

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING FORMER STATE SENATOR WALTER JOHN CHILSEN ON HIS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN

**HON. SEAN P. DUFFY**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 3, 2011*

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer congratulations to former State Senator Walter John Chilsen on his many years of service to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

Walter John is a World War II veteran, serving as a B-24 navigator in the Pacific. He graduated from Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, in 1949, and began his career in radio and television broadcasting at WLIN radio in Merrill, Wisconsin.

In 1954 he moved to WSAU radio in Wausau and was the first News Director and Anchor for WSAU-TV when it signed-on the air in October of 1954. Often referred to as "the Walter Cronkite of the North," Walter John was inducted into the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame in 2005. Walter John was elected to the Wisconsin State Senate in 1966 and served until his retirement in 1990.

During his time in the Wisconsin State Legislature, he established a reputation for his commonsense approach to public policy and for always acting in the best interest of his constituents. He was recognized as a leader by his colleagues, serving as Majority Caucus Secretary, Assistant Minority Leader and, ultimately, Minority Leader. Walter John has remained politically active since his retirement from the Legislature, serving on the Town of Weston Board of Supervisors. In many ways, Walter John has been and continues to be the political conscience of the Wausau area.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the many contributions former State Senator Walter John Chilsen has made on behalf of his fellow citizens, and I ask my colleagues to join me in offering him our best wishes.

KATE PUZEY PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER PROTECTION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. NIKI TSONGAS**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 1, 2011*

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained attending a funeral on November 1, 2011 and was unable to cast a vote for the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act, a bill which I strongly endorse. Had I been present, I would have voted for it on rollcall Vote 817.

I strongly support the Peace Corps program. My late husband Paul Tsongas served as a

Peace Corps volunteer in Ethiopia from 1962–1964, and as Peace Corps Country Director in the West Indies in 1967 and 1968. He went on to become the first former Peace Corps volunteer to be elected to the U.S. Senate. Our daughter Ashley served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Madagascar.

Peace Corps volunteers brave many challenges during their service. That is why I was proud to be an early supporter of the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act, which strengthens the Peace Corps and ensures that volunteers have the support and resources they need. Volunteers deserve to be treated with dignity, empowerment, and respect in the event that they are a victim of a crime like sexual assault. And, addressing these challenges will strengthen the Peace Corps as an institution and make it a program in which more Americans will want to participate.

One of the challenges when confronting this crime is that victims of sexual assault often face blame for their victimization. This is one of very few crimes, if not the only crime, where a victim's intentions and actions are scrutinized and questioned following an assault. To address this, the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act requires the Peace Corps to create a sexual assault response team and guarantees that victims have access to a Victim Advocate. It further requires that volunteers be fully informed of their rights to file a report, for treatment, for a forensic evidence examination, for emergency health treatment, and for legal representation. The Peace Corps has already acted proactively to address many of these issues. This Act further codifies these reforms.

We owe a great debt to anyone who is harmed while serving our country. We may never be able to eradicate crimes in other countries where our volunteers work, but we can change the way our institutions respond to them. These improvements will strengthen the Peace Corps and guarantee its success for years to come.

IN HONOR OF THE RIVERDALE  
COMMUNITY CENTER

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 3, 2011*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, neighborhoods become true communities when people band together for their common good. In Riverdale this happened when the Riverdale Community Center, a non-profit, grass roots, multi-cultural, multi-service agency was founded in 1972 by the Parents' Association and principal of MS/HS 141, Riverdale Kingsbridge Academy, the school where it is located.

Since then the RCC has provided cultural, recreational, academic and developmental activities for area residents and students with many youth programs provided at no cost

through the generosity of state and city government agencies, private foundations, individual donors and elected officials. Each year, more than 1,000 children, teens, adults and seniors enjoy activities at the Center.

Among the programs offered are an adult and youth education center with classes in wellness, languages, life skills, leisure activities, and arts and music among many others; after school programs for middle schools, including a comprehensive, holistic program that focuses on the whole child and assists young people in developing a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging, and empowerment; and for high school they have programs designed to help teens stay in school and on track towards graduation; a teen theater, teen action programs offering young people the opportunity to make a difference in their school and their community; and a career readiness workshop teaching valuable life skills that help students identify careers interests.

RCC's primary mission today is the same as when it was founded: To provide within the community cultural, recreational, and developmental activities and entertainment, instruction, athletics, sports and other wholesome activities for children and adults, under supervision and guidance in order to aide and maintain the physical and mental health of the people in the community, as a basis and preventative means of combating delinquency and as a means of bringing people together under proper supervision in appropriate surroundings.

The RCC is hugely successful in fulfilling its mission by contributing so much for so long to the community. I enthusiastically join in congratulating this fine organization on its fortieth anniversary for the many and varied contributions it has made to the community, and wish it many more years of success.

IN HONOR OF WARREN EJIMA,  
TOM FUJIMOTO, ASA HANAMOTO,  
MAS HASHIMOTO, HIROSHI ITO,  
THOMAS SAKAMOTO, AND  
MARVIN IRATSU

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 3, 2011*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Warren Ejima, Tom Fujimoto, Asa Hanamoto, Mas Hashimoto, Hiroshi Ito, Thomas Sakamoto, and Marvin Iratsu for their courageous service to our nation during World War II as part of the Military Intelligence Service, MIS.

Established on November 1, 1941, MIS graduated 6,000 service members during World War II to provide critical Japanese language capabilities to the American military. These brave servicemen and women provided translation, interpretation and code breaking services in the essential Pacific Theater, which contributed significantly to our nation's victory.

• 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.

Primarily comprised of Nisei, second-generation Japanese-Americans who faced crushing prejudice and discrimination in the United States at the same time many of their family members were serving their country; this exceptional group has received honors and commendations of the highest level. In 2000, the Military Intelligence Service received the Presidential Unit Citation, the highest possible honor for a military unit, and in 2010 the 6,000 graduates of the MIS were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award given in this country. The Gold Medal ceremony conferring this honor was held this week in the U.S. Capitol and was attended by many of these courageous men. At the end of the war, General Charles Willoughby, Chief of Staff for Military Intelligence under General MacArthur, said that "The Nisei shortened the Pacific War by two years and saved possibly a million American lives and saved probably billions of dollars" during the conflict.

Initially run out of an airplane hangar on Crissy Field in San Francisco, the Military Intelligence Service was forced to relocate to Camp Savage in Minnesota in 1942 after President Roosevelt ordered the relocation of Japanese on the West Coast into internment camps. The language school continued to grow rapidly from its base at Camp Savage, and by 1944 had moved again, to Fort Snelling in St. Paul, to accommodate its increasing enrollment. After the war ended the MIS moved to the Presidio in Monterey, California, where it continued to provide essential language services to the Department of Defense.

By the 1970s the Military Intelligence Service's name had been changed to the Defense Language Institute, and all of the Department of Defense language programs were consolidated to the Monterey location. From there the program grew into the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, which celebrates its 70th anniversary on November 5, 2011 with a ball in Monterey.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be paying tribute to this outstanding group of Japanese Americans who selflessly served our nation during World War II. I know I speak for the entire House of Representatives in honoring these heroes.

COMMEMORATING 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BARBARA SINATRA CHILDREN'S CENTER

**HON. MARY BONO MACK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 3, 2011*

Mrs. BONO MACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly remarkable woman and dear friend, Mrs. Barbara Sinatra; and to celebrate the enduring legacy of one of her greatest achievements: The Barbara Sinatra Children's Center in Rancho Mirage, California.

One of the Coachella Valley's—and indeed the world's—most revered couples, Frank and Barbara Sinatra founded the Children's Center at the Eisenhower Medical Center in 1986, and this year the Center celebrates its 25th anniversary. On behalf of the people of the 45th Congressional District, I extend my most heartfelt congratulations on this momentous occasion.

Barbara Sinatra is beloved in our community for her caring and personal nature. Well known as someone who is just as comfortable running errands around town or attending charity galas with celebrity friends, Barbara Sinatra is a community treasure, and I am privileged to have this opportunity to call attention to one of the great women of our time and her signature cause.

Dedicated to improving the health and wellness of children who have suffered from child abuse and neglect or who are considered at risk, the Barbara Sinatra Center serves today as a shining example for the rest of the world to follow. The Center exists to benefit children of all walks of life, but the majority of those served are the ones who are most in need due to either their economic or family circumstances. By their own estimates, more than 86% of the children who benefit from the Center's services are below the federal poverty line. Having established the popular "Bosley the Bear" method of abuse education for young children, the Center is well regarded for its innovative approach to empowering kids to recognize dangerous situations and learn how to protect themselves.

Barbara Sinatra earned respect throughout the world for her commitment to ending abuse of our society's most vulnerable members. As the spouse of one of the world's most famous entertainers, Barbara Sinatra used her considerable talents to help children in need and has literally devoted her life to this critically important mission. Her work has been praised as groundbreaking and effective, and the Center enjoys remarkable support from the community and the families it has assisted over the more than two decades it has been in operation.

The list of philanthropists and abuse professionals who sing the praises of the Barbara Sinatra Children's Center is long and illustrious. At the 25th Anniversary Gala being celebrated this month, two such supporters will be recognized for their contributions to the Center—co-founders Helene Galen and Nelda Linsk.

Helene Galen is widely recognized as a leader in the philanthropic community, and a driving force behind countless worthwhile and charitable causes. Her support as a co-founder and President of the Children's Center Board of Directors has been invaluable and provides the Center with organizational and fundraising guidance that only someone of Galen's stature and expertise could impart.

Well respected in the desert community for her business acumen and commitment to helping others, Nelda Linsk has also been there from the beginning. Ms. Linsk joined Barbara Sinatra in recognizing the need for building self-esteem among victims of abuse, and her passion for helping others by sharing from her personal experience and her generous financial support helped make the difference in the evolution of the center from a local resource to a world-class treatment facility.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the drive, determination and devotion of Barbara Sinatra. Before Barbara Sinatra, Helene Galen and Nelda Linsk established the Children's Center, child abuse was rarely discussed and there was little understanding of the causes and means to prevent this devastating behavior.

The lives of countless families, most importantly the children themselves, have been for-

ever altered due to the tireless commitment and generous contributions made by these caring and unselfish women. Under Barbara Sinatra's leadership, the Center has made a difference in our community and throughout the world. No longer is child abuse discussed only in hushed conversations and hidden from the light of day, due largely to their groundbreaking work, new treatments and strategies are being developed that will hopefully reduce this most heinous form of abuse.

I am deeply honored not only to call Barbara, Helene and Nelda my friends, but also to serve as their representative in Congress and to have this opportunity to call attention to their great work and the Center's ongoing mission.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members to join me in recognizing Barbara Sinatra Children's Center on the occasion of its 25th anniversary, and wishing Mrs. Sinatra and the Center another 25 years of service to these most vulnerable members of our community.

ECKERD COLLEGE SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE

**HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 3, 2011*

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 40th Anniversary of the Eckerd College Search and Rescue (EC-SAR) team, one of the most unique and successful programs of its kind anywhere in our nation.

It is a privilege for me to represent Eckerd College and to have seen first hand the outstanding work of the students, faculty and staff who run the search and rescue program. Eckerd is a beautiful small private waterfront college with not only a tremendous academic reputation but also one as a leader in water sports and water activities.

The Search and Rescue Program was started by a group of students in 1971 to provide safety services for the college's water sports activities. By 1977, the program had become so successful and had attracted so much interest that it expanded to provide routine and emergency search and rescue services to the Tampa Bay boating community. Since then, the students; who are trained in technical rescue, boating safety, seamanship, searching, fire fighting, de-watering, navigation, medical response, and piloting rescue vessels; have worked side by side with the United States Coast Guard and a multitude of state and local agencies to save lives and rescue stranded boaters. In fact, the Eckerd Search and Rescue team was one of the first units to respond to a disastrous shipping accident in 1980 which destroyed one span of the massive Sunshine Skyway Bridge.

Mr. Speaker, the students and staff of Eckerd College give back to our community many times over through this superb program. They receive and respond to more than 500 calls per year and throughout the program's history have handled over 15,000 calls for assistance. This weekend, many of the program's organizers and volunteers from the past 40 years will gather to celebrate the history and accomplishments of this unique and

valuable program. It is my hope that my colleagues in the House will join me in saying thank you to all those who have been a part of the Eckerd College Search and Rescue program for a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO HOWARD WOLPE

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the life of one of my House colleagues, Howard Wolpe. Congressman Wolpe was a former chair of the U.S. House of Representatives Africa Subcommittee and senior adviser for Africa to two Democratic presidents, who died last week at his home in Saugatuck, Michigan.

Congressman Wolpe, who represented Michigan in Congress from 1979–1992, was a leading anti-apartheid campaigner and advocate for Africa. As Subcommittee chair for 10 years, he sponsored the Comprehensive Anti-apartheid Act of 1986, which imposed sanctions against South Africa, and passed despite President Ronald Reagan's veto. Congressman Wolpe also spearheaded a comprehensive overhaul of American assistance to Africa, winning passage of the African Famine Recovery and Development Act and creating the African Development Foundation.

Congressman Wolpe also served as President Bill Clinton's special envoy to Africa's Great Lakes Region. He helped mediate an end to conflicts in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which killed and uprooted large numbers of civilians. He served as director of the Africa Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and returned to government service as special adviser to President Barack Obama.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Congressman Wolpe. I appreciate his dedication to this nation and to the peace in Africa. He will truly be missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JAMES B. RENACCI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 817, due to flight cancelation and subsequent delay traveling to Washington from my District, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CONGRATULATIONS PRESIDENT-ELECT ROSEN PLEVNELIEV

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to congratulate President-Elect Rosen Plevneliev who was declared the winner of Bulgaria's presidential election on Monday in an outcome that now gives his

party control over all major government posts and will bolster its push for painful economic reforms, according to The Washington Examiner.

President-Elect Plevneliev won Sunday's contest with 52.56 percent of the vote, according to the Central Election Commission in its final tally. It said the turnout was 48 percent.

Most of the power in the Balkan country of 7.4 million people rests with Prime Minister Boiko Borisov and Parliament, but the president leads the armed forces and can veto legislation and sign international treaties. He also names ambassadors and the heads of the intelligence and security services.

The governing GERB party now controls Bulgaria's top two executive positions and Parliament.

President-Elect Plevneliev, 47, is a former entrepreneur who has been lauded for pushing through several large-scale infrastructure projects as regional development minister. He has been a member of the board of directors of the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham). He has pledged to reduce the budget deficit and pursue business-friendly policies. He also said he would do his best to unite Bulgarians in pursuit of reforms in the judicial and health care systems, while diversifying energy supplies and improving trade.

President-Elect Plevneliev will take office on January 23. He will replace President Georgi Parvanov, who was barred by law from seeking re-election because he had served two five-year terms.

The center-right GERB party also scored victories in the run-off elections for local mayors in most of Bulgaria's big cities, including in the capital, Sofia.

Congratulations President-Elect Plevneliev and best wishes for success in serving the people of Bulgaria which is a valued partner of America.

SUPPORT OF H.R. 2940 AND H.R. 2930

**HON. PHIL GINGREY**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud supporter of H.R. 2940, the Access to Capital for Job Creators Act and H.R. 2930, The Entrepreneur Access to Capital Act, both of which seek to help entrepreneurs and small business owners access the capital they need to start or expand their business.

Providing entrepreneurs with the ability to raise more capital will lead to further innovation and a more favorable business model, for small businessmen and women.

Mr. Speaker, the House has passed 15 jobs bills—the 'Forgotten Fifteen' that are languishing in the Senate. With over 46 million Americans living in poverty, we cannot afford to wait any longer.

I urge my colleagues in the House and Senate to support these critical bills.

NORTHERN ROCKIES ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION ACT

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, along with my friends RAÚL GRIJALVA, EDWARD MARKEY and 25 other Members, I am reintroducing the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA), legislation that will protect one of our nation's greatest natural resources, the Wild Rockies. With Americans vacationing closer to home, our national parks have seen an increase in visitors in the last few years—a clear indication of America's love for our wild national treasures. We must do everything possible to preserve our pristine wilderness areas so they can be enjoyed by future generations. In addition, a healthy habitat helps to create jobs including those related to restoration, construction, engineering, recreation, tourism, and retail.

NREPA uses sound science to protect the health of whole ecosystems, including the animals that graze, the native plants and forests that grow, and the watersheds that run through the Northern Rockies. With that goal in mind, this legislation will protect 23 million acres by designating all of the inventoried roadless areas in the Northern Rockies as wilderness, including wild and scenic rivers and streams. The bill also includes a process for States and tribal governments to negotiate a management plan for migratory and biological corridors. NREPA will safeguard only federal public lands—lands owned by all Americans—in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Oregon and Washington, and does not affect private landowners. It also allows for historic uses such as hunting, fishing and firewood gathering.

NREPA designations are based on ecological and watershed features—not political boundaries. As we all know, rivers don't stay within one Congressional District, animals don't know when they've crossed a political boundary, and forests span millions of miles with no regard for state-lines. I urge my colleagues to take this essential step toward preserving precious wildlife habitat and whole functioning ecosystems in the Wild Rockies.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF EVANGELIST DELLA MAE KING SUTTON

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give honor to the life and legacy of Evangelist Della Mae King Sutton of Nesbit, Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, Evangelist Sutton was an indomitable woman of God. She devoted her life to empowering those around her with the knowledge found both in traditional school settings as well as within the Christian church. Born July 20, 1941 in Desoto County, Mississippi, Ms. Della was the first born daughter to the late Turner King, Sr. and the late Remell Bridgeforth King.

Ms. Sutton began her educational training at Shiloh M.B. Church in Desoto County, Mississippi where her father was the instructor.

She later attended Hernando High School which culminated at 8th grade. Ms. Sutton graduated from Hernando High as class Valedictorian and went on to finish her secondary education at Eastern High School in Olive Branch, Mississippi. Finishing as Salutatorian of her Eastern High class, Ms. Sutton decided to further her education by enrolling in the Mississippi Industrial College in Holly Springs, Mississippi. It was during this time that she met her life companion and husband, Mr. Jesse Sutton, Jr. From their union came three beautiful children who were raised and reared by the same biblical principles and standards Ms. Sutton and her husband had walked their entire lives.

After completing studies at Mississippi Industrial Ms. Sutton continued on to receive her Master's of Science degree from Jackson State University.

Ms. Della Mae believed in supporting efforts which would produce nurturing environments which fostered quality learning conditions for children. She served as a dedicated educator for more than thirty years in several learning facilities throughout Mississippi. Some of them included East Side High School in Olive Branch, Mississippi; Oakley Training School in Learned, Mississippi; Mendenhall Junior High School in Mendenhall, Mississippi and Northside Elementary School in Pearl, Mississippi from which she retired.

Throughout the years, Ms. Sutton has been recognized on several occasions for her outstanding works. The most notable was when she was recognized by former Governor and First Lady Ronnie Musgrove as one of the Most Outstanding Women for the Each One-Reach One Mother of the Year contest. She served as Chairperson of the Elementary Language Arts and was recognized for a host of other social awareness and scholastic advancement achievements. Ms. Sutton was also recognized by Who's Who Among Teachers, Teacher of the Year and by the Jackson District Association's with their Living Legacy Award.

Ms. Sutton was a civically engaged woman. She was a member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, a member of "Keep Jackson Beautiful", an instructor of the Jackson District Ministers' Wives/Widows group and passionate supporter of the Mississippi Baptist Seminary. She was an active member of the General Missionary Baptist Convention and a devote member of the New McRaven Hill Missionary Baptist Church where she served as Sunday School teacher, Mother's Ministry member, devotional leader for the Mission Society and Vacation Bible School teacher.

This spiritual steward for Christ lived a life of both passion and purpose. She was an advocate of education, a champion of civility and a true lover of the Lord.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my fellow colleagues to join me in celebrating the life and legacy of a true champion, Evangelist Della Mae King Sutton.

HONORING PROFESSOR DERRICK BELL

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Congressman RANGEL to honor the extraordinary life of Professor Derrick Bell, a bold legal scholar, educator, author, activist, veteran, husband, father, brother, mentor and friend. Prof. Bell was a preeminent intellectual and a fearless harbinging of change. He was a man who inspired many to advocate for civil rights, hiring equity and judicial reform, and his stories of individual protest will be a timeless call to action for all who stand for justice. With his passing on October 5, 2011 we look to Prof. Bell's continued legacy and the outstanding quality of his life's work.

Derrick Albert Bell, Jr., was born to Derrick Albert and Ada Elizabeth Childress Bell on November 6, 1930 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Schenley High School and became the first member of his family to attend college, receiving his bachelor's degree in 1952 from Duquesne University. In 1957, after serving as an Air Force officer for two years, Prof. Bell earned his law degree at the University of Pittsburgh Law School, where he was the only African-American student.

With the recommendation of U.S. Associate Attorney General William Rogers, Prof. Bell took a position with the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, where he was the only black staff member. When, in 1959, the Department asked him to relinquish his membership to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Prof. Bell resigned. This would be the first of several high-profile resignations proffered in protest of racial injustice. He soon joined the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, where he oversaw more than 300 school desegregation cases in Mississippi.

In the mid-1960s, Prof. Bell served as faculty and executive director of the University of California's Western Center on Law and Poverty. In 1969, partially as a result of black students' protests for a minority faculty member, Prof. Bell was recruited to teach at Harvard University—where he shortly became the ivy league school's first black tenured professor. He established new coursework and law review articles dedicated to civil rights law, became an invaluable mentor to students of color and called on the university to improve its minority hiring record. In 1973, he published, "Race, Racism and American Law," a book that became a staple in law schools and is now in its sixth edition.

In 1980 Prof. Bell left Harvard to become one of the first African-American deans of a non-historically black law school at the University of Oregon School of Law. However, he resigned five years later when the school did not offer a position to an Asian American woman. After returning to Harvard in 1986, he led a five-day sit-in inside his office to protest the school's failure to grant tenure to two professors whose work involved critical race theory. Moreover, in 1990 he took an unpaid leave of absence, pledging not to return until Harvard Law School asked a woman of color to join

tenured faculty for the first time. (Eight years later, Professor Lani Guinier achieved that milestone.)

By the time the school refused to extend his leave, Prof. Bell was already teaching at New York University School of Law, where he continued to be a visiting professor until his passing. Professor Derrick Bell's long legacy as a pioneer of critical race theory and as an unwavering upholder of principles, earned him a comparison by then Harvard law student Barack Obama, as a civil rights hero akin to Rosa Parks.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District and New York's 15th Congressional District salute and honor Professor Derrick Albert Bell, Jr. He dedicated his life to challenging academic paradigms and seeking justice for the systemically marginalized. His legacy will serve as a reminder that we must not be afraid to ask critical questions and to defend individual principles on behalf of future generations. We extend our deepest condolences to Professor Bell's family and to his extended group of loved ones. He will be deeply missed.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 817, I was attending the funeral mass of a family member and was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

#### THE STANDARD DATA ACT

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, today I am joining with my colleague Mr. DOGGETT of Texas, among others, to introduce the Standard Data and Technology Advancement Act, or the "Standard DATA Act." This legislation will establish consistent requirements for the electronic content and format of data used in the administration of key human services programs authorized by the Social Security Act.

Human services programs serve overlapping populations and should, from an information technology standpoint, operate consistently within and across programs. By beginning the process of data standardization and the use of common reporting mechanisms, this bill will help achieve three goals: better prevent and identify fraud and abuse; increase the efficiency of administrative resources to serve eligible beneficiaries; and produce program savings for U.S. taxpayers.

The private sector is far ahead of the public sector in its ability to use data efficiently to detect patterns of misuse, such as when credit cards are lost or stolen, and streamline backend data processing to reduce manual workloads. The public sector needs to review and implement these same sorts of best practices to better improve the operation of public benefit programs.

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Human Resources, I called a March 11, 2011

hearing on the use of data matching to improve customer service, increase program integrity, and achieve taxpayer savings. We received testimony in support of consistent data standards that are non-proprietary and promote the interoperability of data across various information technology platforms, including the range of State legacy systems. The hearing confirmed that not only are programs within the Subcommittee's jurisdiction in silos, but so are the accompanying data.

Applying the provisions of the Standard DATA Act across multiple programs will advance the longer-term goal of allowing data both within and across all Federal assistance programs to operate more efficiently—first by establishing standard elements for individual items of information, and second by defining, in predictable ways, how those elements relate to one another. These standardization activities will promote transparency, flexibility, and consistency across various information technology platforms established by Federal and State agencies.

This bill continues the efforts begun in the bipartisan, bicameral Child and Family Services Extension and Enhancement Act of 2011, which was our first effort at requiring a human services program to implement standard data elements and reporting. President Obama signed that bill into law on September 30, 2011.

Improved data standards will help increase the efficiency of data exchanges to use and reuse data within and across programs. That will allow States to automate the exchange of claimant data on work and benefit receipt, reducing delays and minimizing improper payments. It will also help to automate application forms by pre-populating them with reliable and verified data, which can reduce the manual burden on staff and allow them more time to engage beneficiaries, all while reducing error. That's good for program beneficiaries and taxpayers at the same time.

I thank my colleagues for co-sponsoring this important legislation, starting with Mr. DOGGETT, the Ranking Member on the Human Resources Subcommittee, as well as Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. HERGER, Mr. NUNES, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. BERG, Mrs. BLACK, and Mr. REED.

I also want to thank Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman ISSA and the Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and Procurement Reform Subcommittee Chairman LANKFORD for co-sponsoring this bill, as well as for their support and leadership on the larger effort to improve data reporting transparency.

I invite all Members to join us in supporting this important legislation designed to improve the integrity of the benefit programs millions of Americans access today, and ensure that taxpayer funds are properly spent.

INTRODUCING THE FOSTER  
CHILDREN OPPORTUNITY ACT

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 3, 2011*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to ensure that thousands of

abused and neglected immigrant children in our foster care system have the opportunity to overcome their abuse and become successful adults.

Every year, hundreds and perhaps thousands of abused and neglected children leave the child welfare system and become illegal immigrants through no fault of their own. Under a law passed by Congress in 1990 immigrant foster youth are able to gain legal status. This status, known as Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS), is available if a child is in the foster care system, under 21, and cannot be safely reunified with their family or returned to their country of origin.

SIJS ensures that the child has a recognized legal status and a pathway to becoming a citizen. After a young person leaves foster care, they are not eligible for SIJS. Unfortunately, many youth and many caseworkers are unaware of SIJS or how to apply. As a consequence, potentially eligible youth "age out" of the foster care system every year without a legal status. After being cared for by our child welfare system because they were victims of abuse and neglect, these young people then leave the system and face the threat of deportation and lack access to the supports other transitioning foster youth rely upon. My office has heard from young people who aged out of the system and others who were adopted who never heard of SIJS. These youth were forced into the underground economy, face exploitation, and live in constant fear of being deported to a country they don't know.

To fix this problem, the Foster Children Opportunity Act will require that all children in the foster care system be screened for SIJS eligibility and other forms of immigration relief. It also requires that they be assisted in applying for the status. Child welfare agencies and juvenile courts will be provided with technical assistance and additional resources to make this happen. In addition, my legislation will guarantee that youth who obtain SIJS have access to the same benefits, such as student loans, Medicaid, and food stamps that support other former foster youth as they make the transition to adulthood.

My bill will not change current immigration law. Nor will it result in any adults who have engaged in illegal behavior from gaining legal status because a person with SIJS cannot act as a sponsor for any family members. The Foster Children Opportunity Act has nothing to do with the fight over immigration reform. It is simply about fulfilling our responsibility to all abused and neglected children and providing these youth with a fighting chance to succeed. I encourage all my colleagues to join me in supporting this simple legislation that will improve the lives of thousands of vulnerable children.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 65TH AN-  
NIVERSARY OF SACRAMENTO  
MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 3, 2011*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), as the organization celebrates its 65th anniversary. It is a great pleas-

ure to recognize SMUD's dedication in keeping electricity rates affordable, providing customers with energy-efficient options, and supporting the deployment of renewable power. As SMUD's customers and employees gather to celebrate this milestone, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the key role the organization plays in the Sacramento region.

SMUD was formed in 1946. In response to overpriced electricity, Sacramento voters opted to create a municipal utility district that would provide them with an alternative to investor owned power companies. This led to the formation of SMUD, a public utility company that measures success by how much money stays within the community through low rates, rather than going out to stockholders. SMUD has proven to be a success as their electricity rates are among the lowest in the state of California.

Over the last 65 years, SMUD has become the nation's sixth-largest public electric utility, serving nearly 600,000 customers and a population of 1.4 million. Residential and business customer satisfaction surveys consistently rank SMUD as the top provider of electricity in California, as well as one of the best in the nation.

SMUD is regarded across the nation as a leader in renewable energy and energy efficiency. In 2010, SMUD became the state's first large utility to have 20 percent of its power from renewable resources. The figure has since climbed to 24 percent and is expected to reach the state mandated 33 percent mark by 2020. Taking into account the hydroelectricity generated in SMUD's Upper American River Project, nearly 50 percent of SMUD's power comes from non-carbon resources. SMUD's energy efficiency programs have helped customers reduce their carbon dioxide emission by over 3 million tons since 1987. SMUD has also provided more than \$495 million in energy efficiency loans since 1990.

SMUD is led by a forward thinking Board of Directors, an energetic executive team, and 2,000 hard working employees. They are united in their desire to offer the Sacramento Region affordable power and an excellent customer experience.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Sacramento Municipal Utility District and their continuous commitment to providing the Sacramento Region with access to energy efficient programs, more energy choices, and affordable electricity. SMUD has contributed an immense amount to making Sacramento a better place to live, work, and do business. As SMUD's General Manager John DiStasio, Board President Renee Taylor, and others gather together to celebrate the organization's 65th anniversary, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring their outstanding work in providing the community with affordable electricity.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 3, 2011*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unable to attend votes on Tuesday, November 1, 2011 as I was attending to needs

in my district resulting from the unprecedented snow storm that hit Connecticut this past weekend. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 816, reaffirming "In God We Trust" as the official motto of the United States, and "yea" on rollcall vote 817, on passage of the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act of 2011.

HONORING JAMES CHARLES ROBBINS OF LAKE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 3, 2011*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the tremendous public service of Mr. James Charles Robbins, who served honorably and admirably for 44 years as a fireman, 37 of which were as a fire chief of the Lucerne Volunteer Fire Department in Clearlake Oaks, California.

In addition to his duties with the Fire Department, Chief Robbins worked with the Lucerne Business Association and held the title of the "Moose" of Clearlake Oaks. Chief Robbins coached football and baseball for youth and high school teams, mentoring several generations of athletes and teaching them the values of team sports and leadership.

His professional activities were always dedicated to the betterment of the fire department and the protection of his district. He was instrumental in maintaining the special fire tax, which keeps the doors open at Lucerne Volunteer Fire Department. Perhaps, Chief Robbins' greatest accomplishment of his career was the reorganization and consolidation of four fire districts into one, known now as the Northshore Fire Protection District. This district is one of the largest in California, covering more than 350 square miles.

Chief Robbins was born in San Francisco and went to high school in Upper Lake, California. He pursued his degree at Santa Rosa Junior College, taking many classes related to fire science and management of personnel.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I believe it is appropriate at this time that we recognize and honor James Charles Robbins for his career of fire protection and community leadership. We congratulate him on his retirement, and extend our best wishes for many years of health and happiness. His dedication to the safety and protection of Northern California is truly commendable, and his leadership will be missed.

HONORING KENNETH P. DOYLE

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 3, 2011*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kenneth P. Doyle. For 36 years, Mr. Doyle has served as a Tipstaff for the First Judicial District, and in November he will celebrate his retirement after decades of service to his community.

Mr. Doyle's celebrated career began thirty-six years ago when on February 17, 1976, Ken was sworn in as a Tipstaff by then Administrative Judge Ethan Allen Doty. Mr. Doyle was first assigned to the Family Court Division at 1801 Vine Street, under the direction of Judge Gregory Lagakos before moving on to the Criminal and Civil Trial Division in first City Hall and for the last 15 plus years the Criminal Justice Center.

Mr. Doyle's knowledge of the court system has been an invaluable asset to both Courtroom Operations and the Judiciary as evidenced by his long successful stints with Judges' Paul Ribner, Theodore Smith, Ned Hirsch, Joyce Keane and most notably our current Administrative Judge D. Webster Keogh. The last seven plus years of Mr. Doyle's service have been as a supervisor for Courtroom Operations under Chief of Courtroom Operations, Michael P. Spaziano. Ken's knowledge and work ethic will be missed by the Courtroom Operations family, but his legacy will live on forever.

Mr. Doyle's long and impressive career showcases his commitment and service to his community. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in thanking Mr. Doyle for his work and congratulate him on the occasion of his retirement.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
LINCOLNWOOD

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 3, 2011*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of Lincolnwood.

Not many cities can boast a more colorful start than Lincolnwood. A hundred years ago, the city came to be known as Tessville after a band of tavern owners incorporated the area to take advantage of a loophole during Prohibition that allowed organized municipalities to grant liquor licenses.

It was an unconventional way for a city to begin. Though not as infamous as its Midwestern counterpart Dodge City, Kansas a few decades prior, Tessville was also known for its speakeasies, saloons and gambling halls.

In the 1920s, under the helm of long-serving Mayor Henry Proesel, came an electric rail. With the electric rail came new ideas and prosperity.

Stricter liquor control laws were passed, and Tessville would become Lincolnwood—an ethnically diverse, popular community that offered fast access to and from Chicago, and good fortune for its residents.

Since then, Lincolnwood has had many proud moments—from the construction of a 1.5 million-gallon water tower to the election of Peter Moy, the first Asian American to serve any municipality in Illinois as its President.

Over the years, city efforts—including the Vision 2020 plan—have yielded improvement in repairing infrastructure, renovating city parks, and construction of new parkways.

Today, Lincolnwood is a vibrant community that still sports a strong business sector and a

diverse population. The city of Lincolnwood has much to be proud of and much to look forward to in the next 100 years. I am proud to serve as Congresswoman for Lincolnwood and wish its leaders, businesses and residents a happy 100th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF SMC IN NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 3, 2011*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, in these tumultuous times, it is important to take the opportunity to highlight the successes of some businesses. One such business is SMC—a leader in industrial manufacturing whose U.S. headquarters is in my district in Noblesville, Indiana.

SMC's products have improved upon the ideas that have enabled manufacturers to operate efficiently for years. Recent innovations include a light-weight actuator that fits into older systems, allowing businesses to increase efficiency without a costly and complete system overhaul. A new SMC pump consumes less energy than its predecessor, but outlives it by 10 million pumps. Lastly, I believe their premium on face-time with customers enables their next innovation to be inspired by the very hard-working people that use them.

It is also worth noting that the company has partnered in some fashion with 38 countries across the globe. Their sales market connects them to almost 50 countries, affirming their stance that "products are not confined to the limits of conventional pneumatic control components, but are reaching out to cover peripheral markets as well."

These accomplishments have recently landed SMC on Forbes' list of the Top 100 Most Innovative Companies, sharing the list with industry leaders such as Apple, Google, and Amazon. Their core business policy of "Customer First and Quality First" has propelled the company forward. They should be applauded for such achievements and for their future. SMC, along with Mayor Ditslear and the people of Noblesville, no doubt are excited, as I certainly am.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 3, 2011*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,977,962,674,363.87.

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 \$4,339,536,928,070.07 since then. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

A TRIBUTE TO THE KNIGHTS OF  
COLUMBUS—SAINT CABRINI  
COUNCIL #3472

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 3, 2011*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Knights of Columbus Saint Cabrini Council #3472 upon its 60th anniversary.

On October 2, 1881, a group of men called together by their parish priest, Father Michael J. McGivney, formed a fraternal society and declared their devotion to be defenders of their families, their country and their faith. These men were interconnected by the principles of Christopher Columbus, who brought the Christian faith to the New World. The efforts of this dedicated group came to light with the establishment of the Knights of Columbus on March 29, 1882. Thanks to the superb leadership of Father McGivney, on that very day, the Knights of Columbus was formally approved as a fraternal benefit society.

Since its inception, the Knights of Columbus has devoted an enormous amount of energy and time to serve communities on a global scale. The goals and infinite accomplishments of the Knights have been guided by the four core principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism, which are reflected in their actions. The Order provides a life insurance program to support orphans and widows of deceased members of the Order, and has also been a champion in helping members and their families benefit from the financial aid provided if they become ill, disabled and needy. In addition, intellectual and social fellowship is encouraged among members and their families through charitable, educational, public relief and war relief works. Members of the Knights of Columbus are patriotic citizens and proud of their commitment to God and country.

Last year alone, the Knights of Columbus raised and donated over \$154 million to charitable projects and needs, in addition to volunteering over 70 million hours to benefit charitable causes. The Knights' yearly Survey of Fraternal Activity revealed that in 2010, the entirety of charitable donations reached a remarkable \$154,651,852—surpassing the previous year's sum by over \$3 million. In addition, the survey evidenced a remarkable increase in volunteer service hours as well.

The St. Cabrini Council in Burbank, Council #3472, was founded in 1951. For six decades, its members have made immense contributions to the community by hosting events, a golf outing, community fundraisers and Christmas luncheons to provide lunch and Santa With Gifts, to support intellectually disabled individuals. Furthermore, they organize programs and events geared towards drug treatment, individual and family counseling, emancipation services and educational services. Also, they donate books, volunteer to read for students and provide mentoring programs. Additional contributions to the members and community include supporting the Cabrini Sisters and seminarians at the Parishes of St. Roberts, St. Finbar and St. Francis, remodeling a kitchen for a brother serving in Iraq, remodeling their facilities and organizing a free throw competition amongst four parish schools.

I am proud to recognize the past and present members and supporters of the

Knights of Columbus Saint Cabrini Council #3472 for their selfless dedication to the community, and I ask all Members to join me in congratulating this exceptional organization for sixty years of dedicated service.

**RECOGNITION OF THE 2011 BORDER  
HEROES AWARD RECIPIENTS**

**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 3, 2011*

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of three outstanding individuals, Jacob Heydemann, Kathleen Staudt, and Sister Phyllis Nolan, who will be honored this weekend with the 2011 Border Heroes Award for their dedication to academic, social and humanitarian service to communities on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border.

Dr. Jacob Heydemann is an El Paso orthopedic surgeon who generously donates his services to clinics and hospitals in Ciudad Juárez and other parts of Mexico. Dr. Heydemann has been honored for his humanitarian work by the government of Mexico, and he is admired and respected by all of the borderland community. His efforts change lives for those in desperate need, provide critical health care access to the underserved, and inspire us all to give back to others.

I also rise to recognize Dr. Kathleen Staudt, a political science professor at the University of Texas at El Paso. She founded the Center for Civic Engagement, which aims to foster collaborative leadership, civility and deepen democracy in the region through action-oriented learning, civic education, and active citizenship. She is also a faculty advisor for a number of student organizations at UTEP and is co-founder of the Women's Fund of El Paso. She has written or co-authored more than a dozen scholarly books and published over 80 journal articles in women's studies, borderlands, and political science. Her dedication to civic engagement and human rights serves as an inspiration to the El Paso community.

I would also like to recognize the service of Sister Phyllis Nolan from the Daughters of Charity who will receive the 2011 "Extraordinary Volunteer" award. Sister Nolan is a volunteer intake specialist at Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center who visits the immigration detention center to interview detainees. She has touched countless lives by listening to their stories, and assisting immigrants in many ways as they go through the legal process. Sister Nolan's selfless service has given a voice for those who are seeking a better life.

Individuals such as these are a true asset to our community and it is my privilege to represent them, and others like them.

**BIRTHDAY OF CALIFORNIA**

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 3, 2011*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, one hundred and sixty-two years ago, over thirteen thousand citizens of the

United States of America met at the California Constitutional Convention on November 13, 1849. At this convention, Californians ratified their constitution in a proportion of twelve to one. The first order of business was to elect the State executives, and to set the borders of twenty-seven counties.

For the past twelve years, the Society of Hispanic Heritage and Ancestral Research (SHHAR), Los Amigos of Orange County, among other organizations, have been seeking to raise public awareness of the state's ratification day.

In the past, the University of California Irvine, the State University of Fullerton, and the Orange County Heritage Museum in Santa Ana, have all organized events to commemorate this historic occasion. These events have been encouraged, organized and run by volunteers on the local, state, and national levels, including public officials, friends, and neighbors.

This year, the birthday of California's original constitution, November 13, falls on a Sunday, a date which is most appropriate to reflect on the roles that community and sacrifice played in the establishment of the state of California.

I am proud to recognize the statehood of California, and proudly celebrate our state's admittance as the 31st State of the Union. At this moment, it is only appropriate to celebrate the accomplishments and historical contributions of the great state of California.

Happy Birthday California!

**SUPPORT OF H.R. 1905, THE  
IRANIAN THREAT REDUCTION ACT**

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 3, 2011*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the House Committee on Foreign Affairs for their work earlier this week in unanimously passing H.R. 1905, the Iran Threat Reduction Act out of committee. This bipartisan legislation is critical to the protection of the American people and our allies around the world.

I would like to thank Chairman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN and Ranking Member BERMAN for their hard work in shepherding this bill through the Committee, and I am confident that House leadership will bring this bill to the floor without delay.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is imperative that the United States take the lead in opposing Iran's strong quest to produce nuclear weapons. Such a development would produce the greatest destabilizing element into that volatile region the world has ever known.

The recent discovery of a plot to assassinate the Saudi Ambassador to the United States on American soil is but the latest reminder of the urgent need for the United States to take forceful and effective action to ensure that Iran does not succeed in developing the capability to produce nuclear weapons.

Last year, Congress passed H.R. 2194, the Iran Sanctions, Accountability and Divestment Act. This legislation marked the most comprehensive Iran sanctions legislation ever passed by Congress.

While current sanctions on Iran have impeded Iran's ability to successfully develop a nuclear weapon, most experts agree that Iran will have nuclear capabilities in the next two to three years if tougher sanctions are not imposed.

According to a recent report released by the International Atomic Energy Agency, Iran has a stockpile of low-enriched uranium that if further enriched could produce three nuclear weapons.

Earlier this week, I sent letters to Chairman ROS-LEHTINEN, Ranking Member BERMAN and House leadership urging them to consider H.R. 1905 and sanctions on the Central Bank of Iran. I am encouraged by the Committee's swift action and hopeful that this bill will swiftly be brought to the floor for consideration in the whole House.

H.R. 1905 strongly reflects the demands of the international community that tougher sanctions must be placed on Iranian leaders to end their nuclear program. If enacted, H.R. 1905 would increase sanctions on human rights violators in Iran, impose tougher sanctions on the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), and would finally codify the U.S. policy to prevent Iran from developing unconventional weapons and ballistic missiles. This bill takes steps to peacefully thwart Iran's nuclear aspirations.

During the markup of this bill, an amendment offered by Ranking Member BERMAN to strengthen sanctions against Iran's Central Bank was unanimously agreed to. The Berman Amendment strengthens H.R. 1905 by inserting language that directs the President to determine whether the Central Bank of Iran is engaged in sanctionable activity.

By sanctioning the Central Bank of Iran, the United States would set a strong example for countries around the world that depend on a geopolitically stable Middle East for their own security and prosperity. Imposing tougher sanctions on the Iranian economy will demonstrate that the international community will not tolerate Iran's continued refusal to end their nuclear enrichment program.

Specifically, the Berman Amendment directs the President of the United States to determine whether the Central Bank of Iran has:

Assisted Iran's WMD or missile programs, including proliferation of WMD to other governments;

Financed Iran's procurement of advanced conventional weapons;

Provided financial services for the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps; or

Facilitated Iran's support of international terrorism.

Should the President make the determination that the Central Bank of Iran is involved in any of these areas, the bill would require him to apply sanctions under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act. These sanctions would ensure that any foreign bank involved in significant transactions with the Central Bank of Iran are excluded from doing business with the U.S. If this bill is passed by the whole House, the President will have 30 days to make this determination.

Mr. Speaker, history has taught us that strong sanctions can bring about peaceful change. A generation ago, Congress passed the Anti-Apartheid Act which led to the end of the apartheid regime and brought about a

peaceful revolution resulting in the new democratic South Africa.

While the Arab Spring has deflected a lot of attention away from Iran's nuclear enrichment program, H.R. 1905 will help to refocus our efforts on appropriately addressing this critical issue. Leaders in the Iranian government have shown repeatedly that they are unwilling to comply with international demands to scrap their nuclear program.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this bill and look forward to voting for it when it comes to the floor for final passage.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 3, 2011*

Mr. BASS of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, while I was present for rollcall vote 820 on November 2, 2011, my vote was not recorded. Had my vote been recorded I would have voted "yes" on that passage of the Small Company Capital Formation Act.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE HIRE VETERANS ACT OF 2011

### HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 3, 2011*

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, as Americans celebrate Veterans' Day this year it is important to take time and reflect on the infinite contributions and sacrifices the men, women, and families of those who have served in our Armed Forces. Our commitment to veterans should not end with their service, we must show our gratitude by offering them every opportunity to experience the American dream that they fought to protect.

With a veteran unemployment rate of 22 percent nationwide, much more needs to be done to create an environment that helps the private sector hire men and women who have served our country in uniform, more than 250,000 of whom live in San Diego County. That is why I am pleased to introduce the Help Inspire and Retrain our Exceptional (HIRE) Veterans Act of 2011 along with my colleague, Congressman JOHN BARROW of Georgia.

Over the next two years, as the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan begin to wind down, more veterans will find themselves searching for jobs in the civilian workforce. One of the biggest obstacles for unemployed veterans is connecting to employers. The HIRE Veterans Act of 2011 helps overcome this obstacle and provides opportunities to valuable members of our community with the resources they need to transition from the armed services to a civilian workforce. This legislation will authorize grants to be awarded by the Department of Commerce to local Chambers of Commerce to create job training, apprenticeship, and internship programs for local veterans.

The time to act is now. As part of the record, I am submitting letters of support from

the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce and the San Diego North Chamber of Commerce. These letters emphasize the importance of this legislation and describe how local Chambers and businesses can help HIRE veterans.

CARLSBAD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

*November 2, 2011.*

Hon. BRIAN BILBRAY,  
Member of Congress, Rayburn House Office  
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN BILBRAY: I am writing to support the proposed Help Inspire and Retrain our Exceptional (HIRE) Veterans Act you are proposing in the upcoming session.

The Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce is the 10th largest Chamber in the State of California and the second largest in San Diego County. We are located adjacent to the large Marine Corps Base at Camp Pendleton and as such see first-hand the serious unemployment problem facing our young veterans. In response to the problem we have created the Boots in Business Military Mentoring Initiative to allow as many of the 8,000 veterans leaving the service from Camp Pendleton each calendar year to mentor with civilian employers across the county.

The main issue facing these veterans is competing for jobs with civilians in the region is their ability to see first-hand the types of jobs in the marketplace and learn what employers are looking for when they hire someone both in experience and education.

Our mission is to help military personnel in the last weeks of their active duty term learn about the business world through job shadowing 60 to 90 days prior to their discharge date. By showing them what it's like to work in a variety of professions, local companies will help veterans make smart future career and educational decisions. Our program (a Memorandum of Understanding MOU) is a collaborative effort between the Marine Corps Base at Camp Pendleton, the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce and many local businesses that are willing to provide a variety of job shadowing experiences to active military members and their spouses as they prepare to enter civilian life.

Military members are allowed up to 30 days of paid Temporary Additional Duty to be mentored, so they can shadow as many civilian jobs as possible during that time. A mentoring activity can be one day, one week or even one month in duration, depending on the goals of the veteran, the number of positions shadowed, and the depth of involvement with each position.

We are providing resume writing, job interviews, and first-hand experience test driving as many jobs that they desire in order to see if the job fits how they can compete to get it. There is no charge for our program and their spouses are equally allowed to participate.

If the veteran decides to return to his or her home town we have arranged with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to contact the local city chamber of commerce and notify them of the arrival of a new veteran and have them arrange business introductions were possible.

We endorse your proposed legislation 100%. The soaring unemployment rate adds another layer of difficulty to the job search experience. Your legislation will go a long way toward allowing Chambers across the country with veterans in their community have a fair chance to be hired and begin a meaningful career.

Respectfully,

TED OWENS,  
President/CEO.

*Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce.*

SAN DIEGO NORTH,  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
November 2, 2011.

Subject: Support of "HIRE Veterans Act of 2011"

Hon. BRIAN BILBRAY,  
U.S. Representative, 2410 Rayburn Building,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN BILBRAY: We, the San Diego North Chamber of Commerce, support your proposed legislation titled, "Help Inspire and Retrain our Exceptional Veterans Act of 2011." In a time of economic uncertainty and high unemployment, your legislation would allow for local chambers of commerce to provide assistance for those who have honorably served.

As organizations that are familiar with local employer needs and that are able to provide workforce training, Chambers of Commerce are a bridge between businesses with open positions and job seekers such as our returning military men and women. This bill will ensure that our veterans are better prepared for job opportunities in our communities by funding training workshops, résumé writing and interview classes, and career coaching.

In areas like San Diego, where returning military often choose to retire, our organizations hear from veterans on a constant basis looking for career development advice and jobs. This bill will allow these veterans to be better served and better prepared as they seek opportunities after their service.

This Act will help prepare our veterans and help local economies get back on their feet. For these reasons, the San Diego North Chamber of Commerce supports the "HIRE Veterans Act of 2011."

Sincerely,

DEBRA ROSEN,  
President and CEO,  
San Diego North Chamber of Commerce.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JAMES B. RENACCI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 816, due to flight cancellation and subsequent delay traveling to Washington from my District, I was unable to vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN FOLKS OF  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

**HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. John Folks on being awarded Superintendent of the Year from the Texas Association of School Boards.

Dr. Folks has served as superintendent of the Northside Independent School District in San Antonio, Texas since 2002 and was selected from among the 1,000 eligible superintendents from across the state of Texas for this award. Dr. Folks has consistently advocated against budget cuts to education and schools, and during his time as superintendent, Northside ISD has become the larg-

est school district in Bexar County and has grown from 65,000 students to 97,500 students. Northside ISD is also the largest school district in Texas to be classified as a "recognized" school under the state's accountability system.

Dr. Folks has been instrumental in maintaining the quality of Texas public schools and has served as superintendent of Spring Independent School District in Houston and Mid-west City-Del City Public Schools in suburban Oklahoma City. He began his teaching career in Port Arthur, Texas and has remained an educator for 41 years. As Past President of the Texas Association of School Administrators, he has used his leadership skills to help school districts excel across the state of Texas. He is committed to doing what is right for Texas youth and understands that it takes a skilled team of dedicated educators to pave their road to success to prepare students to lead productive and fulfilling lives.

I would again ask you to congratulate Dr. John Folks on his recognition as Superintendent of the Year by the Texas Association of School Boards and acknowledge his fight for providing an exemplary education throughout our nation's public school systems.

HONORING DALLAS COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER MICHELLE MOORE

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Michelle Moore, a distinguished Dallas County public defender from my district. After sixteen years with the Dallas County public defender's office, Ms. Moore will be leaving her current position to open the first public defender's office in Burnet County, Texas.

There are few people with as much capacity for compassion and as much dedication to her work as Ms. Moore has demonstrated throughout her term of public service. Her years of tireless work to help absolve innocent men of crimes they never committed have been critical to strengthening the integrity of our judicial system here in Texas and throughout the Nation.

Having helped to free eleven wrongfully-imprisoned men, Ms. Moore has contributed greatly to Dallas County's record as having more DNA exonerations than any other county in the Nation since Texas began permitting post-conviction DNA testing in 2001.

Ms. Moore has frequently gone above and beyond her normal scope of duty by making sure that exonerees had no trouble assimilating back into the lives that were taken from them, even regularly working off the clock and without charging her clients for legal advice.

Beyond the boundaries of this great State, her work has gone far to highlight the need for a closer examination of certain convictions and for stronger safeguards against wrongful imprisonment. Ms. Moore's contributions have undoubtedly not only changed the lives of those she directly represented, but also the vast others in similar circumstances throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that we must see Ms. Moore go. However, I have

found relief in the fact that she is not leaving her work entirely and will instead be going on to serve the needs of other wrongfully convicted prisoners. I would like to end by wishing Ms. Moore the best of luck in her latest attempt to bring veritable justice to under or unserved areas in Texas.

[From dallasnews.com, Oct. 29, 2011]

PUBLIC DEFENDER WHO SPENT DECADE WORKING TO FREE THE INNOCENT IS LEAVING DALLAS COUNTY

(By Jennifer Emily)

For a decade, Dallas County public defender Michelle Moore has worked on and off the clock to free the innocent from prison and help them adjust to life on the outside once they're released.

This week, Moore, the face of the public defender's office, is leaving to open the first public defender's office in Burnet County, in the Hill Country.

Moore helped free 11 men from prison, appeared on a television documentary called Dallas DNA and helped change state laws to compensate exonerees and prevent wrongful convictions.

"It's tough to leave Dallas County and leave behind the exonerees," she said. "I'll still be in touch and help out."

Dallas County's exonerees are mostly excited about Moore's new opportunity, she said. But they still wish she would stay in Dallas County.

"A couple of the guys were 'Oh, yeah, that's cool,'" Moore said. "But a couple of the guys were like 'We'll never see you again.'"

Someone else will take over her job with the public defender's office, but the position has not yet been filled.

Christopher Scott, freed in October 2009 after spending 12 years in prison for a crime he did not commit, said that while behind bars, he saw Moore on television and hoped that one day she would be his attorney. He said he couldn't believe it when she was appointed to his case.

Scott said Moore not only works on cases in her job as a public defender but also regularly gives them free legal advice and makes sure they are adjusting well when freed from prison.

"Michelle is a princess to us," said Scott, who said he considers Moore both a friend and family. "A lot of people take advantage of exonerees—not Michelle. She gives us advice normally people would charge hundreds of dollars for."

James Hammond, a DA's office investigator who has worked on numerous claims of innocence, said Moore's dedication to her job extends far beyond regular hours.

"She's very compassionate toward the exonerees," he said. "Not just the legal side in the courtroom but that they had clothes and a place to stay. She made sure when they stepped out of the building, they had a parachute, that they had people interested in their interests."

Moore spent 16 years in the public defender's office. In 2001, when the state began allowing post-conviction DNA testing, Moore began working cases in which inmates requested DNA testing of old evidence to prove their innocence. Later, she worked similar cases where there was no DNA to test.

Dallas County has had 22 exonerations by DNA evidence and three, including Scott's, by other evidence. Since 2001, when Texas began allowing DNA testing and Moore began working on cases, the county has had more DNA exonerations than any other county in the nation.

Some DNA tests confirmed guilt and others were inconclusive. Moore was the lead attorney on nine cases in which inmates were freed, and she assisted on two others.

In Burnet County, she will oversee the public defender's office and hire two attorneys, an investigator and an office manager. The office is being created with a grant from the Texas Indigent Defense Commission.

"It's new territory," she said.

Dallas County prosecutor Cynthia R. Garza, who worked with Moore on several exonerations, said that Moore's efforts, along with those of the DA's conviction integrity unit, established in 2007 by District Attorney Craig Watkins, made an impact on how exonerations are seen locally and throughout the country.

"Her role was very important to her clients and to the whole movement" of post-conviction exonerations, said Garza. People are more open-minded now about exonerations, Garza said.

Moore also worked with legislators to bring about increased compensation for Texas exonerees and changes in eyewitness identification procedures.

"I was excited and relieved," Moore said about the changes to the law. "I'm proud to have been involved, however small, in changing the system."

AT A GLANCE—MICHELLE MOORE

Age: 46

Education: Law degree from University of Arkansas, 1990.

Career Highlights: Joined Dallas County public defenders office 16 years ago; has helped free 11 innocent Dallas County men from prison since 2001; former board president of the Innocence Project of Texas.

## OPPOSE THE SIERRA JUAREZ CROSS-BORDER TRANSMISSION LINE

### HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Energia Sierra Juarez cross-border transmission line between California and Mexico. I would like to insert into the RECORD Senate Joint Resolution 13, adopted by the California Senate.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13—RELATIVE TO CROSS-BORDER TRANSMISSION  
[Filed with Secretary of State September 15, 2011]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 13, Vargas. Public utilities: cross-border transmission lines.

This measure would call upon the Secretary of the United States Department of Energy to reject Sempra Energy's application to construct the Energia Sierra Juarez cross-border transmission line between Mexico and California in order to preserve jobs in California, promote energy independence, and uphold California's labor and environmental laws.

Whereas, Cross-border transmission lines between California and Mexico would facilitate the exportation of American jobs by enabling energy companies to import electricity into the United States instead of building energy projects here, where the energy is being used, and thereby move our economy in the wrong direction at a time when we should be putting Americans back to work; and

Whereas, The Obama administration has emphasized the need for our nation to reduce our dependence on imported energy because our nation's economic future and security depend on developing energy infrastructure within our own borders; and

Whereas, A core component of President Obama's electoral campaign was his commitment to a green energy economy, which would usher in a period of environmental advancement and economic prosperity; and

Whereas, Constructing cross-border transmission lines would undermine the President's vision by enabling energy companies to deliver electricity to the United States from foreign facilities not built to American labor or environmental standards; and

Whereas, If we are to reclaim America's middle class, our nation must eliminate opportunities for corporations to export jobs, exploit workers, or raid natural resources: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly.* That the Legislature, to preserve jobs in California, promote energy independence, and uphold California's exemplary labor and environmental laws, calls upon the Secretary of the United States Department of Energy to reject Sempra Energy's application for a Presidential permit to construct the Energia Sierra Juarez cross-border transmission line between Mexico and San Diego County, California; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, to the Chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, to the Secretary of the United States Department of Labor, and to the Secretary of the United States Department of Energy.

## CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNI- VERSARY OF THE ST. PETERS- BURG, FLORIDA ELK LODGE 1224

### HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 100th anniversary of St. Petersburg, Florida Elks Lodge 124 which was established on February 16, 1911. Forty-two members started what would become the second Elks Lodge along the west coast of Florida.

By 1926, with a new three story clubhouse in downtown St. Petersburg, Lodge 1224 became the largest Elk's Lodge in Florida with 1,750 members. Throughout the years, the Lodge has moved several times but in 1970, under a stronger leadership, the post significantly grew and was able to purchase the building it now occupies on 66th Street in St. Petersburg.

Today with nearly 1000 members, the Lodge is very active in a number of important activities throughout the community. Along with many other Florida lodges, Lodge 1224 supports the Children's Physical Therapy Services Program. This program consists of 22 vans driven by physical therapists who offer free services to any child in need. The Lodge also welcomes our nation's veterans with open arms, proudly offering entertainment and meals in their lodge twice a month.

Mr. Speaker, over the last 100 years the members of the Elk's Lodge 1224 have seen the city of St. Petersburg grow from a sleepy

little town of 8,000 to a bustling city of nearly 250,000. Like all Americans, they suffered through the Great Depression, comforted a community through two World Wars, and they continue to serve the community today by proudly offering essential services to our children and veterans. It is my hope that my colleagues will join me this afternoon in recognizing the 100th anniversary of Elks Lodge 1224 and their century of service to our community.

IN MEMORY OF THE LIFE OF DR.  
RICHARD LEON HOOKS

### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to the life of Dr. Richard Leon Hooks who passed away on October 29, 2011.

Dr. Hooks was born in Montgomery, Alabama, in August of 1943, and graduated from Alabama State University with a degree in Secondary Education. Dr. Hooks also attended the University of Alabama, where he earned a Masters of Arts and Doctorate of Philosophy in Education.

Dr. Hooks began teaching in 1963 at Cobb High School in Anniston, Alabama. Later in his career, in 1980, he began administrative work with Anniston City Schools. In 2003, he retired and in 2008, was elected to serve on the Anniston City Board of Education. He served two years as the school board president.

It is a sad day in Alabama as we have lost one of our great educators. We honor the memory of Dr. Richard Leon Hooks today.

## TRIBUTE TO THE GENERAL PATTON MEMORIAL MUSEUM AND THE WORLD WAR II DESERT TRAINING CENTER

### HON. MARY BONO MACK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mrs. BONO MACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the General Patton Memorial Museum located in the 45th Congressional District and in the center of the historic military landscape—General Patton's World War II Desert Training Center.

Through the hard work and dedication of local supporters, volunteers and donors, the museum preserves artifacts from the major conflicts of the 20th and 21st centuries and serves an important role educating the public on U.S. military history. In cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, this historically significant land will be protected for future generations to enjoy.

I want to especially thank Margit Chiriaco Rusche and her family who have given selflessly of their time, energy and finances to preserve the memory of General Patton's presence in our community. Generations of American families have been rewarded with a glimpse of America's military history through this unique facility, and our community has been enriched by the one-of-a-kind historical artifacts preserved at this site.

Located in the heart of the Desert Training Center, the General Patton Memorial Museum was established on November 11, 1988, to honor the memory of General George Patton. The museum contains exhibits ranging from World War I through the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars and honors the service and sacrifice of America's veterans.

In the early days of World War II, the greatest global conflict our world has ever seen, the War Department recognized the need to train troops to withstand the rigors of battle over rough desert terrain. Thus, the Desert Training Center, formally known as the California-Arizona Maneuver Area, was established in 1942. Led by Major General George S. Patton Jr., the training camp trained 1 million troops from 1942–1944.

When the direction of the war shifted to the Allies' favor in 1944, the camp was closed, ending the largest simulated theater of operations in the history of military maneuvers. While most of the structures were removed, much of the infrastructure, including rock-lined streets, staging areas, flag circles, and tent areas remain.

It is my hope that the General Patton Memorial Museum and the World War II Desert Training Center will serve as a powerful reminder of how our nation's freedom has been preserved by the dedication of our armed forces. While no single tribute can fully honor their sacrifice, this memorial offers a chance for our community to stand together in honoring the men and women who have fought under the Stars and Stripes. I am certain that any patriotic American would benefit from a visit to the General Patton Memorial Museum and I encourage all those traveling to this region to consider visiting.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the General Patton Memorial Museum and the World War II Desert Training Center.

NOVEMBER 2011 IS PULMONARY  
HYPERTENSION AWARENESS  
MONTH

### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 3, 2011*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, November is Pulmonary Hypertension Awareness Month 2011 in the Second Congressional District of South Carolina. Pulmonary Hypertension, PH, is the condition of continuous high blood pressure in the arteries or veins of the lungs which can result in an enlarged heart, causing it to lose its ability to pump. PH symptoms are similar to common respiratory and cardiac ailments and is therefore difficult to properly diagnose. It often leads to life-threatening delays in treatment. Although there is no cure for the disease, there is hope. Unfortunately, the medications can be expensive and invasive, with some patients requiring continuous infusion pumps and oxygen.

The Pulmonary Hypertension Association, PHA, a patient support charity group, raises funds for research, promotes awareness, and proves educational and emotional support to the estimated 30,000 diagnosed patients in

the United States. It has helped to establish 235 patient support groups throughout the nation, including four groups in South Carolina that serve over 150 patients, caregivers and family members across the state.

On behalf of the Pulmonary Hypertension patients in the Second Congressional District of South Carolina, I would like to bring awareness to their cause by citing November 2011 as Pulmonary Hypertension Awareness Month.

RECOGNIZING THE 109TH BIRTHDAY OF MR. ROOSEVELT LEE, SR. OF KOSCIUSKO, MS

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 3, 2011*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Roosevelt Lee, Sr. of Kosciusko, Mississippi; as a father, husband and agricultural entrepreneur in recognition of his 109th birthday. Born October 23, 1902 to Mr. Tom Lee and Mrs. Mary Young Lee, Roosevelt is the eldest and last surviving of nine siblings. Mr. Lee is the father of eighteen (18) children, grandfather to sixty (60) grandchildren and great-grandfather to more than fifty (50) great-grandchildren.

During a period when educational resources for African Americans were slim to none, Mr. Lee managed to receive up to a third grade education which was offered out of a local church in Kosciusko where he is a native. At a very young age Mr. Lee committed his time and talent to working to help support his family; he worked as a farmer, mechanic, and raiser of cattle and other livestock.

He is a devote Christian and passionate steward of the Lord. He was a member of the Mount Ollie Missionary Baptist Church in Kosciusko, Mississippi for 67 years where he actively served as Sunday school superintendent, treasurer, head deacon, and trustee for the church. Currently, he is a member of the Bell Grove Missionary Baptist Church of Clarksdale and has been for the past eight years.

Mr. Lee is a member of the Sir Knight Masons of Clarksdale, Mississippi. He has selflessly devoted his time to helping other local farmers maintain and repair their farming equipment and vehicles. Mr. Lee's work ethic and commitment to making provisions for his family has allowed his family to keep its farm for 81 years.

In October of 2007, Mayor Henry Epsy of Clarksdale, Mississippi, declared October 27th as Roosevelt Lee, Sr. Day. At the seasoned age of 109, Mr. Lee does not suffer from high blood pressure, cholesterol, heart issues or diabetes but has most recently been diagnosed with Alzheimer disease.

Boxing and wrestling are two of his favorite sports. He has a passion for checkers and loves to travel. He has frequented many of America's most popular destinations such as Chicago, St. Louis, California, Atlanta and a host of others.

Out of his more than a century of life, Mr. Lee confirms that his commitment to Christ has been what has sustained him. He believes that if you serve the Lord and do the right thing regardless of what the next person does,

God will bless you. He is a true example of the wondrous works of the Lord and what it means to be a provider for your family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in celebrating a true champion of the life, Mr. Roosevelt Lee, Sr. for his tenacious and zealous works as a farmer, father and one fine American.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 3, 2011*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 816, I was attending the funeral mass of a family member and was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

#### A TRIBUTE TO JOAN SLAUGHTER

### HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 3, 2011*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Joan Slaughter for her service to the United States and to my home town of Philadelphia, PA. Joan began her career with the Federal Government on October 23, 1973. She started as a Sewing Machine Operator and the Directorate of Manufacturing at the Defense Personnel Support Center in my district. But, she would not remain in that post for long.

Her drive for excellence and her commitment to service led her to a constant string of educational certificates and degrees and promotions at work.

Providing the best product to the warfighter has been her guiding principal. That commitment resulted in a nearly 38 year career and the undying love and respect of her colleagues and friends.

Mr. Speaker, Joan's love of country is only exceeded by her love of her family. Her husband Gregory and children Gregory, Jr., Shirley and Karen, along with son-in-law Victor, daughter-in-law Nicole, and her grandsons, granddaughters and great grandson could tell us story after story illustrating how wonderful she is.

Joan is retiring now. But, DLA' loss is her family's gain. Our country's loss will be our community's gain.

I ask that all every Member of the House of Representatives join me in honoring her on the occasion of her retirement.

#### VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 2, 2011*

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 894, the Veterans' Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2011. This

legislation increases the rate of disability compensation for veterans and their dependents. It also increases disability, old age, and survivor benefits provided under Title II of the Social Security Act. This bill will benefit many; there were more than 3.2 million veterans receiving total disability compensation in 2010.

The Veterans' Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act provides a much needed cost of living adjustment for the courageous men and women who served in the Armed Forces. It is in a spirit of deep gratitude and appreciation that I fight to provide for our troops fighting abroad, and our veterans who have returned from deployment. It is the responsibility of Congress and the Administration to fulfill our moral obligation to those who have fought for freedom and democracy.

In the State of Texas, we have nearly 1.7 million veterans, and the 18th District is home to 32,000 of them. Of the 200,000 veterans of military service who live and work in Houston; more than 13,000 are veterans from Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Additionally, there are almost 34,000 soldiers from Texas currently deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. I am supporting this legislation to ensure that our men and women in uniform are taken care of when they return from combat.

Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom have presented unanticipated challenges, greater threats, and higher stakes than ever before. The men and women who have served in these operations during the course of the past decade were tasked with the enormous responsibility of protecting America from a new enemy, one that does not identify itself with uniforms, or declare war, or invade by driving tanks over a border. The Veterans' Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act ensures that disabled veterans are properly compensated for their sacrifices.

Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have remained committed to meeting both the needs of veterans of previous wars, and to those who are now serving. Veterans have kept their promise to serve our Nation; they have willingly risked their lives to protect the country we all love. We must now ensure that we keep our promises to our veterans.

We promise to leave no soldier or veteran behind. Politics and partisanship should never be a factor in our support for American veterans or troops. On the battlefield, the military pledges to leave no soldier behind. As a Nation, let it be our pledge that when they return home, we leave no veteran behind. I am pleased at the bipartisan nature with which my colleagues have approached this legislation. We must resolve together that we will provide returning veterans with the welcome, services, care, and compassion that they deserve. Let us all remember that one of the things that makes our Nation truly great are the young men and women willing to fight to defend it, to defend us, and to defend our way of life.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 894, the Veterans' Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2011.

TRIBUTE TO MR. CHARLIE CALVIN

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 3, 2011*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Charlie Calvin, who has distinguished himself as both an outstanding community leader and political organizer for over 30 years.

Mr. Calvin graduated from Northern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science/Pre-Law; he subsequently earned a Master of Arts Degree in Political Theory and Government from Governors State University and two Juris Doctorate Degrees, one from LaSalle University School of Law and the other from the National Conference of Black Lawyers College of Law and International Diplomacy.

For the past 31½ years, Charlie Calvin has worked tirelessly as a community and political organizer—addressing issues of family, community, public education, the justice system, and the destruction of the African American male. Mr. Calvin has addressed concerns and advocated for help to feed and clothe the needy. As Deputy Register, he has helped to register thousands of new voters and has held town hall meetings relative to vital issues, such as disproportionate incarceration, the adverse effect of the criminal justice system on the African American Community, and leadership through political forums.

Charlie Calvin has affected people young and old through his motivational speaking engagements, Criminal Justice Conferences, and Adjunct professorships at the National Conference of Black Lawyers, LaSalle Law School, Harold Washington College and Chicago State University. Mr. Calvin is affiliated with many organizations ranging from the NAACP to Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. to the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice.

Charlie Calvin entered the Democratic Political Primary of 1978 where he was a candidate for County Clerk—which at 22 years of age, made him the youngest and first African American in the history of Kankakee County to run for a seat in county government. He later assisted a number of local politicians to be elected as judges.

Recently Charlie Calvin became the Division Administrator for the Presiding Judge's Office of Juvenile Justice.

Charlie is married to Mrs. Dorothy Calvin, and they have three children; Charlie Jr. is a graduate of Governors States University, Felicia is a junior at Northern Illinois University, and Thomas is a high school student.

I am pleased to commend and congratulate Mr. Calvin on an outstanding career and wish him well in all of his future endeavors.

H.R. 2930, THE ENTREPRENEUR ACCESS TO CAPITAL ACT, AND H.R. 2940, THE ACCESS TO CAPITAL FOR JOB CREATORS ACT

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 3, 2011*

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2930, the Entrepreneur Access to

Capital Act, and H.R. 2940, the Access to Capital for Job Creators Act. Just as I remarked earlier this week during the House's consideration of H.R. 1070 and H.R. 1965, I strongly support measures to free up capital for job creation, but such measures must be responsible and protect investors. I lament that the bills we consider here today fail to meet that threshold.

H.R. 2930 has as its goal the facilitation of crowdfunding, a relatively new phenomenon and one the Securities Exchange Commission is beginning to study. Mandating laxer regulatory requirements in statute strikes me as premature, if not irresponsible, in this case. Further, I recognize the potential the Internet holds for the financial services industry but also have grave reservations on the nefarious ways in which it can be used to defraud investors, particularly the more casual kind that might participate in crowdfunding.

The other bill on which we will vote—H.R. 2940—would seem to obviate the regulatory distinction made between private and public securities. The latter are permitted to be solicited publicly in exchange for greater regulatory scrutiny. I am extremely wary of granting the same privilege to private securities without associated reporting requirements.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleagues on the Committee on Financial Services for producing bipartisan legislation. Nevertheless, I cannot in good conscience support either H.R. 2930 or H.R. 2940 because each bill obfuscates transparency for investors and could expose them to new risks that any intelligent person would seek to avoid in this economy.

On a final note, I would add that the financial deregulatory bills considered by the House this week will put more pressure on our country's broken fiduciary system. By waiving registration and reporting requirements, we will be further muddying the distinction between brokers and investment advisers. This will be to the detriment of investors and market integrity.

SMALL COMPANY CAPITAL  
FORMATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 2, 2011*

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1070, "Small Company Capital Formation Act of 2011" which would require the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to create a new and larger exemption, effectively raising the limit from \$5 million to \$50 million for its Regulation A security offerings and permitting a more streamlined approach for smaller issuers. Presently, the limit for Regulation A security offerings is \$5 million; however, this avenue is rarely pursued due to the small size of issuances permitted. The bill would permit SEC to impose conditions on issuance under the rule, and would require periodic review of the limit.

Regulation A was enacted during the Great Depression to stimulate the economy by improving small businesses' access to equity capital. While the initial offering threshold of \$100,000 has been increased over the years to the current \$5 million set by the Commission in 1992, it has not been increased to reflect the rising costs associated with bringing

a small company public over the last two decades.

In this day and age, a small to medium company simply cannot afford to go public at a cost of \$5 million. For the last 19 years we have had substantially fewer companies that have chosen to go public. The \$5 million threshold has resulted in a chilling effect. In the last year, only 3 companies have utilized this process. Going public allows a growing company to have access to capital, equity, and additional financial resources. They need to raise capital in order to grow their business. Currently, there are 5,100 public traded companies. In 1997, there were 8,873 publicly traded companies. This legislation is intended to reverse a downward trend.

Due to the low offering threshold, and without a corresponding state "Blue Sky" exemption for Regulation A offerings, Regulation A has not provided a viable capital-raising vehicle for smaller companies in recent years. Amplified by increased difficulties for smaller companies resulting from the recent financial crisis, these shortcomings of Regulation A have invited renewed focus on this regulation.

The legislation before us today is designed to encourage small companies to attract additional capital which will allow them to invest and hire additional employees. As part of a broader effort to tie the financial regulatory environment to U.S. job creation and economic competitiveness.

Small and medium companies would be able to offer securities up to \$50 million publicly without the full cost of a registered offering, potentially expanding their access to capital beyond the private offerings many now use. Additional protections for investors were added to this bill. Companies utilizing Regulation D are required to provide investors with audited financial statements annually.

We must implement policies that achieve the right balance between the competing objectives of promoting valid investment business opportunities and protecting citizens from inappropriate risk and fraudulent schemes. This bill allows States to retain their ability to review these generally high risk offers as a means for protecting investors. Additional protections include giving investors legal recourse for misstatements made by companies in the prospectus documents. Regardless of an investor's sophistication level, when a company is dishonest, the investor must be protected.

Small businesses need access to loans and other lines of credit in order to build their businesses and create jobs. Before us is a measure that would allow small businesses to get the support they need. This bill will provide small businesses with increased access to capital.

According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, small businesses account for 52 percent of all U.S. workers. They are the life blood of our economy. Small businesses in the U.S. produced three-fourths of the economy's new jobs between 1990 and 1995, and represent an entry point into the economy for new groups. Women, for instance, participate heavily in small businesses.

The number of female-owned businesses climbed by 89 percent, to an estimated 8.1 million, between 1987 and 1997, and women-owned sole proprietorships were expected to reach 35 percent of all such ventures by the year 2000. They were hindered in large part because of lack of access to traditional forms

of credit. Before us today, is a measure that would help businesses grow. Small firms also tend to hire a greater number of older workers and people who prefer to work part-time.

We must always remember that American small businesses are the heart beat of our nation. I believe that small businesses represent more than the American dream—they represent the American economy. Small businesses account for 95 percent of all employers, create half of our gross domestic product, and provide three out of four new jobs in this country.

Although I support the bill before us today, it is important to highlight that having an opportunity to invest in small businesses is important. However, given the risky nature of such investments, these opportunities should be made available to investors who understand the risk and have the financial wherewithal to handle any losses that may come as a result of the investment. Small business needs access to capital in order to grow and flourish. Individuals who invest in these companies and startup should understand the unique risk associated with such investments.

The success of small business is America's success. This success can be achieved by encouraging small business growth and entrepreneurship. Especially, as our nation is facing a prolonged period of high unemployment and slow economic growth. Many of us have seen businesses disappear since the financial crisis. These businesses did not fail because of their inability to compete, or due to shortcomings in their business plan or because of the goods and services they produced. They failed because they could not get loans from banks.

Without access to capital, Houston native Michael Dell would not have been able to start one of the most successful computer retail businesses in the world. His \$1,000 dollar initial investment in the 1980s allowed Dell Computers to become a household name. Without this capital, America would not have had one of its premier innovators.

The economic impact of this legislation is encouraging because businesses require capital in order to expand and flourish. When businesses are presented with this opportunity, jobs are created that in turn, will stimulate economic growth. Dell's headquarters alone employs roughly 16,000 people.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1965, "To amend the securities laws to establish certain thresholds for shareholder registration, and for other purposes."

#### TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL MULLEN

### HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 3, 2011*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Admiral Mike Mullen, who retired last month as the 17th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff after more than 43 years of distinguished service to his country.

Admiral Mullen grew up in San Fernando Valley portion of Los Angeles, in the district I have the privilege to represent.

Last year, he graciously agreed to serve as Grand Marshall of the San Fernando Valley Veterans Day Parade, for which I will always be grateful.

A 1968 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Admiral Mullen assumed his duties as chairman in 2007, the culmination of an extraordinary military career.

Admiral Mullen's many accomplishments in the military are well known. I would like to focus on two initiatives he pursued as Chairman, which made direct contributions to our national security and demonstrated the strength of his character.

First, Admiral Mullen recognized early on in his service as Chairman the critical and difficult relationship the United States has with Pakistan's military leaders, and he dedicated himself to serving as a conduit for that critical relationship.

In many cases, effective diplomacy boils down to having someone with the tenacity and intellectual muscle to work a difficult issue, and Admiral Mullen more than proved his mettle in his dealings with Pakistan. I commend him for his efforts to keep the U.S.-Pakistan relationship on track.

I also believe our nation owes Admiral Mullen a debt of gratitude for his stance in repealing Don't Ask Don't Tell. Admiral Mullen called it like he saw it, an immeasurably critical quality, and our military is the better for it.

Admiral Mullen was driven by the desire to advance the interests of America's fighting men and women. He accomplished this goal, many times over.

I salute Admiral Mullen for his service, I pay tribute to his contribution, and I wish him all the best as he leaves the Navy.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE GIVE FANS A CHANCE ACT NOVEMBER 3, 2011

### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 3, 2011*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Give Fans a Chance Act. Professional sports teams are a focal point and an important part of the identity of a community. Many of these communities have taxed themselves and provided financial incentives for stadiums, infrastructure improvements, and other enticements to team owners.

Too often the owners of sports franchises play cities off of one another to leverage even more money. In certain disdainful cases, owners have moved sports teams from cities who would and could provide the support for them to remain.

Public ownership of teams can help prevent these franchise moves and closures that occur against the wishes of a region. Unfortunately, many league rules and practices either prohibit or discourage public ownership. The "Give Fans a Chance Act" eliminates such rules.

The bill ties the leagues' broadcast antitrust exemption to the requirements in this bill, which eliminates league rules against public ownership and gives communities a voice in team relocation decisions.

An example of how this has worked is the story of the Green Bay Packers. The Packers were founded in 1919. In 1950, the fans saved the team from bankruptcy through a public stock offering. Since then, this team from the NFL's smallest city has seen stadium sell-outs for over 50 years and 13 NFL championships, including four Super Bowls.

Like it or not, professional sports teams have become an integral part of the fabric that makes up our communities. Since 1950, however, there have been over 50 franchise moves in the four major sports leagues. Sports team owners often instigate pitched battles between local communities over placement of teams. These communities are willing to pay millions of dollars to coax teams from one city to another, sometimes at the expense of other vital city services. Communities need more leverage in these battles.

Give Fans a Chance provides that leverage by requiring teams to listen to the community before making a relocation decision. It also gives communities an opportunity to purchase the team before they would be allowed to move to another city.

CONGRATULATING MR. THOMAS R. ASHLEY, ESQ. FOR RECEIVING THE DANIEL L. GOLDEN LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 3, 2011*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Mr. Thomas R. Ashley, Esq. who is a recipient of the Daniel L. Golden Lifetime Achievement Award. Mr. Ashley is one of New Jersey's and the nation's leading trial lawyers. It is with great pleasure and honor that I recognize the legacy of this accomplished attorney.

Mr. Thomas R. Ashley, Esq. is a native of Camden, New Jersey. As a star basketball player at Camden High School, Mr. Ashley received a scholarship to attend Rutgers University. He went on to accept an academic scholarship to Rutgers Law School, later becoming a recipient of Rutgers Law School's Civil Rights Award. With many opportunities and offers at major law firms, it was his law school professor, Mr. Arthur Kinoy, who urged Mr. Ashley to join the national legal staff of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

In 1968, Mr. Ashley prepared his first case with the NAACP lead team for the dismissal of an African-American man charged with the arson of a building in Enid, Oklahoma. Within four years, he teamed up with the well-known criminal and civil rights attorney, Mr. Raymond A. Brown, and started building a Newark based law practice that continues to this day.

Mr. Ashley's other accomplishments and affiliations include membership in the New Jersey State Bar Association, Essex County Bar Association and the National Directory of Criminal Lawyers as one of the top 500 criminal trial lawyers in the United States. He was also named the "Ten Leaders of Criminal Defense Law for Northern New Jersey" by Digital Press International in April 2004.

Mr. Thomas R. Ashley, Esq. is an extraordinary attorney, who continues to advocate for civil rights and justice in the Newark community and throughout the United States. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate a noble and well-deserved recipient of The Daniel L. Golden Lifetime Achievement Award.

INCREASING SHAREHOLDER  
THRESHOLD FOR SEC REGISTRATION

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 2, 2011*

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1965, which seeks, "To amend the securities laws to establish certain thresholds for shareholder registration, and for other purposes." This legislation amends the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 regarding registration of securities to modify the registration threshold for an issuer that is either a bank or a bank holding company as well as for an issuer that is neither a bank nor a bank holding company. It raises the Exchange Act's shareholder cap from 499 to 1,999 shareholders for banks and permits banks with less than 1,200 shareholders to cease its reporting requirements under the Exchange Act. As well as, raises from \$1 million to \$10 million the threshold for total assets of an issuer that requires registration of a certain class of equity security.

This legislation would increase ability of banks to raise capital from a larger shareholder base, which would create a level playing field for smaller community banks. It also raises the Exchange Act's shareholder cap from 499 to 1,999 shareholders for banks and permits banks with less than 1,200 shareholders to cease reporting requirements under the Exchange Act.

Under current law, banks and private companies have a 500 investor threshold. Since 99.5 percent of banks reach the asset threshold for registration as a public company, the only meaningful test of whether a bank should be registered as a public company is the number of shareholders. But while the asset threshold has been increased tenfold since 1964, the shareholder threshold has stayed the same. Banks that are nearing the 500 shareholder threshold may have nowhere to turn to raise capital they need to meet the credit needs of their communities.

This provision limits the amount of capital banks and private companies can raise before they have to adhere to the Security Exchange Commission's (SEC) reporting requirements. The SEC reporting process is extensive and expensive. Small businesses, especially, can ill afford to comply with this stipulation at the cost of their ability to innovate and procure capital. As it stands community banks are part of a highly regulated industry governed by numerous statutes and regulations affecting almost every aspect of banking activity. Each banking institution is regulated by two agencies: a primary federal regulator and, in the case of state chartered banks, by the state regulator, as well.

Significant financial and other information regarding every bank and savings association can be publicly viewed on the website maintained by the FDIC. All banks are required to make annual reports available to both their customers and investors. Most provide financial and other information to investors through their company websites. The advantage to the small community banks from increases in the registration and deregistration thresholds would not be a lack of transparency, since

keeping shareholders and the public fully informed about the bank's performance is essential to its presence as a community bank. Rather, it is a reduction of regulatory burdens and reporting requirements that pose a disproportionate burden on small community banks.

Banks should focus on lending money to small business rather than fulfilling a regulation that should be modified. If we alleviate this burden from banks, I expect these same banks will give loans and provide other financial resources to our nation's businesses—especially for our nation's small businesses.

Our nation's businesses need our help. Because of the 2008–2009 financial crises, the business environment has been suffering from decreased access to credit. Appropriate access to credit allows for innovation and encourages startups which may one day become major employers. Currently, there is a distinct lack of capital procurement.

Small businesses need access to loans and other lines of credit in order to build their businesses and create jobs. Before us is a measure that would allow small businesses to get the support they need. This bill will provide small businesses with increased access to capital.

According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, small businesses account for 52 percent of all U.S. workers. They are the life blood of our economy. Small businesses in the U.S. produced three-fourths of the economy's new jobs between 1990 and 1995, and represent an entry point into the economy for new groups. Women, for instance, participate heavily in small businesses.

The number of female-owned businesses climbed by 89 percent, to an estimated 8.1 million, between 1987 and 1997, and women-owned sole proprietorships were expected to reach 35 percent of all such ventures by the year 2000. They were hindered in large part because of lack of access to traditional forms of credit. Before us today, is a measure that would help businesses grow. Small firms also tend to hire a greater number of older workers and people who prefer to work part-time.

There are hundreds of stories of start-up companies catching national attention and growing into large corporations. Just a few examples of these types of start-up businesses making it big include the computer software company Microsoft; the package delivery service Federal Express; sports clothing manufacturer Nike; the computer networking firm America On-Line; and ice cream maker Ben & Jerry's.

Without access to capital, Houston native Michael Dell would not have been able to start one of the most successful computer retail businesses in the world. His \$1,000 dollar initial investment in the 1980s allowed Dell Computers to become a household name. Without this capital, America would not have had one of its premier innovators.

The economic impact of this legislation is encouraging. Businesses require capital in order to expand and flourish. When businesses are presented with this opportunity, jobs are created that in turn, will stimulate economic growth. Dell's headquarters alone employs roughly 16,000 people.

We must always remember that American small businesses are the heart beat of our nation. I believe that small businesses represent

more than the American dream—they represent the American economy. Small businesses account for 95 percent of all employers, create half of our gross domestic product, and provide three out of four new jobs in this country.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1965, “To amend the securities laws to establish certain thresholds for shareholder registration, and for other purposes.”

**THE ENTREPRENEUR ACCESS TO CAPITAL ACT (H.R. 2930) AND THE ACCESS TO CAPITAL FOR JOB CREATORS ACT (H.R. 2940)**

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 3, 2011*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of today’s legislation, which will modernize our securities laws to support capital formation at our nation’s start-ups and small businesses.

Specifically, the Entrepreneur Access to Capital Act (H.R. 2930) will facilitate the technique of “crowdfunding”, whereby internet-based platforms like social networks are used to raise small amounts of money from large numbers of people. Under this legislation, securities offerings are capped at a maximum of \$2 million with investments limited to \$10,000 or less. Additionally, this Administration priority contains important investor protections to keep bad actors from undermining the crowdfunding market.

Similarly, the Access to Capital for Job Creators Act (H.R. 2940) will allow small companies to raise capital more easily by removing restrictions against general solicitation and advertising to potential investors. While maintaining the “accredited investor” requirement for participation in these private offerings, H.R. 2940 will make it easier for legitimate businesses to find qualified investors to launch and fund their operations.

While I continue to believe this body should be taking up more comprehensive jobs legislation like the American Jobs Act, these initiatives both represent modest improvements to existing securities law and merit our support.

**HONORING MONTFORD POINT MARINES FOR SERVICE TO THE COUNTRY**

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 3, 2011*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in honoring the Montford Point Marines for their great sacrifice and courage in becoming the first African Americans admitted to the Marine Corps, and their service to our country during multiple wars, including World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Their service to the country was great, which is why I voted in favor of H.R. 2447 to grant the Congressional Gold Medal to the Montford Point Marines. The Congressional Gold Medal is a prestigious honor that these men truly deserve.

After President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Fair Employment Practices Commission in 1941, allowing for equal opportunity in all branches of the armed forces, the first black recruits entered boot camp at Camp Montford Point in Jacksonville, North Carolina. The recruits were prohibited from training with white recruits in nearby Camp Lejeune, and the conditions during their training in the snake-infested swamps of New River were much more difficult than those of their white peers. These men dealt with unsanitary drinking water, inferior barracks made of cardboard, and freezing living quarters, all of which were unfit for any American, let alone the men and women that protect our country.

As a testament to the resolve of the Montford Point Marines, after completion of their training in North Carolina, the 8th Ammunition Company and the 36th Depot Company were deployed to Iwo Jima on D-Day during World War II, receiving praise from fellow officers for their actions under fire. In addition, Marines trained at Montford Point participated in the seizure of Okinawa and helped with clean-up of debris from the atomic bomb attacks in Japan.

After the announcement of U.S. victory in the war, nearly 17,500 of the 19,000 black marines were discharged from the Corps. A few of the Montford Point men remained in the service completing tours of duty in the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. Today, few of these men are still with us, but their legacy continues to inspire young men and women who strive for participation in the U.S. Armed Services.

I salute the Montford Point Marines for their endless determination to bring about change in the Marine Corps, and for their exceptional contributions to equality in this country. Their sacrifices opened doors for many individuals seeking to serve this country, and we are forever grateful for their accomplishments.

**REAFFIRMING “IN GOD WE TRUST” AS THE OFFICIAL MOTTO OF THE UNITED STATES**

**HON. JAMES LANKFORD**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 3, 2011*

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, I hear many people say, that our country has never been more at odds or our rhetoric more divisive than now—I would strongly disagree. While I believe that our debate and tone should reflect respect for each person, regardless of the deep philosophical divide—I would remind us of a time in 1861 when our nation stood at the precipice of the Civil War and the oratory spilled over into bloodshed. During that dark moment in our nation’s history, the Secretary of the Treasury ordered the Director of the US Mint to create a new inscription for the nation’s coins: He wrote,

No nation can be strong except in the strength of God, or safe except in His defense. The trust of our people in God should be declared on our national coins. You will cause a device to be prepared without unnecessary delay with a motto expressing in the fewest and tersest words possible this national recognition.

The Director of the Mint responded back with a variation of the phrase used in the Star

Spangled Banner, The Motto, “In God is our trust”—since it was a familiar hymn and indicative of the American people, but though he thought it had too many letters for a coin, so he recommended “God our Trust”, it was later finalized as, “In God we Trust” and was first put on a two cent coin in 1864, near the end of the Civil War. Most coins then followed with that motto until 1907 when some coins were approved without the words, In God we Trust, but after a huge public outcry, it was added back in 1908.

This was not an isolated moment in our American story, it was a consistent theme of our American story.

As we struggled as a group of thirteen small colonies we penned, “We are endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights. . . .”

As I already mentioned, Francis Scott Key watched the shelling of Baltimore in 1814 after the burning of Washington, DC thinking that this could be the decisive moment when our young nation would be wiped out, he wrote the Star Spangled Banner—which ends with “So this be our motto, In God is our Trust.”

After fighting World War I and then in short order World War II, then immediately finding the world waging the Cold War against Communism in the 1950’s, we declared again our national value, what defines our nation—how we are different than the rest of the world.

The Communists declared their confidence that man can solve every problem of mankind, the educated and benevolent heart and mind of a few leaders could fix all of man’s inequities, if you would only put your trust in the government.

In 1954 and 1956 our nation declared again with a resounding voice by adding, Under God, to the pledge, In God we trust to all currency and declaring “In God we Trust” as our official national motto. The Francis Scott Key’s poem, that became a song, that declared since 1814, “this is our motto, In God is our trust” finally actually became our official motto.

In a time of national crisis the nation, through its elected leaders declared again that as a free people, we do not put our trust in Congress, the President, the Supreme Court, in the creativity of people or anyone else. We expect that the nation’s leaders will also be the nation’s humble servants, but we do not put our trust in them.

We have a national optimism because we believe that this world and this nation was created with a purpose and that the creator cares for his creation—from our founding documents, we believe that all people are created equal and are given certain rights from God, including Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. We are different as American, we believe that our rights come from God, not men—our core value comes from something higher than ourselves. It is that belief that drives Americans to not give up in the struggle to restore our great Republic.

We have been through hard times before, war, depression, poverty and struggle, but in this world of chaos, debt, irresponsibility and fear it is wise to stop and reflect again on our hope and our trust—we must work with all diligence to do what is right—but we should also remember that at the end of the day, we will have this world and its problems in right perspective if we will work and put our trust in God. This is not an establishment of a religion, it is an acknowledgement of our history, our present and our future—we are a diverse nation, with all kinds of belief and some with no

belief—but a common theme has resonated through each national crisis, In God we Trust.

In this moment of national debate over the issue of our day, I encourage the continued support of this simple and historic national motto.

CIVILIAN SERVICE RECOGNITION  
ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 2, 2011*

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2061, “The Civilian Service Recognition Act of 2011.” This bill authorizes the presentation of a United States flag at the funeral of federal civilian employees who are killed while performing official duties or because of their status as a federal employee. The bill affords the head of an executive agency the ability to present the United States’ flag to an individual who was an employee of the agency and dies of injuries incurred in connection with such individual’s employment with the Federal government, suffered as a result of a criminal act, an act of terrorism, a natural disaster, or other circumstance as determined by the President.

As a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, I value the lives of all American citizens who devote themselves to the public cause. America has a longstanding tradition of honoring soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen who have fallen in battle. The debt we owe our nation’s armed service members, especially those who have fallen, cannot be quan-

tified. It is imperative that we recognize and fully appreciate the men and women who risk their lives each day for our freedom.

Just as we recognize our military for their bravery, we must recognize our civil servants for their dedication to this nation. Our country is made great on the backs of millions of federal employees. Much like the men and women of the Armed Forces, the individuals tasked with federal law enforcement and protection put their lives on the line every day.

In March 2011, Deputy U.S. Marshal John Perry died from a critical gunshot wound while attempting to apprehend a fugitive wanted for assaulting a police officer and drug possession in St. Louis, MO. Mr. Perry dedicated his life to federal law enforcement, and sacrificed his life to make the country safer for all Americans. Deputy U.S. Marshal John Perry was a brave and patriotic civil servant who certainly deserves the honor of the United States flag.

NASA employee David Beverly was employed by the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, where I represent the 18th Congressional District. On April 20, 2007 Mr. Beverly was fatally shot in the chest during a hostage ordeal inside the Space Center. An electrical parts specialist, David Beverly fostered innovation and space exploration for the benefit of all Americans.

I have met many Americans who are proud of the work our government does. These sentiments can only be attributed to the civil servants who are the first line of contact to the federal government. Federal workers offer themselves in service to their country. They serve their duties with great pride. Federal employees serve this nation because they believe in their sense of civic duty. Civil servants believe their work provides them with an opportunity to protect and build the nation for fu-

ture generations. They seek to serve their country rather than their own self-interests, and share in the belief that country comes first above all else.

Federal employees are our neighbors; they are husbands and wives, sisters and brothers, sons and daughters. They sacrifice time spent with their families. They work long hours to support and defend the Constitution. They pledge their allegiance to this land of freedom and opportunity. They take the initiative to develop new and innovative programs, techniques, and tools to improve the way the federal government serves its citizens.

In my home state of Texas, approximately 190,000 people work for the federal government. Houston employs approximately 30,000 federal workers. They represent the values that we hold dear to our democracy. These values are grounded in patriotism dedicated to making this nation realize its loyalty to its citizens.

These civil servants make a positive difference in the lives of Americans. They play an essential role in addressing challenging and critical national issues. They create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. They help keep terrorists and their weapons out of the U.S. as well as secure and facilitate trade and travel while enforcing immigration and drug laws. These federal agencies care for our troops when they return from battle. The agencies make sure our borders are safe. They make sure the air we breathe and the water we drink are clean. I am extremely proud of the work that these federal employees do. I want them to know that I support them and will forever be indebted to their great deeds.