up a slew of bills that tried to do everything from defund Planned Parenthood, a

crucial title X provider in our country, to redefine rape to say that if the victim was mentally unable to consent, then it didn't really count as forcible rape.

These bills are insulting and dangerous to women's health and wellbeing, something that we as Members of Congress should be working together to protect.

In this spirit, I remind my anti-choice colleagues that the concern for human life and dignity cannot end at birth. So, it is my sincere hope that in the budget bills we will soon take up, all Members work to pass a budget that holds women and children harmless, placing important programs like title X family planning, Head Start, and Maternal and Child Block Grants at the top of the priority list. In these trying financial times, we cannot afford to balance our budget on the backs of women and children.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I urge my colleagues to note this anniversary with the gravity it deserves, as well as the energy it will require to work to ensure that next year at this time, we are once again commemorating this crucial right as protected by the Supreme Court, and not lamenting yet another year in which this right has been assailed. Women's lives depend on it!

HONORING BLAKE TAYLOR

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Blake Taylor. Blake 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 354, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Blake has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Blake 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, Blake has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

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

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MICHAEL BOZICK TO THE PEOPLE OF THE COACHELLA VALLEY

HON. MARY BONO MACK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mrs. BONO MACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend, Mr. Michael Bozick, a highly respected and honorable community leader in the district which I have the honor of representing in Congress.

I am deeply grateful for the contributions Mr. Bozick has made to our desert community, and on behalf of the people I represent, I ex-

tend sincere appreciation for all he has done to enhance our local economy and improve the lives of area residents. Mike Bozick has made a difference because of his passion for serving the community, his achievements in industry, and his love of our region. In particular, he has helped countless young people through his support of the Coachella Valley Boys & Girls Club, along with numerous other worthwhile charitable organizations and causes.

A generous and devoted family man, Mike Bozick's story is the embodiment of the American dream. Born to a Yugoslavian immigrant family in Masontown, Pennsylvania, he moved to Southern California as a young man. After graduating summa cum laude from the University of Southern California, Mike began working in the table grape industry in the mid-1960s, assisting his family with operations at Richard Bagdasarian, Inc., a table grape production company based in California's Coachella Valley. It was during this period that Bozick's passion for the grape industry grew, and he soon developed into an effective and highly regarded leader within the agricultural industry.

Mike Bozick recently completed his 39th year of service as a California Table Grape Commission Board Member, an organization which strives to maintain and expand current markets to new and larger markets for fresh California grapes, both domestically and internationally. As Chairman of the Board, Mike has introduced new and innovative ideas, such as promoting table grapes from all of the commission districts, a rarity in the past since many districts have overlapping markets. His ideas certainly paid off. By 2010, national sales of California table grapes grew to a shipment of 98 million boxes per year—a substantial increase from 20 million in the 1960s. As someone who is deeply committed to the growth of our local economy and the creation of jobs in our region, it is very gratifying to see the expansion and growing popularity of one of our most prized and valued industries, due in large part to Mike's perseverance, passion and dedication.

While Mike has made many contributions to the table grape industry, it is his hard work, entrepreneurial spirit and unwavering generosity that impresses me most. He is the fulfillment of the all-American notion that hard work and dedication pay off, and he has used his success to benefit others and provide an example for young people everywhere.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Michael Bozick for his exemplary record of service and contributions to the people of the Coachella Valley, the California Table Grape Commission, the greater table grape industry, and in sending best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING MATTHEW WILKS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Wilks. Matthew 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 354, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Matthew 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, Matthew has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall No. 7, rollcall No. 8, and rollcall No. 9 on January 24, 2012, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H. Res. 516, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the passage of a fiscal year 2013 Federal budget is of national importance. I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 2070. And I would have voted "yea" to instruct conferees to file a conference report on the Payroll Tax Cut no later than February 17, 2012.

REMARKS OF CONGRESSMAN STEVEN PALAZZO ON THE DEATH OF CAPTAIN EUGENE P. LUND

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, last week our country lost a true American hero, my uncle, Captain Eugene P. Lund. Captain Lund died on the Mississippi Gulf Coast at the age of 78.

My uncle was a graduate of Notre Dame and the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School with degrees in engineering, and from The George Washington University with a masters degree in management.

While in the Navy, he was a carrier fighter pilot and commanding officer of a fighter squadron serving with distinction in over 250 missions during Vietnam.

He was awarded the Bronze Star, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, 19 additional Air Medals and numerous other awards for his service to our Nation.

He also headed the Navy team that designed and developed the F/A-18 aircraft.

Before retirement, he served as the Director of the Naval Weapons Engineering Support Activity providing engineering assistance and consultation on many naval aviation and weapons programs. He retired after 25 years of service to our country in the Navy.

My heart goes out to the rest of our family, especially my Aunt Virgie. The men and women who serve our country in uniform are the bravest and most selfless in the world. I ask that all of my colleagues strive to remember that every day.

Uncle Geno, may your journey to Christ be of "Fair winds and following seas and long may your big jib draw."

HONORING ERIC BROWN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Eric Brown. Eric 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 714, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Eric has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Eric has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned 41 merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Eric has served his troop in many leadership roles, including Patrol Leader, Treasurer, Bugler and Scribe. Eric has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Eric directed the installation of barbeque grills, a walkway between a shelter house and gazebo, and landscaped a rock garden and a rose garden in the New Market Christian Church Community Park in New Market, Missouri.

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

IN REMEMBRANCE OF LAWRENCE KENNETH DAVIS

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Lawrence Kenneth Davis, Korean War Veteran and father of California State Assemblyman Mike Davis.

Lawrence Davis died on Saturday, December 4, 2011, at his home in Long Beach. He was 81 years old.

Mr. Davis was born on June 27, 1930 in North Carolina. After graduating from Highland High School in his home state, he went on to attend college at Johnson C. Smith University where he served as a member of the Varsity Football team. While there he met Myrtle Elizabeth Antrum, who he would later marry. After graduation, Lawrence began his career as a faithful employee of Piedmont Heat Treating Company.

Mr. Davis was full of life, eager to learn and deeply involved in his community. While employed at Piedmont Heat Treating Company, Davis worked diligently to receive certification as a metallurgical technician. Mr. Davis' strong work ethic and passion for his trade was demonstrated in whatever task he was assigned.

After his time at the Piedmont Heat Treating Company, Mr. Davis became the Chief of Security at Burt Lynn Middle School where many took note of his passion for his job. He also

worked as a referee at local basketball games and entertained the audience with tunes such as "The Stars and Stripes Forever" and would "wow" the crowd with his roller skating skills.

After moving to California, Mr. Davis' love for learning would lead him to enroll in Los Angeles Trade Technical College where he earned his Associate's Degree in Science. It was in Los Angeles that Lawrence Davis chose to raise his family. His son, Mike Davis, would go on to become a member of the California State Assembly and Vice Chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, as we reflect on Mr. Davis life let us remember his commitment, love, and passion for service to his community and his country. His inquisitive and youthful nature left a lasting impression on those he encountered every day.

I would like to request a moment of silence in his honor and memory.

HONORING MICHAEL A. JONES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael A. Jones. Michael 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 395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Michael has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Michael 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, Michael has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

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

A TRIBUTE TO FRANCIS "FRANNIE" DRUMMOND

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, our hometown hero Francis "Frannie" Drummond was born to Mary and Francis Drummond on October 15, 1949. Frannie was one of five children. Locally raised in Langhorne, he attended Our Lady of Grace grade school and went on to graduate from Egan High School in 1967.

Recently graduated and unsettled with his job, a very young Fran decided to enlist before he was drafted into the service. Intending to first join the army with his friend, he switched gears to the Marine Corp after seeing a Marine in his dress blues. Fran served as a Lance Corporal under Fox Company Second B. 7th Marines in South Vietnam during the height of the U.S. involvement in the Vietnam conflict. Unspeakable war time horrors were abated by Fran's undefeated boxing abilities

for his company. Days were made a little brighter by mom's daily letters from home.

Fran's homecoming in 1970 darkened by the protestors of the Vietnam War at the airport was further darkened by the death of his father on the night of his return.

Moving ever forward, a determined Fran went on to work for the United Postal Service, a job he would hold for forty years. Fran worked equally as hard to capture the heart of his true love, Audrey Foley. Married in 1972, the soul mates were blessed with 2 children, Frannie and Jennifer, whom they raised on the family land nicknamed "Drummondville" where they were fortunate enough to build their own home. Summer vacations then and now are spent enjoying the sunny beaches of Ocean City, only now Fran and Audrey enjoy the company of their grandchildren, Aiden, Morgan, Ashley, Alley and Leighton.

Physically active and fit throughout his adult years, Fran played softball in the mens Lower Bucks league. Fran also proved to be Bucks County's own Jack La Lanne in fitness and weight lifting.

Ever a good Catholic boy, Fran can be found at daily mass at his home parish of Our Lady of Grace thanking God for the blessings of his life. He spends his Sundays as an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion delivering to the residents of Langhorne Manor Nursing Home.

A tireless advocate for Veterans and their needs, Fran serves as the Jr. Vice Commander for Disabled Veterans and is a very active member of the American Legion for the Veterans of foreign wars. He personally drives veterans to and from their doctor and hospital appointments, the Veterans Administration building or wherever they may need to go. In addition to taking the Veterans where they need to go, he also lends a hand with their home and auto repairs.

No task is too small or large when it comes to lending a helping hand for this Marine. One particular life changing incident during Fran's tour in Vietnam proved to be an extreme example of Fran's life's motto "Leave no man behind."

Huddled in a sandbag bunker somewhere in South Vietnam, Fran and fellow Marines were trying to stay alive and dry during a driving monsoon when the bunker collapsed due to the heavy rain fall. The collapse trapped Fran and his fellow soldiers who quickly became neck deep in mud and rain water. Refusing to give up, Fran crawled forward dragging a fellow soldier to safety. Holding the roof up, reportedly 2 tons of weight, soldiers were able to crawl to safety. Severely injured, unable to walk, knowing one fellow soldier remained in the crushed bunker, Fran crawled to a nearby bunker alerting them of his injured buddy. Helicopters transported the injured Marines to area hospitals never again to see each other. Birdman, Messler and other soldiers are alive today because of Fran Drummond's heroic actions. These men call Fran their savior and know without Fran's help they would not be alive today nor have families of their own. Ever faithful Fran knows that someone more powerful was with him that day, his savior Jesus Christ.

Fran's commitment to America and its citizens is a shining example of what makes this country strong. Raised by his parents, Marines themselves, Frannie has spent his entire life in service to his family and fellow man. He has

gone beyond the call of duty serving and protecting us all, indeed making the United States a safer and better place to live.

He is an honorable man, a leader, a marine, and our hero. Semper Fi.

INTRODUCING THE AIRLINE FIRST RESPONDER WORKPLACE FAIRNESS ACT

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of a bill that I'm introducing today, the Airline First Responder Workplace Fairness Act.

As the world's most geographically isolated archipelago, my home State of Hawaii is uniquely dependent upon air travel. It is the primary mode of transportation for people travelling to Hawaii from the U.S. mainland and other countries—as well as from island to island.

Flights to and from Hawaii are long. They cover vast expanses of ocean and cross several time zones. Because of these unique circumstances, I am acutely aware of the importance of ensuring that the members of every flight crew are rested and alert while doing their duties.

The legislation that I'm introducing today is designed to strengthen necessary workplace protections for flight attendants to enhance the safety of the travelling public.

This bill will help put in place common-sense policies to prevent flight attendant fatigue. These are the same types of policies that the Airline Safety and Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2010 required for pilots. That legislation passed the House by voice vote and the Senate by unanimous consent.

I believe passage of that legislation was a strong statement that Congress recognizes fatigue is clearly detrimental to air crews' ability to do their jobs safely—and to ensure the safety of the travelling public.

Unfortunately, the legislation and rulemaking that provided pilots with standards to guard against fatigue failed to include flight attendants.

However, Congress had previously enacted legislation that directed the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Civil Aerospace Medical Institute (CAMI) to study the topic of flight attendant fatigue. Funding to carry out this study has already been appropriated and the study has been completed. The results of the Civil Aerospace Medical Institute's study support the conclusion that action on this front is needed.

The study has found that "fatigue is a pervasive condition across the flight attendant community." Moreover, in June of 2007, the former international president of the Association of Flight Attendants, Patricia Friend, testified before the House Aviation Subcommittee on flight attendant fatigue. She indicated that since 9/11 the security responsibilities of flight attendants have greatly increased. Flight attendants must always be vigilant of what is going on in the aircraft cabin—and, as I'm sure we all know, fatigue seldom makes one more vigilant.

To underscore this point, I'd like to highlight a quote from a flight attendant's safety report

filed with NASA's Aviation Safety Reporting System. This person said, "I am filing this report because I was so tired I don't know if I made any mistakes. I know the trip was legal, but it wasn't humane." Another flight attendant reported that she had to pinch herself just to stay awake.

That quote should be a chilling call to arms. No one, in any occupation, should ever be so exhausted that they have to pinch themselves to stay awake, or be unable to remember if they've made a mistake at work. That type of environment is bad for workers and bad for the people who are depending on these workers to safely do their job.

My legislation will move past the study stage and take the next step toward ensuring the safety of both our in-flight workforce and the travelling public, while doing so in a collaborative manner that includes input from the aviation industry.

The bill does this by directing the Federal Aviation Administrator to establish an Aviation Rulemaking Committee (ARC) comprised of aviation industry stakeholders, labor representatives, and safety experts.

This ARC would then have 1 year to examine the findings and recommendations of the CAMI study, and develop its own recommendations for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to utilize in developing a final regulation. The FAA would then have 1 year to issue a notice of proposed rulemaking on the issue, and would then be required to issue a final rule 18 months after that.

I believe that this legislation sets out a fair, collaborative timeline for dealing with this important issue and ensuring the safety of both our in-flight workforce and the travelling public.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to see this important legislation advanced.

HONORING PASTOR PHILLIP L. FERRELL OF MT. HERMON BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pastor Phillip L. Ferrell, for his 19½ years of pastoral service to Mt. Hermon Baptist Church and for his eight years of service to the Ministers' Alliance of Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor and Vicinity, where he has served as President. As friends and family and community members gather on Friday, January 27, 2012, I would like to offer my appreciation for Pastor Ferrell's passion, dedication and commitment to Mt. Hermon Baptist Church and the Washtenaw County community.

Pastor Ferrell was born and raised in Ypsilanti, Michigan, and has spent a lifetime working to make our community a better place. His teachings and influence have not been reserved to the church; however, as he has accepted the call to action on several occasions, locally and across the State of Michigan. Pastor Ferrell served as a member of Governor Jennifer Granholm's Faith Based Advisory committee, as a member of the Ypsilanti Public Schools Emergency Crisis Team, as a Board Member of the local N.A.A.C.P., and as a member of the Washtenaw County Literacy Council. He has also shared his knowledge

with our young people as an instructor in the Huron Valley District Congress of Christian Education, and is currently teaching in the Renaissance Christian Leadership School under the National Baptist U.S.A. Sunday School Publishing Board.

Pastor Ferrell has been a trusted leader, a wise teacher, a loving husband, father and grandfather, and a dear friend to many. Deborah and I are not alone in celebrating the long, meaningful and positive impact that Pastor Ferrell and his lovely family have had in my district.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, on Monday January 23, 2012 I was unavoidably absent from the House Chamber. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 5 and 6.

IN MEMORIAM OF REPRESENTATIVE ED JENKINS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the passing of one of my dear friends, former Congressman Ed Jenkins of Georgia. Ed served in the House of Representatives from 1977 to 1993. He was a strong advocate for his district and for this country. Throughout his time in Congress, Ed was a leader in protecting the South's textile industry. He was a champion for the workers in those factories and communities who depended on them for their livelihood.

Edgar Jenkins was born in Young Harris, Georgia, on January 4, 1933. He graduated from Young Harris College in 1951. Before he got his law degree from the University of Georgia, he served admirably in the United States Coast Guard for three years. He also served as an Assistant Attorney General in Georgia from 1962 to 1964.

Throughout his tenure, Ed was well-admired by many for his knowledge and devotion to the issues. He protected workers throughout the country by strongly advocating keeping textile jobs in the United States. He pushed for the Textile and Apparel Trade Enforcement Act, ultimately helping its passage in the United States House of Representatives. It was his behind-the-scenes efforts that made him one of the most admirable and intelligent members of Congress.

Congressman Jenkins represented his country with distinction during difficult points in American history. His contribution to this country and the people of Georgia will not soon be forgotten.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 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 \$15,236,236,452,380.40. We've added \$10,434,831,277,086.12 dollars 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall No. 5 and rollcall No. 6 on January 23, 2012, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted to suspend the rules and pass both H.R. 1141 and H.R. 3117.

RECOGNIZING JANUARY AS NA- TIONAL GLAUCOMA AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I wish to take the opportunity to recognize January as National Glaucoma Awareness Month. Glaucoma is an insidious class of diseases that robs hundreds of thousands of Americans of their sight. The Glaucoma Research Foundation reports that over 2.2 million Americans have glaucoma, with approximately 120,000 Americans being blind as a result of the disorder.

Glaucoma is the leading cause of preventable blindness and accounts for between 9 percent to 12 percent of all cases of blindness. Glaucoma affects people of all ages but is more common among people who are middle-aged or elderly. As with many health problems, glaucoma disproportionately affects people of color, with glaucoma representing the leading cause of blindness for African American and Latino individuals. Research indicates that this group of eye diseases is 6 to 8 times more common in African Americans than Caucasian Americans. Those who are diabetic or severely nearsighted are further at heightened risk for developing glaucoma.

Glaucoma presents few if any symptoms of its onset; those affected can lose as much as 40 percent of their vision prior to noticing the vision loss. Unfortunately, there is no cure for glaucoma; however, amazing advances are occurring to prevent further visual loss. Medications that slow the progression are critical and steps toward optic nerve cell regeneration

are being made. I am proud that many skilled researchers in Chicago are working to advance the prevention and treatment of glaucoma, including experts at Rush University Medical Center, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and Northwestern University Medical School.

National Glaucoma Awareness Month is designed to raise awareness of this group of eye diseases and to encourage individuals to get tested. Given the lack of cure for glaucoma, early detection is incredibly important. Thus, I lend my voice to the cause of raising awareness of glaucoma and encouraging Americans to get regular eye exams to identify early any potential visual problems.

A TRIBUTE TO CLARK SHUSTER

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work and leadership of Clark Shuster, President of the Lower Bucks County Chamber of Commerce (LBCCC). The Chamber plays an important role in economic and business development in my District and Mr. Shuster has been leading this important work as president since 1985. Under Mr. Shuster's leadership, the LBCCC has partnered with over 1000 members including small, medium and large business firms in the community.

Mr. Shuster has worked with the community to develop mentorship, communication, and education programs that foster free enterprise and provide businesses with opportunities to succeed.

Clark has also been a part of the Bucks County community for his entire life. He grew up in Bucks County and attended High School at Central Bucks East. Today, Clark lives in Newtown, Pennsylvania with his wife Jane. Not only is he an active leader in the local business community, but he has provided his efforts and leadership to other community organizations such as the Lower Bucks YMCA and the Levittown Fairless Hills Rotary Club.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Clark Shuster's hard work, dedication and devotion to bettering our Bucks County community and for his support of local business and free enterprise within the Eighth District of Pennsylvania and I wish him all the best in the years ahead.

FAA REAUTHORIZATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of a quick conclusion and passage of a multi-year Federal Aviation Administration Authorization. On Friday afternoon, I was pleased to see that a compromise was reached regarding language on union elections under the National Mediation Board. It was almost a year ago on February 11, 2011 that the FAA Air Transportation Modernization and Safety Improvement Act was introduced. During this time, Congress passed

five extensions contributing to the now 23 short-term extensions that the FAA has operated under for several years.

Twenty-three times the FAA and thousands of employees who rely on the FAA have faced potential shutdowns and uncertainty due to Congressional inaction, with one two-week shutdown resulting in millions of dollars in lost federal revenue. The impact of these extensions is not limited to instability for Americans in the aviation industry and a loss of federal revenue.

The lack of a multi-year authorization has stalled the implementation of the NextGen aviation system. When fully implemented, NextGen will allow for a more dynamic aviation system by allowing for quicker and more fuel efficient routes for aircraft and a more flexible aviation system. Each delay places our domestic aviation industry at risk of falling behind their international competitors. The passage of a multi-year FAA authorization bill ensures that NextGen will move forward and allow the United States to remain ahead of the world in implementing this system.

I am confident that the FAA extension we passed earlier this week is the last extension needed to complete this process. When the remaining issues are resolved, we will be able to provide the aviation industry stability and show to the American people that Congress can work together and accomplish something.

HONORING WWII VETERAN MR. JAMES EDWARD MCSHANE CELEBRATING HIS 86TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize World War II Veteran James Edward McShane, who will celebrate his 86th birthday tomorrow, January 26, 2012. Mr. McShane fought courageously in the South Pacific with the 96th Infantry Division during World War II. With great honor, I pay tribute to him today for his loyalty and sacrifice to his country during wartime.

A Chicagoland native, Mr. McShane was born to Patrick and Catherine McShane on January 26, 1925. He attended De La Salle High School in Chicago where he began playing the trombone. Later in life, his deep-rooted passion and talent for music led him to form the Jimmy McShane Orchestra, which delighted Chicago audiences for many years. Mr. McShane married the love of his life, Joan Frances Connors, on January 28, 1950. He is a devoted father of five children and a grandfather to fourteen.

After returning home from war, he received his bachelor's degree from DePaul University in Chicago. He found a career in the plastics industry forging many lasting friendships and garnering respect among his professional peers. A hardworking and dedicated man, he retired from Tyco Plastics in 2002. During his well-deserved days of retirement, Mr. McShane spends his time gardening, playing bridge, and conversing with friends.

On behalf of the residents of the Third District of Illinois, I extend to Mr. McShane my warmest birthday wishes and sincere gratitude for his service to our country. He is an exem-

plary American, and I am proud to have him as a constituent.

IN HONOR OF THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program. Since its inception 13 years ago, the program has placed some of Australia's best and brightest university students, who have exhibited a passion for civic engagement and public service, with House and Senate offices for two-month full-time internships annually. These internships have enabled me and my staff, who have participated since the program's inception to share in our common values and ideals, while at the same time learning more about the Commonwealth of Australia.

It is an understatement to say that the United States and Australia are close allies globally, or that we share many political and economic traits. We are in many ways akin to extended family, sharing much tied history and culture. It is in this spirit that the program was launched 13 years ago to further such relations. Since its beginnings, the program has seen more than 130 young Australians walk the halls of Congress, and it is with the utmost pride that I recognize the importance of the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program in the United States House of Representatives.

Ms. Jessica Boddington joined my office on January 3, 2011 from the University of Queensland, where she is simultaneously pursuing degrees in International Relations and in Economics. During her time in my office, Jess has proven herself to be a caring, intelligent and dedicated intern, and I am honored to host her. In addition to serving my constituents with professionalism and respect, she has attended hearings and briefings, drafted legislative correspondence and assisted my staffers with a variety of individual projects.

Founded and directed by former House and Senate staffer, Eric Federer, the program fosters cultural and educational exchanges between the United States and Australia. Mr. Federer deserves distinguished praise for his efforts in coordinating this program, as well as for the support he provides to its individual participants. Outside of working in Congressional offices, the interns are given the opportunity to explore our brand of American democracy through panel discussions with political correspondents, representatives from various government offices and professionals at non-government agencies.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot fully express how remarkable the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program is, and I once again extend my sincere appreciation to Mr. Federer for managing this program. As United States Members of Congress we have a responsibility to serve our constituents well, but also a unique opportunity to reach out to a myriad of people across the globe. As such, I would encourage all of my colleagues to open their doors to students from overseas, so that we can share our culture and democratic institutions. I ask my

colleagues to join with me in recognizing the contributions of the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program and, again, thank Jess Boddington for her admirable participation and diligent work.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF BLACK JANUARY IN AZERBAIJAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with the people of Azerbaijan in remembrance of the 22nd anniversary of the tragic events of Black January, when at midnight of January 19, 1990, 26,000 Soviet troops stormed the capital city of Baku with tanks and armored vehicles to crush the demonstrators. The shooting continued for three days and among the victims were women, children and elderly citizens.

Black January had a profound effect on Azerbaijan. However, it was the opposite of what the Soviets had wanted. For 40 days, the country mourned the victims and as a sign of mass protest stayed away from work. This was a turning point in the history of Azerbaijan. This massacre did not stop the people of Azerbaijan from continuing their struggle for national independence. The Azerbaijani national movement succeeded to stand against Soviet challenge, and Soviet troops eventually had to withdraw from Baku. Subsequently, Azerbaijan declared its independence on October 18, 1991.

Azerbaijan has developed into a thriving country and has become an essential partner of the United States in the region, collaborating on strengthening energy security and working together to counter terrorism, drug-trafficking and extremism. I would like to thank the Azerbaijani people for their friendship and share my thoughts and prayers with the families of those who gave their lives fighting for a better Azerbaijan. The United States will continue to work with Azerbaijan and other countries in the region to resolve protracted conflicts, to promote democratic development, to maintain stability, strengthen institutions, and enhance the rule of law.

CONGRATULATING THE CARPINTERIA VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Carpinteria Valley Chamber of Commerce in my Congressional District on its 100th Anniversary. The Carpinteria Valley Chamber of Commerce was chartered in 1912 to serve local businesses by a group of visionary community leaders, many of whose descendants still live and work in Carpinteria.

The original charter states that Carpinteria "had good churches, schools and social condition, plus a population of 500, which was sure to grow with the great inducements of city and

rural life, in addition to the magnificent mountain and ocean scenery," qualities that continue to draw people to this treasured community on California's South Coast.

Over the last century, the Carpinteria Valley Chamber of Commerce has diligently served the Carpinteria Valley business community through its commitment to developing strong and viable local businesses by providing opportunities for business education and networking, promoting tourism, and advocating on behalf of business interests. They have also worked closely with the City of Carpinteria to create strong business outreach and community support.

This Chamber is a valued organization of businesses united to create a strong local economy and a positive quality of life by representing business to government, promoting the community, providing networking opportunities and supporting a sustainable future for business and economic development.

Mr. Speaker, it has been my honor to represent this outstanding group of business and community leaders over the years. Again, I congratulate them on a century of achievements and outstanding contributions to our community, enhancing the life of all Carpentierians and helping our local businesses stay strong.

RECOGNIZING JANUARY AS NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS MONTH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the month of January as National Stalking Awareness Month. This month is dedicated to increasing public understanding of the crime of stalking as well as helping to improve law enforcement's response to stalking in an attempt to hopefully putting an end to this terrifying crime. As a nation, we need to take the necessary action to prevent stalking before it occurs.

Unlike other crimes, stalking is not a single, easily identifiable crime, but a series of acts directed at a single person with the intention to cause fear through threats, intimidation and/or nonconsensual or unwanted communication. Victims of stalking face profound consequences, such as high levels of stress, fear and anxiety.

Stalking is a dangerous reality that affects thousands of Americans every year. In the United States, stalking affects 3.4 million people each year. Further, one in six women and one in 19 men in the United States have been victimized by stalking at some point in their lifetime.

January offers time to focus on a crime that is vastly under-reported. Due to threats, intimi-

dation, fear of retribution, or lack of an adequate support system, a large number of victims do not report stalking to law enforcement. Stalking is often a precursor to more serious crimes and it can be dangerous if left unreported. If you or someone you know is the victim of stalking, I urge you to come forward and get the protection you need.

As of September 1993, all 50 states and the District of Columbia had passed some type of anti-stalking legislation and in 1996, Congress passed the federal stalking law. This is great progress. Until the passage of anti-stalking laws, victims had few remedies and limited options.

The Obama administration has taken significant strides to identify and prevent stalking. President Obama was the first President to proclaim January as National Stalking Awareness Month and his administration has gone to great lengths to create a strategy to combat violence against women. In addition, stalking is one of the four crimes addressed in the Violence Against Women Act and the Department of Justice Office of Violence Against Women is a leader in the fight to reduce stalking. While we are currently taking steps in the right direction, there is room for progress.

I would like to take time to commend Peace over Violence and Safe at Home, for all the work they do to protect victims in my district. Peace over Violence is a non-profit organization dedicated to preventing stalking and domestic violence in the Los Angeles area. Peace over Violence offers Emergency, Intervention, Prevention, Education and Advocacy services as well as a 24-hour hotline for victims. Safe at Home, California's address confidentiality program, is administered by the California Secretary of State's office. The program provides a free post office box and mail forwarding services designed to help stalking and other domestic violence victims. Safe at Home offers services that include confidentiality for children, as well as confidential name change, voter registration and the suppression of Department of Motor Vehicle records. Both Peace over Violence and Safe at Home provide victims of stalking with protection, relief and a sense of safety.

Stalking is serious, unpredictable and can often escalate over time. To effectively respond to stalking, we must do more to promote public awareness about stalking and support victims of this crime. Let us work together to advance protection services for stalking victims and expanded educational services. The more people learn to recognize stalking, the warning signs and the dangers, the better chance we have to protect victims and prevent tragedies.

Mr. Speaker, as I rise today to observe National Stalking Awareness Day, I encourage all Americans to come together to prevent stalking before it occurs and I encourage victims to get help by reporting harassment and stalking to the proper authorities.

CONGRATULATING THE
KO'OLAUPOKO HAWAIIAN CIVIC
CLUB ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club on the 75th anniversary of its founding and to recognize its impressive contributions to the preservation and perpetuation of Native Hawaiian culture. Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club has a distinguished record of service to the ahupua'a of Kāne'ohe, Heāiea, Kahalu'u, Waihe'e, Ka'alaea, Waihole, Waikane, Hakipu'u, and Kualoa on the windward side of the island of O'ahu. The civic club, along with community and other local partners in Hawaii, has planned a year-long celebration featuring the musical, natural, and cultural heritage of O'ahu's windward coast.

Our civic clubs have played an important role in the history of Hawaii, dating back to the first Hawaiian civic club founded in 1918 by Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniano'ole. He was a stalwart figure in Hawaiian history, a tireless advocate for the Hawaiian people and served in this very chamber as Hawaii's delegate to Congress from 1902 to 1922. Carrying on Prince Kuhio's legacy and strong belief in civic duty and grassroots activism, more than sixty Hawaiian civic clubs have been established in Hawaii and the continental United States. These clubs proudly keep Hawaiian traditions, language, and culture alive and work to improve the conditions of the Native Hawaiian people and our island communities.

Founded by community leaders George Ke'ehukalani Cypher, Johnny Townsend, Isaac Kakanui, and Solomon Halualani, as well as renowned hula master Kau'i Zuttermeister and Honolulu City Planner George Houghtailing, the Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, has taken its core value of mālama—or to take care—to heart. Through its efforts to maintain ancient heiau (sacred Hawaiian religious sites), restore threatened wetlands, provide annual scholarships for Native Hawaiian students, and many other initiatives, the Ko'olaupoko Civic Club continues to support the culture and heritage of Native Hawaiians. It's only fitting that the club was awarded the Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniano'ole Award as the "most outstanding Hawaiian Civic Club" at the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs' 2011 Convention.

Congratulations to the members of the Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club for all their accomplishments, their dedication to the betterment of our community and continuing the civic clubs' heritage of service.

Mahalo nui loa (thank you very much).

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, January 26, 2012 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JANUARY 31

- 10 a.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine holding the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) accountable, focusing on a review of first semi-annual report.
SD-538
- Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the United States and global energy outlook for 2012.
SD-366
- Finance
To hold hearings to examine extenders and tax reform, focusing on long-term solutions.
SD-215
- Judiciary
Privacy, Technology and the Law Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the "Video Privacy Protection Act", focusing on protecting viewer privacy in the 21st century.
SD-266

FEBRUARY 1

- 10 a.m.
Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine developing and strengthening high-growth entrepreneurship.
SR-428A
- 2:30 p.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine Federal retirement processing, focusing on ensuring proper and timely payments.
SD-342

FEBRUARY 2

- 9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the final report of the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future.
SD-366
- 2:15 p.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine S. 1739, to provide for the use and distribution of judgment funds awarded to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe by the United States Court of Federal Claims in Docket Numbers 19 and 188, S. 356, to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to make technical corrections, and S. 908, to provide for the addition of certain real property to the reservation of the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon.
SD-628

FEBRUARY 7

- 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

FEBRUARY 8

- 10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2012 for Veterans' Programs.
SR-418

FEBRUARY 9

- 10 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Forces Korea 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
- 2:15 p.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Justice's opinion on internet gaming, focusing on what's at stake for tribes.
SD-628

FEBRUARY 14

- 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

FEBRUARY 16

- 2:15 p.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine energy development in Indian country.
SD-628

FEBRUARY 28

- 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-106
- 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

- 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 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 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 21

- 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