

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

104TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CROATIAN SONS LODGE NUMBER 170

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate the Croatian Sons Lodge Number 170 of the Croatian Fraternal Union on the festive occasion of its 104th Anniversary and Golden Member banquet on Sunday, October 2, 2011.

This year, the Croatian Fraternal Union will hold this gala at the Croatian Center in Merrillville, Indiana. Traditionally, the anniversary celebration entails a formal recognition of the Union's Golden Members, those who have achieved fifty years of membership. This year's honorees who have attained fifty years of membership include: Geraldine M. Doll, Marko Frankovich, Anthony R. Glibota, Sharon Haynes, Domenica Jaksa, Mary Ann Maggi, Thomas D. Meeks, Mary Ann Pala, Dennis R. Pollack, Mary Kay Rhodes, Judy A. Rodriguez, Anthony A. Samanich, Lorna Gail Scott, Patricia C. Tonkovich, Dennis Tuskan, Diana M. Voyt, and Katherine M. Zarth.

These loyal and dedicated individuals share this prestigious honor with approximately 324 additional Lodge members who have previously attained this important designation.

This memorable day will begin with a mass at Saint Joseph the Worker Croatian Catholic Church in Gary, Indiana, with the Reverend Father Stephen Loncar officiating. The banquet will begin at 1 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Lodge President John Miksich and all members of the Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge Number 170 for their loyalty and radiant display of passion for their ethnicity. The Croatian community has played a key role in enriching the quality of life and culture of Northwest Indiana. It is my hope that this year will bring renewed hope and prosperity for all members of the Croatian community and their families.

TRANSPARENCY IN REGULATORY ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS ON THE NATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. LARRY BUCSHON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2011*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2401) to require analyses of the cumulative and incremental impacts of certain rules and actions of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes:

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the legislation before the House—H.R. 2401, the Transparency in Regulatory

Analysis of Impacts on the Nation Act. Coal mining is a lifeblood industry in southwest Indiana and throughout the Midwest. We have abundant reserves of the natural resource throughout my state and the citizens of my district depend heavily on coal mining and the burning of coal for electricity. In fact, 98 percent of Indiana's power generation comes from coal.

The Environmental Protection Agency has gone to great lengths to disrupt coal production in the United States—in many cases hazardingly and without recognition of the economic and social benefits derived from coal mining and the electricity it generates.

The further hampering of our country's ability to mine and utilize coal will have drastic effects on the economy—hitting hardest those areas, like my district, that depend on coal for jobs and paychecks.

That said, there are utilities in this country that have completed or are making currently the strategic investments necessary to comply with the EPA rules this bill seeks to delay. These investments have been made at significant cost to the utility customers, who are paying higher rates as a result.

As this legislative initiative moves from House passage to Senate consideration—and negotiation between the two bodies—it is imperative we find a workable solution that both protects the investments these utilities have made and are making while maintaining the underlying intent of the bill before us.

For this reason, I plan to work toward such a solution because not doing so would leave those utilities at a significant competitive disadvantage in the marketplace—and frankly would be unfair to the customer. I am hopeful my colleagues will join me in this effort.

CONGRATULATING SGT. DAKOTA MEYER ON HIS RECEIPT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR

**HON. HAROLD ROGERS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to honor Sergeant Dakota Meyer of the United States Marine Corps and the recipient of the highest military honor our Nation can bestow, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Born in Columbia, Sgt. Meyer's upbringing in rural southern Kentucky was quintessentially American. In high school, he distinguished himself—as an all-star on the football field and as a tutor volunteering his time to special-needs students in the classroom. Sgt. Meyer aspired to be a college football player until a chance encounter with a USMC recruiter awakened in his heart the challenge to serve his country. His eighteenth birthday found him at boot camp on Parris Island.

Sgt. Meyer served nobly in Iraq and at the conclusion of his tour there volunteered for another deployment, this time to Afghanistan. He has described the events of September 8, 2009, in the Kunar Province of northeastern Afghanistan as the "worst" day of his life. With that in mind, and the details of his heroism contained in the Medal Citation, I will not recount the terrible events of that day. Because of his actions, thirteen Marines and Army soldiers, as well as twenty-three Afghan soldiers made it out of an ambush to live and serve another day. And the bodies of four fallen American servicemen and a mortally wounded Army soldier—Marines 1st Lt. Michael Johnson, Gunnery Sgt. Edwin Johnson and Staff Sgt. Aaron Kenefick; Navy Corpsman 3rd Class James Layton; and Army Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth W. Westbrook—made it home to their loved ones and a grateful country.

As he received the Congressional Medal of Honor at a White House ceremony on September 16, with his usual modesty Sgt. Meyer dedicated the award to those brave men: "The main thing that we need to get from that day is that those guys died heroes, and they are greatly missed." Having recently marked the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks that drew us into war, as Sgt. Meyer reminds us, our Nation must commit to memory the service men and women who have sacrificed their utmost since in order to ensure the security and sovereignty of our blessed Republic.

It is impossible to convey how proud I am to join the American people as we honor Sgt. Dakota Meyer. Like him, I believe that in commemorating the events of that day in the far-off mountains of Afghanistan, we may honor those we lost while finding the strength and courage to ensure that the American dream of freedom and liberty will never dim.

TRIBUTE TO STATE SENATOR HARRY "HAP" MYERS

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of a remarkable man, State Senator Harry Edward "Hap" Myers, Jr., a lifelong resident of Mobile, Alabama and friend to many who passed away on August 3, 2011, at the age of 72.

During his lifetime, Hap was known for his unbending belief in others and in doing what was right. He was a husband, father, civil engineer, community leader and legislator.

Growing up in Mobile he attended Mary B. Austin Elementary School, Barton Academy, and graduated from Murphy High School in 1957. He received a B.A. Degree in Business Administration and a B.S. Degree in Civil Engineering from Auburn University in 1961.

Returning to Mobile, he began on a path he would follow for much of his professional life, serving and then leading the J.B. Converse

• 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.

Company/BCM Engineers where he was president and CEO for two decades. Under his leadership, the company grew to become one of America's top 100 engineering firms.

Never one to be content with sitting on the sidelines when his community needed him, Hap was determined to make a difference, greeting new challenges with enthusiasm and his trademark positive attitude. He led the local business community as Chairman of the Mobile Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the board at St. Paul's Episcopal School, and served on the Board of Regions Bank and the Mobile Area Water and Sewer Board, to name but a few of the many organizations where Hap left a lasting mark.

Having succeeded in local business and in giving his time to improve his community, Hap took the next step in 1994, entering the political arena for the first time. For anyone who knew him, there was never any doubt that he would make a fine public servant. Hap went on to be elected a Republican in the Democrat-dominated Alabama State Senate for three consecutive terms. He retired from politics in 2006. Former Governor Bob Riley summed up his political career by noting he "served for all the right reasons, and he did it with great integrity and class."

Mr. Speaker, Senator Hap Myers never put himself first and never gave up believing in and doing what was right. He will be sorely missed but leaves behind a legacy of goodness and decency as well as an example for one and all of what a true servant leader is.

I would like to ask the House to join me in extending our deepest condolences to his lovely wife, Toni, as well as his wonderful children, Hap III, Marty, and Sandy, his grandchildren, his family and many friends. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN SOCIETY'S DENTON VILLAGE

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the Good Samaritan Society's Denton Village. The Good Samaritan Society operates a number of nursing homes around the country. Denton Village's inception in 1976 marked the beginning of their exceptional service offerings in long-term care and senior living complexes. The Denton Village has since expanded their services to include twin homes, assisted living, and a second senior living apartment building.

My parents lived in a duplex at Denton Village. The facilities and staff at Denton Village allowed my parents, Harry and Norma, to enjoy a more fulfilling and carefree life. When it comes to providing individualized care the people at Denton Village go above and beyond for their residents. Denton Village is a place that cares for people, and is one of the best nursing homes in Dallas Fort-Worth Area.

This anniversary is a wonderful opportunity for us to celebrate and recognize the values of the Good Samaritan Society and the delivery of those values at the Denton Village. I am truly proud to recognize everybody at Denton

Village for their 35th Anniversary of excellent service, and I know the Denton community appreciates their years of service.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE OPENING AND DEDICATION OF THE UKRAINIAN VILLAGE PARK AND ANNUAL UKRAINIAN VILLAGE PARADE

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the opening and dedication of the Ukrainian Village Park and Annual Ukrainian Village Parade taking place on September 24, 2011.

With a growing population of more than 50,000, the Ukrainian community has been a staple in the Greater Cleveland area for decades. In October, 2008, the City of Parma City Council became the first local government in Northeast Ohio to sponsor an ethnic neighborhood; Ukrainian Village. Ukrainian Village covers two miles along State Road and is home to Ukrainian butcher shops, credit unions, two Ukrainian Orthodox churches and now Ukrainian Village Park. The mission of Ukrainian Village is, "To preserve, empower, and advance Ukrainian Village as a thriving neighborhood by celebrating the culture and heritage of Ukrainian Americans and to collaborate with the City of Parma in creating business and economic development within its boundaries."

The Ukrainian Village Parade and Ukrainian Village Park dedication will be hosted by the City of Parma, Ukrainian Village Committee and the United Ukrainian Organizations of Ohio. The United Ukrainian Organizations of Ohio has represented more than 50 Ohio organizations since 1928. This year's Ukrainian Village celebration will commemorate the 20th anniversary of Ukraine's independence, include an annual parade and festival and feature the opening and dedication of the Ukrainian Village Park.

This year's parade will include, for the first time, all five of Parma's high school's bands; Parma Senior High School, Normandy High School, Valley Forge High School, Padua Franciscan High School and Holy Name High School. Additionally, the parade will feature church groups, civic organizations, representatives from the Polish, Hungarian, German, Irish and Slovak communities, Ukrainian Village businesses, numerous Ukrainian-American organizations, singers, dancers, school children, and His Eminence Archbishop Antony.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me as Greater Cleveland celebrates the opening and dedication of the Ukrainian Village Park and Annual Ukrainian Village Parade.

TRANSPARENCY IN REGULATORY ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS ON THE NATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2011*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2401) to require analyses of the cumulative and incremental impacts of certain rules and actions of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes:

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Chair, today's debate is déjà vu from the debate within the House Energy and Commerce committee. Once again my colleagues and I on the Energy and Commerce Committee had the opportunity to address and protect human health and environment, while also promote and encourage innovation and job creation. These are serious issues facing our country and the EPA, issues that require serious solutions. Sadly, this bill does nothing to actually address those issues.

In addition to the lack of a well thought-out strategy, the proposed amendments to this bill would make serious changes to the Clean Air Act without any congressional hearing or testimony. None of these proposals have had serious examination by the Energy and Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over this matter. This is not the open and transparent legislative process that my colleagues have committed to. We cannot responsibly govern in this matter and ignore our Constitutional obligation to hold hearings, hear testimony, and give these matters the in-depth consideration major policy initiatives deserve.

As I said, there are legitimate problems with some of the proposed rules coming out of EPA, and they need to be dealt with. However, this Polish lawyer from Detroit happens to believe we would get further with a more surgical approach to dealing with these matters.

I am particularly concerned with the Utility MACT, which in its current form, could have a devastating effect on the economy of Midwestern manufacturing States, including my home State of Michigan. I am convinced that a balanced, bipartisan solution to this issue was available to us. In fact, I offered to work with all of my colleagues, both Democrats and Republicans on this matter. Sadly, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would rather play political games rather than work on a reasonable solution to a legitimate problem.

I would note to my colleagues that we spent only one day on the failed Continuing Resolution, but will spend two days on this bill. This, I believe, demonstrates the true intention of the GOP. That is not to actually deal with a legitimate and disconcerting problem, but to spend time on their favorite whipping boy, EPA. Now, I have had my share of issues with that particular agency, but I have always sought a solution—not played games to gain political points.

As such, it is my intent to vote against the TRAIN Act and the amendments proposed by the other side of the aisle. The President already indicated his strong opposition and as such, the bill before us is nothing more than veto bait. I would call on my colleagues on

both sides of the aisle to work with me on these matters in a reasonable way.

CONGRATULATING CELADON  
GROUP, INC.

**HON. TODD ROKITA**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate an important member of Indiana's business community.

Mr. Stephen Russell founded Celadon Group, Inc., in 1985, and under his leadership, Celadon has grown to become one of the Nation's largest trucking and transportation management companies. Celadon currently operates approximately 3,100 tractors and 9,000 trailers and serves over 2,000 customers. Celadon employs nearly 4,000 people and is the largest transportation company based in Indiana. Mr. Russell serves on several industry, education, and community boards; including on the American Trucking Associations, Inc. Board, Cornell University Johnson Graduate School of Management Board, and as Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Indianapolis Museum of Art.

Mr. Russell was one of four laureates inducted into the Central Indiana Business Hall of Fame on February 17, 2011. Established by the Junior Achievement Board of Directors in 1989, the Central Indiana Business Hall of fame honors men and women who epitomize success in the business world and use their success to improve the quality of life of their fellow citizens and surrounding communities.

I congratulate him on all his hard work and success which has been honored with the induction into the Central Indiana Business Hall of Fame. I would like to thank his family for selflessly supporting Mr. Russell in his long and accomplished career as a business and community leader in Central Indiana. I am proud to honor Mr. Russell in recognition of his leadership and service to his family, employees, and community.

100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF R.L.  
TURNER HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of R.L. Turner High School. As a graduate of R.L. Turner, I am honored to recognize this school as a significant part of the City of Carrollton's history.

In the fall of 1911, Carrollton High School had its first class of three students. In 1915, a two-story, red brick building was constructed for the high school. When the high school changed locations, the building became DeWitt Perry Junior High. The junior high school was named after DeWitt Clinton Perry, who donated the land to the city for the original high school.

The first Homecoming Day celebration was held on Friday, November 17, 1933. Former students from as far back as the original class

reunited at the football game where the Carrollton Yellow Jackets defeated the Hutchins Tigers by a score of 13–6.

In 1937, Carrollton High School changed their mascot from the Yellow Jackets to the Lions. In 1962, to accommodate the growth in the area, Carrollton High School moved from the two-story, red brick building on Beltline Road to its current location on Josey Lane. In the same year, Carrollton High School changed its name to R.L. Turner in honor of Superintendent Robert Leon Turner.

R.L. Turner High School has received a number of distinguished awards over its rich history. In the 1990–1991 school year, the high school was honored with the Blue Ribbon National School of Excellence. In the 2000–2001 and 2009–2010 school years, the high school achieved a Recognized Rating for its academics from the Texas Education Agency. And in 2010, R.L. Turner was ranked as the top school in the district on Newsweek's list of America's Best High Schools.

Since the first class graduated in 1912, approximately 50,000 students have passed through this exceptional institution. I am very proud of R.L. Turner and its century-long commitment to educational excellence. On behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating R.L. Turner on its 100-year anniversary.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH DEFENSE  
SECRETARY PANETTA ON THE  
AFGHANISTAN/PAKISTAN STUDY  
GROUP

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit my correspondence with the administration on my call for an Afghanistan/Pakistan Study Group. My letters to Defense Secretary Leon Panetta of August 31, 2011, and September 15, 2011, follow:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*Washington, DC, August 31, 2011.*

Hon. LEON PANETTA,  
*Secretary of Defense, The Pentagon,  
Washington, DC.*

DEAR SECRETARY PANETTA: I know you care deeply about the men and women in uniform fighting in Afghanistan. That's why I am disappointed that no one from your staff has contacted former Ambassador Peter Tomsen, an expert on Afghanistan, to meet with him, as I requested in my letter to you of August 1 (enclosed).

Ambassador Tomsen's new book, *The Wars of Afghanistan*, is receiving positive reviews, including the enclosed review in the recent edition of *Foreign Affairs*. The review praises the book as providing an in depth description of the social structure of Afghanistan and the mistakes repeated by numerous foreign countries that have tried to help establish military and political cohesion in the country. The review states, "Whether one agrees with Tomsen, however, there is no denying that his descriptions of Afghanistan's society and politics are a valuable foundation for any discussion of how the country should be governed. \* \* \* Given Tomsen's track record, Americans should give a respectful hearing to his call for a thorough policy re-formulation—something beyond tweaks to

troop numbers and counterinsurgency tactics."

I believe this book should be required reading for you and your team at the Pentagon. Ambassador Tomsen is ready and willing to lend his expertise to this important effort and I again ask that you or your staff meet with him.

Leon, I renew my call that you use your discretion as secretary and create the Af/Pak Study Group. We owe it to the men and women serving and the families and spouses at home to ensure we have the correct strategy. After 10 years of fighting, it is time to have a fresh set of eyes examine U.S. strategy. Far from a sign of weakness, creating an independent Af/Pak study group would show the nation that we are doing everything possible to achieve our goals in this region.

I would welcome the chance to speak with you on this matter.

Best wishes,  
Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,  
*Member of Congress.*

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*Washington, DC, September 15, 2011.*

The Hon. LEON PANETTA,  
*Secretary of Defense, U.S. Department of Defense, The Pentagon, Washington DC.*

DEAR SECRETARY PANETTA: It was good to be with you at the Pentagon on Sunday to honor the lives lost there 10 years ago in the 9/11 attacks. I want to congratulate you on a moving ceremony that showed reverence to the Pentagon employees and the passengers of American Flight 77 that perished on that awful morning. I appreciated your comments and those of Admiral Mullen. Several of my constituents died at the Pentagon and the first U.S. service member killed in Afghanistan was my constituent. I thank you and all those who have served in public office and in uniform in the 10 years we have waged war against global terrorism.

As I waited for the program to begin on Sunday, I saw you and former Defense Secretary Rumsfeld and was struck by a vivid memory from 2005 of the events surrounding the Iraq war. We were three years into the war, the security situation in Iraq was deteriorating, and our soldiers were dying every day. As a member of Congress who voted to send our troops to fight, I believed I had the added responsibility to make sure the administration was receiving the best advice possible on our Iraq strategy.

So I proposed creating the Iraq Study Group (ISG) made up of experts outside government to bring what I called "fresh eyes" on the target. Secretary Rumsfeld, General Pace, Secretary Rice, and NSC Chairman Hadley all came to see the value in the ISG. By your participation, I think it is fair to say you also saw its benefit, and I greatly appreciated your outstanding service on the bipartisan panel. You and the other Democratic members who gave your time during a Republican administration exemplified the true meaning of service to your country.

We are now into the 10th year of fighting in Afghanistan and the challenges we face there continue. In 2001, I was the first member of Congress, along with Rep. Joe Pitts, to visit Afghanistan after the U.S. invasion, against the wishes of the Defense Department. We saw firsthand the devastation that the Taliban had visited on Kabul as well as the remnants of the U.S. Embassy that was abandoned in 1979. I have also traveled to Pakistan and seen the difficulties that country faces combating the Afghan Taliban and other terror groups. Despite the current conditions, all my experience in this region tells me that success is possible if we formulate

the right strategy to deal with both Afghanistan and Pakistan.

As with the ISG, I believe fresh eyes are needed now to examine U.S. policy in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The security situation continues to erode as evidenced by coordinated insurgent attacks on heavily fortified U.S. and NATO compounds just this week. The Taliban still finds safe haven in the tribal wilderness of Pakistan and the ISI actively funds terrorist groups.

Given these and other concerns on the ground in Afghanistan, I continue to be puzzled why you, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Secretary Clinton are not supporting the Af/Pak Study Group idea in the same manner that Secretary Rumsfeld and other Bush administration officials supported the ISG. Having the experience of serving on the ISG and now serving as Secretary of Defense with a Democratic president (who I acknowledge inherited the war in Afghanistan), you are in a unique position to make this group a reality. The authorization and funding for the Af/Pak Study Group in the House-passed Defense Appropriations bill gives you the authority to create this group today.

I have to tell you that I continue to be disappointed that your staff has yet to contact former Ambassador Peter Tomsen to discuss his book, *The Wars of Afghanistan*. His book provides insightful information on the tribal structure of both Afghanistan and Pakistan and the political allegiances that underlie all actions in the region. I believe his knowledge and experience in this region would be invaluable in formatting future policy in South Asia. I respectfully ask again, please take advantage of his work and meet with him as soon as possible.

Leon, I don't have the answers on Afghanistan. Perhaps current U.S. strategy is the best way forward. But we owe it to the men and women in uniform who have served and continue to serve there—some paying the ultimate sacrifice—to know definitively. I continue to believe that fresh eyes from outside government focused on assessing the situation is the prudent action to take. I ask that you take the advice of those who support an Af/Pak Study Group, including Jim Dobbins, General Charles Krulak, Ryan Crocker, who I spoke with prior to his appointment as ambassador to Afghanistan, and other prominent Americans with experience in this region.

I believe it would be a sign of strength to appoint a study group and let the American people know that the administration is willing to examine all possible policies to achieve a successful outcome in this troubled region.

Best wishes.  
Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,  
*Member of Congress.*

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the United States is familiar with its own stories of brave men and women who fought to break the bonds of tyranny and form a new democracy. The walls of this chamber and the surrounding Capitol complex remind us daily of our proud history. But I want to share with you today the story of another like minded group

of individuals on the other side of the world who also dared to demand freedom for their people. I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to recognize the centennial anniversary of Republic of China in Taiwan.

One hundred years ago, on October 10th, 1911, under the inspiration of Dr. Sun Yat-Sen, the Republic of China began by throwing off the bonds of the Wuchang dynasty in order to create the first Republic in Asia. This year the Republic of China (Taiwan) celebrates the centennial of its National Independence Day, also known as "Double Ten Day".

The United States and Taiwan not only share a similar story of self-determination but we continue to maintain a strong and vital friendship. The people of Taiwan have made clear through the years, their appreciation and gratitude for the support the United States has provided Taiwan through the decades. This friendship has been evidenced through investment and economic development, through cultural and social exchanges, and even through the military support shared between our two peoples. Taiwan has stood with the United States to combat global terrorism; and the people of Taiwan have always given generously in our greatest times of need. Throughout the past ten decades we have become not just allies, but great friends.

As the Republic of China (Taiwan) enters into her second century of democracy, it is just as important that the United States stand with her 23 million citizens to face the challenges of the next hundred years. Surely there will be struggles, political and economic, at home and abroad. As we continue to engage other nations around the globe, we must remember that in our Taiwanese friends we have a nation ready to stand with us in the effort to promote freedom, tolerance, and democracy.

On this very special day, the United States joins with the Taiwanese people to recognize the sacrifice of those who made Double Ten Day possible so many years ago, and we reaffirm that our friendship remains steadfast. I ask my colleagues to please join me in extending to President Ma Ying-jeou the good wishes of the United States House of Representatives on this centennial anniversary.

IN HONOR OF THE 160TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. MICHAEL CHURCH

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 160th anniversary of St. Michael Catholic Church in Independence, Ohio.

St. Michael Catholic Church was founded in 1851 when Bishop Amadeus Rappe commissioned Father Nicholas Roupp to begin celebrating Mass in Independence, Ohio. There had recently been an influx in the area of Catholic Swiss and German immigrants. After operating for several decades as a mission church, in 1888, the Cleveland Catholic Diocese raised the community to parochial status and Father Peter Scerer became St. Michael's first pastor. After two pastors in just a couple of years, St. Michael Parish reverted back to a mission and was served by the Jesuit Fathers of St. Mary Parish.

Throughout the 20th Century, St. Michael Parish experienced many renovations and ex-

pansions. In 1900, the congregation welcomed its third pastor, Father Albert Aust. Under the leadership of Father Aust, St. Michael Parish thrived and added a new rectory, school, and in 1908, teachers from the Notre Dame Sisters. The parish later added a sister's residence in 1934, built a new school in 1950, erected a new church in 1955 and new rectory in 1968. In 1990, a new social hall and gymnasium were constructed and named Rappe Hall, in honor of Bishop Amadeus Rappe. Most recently, in 2001, St. Michael completed an interior renovation of the current church on Chestnut Road.

The St. Michael congregation will celebrate its 160th anniversary in conjunction with the annual Feast of St. Michael. This year's celebration will include an Oktoberfest dinner, arcade games, and donations will be collected for both the St. Michael School Student Council's "Jeans for January" drive and St. Vincent DePaul Society's Food Pantry.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the 160 years of service that St. Michael Catholic Church has provided to the parishioners of Independence, Ohio.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, due to a previous commitment, I unavoidably missed two votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on passage of rollcall 725, and "nay" on passage of rollcall 726.

REED COLLEGE CENTENNIAL

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this year one of the nation's top liberal arts colleges in the heart of my Congressional District in Portland, Oregon is celebrating its centennial. Reed College began its first classes in 1911 with 50 students—26 men and 24 women—and five faculty members and has grown to 1,400 students and 135 faculty. Committed to intellectual rigours and academic freedom, Reed has served as a groundbreaking model for liberal arts colleges over the past 100 years.

Reed's commitment to academic excellence is reflected in the student body and faculty. All students are expected to complete an original work in a major subject area—a senior thesis. A higher percentage of Reed graduates go on to earn Ph.Ds across fields than do graduates of all but three other U.S. colleges and universities. Students regularly win Fulbright, Watson, National Science Foundation, and other fellowships, and the faculty has received national recognition for its commitment to teaching.

While "Reedies"—as students call themselves—are widely known for studying—sleeping—and studying some more, they engage in a broad range of campus and civic activities. One such tradition dates back to 1913 and is

known as Canyon Day, in which students and community members come together to clean up and restore the ecosystem of the natural canyon and creek that meanders through campus.

It is said the true mark of a Reed education is not conventional success, but a certain "quality of thought, curiosity, and willingness to challenge received wisdom." For a hundred years Reed has remained a hallmark of rigorous scholarship and intellectual pursuit. I am honored to represent this distinguished institution and look forward to celebrating future landmark occasions.

MOTION TO CONCUR

**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2011*

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2608, the Continuing Resolution for the 2012 fiscal year.

This year, our country has faced perhaps the worst string of natural disasters in a generation. Flooding in the Upper Midwest and Northeast, tornadoes in the Midwest and Southeast and wildfires in Texas have caused an estimating \$35 billion in property damage in 2011. These disasters are yet another indication that our burning of dirty fossil fuels is causing our climate to change, resulting in more frequent and destructive severe weather events.

The government has a responsibility to aid the victims of these events by funding cleanup and recovery efforts. But the Continuing Resolution that we are considering today pays for disaster relief by slashing funding for an important clean energy technology program—undercutting the very solutions that are an essential part of combating the causes of climate change and building a clean energy, 21st century economy.

This kind of reasoning could make sense only in Washington. It makes as much sense as cutting vaccine funding to pay the costs of a measles outbreak, or cutting funds for aerial fire retardant chemical stocks in order to pay for the horrific fires in Texas.

In addition, this program, the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Program (ATVM), has already created jobs for over 40,000 Americans. The Center for Automotive Research credited the program with bringing the production of the Ford Focus, a vehicle that gets 40 miles-per-gallon, from Mexico to Detroit. If Congress simply leaves ATVM alone, it will create employment opportunities for another 35,000 to 40,000 Americans in the heart of the manufacturing belt, by the end of the year.

In the past, Congress has always come to the aid of those affected by disaster by paying for federal recovery efforts without conditions. The Bush Administration requested supplemental emergency disaster funding on eight occasions, and each time Congress agreed, often passing these measures with large bipartisan majorities.

This time should be no different. This disaster relief offset should be removed. This is not the way we care for our fellow Americans in a disaster. We're better than that. I urge my colleagues to support continued funding for

clean energy technology to create jobs and invest in a 21st century economy and oppose this bill.

TRANSPARENCY IN REGULATORY ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS ON THE NATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2011*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2401) to require analyses of the cumulative and incremental impacts of certain rules and actions of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes:

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the TRAIN Act. This misguided legislation would undermine the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to enforce the Clean Air Act and significantly limit the federal government's ability to ensure that the air we breathe is safe and pollution-free.

Some in the Majority have used the title of this legislation to refer to EPA's so-called regulatory train wreck. Well, the TRAIN Act amounts to a wrecking ball for public health protections.

Sadly, the TRAIN Act is the latest in a long line of bills from the majority that puts big polluters before the health and safety of the American people. From the Dirty Air Act that would remove EPA's statutory authority to regulate carbon pollution to legislation that removes accountability for offshore drilling operations, the majority seems intent on rolling back programs that preserve our environment, protect our public health, and grow our economy.

For forty years the Clean Air Act has been successful in protecting public health and preventing deaths from respiratory disease because it was written to follow science as science evolved. The success of the Clean Air Act is because its regulations are based in science. Legislators shouldn't pretend to be scientists.

I urge my colleagues to vote no on this bill.

TRANSPARENCY IN REGULATORY ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS ON THE NATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2011*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2401) to require analyses of the cumulative and incremental impacts of certain rules and actions of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes:

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the TRAIN Act and urge the House to reject it.

The Clean Air Act is one of this nation's most important laws. Over the last 40 years, it has greatly reduced pollution across the

length and breadth of this country, allowing all Americans to live longer, healthier lives. There is a tendency to take the steady air quality improvements our country has made for granted. In the course of my trade duties on the Ways and Means Committee, I have visited many countries. I've been to foreign cities where the air is so thick with smog that some days you can't see buildings that are just a few blocks away. The air is hard to breathe because it is thick with ozone and particulate pollution. This is not what we want here in America.

The legislation before the House today has many shortcomings. I especially object to the provisions of this bill that delay two important Clean Air rules. The bill would delay the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards Rule as well as the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule until at least 2013, and very likely much longer than that since the bill eliminates all statutory and court-ordered deadlines for both rules.

Congress ordered EPA to take action to curb mercury and other air toxics 21 years ago, and more than two decades later we're still waiting for action. This is particularly a problem in the Great Lakes region. Mercury is thrown into the air by coal-burning power plants hundreds of miles away and bio-accumulates in Great Lakes fish. Mercury is especially a health risk for pregnant women and infants because exposure to mercury has been linked to nervous system damage.

The cost of further delay of the Mercury and Air Toxics Rule is high. For each year we delay, there will be up to an additional 17,000 premature deaths; 11,000 non-fatal heart attacks; 120,000 cases of aggravated asthma, and 12,200 hospital and emergency room visits. The Republican leadership of the House appears to be comfortable with continued inaction on air toxics. I am not. We should vote this bill down.

IN HONOR OF SISTER MAUREEN DOYLE, OSU

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Sister Maureen Doyle, who is being recognized for 25 years of service as the director of the Urban Community School.

Sister Maureen Doyle was born and raised in the Cleveland area. She is an Ursuline Sister of Cleveland. Sister Maureen earned her undergraduate degree in elementary education from St. John College of Cleveland and a Masters of Education from Boston College. She began her career as an educator in 1973 and has worked for St. Charles School, St. Ann School, St. Clare School and is currently serving in her 26th year as the director of Urban Community School, UCS.

Under Sister Maureen's leadership, UCS has thrived at providing an individualized, Catholic/Christian, quality education to the children of Cleveland's Near West Side neighborhoods; primarily to those who, otherwise, might not have access to such an education. In 1987, during her first year as director, UCS was the first school in Cleveland to receive the Excellence in Education Award from the U.S. Department of Education. In 2005, Sister Maureen led UCS' transition to a new, larger

facility that accommodates 50 additional students. As a result of the expansion, UCS also added an art program, art room, science lab and full-time counseling program. Because of her dedication to the students of UCS, Sister Maureen has been awarded with the Diocese of Cleveland Catholic School Excellence Award, the YWCA Greater Cleveland Women of Achievement Award, an Honorary Degree from John Carroll University and the Irish Good Fellowship Award.

In addition to her work with UCS, Sister Maureen is an active member of the Greater Cleveland community. She has been involved with the Boys & Girls Club, City Club of Cleveland, Laurel School and St. Ignatius High School. Currently, Sister Maureen is a member of the Education Committee for the Cleveland Museum of Art and Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Sister Maureen Doyle as she is recognized for her contributions to the Cleveland's Near West Side community as director of the Urban Community School.

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#### RECOGNIZING BRENDA WELBURN

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### HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Brenda Welburn as the Executive Director of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE).

Throughout Brenda's outstanding career with NASBE, she dedicated herself to supporting not only state policymakers across the 50 states but, more importantly, students all across the country.

Brenda spent many years at the helm of NASBE, serving as a critical resource for state policymakers elected and appointed to State Boards of Education. During my six years of service on the Colorado State Board, Brenda and NASBE were instrumental in supporting me and all of the board in our universally shared goal of improving public education. I will never forget how we worked together to implement the requirements of No Child Left Behind and to integrate its requirements with Colorado's education accountability systems. With Brenda's help, we managed to navigate school finance decisions while communicating the benefits of public school choice, such as online learning and charter schools, and connecting traditional K–12 programs with college and careers.

Throughout her remarkable tenure at NASBE, Brenda has served as a steady and thoughtful leader, actively assisting state board members across the country. Her influence has been felt coast to coast, and because of her steadfast commitment to establishing and maintaining effective education policies, children across the country have been given a greater chance to succeed.

Brenda, we will miss you, but we thank you for your dedicated service and congratulate you on your retirement.

#### CONGRATULATING TAIWAN'S CENTENNIAL NATIONAL DAY

### HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of Taiwan as they celebrate their Centennial National Day. The day is also to commemorate the 1911 Wuchang Uprising, a milestone of China's development and a new chapter which led to the end of the Qing Dynasty.

This National Day allows the people of Taiwan to gather together and celebrate their shared heritage, and provide them the unique opportunity to honor their past and present culture and achievements. Following President Ma Ying-jeou's annual address, there will be a parade of floats from 10 counties and various government agencies. A series of cultural activities and exhibitions, including a nationwide design competition and movie festival will be featured along with a traditional puppet display.

The historic ties between the United States and Taiwan run deep, and they continue to unite us. I hope our nation will continue its efforts to promote educational and cultural exchanges so that younger generations may enjoy and continue the legacy of our important relationship.

I look forward working together to deepen our relationship, and I wish the families celebrating this occasion a safe and happy holiday.

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#### NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR MURDER VICTIMS

### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, September 25th we recognize the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims.

Murder extinguishes the hopes and dreams of tens of thousands of victims each year, and an untold number of fellow Americans now live, daily, with the absence of a loved one.

Murder affects each and every one of us, and every community nationwide.

We must all work diligently to prevent the violence that destroys lives and devastates families.

A National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims offers Americans the opportunity to honor the memories of murder victims and recognize the impact of murder on surviving family members and friends.

A join victim service programs, criminal justice officials, and concerned citizens throughout America to remember the tragedy of murder, honor the courage of survivors, and vow to do whatever we can to help survivors rebuild their lives.

On the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims we reaffirm this Nation's commitment to respect as well as support crime victims' rights and needs throughout the year; And that's just the way it is.

#### TO ACKNOWLEDGE SEPTEMBER AS CHILDHOOD OBESITY AWARE- NESS MONTH

### HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge September as Childhood Obesity Awareness Month. Increasing awareness of this pervasive problem can help curb the increase in this epidemic and help families and children make better choices in the foods they eat and their overall lifestyle.

Over the past three decades, the rate of childhood obesity has risen to crisis proportions. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 32 percent of children are overweight, 16 percent are obese, and 11 percent are extremely obese. In some racial and ethnic groups, in low-income populations, and among recent immigrants, the rates of obesity among children and youth are alarmingly high.

The health consequences for these children are very serious. They are at much greater risk of developing diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, asthma, and other diseases than their non-obese peers. Many children are subjected to ridicule and bullying that damages their emotional well-being. Beyond the tragic consequences for the children themselves are the effects on the American economy. Obese children are at risk of growing into obese adults who do not participate fully in the workforce because of employment discrimination, lost productivity due to illness and disability, and premature death. If the childhood obesity epidemic continues at its current rate, conditions related to type 2 diabetes, such as blindness, coronary artery disease, stroke, and kidney failure, may become common conditions of middle age. Health care costs for this population are likely to rise to an extent we are only now beginning to appreciate.

As a nation, we need to make sure that our young people receive a consistent message that encourages them to adopt healthful eating patterns; helps them to understand their nutritional needs; and teaches them healthy lifestyle choices, especially relating to physical activity.

We can, and we simply must, make addressing childhood obesity a national priority. Not only must we help the children who are already affected, we must not fail to protect another generation. Health is more than the absence of physical or mental illness—it is also the extent to which children and youth have the capacity to reach their full potential.

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#### REAFFIRMING THE STRONG U.S.- ISRAEL PARTNERSHIP IN PUR- SUIT OF LASTING MIDDLE EAST PEACE

### HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose Palestine's bid for statehood at the United Nations (U.N.) and to encourage the

Palestinian leadership to pursue a peace agreement with Israel through direct negotiations, as they have demonstrated their willingness to do before.

Lasting peace is possible only if an agreement is accepted by the Israeli and Palestinian people—it must not be forced on either side. I have continually shared this message with my colleagues in Congress and the international community, most recently by urging members of the European Union to stand with the U.S. and Israel in opposing Palestine's unilateral action at the United Nations.

All citizen in the region deserve a peaceful and prosperous future and I am hopeful progress will be made. However, the U.S. will not ignore the serious security threat that faces Israel. The path to peace lies in working together, not exploiting differences. I will stand with Israel to support peace through direct negotiations and urge Palestine to embrace this approach.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GRAND  
OPENING OF THE BLIND REHA-  
BILITATION UNIT AT THE  
CLEVELAND VETERAN AFFAIRS  
MEDICAL CENTER

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the grand opening of the new Blind Rehabilitation Center at the Louis Stokes Cleveland Veteran Affairs Medical Center, VAMC, on September 26, 2011.

The Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center is dedicated to the quality care of all veterans. It is the fifth largest VA in the country and serves close to 95,000 veterans annually. The Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center was the first VA to receive disease specific accreditation for Inpatient Diabetes Care in 2007 and has also received a special commendation by the American College of Surgeons as a Certified Comprehensive Cancer Program.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, there are approximately 157,000 Veterans who are legally blind and more than one million more suffer from low vision. On September 26, 2011, the Cleveland VAMC will celebrate the grand opening of their new Blind Rehabilitation Center, BRC. The 28,000 square-foot, 15-inpatient-bed BRC will care for blind and low-vision Veterans from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, West Virginia and Kentucky. In addition to working with Veterans to regain their independence and quality of life, the BRC will offer support to the Veterans' families, helping them better understand visual impairment and providing support that will reduce caregiver burden.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the grand opening of the Louis Stokes Cleveland Veteran Affairs Medical Center's new Blind Rehabilitation Center.

SUPPORT OF NATIONAL HISPANIC  
HERITAGE MONTH FROM SEP-  
TEMBER 15-OCTOBER 15, 2011,  
RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALFRED  
RASCON AND THE 41 MEN OF  
HISPANIC HERITAGE WHO HAVE  
BEEN AWARDED THE MEDAL OF  
HONOR

**HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. BARTLETT. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month, I want to salute Army Lieutenant Colonel Alfred Rascon of Laurel, Maryland, one of the 41 men of Hispanic heritage who have received our military's highest award for valor, the Medal of Honor.

Alfred Rascon was born in Mexico, but joined the Army after graduating from high school in California. He explained, "I volunteered to join the military and serve in Vietnam [before I became a citizen] because I was always an American in my heart."

While serving as a medic, Rascon's reconnaissance platoon came under fierce enemy attack in thick jungle on March 16, 1966. Rascon repeatedly used his own body as a shield against withering fire and saved the lives of two wounded buddies and tried in vain to save the life of a third. Despite wounds from gunfire, shrapnel and a grenade explosion in his face, he raced into a hail of bullets and recovered an M-60 machine gun and ammunition. That action turned the tide of the encounter and may well have saved the lives of his entire platoon. Rascon refused evacuation before other injured buddies.

Alfred Rascon served two more combat tours in Vietnam and also served additional tours since 2001 in Iraq and Afghanistan. He continues to serve our country speaking to our youth. America is blessed by generations of immigrant Medal of Honor recipients like Alfred Rascon. They are heroes who sacrificed themselves to save the lives of others and put their newly adopted country above their own self-interest. There is no greater love than a man lay down his life for a friend.

HONORING BRETT EVERETT WOOD

**HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Brett Everett Wood, a courageous and noble soldier, who died on September 9, 2011 at the age of 19. Army Private First Class Wood laid down his life when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan.

A 2010 graduate of Owen Valley High School who enlisted shortly after his high school graduation, Private Wood was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division based in Fort Wainwright, Alaska. Private First Class Wood had recently returned to active duty after recovering from head wounds suffered in a previous IED blast.

He was awarded a Purple Heart, Bronze Star and a Good Conduct Medal among several other military honors.

A hard worker, a proud and brave American, and a loving son, Private First Class Brett Wood leaves behind his beloved parents, Malissa and Chris Frye and Mitchell and Angela Wood. He is survived by his adored brothers Nikk Wood, Brandon Wood and Cory Poland and dearly loved sister Amber Poland. His grandparents, Charles and Evelyn Wood and Jim and Sandy Corns will long remember him.

Private First Class Brett Wood made the ultimate sacrifice for his country in Operation Enduring Freedom. To his fellow soldiers, his family and friends, and to everyone who knew and loved him, he was a dedicated member of his community who answered the higher calling to serve his country.

Mr. Speaker, during his lifetime, Brett Everett Wood enriched the lives of everyone around him by employing energy, leadership, and courage in everything he set out to do. As we bid farewell to this exceptional individual, I am reminded that freedom does indeed exact a heavy price and I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering and honoring his contributions and years of devoted service to his community and our country.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF CHINA—OR TAIWAN

**HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, October 10 marks the 100th Anniversary of The Republic of China—or Taiwan. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing this important occasion.

The partnership between the United States and Taiwan is vital within the international community. Both of our countries benefit from a robust trading relationship, and the support that Taiwan has shown the United States in times of need cannot be overlooked.

In recognizing the centennial of Taiwan, we are also recognizing the numerous cultural and political accomplishments of this proud nation. Within Taiwan, we see a flourishing democracy—where free speech and political discourse are encouraged—and applaud the perseverance of those who have worked to protect the civil rights of the Taiwanese people.

I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the accomplishments Taiwan has made over the past 100 years, and that we will all continue to foster the important relationship that exists between the United States and one of our most important Asian allies.

TRANSPARENCY IN REGULATORY  
ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS ON THE  
NATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2011*

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

consideration the bill (H.R. 2401) to require analyses of the cumulative and incremental impacts of certain rules and actions of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes:

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chair, for decades public health has been the basis for how we enact emissions standards. The bill before us today, the TRAIN Act, represents a view of environmental protection that is simply off the rails.

Initially drafted to study the effect of new and proposed clean air rules, it has troublingly morphed into a bill blocking action on them indefinitely. First, it would prohibit the EPA from finalizing its rule to reduce mercury emissions. This rule had its origin in the 1990 Clean Air Act, which passed this House with a strong bipartisan vote of 401–25. An American Lung Association study earlier this year found that today 70 percent of Republicans still support stricter limits on mercury. Second, the TRAIN Act would prevent the implementation of new rules protecting communities from pollutants drifting over from out-of-state.

Clean air regulations are ultimately investments in our economy. They save us hundreds of billions of dollars each year in health costs from associated lung ailments. Even further, they incentivize the growth of clean technologies that will help us remain competitive and increase our innovation and manufacturing strength here in America.

While I oppose this bill overall, Congressmen CONNOLLY and MCNERNEY have proposed amendments that would refocus the bill where Congress's attention belongs—job creation. Their amendments would support Democrats' Make It in America plan by studying the job-creating effects of pollution controls. Additionally, Congresswoman RICHARDSON's amendment would prevent a cut in the program reauthorized just last year by voice vote that supports American-made technology to reduce diesel bus exhaust.

Now is not the time to debate the environmental protections supported overwhelmingly and on a bipartisan basis, which carry tangible health and economic benefits. Instead we should be focusing on serious steps to get more Americans back to work.

#### NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARD UNDER THE CLEAN AIR ACT

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we learned that, according to Environment Ohio, the Cleveland Lorain Elyria area has the 14th smoggiest air among all large metropolitan areas in the U.S. Only a few weeks ago, the President announced he would prevent an update of the rule designed to reduce smog. The American people deserve clean air.

The Bush Administration failed to update National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) under the Clean Air Act for ozone pollution until 2006, when a standard was issued which was much less protective of public health than his scientific advisory board recommended; 75 parts per billion (ppb) of ozone, an air pollutant that is hazardous to fragile lung tissue. The scientific advisors' rec-

ommendation was between 60 and 70 ppb, which would have avoided up to 8,000 premature deaths; 3,800 nonfatal heart attacks; and 40,000 asthma attacks every year. The science is clear.

By invoking the industry fake argument that pulling back the update will help the economy, the Obama Administration has chosen to act in contravention of the Clean Air Act, which clearly prohibits consideration of costs in setting the standards designed to protect public health.

Everyone has a right to clean air. This abdication of responsibility affects millions of Americans every day, with every breath. It disproportionately affects the most vulnerable among us, like children, the elderly, and the ill. The story of the ozone rule is aptly told by Verna Riffe Biemel, a constituent of mine. She said:

“On Aug. 4, 2010, my mother succumbed to lung disease, pulmonary fibrosis. I vividly remember the difficulty she had breathing on bad air days. In fact, during her last year, she couldn't go outside at all on those days and felt the difference inside. No one likes to see a loved one struggle to breathe. No one should have to fight for clean air. Congress owes the American public the opportunity to breathe clean air.”

She is right. If the President won't do it, Congress should.

#### INTRODUCING THE HIRING PROCESS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2011

**HON. JOHN P. SARBANES**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, in the coming decade, close to 50% of the federal workforce will be eligible to retire, making the development of the next generation of federal workers even more vital. Yet, as federal agencies struggle to recruit and retain the next generation of public servants, we continue to force hiring managers and prospective candidates to navigate an out-dated and bureaucratic hiring process that deters the best and brightest from pursuing careers in public service.

In short, the Federal hiring process is broken. Despite increased pressure from the Administration to improve hiring and recruitment processes:

Many federal agencies still take as long as 200 days from the date of a vacancy to hire—delays that compromise federal recruitment, jeopardize government operations and waste taxpayer dollars.

The hiring process at federal agencies involves as many as 110 discrete steps and more than 45 hand-offs between managers, administrative officers and HR specialists.

In some agencies, hiring managers are required to select from the three highest-rated candidates selected by HR specialists, making it impossible for managers to play a role in recruiting their own staff.

Rather than base initial screening decisions on applicants' resume and cover letter, candidates for federal employment must provide lengthy, essay-style responses about the applicants' knowledge, skills and abilities (KSAs).

That is why I have joined Senator AKAKA in authoring this common-sense, good govern-

ment legislation to bring the federal hiring process in-line with private sector best practices by:

Requiring agencies and departments to develop a comprehensive strategic workforce plan focused on hiring, recruitment, skills deficiencies and potential process reforms;

Moving the federal government to a resume- and cover letter-based application system;

Shortening the federal hiring process to an average of 80 days after a vacancy has been posted;

Better integrating hiring managers into all stages of the hiring process and providing them with greater flexibility in final decisions; and

Requiring government wide data collection and reporting on the efficacy of the hiring process.

This legislation has a long, bipartisan history—in 2009, Senators AKAKA and VOINOVICH authored similar legislation in the Senate. In 2010, President Obama recognized the tremendous personnel challenges facing federal agencies and issued Improving the Federal Recruitment and Hiring Process, a Presidential Memorandum on federal hiring reform that includes some of the elements in our legislation. The Senate unanimously passed the Akaka-Voinovich Federal Hiring Process Improvement Act in the previous Congress, only to watch it die in the House.

Enactment of a substantive, bipartisan hiring reform bill is long past due. Our legislation seeks to codify and build upon the Administration's memorandum, while ensuring an unprecedented level of transparency in and oversight of the federal hiring process. The Washington Post called on Congress to pass the Federal Hiring Process Improvement Act in a July 2011 editorial, arguing that “today's antiquated hiring practices are thwarting a generation of inspired public servants in the making.”

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Senator AKAKA for his tremendous leadership on federal hiring and recruitment issues and to thank the Partnership for Public Service for their advocacy in support of hiring reform. Whether it is a firefighter saving lives, an agent protecting our borders, a scientist pioneering new research, or a nurse caring for our veterans, we owe it to taxpayers and the next generation of public servants to build a better hiring process and to ensure that those with the desire to serve our country are able to do so.

[From the Washington Post, July 3, 2011]

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS STILL TOO SLOW TO HIRE

Less lucrative compensation and benefits aren't the only factors turning thousands of promising college graduates away from public service. The hiring process for employment in the federal government also remains impossibly long, and many recent alumni just aren't financially equipped to wait it out.

More than a year ago, President Obama launched what the administration called a “comprehensive initiative to address major, long-standing impediments to recruiting and hiring the best and the brightest into the federal civilian workforce.” Mr. Obama directed the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to institute reforms—dubbed the Pathway Programs—to streamline hiring for students as well as recent graduates. As The Post reported then, “Management Director John Berry drew a rousing ovation” when the agency announced it was replacing

cumberson “skills essays” with résumé-based applications.

Despite the initiative, many federal agencies still take as long as 200 days from the date of a vacancy to hire. While Christine Griffin, deputy director of OPM, told Senate panel last month that the OPM efforts had “systemically overhauled” the process and made the USAJOBS Web site more “efficient and user-friendly,” other experts disagreed. The dean of Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government and the director of the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs contended that the government continues to drives away a majority of graduate degree holders.

This failing couldn’t come at a worse time: The government will face its largest wave of employee retirements in the next five years, and critical posts in fields such as national security and science will need to be filled.

Luckily, there is a bipartisan answer. The Federal Hiring Process Improvement Act of 2010, co-sponsored by Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii) and then-Sen. George Voinovich (R-Ohio), was passed unanimously by the Senate. The bill, intended to build on the president’s directive, requires all agencies to limit their hiring time to 80 days, inform job candidates of their statuses in a timely manner, convert to a universal résumé application and craft job descriptions as well as announcements in plain writing.

The bill failed to pass the House, thanks to lawmakers leery of affiliating themselves with “federal hiring” legislation at a time when government spending is unpopular. But it makes no sense to punish recent college graduates for the excessive spending of the past.

Mr. Akaka, who chairs the subcommittee on oversight of government management and the federal workforce, is lobbying anew for ratification of his proposed reform.

His measure deserves support. It’s time for the federal government to take the recruiting of human resources as seriously as successful private and nonprofit organizations do. Today’s antiquated hiring practices are thwarting a generation of inspired public servants in the making.

#### HONORING YASHAR ALIYEV

### HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished service of His Excellency Yashar Aliyev, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United States of America. Mr. Aliyev is completing his term as Ambassador to the United States after five years of service. Before he accepted his assignment to come to the United States in 2006, he served as Azerbaijan’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

Ambassador Aliyev has worked tirelessly and effectively to strengthen the strategic partnership between Azerbaijan and the United States.

Through frequent and productive communications with the United States Congress, Ambassador Aliyev has helped raise awareness of the issues pertaining to Azerbaijan and foster mutual understanding between the peoples of the two countries.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Ambassador Aliyev for his exemplary service and valuable contributions to pro-

moting bilateral relations and in extending best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors.

#### TRANSPARENCY IN REGULATORY ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS ON THE NATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

### HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2011*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2401) to require analyses of the cumulative and incremental impacts of certain rules and actions of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes:

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Chair, I come to the floor this morning to discuss an issue important to all American families living on a budget.

This Administration’s overreaching regulations placed on energy are causing increases to American families’ utility bills.

Families need certainty that their energy needs will be met and their energy costs will remain low.

Which is why, I have introduced America’s Energy Independence Act, which prevents the EPA from enforcing the Cross-State Air Pollution rule for 10 years to keep the cost of utilities low for families.

As we all know, the Cross-State Air Pollution rule finalized by the Environmental Protection Agency on July 6, 2011, and will lead to negative increases in energy prices for families, job loss, with what benefit.

This country needs to create a stable regulatory environment, where the energy costs to families is balanced with the benefit of the regulation, allowing families to have certainty that any new rules and regulations will have their best interests in mind.

Mr. Speaker, this rule was just recently updated in 2005.

Simply put, this regulation will have a significant negative economic impact of \$2.4 billion dollars a year, a cost that will be passed to families across the country, including the Eighth District of Tennessee.

The bottom line is that the EPA’s Cross-State Air Pollution rule will contribute to a reduction in energy outputs, and an increase to families’ utility bills.

At a time when families are struggling to make ends meet, the last action the Obama Administration should take is another multi-billion dollar regulation that kills jobs and increase costs.

That is why I would like to thank the House Committee on Energy and Commerce for including the language of H.R. 2891.

#### HONORING THE MAINE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS PROGRAM

### HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Maine Army National Guard

Military Funeral Honors Program. The Maine Army National Guard Military Funeral Honors Program offers the military honors that are now an entitlement to all honorably discharged veterans.

The rendering of Military Funeral Honors is a way to show the Nation’s deep gratitude to those who, in times of war and peace, have faithfully defended our country. This ceremonial paying of respect is the final demonstration a grateful Nation can provide to the veterans’ families.

Established in 2003, the Maine Army National Guard Military Funeral Honors Program serves the veterans of Maine with honor and respect. The soldiers who make up the Funeral Honors Program are of the highest caliber that Maine has to offer and deserve our recognition.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking the Maine Army National Guard Military Funeral Honors Program for their outstanding service for Maine’s veterans and their families.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JAKE DENHART

### HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of one of my younger constituents—Jake Denhart, who at only 16 years old has exuded a true entrepreneurial spirit. For years, Jake has been working around his neighborhood, shoveling snow and mowing lawns for small fees. He even decided to give his business a name, calling it “Innovative Solutions.” From what I understand, Jake has managed to put away almost \$20K in savings earned from the work he has done over the years. Through his hard work, he has also earned a high level of trust with his neighbors.

Jake’s hard work was also reflected on the academic front when one of his teachers at Noblesville High School, Joe Toms, nominated him to participate in the Purdue Research Park Entrepreneurship Academy, established by Purdue University. Jake was among the 50 students from the state of Indiana who was chosen to participate, based on an essay, in the week-long academy. The purpose is to provide innovative math, science, and technology-based business and life skills by having the students work in teams on a business case. Throughout the week, they have the opportunity to interact with industry leaders and successful entrepreneurs. The competing teams spend the week developing a business plan to make an “investor pitch” to a panel of judges. These students truly exude creativity, initiative, overall academic strength, and an interest in concepts and concerns that are relevant to entrepreneurship, which will carry them far as they embark on their future careers.

I am proud to represent such a young constituent who not only understands the value of money, but also knows how to save it. Jake’s success is a measure of his strong work ethic, for which I commend him. I believe it is important to remember stories like these in such trying economic times, which keep our spirits alive—not only in Indiana, but throughout the Nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 88TH ANNUAL FEAST OF ST. WENCESLAUS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Czech Catholics of Greater Cleveland's 88th Annual Feast of St. Wenceslaus on September 24, 2011 at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. This year's celebration will also honor the 100th anniversary of the founding of Cleveland's former Holy Family Parish.

St. Wenceslaus is the patron saint of the Czech Republic. Every year, his feast day, September 28th, is celebrated by Czech communities around the world. St. Wenceslaus was the leader of Old Bohemia during the early part of the 10th Century. During his tenure as king, St. Wenceslaus took a vow of chastity and was devoted to his Christian faith. Killed by his brother, St. Wenceslaus was later canonized as a martyr of the Christian faith.

In addition to celebrating the Feast of St. Wenceslaus, the 100th anniversary of the founding of the former Holy Family Parish will be recognized at this year's celebration. Holy Family was founded on November 6, 1911 after Father Rudolph Habrda noticed Bohemian families moving into Cleveland's Woodland Hills neighborhood. Over the years, as parishioners began to move to the suburbs, the parish school merged with St. Cecilia, Epiphany and St. Mary of Czestochowa to form Mr. Pleasant Elementary School. In 1988, the Holy Family Parish was closed.

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish is one of only two Czech congregations left in the Cleveland Catholic Diocese, along with St. John Nepomucene in Slavic Village. The Czech Catholics of Greater Cleveland will gather together on September 24th for mass and a celebration featuring the Hronek Czech Band.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of the 88th Annual Feast of St. Wenceslaus. I offer my best wishes to the Czech Catholics of Greater Cleveland and all those who attend this joyous celebration.

**TAIWAN CENTENNIAL NATIONAL DAY**

**HON. THOMAS E. PETRI**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I salute Taiwan on its forthcoming Centennial National Day, also known as Double-10 Day, October 10, 2011.

The Republic of China on Taiwan is a model of success for Asia. For over six decades now, the Taiwanese people have struggled to lift their island into the top ranks of the world's economies. The recently released 2010 World Competitive Yearbook finds Taiwan to have the 8th most competitive economy among the 58 countries surveyed.

Over the past year, the number of employed people has increased and the unemployment rate has dropped to an enviable 5.17 percent.

Even more important than its economic achievements, Taiwan has developed into a strong and vibrant democracy. It is a valued

member of the free nations of the world, even though it is burdened with particular and unique diplomatic challenges—challenges which the Taiwanese people and government have met with courage.

On the occasion of the Republic of China's Centennial National Day, I hope there can be renewed peaceful coexistence and co-prosperity between Taiwan and the Chinese mainland. There have been many agreements reached between the two sides, including direct air and sea links, increased mutual investments, and regular negotiations over economic and other substantial issues.

Also, I offer my congratulations to Taiwan for its continued participation in the World Health Assembly meetings last May in Geneva and to its continuing commitment to safeguarding human rights and other universal values.

Congratulations to the Republic of China. I look forward to closer relations between the United States and Taiwan.

**THE COME-FROM-BEHIND GRASSHOPPERS WIN IT ALL**

**HON. HOWARD COBLE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, as Major League Baseball begins its post-season push, the professional minor leagues are concluding their seasons. The citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina are celebrating the first championship since 1982 of the Greensboro Grasshoppers of the South Atlantic League.

The Hoppers—as their fans affectionately call them—were a dramatic, come-from-behind team all season. It took the final games of the season for the Hoppers to even qualify for post-season play. Greensboro split the first two games at home in the best-of-five championship series against the Savannah Sand Gnats. When the series moved to Savannah, the Hoppers lost game three to the Sand Gnats. It has been 11 years in the “Sally League” since a team leading two-games-to-one failed to clinch the championship. With Savannah needing only one more win to capture the South Atlantic League title, the Hoppers were facing the end of their season, when they pulled out a heart-stopping, 11-inning win to force a fifth and deciding game.

Even in the championship game, Greensboro fell behind 2–0 early before cruising to 7–3 win to capture its first South Atlantic League championship in almost three decades. Hoppers Manager Andy Haines told the Greensboro News & Record that he could not pick a Most Valuable Player for the series. “There’s no way I could name anyone,” Haines told the newspaper. “We had a lot of guys contribute. It was someone different every night.”

All of the Grasshoppers can be proud of the regular season, along with the dramatic run to the title. Among those who were part of Greensboro's first championship since 1982 included: pitchers Michael Brady, Alex Caldera, Jordan Conley, Grant Dayton, James Leverton, Miguel Mejia, Robert Morey, Gregory Nappo, Mike Ojala, Chris Shafer, Rett Varner, Kyle Winters, and Brett Zawacki. The catchers were Aaron Dudley, Wilfredo Gimenez, and Jacob Realmuto. The infielders

included Daniel Black, Joe Bonadonna, Mark Canha, Ryan Fisher, and Noah Perio. The outfielders were Issac Galloway, Marcell Ozuna, James Wooster, and Christian Yelich. Only one of those on the disabled list, Zachary Neal, made it onto the post-season roster, but the others contributed during the year and they included Kevin Cravey, Alan Oaks, Jay Rogers, Adam Veres, and Sean Watson.

Greensboro is one of the best-run minor league teams in the entire United States and it is because of an outstanding front office. This championship caliber group includes: Donald Moore, President/General Manager; Katie Dannemiller, Vice President, Baseball Operations; Jimmy Kesler, CFO; Tim Vangel, Assistant General Manager, Sales and Marketing; Jake Holloway, Assistant General Manager, Head Groundskeeper; Erich Dietz, Director of Ticketing; Todd Olson, Sales Associate; Murray White, Sales Associate; Joey Burridge, Sales Associate/Ticket Representative; Rosalee Brewer, Sales Associate; John Redhead, Executive Director of Business Development; Laura Damico, Director of Community and Event Development; Shawn Russell, Director of Promotions/Production; Amanda Williams, Director of Creative Services; Yunhui Bradshaw, Director of Merchandise; Chad Green, Assistant Director of Stadium Operations; Kaid Musgrave, Assistant Groundskeeper; and Bob Perry, Clubhouse Director.

Championship Skipper Andy Haines was ably assisted by Pitching Coach Willie Glen and Hitting Coach Kevin Randel. The players were kept in championship form all season long by Athletic Trainer Masa Fujimoto and Strength and Conditioning Coach Cody Clark.

On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate Greensboro Grasshoppers owners Cooper Brantley, Wes Elingburg and Len White and everyone affiliated with the Hoppers on providing its fans with so many dramatic moments during a memorable season. All of us who love the Hoppers are basking in the glow of the first South Atlantic League Championship since 1982. We may see some of today's Grasshoppers playing for the parent club—the Florida Marlins—in the near future, but none of us will forget the 2011 season when Greensboro came from behind numerous times to win it all.

**TRIBUTE TO DARRELL WALTRIP**

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, on this week when NASCAR's Chase for the Cup begins, I rise today to celebrate another landmark achievement for a 3-time Cup winner and resident of Tennessee's 7th District who I am truly privileged to call a good friend. Darrell Waltrip will join the third class of inductees in the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

Darrell was born and raised in Owensboro, Kentucky, but began making his mark as a professional driver at the old Nashville Speedway in the 1970s. We are proud that Darrell and his wife, Stevie call Franklin, Tennessee home.

This much-deserved accolade caps D.W.'s legendary career which included three

NASCAR Cup series championships, 84 Cup victories, the 1989 Daytona 500, and five-time winner of The Coca-Cola 600. Darrell had 271 top-five finishes and 390 top-tens, not to mention 13 Grand National Series wins. He's been the American Driver of the Year three times, the Auto Racing Digest Driver of the Year twice, and once NASCAR's Driver of the Decade.

We've seen him race the track, we now see him announce the sport he loves, and we look forward to watching him be enshrined into the NASCAR Hall of Fame. Mister Speaker, I rise today to honor Darrell Waltrip on this great success and ask my colleagues to join me in one hearty "Boogity, Boogity, Boogity". Way to go, D.W. It's another checkered flag for you.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONVENIENCE STORES

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the National Association of Convenience Stores (NACS).

Originally founded in 1961, today NACS represents more than 3,700 companies that do business in more than 50 countries worldwide.

The convenience retailing industry in America generates \$575 billion dollars in sales annually, in its more than 146,000-plus stores across the country, and employs 1.73 million Americans. The industry is growing steadily as well—sales are more than 13 times higher than what they were three decades ago. Cumulatively, the U.S. convenience store industry alone serves 160 million customers per day.

It is convenience stores that keep America's motors running. Convenience stores sell 80 percent of all fuel sales in the country, and 80 percent of convenience stores sell gasoline.

While NACS boasts the membership of 49 of the top 50 convenience store companies, the majority of its membership consists of small, independent operators that own 10 stores or less. More than half of convenience stores are owned by single-store operators. NACS helps member retailers to grow their businesses, from research and marketing to human resources and management.

NACS also helps to advocate for those issues that are vital to these small business owners. From motor fuel policy, to prevention of tobacco sales to minors, to the provision of health care for its 1.73 million employees, NACS is an industry leader in making sure their voices are heard.

Convenience stores provide a speed of transaction that is unparalleled, and the large number of locations limits travel time for consumers. Additionally, they are often the only source of food or fuel for families outside of normal business hours. The extended hours and flexibility of convenience stores mean that they play a vital role in the communities they serve and customers are able to quickly pick up what they want, when they need it.

Mr. Speaker, in recognizing the many contributions the National Association of Convenience Stores has made to our Nation and to our history, I join my colleagues in celebrating the 50th anniversary of its founding.

HONORING CHARLES KRUG WINERY OF ST. HELENA, CALIFORNIA

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Charles Krug Winery, Napa Valley's oldest and most historic winemaking establishment, and among the region's most highly acclaimed and admired firms. Charles Krug will be celebrating its 150th anniversary this year and in so doing will salute the century and a half of rich traditions and extraordinary wines cultivated under the esteemed brand.

In its long, storied history, Charles Krug has played host to and benefitted greatly from the hard work and immense accomplishments of some of the most famous and brilliant Wine Country luminaries. Among them were founder Charles Krug himself, Robert Mondavi, proprietor Peter Mondavi, Sr., and the current winemakers, brothers Peter, Jr., and Marc Mondavi. Today, the winery produces a line of super-premium and reserve wines, all made with estate-grown, sustainably farmed fruit from each of Napa Valley's esteemed sub-appellations: St. Helena, Carneros, Howell Mountain and Yountville.

Charles Krug was the first outfit in the Napa Valley to implement a handful of revolutionary techniques and technologies including the use of the cider press in 1858, the differentiation of product labels by vintage and varietal, the use of glass-lined tanks and the use of French oak barrels in 1963. The winery's estate vineyards have also been the sites of some historic innovations in the field of viticulture. Krug was the first vintner to purchase and develop vineyard land in the Howell Mountain area of Napa Valley. Peter Mondavi, Sr., avoided a costly replanting of the winery's vineyards when he bucked industry and rejected recommendations to plant the AXR1 rootstock, which was later found to be vulnerable to industry-ravaging phylloxera damage. More impressive still, he was among the first vintners to develop vineyards in and around Carneros, demonstrating that Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Merlot wines made from the grapes of this sub-appellation could reach high standards of quality.

Though Charles Krug Winery emerged as an early leader in the Napa Valley wine community, the company's commitment to serving the greater needs of the industry has always been a constant. Krug founded the St. Helena Viticultural Society in 1875, and assisted shortly thereafter with the establishment of the Napa and Sonoma Wine Company, a collaborative effort between producers to improve the quality of wine shipped to the East Coast. Today, after a century and a half's worth of work, the Charles Krug brand retains its place as one of the premier winemaking establishments in the Napa Valley region with a portfolio of wines that compete with the highest ranks of the national and international arenas.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time for us to congratulate and applaud the proprietors and staff of Charles Krug Winery for their outstanding and ongoing work, embodying and representing some of the best that Napa Valley and California have to offer. We wish them all much success in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DAVID WEBSTER GREENER WAY TO WORK DAY

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize September 23, 2011, as the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association's (CMBA) 3rd Annual "David Webster Greener Way to Work Day," and to remember David Webster, legal scholar, litigator, entrepreneur, and environmentalist, who died at age 46 from cancer on March 13, 2009, but whose achievements were many in his short life.

David Webster overcame alcoholism at a young age and went on to sponsor others in recovery. He accomplished much and saw life as an adventure. At Case Western Reserve School of Law, he graduated magna cum laude and was an editor of Law Review, where he met his wife Beth.

Upon graduation from law school, David became a commercial lawyer with broad experience in matters involving banking, commodity trading, securities, technology, real estate, intellectual property, and his passion, environmental law. Merging his knowledge of commodity trading and environmental law, he founded INHALE, which later became the Clean Air Conservancy, an organization which worked within the manufacturing economy and the commodities market to reduce air pollution by acquiring and retiring pollution allowances. Outside Magazine dubbed the Clean Air Conservancy one of the 10 best small environmental non-profits.

David Webster was an aggressive litigator who took on music giant Sony and won a judgment of more than \$5 million for the late Cleveland music producer Steve Popovich over credit for Meatloaf's hottest album, "Bat out of Hell." He was a founding partner of the law firm Webster & Dubyak and was also actively involved in the Cuyahoga County Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, and the American Bar Association. He was a driving force behind the merger of the Cuyahoga County and the Cleveland Bar Associations and was the President-elect of the merged CMBA at the time of his passing.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, today, we observe the 3rd Annual David Webster Greener Way to Work Day. The CMBA encourages us to find a greener way to travel to and from work, whether through public transportation, biking, walking or carpooling. The CMBA will honor David's memory with a noon luncheon at the CMBA offices with a special tribute presentation. Please join me in honoring the memory of David Webster by joining with the CMBA in taking action to protect our environment.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS  
OF ALBERT E. TREXLER**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Albert E. Trexler of the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants for his 42 years of service to that organization, including his 35 years as secretary, executive director, and CEO.

Under Albert's leadership, PICPA membership has grown by 184% and its membership base expanded to include future CPAs through accounting affiliate and student membership categories. He also provided more local networking and leadership opportunities as the PICPA grew from nine to eleven chapters.

Additionally, Albert has championed advocacy efforts to include a full-time presence in Harrisburg to support implementation of CPA law changes. Included in this effort was mandatory continuing professional education to bring the Commonwealth in compliance with substantial equivalency and permit interstate mobility for PICPA members.

Further, Albert Trexler has supported industry-specific conferences and robust professional education course offerings and delivery methods to respond to the growing demands for specialized knowledge, changing membership demographics, and technical advancements.

Mr. Speaker, in light of his years of service to PICPA and a litany of outstanding accomplishments, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Albert E. Trexler on the occasion of his retirement as executive director and CEO and also on the conference upon him with the lifetime designation of PICPA Executive Director Emeritus.

TRANSPARENCY IN REGULATORY  
ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS ON THE  
NATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2011*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2401) to require analyses of the cumulative and incremental impacts of certain rules and actions of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes:

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Chair, I am proud to serve as a Representative of California's Ninth Congressional District, which has long been at the forefront of the environmental movement, including working on the critical issue of climate change, as well as fighting for renewable energy, green jobs, and environmental justice.

That is why I am speaking today against the TRAIN Act—it undermines the Clean Air Act's ability to crack down on air pollution, threatening the quality of life for our children, our families and our communities, including my constituents in the East Bay, many of whom already suffer unjustly from poor air quality.

The Clean Air Act is one of the most successful public health programs in American history—with a return of more than \$30 in benefits for every dollar invested in pollution reductions over the life of this law.

The TRAIN Act is a direct attack on the Clean Air Act and its regulations. This bill blocks EPA's ability to move forward with two long overdue Clean Air Act rules—the Mercury and Air Toxics Standard and the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule—which will reduce harmful air pollution that threatens public health, especially the health of the most vulnerable populations, including children and seniors.

The Republicans' attack on the Clean Air Act and its work to dismantle the EPA will not only result in job loss but will result in poorer public health across this Nation.

Rather than the Republicans taking action to create jobs, this bill cuts funding to create green jobs.

We should move President Obama's American Jobs Act now to begin to give Americans what they want: a job.

I urge a no vote on this measure and urge the Republicans to stop playing political games and couching deregulation as job creation. Wall Street got deregulated and the result was a financial crisis. The American people do not need an environmental and public health crisis, the American people need jobs.

HONORING SCHOOLCRAFT  
COLLEGE**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Schoolcraft College in my hometown of Livonia, Michigan as it celebrates 50 years of serving the residents of southeastern Michigan.

In October of 1961, voters approved the formation of Northwest Wayne Community College. On February 6, 1963 the college was renamed Schoolcraft College in honor of Henry Rowe Schoolcraft, an American geographer, geologist, and ethnologist, noted for his early studies of Native American cultures, as well as for his 1832 discovery of the source of the Mississippi River.

An essential part of our community, Schoolcraft College continues to provide outstanding and affordable educational opportunities to a district reaching into three counties, sixteen municipalities and six school districts. While best known for its Culinary Arts, Nursing and Public Safety programs, Schoolcraft serves students by providing general education and transfer credits at reasonable cost.

Having served as a member of the Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees, I am impressed by the college's intelligent investment in expanding and upgrading the school's infrastructure. This has provided tremendous opportunities to educate and re-train the workforce in Southeast Michigan. In 2003, the ribbon cutting ceremony opened the VistaTech Center. A state of the art facility, it is home to Schoolcraft College's award winning culinary arts program and business development center. The Culinary Arts Department boasts four Certified Master Chefs and seven Executive Chefs. This gives Schoolcraft College a higher

Certified-Master-Chef-per-student ratio than any other culinary school in the country. The VistaTech Center also is home to the American Harvest Restaurant, a student operated restaurant, where students provide exceptional gourmet cuisine and service to the local public.

In 2008, Schoolcraft hosted the grand opening for the new Biomedical Technology Center, BTC. This cutting edge building is home to several science and technology-focused programs and its growing nursing program. This building supports the mission to train our youth in promising future careers in the high tech and biomedical fields. The Biomedical Technology Center hosts truly top-notch labs: Imaging and Analysis Lab, Anatomy and Physiology Lab, Biomedical Engineering Technology Lab, Cellular and Molecular Biology Lab.

From an initial enrollment of 2,425, attendance has now grown to more than 36,000 students each year, each of whom can choose from 70 academic majors. Schoolcraft's Continuing Education and Professional Development Courses reach an additional 16,000 annually through credential programs, professional development, personal enrichment, and courses designed to further personal interests.

Mr. Speaker, Schoolcraft College has served, trained, educated and advanced the interests of our region for 50 years. As a former Schoolcraft College trustee, I ask that we congratulate them on their devoted service as an exemplary and vibrant campus, finding innovative ways to inspire students of all ages to achieve more than they ever thought possible.

MOURNING THE PASSING AND  
HONORING THE LIFE OF HARRY  
"BUS" YOURELL**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mourn the passing, and to celebrate the life of Harry "Bus" Yourell. Mr. Yourell was a man who loved his family, his community, and his country, and had a general love of life.

Mr. Yourell's public service began on December 7, 1941, the day Pearl Harbor was attacked and the day he signed up for the Marine Corps. A proud Marine, he was awarded a Bronze Star for saving an injured friend and he earned three Purple Hearts for his own injuries. Having fought bravely at Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Guam, and Iwo Jima, Mr. Yourell exemplifies the "Greatest Generation."

Mr. Yourell continued his service in 1959 when he was elected Trustee in the Village of Oak Lawn. In 1966, he became a Representative in the Illinois House and went on to serve nine terms. He also served as Worth Township Democratic committeeman, Cook County Recorder of Deeds, and Commissioner for the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. He retired in 2006 having won 40 elections without ever losing one. An Oak Lawn street and a Water Reclamation District aeration station bear his name, and he is remembered fondly by tens of thousands of residents of Oak Lawn, Worth Township, and Cook County.

Even as a senior citizen, Mr. Yourell still exhibited a youthful love for life. He bungee

jumped in New Zealand at age 85 and was known for his love of dancing, even at his 90th birthday party. Mr. Yourell is survived by his wife, Millie, three children, five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Please join me in mourning the loss of a model citizen and a loving family man, Harry "Bus" Yourell. His passion and commitment to his community and his country will continue to inspire us all for years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE TOWN OF PORT BARRE ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join the town of Port Barre in celebrating their 100th anniversary. Situated off of U.S. Highway 190 and a few miles away from Interstate 49, Port Barre is referred to as "The Birthplace of Bayou Teche."

Port Barre's history dates back to 1820 when Charles Barre purchased a large section of bayou land and used it for his business enterprises. Before the advent of railroads, steamboats provided transportation for travelers and many different types of goods. Port Barre provided its surrounding areas with a lifeline to these much needed resources. The business opportunities drew people to the area, and on June 7, 1911, Governor J. G. Sanders officially incorporated the town.

Port Barre not only brought goods and services into the area, but it has also historically been a trading region. Originally the area was used as a trading center for French colonists and Indians. The former trading post lands are still accessible to the community and visitors. Presently, the Bayou Teche RV Park allows locals and tourists to enjoy the landscape and learn the history of the site.

The town hosts a number of festivals that celebrate its Cajun heritage. The Lions Club Clarkin Festival and the Volunteer Fire Department's Pirogue and Canoe Races are two of the attractions that bring people to Port Barre to kick up their heels.

In addition to holding these unique cultural celebrations, Port Barre also boasts a successful economy. Backed by local businesses and farmers, the area still offers job opportunities and supports financial growth. I congratulate the citizens of Port Barre and am proud to be their representative in Congress.

HONORING MARGARET GRIFFIN

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Margaret Griffin, wife of the late former Mayor of the City of Buffalo, James D. Griffin.

Mrs. Griffin was born in the early 1930s and grew up in a large Irish family in the South Buffalo neighborhood of the Old First Ward.

Margaret married James Griffin in 1968 and the couple had three children together Maureen, Megan and Thomas.

Margaret served as Buffalo's first lady for 16 years from 1978–1994, and was considered the mayor's most trusted ally.

Margaret preferred to stay out of the public spotlight and let her husband make the headlines during his time in office, but she always remained influential in her husband's decision making as they worked together to enhance the lives of the citizens of Buffalo, NY.

While her husband led the City through tumultuous years, Margaret was described by her children as "the backbone" of their family as she set as example of strength and poise to her children as they grew up in the political spotlight.

Margaret's children recall how she and her husband made a great couple, loved each other very much, and loved to laugh and reminisce with friends.

Later in her life, Margaret became "Nana Margie" and displayed the same love for her grandchildren as she did for the rest of her family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in remembering Margaret Griffin, a truly remarkable wife, mother, grandmother, friend, and servant of the City of Buffalo and its citizens.

I wish to extend my deepest condolences to the family of Mrs. Margaret Griffin, to her children Maureen and John Tomczak, Megan and Thomas and Colleen Griffin, to her grandchildren and surviving family and friends. Mrs. Griffin earned the respect of many and although words cannot truly express the kind and fun-loving woman that Margie was, it is my hope that the memories and stories of Mrs. Griffin can serve as a lasting tribute to her life and service to so many families throughout our great city, Buffalo, New York.

HONORING SERVICE AT MINNETONKA HOMECOMING

**HON. ERIK PAULSEN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, each fall, high schools across America hold homecoming parades to bring their community together and welcome back alumni. For Minnetonka High School this annual parade also gives the community an opportunity to honor its local veterans. Each year a veteran is selected to carry the American flag while riding at the front of the Minnetonka Homecoming Parade.

This year, Lyle Bennis, a long time resident of Deephaven, Minnesota, and a World War II Navy veteran is carrying the Stars and Stripes at the head of the ceremony in Excelsior.

Mr. Bennis was a Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class on the USS *Card* and USS *McCook* while serving in the European theater during WWII. Mr. Bennis's destroyer group recorded the most kills of German U-boat submarines in the Atlantic.

After victory in Europe was cemented, he was transferred to the Pacific and served in the Philippines, and finally in U.S. occupied Japan.

Lyle Bennis's service to our nation should never be forgotten. I thank him, and congratulate him for leading Minnetonka's homecoming parade.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL CHILDHOOD OBESITY AWARENESS MONTH AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS

**HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, there is no question that childhood obesity is among the most serious health problems affecting our nation's children. Indeed, approximately 17 percent of children and adolescents age 2–19 years in the United States are obese. The problem is only growing in magnitude, as over the past two decades, the prevalence of children who are obese has doubled, while the number of adolescents who are obese has tripled.

As co-chair of the Congressional Task Force on Childhood Obesity and in recognition of September as National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month, it is imperative that we begin to identify and promote solutions to the childhood obesity epidemic. One of the key places to look towards is the work of our children's hospitals.

Children's hospitals across the country are working to provide unique solutions for both treating and preventing childhood obesity. In my home district, in Columbus, Ohio, Nationwide Children's Hospital has created programs which approach the obesity epidemic from multiple angles, partnering with other organizations like the YMCA and Ohio Healthy Weight Outcomes Coalition to help foster a multi-lateral approach to addressing the epidemic.

One of these programs, the F.A.N., Fitness and Nutrition, Club was established in 2008 as part of Nationwide Children's Hospital's pediatric obesity initiative to help 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students in neighborhoods around the hospital experience fun activities to keep them fit and healthy through physical activity and education.

This month we applaud programs like F.A.N. Club and our children's hospitals, which in partnership with our local communities help ensure that children across the nation receive the tools and education necessary to prevent childhood obesity.

JOHN B. HASEMAN TRIBUTE

**HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel John B. Haseman of the United States Army. I received a letter from the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency informing me that Col. Haseman is to be a 2011 inductee into the Defense Attaché System, DAS, Hall of Fame. As a member of the U.S. Country Team, Mr. Haseman served as a military adviser to the ambassador and represented the Defense Department leadership to the ambassador's host nation.

Established in 1988, the Attaché Hall of Fame serves to honor DAS personnel who have long served our nation with the prowess and distinction befitting a member of the U.S. Military. Col. Haseman served the United

States in Indonesia from 1982 to 1985, and again from 1990 to 1994. He also served in Burma from 1987–1990.

While operating in Indonesia, Col. Haseman provided the Department of Defense with substantial information regarding numerous human rights violations. This vital information greatly influenced the decision making process concerning the policy that was to be implemented towards that country. Col. Haseman also functioned to cultivate healthy relationships with allied nations and to improve their military defense capabilities.

Col. Haseman first joined the US Army in 1963 from the University of Missouri Reserve Officer Training Corps. Throughout his career, having made the seven Army values a part of his daily life, Col. Haseman served our country with dignity and honor.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincerest pleasure to recognize Col. John Haseman, a native of Grand Junction, Colorado. The United States and the State of Colorado owe him our undying gratitude for his selfless service over the past 48 years. I thank him very much and wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

CORRESPONDENCE SUPPORTING  
THE AFGHANISTAN/PAKISTAN  
STUDY GROUP

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit correspondence regarding the Afghanistan/Pakistan Study Group and provide the following examples of support for this important initiative from David Abshire, president of the Center for the Study of the Presidency, and a moving letter from a constituent and mother whose children have served in the military in recent years.

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE  
PRESIDENCY AND CONGRESS,  
*Washington, DC, June 1, 2011.*

Hon. FRANK WOLF,  
*House of Representatives, Cannon House Office  
Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR FRANK: To say that the May 2, 2011 targeted elimination of Osama bin Laden by a team of U.S. Navy SEALs was welcome news would be the understatement of the 21st century. The death of a terrorist icon that had directed the murder of thousands of American, European, and Muslim civilians has also caused almost immediate speculation as to what his demise will mean for the international mission in Afghanistan.

Within hours of President Obama's announcement of bin Laden's death, pundits and politicians from both the Right and Left are calling for a speedier withdrawal in the wake of the al-Qaeda leader's demise. However, many are concerned that such a move would risk reversing the gains that have been made by our nearly ten-year military effort and could cause Afghanistan to once again remerge as a destabilizing pariah that violates human rights and threatens international security.

As the country becomes increasingly divided over the issue of our involvement in Afghanistan, many questions have been raised regarding our relationship with Pakistan. Despite spending billions in aid and security assistance, America's approval rating in Pakistan is a mere 17%. Furthermore the

discovery of Osama bin Laden in a compound located less than a mile from the Pakistan Military Academy has dramatically amplified concerns that elements of the Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence service may be maintaining links with al-Qaeda and other violent extremist organizations. While many understand that cutting off or reducing aid to Pakistan would be risky, the American public is unlikely to tolerate continued perceived double-dealing on the part of the Pakistani security services. New creative and independent thinking is needed to overcome the current deadlock.

As the country struggles to find the appropriate way forward in Afghanistan and Pakistan, I am heartened by your efforts to establish a bipartisan and independent Afghanistan-Pakistan Study Group that will take a comprehensive look at America's current and future role in the region.

I had the privilege of helping organize the Iraq Study Group (ISG), which the proposed Af-Pak Study Group would be modeled after, and feel that a similar such effort would be of great help today.

Such a group can provide an effective unifying rallying point that will enable the country to come together in support of a comprehensive strategy that will guard our interests in the region and foster a more stable and secure world.

With warm regards,  
Sincerely yours,

DAVID ABSHIRE.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WOLF: I have read your proposal for the formation of an Afghanistan/Pakistan Study Group with deep personal interest and approbation. I applaud its respectful, well-reasoned, bipartisan approach to rethinking the war in Afghanistan. The following are my personal thoughts regarding this war. Please accept them as the insights of an average American mother.

It has been troubling to me how distant this war is for so many Americans. Many are only vaguely aware of the events taking place, other than perhaps the recent increase in the number of casualties. Even gathering information of what is daily happening in Afghanistan hasn't been easy. I comb the internet daily searching many different online news sources in an attempt to be informed. Our country is at war and yet so often the top news items contain nothing regarding it. Often it is the local papers in towns with soldiers, sailors and marines serving in Afghanistan that contain the most news. Other times it is the news stations with an embedded reporter who will have a flurry of articles while the reporter is there but then nothing once they return.

The War on Terror is not just impersonal news but it is a war that strikes very close to home. My father has a dear friend whose son-in-law died in the Twin Towers. I have a friend who lost a son in Iraq during the battle for Fallujah. A student of mine lost her fiancée in the war. My children and son-in-law have served in both Iraq and Afghanistan and have buddies injured or killed in action.

One of my daughters is currently serving in Afghanistan in a Combat Support Hospital. She arrived in time to experience first hand the peak number of casualties in June and July. In a recent news interview her Commanding Officer said they are seeing an almost constant stream of casualties; something that none of them were prepared for, but will remember the horrors of the rest of their lives.

It has sometimes appeared that the efforts in Afghanistan have trudged along, with success measured in part by the areas in which we have gained some measure of control versus the price paid in human lives both civilian and military. The casualties suffered

aren't just numbers to me; each name, each face, represents a family who is paying the ultimate price, the loss of a son or daughter, brother or sister, father or mother; a family that will never be the same. Therefore, I wholeheartedly support the formation of an Afghanistan/Pakistan Study Group in the hope that it will help to turn the tide of this war and lessen the number of casualties as well.

I, too, have a deep respect and confidence in Gen. Petraeus and would not want my comments to be construed as being critical of the leadership of our military. I have no formal training in political science or history so please accept these comments as simply the perspective of an American mother with children glad to serve our country.

God bless you and give you wisdom as you serve in the leadership of our country.

Sincerely,

PS It meant so much to see my sons receive a standing ovation when introduced during last weeks luncheon. It is these very Lance Corporals, Corporals and Sergeants who are almost daily listed among the casualties. My son, \_\_\_\_\_, remarked that listening to your speech "restored his faith in the republic". Thank you again for recognizing their service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. PASCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I want to state for the record that on September 22, 2011, my vote was not recorded for rollcall vote No. 723.

I would like to state for the record that my vote should have been recorded as "nay" on rollcall vote No. 723, on providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2401) to require analyses of the cumulative and incremental impacts of certain rules and actions of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes.

RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER AS  
CHILDHOOD OBESITY AWARE-  
NESS MONTH

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of September as Childhood Obesity Awareness Month. According to the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, thirty-two percent of children and adolescents in the U.S. are overweight. According to this study, sixteen percent of children and adolescents in the U.S. are obese, meaning they have a body mass index in the ninety-fifth percentile. In my home state of Missouri, almost thirty-four percent of children are obese and overweight. Sadly, the childhood obesity rate is growing, doubling over the last two decades, while the obesity rate for adolescents has nearly tripled over the last two decades.

These staggering increases in obesity are leading to a number of health problems among America's youth. Incidents of type two

diabetes and hypertension are on the rise, and more children today are at risk of heart disease, cancer, and stroke. It has been estimated that one out of three males, and two out of five females born in the year 2000 will eventually suffer from type two diabetes.

The obesity epidemic hits some communities harder than others, greatly impacting our more vulnerable communities. Studies have shown that these children are more likely to suffer from obesity and the related health problems. Low income areas have far fewer parks and sidewalks than wealthier communities, and children from these neighborhoods have less opportunity to play ball, ride bikes, or run outside. Children who live in lower income neighborhoods also have less access to fresh produce and healthy foods. Children living in food deserts are not able to consume healthier foods as often as they should, relying more on processed and high calorie foods for their meals.

Mr. Speaker, it is essential that this Congress work to improve access to healthy food for all Americans. We need to teach our young healthy eating habits, promote physical activity, and increase access to fresh foods by encouraging supermarkets to open in the urban core, and embracing farmers markets and urban farming. Obesity is a costly epidemic. Not only does it drastically increase health care spending, totaling fourteen billion dollars a year, but it greatly reduces the health and prosperity of our children. I would also like to commend the hard work being done by Children's Mercy Hospital in bringing awareness to this issue. I urge my colleagues to stand with me in support of Childhood Obesity Awareness Month.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND REDUCING UNEMPLOYMENT ACT

### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Economic Growth and Reducing Unemployment Act, to address perhaps the two greatest workforce tragedies resulting from today's economy—our long-term unemployed and our unemployed young people—and to spur economic growth. Since Republicans took control of the House of Representatives, many Democrats have tried to get them to shift from their one-sided, cuts-only fiscal policy to taking some steps to more quickly reduce stubborn unemployment throughout the country. Republican austerity policies, as predicted by history and Economics 101, have driven the economy into another ditch, with the possibility of a double-dip recession. We need to reduce the country's budget deficit and debt in the long term, but as virtually every economist and the Federal Reserve chair himself have said, we must also create jobs and stimulate the economy now, before it is too late. While 14 million Americans are unemployed, my bill targets those particularly hard hit by unemployment. In August 2011, the number of long-term unemployed (those jobless for 27 weeks or more) was six million, which accounted for 42.9 percent of the total unemployed population. In

July 2011, the number of unemployed youth 16 to 24 years old was 4.1 million.

To make matters even worse, the unemployed now face employment discrimination and employers are reluctant to hire the long-term unemployed because of the length of their unemployment. My bill would give employers a \$5,000 tax credit against their payroll tax liability for each (net) new long-term unemployed person they hire. The tax credit is large enough to give employers an incentive to increase hiring and wages, which would inject demand into the economy. The credit would be available to the broadest base of employers because every employer—government, non-profit and for-profit—pays payroll taxes, and employers could claim the credit on a quarterly rather than annual basis. According to the independent, non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, the proposal would “increase both output and employment,” through four mechanisms: (1) with lower employment costs, employers would reduce the costs of their products and services, which, in turn, would first boost sales and then hiring and hours worked; (2) employers would pass on some of the tax savings to employees in the form of higher wages or other compensation, which, in turn, would increase employees' purchasing power; (3) higher profits would lead to higher stock prices for public companies, increasing shareholders' wealth and therefore their willingness to spend; and (4) with lower employment costs, employers would increase hiring. The bill has safeguards to prevent employers from gaming the system, including denying a credit to an employer that fires one employee and hires a replacement.

Particularly disappointing as well is the high unemployment rate for young people who heeded our advice to graduate from high school and college, only to try to enter the workforce in the worst economy in generations. By significantly expanding AmeriCorps, my bill, without needing a new administrative structure or bureaucracy, would allow unemployed young people to earn a stipend sufficient to support themselves and to obtain work experience and a good work history to help them obtain future employment. The net cost of the expansion would be low, because these young people would be providing urgently needed local services that are being dropped or curtailed because of federal, state, and local budget cuts, such as after-school programs, tutoring, and assistance for the elderly.

The bill would significantly expand job opportunities for young people who have played by the rules but find themselves unemployed in this economy. The bill would increase the number of participants in the AmeriCorps State and National program from approximately 78,000 to 500,000 full-time participants. Participants receive a living allowance, which most find sufficient to meet their basic needs, and are also eligible for an education award equal to the value of a Pell grant, for school-loan forbearance, health care benefits and child care assistance. By expanding the program, we would reduce the number of unemployed young people, provide them with the work skills and experience they would not get while unemployed, and help cash-strapped states and local governments provide services that they would otherwise have to cut.

For some time, it has been clear that policies to address today's unusually stubborn unemployment need to be targeted in order to be

effective. The long-term unemployed and unemployed young people are the two groups that have been hardest to reach in prior measures. Without significant targeting, the long-term unemployed are in danger of becoming permanently unemployed and young graduates will face their first years as adults without jobs and with no way to acquire work experience. Both groups deserve better. I ask the House of Representatives to support this bill because it targets both of these neglected groups of Americans.

#### RECOGNIZING CONSTITUTION DAY

### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because of my full commitment and support of the values of equality, respect, and freedom fortified within the creation of the Constitution of the United States of America.

Today is a day set aside to recognize the importance the Constitution has provided throughout its evolution to the continued principles of democracy our Founding Fathers championed.

I would like to highlight both the 13th and 15th Amendments for the equality each ensures to American minorities.

The 13th Amendment abolished slavery and started a revolution of social progress for blacks subject to slavery, and also for women and laborers.

The 15th Amendment ensures the right to vote to all citizens, regardless of one's race, color, or previous condition of servitude. I personally respect the struggle that ensued after this Amendment was ratified. It took until the 1965 Voting Right Act until this right was protected with vigorous enforcement—a vote I remember voting for passage as a newly elected Representative of the United States Congress.

These two Amendments perhaps best show the injustices that can be righted by Congress and the Nation when we recognize that we are a united people of equal bearing who are each entitled to equality under the Constitution and the help of our brethren.

#### HERBERT F. KOETHER TRIBUTE

### HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Herbert F. Koether for his service to the state of Colorado, his active pursuit of conservative ideals, and his love for serving others.

Before World War II, Mr. Koether served on the war production board in Washington, D.C., later joining the United States Air Force and attaining the rank of 2nd Lieutenant.

In 1952, Mr. Koether arrived in Denver, Colorado, actively working in the Colorado political arena for conservative causes. During Senator Barry Goldwater's 1964 presidential campaign, Mr. Koether served as the chair of the Colorado Goldwater effort, tirelessly promoting the ideals Senator Goldwater represented. In 1989, he also helped Gale Norton

run her campaign for Colorado's Attorney General.

Mr. Koether not only worked on campaigns and in politics, he also devoted himself to public service in the Denver area, offering his services to various public boards to better the lives of Coloradans. In addition to serving on the Kent Denver school boards, Mr. Koether spent 54 years of his life on the advisory board of the Salvation Army.

Mr. Koether passed away on Sept. 16, 2011 among his family members and friends who were coming together to celebrate his 98th birthday.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Herbert F. Koether. The ideals he devoted himself to and his life of public service tangibly affected Coloradans and Americans for the better, and he will be greatly missed by us all.

TRIBUTE TO THE 5TH SPECIAL  
FORCES GROUP

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, fifty years ago, a prestigious group of soldiers were activated into the 5th Special Forces Group at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. Deployed today from Ft. Campbell, Kentucky and serving in regions known and unknown, the men and women of the 5th Special Forces work to gain and secure freedom's cause for the oppressed throughout the world.

The green beret is not the only thing that sets the 5th Special Forces Group apart. Divided into five active duty and two Army National Guard groups, the Special Forces are an integral part of the United States Army and her missions throughout the world. From Vietnam to Afghanistan, these honored soldiers continue to carry out the legacy of excellence, victory, and fidelity to the contract of democracy. Outfitted with the best and the brightest the Armed Forces has to offer, the 5th Special Forces Group celebrates 50 years of special operations as one of the most decorated and well-known Army units.

We owe much of our freedom to those who, like the 5th Special Forces, dedicate their lives to the tenets of this mighty country. With unequalled speed and resolve, they both captured high-profile targets in the Global War on Terror and brought humanity and compassion to areas of the world struggling under humanitarian crisis. As the 5th Special Forces Group continues their work to liberate those in the bonds of oppression, I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring the mighty work done by the 5th Special Forces and congratulate them as they celebrate 50 years of bringing freedom to the world's darkest places.

PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY AND  
THE U.N.

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in objection to the Palestinian Authority's blatant

attempt to circumvent its past agreements and treaties with Israel and seek a unilateral declaration of statehood at the United Nations (UN) later today.

Peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians will not be settled through a resolution at the United Nations. Lasting peace will only be achieved through direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

The Palestinian Authority's unilateral declaration of statehood directly contradicts UN Resolution 242, which states that the two nations must work together to achieve peace in the region so that both states are secure.

When Resolution 242 was passed, President Johnson stated, "It is clear . . . that a return to the situation of June 4, 1967 will not bring peace. There must be secure and there must be recognized borders. Some such lines must be agreed to by the neighbors involved."

Now is the time for the UN and the Palestinian Authority to heed that advice. The borders should not be dictated to the Israelis; rather, an agreement should be based on direct negotiations between the two states. Recognition in any way by the UN will only embolden the belligerent Palestinians to avoid the negotiating table and circumvent direct negotiations with Israel.

An affirmative vote by the UN Security Council, even with a United States veto, will have dire consequences for years to come. I urge the UN to reject the resolution so that both nations can return to the negotiating table without pre-conditions.

INTRODUCING THE INVESTING  
INCOME AT HOME ACT OF 2011

**HON. RICK LARSEN**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Investing Income at Home Act of 2011, legislation that simplifies the outdated personal holding company ("PHC") tax regime and will help certain closely held companies invest money here at home to create jobs and help our economy recover.

Enacted in 1934, the PHC tax provisions (sections 541–547 of the Internal Revenue Code) are outdated. The goal of the PHC tax when it was originally enacted was to prevent wealthy individuals from avoiding the individual income tax on passive income like interest, dividends and rents by forming corporations to hold these investments.

In the 1930s the corporate tax rate was 13.5 percent and the top individual income tax rate was 63 percent. This 49.5 percent differential between the top corporate and individual tax rate—coupled with the ability to liquidate and distribute appreciated corporate assets without tax consequences—provided an incentive for wealthy individuals to incorporate their portfolio investments. Those incentives have largely vanished under current law. First, the top marginal tax rate for both individuals and corporations is 35%. Second, corporate liquidating distributions of appreciated assets are taxed at the corporate level. Current law provides no incentive to incorporate portfolio investments to escape the individual income tax. The PHC tax is an obsolete tax that should be repealed.

Section 541 of the Internal Revenue Code imposes a corporate level penalty tax of 15% on the undistributed personal holding company income of a PHC. Under current law, this rate is scheduled to return to the highest individual tax rate of 39.6% when the lower dividend tax rate expires in 2011. A corporation constitutes a PHC if 60% of its adjusted gross income is PHC income and if 50% of its stock is owned by five or fewer individual shareholders at any time during the last half of the taxable year. PHC income generally is defined as interest, dividends, royalties, rents, and certain other types of passive investment income.

Furthermore, in the case of a group of corporations filing a consolidated return, the PHC test is generally conducted on the basis of the operations of the consolidated group. However, in certain circumstances the test must be conducted on a separate company basis. When the test is conducted on a separate company basis, a group of corporations filing a consolidated return can easily find that it has a personal holding company tax liability even though a great majority of its revenue is generated from the active conduct of its trade or businesses. The requirement to conduct the PHC tests on a separate company basis often unfairly penalizes corporate groups that are actively engaged in business. A common fact pattern that gives rise to this unwarranted imposition of the PHC tax is where a member of the group receives dividends from controlled foreign subsidiaries. In this case, the separate company PHC tax computation serves as a deterrent to the repatriation and reinvestment of foreign earnings in the United States.

The legislation I am introducing would exclude dividends received from a firm's foreign affiliates and reinvested in the United States from the definition of personal holding company income.

This bill will provide that corporations impacted by the PHC that benefit from the provision would pay the same level of corporate tax as similarly situated publicly traded corporations. This would free them to invest dividends from foreign affiliates into the U.S. economy, helping to create much-needed jobs here in America.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation that will clean up an outdated part of the Tax Code and help to create good jobs in the United States.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONVENIENCE STORES

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the National Association of Convenience Stores (NACS).

Originally founded in 1961, today NACS represents more than 3,700 companies that do business in more than 50 countries worldwide.

The convenience retailing industry in America generates \$575 billion dollars in sales annually, in its more than 146,000-plus stores across the country, and employs 1.6 million

Americans. NACS has helped the industry experience remarkable growth, convenience store sales today are more than 1,100 times greater than when NACS was founded. Cumulatively, the U.S. convenience store industry alone serves 160 million customers per day in this country alone.

It is convenience stores that keep America's motors running. Convenience stores sell 80 percent of all the gasoline purchased in the country.

NACS represents both large businesses and small family businesses that grow America's economy. More than half of convenience stores are owned by single-store operators. NACS helps member retailers to grow their businesses, from research and marketing to human resources and management.

NACS also helps to advocate for those issues that are vital to these small business owners. From motor fuels policy, to prevention of tobacco sales to minors, to swipe fee reform, NACS is an industry leader in making sure their voices are heard.

Convenience stores provide a speed of transaction that is unparalleled, and the large number of locations and extended hours of operation have redefined convenience, whether for food, fuel or other essential items. The extended hours and flexibility of convenience stores mean that they play a vital role in the communities they serve and customers are able to quickly pick up what they want, when they need it.

Mr. Speaker, in recognizing the many contributions the National Association of Convenience Stores has made to our nation and to our history, I join my colleagues in celebrating the 50th anniversary of its founding.

#### 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF UKRAINE'S INDEPENDENCE

### HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 20th anniversary of Ukraine's independence from Soviet rule.

Since August 24th, 1991, the people of Ukraine have remained steadfastly focused on securing a stable democracy and a free market economy in Ukraine, and I commend them on their democratic achievements. During the 2004 Orange Revolution, I was proud to stand with hundreds of Ukrainian Americans demonstrating in front of the Embassy in Washington, wearing our orange scarves and demanding that democracy required rejection of a rigged election.

I also rise to express my deep concern over the erosion of democracy under the current Yanukovich Administration, which places the successes of the Orange Revolution in jeopardy. Reports from the April 2011 Freedom House assessment are alarming, particularly the anecdotes of the Administration's use of violence, intimidation, and selective prosecution of opposition leaders and suppression of the media.

We in the United States must continue to stand with those living under oppressive and tyrannical regimes as they struggle for their freedom.

Last week, members of the Congressional Caucus on Ukraine introduced a bipartisan

resolution to commemorate Ukraine's independence and to express strong and continued support to the Ukrainian people in their efforts toward ensuring democratic principles.

#### TRANSPARENCY IN REGULATORY ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS ON THE NATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

### HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2011*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2401) to require analyses of the cumulative and incremental impacts of certain rules and actions of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, today's legislation continues the majority's relentless assault on the Clean Air Act and our nation's public health.

Let's be clear: clean air is not—and has never been—the enemy of economic growth. If history has taught us anything, it is that a healthy environment and a healthy economy go hand in hand. Since 1970, the Clean Air Act has reduced air pollutants by 60 percent while the economy has grown by over 200 percent, with economic benefits expected to reach \$2 trillion by 2010—exceeding costs by more than 30 to 1.

Rather than building on this bipartisan record of cost-effective environmental achievement, today's legislation proposes to block two of the most important Clean Air Act rules in decades: the mercury and air toxics rule and the cross-state air pollution rule.

The proposed mercury and air toxics standards would prevent more than 90% of the mercury from coal-fired power plants to be emitted into the air by 2015—and it would reduce fine particle emissions by 29 percent. More than half of the nation's coal-fired power plants already deploy the technology necessary to meet these standards, whose adoption will prevent 17,000 premature deaths and 120,000 cases of asthma a year.

The long overdue cross-state air pollution rule would require 27 upwind states to reduce their sulfur dioxide emissions by 75 percent and their nitrogen oxide emissions by 54 percent. These reductions will prevent an additional 34,000 premature deaths and 400,000 cases of asthma each year and the "good neighbor" principle it represents is especially important to downwind states like my home state of Maryland, which currently must bear the brunt of air pollution that blows in from other states.

The economic and public health benefits from both of these rules far outstrip the cost of the pollution control technology necessary to achieve them—a fact the one-sided "study" in this legislation is deliberately designed to obscure. And the pollution control technology itself will drive investment and job creation for professionals like engineers, electricians, pipefitters and boilermakers whose expertise and labor will be needed to install it. It's a clear win for our economy and a clear win for our public health.

I urge a no vote.

JOE BLAKE TRIBUTE

### HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Joe Blake, former Chancellor of the Colorado State University System. Since May of 2009, his leadership and influence as the first sole chancellor of the CSU System has been felt far and wide within the state of Colorado.

Before beginning his time with CSU, Mr. Blake served as the President and CEO of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce for nearly a decade. His experience with the Chamber coupled with his strong background in job creation played a pivotal role in his ability to lead CSU through tough financial times.

Under the leadership of Mr. Blake, CSU was able to accomplish many important tasks, including the establishment of a stand-alone chancellor operation, the development of its first strategic plan, and the positioning of CSU Global as a viable and integral part of the system.

CSU also launched the Commitment to Colorado, a scholarship program that ensures qualified students of all income levels have the opportunity to attend an institution of higher education. In a time where jobs are becoming scarce, nothing is more important than ensuring the young workforce has the experience, the resources, and the expertise to obtain a sustainable occupation.

Through his dedication and commitment to Colorado's system of higher learning, Mr. Blake has furthered America's objective of bettering its educational system. Mr. Blake has referred to his time as chancellor as having been "the highlight of [his] career." However, Mr. Blake's time with CSU has not yet reached its end. While he is stepping down as chancellor, he will remain with the University to promote donor and alumni relations.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Joe Blake. His leadership and dedication to CSU has benefited thousands of students and families and I thank him for all he has done for the state of Colorado.

#### CELEBRATING THE 110TH ANNI- VERSARY OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

### HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the First United Methodist Church of Carrollton. For 110 years, this church has been a centerpiece for spiritual growth and community outreach for the City of Carrollton.

In 1901, a group of 15 Methodists moved to Carrollton, Texas to start a ministry and formed what is known today as First United Methodist Church of Carrollton. Preaching only once a month, founding pastor Reverend John D. Major visited the congregation as the fifth church on his circuit. The congregation met in the attic of W.H. Stephens' store in downtown Carrollton, where the church developed a strong Sunday school program. By 1902,

membership had expanded to 54 and the church acquired additional property.

In the mid-1950s, the First United Methodist Church of Carrollton needed to relocate. With a generous donation from the Milburn Family Farm, First United Methodist Church secured five acres for future growth. Since 1967, First United Methodist Church has been pastored by Kenneth Carter, Dr. Paul Morell, and Rev. Jerry Simmons, and is currently under the spiritual leadership of Dr. Richard Dunagin. Throughout its history, First United Methodist has continued to place an emphasis on evangelism in the mission field by providing dental and medical care to those in need around the world. In 2001, as the church celebrated its centennial anniversary, land was provided for a new church and school. In 2004, a new worship center opened which was adorned with stained glass windows from the original sanctuary. Since 2004, the church has added a stadium and sports complex, meeting rooms, and a new sanctuary that can accommodate 1,500 people.

Over the past 110 years, First United Methodist Church of Carrollton has also started other successful ministries in the Carrollton community. For example, the Sonshine Preschool expanded into Carrollton Christian academy, which instructs students from preschool through 12th grade.

In celebrating its 110th anniversary, we recognize the positive impact that First United Methodist Church has had on the greater Carrollton area. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating the rich history of First United Methodist Church of Carrollton.

**MARINE AND HYDROKINETIC RENEWABLE ENERGY PROMOTION ACT OF 2011**

**HON. JAY INSLEE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, this week, I re-introduced the Marine and Hydrokinetic Renewable Energy Promotion Act (H.R. 2994), a bipartisan bill that will improve the research and development program for marine renewable energy. Marine energy is an emerging technology that presents great opportunities. Developing the ability to harness energy from our ocean and tidal currents to power our homes and businesses will create U.S. jobs by building a new manufacturing industry and will improve our energy security. I would like to recognize the leadership of Senator LISA MURKOWSKI who has introduced a Senate companion, which she has successfully moved through the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Further, I appreciate the support of my House colleagues Representatives DON YOUNG and THEODORE DEUTCH in working with me on this bill.

In the Puget Sound area of Washington, research and demonstration on tidal energy are underway, requiring collaboration from the private sector, universities, research institutions and public utilities. However, national leadership is needed to truly realize the benefits of commercial-scale marine hydrokinetic projects in the United States. The U.S. Department of Energy established the Northwest National

Marine Renewable Energy Center, run by the University of Washington and Oregon State University, to develop tidal and wave research projects. They are working with the private sector to demonstrate new technologies. Additionally, the Department of Energy's Marine Sciences Laboratory on the Olympic Peninsula assesses waterpower resource potential to address and remove environmental roadblocks to deployment, testing to accelerate the integration of large-scale waterpower electricity generation into the Northwest power grid, and is essential to establishing a robust basis for industrial investment based on verifiable technology performance, assured cost basis, and environmental performance.

The Marine Renewable Energy Promotion Act will accelerate these efforts by establishing a competitive research, development and demonstration program at the Department of Energy that is specifically devoted to marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy. This office will help to develop new marine renewable energy technologies, increase reliability and durability of facilities, reduce manufacturing and operating costs of the devices, help identify and address environmental impacts of marine renewable energy and make sure that such power can be integrated into the national electricity grid. Additionally, the bill will ensure that the Department of Energy works with research institutions to set up marine and hydrokinetic energy test facilities in the United States, supporting efforts underway nationwide and at the University of Washington, which are critical in our efforts to demonstrate a wide range of technologies, and evaluate the technical viability of each new and emerging type of technology at different scales.

The Electric Power Research Institute has estimated that ocean resources in the United States could generate 252 million megawatt hours of electricity, which given as much support as other types of renewable energy, could be equivalent to 6.5 percent of America's entire electricity generation. With such great potential to spur American innovation and job creation, I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

**TENNESSEE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME**

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, one hundred years ago, a group of women from the First Baptist Church in Nashville, TN, decided to put action to their beliefs. Purchasing land in Brentwood, TN, in 1911, the Tennessee Baptist Orphans' Home moved from borrowed space in a local hotel to a permanent home. This move began a beautiful history of dedication and service to the least and most vulnerable among us.

Approximately 200 children a year are cared for, fed, clothed, and taught about the hope found in the Almighty. As children find themselves in houses of great crisis, thanks to the care and support of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home, they soon find themselves in homes of great love. Need is the only qualification for children to find assistance and by accepting all children regardless of race,

creed, or socio-economic background, the TBCH lives fully the call of those who follow Christ.

I appreciate the great work done by the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home and all those who support its mission. From the couples who give their lives to parent other children to those whose prayers make this calling possible, all who offer their time, talents, and treasures to this great cause are helping to make the future brighter for Tennessee's children. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home and ask my colleagues to join with me in offering great thanks for the work done in protecting Tennessee's children.

**TRANSPARENCY IN REGULATORY ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS ON THE NATION ACT OF 2011**

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2011*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2401) to require analyses of the cumulative and incremental impacts of certain rules and actions of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2401. Instead of legislation that would train Americans to get back to full employment, the majority is bringing to the floor a bill that harms the health of our nation.

This bill would endanger the health of millions of our nation's children, seniors, and sick by blocking rules to reduce cross-state air pollution and to reduce the emissions of mercury, lead, dioxin, and other toxic chemicals from power plants. H.R. 2401 would also delay future safeguards by requiring studies that only measure pollution cleanup costs while disregarding health and other benefits.

Along with many of my colleagues, I recently sent letters to the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, in support of the Power Plant Air Toxics Rule and the Cross-State Air Pollution Control Rule because of the positive impact these rules will have on the public health of our nation. Toxic air pollution from power plants remains a major unregulated source of mercury and lead in the air. Already, more than half of all coal-fired power plants use widely available pollution control technologies to meet these important standards. Once the rule is final, the remaining 44 percent will take similar steps to decrease dangerous pollutants, saving thousands of lives and avoiding tens of thousands of illnesses. It is clear that the benefits of the mercury and air toxics standards will far outweigh its costs—it is estimated that the pollution reductions required by the rule will yield health benefits of \$59 billion to \$140 billion per year (from lower health care costs and higher worker productivity), which is 5 to 13 times its costs.

Further, by delaying the Cross-State Air Pollution Control Rule this bill would allow highly polluting facilities located upwind to continue to pollute major metropolitan areas with impunity. Such sources of pollution have made it

unattainable for major metropolitan areas like New York City to be in compliance with federal standards for smog pollution even though most pollution is generated by large upwind sources. The Cross State Rule would make polluters control pollution at the source rather than continuing to shift the cost burden onto local governments and local taxpayers.

This bill requires an unnecessary, duplicative, and biased study of specified air quality and hazardous waste regulations without assessing the benefits of environmental and public health standards. Impeding these EPA rules jeopardizes the health and well-being of the American people. I encourage my colleagues to vote against this legislative train wreck.

IN HONOR OF HISPANIC HERITAGE  
MONTH

**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in observance of Hispanic Heritage Month, which is celebrated September 15th through October 15th, and I am proud to honor the contributions of the Latino community to the diverse landscape of American life and culture. I would like to take a moment to recognize a few individuals for their impact on the Hispanic community and its progress in our Nation. Through their accomplishments in media and the arts, Jose Antonio Burciaga, Rosa Guerrero, Luis Jimenez, and Ramon Renteria have given a part of themselves to enrich the Hispanic community. On September 30th, these individuals are being recognized at the annual El Paso Community College's Hispanic Heritage luncheon celebrating 100 years of Latino art & media.

To begin, I would like to honor the life and career of the late writer and artist Jose Antonio Burciaga, a native El Pasoan, for his exploration of the complex Chicano identity in American society. With the tools of language and art, he illuminated and articulated issues of identity, discrimination, and alienation facing the Chicano community.

I would also like to recognize artist and educator Rosa Guerrero. Through her projects such as the International Folklore Dance Group and her film, "Tapestry," Rosa Guerrero has made it her life's mission to promote cultural diversity and understanding, beginning with some of the first intercultural programs in El Paso schools in the 1970s.

I would also like to remember the life of artist Luis Jimenez, whose powerful sculptures are on display nationwide in public spaces and museums, including the "Vaquero" at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. His creations, such as "Blue Mustang", which often depict the working man, are marked by vivid and fluorescent colors. They are purposefully striking yet accessible, often provoking strong reactions.

And finally, I would like to recognize journalist and columnist Ramon Renteria for his decades of bold, quality reporting on a wide range of cultural and social issues. His past honors include the Guillermo Martinez-Marquez national award for Latin American reporting and a Texas Headliner Award for his

feature story, "Separate and Unequal: The Story of Kelli, Veronica and School Finance," as well as the Ruben Salazar Award from Café Mayapan. As a veteran journalist, Ramon Renteria has brought unique insight and experience to important topics in education, politics, and border issues in our community.

I want to personally congratulate our honorees for their exceptional achievements and contributions to our community, Hispanic culture, and the rich tapestry of American life. They have left their mark on the Hispanic experience in America through the sharing of their cultural perspective and achievements in their respective fields. As the Hispanic community continues to grow in America, it is important to celebrate our roots as we grow in our journey as a part of this great Nation.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, RILYA

**HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today, you would have been fifteen. Today, you would have been a freshman in high school. Today, you would have been the fine young woman you were meant to be.

You are not forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, Rilya Wilson was a foster child of the Florida Department of Children and Families. She went missing on January 18, 2001, and was not reported missing until two years later. The resulting investigation culminated in the resignation of the DCF chief and the passage of a new law I championed in the Florida House of Representatives—a law improving the supervision of foster children and requiring the tracking of efforts to find missing children.

It was later shown that GERALYN GRAHAM, her caretaker, engaged in identity and Medicaid fraud by accepting payments during Rilya's disappearance. Today, GERALYN is in jail, and believed by many to have murdered our beautiful Rilya. Unfortunately, circumstantial evidence is the only evidence available to prosecutors, and I fear that GERALYN GRAHAM will walk free.

This must not happen. The laws governing the reporting of missing children simply are not strong enough. Failing to report a child you know is missing should always be a crime of the most serious kind.

One more—Rilya, you are not forgotten. I will never sleep, I will never slumber, and I will never rest until we find you—until those responsible for your disappearance are brought to justice.

Many nights I dream that I will one day get to meet you. Every night I dream that you have grown into the fine young lady you were meant to be. Every night I dream that I will see you reunited with your loving sister, Rodericka.

I pray that it will be so.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF PHILANTHROPIST JACKIE LEE HOUSTON

**HON. MARY BONO MACK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mrs. BONO MACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable lady and dear friend, Mrs. Jackie Lee Houston, a pillar of our community in California's Coachella Valley, and an inspiration to countless admirers and friends.

Today, our community will come together to celebrate Jackie Lee's life, a life of purpose and accomplishment that truly made our world a better place. I am deeply saddened that the Congressional schedule prevents me from joining in this celebration and I know that the memories of Jackie Lee will bring joy to all those attending; a fitting tribute to this gracious hostess who insisted that any event in which she was involved was done with grace and class—and a large measure of fun!

Born Jackie Lee McDonald on June 27, 1935, Jackie Lee grew up in Seattle, Washington, and went on to attend the University of Washington. It was there that she met her husband, Jim, with whom she would spend the rest of her life. Their love story is a classic romance, from their hard-working early days when a holiday was defined by how much gas they could afford for a weekend get away to the pre-eminent role they shared as leading desert philanthropists, they were simply inseparable.

Jackie Lee and Jim were blessed with three children, Tamara, Jaimi and Jim, and their family bond was unbreakable.

For a time, the Houstons made a life in British Columbia, visiting the Coachella Valley regularly in the 1960s. Although the Houstons maintained an active presence in the Coachella Valley for decades, they didn't move permanently to the Desert until 2001. Once there, they quickly made their commitment to their new home clear by purchasing a local television affiliate and establishing KPSP Channel 2 as a major media presence in our community. It is perhaps the most inspiring testament to her character and strength of will that Jackie Lee made such an enormous impact on her adopted home town in such a short period of time. Proud to be one of the few women in the country who owned a television station, Jackie Lee used her influence at the station to provide additional exposure to causes she deemed worthwhile—regardless of whether she was directly involved in them.

One cannot begin to estimate the number of lives that were touched and made better by the tens of millions of dollars Jackie Lee raised for and donated to worthwhile charities and causes over the years, saying once: "Giving is just a feeling of wanting to be proud of what you do." I will always be especially grateful for her work on the Palm Springs International Film Festival, and consider myself truly honored to have called her a dear friend.

Jackie Lee had the ability to take your breath away with a flair and creativity that set her parties and events apart from all the rest—and for that reason people flocked to the

Houston's home and social gatherings and always returned. She also quietly helped countless other individuals, helping families with furniture, clothes, or even mortgage payments.

We were all enriched by her life and devastated by her passing, and the void in our community will never be filled.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commemorating the life and contributions of Mrs. Jackie Lee Houston, who passed away on September 14, 2011. Her legacy will live on through her many achievements, the countless lives she touched, and the enduring admiration and devotion of her loving husband, Jim. May God bless her, and God bless America.

#### PALESTINIAN STATEHOOD

### HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern about today's vote in the U.N. General Assembly regarding Palestinian statehood.

This unilateral attempt by the Palestinians is not in the best interest of the United States. It is not in the best interest of Israel—our closest ally in the Middle East. And, in my opinion, it is not in the best interest of the Palestinian people. Any decisions regarding Palestine's statehood must come in conjunction with security for the Israeli people and multilateral talks with Israel.

Today, as the world watches the actions of the United Nations, I plant my feet firmly on the side of the Jewish State of Israel, and express my unwavering support for their country and security.

Israel stands as a beacon of hope in a region of the world where democracy and freedom are in short supply. With our continued friendship, we can ensure that Israel has the support and resources needed to continue on as a banner of freedom and democracy in the Middle East.

#### SUPPORT ISRAEL

### HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Israel and in my belief that a nuclear-armed Iran poses a dire threat not only to Israel, but to the entire world.

Israel is a crucial ally and friend to the United States. There is a long, rich, and productive history between our two countries. If Israel's sovereignty and ability to compete on a level playing field is being threatened, it is important for all levels of the U.S. Government to stand up and act. The partnership between our two democracies is strong and must remain so.

Palestinian leadership is attempting a push toward statehood through the United Nations but Middle East peace can only be achieved through direct negotiations. An agreement suitable to both Israelis and Palestinians must achieve real security and mutual recognition of each state's right to exist. That cannot be achieved through unilateral action.

As unrest continues in the Middle East, the United States must remain steadfast in its unyielding support of our friend and ally. Sadly, Israel is in a volatile region of the world where our shared values of self-determination and democracy are under constant attack. That is why I continually support vital security assistance to Israel and support legislation to impose sanctions on those aiding Iran's nuclear program. Iran's Mahmoud Ahmadinejad can never, at any time, be allowed to obtain nuclear weapons.

Israel's security, and regional stability in the Middle East, is a vital U.S. interest. As a Member of Congress, I urge all branches of U.S. Government to remain consistent in emphasizing their support for Israel.

#### IN HONOR OF JUDGE AARON COHN

### HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to our Nation's longest serving juvenile court judge and one of Columbus, Georgia's most distinguished legal minds, celebrated military veterans and dedicated public servants, Judge Aaron Cohn. Judge Cohn, who has served as a juvenile court judge since 1965, will step down from that position at the end of this month. His longevity of dedicated judicial service and steadfast commitment to positively influencing generations of Columbus-area youth, are just a few of the many reasons as to why Judge Cohn has been an invaluable and irreplaceable pillar in Georgia's legal community.

A Columbus native, Judge Cohn was born on March 3, 1916. He is a graduate of Columbus High School and the University of Georgia. As a student at the University of Georgia, he epitomized the true meaning of scholar-athlete in that he was the Captain of the Bulldogs' tennis team, served as Vice President of the Inter-fraternity Council and was a member of the Blue Key Honorary Society.

Following his exemplary collegiate career, Judge Cohn was admitted to the Georgia Bar in 1938 and in 1940 he volunteered for the United States Army. He served under General George Patton in World War II and earned the Bronze Star for his patriotic service on behalf of our great Nation. As a Major in the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, he bravely fought with U.S. armed forces across France and broke through German defenses at Metz.

One of the most defining and heroic moments of Judge Cohn's illustrious military career occurred when as a young commanding officer in the U.S. Army, he was among the first of the Allied troops to help liberate the Nazi Concentration Camp in Ebensee, Austria. Almost 40 years later in 1982, he was honored by the United States Holocaust Memorial Commission as an Official Liberator of the Concentration Camp at Ebensee, Austria. Additionally, he was cited by the City of Bettembourg, Luxembourg, for his service in the liberation of Luxembourg while with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

After the war, Judge Cohn diligently focused his efforts on working to prevent children from taking the wrong path, advocating civil rights and promoting religious tolerance. During the

initial years following his return from Europe, he worked as a successful lawyer and served as chief registrar for Muscogee County, Georgia where he was active in the desegregation of the voter registration process. When he became a juvenile court judge in 1965, his love of children and his determination to help the underprivileged led him to embark on a highly successful and rewarding judicial career.

A recent headline in the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer recently read "Judge Cohn is an icon of integrity." It is true that Judge Cohn is an icon of integrity but he is also so much more. His notable judicial feats and vast accomplishments are an accumulation of tangibly substantive deeds that have positively impacted the lives of countless families around the world.

I would be remiss if I did not also recognize the important role that Judge Cohn's late wife, Janet Ann, played in his numerous achievements by being a supportive spouse, close confidant and loving mother to their three children: Gail Cohn, Leslie L. Cohn and Jane Cohn Kulbersh.

Finally, Judge Cohn has been a pillar of integrity throughout his life. He has been a mentor for me and countless others; an adviser; role model and friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting a true American hero, outstanding legal scholar and one of Columbus, Georgia's most beloved figures, Judge Aaron Cohn, on the occasion of his well-deserved retirement.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,726,790,407,953.74.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$4,088,364,661,659.94 since then. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

#### MOTION TO CONCUR

SPEECH OF

### HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2011*

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide explanation and clarification of the intended budget effects from the anomaly related to the U.S. Postal Service that is contained in H.J. Res 79, the Continuing Resolution (CR) for Fiscal Year 2012.

H.J. Res. 79 would postpone from September 30, 2011 until November 18, 2011 the payment due from the Postal Service, which is off-budget, to an on-budget account managed by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM).

The Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006 requires the Postal Service to

make a \$5.5 billion payment to OPM by September 30, 2011 to pre-fund retiree health benefits. However, the Postal Service does not currently have adequate funds to make this payment. To address this issue, the CR includes a provision that will delay the payment to provide time for the Postal Service to work with Congress and the Administration to develop a long-term solution.

If only the on-budget effects were counted, this delay would score as an increase in spending in 2011, but then produce savings in 2012, resulting in additional room for spending under the caps on discretionary spending established in the Budget Control Act of 2011. To prevent this unintended consequence, the House Budget Committee scored this anomaly on a unified basis, so that both the on-budget and off-budget effects were counted together. As a result, the 2011 cost and the 2012 savings offset each other and produce a score of zero in the CR. This decision has precedent. A similar provision was included in the FY 2010 short-term CR (P.L. 111-68) where the House scored that provision on a unified basis pursuant to section 426(b) of the 2010 budget resolution.

The off-budget status of the U.S. Postal Service creates significant complications for budget enforcement when the agency seeks timing shifts or bailouts from the U.S. Treasury due to financial distress. The House Budget Committee will continue to monitor this anomaly throughout the budget and appropriations process to ensure that it does not result in additional discretionary spending in FY 2012.

HONORING CONGRESSWOMAN  
CARRIE MEEK

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to recognize Congresswoman Carrie Meek and her lifelong devotion to public service.

For over a decade, Congresswoman Meek served in the Florida State House of Representatives and Senate. In 1993, Congresswoman Meek became the first African American since Reconstruction to be elected to the United States House of Representatives from the state of Florida.

Congresswoman Meek fought against cuts to social welfare programs throughout the 1990s. Instead, she worked to expand federal programs that could create jobs and make it easier for minorities to open and own their own businesses.

During her career, she worked tirelessly to stand up for the underprivileged; making sure that the elderly were able to live comfortably, that minorities were accurately counted in the Census, and that disaster stricken areas had adequate funding.

I am honored to join my distinguished colleagues to pay tribute to the great work and achievements of Congresswoman Meek. She is, and always will be a shining example of how we, as Members of Congress, should conduct ourselves in public office.

PALESTINIAN STATEHOOD

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, today, we expect that Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas will apply for member status before the United Nations. This unilateral action is likely to complicate U.S. peace efforts. It also rejects the essential principle of solving the conflict through direct negotiations with Israel.

History has taught us that a just and lasting peace must be negotiated. It cannot be imposed from the outside, lest it be built on an unstable and temporary foundation.

The creation of a viable, autonomous and peaceful Palestinian state is essential, not only to address the aspirations of the Palestinian people, but also to ensure Israel's security in the region. A two-state solution is the only answer for sustainable peace, and while the negotiations to achieve that goal have suffered setbacks, that must be the objective.

During a speech on Middle East policy at the U.S. State Department on May 19, 2011, President Obama stated, "For the Palestinians, efforts to delegitimize Israel will end in failure. Symbolic actions to isolate Israel at the United Nations in September won't create an independent state. Palestinian leaders will not achieve peace or prosperity if Hamas insists on a path of terror and rejection. And Palestinians will never realize their independence by denying the right of Israel to exist." I agree with these sentiments.

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AND  
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN  
SUDAN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to my colleagues' attention a powerful hearing that the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission—of which I am a co-chair—held on September 22, 2011 to discuss the humanitarian atrocities that are taking place in Sudan, including Darfur.

I submit for the record the moving testimonies of two of the panelists—former member of Congress, the Honorable Thomas H. Andrews, and Ms. Jehanne Henry of Human Rights Watch. I hope that my colleagues will take a moment to read these testimonies and realize that the atrocities mentioned are taking place and continue to take place today.

The United States must not turn a blind eye to this part of the world.

[Human Rights Watch, Sept. 22, 2011]

TESTIMONY TO THE TOM LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION REGARDING SUDAN

(By Jehanne Henry)

Good morning, Chairman McGovern, Chairman Wolf and distinguished Members of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission. Thank you for inviting me to this important hearing on Sudan, particularly in view of new conflict and human rights abuses occurring in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states as we speak.

I was asked to speak on my recent visit to Southern Kordofan. I will keep my comments brief and ask that our August 30 report on the situation in Southern Kordofan be submitted for the record.

As you are aware, South Sudan seceded from Sudan on July 9, following a January referendum under the terms of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement. While these events transpired relatively smoothly, new conflicts erupted in key areas north of the border, where the reforms envisioned in the peace agreement never occurred.

Weeks after Sudan militarily overtook the disputed border area of Abyei in late May, in violation of the CPA, fighting between government and SPLA forces broke out in neighboring Southern Kordofan, home to large ethnic Nuba populations with long-standing ties to the SPLM.

The fighting broke out amid growing tensions over disputed state elections, in which Ahmed Haroun—who is wanted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur—claimed a narrow victory for governor. The two parties also disagreed over the terms of troop withdrawals under the security arrangements in the CPA.

According to witnesses we interviewed and other sources, government forces shelled civilian areas, shot people in the streets and carried out house-to-house searches and arrests based on lists of names of known SPLM supporters in the first weeks of fighting. Many people I interviewed saw dead bodies and evidence of looting and burning as they escaped the town.

The witness accounts are consistent with many of the findings in an August 15 report by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, which documents unlawful killings and attacks on civilians and other serious human rights violations that could amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

In late August, I visited Southern Kordofan. Although government restrictions prevented us from visiting Kadugli itself and other government-controlled areas, we visited many towns and villages deep in the Nuba Mountains, where hundreds of thousands of people have taken refuge from fighting and ongoing indiscriminate bombing by the Sudanese government.

While I was there, I saw government planes circling overhead on a near-daily basis, sometimes multiple times per day. I also saw three bombs falling out of an aircraft, and heard them explode a few kilometers away. We investigated 13 air separate strikes in Kauda, Delami, and Kurchi areas—a small fraction of the total number of air strikes in Nuba Mountains—in which bomb fragments brutally killed at least 26 people, including women and children, and injured 45 others, maiming many for life.

According to those we interviewed, there were no military targets in areas where bombs fell. None of the incidents we investigated occurred close to front lines or in areas of active combat. The type of munitions used and the manner in which they were delivered—unguided, dropped from high altitudes—are further evidence that the bombings were indiscriminate and therefore unlawful.

The bombing is ongoing, and has a devastating impact on the Nuba population. People forced out of their homes now live in harsh conditions under boulders, in caves, on mountaintops, under trees, and in the bush far from towns where they fear being struck by bombs. They lacked sufficient food, medicine, and shelter from the rains—many are now eating berries and leaves, and their children are suffering from diarrhea and malaria. Many we met were separated from

family members living in government controlled areas.

Humanitarian groups estimate that more than 200,000 people have been displaced, either by the outbreak of fighting in early June, by ongoing fighting along several front lines, and by the ongoing bombing campaign. The number may be higher, as heavy rains and lack of fuel for vehicles and security concerns restricted access to many SPLM-North-controlled areas.

Yet the Sudanese government has blocked humanitarian assistance to opposition areas as well as many government-held areas. On August 20, aid groups tried to carry out an assessment but were allowed only to Kadugli town. On August 23, President Al-Bashir publicly stated that no international groups would be allowed in. Indeed, Sudan has done everything possible to ensure there are no "eyes and ears" on the ground. It has prevented journalists, researchers, diplomats and UN staff from visiting the area, and forced the UN peacekeepers to leave.

In recent weeks, this conflict has spread to neighboring Blue Nile state and the government has clamped down on SPLM-North across the country, arresting more than 100 suspected supporters, banning political parties, and restricting media coverage of the conflicts. We have credible reports that the government is bombing civilian areas in Blue Nile also. Tens of thousands of people fled their homes.

Sudan faces many political challenges: growing dissent from marginalized populations in its peripheries; active conflicts in two border states and in Darfur, for eight years running; and it has lost one-third of its territory and faces serious economic challenges. Unfortunately, its leaders have chosen to respond to these challenges through repression and armed conflict rather than by upholding rights, opening political space, pursuing democratic reforms.

The United States has shown leadership. Ambassador Rice condemned the violence early on and requested UN reporting on human rights violations. The state department has also condemned the continued aerial bombing. This continued leadership is critical.

The United Nations Security Council and the Africa Union have yet to even condemn the violations, despite the evidence of indiscriminate bombing and despite the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights warning that war crimes and crimes against humanity may have occurred in Southern Kordofan.

We urge the US to press for: a strong condemnation of the ongoing violations in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile; an international monitoring presence, with a requirement for continued human rights monitoring; and a full and independent investigation into violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.

Finally, the US needs to remain steadfast in making no concessions to Sudan given these ongoing and serious violations.

Thank you.

[From United to End Genocide, Sept. 22, 2011]  
TESTIMONY OF THE HON. THOMAS H. ANDREWS—"SUDAN: THE ONGOING HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN SOUTH KORDOFAN AND CONTINUING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN DARFUR"

Thank you Chairman Wolf, Chairman McGovern and members of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission for holding this hearing. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to testify before you today on the escalation of attacks against civilians in Sudan. So many members of this Commission have been long-time champions of peace and ac-

countability in Sudan. Your leadership on Sudan is critical.

I was in the region a little over two months ago visiting Rwanda, Kenya and South Sudan, and in Juba just weeks after violence broke out in South Kordofan. Everywhere I went I heard story after story of the horror that continues to be inflicted. Two refugees from Darfur told me about their harrowing experience of being awakened at dawn by the sound of hooves and gunfire as the Janjaweed raided their village. They fled to South Kordofan's Nuba Mountains and described how the people there welcomed them. They expressed their alarm and horror that the same regime that had forced them to flee their homes in Darfur was now attacking the very people who provided them refuge.

The common denominator in the devastating attacks on civilians in both Darfur and South Kordofan is Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir. Let me be clear—Bashir is a genocidal monster who is already wanted by the International Criminal Court for directing atrocities in Darfur. Since Bashir came to power in a military coup in 1989 he has murdered, starved and destroyed the lives of millions of innocent civilians in South Sudan, Abyei, Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan.

I have provided additional details on the violence being perpetrated across Sudan by Bashir's forces in my written testimony. But my focus today is on what is happening now in South Kordofan and the stories that were told to me by the people I met.

I spoke to several people displaced from South Kordofan's Nuba Mountains when I was in Juba in early July. The numbers of displaced have only increased since then. Two priests who had just arrived after a narrow escape told me that the Sudanese Armed Forces and allied militias had gone door to door, targeting people based on their religion and the color of their skin. They spoke of churches being burned and looted. One church was hit by a bomb as Antanov planes, the same used to terrorize the people of Darfur, launched indiscriminate attacks on civilian areas. That was in July. The attacks continue.

But it doesn't stop there: Bashir has also refused to let in desperately needed food, water, medicine and fuel. International aid NGOs have been tossed out. One of the displaced priests I met with had heard just that morning from a colleague still in the Nuba Mountains that food stocks were running low, trade routes were blocked, and no new aid was being allowed in. He told me that at least one million innocent people are at risk in South Kordofan.

This year alone, more than half a million people have been displaced by fighting throughout Sudan. United Nations reports indicate the likelihood of ethnic cleansing in Abyei, and war crimes and crimes against humanity in South Kordofan. We suspect similar atrocities have occurred in Blue Nile.

Recent violence directed by Bashir makes it very clear, when left unchecked this genocidal monster will simply continue to do what he has always done: commit unspeakable atrocities.

So what can the United States do? Past experience demonstrates that the Bashir regime only responds to consequences. Unfortunately, the Obama Administration is failing in the face of these ongoing atrocities. Recent statements by the State Department do not place appropriate emphasis on the Government of Sudan as the party overwhelmingly responsible for violence against civilians. Even more importantly, action from the Administration is severely lacking. Accountability is not being demanded. Civilians are not being protected. Bashir is being

allowed to commit atrocities with impunity. Again. Unless this policy course is corrected, many more civilians will lose their lives.

In my view the Obama Administration needs to do three things:

First, expand sanctions on individuals responsible for atrocities throughout Sudan. Current individual sanctions for atrocities are specific only to Darfur. Anyone who commits heinous crimes must be held accountable regardless of where in Sudan these atrocities take place.

Second, make saving lives in Sudan a high priority in our dealings with other nations—particularly those that can exert the most leverage on Bashir. We need increased and coordinated sanctions by the international community starting with our European allies. Maybe even more importantly, the United States must work to move China in a new direction. The Chinese have a great deal of leverage with the Government of Sudan. Their significant monetary investment makes it in their interest to have a peaceful and stable region. But their actions belie their interest and denigrate values that we have a moral obligation to defend and advance. The red carpet that the Chinese government literally unfolded for Bashir just months ago in Beijing was an outrage. We need to hear that outrage spoken loudly and clearly by our leaders.

Finally, weapons must be stopped from flowing into Sudan and innocent people must be protected. The U.S. must spend political capital to pass a United Nations Security Council resolution that expands individual sanctions for perpetrators, expands the existing arms embargo on Darfur to incorporate all of Sudan, expands the mandate of the International Criminal Court to cover the entire country, demands unfettered humanitarian access, and authorizes an international civilian protection force with the resources and mandate to accomplish its mission.

Congress also has an important role to play. First, the American people need to know the truth about Omar al-Bashir and his atrocities. This hearing is an important step in that direction and, again, I commend you for your leadership. American citizens have shown they care about the people of Sudan, but many are unaware of what is happening there now. Your help is needed to raise the alarm. Congress should also consider and pass legislation that would mandate increased United States sanctions and push the Administration to advance the policies I've laid out here today.

I know this is not as easy as it may sound. I know about all the distractions that Members of Congress face. I was serving in the House during the Rwandan genocide. I visited the graves of hundreds of thousands of victims when I visited Rwanda in July and asked myself—"Where was I?" Why did we do nothing to prevent or stop this horror?" Well, in retrospect, the political climate here in the U.S. was intense in 1994. There were fresh memories of Mogadishu, Somalia and "Black Hawk Down". There was the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. The economy was struggling and a heated election was looming. When you think about it, the political climate today is not at all dissimilar. But, the bottom line then is the bottom line now: We cannot stand quietly aside while genocidal monsters inflict unspeakable crimes against untold numbers of innocent people. The cost of doing nothing is too great. We must not look back years from now on this moment and think: "If only we had done something."

We must have the courage to act now.

Thank you again for your time and for this opportunity. I look forward to answering your questions.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF HIS EXCELLENCY YASHAR ALIYEV, AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the departing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United States of America, His Excellency Yashar Aliyev. Mr. Aliyev has served in this post since December 2006, but his diplomatic career is long and distinguished.

Ambassador Aliyev began his diplomatic career at the United Nations in 1992, serving as political affairs counselor and chargé d'affaires of Azerbaijan's Permanent Mission. He was also Azerbaijan's delegate to the First and Fourth Committees at the forty-seventh through fifty-sixth sessions of the United Nations General Assembly. Having joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan in 1989, Ambassador Aliyev held posts as political officer, first secretary and deputy director in the Ministry's Department of Information and Political Analysis, as well as director of the Department of International Organizations. From 2002–2006, he served as Azerbaijan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

It has been my honor and privilege to work with Ambassador Aliyev on issues important to Azerbaijan. I have come to regard him as a determined and passionate advocate for his country and the strategic partnership between Azerbaijan and the United States. I praise the Ambassador for his tremendous efforts and contributions to raise awareness among Members of Congress and Administration officials of the important role Azerbaijan is playing in the security of the United States.

I want to offer Ambassador Aliyev my appreciation for his 5 years of service in Washington, D.C. As Ambassador Aliyev moves on to new responsibilities and assignments, I extend to him my highest regards and best wishes. Mister Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me today in wishing His Excellency Yashar Aliyev the best and congratulating him on his impressive service.

**THE BIGGEST LITTLE LEAGUERS**

**HON. TIM SCOTT**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in the heart of Charleston, South Carolina, lies Cannon Street; it's a modest street spanning just a few city blocks. However, within its history lies the story of what Dr. Creighton Hale, the former CEO of little league baseball, called "the most significant amateur team in baseball history."

In 1955, the area surrounding this street was one of economic blight and social unease. In an effort to keep kids out of trouble and teach skills that only team sports can pro-

vide, the local YMCA organized four little league teams for the neighborhood kids. The Cannon Street YMCA All-Stars would advance to the Charleston City Little League playoff games, but would never be given the opportunity to earn a spot in the Little League World Series. It was not because they were unworthy players or because they could not afford to go. The color of their skin stifled the dreams of these twelve-year-old boys.

The Charleston playoff games were boycotted in 1955 to preserve racial segregation. Because teams again refused to play against them, the Cannon Street All-Stars advanced past the state and regional playoffs. The National Little League invited the All-Stars to the Little League World Series as special guests; they could not compete for the title because technically they hadn't played their way to the championships. They returned to Charleston, dismayed and disappointed.

As children, they embodied the very characteristics that organized sports aim to impart—teamwork, courage and respect. As adults they have worked in productive and valuable careers such as architecture, law enforcement and education. As they have grown older, they are now volunteers in their communities—giving back, yet again. While they never had the opportunity to compete, their story has demonstrated where we have come from as a nation.

Last month members of my staff had the opportunity to meet several of the original Cannon Street Little Leaguers who traveled to Washington, D.C. to be recognized at Nationals Stadium before the Nationals-Phillies game. Their story remains powerful more than 65 years later, and I know my staff will never forget having the opportunity to meet them.

Today, the neighborhood that encompasses Cannon Street has developed into an integral part of the Charleston education and science community. It is home to a number of colleges and universities and a world-class research hospital. The boys of the Cannon Street Little League Team are men who through their careers and service to the community have become assets to their neighborhoods. In spite of the adversity they encountered and the challenges they confronted, these young people illustrated to the world the absurdity of segregation and the hatred inherent in racism.

In the fifty-five years since they were excluded from competing to earn a spot at the Little League World Series in their own right, America has matured. I'd like to believe that a handful of twelve-year-olds contributed to our maturity.

It is with great admiration that I share their story and my respect for these men with you, my colleagues.

**RECOGNIZING NATIONAL CHILDHOOD OBESITY MONTH**

**HON. JAY INSLEE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as National Childhood Obesity Month. Childhood obesity is one of the biggest health challenges facing our country; driving up medical costs, hurting our economy, and shortening lives. For the first time

our children and grandchildren are projected to live shorter and less healthy lives than we do. Medical costs associated with obesity total more than a billion dollars a year. The price tag will continue to increase as our youth face more and more diseases normally only found in adult populations, like hypertension, type 2 diabetes, and high cholesterol. This growing epidemic is driven by environmental, economic, and social factors that make fats, salt and sugars cheaper and more available than fresh fruits and vegetables and limit the opportunities for sports and recreation.

The good news is that prevention works and by working together we can buck this trend. Together, we can improve access to healthier foods, increase availability of active transportation for our youth, and ensure our communities are walkable.

We face an uphill battle—according to Washington State's Healthy Youth Survey, 24% of 10th graders are either obese or overweight, and less than half of children surveyed were getting enough fruits and vegetables. Yet already, many leaders and communities in Washington are stepping to the plate and are committed to taking on this fight by making healthy, important changes. From Moses Lake to Mount Vernon, communities are successfully incorporating policies to increase access to healthy foods and physical activity. Seattle's Odessa Brown Children's Clinic, located in a community where nearly 40% of children are overweight or obese, is on the front lines of combating childhood obesity. The clinic has successfully integrated childhood obesity prevention and treatment program into their primary care to address the challenge.

Childhood obesity prevention should be a top priority. In Congress, I worked to pass the Affordable Care Act because I believe an increased focus on preventative medicine and increasing access to care will improve our nation's health. I also support the Fit Kids Act, to ensure that children get enough physical activity. We know what we need to do to reverse this alarming national epidemic. It will not be easy, but together we can fight the childhood obesity trend.

**TRANSPARENCY IN REGULATORY ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS ON THE NATION ACT OF 2011**

SPEECH OF

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2011*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2401) to require analyses of the cumulative and incremental impacts of certain rules and actions of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes:

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 2401, The TRAIN Act. This bill would continue the subordination of public health and common sense to the narrow, temporary and misguided pursuit of profits for the few. It endeavors to kill essential environmental and public health protections by imposing the exact kind of redtape my colleagues so emphatically claim to oppose.

The TRAIN Act slams the brakes on essential public health initiatives, first by burdening

the initiatives with unnecessary and redundant study. These regulations include efforts to reduce airborne ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, toxic metals like mercury, arsenic and chromium, and any effort to stem greenhouse gases, the single biggest threat to our way of life and our very existence in recorded history. The TRAIN Act also tries to overtly stop two essential rules. It indefinitely blocks EPA's Mercury and Air Toxics standards and Cross-State Air Pollution Rule by eliminating any legal deadline for EPA action. It prevents EPA from adopting the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule for a minimum of 19 months, and the Mercury and Air Toxics standards for at least 15 months.

Each year the Cross-State Air Pollution rule is delayed brings about up to 34,000 premature deaths, 19,000 emergency room visits for respiratory and cardiovascular disease, and about 400,000 cases of aggravated asthma. The pollution reductions under the rule are estimated to create health benefits of \$59 billion to \$140 billion per year; 5 to 13 times its costs.

Each year the Mercury and Air Toxics rule is delayed brings about 17,000 additional premature deaths, 12,200 emergency room visits for respiratory and cardiovascular disease, and about 120,000 cases of aggravated asthma. Enacting the rule would bring about health benefits of \$120 to \$280 billion per year; 150 to 350 times its costs.

If I told you Washington, DC were to incur an act of terrorism that would cost over 50,000 lives over the next year, I guarantee you this Congress would launch a multibillion dollar effort to save those lives. If an explosion at a nuclear power plant killed a baseball stadium's worth of people, you can bet we would spend billions of dollars figuring out what went wrong, conducting cleanup, performing oversight, and so much more. If a massive flood caused an outbreak of an enigmatic infectious disease that killed 34,000 people over 12 months, you can be certain we would mobilize all levels of government and the private sector to stop it. There would be clearly identifiable victims. There would be heroes. Not so in the field of public health where the victims are harder to identify and the cause of their death, less grandiose.

We have an opportunity here to prevent the deaths of tens of thousands of innocent Americans for far less money than it would cost to relaunch a war on terror, to clean up after a

nuclear catastrophe, or to stop the spread of a flood-borne emerging infectious disease. There are many environmental issues demanding our attention which will require remedies that are simply not cost-effective, in the narrowly defined economic sense of the term. The regulations at issue today do not fall into that category. This bill is a true test of fiscal rectitude. I urge my colleagues to reject it.

65 YEARS—VIRGIL & DORRACE POE

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on October 16, Virgil and Dorrace Poe, my parents, will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary. This milestone is more than an anniversary; it is a remarkable accomplishment. For over six decades, my parents have taught me the value of education, the power of God, and the rewards of hard work.

The story of my parents is truly an American one. After my father served in the Second World War, he returned to Texas where he was stationed at the Army Post in Fort Hood. He met my mother at a Wednesday night "prayer meeting" at the Church of Christ. My mother was a volunteer for the Red Cross at the local Army hospital and a cashier at the Kyle Hotel's coffee shop in Temple, Texas. They married the next year.

Over the next few years, my parents welcomed my sister Jayne and me into the world. My dad went to Abilene Christian University thanks to the GI Bill. The family lived in the Army Barracks while dad attended classes. My dad worked climbing telephone poles for Southwestern Bell, and also he worked nights at KRBC radio station. His shifts at KRBC ended each night with "Stars and Stripes Forever," a fitting song.

Their marriage has taken them from Fort Hood to Abilene to Dallas and Houston with two brief stops in St. Louis.

Throughout our great State of Texas, they have volunteered in their communities and in their churches. My mom found time to teach kindergarten and work for the IRS. My dad worked over 40 years as an engineer for Southwestern Bell, and he taught Sunday School for over 60 years. My parents taught me to love God first and Texas second, but

sometimes it seemed like it was the other way around.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud and honored to recognize the 65th wedding anniversary of my parents, Virgil and Dorrace. And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO LEE BEAMAN

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 23, 2011*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Middle Tennessee's finest community leaders as he receives the Joe and Honey Rodgers Leadership Award. Named to honor the outstanding legacy of public service of Honey and the late Joe Rodgers, former Ambassador to France, the Rodgers Leadership Award is given each year to an individual in the Nashville area who demonstrates leadership while living a life of personal integrity, godly character, and concern for others.

Lee Beaman offers more to the Nashville area than a multitude of trucks, cars, and sports utility vehicles. More than what he sells with the Beaman Automotive Group, he is known for the incredible character with which he runs his family business of over 60 years. Due to his customer-oriented business philosophy, generosity to the community, and overall work environment, Beaman's company was named one of the top 20 places to work in Tennessee in 2006.

To be a success in business is a good goal, and one Mr. Beaman has met and matched. His true contribution to the Middle Tennessee area is in his civic service, philanthropy, and fidelity to a cause greater than himself. Mr. Beaman puts his faith into action through his work with the organizations like Salvation Army, Boy Scouts of America, and the American Heart Association. I thank him for his continued example in generously dedicating his time, talents, and treasures in making a difference in the community. I appreciate the great work civic leaders like Mr. Beaman contribute to the Middle Tennessee area and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Lee Beaman as he receives the Joe and Honey Rodgers Leadership Award.